



# HOLY SPIRIT CONNECTS

ELCIC



Holy Spirit Lutheran Church | A Welcoming Christ-Centered Community | Winter 2018

## CONTACT HSLC

### Holy Spirit Lutheran Church

11223 - 51 Avenue,  
Edmonton, Alberta T6H 0L5

Phone: 780.434.4012

[church@holyspiritlutheran.ca](mailto:church@holyspiritlutheran.ca)

[www.holyspiritlutheran.ca](http://www.holyspiritlutheran.ca)

[Holy Spirit Lutheran Church](#)

[@HSLutheran](#)

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**Pastor:** Rev. Trish Schmermund

**Pastor:** Rev. Lindsey Jorgensen-Skakum

**Administration:** Lori Zeiner

## STAY IN TOUCH

### Check out our website:

[www.holyspiritlutheran.ca](http://www.holyspiritlutheran.ca) for

- Worship service times
- PDF copies of *Holy Spirit Connects*
- Sunday sermons (PDF and audio recordings available)
- Link to our Facebook page
- Twitter feed

### Deadline for our Spring 2019

**Newsletter:** Friday, February 14

### Deadline for the January Events

**Page:** Friday, December 13

### Sunday Bulletin Submission

**Deadline:** Tuesday each week by 3:00 pm.



## Sunday School Celebration

### COOKIE POTLUCK

### ADVENT EDITION

Sunday, December 9

Following the 10:00 am service



## Choir Invitation

We are busily working on music for the Lessons & Carols Service (Dec 16) as well as Christmas Eve (7 pm Candlelight Choral Service).

If you're interested in singing with the choir for either of these dates, practices are Wednesday evenings at 7:15 pm. All ages are welcome!

## ALL ARE WELCOME!

*HSLC is an affirming and inclusive community, sharing together the joy and work of God's love.*

## UPCOMING SERVICES

### December 2 – 1 Advent

10:00 am Service of Holy Communion, Guest preacher Rev. Dr. Harrison LTS

### December 9 – 2 Advent

10:00 am Service of Holy Communion and Sunday School Advent Celebration.

Cookie Potluck

### December 16 – 3 Advent

10:00 am Service of Lessons & Carols  
1:00 pm Congregational Caroling

### December 23 – 4 Advent

10:00 am Service of Holy Communion and Healing

### December 24 – Christmas Eve

3:00 pm Scent-Free Service  
5:00 pm Candlelight Service  
7:00 pm Candlelight Choral Service  
9:00 pm Candlelight Service with Holy Communion

### December 25 – Christmas Day

10:00 am Service of Holy Communion

### December 30 – 1 Christmas

10:00 am Service of Holy Communion

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

### Monday Fitness Class

Mondays from Noon – 1:00 pm  
(no class Dec. 24)

### College & Careers Bible Study

2nd & 4th Tuesdays from 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm (Dec. 11 only this month)

### HSLC Choir Practice

Wednesdays at 7:15 pm

### Morning Bible Study

2nd & 4th Thursdays from 9:30 – 11:00 am (Dec. 13 only this month)

## Pastor's Message

*Where is the newborn king of the Jews?  
We saw his star as it rose,  
and we have come to worship him."*

Matthew 2:2 NLT

In a time when few people were looking, the power of God came wrapped in vulnerability and humanity, ready to love us like we've never understood before. What was it that sent the wise travelers searching in the first place?

The church across Canada has experienced monumental changes sending many into despair and concern. In recent generations we have been a church of plenty, but the church of today is lean and hunkered down against the forces of culture and society that seem to dispel the need for church at all.

"Where is God?" is a missional question that I invite you to ponder. We are so used to looking for God inside our churches that we've nearly forgotten how to recognize God outside our buildings. As I think of those wise travelers following the star, I wonder how long they had waited, how did they know the sign, what did they do afterwards? I don't have an answer to

those questions, but perhaps together we could ask the question: "Where is God?"

Few people recognized God in the manger that first Christmas. Jesus wasn't in a church, yet people found him. He didn't have any power or popularity, and yet the world was changed. God is already in our neighbourhoods, in our city, across the street, in the beauty of snowflakes, in the kindness of strangers, in the voices of the poor and marginalized, in the faces of newcomers to Canada, in the laugh lines of grandmothers and the callouses of hard work. In familiar and new ways God is all around us.

Let's open our hearts, minds and ministry to possibility. Finding God in unexpected places we will be surprised and faith renewed and energized! As you follow the star that leads, why not try a few new experiences, for example:

- Invite a neighbour to walk the neighbourhood with you. Ask what they see.
- Bake some treats for those working at a local store or business and deliver them with a note of encouragement and hope.
- Shovel a sidewalk that is unattended or where someone needs a hand.

- Pick a daily devotional reading for Advent, but read it somewhere new.
- For every gift you receive, donate/give something away.

Of course there could be many more suggestions. Use your imagination! But after each one take a few moments to ponder what you heard, saw, learned. Ask, "where was God in that moment?" The more we ask the question and pause to reflect, the more likely we are to unwrap new understandings of the diversity and expanse of Christ who loves us.

May God's star guide and bless you and your loved ones all along the journey!

Merry Christmas,  
**Pastor Trish & Ken**

## HSLC Annual General Meeting

The 2018 HSLC Annual Meeting will be held on February 24, 2019.

Deadline for Annual Report submissions is January 25.

Submit content to  
[church@holyspiritlutheran.ca](mailto:church@holyspiritlutheran.ca).

## President's Message

To begin, a thank you for your generous support in spirit, many hands, prayer, and financial giving. We know we are a community that relies on ourselves to exist. Luckily, as a faith community we also know that we can fully rely on God for all our needs! On November 25, Holy Spirit held an extraordinary congregational meeting to entertain a motion to continue onward with our accessibility renovation project. There are two portions of this project, one being the addition of door opening assist for our front and rear entrances, and the other more substantial portion being our accessible bathroom renovation project. The second was the major area of discussion for our meeting. We heard presentations on the importance of accessibility to our community including the many groups we serve outside our membership such as the daycare. We heard about our building's history and several concepts for the project. Finally we heard about the financial implications of the project. After discussion, the motion

was passed, moving us to the next phase including hearing more from our stakeholders on the design, detailed plans and costing, fund raising including in kind contributions and ultimately a detailed plan to bring to our AGM for final approval.

A main area of discussion was the affordability of the project given our \$60k deficit. This concern is shared by all, however, waiting to see how the year ends up financially and then discussing at an AGM will not allow for enough time to properly plan and execute the project by August 2019. This timeline is important because if we do not complete the project by that time, we will lose our government grant of 50% of the cost of the project up to \$54k. We need to move ahead with our planning if we want to complete the project in time.

As I reflect on this project, I believe we are truly blessed to have received this grant! It is because we have many community groups including the daycare which we rent to, that we received this grant. In essence, the government pays for half our

project directly, and we pay for the other half, for which we receive a tax receipt allowing for nearly half of our contributions to be refunded to us at tax time! It's renovations at 25% of the cost!

When we took on the daycare rental, our AGM conversation focused on how we would use this income. There was variation in the amount, but overall general agreement that a portion of this income should be used to keep up and improve our building. Ultimately, we can think of it like this: it is the daycare that was key in us receiving the grant, and the daycare income that will fund the remainder of the project.

I would ask that you dedicate your prayers and thanks to those volunteers who have brought us to this decision point, and for those volunteers who are continuing on and are being joined by new volunteers to help see this project through. This is one way we can serve our community and create witness in our world of Christ's love!

**Toby Schneider**

## HSLC COUNCIL

**President:** Toby Schneider

**Vice-President:** Tanya Gusdal-Calkins

**Treasurer:** Amy Cooper

**Secretary:** Wendy Illot

## COUNCIL COMMITTEE LEADERS

### Administration Committee

Amy Cooper | Dan Loewen

### Communication Committee

Kim Goebel

### Community Engagement Committee

Wendy Illot

### Lifelong Learning Committee

Tanya Gusdal-Calkins

### Ministry Committee

Janet Aaron

## Lifelong Learning Committee

The Lifelong Learning Committee hosted supper at Martin Luther House on November 20. The evening was sponsored by the Lutheran Student Movement which provides fellowship to the students at the U of A. That night a pastor panel answered "hard questions" from the students.

Mark your calendars to attend the Sunday School Advent celebration on December 9. The children will be participating and singing songs during the service. Following 10:00 am worship will be a cookie potluck and crafts. Everyone is invited to bring a dozen or so of their favorite cookie to share.

## Roster Volunteers

### HELP AS YOU ARE ABLE

We need people to serve as worship assistants, readers, PowerPoint assistance, and also to do the coffee set-up and clean-up. Please consider signing up. Readers are also needed for the Christmas Eve Services (3, 5, 7 & 9 pm).

Signup sheets are on the bulletin board outside the office door.



## Yesterday's Youth Upcoming Events

### STILL GOING STRONG AFTER 33 YEARS

#### Catered Lunch

Wednesday, December 5 at 12:00 Noon (\$25 at the door).

Entertainment following lunch: Christmas Choral Concert & Sing Along with Harry Ainlay High School. Everyone is welcome, bring a friend!

This will be our last event of the year as we take a winter break.

Join us again February 6 at 12:00 Noon for our next catered lunch and guest speaker from The Edmonton Nature Club.

## Holy Spirit Giving Tree

Each year Holy Spirit sets out "The Giving Tree" and invites those who are able to help those in our communities who are less fortunate and could use a helping hand by taking a tag, purchase the item described and return the gift (unwrapped) to the tree (this year by Sun, December 16.)

This year's gifts will be donated to The Boyle Street Community.

## Congregational Caroling

### December 16, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

All are welcome to join Holy Spirit for a fun afternoon of caroling on the Third Sunday of Advent. We will meet at the church, in the narthex at 1:00 pm before heading out in small groups to visit several members and friends of the congregation.

## Holy Spirit's Family Milestones



As a church family we celebrate and remember together the important milestones life brings. Be encouraged to hold up one another in prayer and support!

### Weddings

#### Emily Krahn & Andrea Michaud

were married on September 1, 2018 in Cold Lake, Alberta

#### Kirsten Opdebeck & Diana Kyle

were married on September 22, 2018 in Edmonton, Alberta

#### Noelle Jaipaul and Donald Fenniak

were married on September 23, 2018 in Banff, Alberta

### Funerals

a funeral was held for

#### Louise Gravel

on October 27, 2018

### Confirmation

On Reformation Sunday, October 28, we welcomed the newly confirmed:

#### Caitlyn Calder

#### Alexander Schneider

#### Markus Stromberg

### New Members

On New Member Sunday, November 25, we welcomed:

#### Bev Dickson

#### Wayne & William Blanchard

#### Danika Jorgensen-Skakum

#### Alan, Nathan, Nolan Natari & Margaret Dotto

## TREASURER'S REPORT 2018

	Income	Expenditures	Difference
January	\$ 30,209	\$ 31,584	(\$ 1,375)
February	\$ 21,769	\$ 30,658	(\$ 8,889)
March	\$ 23,458	\$ 32,073	(\$ 8,615)
April	\$ 28,627	\$ 32,874	(\$ 4,247)
May	\$ 24,673	\$ 31,739	(\$ 7,066)
June	\$ 24,532	\$ 31,553	(\$ 7,021)
July	\$ 22,915	\$ 29,506	(\$ 6,591)
August	\$ 19,890	\$ 29,569	(\$ 9,679)
September	\$ 24,002	\$ 31,061	(\$ 7,059)
October	\$ 24,715	\$ 29,953	(\$ 5,239)
<b>Sum (deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 244,790</b>	<b>\$ 310,570</b>	<b>(\$ 65,780)</b>

Note: Monthly Budget amount is \$32,297

# DECEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>MISSION STATEMENT:</b> Holy Spirit Lutheran Church provides a welcoming and nurturing environment for anyone who chooses to join us in our walk with Jesus. In this walk, we praise God, we cherish community, we strive for justice, and we learn about our faith, our world, and each other. In our shared and individual lives, we are witnesses of God's saving grace, love, and forgiveness through our actions, attitudes, and relationships with others.						<b>1</b> 10:00 am Multiple Myeloma Support Meeting
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>1 ADVENT</b> 10:00 am Service of Holy Communion 11:30 am Confirmation Family Potluck Lunch 11:30 am Lifelong Learning & Community Engagement Committee Meeting	12:00 Noon Fitness 8:00 pm AA Group Meeting	10:00 am ESL 4:00 pm Food Depot 4:30 pm Youth Unite	12:00 Noon Yesterday's Youth Catered Lunch 7:15 pm HSLC Choir Practice	7:00 pm Al-Anon Meeting		1:00 pm Piano Recital 4:00 pm Gym Rental
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>2 ADVENT</b> 10:00 am Service of Holy Communion & Sunday School Advent Celebration 3:00 pm Lehua Studio Recital	12:00 Noon Fitness 6:00 pm Council Meeting 8:00 pm AA Group Meeting	10:00 am ESL 4:00 pm Food Depot 4:30 pm Confirmation Class 7:00 pm College & Careers Bible Study 7:00 pm Worship Committee Meeting	5:15 pm Kokopelli Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Knitting Group 7:15 pm HSLC Choir Practice	9:30 am Morning Bible Study 7:00 pm Al-Anon Meeting	9:00 am – 5:00 pm RCM Exams	9:00 am – 5:00 pm RCM Exams
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>3 ADVENT</b> 10:00 am Service of Lessons & Carols 1:00 pm Congragational Caroling	12:00 Noon Fitness 8:00 pm AA Group Meeting	10:00 am ESL 4:00 pm Food Depot 4:30 pm Confirmation Class	7:15 pm HSLC Choir Practice	7:00 pm Al-Anon Meeting		
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>4 ADVENT</b> 10:00 am Service of Holy Communion & Healing	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> 3:00 pm Scent-Free Service 5:00 pm Candlelight Service 7:00 pm Candlelight Choral Service 9:00 pm Candlelight Service with Holy Communion	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> 10:00 am Service of Holy Communion	<b>BOXING DAY</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 7:00 pm Al-Anon Meeting	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>					
<b>1 CHRISTMAS</b> 10:00 am Service of Holy Communion	8:00 pm AA Group Meeting	11223 - 51 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T6H 0L5 Phone: 780-434-4012 Email: <a href="mailto:church@holyspiritlutheran.ca">church@holyspiritlutheran.ca</a>   Website: <a href="http://www.holyspiritlutheran.ca">www.holyspiritlutheran.ca</a> Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/HolySpiritLutheranChurch">Holy Spirit Lutheran Church</a>   Twitter: <a href="https://twitter.com/HSLutheran">@HSLutheran</a>   Instagram: <a href="https://www.instagram.com/HSLutheran">@HSLutheran</a>				