



HOLY SPIRIT CONNECTS

ELCIC



Holy Spirit Lutheran Church | A Welcoming Christ-Centered Community | Winter 2019

CONTACT HSLC

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church

11223 - 51 Avenue,
Edmonton, Alberta T6H 0L5

General Office Hours:

9:00 am - 3:00 pm Monday - Thursday
9:00 am - 1:00 pm Fridays

Note: Office will be closed December 25 - January 1

Phone: 780.434.4012

church@holyspiritlutheran.ca

www.holyspiritlutheran.ca

[Holy Spirit Lutheran Church](https://www.facebook.com/HolySpiritLutheranChurch)

[@HSLutheran](https://twitter.com/HSLutheran)

[@HSLutheran](https://www.instagram.com/HSLutheran)

Pastor: Rev. Trish Schmermund

Pastor: Rev. Lindsey Jorgensen-Skakum

Administration: Lori Zeiner

Stay in Touch

Check out our website:

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 2020

Newsletter: Friday, February 14

Deadline for the January Events

Page: Friday, December 20

Sunday Bulletin Submission

Deadline: Tuesday each week by 3:00 pm.

HSLC Annual General Meeting

The 2020 HSLC Annual Meeting will be held on February 23, 2020.

Deadline for Annual Report submissions is January 24.

Submit content to

church@holyspiritlutheran.ca.



Holy Spirit Giving Tree

Take an ornament (thanks Sunday school kids!). Buy the item for a 15 - 24 year-old. Return unwrapped gift under tree by December 18. All gifts will be delivered to YESS (Youth Empowerment and Support Services Edmonton).

Choir Invitation

We are busily working on music for the Lessons & Carols Service (Dec 22) as well as Christmas Eve 7:00 pm (Candlelight Choral Service).

If you're interested in singing with the choir, practices are Wednesday evenings at 7:15 pm (Dec 4, 11 & 18).

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 1 - 1 Advent

10:00 am Service of Holy Communion followed by Potluck Lunch & Learn

December 8 - 2 Advent

10:00 am Service of Holy Communion with Sunday School Celebration

December 15 - 3 Advent

10:00 am Service of Holy Communion & Healing Prayer

December 22 - 4 Advent

10:00 am Service of Lessons & Carols

December 24 - Christmas Eve

3:00 pm Scent-Free Family Service
5:00 pm Candlelight Service with Special Music
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 29 - 1 Christmas

10:00 am Service of Holy Communion

UPCOMING EVENTS

Potluck Lunch & Learn

11:30 am Sunday, December 1

Fitness Class

Mondays & Fridays
from Noon - 1:00 pm

Confirmation Class

(Youth in Grades 7 - 9)
Tuesdays 4:30 - 5:30 pm
(No Class Dec 3, 24 & 31)

Pastor's Message

*"Advent increases our hope,
a hope which does not disappoint.
The Lord never lets us down."*

— Pope Francis

In Advent we are called to begin again, to start afresh in the midst of our busy lives and world, to prepare our worship space to welcome again the promises of God come true, to take time to reflect on a new year of scripture readings, and to renew our relationships with God through prayer. As we do, we are invited to begin again through a season that calls us to wait, watch, and welcome God's hope to be born among us all.

Advent gets to the heart of some of the deepest needs within our lives together: redemption, healing, and peace. And as it does, it asks us to consider what we're really hoping for, what we really trust, and how we're choosing to build our future together as God's people. However, we are not asked to do this alone. Throughout

this season we are presented with courageous passages each Sunday – prophetic words that are meant to wake us up, and get us in touch with God's creative and redeeming call within our world.

Advent calls us to the kind of waiting that fills our lives with a sense of anticipation that eliminates our apathy and fear. During this season, we summon the courage to believe that the holy one is still at work bringing hope, peace, love, and joy not only to our lives but within our communities and neighborhoods. So come, engage your faith in new ways this Advent season. Join the faith community at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church as together we watch with expectancy for God's hope to be born anew.

Grace and Peace to you and your family this season as you await the coming hope of the Christ Child,

Pastor Lindsey Jorgensen-Skakum

HSLC COUNCIL

President: Toby S.

Vice-President: Tanya G.

Treasurer: Amy C.

Secretary: Wendy I.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE LEADERS

Administration Committee

Amy C.

Dan L.

Communication Committee

Kim G.

Michael C.

Community Engagement Committee

Wendy I.

Lifelong Learning Committee

Tanya G.

Ministry Committee

Janet A.

President's Message

We are in a time of significant change. We can feel the social, economic, and political changes all around us, and they create stress and uncertainty. During times of change, we, as followers of Jesus, can rest assured that the most important thing never changes: God's love. For the church, our question remains constant: how is God calling us to respond to the hurt, the need, and the hopelessness? We do this in a context of a society that is secularizing. So many either mistrust, dismiss, or have no idea what the church is. Many of the people we meet, our friends, coworkers, and family members will stereotype what the church is and how they think Christians are, and it can be quite negative.

And it is here that we stand, in this place and time in history, again asking, listening, discussing how we are being called to respond. For me, personally, Holy Spirit is a place of love, community, and justice. We are a welcoming community and strive to make this about meeting people on their journey rather than accepting people on the condition that they conform to our community norms. We seek to advocate for justice, which is about protecting the weak and wronged from the powerful wrong-doers.

We are a community that brings healing and help to each other, that worships, prays, and learns about our God together.

How are we being called to respond to the world around us? People that need God's love and forgiveness, people who need hope, who need community, who need...what we have? Jesus didn't pick his disciples from the ranks of Pharisees. Moses was a timid public speaker. Paul started his career as an ardent worker against the early church. In the end, God can use anyone to be the hands, feet, and mouth of the body of Christ. God can use each and every one of us. It may sound scary. It might seem like we don't know how, or what we should say,

or maybe we just worry what people would think. In the end, like all our fears, we can raise them up to God in prayer, and ask God one simple question: Dear Lord of love, how can I be your face, your voice, your hands and feet in this world of need? The answer may not only surprise you, it might change you forever!

So perhaps we need to reframe our question for Holy Spirit Lutheran Church. Maybe the question is, what kind of community does Holy Spirit need to be to support, equip and enable each other in our mission of spreading God's love and hope to a world in need?

Toby S.

TREASURER'S REPORT 2019

	Income	Expenditures	Difference
January	\$ 20,500	\$ 31,967	(\$ 11,467)
February	\$ 21,244	\$ 32,623	(\$ 11,379)
March	\$ 24,662	\$ 31,931	(\$ 7,269)
April	\$ 30,369	\$ 32,854	(\$ 2,485)
May	\$ 21,952	\$ 32,320	(\$ 10,368)
June	\$ 28,289	\$ 32,353	(\$ 4,064)
July	\$ 21,444	\$ 30,855	(\$ 9,411)
August	\$ 24,800	\$ 30,388	(\$ 5,588)
September	\$ 31,399	\$ 28,640	\$ 2,759
October	\$ 23,380	\$ 30,535	(\$ 7,155)
Sum (deficit)	\$ 248,040	\$ 314,467	(\$ 66,427)

Note: Monthly Budget amount is \$32,618

Update on our Refugee Sponsorship



One year ago we welcomed two families from Syria. We have completed our commitment to our families and only have friendship binding us now.

Here is a little overview:

2015 In response to the horrifying images of refugees fleeing Syria, members of our congregation met to discuss how we could help.

2016 After extensive research we partnered with the Anglican church to sponsor Tarek, Amina and their four children. Soon after we learned that his other brother Mahmoud, would also be arriving with his wife Fatima and their three children.

May 2018 –We collected household items to help the families get started.

July 2018 The families arrived! Many helped set up apartments, collect warmer clothing, get the kids registered in school and generally ensure that the first months went smoothly.

Sept – Dec 2018 Amazing volunteers met with the families several times a week to tutor the adults, and teach the families about basic life in Canada.

January 2019 – Syrian cooking lesson. Fatima and Mahmoud taught us how to make kofta, chicken and rice and other Syrian treats.

February– July 2019 The children love school and community soccer. The parents are also in school learning English full time.

August 2019- Official financial obligation is over as they now get support from the government until they transition to support themselves.

During the past few years we have been the true beneficiaries of this adventure. Through this work, God has shown that we as individuals, and as a church family have previously undiscovered strengths and resources. Showing His love to others has enriched all of our lives.

Renovation Committee Update

The Renovation Committee has been hard at work planning and preparing for the wash-room renovation which will commence the beginning of January. Materials will start to be accumulated shortly in order to have all necessary items on hand when the plumbers begin their work. Demolition will require volunteers, please keep an eye out for a sign-up sheet if you would like to contribute to the project in this capacity. It is anticipated that demolition will take place between December 30, 2019 and January 4, 2020. As at the end of October, the total fundraised to date is \$90,000, which includes the \$54,000 government grant. Please talk to any member of the Renovation Committee if you have any questions.



Yesterday's Youth Upcoming Events

STILL GOING STRONG

AFTER 33 YEARS

Catered Lunch

Wednesday, December 5

at 12:00 Noon (\$20 at the door).
Entertainment following lunch:
Christmas Choral Concert & Sing
Along with The Telford Singers.

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 5 at 12:00 Noon for our next catered lunch and entertainment by Benny & Friends.

Building Compassion Through Equity: Anti-discrimination Workshop

On November 16, 2019 several members of our community gathered for a full day of equity and anti-discrimination training offered by Noelle Jaipaul. The workshop provided a safe space for participants to explore and discuss concepts including culture, diversity, equity, bias, discrimination, power, and privilege. Participants also learned skills and tools to combat discrimination and ways to

Holy Spirit's Family Milestones



Baptisms

Mya N.

daughter of Katrina Ginter & Thomas Nunifu was baptized
September 1, 2019

Danian N.

was baptized September 1, 2019

Logan C.

son of Amy & Reis Cooper was baptized
October 6, 2019

Reis C.

was baptized October 6, 2019

Charlie D.

was baptized October 27, 2019

Alice and Millie R.

daughters of Siân Roberts were baptized
November 24, 2019

Siân R.

was baptized November 24, 2019

Confirmation

On Reformation Sunday, October 27, we welcomed the newly confirmed:

Charlie D.

Nicholas M.

Lana P.

New Members

On New Member Sunday,
November 17, 2019 we welcomed
Sirui L.

DECEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1 ADVENT 10:00 am Service of Holy Communion 11:30 am Potluck Lunch & Learn 5:30 pm Ballroom Lesson	12:00 Noon Fitness 1:00 pm Ballroom Lesson 6:30 pm Roller Derby	10:00 am ESL Class 4:00 pm Food Depot	12:00 Noon Yesterday's Youth Catered Lunch 7:15 pm HSLC Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm Al-Anon Meeting 7:00 pm Administration Committee Meeting	12:00 Noon Fitness 7:00 pm Ballroom Lesson	10:00 am Myeloma Alberta Support Group 10:00 am Intergenerational Playgroup
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
2 ADVENT 10:00 am Service of Holy Communion, with Sunday School Advent Celebration	12:00 Noon Fitness 1:00 pm Ballroom Lesson 6:30 pm Roller Derby 7:00 pm Council Meeting	10:00 am ESL Class 4:00 pm Food Depot 4:30 pm Confirmation Class 7:00 pm Worship Committee Meeting	7:15 pm HSLC Choir Rehearsal 7:15 pm Knitting Group	7:00 pm Al-Anon Meeting	9:30 am – 5:00 pm RCM Exams 12:00 Noon Fitness	9:30 am – 5:00 pm RCM Exams
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
3 ADVENT 10:00 am Service of Holy Communion & Healing Prayer 1:00 pm Congratinal Caroling	12:00 Noon Fitness 1:00 pm Ballroom Lesson 6:30 pm Roller Derby	4:00 pm Food Depot 4:30 pm HSLC Youth & Confirmation Christmas Party	5:00 pm Kokopelli Choir Rehearsal 7:15 pm HSLC Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm Al-Anon Meeting	12:00 Noon Fitness 7:00 pm Ballroom Lesson	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
4 ADVENT 10:00 am Service of Lessons & Carols	12:00 Noon Fitness	CHRISTMAS EVE 3:00 pm Scent-Free Family Service 5:00 pm Candlelight Service with Special Music 7:00 pm Candlelight Choral Service 9:00 pm Candlelight Service with Holy Communion	CHRISTMAS DAY OFFICE CLOSED 10:00 am Service of Holy Communion	BOXING DAY OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 pm Al-Anon Meeting	OFFICE CLOSED 12:00 Noon Fitness 7:00 pm Ballroom Lesson	OFFICE CLOSED
29	30	31				
16 PENTECOST 10:00 am Service of Holy Communion OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED 12:00 Noon Fitness 1:00 pm Ballroom Lesson	NEW YEAR'S EVE OFFICE CLOSED	December 25 – January 1 Church Office will be closed			

MISSION STATEMENT: 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.



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