



GOOD SHEPHERD STAFF

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Newsletter December 2018

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CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES SET



To celebrate the joyous birth of Christ, Christmas Eve services have been scheduled for **6 p.m. and 11 p.m.** this year.

Each service will begin with special prelude music being played by our guest string players at 5:45 p.m. and again at 10:45 p.m.

The first service will be geared particularly toward families and will include a Children's Sermon. The children and youth will be singing at this 6:00 service. A nursery will be provided only at this service.

Both services will include Holy Communion.

We pray that you will take the time during the busy-ness of the holiday season to come join your brothers and sisters in Christ here at Good Shepherd in offering thanks and praise to God as we celebrate the Advent and birth of our Lord.

ONE SERVICE for LESSONS & CAROLS WORSHIP DECEMBER 30 – 9:30 a.m.

On the 1st Sunday after Christmas – December 30 – we will hold our traditional Service of Lessons and Carols. Worshippers from both the early and late services will come together for this joint opportunity of worshipping together at 9:30 a.m. Sunday Church School will not be held that day. Also, join with fellow worshippers for coffee and refreshments following the service.



WEDNESDAY EVENING ADVENT SERVICES

As we move prayerfully through the month of December toward the birth of Jesus, you can join your fellow worshippers on **Wednesday evening, Dec. 5, 12, and 19**, for a short **Advent Evening Service at 6:30 p.m.** in the sanctuary.

No meal will be served this year.



Advent Hope

So, the Thanksgiving Holiday has now come and gone; we are moving ever more deeply into the Holiday Season. At the malls, Santa has been there for young children for two or three weeks, ornaments have been in stores since September, and the 24 hour all Christmas music stations have been playing “songs of the season” for a while, and last, but not least, the Hallmark Channel is in a full court press of Holiday movies that will last to the end of the year. One of my neighbors has had his Christmas tree up for two weeks before Thanksgiving.

In all of this holiday cheer, Advent gets lost. Now I know that if you’re not a member of one of the denominations that follows the church calendar, you’re not even aware that this season of Advent exists. We do know, however. Advent is for us the beginning of a new church year. It is also the beginning of a new season of hope.

If you’re my age and a life-long Lutheran, you know that once upon a time the color used in Advent was purple, the same color as is used in Lent. Now, the color is blue – the color of hope. I’m not sure when it happened, because for me blue has always been the color of Advent. The change was made when church theologians began to understand that Advent was much more about hope than penitence. There are two focal points for this Advent hope: the birth of Jesus as a human baby, and the anticipation of Jesus’ return. These two focal points are reflected in the gospel readings.

Jesus’ birth changed the whole world. His birth changed the world because it led to his death, burial, resurrection—in which we have hope. His ascension, which contains the second focal point, leads to our hope in his return. It is important for us to note that the hope for the world that comes in his birth and the hope that comes in his ascension are linked by the events of Easter. Jesus’ birth is important because Easter happens. Likewise, his ascension is important because of the Easter events which precede it.

In truth, we sing “Joy to the World” because of the hope that comes at the birth of Jesus, our Savior, and because we believe that the ascension leads to “He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,” (Nicene Creed) we have hope in the promise of return.

Advent, staged amid the hurly-burly of our culture’s “Christmas Season,” gives us space to which we can step apart from all that is around us and steep ourselves in the Hope that comes with Christ. For this reason, we have prepared for the congregation devotional materials for every age so that we can be in preparation for the Christmas season—that we can fully appreciate the hope that arrives on Christmas morning. Amen.

I hope all of you have had a very happy Thanksgiving Holiday and have a very Merry Christmas.

SOCIAL MINISTRY NEWS

Ring the Bell for Salvation Army: Good Shepherd will be ringing the bell for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign on Thursday, December 13, and Saturday, December 15, at the Wal-Mart on Forest Drive, Food Court Entrance. Sign up with a friend or family member to cover a one-hour time slot on either day; we start at 10 am and finish by 8 pm. Youth, 16 and older, can volunteer as bell ringers. Youth under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Sign-up sheets are on the Red Kettle stand in the Narthex.

Assistance for Veterans: Our Social Ministry focus for August was Hidden Wounds, a local organization formed to help veterans suffering with PTSD and other service-related problems. Congregation members generously donated \$626. We have found that Hidden Wounds is no longer an active service provider. Social Ministry Committee selected another local organization that works with veterans to receive the donation. The Big Red Barn Retreat in Blythewood has offered free therapeutic activities for veterans since 2009—equine assisted therapy, healing art, gardening, and restorative yoga. Learn more at www.thebigredbarnretreat.org.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is hard to believe that 2018 is almost over. Where has the time gone? As we approach the Advent and Christmas season it is my hope that everyone will take the time to slow down and enjoy the meaning of Advent and not just skip over to Christmas with all its hustle and bustle. Please take the time to join your fellow brothers and sisters at the Advent and Christmas Eve services this year. And as the year draws to a close when thinking about those New Year’s resolutions make sure that you endeavor to include regular attendance at Sunday School and Sunday worship services. If you have not done so, now is the time to ponder where can I be of service to Good Shepherd in 2019. Fill out those Time and Talent cards, find that Pledge Card and return it to the church office, become an active participant not just a once in a while attendee.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Becky Shealy

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

The Worship Life Committee asks you to help beautify our church for Christmas by placing poinsettias in the sanctuary for Christmas Eve. Please use the **"Seasonal Flower Offering"** envelopes in each pew to order your poinsettia(s).



The **Seasonal Flower Offering envelopes** have the order form printed on them for your dedication. Complete the form to indicate your dedication, place your check or payment amount in the envelope, and place it in the offering plate.

The cost is **\$13 each**. Make your check payable to "Good Shepherd

Lutheran Church" and place it in the **"Seasonal Flower Offering" envelope**. If you can't come to the church but want to order a poinsettia, call the church office to place your order.

Place your check and the order form in the offering plate or bring or mail it to the church office **by Sunday, Dec. 16**. The first 75 orders accompanied by payment will be accepted. If you donate a poinsettia, you may take your plant home after the 11 p.m. Christmas Eve Service.

Fun Fridays—Friday, December 14



Please consider coming to Fun Fridays to be a helper on Friday, Dec. 14 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. or any part of that time. **In order to continue this valuable gift to our Fun Fridays participants, we need some additional helpers for this event that happens every two months.**

If you are comfortable with serving or preparing food, helping with simple crafts, setting out Bingo cards and games, talking with some amazing individuals, and having fun, then you are qualified. If you are not sure, please come this time for a few minutes and see what goes on at Fun Fridays.

Fun Fridays is a recreational program for individuals with lifelong developmental disabilities. Its purpose is to provide those individuals living with parents and caregivers an evening of fun and fellowship and also to provide their caregivers a night out (although they are welcomed to join in the fun).

For more information or a reminder for Dec. 14, contact Susan Sturkie (788-6807, sloopystur@aol.com.)

GIFTS OF HOPE: FOR CHRISTMAS— FOR EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR

This Advent, the SC Synod is again offering the gift-giving program called Gifts of Hope, which enables us to buy gifts which show God's love for His children and help fill needs in South Carolina and around the world.

From Dec. 2 through Dec. 23, Social Ministry committee members will sell Gifts of Hope in the narthex after each Sunday morning service. The gift catalog offers 32 unique gifts priced from \$10 to \$150 and includes such choices as school uniforms and supplies for children in Tanzania, assistance for young adults aging out of foster care, and hospice care for low-income patients. The common element is generosity demonstrated by purchases of Gifts of Hope.

Make checks payable to Good Shepherd and write "Gifts of Hope" on the memo line. Cash is also accepted. With your gift selection, you will receive an insert to describe your gift which you can enclose in your own Christmas card. You may also choose to make your purchases online and download/print your own gift inserts through the Synod's Web site at <https://scsynod.com/gifts-of-hope/>.



LIVE WIRE CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Live Wire will meet December 21 in the FAB at 12 noon. Susan Sturkie will play for a sing along. So come and get in the holiday spirit. Bring your favorite dish for the covered dish luncheon, and enjoy the fun and fellowship.

Live Wire is in need of a new Chairperson. I have served over 10 years in this position and have resigned as of December 21. It has been my pleasure serving in the position, but felt it's time someone else step up to the plate and serve. Submitted by Betty Cox.

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Call Committee met with Synod Representative, Pastor Ginny Aebischer, in mid-November.

Two candidate names have been provided and the Call Committee is diligently working to review profiles in preparation for potential interviews.

Please continue to keep the Call Committee in your thoughts and prayers!

Amanda Snodgrass

YFM TO DECORATE CHRISMON TREE



Young Family Ministries (K-2nd graders) will be decorating the Chrismon Tree on **Saturday, December 15 at 9:00 a.m.** There will be light refreshments and goodies for the little ones and we will be meeting in the Narthex of the church. All kids of all ages are welcome to come together and help hang Ornaments on our Chrismon tree. Contact Mitch Uehling for more details for this event.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS PLAY COVERED DISH DINNER

December 9, 2018 ~ 5:30 p.m.



On **Sunday, December 9, at 5:30 p.m.** the children and youth of Good Shepherd will present an Advent/Christmas play entitled, "God With Us – Emmanuel!" written and directed by Jim Johnson.

The play will explore the history of the people of Israel longing for the Messiah to come and heal the wounds of the world. We will explore what the prophets of old said as part of our Advent preparation, and we will experience the beauty and joy of the birth of Jesus at Christmas.

Our play will make use of a puppet theater and our youth will serve as puppeteers and puppet voices. Both children and youth will have group songs, solos and lines which tell the story.

Mark your calendars! Please write **December 9 at 5:30 p.m.** in your calendars, so that the entire congregation can be part of this celebration. **A covered dish supper will follow the performance.** Bring your favorite dishes to share.

A rehearsal for the play will be on **Sunday, December 2, following the late worship service until 2:00 p.m.** Lunch will be served to those participating. An additional run through will be held at 4:30 p.m. on **December 9 prior to the 5:30 performance.**



YOGS PLAN CHRISTMAS PARTY

ALL JR/SR YOGS - Saturday, December 8, 3:00-9:00 p.m.

The YOGS will meet at the Youth Room at 3pm before leaving for West Columbia Light parade, Christmas Caroling, Christmas Party with small gift exchange, story and dinner back at the Youth Room. Contact Deborah Whitlow and Leigh Ann Tollison for more information.



GOD'S YOUNG FOLLOWERS

God's Young Followers will have an Advent/Christmas celebration on Sunday, December 16, after the late service in the FAB. All 3rd, 4th and 5th graders are invited to join us for some fellowship and fun. Please watch your e-mail for more information. To be added to the e-mail list, contact Lisa Sanchez at mikelisasanchez@gmail.com or leave a message at 803 736-2070.

Mark your calendars for our January 2018 meeting, which will be on Sunday, January 27, 2019. Note that we will meet on the 4th Sunday instead of the 3rd Sunday due to the MLK holiday weekend.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL ITEMS

The Learning Ministry and Worship Life Committees are providing several special items to be used during our Advent season, which begins Sunday, December 2. An Advent devotional book entitled "The Father's Love" is provided for each active family unit (one per family, please). One entitled "God's Word Comes Down" is provided for each active teen and young adult (middle school through college). For each active child, three years through 5th grade, an Advent calendar and chain is being provided for their use during the season. The children's items have been marked with their family's name. If you should not find one for your family, please notify the church office. You may pick these items up from the table in the narthex. We encourage you to use them to enhance your Advent season as we prepare and anticipate the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES DEC. 24

EARLY

6 p.m.

Lennae Sox – Acolyte; **Millie Sox** – Crucifer
Eden Rowell, Isabella Fettig – Torch bearers
William Foster – Banner bearer

Greeters

Jean Cockrell, TBD

Ushers

Team #1 (Lucas, captain)

Lector

Tim Mueller

Comm. Assts.

Diane Smith & Joey Allison

Nursery

Kimi Dail, Anna Ross

LATE

11 p.m.

TBD – Acolyte; **TBD** – Crucifer

TBD – Torch bearers

TBD – Banner bearer

Greeters

Deb Embrey, Nancy Hyatt

Ushers

Team #4 (Wingard, captain)

Lector/Communion Asst. Don Caughman (L), Cathy Quinton (C)

Tabulators (on 12/27) Mitch Uehling, David Lucas

DAY SCHOOL READY FOR NEW YEAR

Wow!!! Where has 2018 gone? I am so thankful for all of God's blessings He has bestowed upon the Day School. We had a wonderful turnout for our annual "No Turkey & Fixings" Thanksgiving luncheon. I want to thank all of the parents, grandparents, friends, and Church & Day School Staff for helping to make the luncheon a big success!

We will be having our annual Christmas Program this year on Tuesday, December 11, at 6 p.m. in the FAB. We invite you all to come by and see our little ones sing. This will definitely warm your heart and put you in the Christmas Spirit.

Just a reminder that the Day School will be closed from Monday, December 24, through Tuesday, January 1, for the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!! Jessica Burton



YOGS HONOR VETS

On **November 18** the YOGS honored our veterans with their annual luncheon in support of Veterans Day. We had a wonderful lunch with Todd Gustafson who was our guest speaker this year. He served 20 years in the Army Nurse Corp.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS (PER CHURCH RECORDS)

1	William Pope	7	Devon Robinson	12	Victoria Houghton	18	Kelly Grace Lalumondier	27	Clarissa Ferry
	Tim Nance	8	Cleve Hancock	14	Linda Van Duys	21	Lula Camp	30	Gaye Collins Tucker
	Judy Rogers	9	Charlene Fink	16	Jackson Nabors		Adelaide Cannon	31	Bob Barnhill
3	Una Rose Van Duys	10	Delaney Uehling		Stephane Seay		Joey Lisowski		Michelle Maness
4	Dave Shelton	11	David Hill	17	Wilhelmina Edwards	24	Chuck Henderson		Andrea Keim
6	Alyia Grosh		Ron Jones	18	Cheryl Christian		Chris Seay		
7	Patty Branham	12	Walker Bostic		Marion Eargle	25	Jeff Inabinet		

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

8:15 AM Contemporary Worship Service (Sanctuary)
 9:00 AM Fellowship, Refreshments, & Announcements (CI-1)
 9:25 AM Children's Music (Children's Music Room)
 9:30 AM Sunday Church School Grade 6—Adult
 9:55 AM Sunday Church School—Kindergarten—Grade 5
 10:45 AM Traditional Worship Service (Sanctuary)

December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue
2 WORSHIP TIMES ABOVE <i>Advent I</i> <i>Return Salvation Army Stockings</i> 11:45 pm Advent/Christmas Play Rehearsal (FAB) 3:00 pm Funeral for Sarah Evans 4:00 pm Confirmation	3 6:30 pm NA (Conference Room)	4 11:30 am Bible Study (CI-2) 5:30 pm Evangelism Comm. (CI-1) 5:30 pm OA (Conf. Room) 6 pm Centering Prayer (CI-4)
9 WORSHIP TIMES ABOVE <i>Advent II</i> <i>Return Angel Tree Items</i> 11:45 am Executive Comm Mtg (CI-2) 4:30 pm Advent/Christmas Play Rehearsal (FAB) 5:30 pm Children's Advent Play and Congregational Covered Dish Dinner (FAB)	10 5:00 pm Trenholm Artists Guild (FAB) 6:30 pm NA (Conference Room) 6:30 pm Youth Committee Meeting. (Youth Room)	11 11:30 am Bible Study (CI-2) 5:30 pm OA Meeting (CI-2) 6:00 pm Centering Prayer (CI-4) 6:00 pm Day School Christmas Program (FAB) 6:30 pm 20*20*20 Healing Prayer Group (Parlor)
16 WORSHIP TIMES ABOVE <i>Advent III</i> <i>Food Pantry Sunday</i> <i>Congregational Meeting (Council</i> <i>Elections & 2019 Budget Approval)</i> 12:00 am GYF Event (FAB) 4:00 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Congregational Council (CI-2)	17 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 6:30 pm NA (Conference Room)	18 11:30 am Bible Study (CI-2) 5:30 pm OA (Conf. Room) 6 pm Centering Prayer (CI-4)
23 WORSHIP TIMES ABOVE <i>Advent IV</i>	24 <i>Day School closed all week</i> <i>Christmas Eve Services</i> <i>6 pm and 11 pm</i> 6:30 pm NA (Conference Room)	25 <i>Day School closed all week</i> <i>Christmas Day</i> <i>Church Office Closed</i> <i>NO BIBLE STUDY</i>
30 <i>Noisy Offering Sunday</i> ONE WORSHIP SERVICE ONLY AT 9:30 AM <i>No Sunday School</i>	31 New Year's Eve <i>Day School closed</i> 6:30 pm NA (Conference Room)	

Tuesday Morning Bible Study: 11:30 a.m.—Classroom 2

Wednesday Choir Rehearsal: Adult Choir 7:00 p.m.

Please see an updated church calendar and the calendar for other months at <http://www.qslc.com/>.

Click "Calendar" under the "Resources" heading.

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 5:30 pm Laureate Annual Mtg (FAB) 6:30 pm NA (Conference Room) 6:30 pm Advent Service (Sanctuary) 7:00 pm Traditional Choir Rehearsal	6 11:00 am Mary Group Christmas Luncheon (@ Lizard's Thicket) 6:00 pm WELCA Board Mtg (Parlor) 6:00 pm Mentoring Program (Youth Room)	7	1 <hr/> 8 3:00 pm YOGS Event
12 6:30 pm NA (Conference Room) 6:30 pm Advent Service (Sanctuary) 7:00 pm Traditional Choir Rehearsal	13 Salvation Army Bell Ringing @ Walmart Noon Fun Fridays Setup (FAB) 6:00 pm Mentoring Program (Youth Room) 6:30 pm Parish Life Committee Meeting (CI-2)	14 6 pm Fun Fridays (FAB)	15 Salvation Army Bell Ringing @ Walmart 9:00 am YFM Decorating Chrismon Tree 5:00 pm Private Event (FAB)
19 6:30 pm NA (Conference Room) 6:30 pm Advent Service (Sanctuary) 7:00 pm Traditional Choir Rehearsal	20 2:00 pm Shepherd's Visitors (CI-2) 6:00 pm Mentoring Program (Youth Room) 6:30 pm Dorcas Group (Becky Shealy's home) 6:30 pm Tamar Group	21 Noon Live Wire Christmas Luncheon (FAB)	22
26 Day School closed all week Church Office Closed 6:30 pm NA (Conference Room) 7:00 pm Traditional Choir Rehearsal	27 Day School closed all week 6:00 pm Mentoring Program (Youth Room)	28 Day School closed all week	29
NOTE: Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Friday 9:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m. In the event of an emergency call the church office at 803-787-4413 or call Pastor John at 803-924-0016.			

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP STEWARDSHIP FOR DECEMBER

DATE	12/2/18	12/9/18	12/16/18	12/23/18	9:30 am 12/30/18	1/6/19
GREETERS	Earline Suydam, Marcia Woodward	Mitch & Stephany Uehling	Jerry & Donna Vaughn	Earline Suydam, Nancy Hyatt	Jim & Melanie Lalumondier	Jerry & Judy Rogers
USHERS	Lula Camp, Marion Eargle, Herman McQuage, Pat Quattlebaum	Dick Sturkie, Lula Camp, Marcia Woodward, Mary Stallings	Lula Camp, Marion Eargle, Herman McQuage, Pat Quattlebaum	Marion Eargle, Lula Camp, Dick Sturkie, Mary Stallings	Lula Camp, Pat Quattlebaum, Marcia Woodward, Adams Smith	Usher Team # 6
ACOLYTE	Madison Tankersley	Matthew Herrmann	Noah Adams	Jack Wuori	Jack Wuori	Grayce Boozer
CRUCIFER	Forrest Havird	Jake Lalumondier	Brock Tollison	Eric Whitlow	Forrest Havird	Jake Lalumondier
WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	Becky Shealy (L & C)	Eden Rowell (L) Barbara Rowell (C)	Bruce Shealy (L) Kerry Stubbs (C)	Elaine Zornow (L) Emily Whitlow (C)	Alice Buckner & Kerry Stubbs (L) Don Caughman (C)	Barbara Rowell (L & C)
NURSERY	Kimi Dail, Leigh Ford	Kimi Dail, Amy Kemp	Kimi Dail, Mitch Uehling	Kimi Dail, Deborah Whitlow	Kimi Dail, TBD	Kimi Dail TBD
ALTAR GUILD	Neal Inman	Neal Inman	Neal Inman	Neal Inman	Neal Inman	TBD
TABULATORS	Mary Margaret Hoy, Jerry Vaughn	David Lucas, Terri Tokaz	Terri Tokaz, Lavina Chandler	Betty Cox, Karen Lucas	Mary Margaret Hoy, Mary Stallings	Leigh Ford, Steve Steck

COUNCIL PERSONS OF THE MONTH: Rebecca Richardson & Wade Wingard **OPENING BUILDINGS:** Mike Brown

FOOD PANTRY: Brock Tollison, Forrest Havird

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP STEWARDSHIP FOR DECEMBER

DATE	12/2/18	12/9/18	12/16/18	12/23/18	12/30/18	1/6/19
GRUSHERS	Marilyn Hogan, Mo Denny	Russell Slice, Marilyn Hogan	Mo Denny, Russell Slice	David & Karen Lucas	One service only	Grusher Team # 1
WORSHIP ASSISTANT	Steve Steck (L & C)	Mike Weaver (L & C)	Bev Weymouth (L) Mike Weaver (C)	Christi Wouri (L & C)	—	
NURSERY	Kimi Dail, Amy Kemp	Kimi Dail, Donna Foster	Kimi Dail, Anna Marie Plyler	Kimi Dail, Mary Stallings	—	Kimi Dail, TBD
ALTAR CARE	Bev Weymouth	Mike Weaver	Steve Hanayik	Karen Lucas	—	

PREPARING FOR 2019

The **Flower Calendar for 2019** is available to sign up for the dates to offer either altar flowers, narthex flowers, or the altar rose for 2019. Altar flowers are \$60, narthex flowers are \$50, and the altar rose is \$10.



Please sign the 2019 Flower Chart posted in the narthex if you want to offer flowers for a certain date next year. *Flowers not picked up by mid-day Monday will be taken to shut-ins.*

Also, **offering envelopes are printed and available** for each active Good Shepherd family. The numbered boxes are personalized with each family's unique number. The **offering boxes are available for pick up on tables placed in the narthex.** Be sure to get yours as soon as possible to prevent costing the church extra money by having to mail it to you.

GETTING CREDIT FOR YOUR OFFERINGS

Donations are effective only in the year in which they are offered. A check received in January 2019 can't be credited for 2018 even if it's dated "2018." Make sure checks are postmarked by Dec. 31, 2018. Then, even if they arrive in 2019, they are still deductible for 2018

The **best way to make sure your offerings are credited** to your account is to use the Good Shepherd numbered offering envelopes assigned to you. Using your offering envelopes helps the offering tabulators and those who handle church finances for record-keeping.

Each Sunday while you are having lunch, a devoted group of your fellow members is processing your contributions. To help them do their job and make it easier for them, please do the following;

1. **Use your offering envelopes or another envelope.**
2. **Write your name on the envelope.**
3. **Write the amount on the envelope.**

If you don't want your pew mates to see the amount, turn the envelope over when you put it in the plate.

This will help the tabulators get home for lunch sooner and reduce the possibility of errors. Thanks for your help and contributions. **Wilbur Smith, Chief Tabulator**

CHILI AND CORNBREAD COOK-OFF SET FOR JAN. 6

The celebration **starts at 6 p.m.** with a chili and cornbread cook-off followed by a short **devotional.**

A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex in late December so you can sign up to bring chili and/or cornbread for the cook-off or offer a dessert.

We are asking for donations of Hats, Underwear, Gloves and Socks. You can drop them off in the FAB when you come for the chili cook-off.



ANGEL TREE

The Angel Tree In the narthex has gift requests from residents of The Women's Shelter, Providence Men's Home, and Boy's Farm in Newberry and from needy students at Bradley and Forest Lake Elementary Schools. Pick a gift tag from the tree and sign the gift request list. Return wrapped presents by **Sunday, December 9.**



SAYING GOODBYE

APPRECIATION is expressed to **Justin Rimbo** for his service as our Interim Contemporary Music Leader the last several months. Justin resigned from this position, effective November 18, to answer a call to serve full-time as Minister of Worship and Innovative Church Outreach at our sister church, Living Springs, in the northeast area. We thank him for his ministry with us at our contemporary worship service and wish him God's blessings in his new ministry call. Although Justin is hard to replace, we are looking for someone to serve with us at our 8:15 a.m. contemporary service. If you or someone you know play the guitar and are interested in sharing your talent at this service, please contact Pastor John at the church office (803-787-4413), Nancy Hyatt (803-873-9449), or Susan Weaver (803-600-1936.)



LECTIONARY FOR DECEMBER 2018

DECEMBER 2 – FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Our Lord’s contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of our Lord in word and supper.

FIRST READING – Jeremiah 33:14-16

In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name—“The Lord is our righteousness”—proclaims that the Lord is even now working salvation for Israel.

PSALM – Psalm 25:1-10

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. (Ps. 25:1)

SECOND READING – 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Upon Timothy’s report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

GOSPEL – Luke 21:25-36

God will fulfill God’s purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God’s people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God’s promised redemption.

DECEMBER 9 – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer’s voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi’s prophecy could as easily herald the coming Lord Jesus as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of the Lord and assist all flesh in capturing a vision of the “salvation of God.”

FIRST READING – Malachi 3:1-4

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

PSALM – Luke 1:68-79

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us.

SECOND READING – Philippians 1:3-11

The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

GOSPEL – Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist is a herald of the saving Lord, whose way is prepared by “repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

DECEMBER 16 – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The presence of the Lord “in your midst” in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the Lord in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one “more powerful” than John, even with his winnowing fork in his hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

FIRST READING – Zephaniah 3:14-20

The prophet Zephaniah’s message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God’s salvation is at hand.

PSALM – Isaiah 12:2-6

In your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (Is. 12:6)

SECOND READING – Philippians 4:4-7

Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns, with the hope they will experience God’s joy and peace.

GOSPEL – Luke 3:7-18

John the Baptist heralds the mighty one “who is coming.” John teaches that preparation for God’s reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

DECEMBER 23 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and the blessed virgin Mary’s magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ’s advent is for “the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in the holy communion—with high delight—“we proclaim the Lord’s death.”

FIRST READING – Micah 5:2-5a

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

PSALM – Luke 1:46b-55

You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (Lk. 1:52)

SECOND READING – Hebrews 10:5-10

The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ’s coming. Through obedient acceptance of God’s will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.

GOSPEL – Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

We are presented with Elizabeth, John’s mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth’s inspired greeting and Mary’s song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

DECEMBER 30 – FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God “to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God,” who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” It is Christmas, still.

FIRST READING – 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Having dedicated her son Samuel to God’s service, Hannah visits him every year when she and her husband, Elkanah, come to the Lord’s house to offer sacrifices. God grants Hannah more children, and Samuel himself gains favor in the sight of all.

PSALM – Psalm 148

The splendor of the Lord is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)

SECOND READING – Colossians 3:12-17

Just as newly baptized Christians in the early church were clothed with white robes upon arising from the baptismal waters, so all who have received God’s gift of life in Jesus Christ are covered with the character of Christ.

GOSPEL – Luke 2:41-52

Jesus grew up in a family that went to the Passover festival each year. It was in this environment of faithful adherence to the law that Jesus grew into spiritual maturity and an understanding of his identity and mission.

WITH PRAYER

Mary Allen	Joanna Carpenter	Doug Fleming	Carol Mayfield	Virginia Stephens
Rev. Russ Anderson	Ginna Caughman	Dot Gibert	Doris McCaughey	Tommie Spence
Loujean Baker	Cheryl Christian	The Gilbert Family	Herman McQuage	Dot Sterling
Gwen Barnes	Betty Cox	Martha Haigler	Gigi Middlebrooks	Jean Sundlie
Trisha Benson	Mary Dent	Louise Hayes	Vic & Cathy Milejczak	Barbara Sutton
Grace Boozer	Helen Derrick	Kitty Howard	Margaret Moody	Nancy Taylor
Rosemarie Brown	Sylvia Anne Derrick (Lippard)	Judy Hoy	Irene Poole	Ashleigh Taylor
Alice Buckner	Marianne De Werdt	Jeannine Jameson	Alice Riley	Luvelle Terrio
Earl Butler	Wilhelmina Edwards	Sara Loyd	Allen Shealy	Darlene Whipple
Rose Butterfield	Larry Evans	Claire Mayer	Rebecca Silva	Melvin Wicker

Relatives and Friends

Erna Allison—mother of Joey Allison
 Jonathan Baker—son of Loujean Baker
 Tara Baker—daughter-in-law of Loujean Baker
 Schuyler Carter—grandson of Wayne & Bonnie Hammond
 Paul Ford—father-in-law of Leigh Ford
 Lamar Harper—brother of Gwen Barnes
 Raynette Kempf—sister of Loujean Baker
 Adam Silvernail—friend of Rosemary Nance
 Agnes Smith—mother of Neal Inman

Gary Thomas—employee of Wes Snodgrass
 Danny Young—brother-in-law of Cheryl Beaman

DEPLOYED

Andrew Fettig

WITH SYMPATHY


The family of Barb Kent, wife of Rod Kent.
 The family of Sarah Evans, wife of Larry Evans.

PLEASE UPDATE THE PRAYER LIST – Those who have requested friends and loved ones to be included on the prayer list, please contact Deborah in the church office at barbara@gscl.com or (803) 787-4413 **to renew your request or add prayer concerns by the newsletter deadline of each month. You may call or email anytime to remove a name.**

Please do not assume that we know the name should be renewed or removed.

The Bible Study Class will continue to meet on Tuesday mornings in December at 11:30 a.m. in Classroom 2. The class is being taught by Pastor John. Coffee will be served.

COME JOIN OUR **BIBLE Study**





Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is actively searching for a **Contemporary Music Leader**.

If you know someone who might be interested, please contact Pastor John at the Church Office (803-787-4413), Nancy Hyatt (803-873-9449), or Susan Weaver (803-600-1936).

Office Information

<http://www.gslc.com>

Hours: Mon–Thurs. 9 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.; Fri. 9 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.

Phone: (803) 787-4413

Day School: (803) 787-4148

Interim Pastor

Reverend John M. Stoudemayer

Parish Coordinator

Deborah Mitchell

Director of Christian Education

Kimi Dail

Financial Secretary

Deb Embrey

Interim Music Staff

Jim Johnson

Organist/Worship Associate

Susan Sturkie

Sexton

Joey Allison

Council President

Becky Shealy

Council Vice-President

Sid Havird

Secretary

Anna-Marie Plyler

Treasurer

Rebecca Richardson

Council Members/Committee

Ed Beaman*/IT Sub-committee

Lauren Chandler*/ Property

Vacant/Learning

Sid Havird/Social Ministry

Nancy Hyatt*/Worship Life

Jeff Inabinet/Youth & Children

Tim Mueller/Evangelism

Rebecca Richardson*/Finance

Steve Steck*/Parish Life

Vacant/Gifts

Mitch Uehling*/Youth & Children

Susan Weaver/Worship Life

Wade Wingard*/Communication

Council Youth Representative

Forrest Havird

** indicates committee chairperson*

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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November 29, 2018

DATED INFORMATION ENCLOSED



Calendar



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!



Dec. 9 — Children's Program & Congregational Covered Dish Supper

Dec. 14 — Fun Fridays

Dec. 24 — Christmas Eve Services (6 & 11 p.m.)

Dec. 25–26 — Church Office closed for Christmas Holidays

Dec. 24–31 — Day School closed for holidays

Dec. 30 — One service at 9:30 a.m.

Jan. 1 — Church Office & Day School closed

Jan. 6 — Epiphany Service in morning worship
Chili & Cornbread Cook-off 6:00 p.m.



www.gslc.com