

December 2017

The Parish Door

A publication of Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

(920) 854-2988

shepherdofthebay.org

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Advent - A time of Waiting

By the first Sunday after Thanksgiving, the whole world is already busy with all things Christmas: shopping, pageants, and parties, often beyond what our energy and time can handle. While the culture around us urges us to hurry and to spend, the scriptures and the traditions of Advent beckon us to slow down and wait. We have this urge to speed towards Christmas. Advent invites us to slow down and wait.

continued on Pastor's Post page 2.

25 Days of Giving

This Advent please consider giving a gift to support the ministries of SOTB that mean the most to you and your family. Together, we can do more than we ever could alone. See page 5 for more information.



Sunday School News

by Lynne Buchner

Its that most wonderful time of the year again where we celebrate Christ's birth! The Sunday School children will be presenting two skits on December 10th during our second service time at 11:00am.

The pre-k class will open with a Wee One's Christmas Program and the first through sixth graders will present a time traveling account of Christ's life called a Quantum Leap Christmas. We hope to see you there! It will be our last official class for the year and we will resume again in January.

Christmas Service Times

Sun. Dec. 24

- 10:00am Traditional Sunday Service
- 5:00pm Musical Prelude
- 5:30pm Christmas Eve Family Service
- 7:30pm Musical Prelude
- 8:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Mon. Dec. 25

- 10:00am Traditional Christmas Day Service





We wait with the prophets who knew that the Messiah would come, but had to put on the mantle of patience, longing for salvation that would come in God's good time. We wait with Mary and Joseph who, though had some inkling that their child was unique, had no full picture of what that meant.

This is the time for us to slow down and lean together. As with our ancient ancestors in the faith, we gather in the darkness and wait for the light. In the dead of winter, we need each other and we need signs that the sun (and the Son!) will come again — life returning to dark and dormant land and lives. Like the ancients who gathered together for courage and hope that the sun would return, we gather each week to hear the word that does not pass away. The Sunday lessons for the Advent season give us voice for the brokenness of our lives and the promise of a savior.

In the first week of Advent, we are reminded of our desperate need for a God to restore and save. The psalmist cries out on our behalf, "Come and save us!" And Mark, the gospel writer who's message is famous for its urgency and immediacy, warns us to keep alert and stay awake.

In the second week, we are urged to reorder our lives. Isaiah proclaims, "Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and all be made low; the uneven ground shall become level and the rough places a plain." How would we reorder our lives if we remembered that all our accumulations and accomplishments will pass away? How would our paths and priorities shift? Perhaps we'd be prone to cling more fervently to the grace given in the word and meal each week, all of which help us to prepare for Christ's coming. As John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord, so do we. We prepare our hearts and our homes, not in haste, but in love and with tender longing.

In week three, Isaiah promises good news to the captives. We who walk in darkness, especially in this season of waiting and watching, also rejoice. God is turning our mourning into laughter and joy. That's good news for a people stuck in winter, awaiting light. John wasn't stuck in winter, but he was stuck in the wilderness, breaking forth to testify to the light. We walk in our own wildernesses but are called to join our baptized brothers and sisters of all times and places to testify to the One who brings light and life to a broken world.

Mary is the focus of the fourth Sunday in Advent as the angel Gabriel tells her that God will keep God's promise to continue the reign of David. Although perplexed, Mary ponders the angel's word and with confidence is able to say, "Count me in," and so the salvation story continues to a climax in the Bethlehem Christmas story.

In this Advent season, let's honor these dark days. As 21st century people, we are not good at embracing darkness or slowing down. And waiting? That's the hardest of all. But think of it like this. Incubation time is essential. The seed in the ground. The baby in the womb. The grape juice in the barrel. The leavened dough in the mixing bowl. In the waiting we learn about ourselves and others, taking important steps toward understanding. Perhaps there is no better gift that we can teach each other than to wait. Christmas is coming. It's just not here yet.

A blessed Advent to everyone.

A Note From the President:

December is an important month at our church for many reasons. Of course, Christmas, Advent, preparations for these celebrations like the Christmas tree, banners-well, the list goes on and on. And as we deck the halls, I hope we will also deck our hearts, the most important part of Christmas preparation!

My thoughts also turn to the end of things. We're nearing the end of our budget year, a time to assess the financial strength of our church and to set our budget for 2018. Two questions spring to mind: Have you made plans to include Shepherd of the Bay in your year-end giving with a special gift beyond your pledge? And have you helped the finance committee by completing a pledge for the upcoming year?

The budget informs us about what we as a church can accomplish, which ministries we can grow and create, and how we will develop our purpose in Northern Door. We are very blessed to have an amazing physical presence, and we are blessed with very devoted staff and volunteers. What happens with these gifts is ours to decide!

I will leave the council in January as my term runs out. Our council is a very competent and thoughtful group- please take time to thank them when you see them. And I thank all of you for your support, patience, and humor in the last two years I served as president of the church. It was a time of transition and change during our pastor vacancy, but I hope we all see that every single day in our church can be a time of transition!

Have a wonderful Christmastime.
Thanks for reading,

Grace Rossman, Council President

FIND YOURSELF - BY LOSING YOURSELF - IN SERVICE TO OTHERS

CELEBRATE ADVENT and CHRISTMAS with Women of Shepherd of the Bay

Annual Meeting & Pot Luck Lunch

The WELCA December Board Meeting and ANNUAL MEETING will be held on December 5th. Plan to attend and enjoy the delicious POTLUCK at Noon. The Annual Meeting will follow with disbursement of our missions funds, election of officers for 2018, acceptance of the 2018 Calendar of Events and the 2018 WELCA Budget. Your input is valuable for making the decisions for our next year so put December 5 on your calendar and plan to attend.

December EVENTS

- 4,11,18 BIBLE STUDY WITH KEN – 9:00 – Parlor
- 5 BOARD MEETING – 10:00 – Parlor
- 5 ANNUAL MEETING/POTLUCK - NOON
- 7 BOOK GROUP – 9:30 – at Barb Meyer’s Home
- 12 “CHRISTMAS WITH KATIE” – CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON - NOON
- 19 VERNAMAE’S BIBLE STUDY – 1:00 – PLACE TBA

AND OPPORTUNITIES

ATTEND a BIBLE STUDY with Ken on Mondays or on Tues., Dec. 19 with Vernamae.

PRAYER SQUARES are FREE and are available in the Narthex – take one for yourself and for friends to remind you to pray when you touch it in your pocket or purse.

PRAYER CHAIN is for you to request prayers to be raised by our Prayer Chain Members. Contact Bonnie Hanson or Carol Omernick for prayer requests.

Don’t forget to use the **CHANGE BUCKET** – you can make a change in someone’s life by putting a donation - change or bills - in the CHANGE BUCKET every Sunday during Fellowship Hour. Your donation goes to the local Food Pantries not for the coffee at the coffee hour.

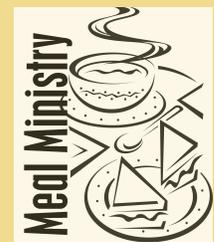
Thank You to Pastor Jim Honig, Carole Bergner, Alysanne Burkhart and Marilyn Peterson for the informative and inspirational WELCA RETREAT day at Bjorklunden on November 7th. Photo at right is of communion at the retreat.



You're Invited

**“CHRISTMAS WITH KATIE”
WELCA Christmas Luncheon
December 12 @ noon**

We will complete our 500th Anniversary Year with Katie Luther (Martin’s wife). Our Christmas program will begin with a catered German Dinner. Don’t miss this celebration! Ticket are available for \$15 during the Fellowship Hour Sundays before the event.



MEALS MINISTRY –
The contact for DECEMBER is VERNAMAE JUEL - 854-7720.

If you know of a family or individual who could use our attention for providing a meal when in need or would like your name added to the list of women willing to prepare and deliver meals, please call: PAT SKOGSBAKKEN at 854-1133.

Guatemala Update

Short Term Mission Trip in April 2018

Shepherd of the Bay, along with Peace Lutheran Church in Antigo, have reserved April 6-14, 2018 for a Short Term Mission Trip to Chichicastenago, Guatemala through the ministry Pray America. Travel to Guatemala would be on Friday, April 6th and departure/travel back to Wisconsin would be on Saturday, April 14th.

We will be holding another informational meeting on Dec. 17, during the coffee hour in the parlor. Stop by and chat with John & Nora Zacek or call them at 920-854-4890. You can also get more information at the prayamerica.org website. A deposit of \$100 is due (payable to "Shepherd of the Bay") by January 19th, or as soon as possible to

Projects done by teams (typically total project costs = \$10,000):

- Building of 12 X 18 or 12 X 16 foot widow homes (\$1500/home)
- Restoration Package (cost \$1150/home): Paint/restore home + Bathroom + Audio-Bible + Water Filter
- Restoration of widow homes previously built (\$600/home)
- Efficient Wood Burning Stove Package (\$300 each)
- Bathroom (\$500 each)
- Water Filters (\$125 each)
- Audio Bibles in Quiche' Language (\$25/each)
- Shoe Distribution (\$10/each): Every child must have a pair of shoes to attend school.
- Feeding Program (\$15/each for a month): Children & widows are fed physically & spiritually twice/week. (\$180 of each team members room/board feeds a child for a year)

Please see the 25 Days of Giving on page for more specific information on donating these items.

Sponsor Family Updates

Members of the SOTB Mission Team support these families in Guatemala. Updates provided by Pray America.

Family #150 (right: Sponsored by John & Nora Zacek. Money raised at last year's Lenten Meal went to help pay for Johanna's Medical bills. She is deaf and lost a lot of her sight due to a brain tumor which was discovered shortly after our 2017 visit.) - Johanna completed her radiation treatment in Guatemala City and she was very ill from it and still recovering, but back in Chichi with her family. She has some follow up exams coming up and will go back to Guatemala City for some more scans next month to determine where they are with the cancer. While Julio (has hydrocephalus) and Ceasar were staying with family in Chichi, Julio lost 2 pounds again because it was just a different routine for him again, but he has gained the 2 pounds back since Theodora and Johanna have come back home with them. Julio is still going to Xela for monthly appointments, in hopes to continue his growth and get him back on track!



Family #30 (left: Sponsored by Dan & Sarah Stoehr) - Maria and her family are doing better. They are continuing to work and make some money. In the meantime, we have started giving them way more food than the normal food baskets most families receive. This family seems to be sick a lot so we want them to get a lot more nutrition in hopes to get them healthier. Once they are healthier, we can focus on other aspects.

Family #79 (right: Sponsored by Karl & Carol Omernick. Money raised at last year's Lenten Meal went to replace their roof which blew off during the rainy season) - Alex and his family are doing well. They are really enjoying our monthly education classes we are doing with all the sponsored families. They say they are learning things that no one has even taken the time or bothered to teach them before so they are very grateful for the sponsorship support and relationships they have with our staff.



It has been cooler in Chichi again this time of year. We at Monte Flor are even cold and we at least have fire places to help warm up our homes. These families don't have those luxuries, but still try to make small fires to heat up their homes so additional firewood and extra blankets/coats are huge need this time of year especially. If you would like to contribute a little more for those items, we will make sure to get it to them! We are also doing a little end of year celebration class with all the families next week and will be giving them all socks and underwear and a small toy for each of the kids, along with a Bible story and some games to use as a bonding time between families. We are looking forward to it! - Pray America Staff

25 Days of Giving

Gift Guide

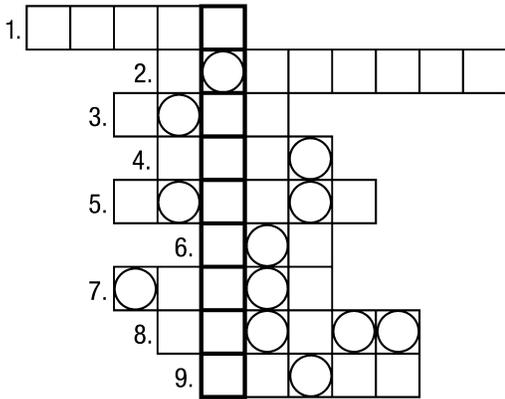
This Advent please consider giving a gift to support the ministries of SOTB that mean the most to you and your family. Together, we can do more than we ever could alone.

Each day we would like to accumulate that number of gifts; ex.) on day 12 we would like to send 12 elementary kids to weekend camp at \$100 each. You can give the entire amount or contribute towards the total.

1. Widow Home (\$1500)
Give 1 widow in Guatemala a 12x18 foot home of her own.
2. Home Restorations (\$600 each)
Repair 2 widow homes in Guatemala
3. Picnic Tables (\$159 each)
For Summer Activities at SOTB
4. Bathroom projects (\$500 each)
Install outdoor toilet facilities for 4 needy families in Guatemala.
5. Quilts for 5 High School Seniors (\$20 each)
(Made by the Wonderful Wednesday Kids)
6. Efficient Cooking Stoves (\$300 each)
Help 6 Guatemala families save money and improve their health
7. Water Filters (\$125 each)
Provide clean drinking water for 7 families in Guatemala.
8. 8 donations of money to the Northern Door Food Pantries to buy items in short supply.
9. Donations for Secret Santa program for providing heat to needy Northern Door Families.
10. Audio Bibles (\$25 each) *for 10 families in Guatemala to hear the Word of God.*
11. 11 Donations for the Bridges Program *(provide a fun evening for the foreign exchange workers.)*
12. Elementary Kids camp at Imago Dei for the weekend (\$100 each)
13. Shoes for 13 kids in Guatemala to go to School. (\$10 each)
14. High Schoolers to ELCA Youth Gathering in *Houston, TX* (\$1200)
15. \$15 pays for a bag of corn, rice, beans, pasta & salt (50 pounds total) for a widow in Guatemala suffering from the drought.
16. Kids to Confirmation Camp (\$425 each)
(A week long camp in June to help our confirmands grow in their faith)
17. 1 roll of Quilt Batting makes 17 quilts (\$75) for Lutheran World Relief
18. \$1.40 each to send School Kits thru Lutheran World Relief
19. Donations for our partner church in Milwaukee, Reformation Lutheran
Christmas Families
#20 -24 to be shared between SOTB families and HELP of Door County
20. Target Gift Cards
21. Walmart Gift Cards
22. ShopKo Gift Cards
23. Piggly Wiggly Gift Cards
24. Gas Gift Cards
25. Your Choice - Please tell us where you would like your money to go.

Puzzle!

Use the clues to fill in the blanks. Then write the word from the boldface vertical column. Also unscramble the circled letters to reveal a seasonal phrase.



1. Carolers and instrumentalists make this
2. What happens at malls
3. The angel Gabriel appeared to her
4. You'll find this under a Christmas tree
5. He was a carpenter
6. Joseph had to pay this in Bethlehem
7. The "ship of the desert"
8. Cattle eat out of this
9. Shepherds tend this

Bold word: _____

Seasonal phrase: _____

NEWS FROM THE Marketplace:



Stop by and see the new location for World Marketplace located across the hall from the church main office. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO VIEW OUR UNIQUE ITEMS FROM FROM AROUND THE WORLD AND THEN SHOP TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

In an effort to support aid in areas of our country and others affected by the recent hurricanes and earthquakes, we will send the remaining 2017 proceeds from SERRV sales to the ELCA Relief and proceeds from the sale of Maya Work items to support the mission trip to Guatemala.

Looking for a hostess gift, stocking stuffer or just a little something for that hard to buy for person? Check out our Fair Trade Coffee and Chocolate in the fellowship hall. We have:

- 14 different kinds of ground Coffee
- 3 kinds of Coffee Beans
- Individual K-cup Coffee
- 15 different kinds of Chocolate Bars (Dark & Milk)
- 7 different Teas (Black, Green, Herbal & Rooibos)
- 3 Types of Cocoa (baking and drinking cocoa)
- Assorted mini chocolate bars gift wrapped and boxed chocolate

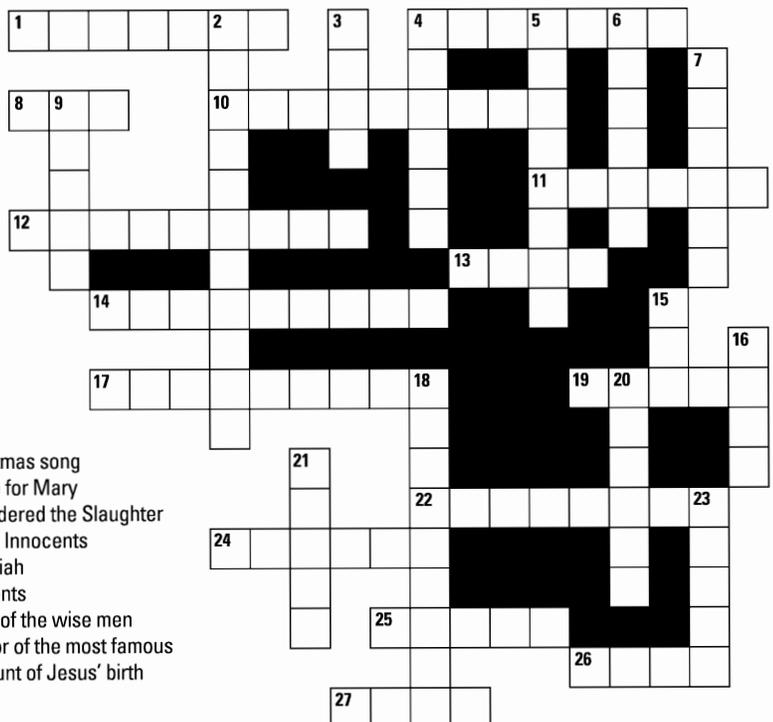
Thank you for remembering the needs of others as you prepare for the season of gifting.

Puzzle!

Enjoy solving this Christmas crossword.

CLUES

1. He has a red nose
2. Red plants
3. A nova
4. (across) The Anointed One
4. (down) Crib
5. Keeper of sheep
6. Season that means "coming"
7. He was a carpenter
8. 12th month (abbr.)
9. Northern little helpers
10. Enfleshed
11. Messiah composer
12. Of Ephrathah
13. Gabriel came to her
14. A form of holly
15. B&B
16. Wise men
17. Tree decorations
18. Patron saint of children (2 words)
19. Red-suited man
20. Heavenly singers
21. Christmas song
22. Home for Mary
23. He ordered the Slaughter of the Innocents
24. Messiah
25. Presents
26. A gift of the wise men
27. Author of the most famous account of Jesus' birth



Building and Grounds Committee

Enjoy your Retirement - Juan Casanas

Thank you for your dedication, dependability and all the things (seen and especially the unseen) that you have done since taking on the custodial duties in October 2009. Keeping a building of this size clean with over 300 visitors a week and multiple functions spread throughout the week is a challenge. Thank you for your most recent efforts in polishing the alter floor, cleaning the kitchen exhaust vent hood, replacing the broken kitchen floor tile, striping/waxing the kitchen floor, painting the kitchen, narthex restrooms and entrance hallway. We all wish you the best for this new chapter in your life.

Fall Work Day – Thank you all for volunteering

We had a very productive Saturday morning with approximately 25-man hours spent cleaning closets and the nooks and crannies of the church. Here are some of the projects completed;

Sanctuary Banner Rm	Emptied out, cleaned and organized
Sanctuary Music Rm	
Sanctuary Sound Rm	
Narthex Chair Closet	
2 nd Floor Elevator Closet	Emptied out and cleaned. Moved in file cabinets for historical records.
Dusted the Library Shelves	
Outside Parlor Courtyard	Moved Play Equipment for youth into Garden Shed for winter

Building Maintenance

During the routine fall tune-up and inspection of our heating systems we found a cracked heat exchanger in the furnace that heats the east side of the sanctuary. This furnace was new at the time of the addition and had had the heat exchanger replaced in 2013 as part of a warranty issue. Because of the short-lived replacement we decided to replace the furnace rather than take the chance of having the same problem 3-4 years from now.

The inoperable pleated shade in the north window of the fellowship hall by the piano has been re-strung and is fully operation now.

Thomas Tuttle, Chair Buildings and Grounds

GIBRALTAR SCHOOLS HOSTS ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER

Wednesday, December 6th at 11:00am

Gibraltar Area Schools & Gibraltar High School Student Council invite you to their Annual Senior Citizen Holiday Dinner on Wednesday, December 6th at 11:00 a.m. Guests will be seated in the Elementary School Gym starting at 10:00 a.m. Guests will enjoy performances by the Gibraltar High School Band, Middle School Choir and High School Choir.

The meal will include turkey with gravy, mashed potatoes, carrots, cranberries, and dessert. Seating is limited, so please place a reservation by leaving your name, phone, and number of guests at 920-868-3284 extension 244 along with any questions. Drop off guests using the bus lane to the Elementary School entrance. Parking is available in the main lot by the Secondary Schools entrance. In the event of inclement weather and/or school cancellation, there will be no make-up date.

Your Gibraltar Family looks forward to seeing you and sharing in the spirit of the holiday season!

Readers :

	<u>Early Service</u>	<u>Late Service</u>
Dec. 3	Gail Brine	Karl Omernick
Dec. 10	Ken Bergner	Sunday school Christmas
Dec. 17	Robin Butchart	Scott Henry
Dec. 24 @ 10:00 am	Jan Mielke	No Service
Dec. 24	MaryKay Shumway	
Dec. 25	OPEN	
Dec. 31	Jan Stromen	Scott Henry

8:30am Ushers :

Dec. 3	Scott & Marcia Eckdahl
Dec. 10	Dick Burress & David Daubner
Dec. 17	OPEN
Dec. 24	Bob & Sharon Pluff
Dec. 31	OPEN

Please sign up on the bulletin board if you can help usher in 2018.

'Tis the Season for Singing!

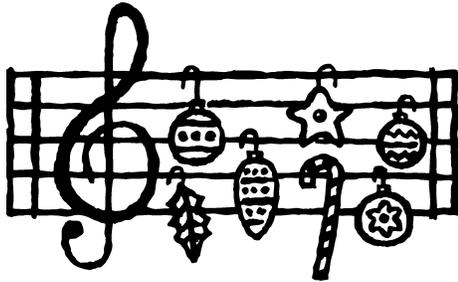
Advent is upon us, which brings some beautiful and unique music to the worship services at Shepherd of the Bay. While shoppers are being serenaded with "Deck the Halls" and "Frosty the Snowman", we at Shepherd of the Bay are singing music that points us toward the birth of Jesus. "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" and "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" fill our hearts with longing and expectation.

This thought points toward the opportunity to sing with the choir for a season! If you have ever been interested in singing with the Shepherd of the Bay choir, NOW IS THE TIME!!! You would be most welcome to add your voice for the season of Advent (beginning Sunday, December 3 and ending Sunday, December 24, during the 8:30 a.m. services) and Christmas Eve (the 8:00 p.m. candlelight service).

THE GOOD NEWS IS THIS ... IF YOU LIKE THE EXPERIENCE OF SINGING IN DECEMBER WITH THIS AMAZING GROUP OF SHEPHERD SINGERS, YOU CAN KEEP SINGING WITH THEM IN JANUARY!!! If you would prefer to sing only in December, that's fine as well!!! It's an opportunity to try this choral experience out for a short term, with no long term strings attached.

Please consider this invitation to sing! We need your voice in the Shepherd of the Bay choir for this most meaningful season. We would welcome your joining us! Together we can make beautiful music!

I hope to see you soon!
Judy Jackson



WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO DO IN ORDER TO TAKE YOUR SEAT IN THE CHOIR LOFT???

It's so simple! Here's the plan:

1. Attend the Thursday evening rehearsals at 7:00. You don't need to make special arrangements or even ask permission ... just come! We will have plenty of music and a special choir seat set aside for you!
2. Rehearse with the choir before the 8:30 a.m. Sunday services ... we begin this rehearsal at 8:00. It's such a good group of singers, you will find the benefits of singing with such a wonderful community of friends far outweigh the slight inconvenience of arriving at church a wee bit earlier than you normally would.
3. Sing the choir anthem and help lead the worship from the best seats in the sanctuary at the early service on Sunday mornings in December ... AND YOU GET A ROBE TO WEAR!!!
4. Participate in the beautiful Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 24. We will sing three choir anthems during this meaningful worship experience.

Poinsettia Order Form

It is time to order poinsettia plants for Christmas decoration. They will be on the altar for Dec. 24, 25 & 31. You may take your plant beginning Sunday, December 31st after the service.

Place your order soon! The deadline to order is **Sunday, Dec. 4th** and the number of plants is limited. No orders will be accepted after that date and no orders will be taken by phone.

The price this year will be **\$25.00** each. Please send or bring your order **with CHECK** attached to church.

Please print –

Name: _____

Phone: _____

In memory/honor of _____

Youth and Family Ministry News from Jane Burress



As 2017 comes to an end, I want to thank you for your support of this ministry. Your prayers, sharing of your time/gifts, and donations of money are greatly appreciated. This ministry would not exist without your generous hearts. Joy and peace to you this Christmas Season.



Thank you to Phyllis Fitzgerald, Jed Omernick, Bonnie Hanson, and Eloise Lindem for helping with the Fall Party for Little Lambs. It was a fun morning and great to have Jill Harding share her new book with us.



Wonderful Wednesday Children had a sleepover and learned about Martin Luther and the Reformation. Thank you to Eloise Lindem, Kristi Appel, and Jed Omernick for spending the night with us.



Confirmation youth had a night of bowling and pizza at the Sister Bay Bowl. Thank you to Cindi and Jeremy Schwab for their commitment to teaching this class.



Senior High Youth have enjoyed the mystery guest dinners. I am grateful to Eloise Lindem and Delmar Dahl for sharing stories with the youth group in November. Nine youth attended the East Central Synod Youth Gathering in Oshkosh. The main message of the weekend was C.O.F.F.E.E. (Christ Offers Forgiveness For Everyone Everywhere), based on Ephesians 4:31-32. Great speaker, music, and workshops. The youth board (which includes Rachel Follingstad and Gabby Lettie), did a wonderful job planning the weekend. Rachel also designed the T-shirt, which everyone wore for their service project. Our group visited Father Carr's Place and had a tour. "Father Carr's Place 2B is a Life Enrichment Center that ministers to the poor and provides family and community activities." It was an amazing place, sharing God's love in so many ways. Thank you to Jed Omernick for going along with us.



Church Directory Update!

Its not too late to update your listing in the directory with new phone numbers and photos.

Follow the directions to the right to put the directory on your smart phone, tablet or computer.

Contact the office (854-2988) for more info.

Sync Our Church Directory to Your Mobile Device

Now you can sync our church directory directly to your Apple, Android or Kindle Fire device with a FREE app!

Search for other members, and then email, call or text – right from the directory app.

It's Easy!

1. Go to your device's App Store.
2. Search for Instant Church Directory.
3. Enter your email as it's listed in our church directory.
4. Follow the directions on screen to complete the login process.



We're Here and We Care

The Church is only the Church when it exists for others. The church (you and I) needs to be evolved in the lives of its community. It needs to tell men and women what it means to live in Christ... to exist for others. This is the ministry to which Stephen Ministers have been called. We're here and we care.

For more information about having a Stephen Minister, call George Cobb at 839-2651.



2018 SOCIAL 6

FEBRUARY, MARCH and APRIL

Think about signing up in late January.

Be shepherds of God's flock...

1 Peter 5:2a



The *CARING SHEPHERDS* Committee was started in the Fall of 2009 at the request of Pastor Foster.

He saw the need for ministry to the homebound in our congregation. Ten members of the congregation volunteered to take bulletins and make short visits to the homebound and those not able to attend our church services on a regular basis.

Videos of our first service each Sunday, along with bulletins, began in 2010 as we continue our ministry to help our members stay connected with our church during these difficult times in their lives.

The sermons are available to you on You Tube on the Shepherd of the Bay Web Site. www.shepherdofthebay.org - check it out.

DVD disks of the 8:30 service are made each week and are sent or taken to those members who are not able to attend our church service.

If you would like to join the *CARING SHEPHERDS* Committee or would like to help with videoing a few church services, please contact Cheri Boock.

All Saints Day Candle Lighting on Sunday, Nov. 5th.

To see a video of the candle lighting, go to shepherdofthebay.org/worship/sermons.



Council Minutes - Nov. 20, 2017

Present: Greg Casperson, Alicia Kropuenske, John Skogsbakken, Scott Henry, Ron Hupe, Barb Meyer, Grace Rossman, Carl Jackson, Pastor Honig. Absent: Jenny Sitte, Holly Thomas

Meeting opened with prayer at 6:00pm.

Pastor Honig gave us his monthly report. He continues to teach Bible class & Adult forum, planning & leading worship, one on one visits and pastoral care. Pastor will be taking some vacation time the week of November 27th. Ken Bergner will be filling in on Sunday December 3rd.

Minutes from the October council meeting were reviewed with a motion made by Carl Jackson to accept the minutes as presented. Second by Greg Casperson.

Ron Hupe presented the **Treasurer's report**. The council reviewed the Revenue Statement, Debt reduction, and the balance sheet. Giving was down slightly from budget for October while expenses were over budget slightly. The investment transfer for the endowment fund was officially made from the ELCA to Thrivent. The pledge response has been great. Please continue to prayerfully consider your pledge for the upcoming year. Greg Casperson approved the report as presented, second by Carl Jackson. Motion carried.

Property & Grounds report was given by Greg Casperson. A new furnace was installed this past week. Discussion continues in regards to keeping Church records in a fireproof location. At this time, the council agreed that the upstairs elevator storage room would be the appropriate space as it is already fireproof storage. Interviews continue for the custodial position.

Worship & Music report was given by Scott Henry. Many favorable comments about All Saint's Sunday. Please note the changes in the upcoming Sunday schedules: December 10th 8:30 regular Worship & 11:00 Service=Sunday School Christmas Program (no communion). December 24th: only a 10:00 Traditional Service in the morning with a 5:30pm & 8:00pm Christmas Eve service. January 28, 2018 Annual Congregational Meeting at 9:45 am between services.

Education & Youth report was emailed in by Jane Burress & Lynne Buchner. Lynne has approximately 18 students attending Sunday School. She continues to look for volunteers to help teach and share their faith story. Jane reported that the Pancake breakfast brought in over \$900.00. There were several High School Students that attended the Synod Youth Gathering. Monies continue to be donated to the Youth Endowment fund and to the National Youth Gathering trip to Houston.

Health, Outreach & Bridges report: No report to give this month. There was some discussion on the state of the Church Library and how it could become more user friendly.

Finance & Stewardship report: Pledge Sunday started November 12th. Please prayerfully consider how you can financially support our Church and the wonderful programs it provides to both members and non-members.

Nominations: Greg Casperson & Grace Rossman will be ending their second term on the council and will be looking for two new members for church council.

A motion was made by Greg Casperson to accept the Committee reports as given, second by Carl Jackson. Motion carried.

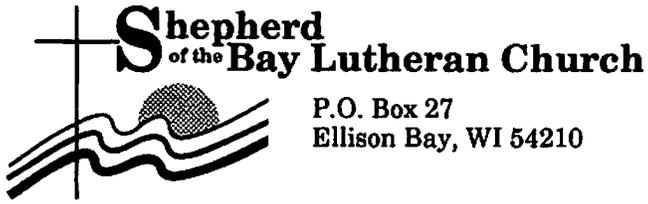
Next council meeting will be December 18th @ 4:00pm instead of 6:00pm.
We closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alicia Kropuenske, Secretary

Puzzle Answers

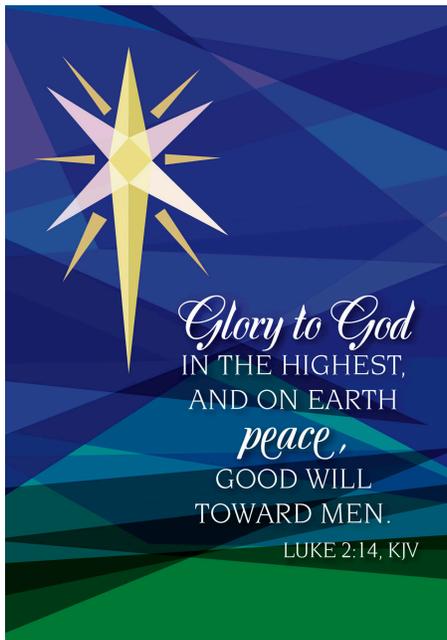
Answers: music, shopping, Mary, gift, Joseph, tax, camel, manger, sheep, Christmas, peace on earth

Answers: 1. Rudolph, 2. poinsettias, 3. star, 4. (across) Messiah, 4. (down) manger, 5. shepherd, 6. advent, 7. Joseph, 8. Dec, 9. elves, 10. incarnate, 11. Handel, 12. Bethlehem, 13. Mary, 14. mistletoe, 15. inn, 16. Magi, 17. ornaments, 18. Saint Nick, 19. Santa, 20. angels, 21. carol, 22. Nazareth, 23. Herod, 24. Christ, 25. gifts, 26. gold, 27. Luke



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Christmas Service Times

Sun. Dec. 24

- 10:00am Traditional Sunday Service
- 5:00pm Musical Prelude
- 5:30pm Christmas Eve Family Service
- 7:30pm Musical Prelude
- 8:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sun. Dec. 25

- 10:00am Traditional Christmas Day Service

Sundays Lessons for December

December 3 : First Sunday of Advent

First Lesson: Isaiah 64:1-9

Second Lesson : 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Holy Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

Introduction to the readings: Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. When we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

December 10 : Second Sunday of Advent

First Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-11

Second Lesson: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

Introduction to the readings: John called people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing would get in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

December 17 : Third Sunday of Advent

First Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Holy Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

Introduction to the readings: "Rejoice always," begins the reading from First Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of the spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes that make us feel happy just to put on. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

December 24 : Fourth Sunday of Advent

First Lesson: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Second Lesson: Luke 1:46b-55

Holy Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

Introduction to the readings: God keeps the promise made to David, to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

December 31 : First Sunday of Christmas

First Lesson: Isaiah 61:10 - - 62:3

Second Lesson: Galatians 4:4-7

Holy Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

Introduction to the readings: In the psalm all the natural world praises God, including all humanity, male and female, young and old. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we speak of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.



December Coffee Hour Group

Co-chair: Alicia Kropuenske 421-0528

Juan Casanas	421-1605
Anita Franke	854-2455
Michelle Hefty	854-9423
Erv & Carolyn Hitzeman	854-5052
J.J. & Kris Johnson	854-5490
Shannon Jungwirth	854-2095
Kendall Koehler	839-5000
Patricia Koessl	854-5642
Lee & Jill Lhost	421-0285
Mark & Jennifer Sitte	854-1807
Joel & Holly Thomas	854-2420



January Coffee Hour Group

Co-Chair:

Alicia Kropuenske 421-0528
Tom MacDonald 854-7364

Dave & Jeanne Aurelius	854-5027
Jack Axelson	854-7531
Dan & Gretchen Farwell	854-6203
Betty Ann Heard	854-5929
Jeff Johnson	854-2114
Josh & Alicia Kropuenske	839-2559
Lawrie & Mary Kull	746-0998
Roberta Kutlik	854-9242
Cheryl Lemke	854-5576
Celia Manson	421-0276
Karl & Carol Omernick	421-1965
Scott & Kathy Schultz	421-2302
Roy & Bunny Sheahen	854-9204
Mary Kay Shumway	421-0038
Al & Nancy Strack	854-7392



Altar Guild :

December - Bob & Sharon Pluff
January - Roy & Bunny Sheahen