

# GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

December 2017

## From the Pastor

### Merry Christmas!

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger because there was no place for them in the inn. And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you:

you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

I remember standing on the hillside which overlooks the 'shepherd's valley' where all things Luke mentions in this passage actually occurred according to tradition. Though it may not have been the exact spot it was near the spot near sBethlehem, it was a valley and there were lots of caves for sheep to be housed. It was an awesome feeling as I stared over the valley as to what that scene must have looked like when angels appeared. The looks on the shepherd's faces, that sense of joy and fear of God coming into our world as one of us...WOW! What love God has for us! He came with the single-minded purpose of offering his own body for sacrifice. Imagine what life would look like if God had not become flesh and blood. If Jesus had not died for sin, our sin would have had the last laugh in eternal death and damnation. But God saved us!

*Continued on page 2*

As we traveled into Bethlehem we came to what many believe is the exact birth spot of Jesus. In order to enter the place of Christ's birth today, one must bow because of the size of the doorway or entrance. As I bowed it made sense that all who enter into the place of God's birth should be humbled and bow down before the Savior and in fact the next time God comes in the incarnational flesh of Jesus every knee shall indeed bow!

"at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Philippians 2:10-11

*Pastor Toby*

## Update on the Interim Process

Patrick Henry once said, "I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided, and that is the lamp of experience. I know of no way of judging of the future but by the past." For the first 3 months together we have been examining the past as I made many visits to simply listen to your stories concerning the history of Good Shepherd. I heard both the bad and the good and how each has impacted the church from the very beginning.

I have worked with the leadership in examining leadership styles asking questions like, what is the difference between organizational leadership and Biblical leadership? How is the church developing new leadership? Especially younger leadership if possible? Do we need a different leadership style? Or do we organize around boards as we have for so many years?

Currently we are in the process of reviewing the past through cottage meetings with a focus towards mission. Do we exist as a Church for ourselves? Are Sunday mornings about me? How are we reaching the community?

As of this writing we are finishing up the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cottage Meeting before I leave for a few weeks for some personal time and vacation. I gave the Elders some homework as we continue to discuss mission and the future. When I return I will be doing a sermon series on Stewardship along with Advent services and preparing for Christmas. After Christmas, on January 6<sup>th</sup> we will have a congregational workshop to begin to develop a vision for the future from which we can develop some goals and strategies for the future. Then my last Sunday will be January 14<sup>th</sup> but don't worry because even now the elders are developing a plan for what happens after I am gone!

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**Advent Services** begin the first Wednesday in December! They will be held along with the brothers and sisters of Grace at 7 pm. The soup supper will be offered prior to the service at 6 pm

**Christmas Eve Services** will be at 9 am and 5 pm in the Sanctuary. Grace Lutheran will have a service at 7 pm in the chapel.

**Christmas Day** – no service for Good Shepherd, but Grace will have a service at 10 am.

# President's Corner

December brings forth a number of Opportunities to Service our Community and our Church. Let me get into each on an individual basis.

1. December starts a new church year. With that come many opportunities to serve. They range from our Free Meal on Tuesday evenings to Quilting. We continue to have many areas of service during worship. This ranges from Altar Guild to the Sound System. These are just a few areas of service.
2. December also brings the end of the calendar year. It's a time when we refocus ourselves on the Lord. Stewardship is a big area of that process. Have you thought what you are going to do next year? Now is the time to think about it. What time and talent do you have for God? Above all, what treasure are you willing to give for God's work? It's all important.
3. This month we will have our Annual Voters Meeting. We will go over and discuss church officers, budget, mission projects, outreach areas, and our general church health. It will be held the second Sunday (December 10<sup>th</sup>) after Sunday School / Bible Class. It should start about noon. A sandwich lunch will precede the Voters Meeting.
4. We have restarted the call process for our church. This can be a time consuming process so we ask for your patience. It works this way...the congregation has the ability to nominate candidates to be our Pastor, we then send that list to the LCMS NW District and they send us biographies of our

candidates, and also those they compile for us. The Call Committee then reviews all the biographies and selects 3-5 names that they feel would be a good fit for Good Shepherd. These are then presented to the congregation to review and a Voters Meeting is held and the voters then vote to issue a call to a specific candidate. Once a candidate is selected, a call is issued and we await a response. If it is accepted...great! And if rejected, we repeat the last part of the process again until we finally get a Pastor. This takes time. We could realistically see this well into 2018. It's God's timing, not ours.

5. We are changing Project Christmas this year. Instead of adopting individuals from a group home, we are adopting families from Fawcett School. These people live in our surrounding neighborhood. We are also giving food baskets to those in need at our Thanksgiving Free Meal program on Tuesday night. These will be distributed the Tuesday before Christmas. We are asking for cash donations so we can help these families. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated. All the families will know the gifts came from Good Shepherd. We will also do something age appropriate for each of our preschoolers.

*...Continued on page 4*

Please note in this newsletter the holiday schedule for Church Services. It includes the schedule for Grace Lutheran since their times will be different from ours. December also brings Advent Services on Wednesday December 6, 13, and 20. We will have a soup supper before each Wednesday service.

As always, all church leaders are available to speak to you after service. If it's on your mind, it's probably on someone else's mind too. We don't know what you think if you don't talk to us. Communication is important in the church...let's keep the channels open.

See you in church on Sunday.

*Joe Morton*  
President

## Voters Meeting

Our congregation will hold its annual **Voters Meeting** on **Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>** following Sunday School / Bible Class, which will be approximately **12 pm (noon)**. A lunch of Sandwiches and Chips will be provided. *OUR FUTURE IS AT STAKE...PLAN TO ATTEND!*

## Do You Know Who Your Elder Is?

Zone	Elder	Names
1	Norm Gerken (253-845-1521)	Alber – Classen
2	Joe Morton (253-473-5649)	Cunningham – Jaech
3	Wayne Boudreau (253-405-4904)	Jindra – Merkel, L.
4	Julian Doyle (253-584-7244)	Merkel, R. – Scott
5	Tony Huset (253-753-3764)	See - Zmuda

# Advent Midweek Evening Services:

We will combine with Grace Lutheran for the Wednesday evening Advent Services, which will begin with a **Soup Supper** at **6 pm**, followed by the **Worship Service** at **7 pm**. Please join us!

December 6<sup>th</sup>

December 13<sup>th</sup>

December 20<sup>th</sup>



## Holiday Services Schedule



### Christmas Eve

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
9 am and 5 pm in the Sanctuary

Grace Lutheran Church  
10:45 am and 7 pm in the Chapel

### Christmas Day

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
No Service

Grace Lutheran Church  
10 am in the Chapel

### New Year's Eve

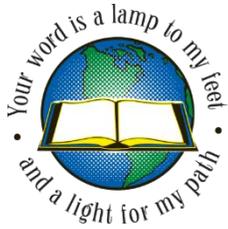
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
9 am in the Sanctuary

Grace Lutheran Church  
10:45 am in the Chapel

## Project Christmas



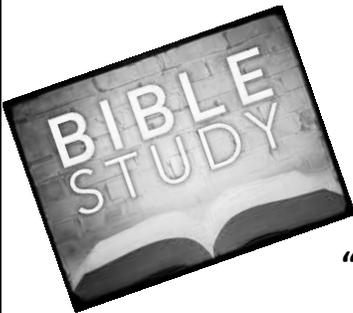
This year we are doing something a little different for Project Christmas. We are adopting families from Fawcett School who are in need. Instead of gifts, we are collecting money to purchase gift cards for the family to use. Please open your hearts and wallets to help these families. We are expanding to our neighborhood community. Thank you!



## **Sunday Sermons are now being audio recorded**

and are available for you to listen, share, and enjoy again anytime on our website @ [www.goodshepherdluth.com](http://www.goodshepherdluth.com)

## **Men's Ministry Schedule for December**



December 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8 am

**COFFEE AND BIBLE STUDY**

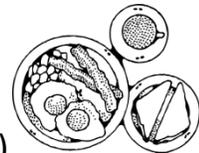
**"Coming Home at Last"** (Ezra and Nehemiah)



December 16<sup>th</sup> – 8 am

**BREAKFAST AND BIBLE STUDY**

**"Join Our Poetry Circle"** (the Wisdom Literature)

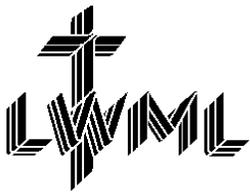


## **Financial Update**

As we end the year, we are significantly short of our budget projections. We were able to get by this year because of Pastor Gerken's retirement. In order to call a new Pastor, we are going to need to meet the budget. There are significant changes in the budget along with significant changes in our giving. Let's all do our part to keep our head above water and meet our obligations. Your support is vital to our survival.

We need to praise God, for all blessings come from Him.

Thank you for your continued prayer and financial support.



# Women in Mission / Women's Ministry

**Tuesdays:**

**Bible Study** (9:15 am)

**Quilting** (10 am)

**Mites**—Sunday, December 10

Please note!

- There will be no Bible Study or Quilting on December 26<sup>th</sup> or January 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- There will be no Seafarers Auxiliary in December.

This year we celebrated 75 years of LWML.  
God has richly blessed us!

Remember: **Jesus**

**Others**

**You**

Merry Christmas!

Serving the Lord with Gladness

*Jane Oberg*

## Lunch Bunch News



December is our annual gift exchange. Please bring a gift to exchange. If you attend as a couple, bring two (2 gifts). Please limit any cost from \$5 to \$10 (no white elephants). We will decide our future at this time. Please join us on **December 14<sup>th</sup>** at **11:30 am** in the Fellowship Hall for the Gift Exchange and a shared Pot Blessing Lunch.



## Preschool News [www.littlelambstacoma.com](http://www.littlelambstacoma.com)

### *Sharing Christ, Feeding Lambs*



Thank you to everyone who participated in and supported our Cookie Sale and Calendar Sale fundraisers. Without your cooperation and interest they would not have been as successful as they were. We appreciate you! If you are still interested in a 2018 calendar please call the church office @ 253-473-4848.

For the month of December we will be preparing our hearts for the birth of Christ during our Bible story time. This is a very special time of year when we tell the real reason for the celebration of Christmas. Please pray for our students that the love of Jesus would truly be real to them!

We still have openings in our Toddler, 3's and 4's classes. If you know anyone interested with children in these age groups, please send them our way. Thank you!

**AMAZON CHRISTMAS SHOPPING...**  
**No cost to You Preschool Donation**  
**When You Shop AMAZON.COM**

Do you like to do shopping online? If you do, we would like you to consider going through our website to AMAZON.com. Our preschool has a continuing fundraiser through our website that is an **ongoing** campaign in association with AMAZON.com. Please help us by making your purchases through AMAZON by visiting us at [www.littlelambstacoma.com](http://www.littlelambstacoma.com) and clicking on the "Support US Shop AMAZON" button! By using the Little Lambs Preschool website AMAZON will donate directly to our preschool a small percentage of what you spend without it costing you any more money.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to everyone who blesses this preschool in any way. May our God of Life bless you in a very special way this Christmas.

Merry Christmas!

Serving our Savior,  
*Bonnie Jean Huset*  
Director / Teacher

