



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

The Shepherd's Scroll

Preaching, Teaching, and Reaching in Jesus' Name

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:

In a favorite text from Isaiah 11, we are told:

“A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.”

As Christians, we read this text and recognize Jesus – the new beginning coming out of the dead tree, yet still part of the Davidic line.

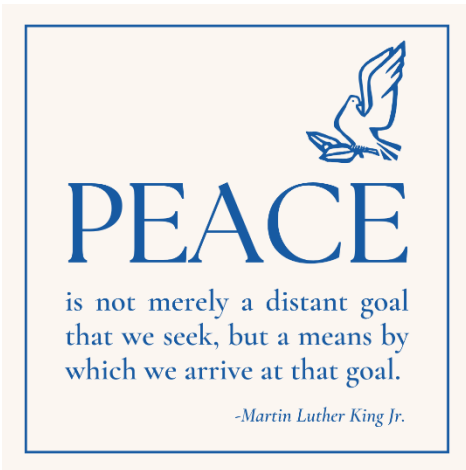
A few verses later, Isaiah describes a ‘peaceable kingdom’ under this person of wisdom and understanding. He writes, “The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.”

Peace is one of the themes of Advent. In fact, many people name the second candle of the wreath “Peace”. And yet, peace can be hard to find in a world filled with turmoil, in the busy season of Christmas preparation and travel plans and holiday gatherings, in a time filled with memories that might bring up old pains or underline recent losses.

Despite those challenges to finding peace, we recognize that peace is a gift given through Jesus. And peace is a gift we can bring each other. Peace-making is part of our calling as people who follow the Prince of Peace. And peace-making is a gift we can develop through practice. In fact, peace-making is one of the ways in which we find peace for ourselves. Martin Luther King, Jr. insisted, “Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal.” It’s a both-and.

During the weeks of Advent, we’ll be exploring the gifts of God offered through the arrival of Christ in our midst. Our “Jesse Tree” in the sanctuary will grow weekly with symbols of those





many gifts, including the gift of peace. On December 8th, we'll be focusing on peace and praying particularly for peace during morning worship. And in January, women from the congregation and beyond are invited to explore stillness and experience peace in a morning retreat.

I pray that we may find and practice peace during this busy Advent season. May we offer peace to those who are grieving, carve out peace for ourselves and our families in the midst of busy calendars, and pray for peace on earth, good will to all. And may we be people of peace, following the Prince of Peace.

In Christ's peace,
Pastor Lynette Chapman

STEWARDSHIP 2024



Thank you for the 'pieces' you share in ministry here at Good Shepherd and for your response to our annual stewardship appeal. We've received nearly 50 intentions of giving to date. And with many folks indicating an increase in their giving, we're estimating about a 4% growth in total giving for 2025. On the quilt side of the blocks, several individuals indicated interest in sharing their gifts in new ways. The Stewardship team is currently working our way through those notes and will make connections in the next week or so.

Thank you so much for your ongoing support of God's work in and through Good Shepherd, for your willingness to share your gifts generously, and for trusting the Holy Spirit to lead us forward in faith and love.

*If you would like to add your 'piece' and fill out a pledge card for 2025, please contact the office.

WORSHIP NEWS

December 1 – Bell Choir Special Music

December 8 – Prayers for Peace & a vocal soloist

December 15 – Congregational Christmas Program “Christmas Isn’t Christmas”



CROSS+GEN GATHERING

**Sunday, December 1
10:15AM**

GSLC Fellowship Hall

Everyone is invited to our monthly Cross-Generational gathering.

ADULT FORUM TOPICS

December 8 - Who Owns My Yard? Part 3 of 3 - Pastor Roger Digges continues a Bible study partly based on 1

Cor. 10:26: “The earth and its fullness are the Lord’s.”

December 15 - Miraculous Sons – Part 1.

Retired ELCA Pastor Cinda Bruker. Throughout the Old Testament and into the Gospels, we encounter stories of childless couples whose fervent prayers are granted with the gift of sons. We’ll look at how the patterns in these stories change, and the insights we can learn from them.

December 22 - Miraculous Sons – Part 2.

Pastor Cinda concludes.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

**2ND-5TH SUNDAY MORNINGS
10:15AM**

Classes for K-3, 4-6, and 7-12 are ongoing. If you’re

interested in teaching, talk to Pastor Lynette or Susan Hinrichs.



**December 24 – Christmas Eve Services
5:00 & 7:00PM**

Children are welcome to attend either service. Our nursery will not be professionally staffed that evening but is available for parents to use.

January 5 – Lessons & Carols for Epiphany

HELP DECORATE THE SANCTUARY FOR CHRISTMAS!

**Saturday
December 7, 9AM**

Volunteers are welcome to help the Worship and Music team decorate.

No need to sign-up, just show-up!
We’ll have coffee and cinnamon rolls!
Contact Samantha Fisher with questions.



SMALL GROUPS @ GSLC



DWELLING TOGETHER

Sit down for a chat, conversation about a Bible passage, mutual support and prayer.

Meets Sundays at 10:15AM in the Small Group Room near the Library.
Led by Sue Plisch.



GSLC PIECE MAKERS

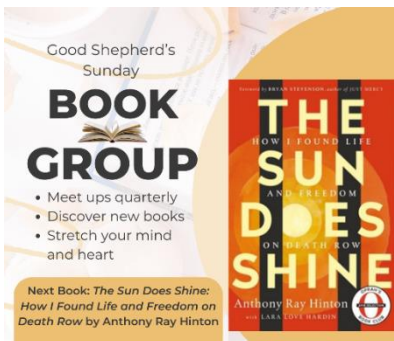
Tuesdays
12-3PM

GSLC Quilt Room

Sewing experience is NOT needed in order to participate. Most of our meeting time is spent sorting, cutting, and ironing fabric. There are jobs for every skill level! All are welcome!

Contact Lois McConomy or Jodi Davis for more info.

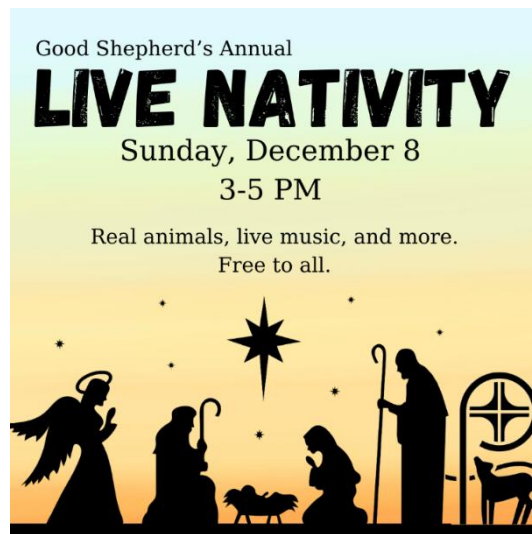
FELLOWSHIP EVENTS



GSLC BOOK GROUP HAS BEEN POSTPONED

NEW DATE TO BE DETERMINED

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



LIVE NATIVITY

Sunday, December 8
3-5PM

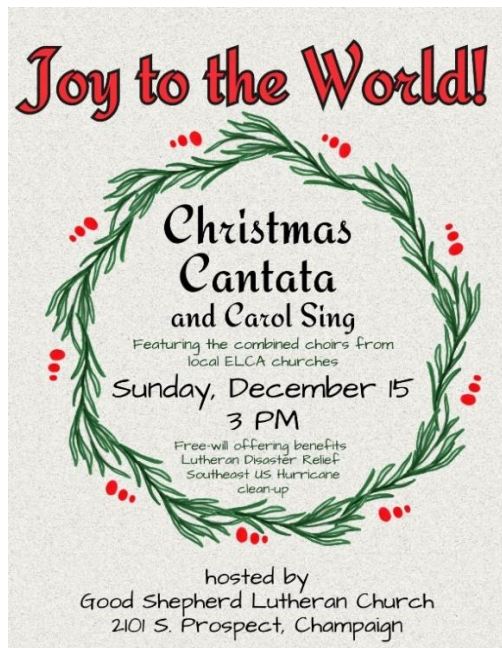
This year's Live Nativity event will include:

- Live Nativity Scene with a variety of live animals along with costumed characters who will have simple lines to tell the story of Jesus's birth
- Fire pit where visitors can roast marshmallows
- Hot cocoa and cookies inside the north lobby
- Singing with Readings

Visitors will be encouraged to park in the back parking lot and then walk through our live nativity and join in the activities along the front of the church. Candy canes and Christmas information cards will be given out.

Volunteers are needed for all activities. Sign-up sheet is located on the table in the narthex.

Contact Tori Corkery with questions.



CHRISTMAS CANTATA
Sunday, December 15, 3PM
@Good Shepherd
Refreshments will be served



WOMEN'S WINTER RETREAT
Saturday, January 11 9AM-Noon
 Be warmed and restored.
 Be still and know God's presence.

You are invited to a free morning retreat. Led by Ruth Mytty and Nancy Olson, with help from Pastor Lynette, this retreat will explore ideas and habits for finding stillness and intentionality in the midst of everyday life, and especially in times of stress and anxiety. Open to all women from Good Shepherd as well as family and friends. Sign up on the table in the narthex or by calling the church office. Light breakfast and coffee provided.



SIGN-UP FOR WELCA 80 AND OVER CHRISTMAS COOKIE BAKING

WELCA has a tradition of providing a tin filled with homemade cookies to our senior (80 and over) members during December.

We would like to request 2 or 3 dozen cookies from members that enjoy baking to contribute to this tradition. Sign-up sheet in the Narthex or use this online link:

<https://gslc.breezechms.com/form/035d3b>

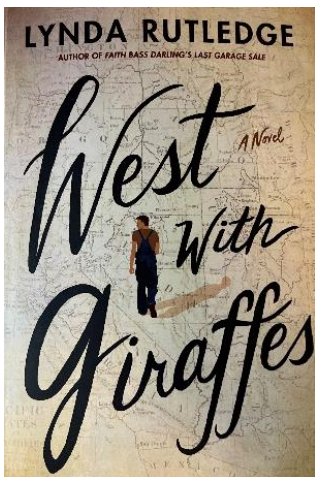
Please note: Cookies must be BAKED and please no cream cheese or other ingredient that can spoil if left out for several hours.

Please leave your cookies in the Nurses' Office on Tuesday, December 10 by 12:30pm.

All are welcome to help at 12:30pm on Tuesday, December 10 when we will fill the cookie tins and then deliver them. We will meet in the kitchen/Fellowship Hall.

Questions: Contact Beth Followell.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES
For the month of December, all bible study groups will be meeting on Tuesday, December 10 at 12:30PM to fill the cookie tins for our 80 and over members.
All women are welcome!



WELCA BOOK CLUB

Thursday
December 12, 9:30AM
GSLC Choir Room

West With Giraffes
By Lynda Rutledge

This story is part adventure, part historical saga, and part coming-of-age love story. It explores what it means to be changed by the grace of animals and the kindness of strangers. It takes place during the great depression and captures the life in this era with a cast of lovable characters. The giraffe is self-conscious about his neck being too long, but he learns to appreciate his unique feature and show us all about self-acceptance.

Questions, contact Jan Nuss.

Book for January *The Invisible Woman*
 by Erika Robuck



WELCA CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

Saturday
December 14 @ GSLC
10:00AM-Noon

Join us for our
 Christmas Brunch!

Enjoy a delicious buffet provided by Piatto Café, as we delight in the company of our sisters in Christ. Following our meal, we'll have a brief WELCA meeting to decide upon the organizations that we will gift with the

profits from the bake sale and other donations. We will play Bible Pictionary and sing some hymns and carols accompanied by our own Leon Harrell.

Tickets for the event will be \$22 for adults and \$11 for children over 2. Tickets will be available after worship December 1 and December 8. Please inform us of food preferences (meat or veggie quiche) and if you will require childcare (childcare will be provided if needed).

Menu for Christmas Brunch:

Your Choice of Homemade Vegetarian or Meat Quiche, Smoked Paprika Breakfast Potatoes, Strips of Bacon, Mixed Greens with Pears, Apples, Walnuts, Dried Cranberries, Blue Cheese, and Maple Dressing, Fresh Fruit Salad, Assorted Muffins, Juice and Coffee.

We are looking for help with the brunch!
Please consider volunteering to:

- **Help with setting up on Friday afternoon, 12/13 (2-3 people)**
- **Greet guests at the event beginning at 9:45 on 12/14 (2-3 people)**
- **Begin cleaning up at 11 am on 12/14 (2 men and/or youth)**

If you have any questions or are interested in helping with the brunch, please contact Patty Hart or Laurie Johnson.



7 SIGNS OF DEMENTIA: WHAT'S NORMAL, WHAT'S NOT

Research adapted from
article in the Massachusetts
General Hospital Newsletter

1) Memory loss that disrupts daily life:

What's Normal: Forgetting names or appointments but remember them later

What's not: Forgetting recently learned events or information and asking repeatedly for the same information.

2) Challenges in planning or solving problems:

What's Normal: Making occasional errors when balancing check book.

What's not: Changes in the ability to follow a plan, work with numbers or keep track of bills.

3) Difficulty completing familiar tasks:

What's Normal: Occasionally needing help to use settings on the microwave or recording a TV show.

What's not: Find it difficult driving to a familiar location or remember the rules of a favorite game.

4) Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps:

What's Normal: Misplacing things such as a glass or the remote control.

What's not: Trouble with conversations, putting things in wrong places such as keys in the refrigerator. Accusing others of taking things.

5) Confusion with time or place:

What's Normal: Getting confused with day of week but figuring it out later.

What's not: Losing track of dates, seasons, where they are or how they got there.

6) New problems with speaking or writing:

What's Normal: Occasionally having trouble finding the right word.

What's not: Trouble joining in on a conversation, stopping mid-sentence, or calling things by the wrong name.

7) Changes in mood and personality:

What's Normal: Developing specific ways of doing things and becoming irritable when routine is disrupted.

What's not: Becoming confused, suspicious, fearful, or anxious. Upset in places when out of their comfort zone.

Sandy Reifsteck RN, Faith Community Nurse

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS RESEARCH STUDY

Are you 60 years or older and experiencing challenges with memory, thinking, or concentration?

If so, you're invited to participate in an important research study at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

They're developing new technology to support the cognitive and social aspects of everyday life and are seeking your valuable insights and opinions through a small group discussion. Participation is compensated.

To be eligible, you must be:

- 60 years of age or older
- Experiencing difficulty with memory, thinking, or concentration
- Able to communicate in English

If you're interested, please call (217) 300-5445 or email: HFA-SPARC@Illinois.edu

YOUTH NEWS

Pumpkin Update



GOOD SHEPHERD GOD SQUAD

7th-12th grades

Saturday
December 14
6-8PM

We'll order food and play sardines, talk about the experience of confirmation camp and more. Candle-time devotions will round out the evening. Youth will also be able to choose their costumes for the Christmas play in worship the next day.

I would like to thank everyone for a successful pumpkin fundraiser. Whether you sold pumpkins, purchased them, or both, your support is greatly appreciated. A special thanks goes out to Bob Clark for his countless hours of help.

We were fortunate to have just enough pumpkins to get us to Halloween. Bob sold the last several pumpkins just as trick-or-treaters started to appear.

Total funds raised were \$4,985. Of that, \$200 will be donated back to the community for its support through the Toy Drive at Empty Tomb.

Sincerely, Eric Brucker



GOOD SHEPHERD YOUTH CLUB

3rd-6th grades

Saturday
December 14
4-6PM

We'll have snacks and devotions, play favorite games and sardines. Kids will also get the chance to choose their costumes for the Christmas play in worship the next day, if they wish.



25 Pumpkins in this vehicle!

SKI TRIP

A congregational ski trip is being planned for early 2025. If you're interested, please talk to Eric Brucker.

EXERCISE GROUP CELEBRATES 43 YEARS OF "MOVING AND GROOVING" TO THE MUSIC.



This group meets every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9 - 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All ages and abilities are welcome. It is a fun time to get your body moving with head-to-toe flexibility. No reservations needed! Jan Nuss and Myrna Johnson are long time attendees. They can answer any questions you might have.



GSLC Stewardship Blessing



Order Your Poinsettia Plants
Order forms due on or before
Sunday, December 15

POINSETTIA PLANTS

Order forms are available at the church. Please return your order form to the church on or before Sunday, December 15. The cost for each plant is \$10.

Electronic payment is available on our website by clicking on "Give" and choosing "Altar Flowers/Worship" or pay by cash or check with "Poinsettia" in the memo line and leave it in the offering tray along with your order form.

You can take your plant with you after the Christmas Eve Service.



GSLC Choir on a Sunday morning

DECEMBER SERVING SCHEDULE

	12/01/2024	12/08/2024	12/15/2024	12/22/2024	Christmas Eve 5PM	Christmas Eve 7PM	12/29/2024
Acolyte	Zechariah Fisher	Donovan Dewing	Jake Brucker	Declan O'Connell	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	Donovan Dewing	Zechariah Fisher
Communion Assistants	Dan Corkery	Joe Chamley	Agatha Barnes	Dean Olson	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	Samantha Fisher	Jenelle Keene
	Tori Corkery	Nancy Holm	Susan Hinrichs	Ashton Waller	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	Cinda Brucker	Dylan Keene
	Nancy McCowen	Becky Fisher	Marla Todd	Tim O'Connell	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	Susan Hinrichs	Gail Block
Reader	Ashton Waller	Gail Block	Cinda Brucker	Lois McConomy	Joe Chamley	Agatha Barnes	Rebecca Nef-Heffernan
Chancel Care	Myrna Johnson	Alex Dewing	Alex Dewing	Tori Corkery	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	Tori Corkery
Food Delivery	Bob Clark & Dean Olson	Don & Gail Block	Patty Hart	Bob Clark & Michael Jay	N/A	N/A	Carol Manley
Flower Delivery	Patty Hart	Gail Block	Agatha Barnes	Dean Olson	N/A	N/A	Jenelle Keene
Nursery	Carol Manley	Amy Chamley	Lisa Young	Samantha Fisher	N/A	N/A	VOLUNTEER NEEDED
Coffee/Donuts	Nancy Holm & Samantha Fisher	Don Block & Lisa Young	Don Block & Laurie Johnson	Don Block & Becky Fisher	N/A	N/A	Don Block & Patty Hart
Usher	Jim Manley	Sue Plisch	Eric Brucker	Don Block	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	Sue Plisch	Joe Chamley
Livestream	Darrell Hoemann	Darrell Hoemann	Darrell Hoemann	Darrell Hoemann	Darrell Hoemann	Darrell Hoemann	Darrell Hoemann

If you are interested in serving as a volunteer on Sunday mornings, please contact Traci in the church office at staff@gslc-cu.org to be added to our volunteer list.



Pastor	Lynette Chapman
Parish Admin. Asst.	Traci Shepherd
Treasurer	Bob Clark
Keyboardist	Leon Harrell
Choir Director	Julia Hartman
Custodian	Dennis Lage
Parish Nurses	Sandy Reifsteck
	Elizabeth Kakoma
	Celeste Coverdill

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday – Thursday
8:00AM – 3:00PM
&
Friday 8:00AM-Noon

Deadline for Scroll is the 15th of every month.

***Bulletin / Announcement / Shout Out Deadline is Wednesday at noon
each week.***

***If you would like to receive a printed copy of the Scroll, please contact Traci at staff@gslc-cu.org.
Paper copies are also available at the church.***



*Church office will be closed Christmas Eve and
Christmas Day*