

ANNOUNCEMENTS 12-20-2020

The Annual Christmas Giving Tree, sponsored by the Board of Human Care, is now in the narthex! Please attach each post it tag to the gift it matches (if you wrap it, make sure tag is visible please). Bring all the gifts to church by the 8 a.m. service on Sunday, **December 19**. Any unwrapped gifts will be wrapped between services. All gifts will be delivered to the families during the following week. The recipients are families from Good Shepherd who could use some support this Christmas. Please contact Lisa Martin at 920-285-1895 if you have any questions. Thank you!

Dear Members of Good Shepherd, As we head into the holiday season in this year of constant change, I want to help celebrate all the ways that God has blessed us this year. In this time when we can't be in community with each other, I thought this would be a good way to encourage and build each other up in our faith. Please click on the following link and answer the appropriate questions: <https://forms.gle/AExjgdbdt5UqkN5H6> or send a note to me at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and tell me how God has blessed you. My plan is to feature the stories in our announcement section as they come in. Thank you for taking the time to share. Blessings on your holidays, Michelle Gerlach, Family Life.

COVID JOY: "I have been feeling rather isolated. I am one who loves to attend fairs and concerts, but summer 2020 has really put a damper on that. But God saw a need for me to make me new friends and find a new job where I felt wanted, needed, and appreciated. A job practically fell in my lap that I simply love! My coworkers are amazing. I've found a forever place to work during a time that it's nearly impossible to do anything. Praise God and thank you." Fiona Maxwell

Remember to sign up for the upcoming GSLC services either online or by calling the church office. Thank you.

December 23	Wednesday, no service, communion
December 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight – 4pm, 7pm and 9pm, no communion
December 25	Christmas Day – 9 am, communion
December 26	Saturday – 6 pm
December 27	Sunday – 9 am (Please note; one service only on this day!)
December 31	New Year's Eve – 7 pm, communion

Small Group Communion: Pastor Groth will be communing small groups of up to seven individuals at a time during the day on Wednesday, Dec. 23rd. This is intended primarily for those who have not been able to attend services and cannot come for Christmas. These services will be short (about 10-12 minutes), and will also give you opportunity to be in your church, take in the Christmas decorations, take home Portals of Prayer, Christmas Eve service and sermon, etc. Sign up online or by calling the church office.

Christmas Eve Signup: It is more important than ever to sign up for Christmas Eve services. This will help us spread people out and measure whether we need to add additional services. We truly want to avoid sending anyone home on Christmas Eve if too many came without signing up.

The Board of Parish Education is looking for a VBS Leader or VBS Co-Leaders for June of 2021. Tentatively, VBS is scheduled for the week of June 7–11, 2021. If you are interested in this position or know of someone who would be interested, please contact Tanya Demetropoulos at 920-262-9435 for further information.

Ron Wille has cancelled all his Bible study classes through December as he recovers from illness.

Memory Verse: This week's memory verse is from John 1:14 "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."

Please pray for: We pray for Dorothy Wegner, Burl Bely, Del Oestreich. Patricia Fox, and Heather Bradley. We also pray for Malachi Kurtz during these difficult times and for the family of Joel Westenberg who died Sunday, and the family of Robert Svatos, father of Brian, who died Wednesday.

Advent services: 7 pm on Wednesday evening December 16. The 7 pm Advent Service will be on live feed and recorded but subject to change without notice.

2021 Giving Envelopes are available to be picked up in the narthex. Thank you.

****Our Sunday service is televised Tuesday mornings at 8 am and afternoons at 3:00 pm as well as on Sundays at 2 pm on cable channel 98 and the high-definition cable channel 985 or <http://bit.ly/gslcvideo> online.**

As Christmas break approaches here are some great ideas from Focus on the Family's Jessica Smartt

Does the phrase "family Christmas list" motivate you? Or does creating fun and faith activities sound overwhelming? Making memories can be a lot of work, and much of it tends to fall on Mom. So, you may be tempted to think, Is it worth it?

One young mom told me, with tears in her eyes, "My babies are 1 and 3, and we're barely surviving. Making a bunch of memories feels so overwhelming!" I reassured her that I had tackled very few activities when I was sleep-deprived and chasing toddlers. At that stage in life, I chose just a few Christmas traditions and spent the rest of my waking hours keeping my toddlers safe and fed, as well as stopping them from ripping ornaments off the tree.

Traditions can offer comforting memories that our kids often carry with them for the rest of their lives. I vividly remember singing "O Come, All Ye Faithful" in the wooden pew at my grandma's church and eating the crusty cinnamon rolls Mom made the next morning.

As my own kids have grown older, I've chosen to find ways to remember the Christmas season with them. When we slow down to celebrate, we are showing our family that our faith matters—and that they matter.

One activity my family and I intentionally do happens directly after Thanksgiving. We create a family Christmas activity list. I love this tradition because it can grow and change with our family.

We are strategic about the activities we pick, choosing the ones that our family loves or that help us focus on Christ. No need to spend hours snipping out paper snowflakes if no one enjoys it!

While our list changes every year, I like to pull from a few categories: food, service, activities, and faith.

For more detailed ideas visit <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/fun-and-faith-activities-for-celebrating-christmas/>.