

# Shepherd News



Do you remember the Y2K problem? That was the concern that computers would go haywire at the turn of the century because they could not distinguish 1900 from 2000 in their programs. That was 20 YEARS AGO!!! Seems like just yesterday. I still remember the 1968 epic movie 2001 Space Odyssey, which anticipated a 21st century trip to Jupiter. I still remember the Jetsons, a cartoon which depicted life in the 21st century.

We are not quite there yet in terms of houses up on towers and cars that fly through the air. But we DO have motorized vacuums that can automatically clean our houses, and we can turn on our monitors and have video chats similar to those depicted in that cartoon. Those depictions of the 21st century made the 21st century feel so surreal, yet here we are 2 full decades into that century!

While life has changed significantly over the years, in many ways, we have not gone as far as those early depictions. Life in many ways is much like it used to be. Yes, digital technology and social media has changed the whole nature of our culture (and not necessarily for the good). But people have not changed. We still have the same longings that we always had. A desire to love and be loved. But the greatest of these longings is to have a relationship with Jesus Christ. He has a place in our heart that only He can fill. When we fill that void with other "things" we come away feeling empty.

Jesus came to the earth 2 millennia ago as a baby, to introduce this planet to the very son of God. God put on human flesh, showed us how to live our lives, then broke the grip that Satan held on this world by overcoming death and rising. He sends His Holy Spirit, which fills our heart (at baptism), and fulfills our ultimate longing for that relationship with Him. It is that spirit which also allows us to love others.

This Christmas and New Year, as we anticipate the changes around us, may we give thanks for the never changing God who has provided for our greatest of need—salvation, through Jesus Christ.

~Pastor Ted

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

- **Craft and Bake Sale**  
Dec. 7 & 8 see p. 9
- **Poinsettias for purchase** see p. 3
- **Good Shepherd Christmas Program**  
Sunday, 12/15 at 9:45AM
- **Advent by Candlelight**,  
for women, Sunday, 12/15  
at 6:30PM see p. 6
- **Breakfast, Bibles, and Blessings** 1/25—9:00AM  
see p.9
- **Looking Ahead—**  
"Beautifully Broken" 1/26  
Wonder Weavers—2/9  
Valentine's Dinner 2/16

## TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY FUN!

Sometimes Bible Study gets quite interesting! The Tuesday morning ladies' group found themselves in a contest to see which team could build the highest tower out of: newspaper, a magazine, a pencil, five paper clips, and a length of string. The purpose was to emphasize the power of different perspectives in getting things done. The team on the right would have won going away if they had not exceeded the time limit!



## CONNECT/INVITE—JAN/FEB

WORSHIP  
SERVE  
GROW  
CONNECT

Have you thought about how you can **Worship, Serve, Grow and Connect**. Here at Good Shepherd? Turn to page 7 to see some of the ministries that exist at Good Shepherd and how to join one.



### Coming up:

January 26th—Good Shepherd will show the powerful 2018 film, "**Beautifully Broken**" (for teens and adults)

February 9th—Wonder Weavers (all ages)

## THE TEDDY BEAR BAND

On November 24<sup>th</sup>, Good Shepherd hosted the *The Teddy Bear Band*. Over forty-five people attended, with many new faces.

The Teddy Bear Band is an entertaining group that has been performing for kids in the Twin Cities area for years. They are high energy and lots of fun!

Events such as this are part of Good Shepherd's **Connect / Invite Events** and are meant to provide an opportunity to invite your friends and family to an enjoyable time for free!





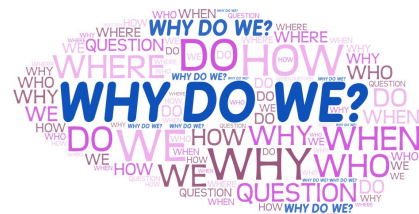
## JOIN US FOR THE CONVERSATION

Lifetree Café is a weekly opportunity to meet with others in conversation over a cup of coffee. Current event topics and relative issues are presented in a well-done video presentation and provide an opportunity to have a conversation with others. Everyone is invited!

Join us any Tuesday at 7:00PM or Thursday at 10:30AM (same topic each time, different topic each week.)

- Week of 12/1 - **"Angels Among Us? Stories of Miraculous Encounters."**
- Week of 12/8 - **"Stuck in a Rut? Get unstuck...one step at a time."**
- Week of 12/15 - **"Conquering Conflict Discoveries Healthy ways to tackle disagreements."**
- Week of 12/22 - **"The Spirit of Santa: The legend. The love. The lowdown."** NO LIFETREE ON CHRISTMAS EVE
- Week of 12/29 - **"Why, God? When personal tragedy doesn't make sense."** NO LIFETREE ON NEW YEAR'S EVE

## WHAT IS ADVENT?



The word "advent" is from the Latin word for "coming," and as such, describes the "coming" of our Lord Jesus Christ into the flesh.

Advent begins the church year because the church year begins where Jesus' earthly life began — in the Old Testament prophecies of his incarnation. After Advent comes Christmas, which is, of course, about Jesus' birth. Advent specifically focuses on Christ's "coming," but Christ's coming manifests itself among us in three ways — past, present, and future.

The readings which highlight Christ's coming in the past focus on the Old Testament prophecies of his incarnation at Bethlehem. The readings, which highlight Christ's coming in the future, focus on his "second coming" on the Last Day at the end of time. And the readings that highlight Christ's coming in the present focus on his ministry among us through Word and Sacrament today.

The traditional use of Advent candles (sometimes held in a wreath) originated in eastern Germany even prior to the Reformation. As this tradition came down to us by the beginning of this century, it involved three blue candles and one pink candle.

The blue candles represent the season of expectation. The pink candle is the third candle to be lit (not the fourth) on Gaudete Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent. "Gaudete" means "Rejoice!" in Latin, which is taken from Phil. 4:4 ("Rejoice! ... the Lord is near"). Hence a "pink" candle was used to signify "rejoicing." Some also included a white "Christ candle" in the middle to be lit during the 12 days of Christmas (Dec. 25 to Jan. 5).

Adapted from the LCMS website



### Christmas Poinsettias

Please consider sponsoring a poinsettia this Christmas! Forty plants have been ordered and will arrive for Sunday, December 15th. They will beautify our Sanctuary until Christmas Day and then you can take yours home.

See the Connect Center to sponsor one or more poinsettias! Thank you!

### SERVE BULLETIN BOARD

In **December/January** the focus will be *Compassion International*.



### "BEAUTIFULLY BROKEN"



...is a true story of three families from different countries, each struggling to find hope and safety amid the devastation or war. Watch as three fathers fight to save their families and learn the healing power of forgiveness and reconciliation. (This film is rated PG-13 and meant for teens and adults.)

At this event you will have the opportunity to sponsor a child through Compassion International!

**January 26th- 2:00PM**

## SERVE-ING AT GOOD SHEPHERD

At Good Shepherd we focus on serving others. We can be the hands and feet of Christ in many ways.

We will also be highlighting a ministry or two per month as we offer the chance to serve through our time, talents and treasures.

### Upcoming:

- December—*Gift Card Collection*
- January—**Compassion International**
- February—**Food for the Poor**
- March—**Bible Sticks for Military**
- April—**Safe Families**

## SERVE BY BEAUTIFYING THE SANCTUARY



### During December you may "sponsor" a poinsettia.

Good Shepherd has ordered forty poinsettias and you can sponsor one or more by signing up at the *Connect* Center. You may bring your poinsettias home after Christmas Morning Service. See page three for more details.

Celebrate the memory of a loved one, a birthday, anniversary or other special occasion by sponsoring the altar flowers. Sign up at the *Connect* Center to purchase flowers for the altar area each week. You will be contacted regarding payment and who you would like to honor or remember to be printed in the bulletin. A bouquet costs \$25 and you can sponsor one or both in the week you select. These flowers will be ordered through the church office from Hummingbird Floral in Shoreview and delivered to Good Shepherd.



## FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

On November 20th Good Shepherd served at Feed My Starving Children in Coon Rapids. We had over 60 people attend this event. We packed 156 boxes of food which is 33,696 meals. FABULOUS WORK, Good Shepherd!



## CHILDREN AND YOUTH AT GOOD SHEPHERD

### Children's Ministry: *Sunday School*

Sunday School is going great! We are starting our new curriculum Enduring Faith by Concordia Publishing House. They are going through the Old Testament with lessons and hands on activities. We are also spending time getting ready for the Christmas Program.

We are currently raising money to purchase a water buffalo through Heifer International. If you would like to help support this mission please put your donation in the serve jar in the lobby by the serve area. So far, we have raised \$124.96 out of the \$250. Great progress, keep it up!

Just a reminder that we have the mystery box the first Sunday of the month. If you would like to sign up please contact [Melanie Appelquist](#).

Mark your calendars-**Good Shepherd Christmas Program** featuring the Sunday School kids will be on December 15th at 9:45 AM. We will be having one practice on December 14th 9:00-11 AM.

### Children's Ministry: *Kids for Christ*

**Kids for Christ** (formerly Each Day Club) is a fun, high-energy ministry that encourages kids to know Jesus Christ and grow in a relationship with Him.

Every part of Kids for Christ-Bible stories, Scripture memory, life application, missions and recreation-all connect to teach life lessons to kids.



Kids for Christ is for kids **Kindergarten-5th grade** on **Wednesday Nights 6:00-7:30PM**. Everyone is welcome! Bring your friends, neighbors, or grandkids.

If you have any questions contact [Melanie](#). It has been so much fun! We have 13-14 kids attending each week! They are learning about the Bible and missions. We are even supporting a missionary family in South Asia.

**GOOD SHEPHERD CHRISTMAS PROGRAM -  
Sunday, December 15th at 9:45AM!**



*Mark your calendars-  
Good Shepherd  
Christmas Program  
featuring the Sunday  
School kids will be on  
December 15th at 9:45AM.*

*Practice is on 12/14 at  
9:00AM*



**AN EASY WAY TO SERVE  
OUR  
YOUTH!**

Consider donating a Caribou gift card in support of the **Bible & Brew** youth opportunity!



*(Drop them in the Connect  
Center drop box.)*



*Youth! Mark your  
calendars for the **first  
Sunday of the  
month at noon**. An  
event will be planned  
each month especially  
for you. Join your  
friends for a fun  
afternoon!*

### ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

**12/15 at 6:30PM**

You can simply attend this wonderful event or you can host a table. You may also assist by volunteering to help with set-up and/or for clean-up, as well as setting up tables earlier in the day.

Please see the *Connect* Center for more information, sign ups and invitations.

Invite your friends, your moms, sisters, nieces, daughters, granddaughters!

**MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS!!**

**Valentine's Dinner**  
Sunday, February 16th



## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Men's Bible Study is held on various Monday Nights (at the same time as the Women's Monday night study).

The men are continuing an interesting study of the parallel Gospels. They spend time understanding how the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John each have accounts of the same story and how they vary and how they connect.

The men meet in Conference Room B in the Lower Level.  
**All men are welcome to join!**

*"THE BIBLE ON PRAYER" WITH PASTOR NORTHWICK*

### **Spiritual Growth Opportunity**

Wednesdays 6:00-7:30

Lifetree Café area

This study begins on January 9, 2020.

Prayer connects us to God. That's the good news. The bad news is that many Christians do not feel as comfortable as they should praying. How often have you begun to get antsy during the prayers of the church Sunday morning. Is it because Pastor is droning on and on or is it the devil working to distract you from this important task? Prayer is both a weapon and a tool given to us as we deal with both the physical and spiritual trials and tribulations of life.

Prayer is both easy and difficult. During our study on prayer, we will discuss topics related to prayer as confident prayer, difficulties in praying, wrestling in prayer and the blessings of prayer. Along with each of these, we will look at people who came to Jesus in their struggles and with their hope. At any given time we also can identify with Mary, the distraught father, the anguished mother and joyful Bartimaeus. Join us as we discover how to become more confident and competent people of prayer.

Please join us on **any** Wednesday night at 6:00PM.



### **Session Dates for Dec. & Jan.**

December 9


January 13 & 27

## SERVE AT GOOD SHEPHERD

Have you been wondering how to get 'plugged in' at Good Shepherd? One good way is to offer your time and talents on a ministry team. Working side by side with your brothers and sisters in Christ is an excellent way to build friendships.

**A few of the ministries that currently could use your help:**

### Praise Team

 This group of musicians love music and love the Lord and provide a weekly worship experience at the 10:45 service. They are in need of additional voices and if you play an instrument it's a bonus! (Drummers are especially needed!)

### Usher Team

If you have a heart to help people get the most out of their worship experience, this ministry is for you. Handing out bulletins, ushering during communion and collecting our offerings are part of Usher tasks. Ushers are especially needed at the 8:30 service.

### Greeter Team

Do you enjoy making people feel at home? Good Shepherd would like to re-establish the Greeter Team. We need 3-4 people at each service; one to be available at each of the two entrances, and someone to be stationed at the Connect Center to assist people with questions. You can work before whichever service you like to attend.

### Counting Team

Are you good with numbers? The counting team could use additional members. On this team you are teamed with one other person to count the offering one time per month.



### Coffee Connection

Do you love coffee? Be a part of the Coffee Connection team. Make coffee and clean up on Sunday mornings. We serve Fair Trade, delicious coffee.

Please contact [Ann](#) in the office and she will put you in touch with the appropriate ministry leader. Check this space each month for other ways you can serve.

*"It was easier to really get connected with others when I volunteered with a ministry." Ann Wellmann*



## SPECIAL SERVICES AT GOOD SHEPHERD

### Advent Services

12/4, 12/11, 12/18—7:00PM  
with soup supper at 5:30PM

### Good Shepherd Christmas Program

12/15—9:45AM

### Advent by Candlelight

12/15—6:30PM

### Christmas Eve

12/24—5:00PM

### Christmas Day

12/25—10:00AM

Remember you can support our youth in many ways. See the [website!](#)

goodshop

goodsearch

amazon smile



Women's Ministry

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Good Shepherd has a number of opportunities for women to be in fellowship, to serve, and to study God's Word.

**WINGS** (Women in God's Service) meets monthly and completes multiple fundraising and service opportunities at Good Shepherd and across the world through **LWML** (Lutheran Women's Missionary League).

**Advent by Candlelight** is a wonderful opportunity during Advent to meet with other women to prepare our hearts for Christmas and enjoy delicious desserts. December 15th. More information to follow.

**The Quilting Group** group meets 3-4 times per month. They make quilts to donate to ministries and pillows to donate to soldiers. See article on page 9.

*"The fact that I am a woman does not make me a different kind of Christian, but the fact that I am a Christian makes me a different kind of woman."*  
Elisabeth Elliot

## WOMEN'S GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

### Monday Evening

This Bible study will be tackling the Book of James using the DVD material from Beth Moore entitled **James: Mercy Triumphs**. Join us on the following Mondays from 6:30-8:00PM in the Lifetree Café area.

December 9 January 13 & 27

Looking ahead to February of 2020: **Altogether Beautiful: A Study of Song of Songs**

### Tuesday Morning

This Bible Study will be studying the book by Douglas Connelly entitled **Miracles: Signs of God's Glory**. Contact Charlene Behne if you are interested in joining. See article on the right.

### Wednesday Morning

**First Place for Health** at 9:30AM. Questions? Check with Lisa Ost, Cathy Netland or Lissa Marcello.

### Saturday Morning

**Breakfast, Bibles, and Blessings** at 9:30AM. Next session is January 25, 2020. See article on the left.

### Looking Ahead:

The Women's Retreat will again be held at Heartwood Retreat Center in Trego, WI, Friday, July 31st through Sunday, August 2nd. Mark your 2020 calendar!

### BREAKFAST, BIBLES, AND BLESSINGS

Join other women in a Saturday morning Bible Study. You'll have the opportunity to enjoy a continental breakfast and study God's Word through the DVD Bible study entitled **The Faithful: Heroes of the Old Testament**.

The morning begins at 9:00AM and ends at 11:30AM. Please consider joining us for this time of fellowship and Bible study.

**Saturday, January 25th**  
**Saturday, March 21st**

See article on page 9.

## WINGS CRAFT AND BAKE SALE

**WINGS (Women in God's Service)** will hold its annual "Craft and Bake Sale" on Saturday December 7th from 9:00AM-1:00PM and Sunday, December 8th between services.

Please consider donating crafts or baked goods for this activity. The proceeds will be used for Mission and Outreach Activities.

Items to be included in the sale may be dropped off at the church on:

- Thursday, December 5th from 9:00AM-3:00PM
- Thursday December 5th from 6:30-8:00PM
- Friday, December 6th from 9:30AM-2:30PM

Please price your items or we can do it for you. Items unsold will be returned to the person who donated them. Please label your containers accordingly.

If you have any questions, please contact Charlene Behne at 763-784-8320.



## WOMEN IN GOD'S SERVICE

**There will be no meeting in December.**

In 2020 we will be holding our meetings on the third Saturday of the month from 9:30-11:00AM.

**See you on January 18th.** All ladies are welcome. We will begin our meeting with a light breakfast.

If you have an questions, please contact Charlene Behne at 764-784-8320.



## BREAKFAST, BIBLES, AND BLESSINGS

A welcoming, single session Bible Study, **The Faithful: Heroes of the Old Testament**, with breakfast & fellowship.

This study explores crucial moments in the lives of Old Testament figures. Through their stories, discover how God uses the lives of ordinary people for His glory and the good of His people.

Strengthen your faith as you walk alongside these larger-than-life figures who all chose to obey God no matter the circumstances.

The morning begins at 9:00AM and ends at 11:30AM. Please consider joining us for this time of fellowship and Bible study.

**Saturday, January 25th**



## QUILTING AT GOOD SHEPHERD

Join us as we continue to quilt for Lutheran World Relief and other purposes, and to make pillows for our soldiers.

We meet in the lower level Sunday School area

If you would like to help or provide material, please contact Lissa Marcello at 763-783-3790 or just come on the designated Thursday evenings.

### December Dates

12th

### January Dates

19th, 23rd, 30th

**Time:** 6:30-8:00PM

**Place:** Lower Level—Sunday School area

## LADIES' TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Ladies' Tuesday morning Bible study is studying "Miracles: Signs of God's Glory" by Douglas Connelly. We meet in the Lifetree Café area from 9:30-11:00AM. All ladies are invited to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Charlene Behne at 763-784-8320.

### December Dates

3rd, 10th, 17th

### January Dates

7th 14th, 21st, 28th

**Time:** 6:30-8:00PM

**Place:** Lower Level—Sunday School area

## PRAYER AT GOOD SHEPHERD

And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

1 John 5:14-15

## MARRIAGE MINISTRY

Session 2 of the DVD series :

**"Sacred Marriage: What if God designed marriage to make us holy more than to make us happy?"**

will be held on Friday, January 3rd at 6:30PM in the Lifetree Café area.

Join us!

## MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING

Praying in daily life is as important as breathing. Just as we all need oxygen to live, we need God's presence in us for us to be fully alive.

"We tend to use prayer as a last resort, but God wants it to be our first line of defense. We pray when there's nothing else we can do, but God wants us to pray before we do anything at all. Most of us would prefer, however, to spend our time doing something that will get immediate results. We don't want to wait for God to re-

solve matters in His good time because His idea of 'good time' is seldom in sync with ours." Oswald Chambers, Scottish teacher, writer and minister, 1874-1917.



**Next Prayer Meetings—  
December 8th & January 12th  
at 6:00PM in the Lobby. Join us!**

## MOMS IN PRAYER

Do you worry about your children? Come experience God's peace and hope when you pray alongside other moms. Moms in Prayer International (formerly Moms In Touch), gathers moms together to pray for God to transform our children and schools. Won't you join with us in prayer for this next generation?

Please contact Leanne Abraham at 651-766-7442 or [MIPICentennial@gmail.com](mailto:MIPICentennial@gmail.com) for information about our local group. For more information about Moms in Prayer International visit their [website](#).

## SUBMIT A PRAYER / BECOME A PRAYER WARRIOR

**Do you need prayer or know of someone who does?**

1. On Sunday, fill out a prayer request card (found in the pew) and place it in the offering plate during the offering. OR
2. Go to the [website](#) and click on "Prayer Request" at the top. OR
3. [Email](#) or Phone (763-784-8417) your request in.

**Would you like to be on the prayer team?**

You will be added to the email list and receive prayer reminders through email. You can pray in your private prayer time. Send an [email](#) to the office indicating your interest in being a part of the prayer chain.

## CENTENNIAL COMMUNITY FOOD SHELF

The food shelf provides emergency foods (3-5 days supply) for about 250 local households each month. Team members come together with a driving compassion to serve the community by meeting the needs of others. Good Shepherd volunteers are always needed to serve on the first Thursday of the month from 3:45-6:15. Thank you to everyone for your generous volunteer support and contributions.

Good Shepherd is collecting monthly food items (**December is Cereal/Oatmeal** and **January is Diapers/Wipes**). There is a drop box for donations located by the coat rack in the lobby. If you would like to make a financial donation to the local food shelf, please make checks payable to: Centennial Community Food Shelf and mail to:

Centennial Community Food Shelf  
c/o Gethsemane United Methodist Church  
7330 Lake Dr  
Lino Lakes MN 55014

The Centennial Community Food Shelf is located at 200 Civic Heights Drive (in the lower level City Hall building). Please contact Darlene Leiding at 651-484-0119 if you are interested in becoming a volunteer.



### Monthly Ministries:

- **Compassion International**

Learn more about this ministry in the Lobby.

### Remember:

- Reserve your Poinsettia at the *Connect* Center
- Christmas Program Practice for Sunday School Kids 12/14 at 9AM
- **Youth Christmas Party** 12/1—noon
- **Youth Ice Skating** January 5th—Noon-3:00PM

## SUNDAYS IN DECEMBER & JANUARY

December 7th and 8th is the **Craft & Bake Sale** .

**Youth Cookie Sale** is on Sunday, December 15th. They are raising money for next summer's servant event.

**Advent by Candlelight** for all women on Sunday, December 15th at 6:30PM in the lower level..

**Christmas Eve Worship**—12/24 at 5:00PM  
**Christmas Day Worship**—12/25 at 10:00AM

**Breakfast, Bibles and Blessings** will be held on Saturday, January 25th at 9:00AM.

The office is closed on December 24th and 25th and also on December 31st and January 1st.

*December's "theme" item is Cereal/Oatmeal  
January's "theme" item is Diapers/Wipes (sealed packages only)*

## ELECTRONIC GIVING—A SIMPLE WAY TO GIVE!

Do you find yourself forgetting to write out your check or leave it at home on Sundays? Would you find it helpful to have your offerings debited directly from your bank account as you probably do with other obligations? We highly recommend "Simply Giving". It is

convenient for you and provides much-needed donation consistency for our church. To set-up electronic donations, simply complete an Authorization Form and place it in the drop off box, both are located at the *Connect* Center

*A convenient, consistent way to help your church grow.*

**ELECTRONIC GIVING**

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
1 Shepherd Court  
Circle Pines MN 55014

763-784-8417  
goodshepherdlink.org

Connect with Staff

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PLEASE PLACE STAMP HERE