



Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church Exciting Happenings and Doings of God's People

Dec 16th – 17th, 2017
The Third Sunday In Advent

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." Micah 5:2

Gift Card Collection

Thanks - I would like to thank all the people who contributed to the gift cards this year for our brothers and sisters in Christ who are experiencing financially challenging times. We collected a total of \$1340.00

Well done good and faithful servants!

Ministry Council Update

On Thursday evening, December 7th, the Ministry Coordinating Council met with the main purpose of appointing a president to fill the position left vacant at the November voters meeting. The MCC appointed Dean Gerdes to serve as president. We welcome Dean as our new president and pray that God would bless his service among us! Dean has also graciously consented to serve as both president and treasurer until the MCC is able to appoint a new treasurer.

The MCC is asking male communicant members who are voters to give prayerful consideration to serving as treasurer for the remainder of the term that runs through November of 2018. Those interested in having their names placed before the MCC for consideration to serve as treasurer are asked to contact President Dean Gerdes or Pastor Schwartz by January 10th, 2018 so that we may appoint a new treasurer at the MCC meeting scheduled on January 18th, 2018. "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." I Peter 4:10.

Advent by Candlelight Update

On Friday, December 8th, 50 women attended Advent by Candlelight finding rest in the Lord! A special thank you to our musicians: Joan Richmond (piano), Erin Arndt (cello), Lexi Kennedy (violin), Anna Schwartz (piano) and Lilliana Jaeger (piano).



Christmas for Kids

We were so happy to offer our first Christmas for Kids program Saturday, December 9th. Approximately 25 children enjoyed crafts, songs, snacks and a birthday party for Jesus. Thank you to the parents that sent their children and thank you to our volunteers: Karen Bassler, Carol Miller, Ellen Zank, Barb Koch, Chris Herrmann, Sue Mecklenburg, Lindsey Dahnke, Hillary Brands, Sarah Rardin, Annette Rutschow, Joan Richmond, Jim & Martha Milbourn, Kristen Reynolds, and the 6th, 7th & 8th graders. Your help was greatly appreciated in making the first year of Christmas for Kids a success.



2018 Offering Envelopes Available

The 2018 offering envelopes are now available in the narthex for you to pick up. We encourage you to pick up your box of envelopes so that we may utilize as much space as possible for the additional seating that is set up for Christmas worship.

For those submitting offerings electronically, you are still assigned an envelope number to accurately record your offerings.

If you have questions about your offering envelopes, please contact the office.

Cookies for Puerto Rico

We will continue to make available for purchase the Cookies for Puerto Rico jars after services in the narthex while supplies last. These jars contain all the dry ingredients needed to make cookies (recipe included). Thank you to the volunteers who prepared the jars. Both LWMS Chicago Area Circuit and Thrivent have been generous enough to supply grants to purchase all the supplies. All proceeds will be donated to Christian Aid and Relief - Puerto Rico.

1 for \$8
2 for \$15
3 for \$20



Warm Their Soles Update

Hearts were full this past Sunday! BLAST, our children's ministry, delivered 210 pairs of socks to the residents at Oak Trace Senior Living Center. We sang Christmas songs and visited with some of the residents. Our children truly showed love this holiday season through the outpouring of generosity from our congregation! Thank you to all.



Christmas Cards for our Military Members

Dear Good Shepherd Family, The Christmas season is upon us, and we would like to send some Christmas love to those serving in our military. While you are filling out your Christmas cards, please consider writing one out for our four Good Shepherd members who are serving abroad.

Simply write out a Christmas card, place the military person's name on it, bring your cards back to church by Wednesday, December 20th, place them in the container marked "Christmas Cards for the Military" in the narthex, and I will mail them all out. You do NOT need to place a stamp on the envelope as I will be putting them all in an envelope and mailing them out.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to remind our Good Shepherd military members that we are thinking about them and sending them some Good Shepherd love.

If you have any questions, please email Vicki Smith at: bonusbaby1967@att.net

1. Captain Aaron Meek
2. SFC Adam Nemeth
3. A1C Brieanne Smith
4. SPC Trent Smith
5. Scott Boron

Martin Luther College News – Scott Schmudlach

The Governing Board of Martin Luther College has appointed Scott Schmudlach, a former principal of and teacher in our school, to the position of Vice President for Administration at the college. He will assume the position at the end of this academic year.

Weinachtsfest: a German Christmas

Our sister congregation, Christ the King in Palatine, is hosting their annual German Christmas service and fellowship meal. All are invited to attend this wonderful worship opportunity and enjoy the festive German style fellowship meal. Weihnachtsfest will be held on December 17 at 6:30 pm with the meal immediately following.

Christ the King

[100 W. Michigan Ave., Palatine](#)

Midweek Advent Service & Supper

The last Midweek Advent Service with Pastor Bryant of St. Timothy, Lombard. In addition to our Advent services, we will also be offering simple suppers before each service.

Food for the body will be served from 5:30 PM-6:30 PM. In order to help plan for the meals, if you are able, please sign-up on the sheets in the narthex.

Food for the soul will be served beginning at 7 PM. Our theme for this year is:

"Songs for the Savior"

Wednesday, December 20th - The Song of Simeon (Luke 2: 29 - 32) (Pastor Bryant)

We invite and encourage you to make the most of these opportunities to worship and praise our Advent King!

Order Poinsettia Plants

We will be ordering poinsettia plants (red and white) to decorate our altar on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. We are hoping to fill both poinsettia trees again and to do so we are in need of 40 to 50 plants. The plants will have 5-7 blooms and will be in 6" foil-wrapped pots. The cost per plant is \$12.50. The last date to order is December 17th. Please sign the sheet in the Narthex indicating the number of poinsettias you are ordering. Payments should be placed in the locked box on the wall of the Narthex. Make checks payable to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Questions? Contact Fran Piepenbrink @ 630-325-3058 or Frannep@netzero.net Those who are donating poinsettias may take their plants home following the last service on Christmas Day. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.

Save-the-Date Open House Pre-K-8

Mark your calendars for January 18th. We will be hosting our annual Open House for the preschool and grades K-8.

Come tour our facilities, meet the staff, observe classes, and speak with current families.

January 17th

8:00 am - 11:30 am or 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

School Substitute Teacher List Being Updated

We are currently in the process of updating our substitute teacher list. Substitute teaching requirements are the individual must be a WELS or ELS member and have a college degree. Substitute teaching is a paid position. If you are interested in substitute teaching or know someone who might be, please contact Mr. Roekle at david.roekle@gsdg.org. Thanks!

Amazon Smiles

Send "smiles" of support to Good Shepherd! Good Shepherd is now part of the Amazon Smiles program! Any purchases made through smile.amazon.com will result in 0.5% of your purchase price being donated to Good Shepherd! For more information, terms, and conditions go to smile.amazon.com. **Type "Good Shepherd Downers Grove" into the search block to find us!** Please note that all purchases must be made through "smile.amazon.com" instead of simply "amazon.com" in order to qualify. Thank you for your continued support of Good Shepherd!

Endowment Funds – Future Impact

All of us, individually and collectively, want to believe that we can make a difference. We look for ways to use our time, our talent, our money to make positive changes in our world. However, we often feel frustrated by the short-term duration of the work that we do. We work hard to plan and budget wisely, every year, year after year. Well, we can't effectively plan several years of annual budgets all at once, and we can't effectively organize more than one year's stewardship emphasis at a time, but we can take some other steps that will have a long-term positive impact on our congregation. - Finding ways to grow our endowment fund is one of those steps. It is a repository for long-term gifts from many donors. It is also a resource for long-term plans and projects, including our current vision planning effort that may not find sufficient resources in annual budgets.

The principal of the fund is invested and preserved for the long-term future of the congregation, and the income (or part of it) is spent on current needs.

Some of the benefits that may be realized from Good Shepherd's Endowment Fund that enhance Kingdom work include:

- Facilities expansion
- Scholarships for needy students
- Expanded fellowship activities
- Additional full-time called worker
- Expanded outreach programs and new ministries
- A more flexible ministerial budget

The endowment fund is shaped to meet the needs of our congregation. We invest our endowment funds for long-term growth and spend only part of each year's income. A portion of the income remains in the fund, building a buffer against inflation and future market fluctuations. In this way, gifts to the endowment fund are gifts that keep on giving year after year.

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father. (James 1:17)

SCRIP (SUBSTITUTE CASH REBATE INCENTIVE PROGRAM)

Look for a SCRIP announcement from the School Committee in the coming weeks announcing an exciting opportunity to earn rebates for tuition accounts, the general fund, and the special needs accounts.

What is SCRIP?

With SCRIP, families can easily earn rebates for our church and schools while they shop.

Are you interested in joining us? Questions? E-mail our SCRIP Coordinator, Carlene Derickson, at scrip@gsdg.org for more information.

SCRIP is safe and secure! Many retailers participate in the SCRIP Program.

Visit www.shopwithscrip.com to learn more and see "What's New" with SCRIP and view "Specials" (increased rebates for a limited time).

Order Schedule: Orders and payments due by 12pm

- Monday, December 11th; delivered by December 15th

THE ADVENT WREATH

The Advent wreath is a contribution of German and Scandinavian traditions. It developed out of the simple use of an evergreen spray of fir, spruce, balsam, or pine placed near the hearth. The evergreen of the wreath represents the life that is found in Christ. The greens are in contrast to the outdoors, where nature has begun its winter sleep. Midst the drabness of nature the evergreen branch symbolizes the continuation of life. In the home it is placed on a central table. In the church it is usually suspended above the altar or set on a pedestal. The light of the candles reminds us of Christ, the light of the world, so it is not at all strange that the Christian church has given the candle a prominent place in the observance of Advent. It is the living light, the living flame, that gives the candle its meaning, because the gospel light of Christ is itself a living power. This is what makes it more symbolic than artificial lights. Jesus is the light that broke forth on the world on the first Christmas when he was born as Prince of Peace. He is the light that gradually penetrated into all the world. The traditional act of lighting one more candle each week tells of the increasingly brighter light of the Messiah's coming and leads gradually to the blaze of light at the dawning of Christmas.

1st Sunday in Advent Jeremiah 33: 14-16 (Blue)

The Prophecy Candle honors those who spoke His promises

2nd Sunday in Advent Malachi 3: 1-4 (Blue)

The Bethlehem Candle symbolizes the preparations made for Him.

3rd Sunday in Advent Zephaniah 3: 14-17 (Pink)

The Shepherds Candle honors the first to spread the good news.

4th Sunday in Advent Micah 5: 2-5a (Blue)

The Angels Candle celebrates the joy of Gods grace to mankind.

CALENDAR

TODAY	8:00 am	Worship Service with Charles Bonow
	9:20 am	Sunday School and Bible Class
	10:30 am	Worship Service with Charles Bonow
	3:00 pm	Preschool Christmas Program
	6:30 pm	Weihnachtsfest @ Christ the King, Palatine
MONDAY 12/18	3:45 pm	Basketball Practice @ St. Mark
TUESDAY 12/19	8:10 am	Chapel
	6:00 pm	Catechism
	7:15 pm	Adult Choir
WEDNESDAY 12/20	11:30 am	K-8 Early Dismissal - 12:00 pm All PreK Students Dismissed
	5:30 pm	Advent Supper
	7:00 pm	Advent Worship
THURSDAY 12/21		
FRIDAY 12/22		
SATURDAY 12/23	9:00 am	Christmas Eve Children's Program Practice
	5:30 pm	No Worship Service
SUNDAY 12/24	9:00 am	Worship Service
	4:30 pm	Children's Christmas Eve Program
	10:30 pm	Candlelight Worship

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday 12/21 – Tuesday 1/2		Christmas Break Grades PreK-8 th
Monday 12/25	9:00 am	Christmas Worship
Saturday 12/30	5:30 pm	NO Worship Service
Sunday 12/31	8:00 am	Worship Service
	9:20 am	Adult Bible Study / Childrens Sunday School
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	5:30 pm	New Years Eve Worship
Wednesday 1/3	8:10 am	PreK-8 th Grade Classes Resume with Chapel
	3:30 pm	Faculty Meeting
Thursday 1/4	3:45 pm	Basketball Practice @ St. Mark
Sunday 1/7	12:00 pm	Girl Pioneers
Tuesday 1/9	7:00 pm	School Committee Meeting
Thursday 1/11		St. John's Basketball Tournament

USHER/S

12/16	5:30 pm	Daniel John
12/17	8:00 am	Andy Rush & Dave Bowen
	10:30 am	Chris & Ryan Kruegel
12/24	9:00 am	Erik Guldberg
	4:30 pm	Steve Danekas & Bill Merchantz
	10:30 pm	Dale Gaefnitz & Bob Vicker
12/25	9:00 am	Paul Kippes & Joseph Abegg
12/31	8:00 am	Paul Schoenbeck & Dean Gerdes
	10:30 am	Scott Wolfrum & Joseph Abegg
	5:30 pm	Ed Boron & Jacob Oard

COFFEE SCHEDULE

12/17	Pam Junkunc & Cindy Oard
12/24	Barb Koch
12/31	Sandy Paradis

ALTAR CARE

12/24	No Communion
12/25	Debbie Vicker & Laura Swiatnicki
12/31	Roxanne Zikis & Lindsey Daehnke