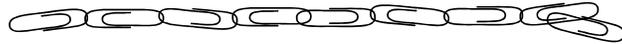


CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLIPS



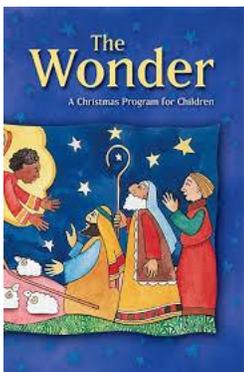
The Advent wreath began in the time of Martin Luther. It was 20 years ago in 1996 when Pastor Eric first provided us with weekly Advent Devotions to go along with the beautiful Advent Wreaths we make each year between services on the first Sunday in Advent thanks to the Rich Family. He always wrote:



We invite you to make time at home this Advent to have these devotions. Many families find that a good time is right after supper.

I remember struggling to find the time to include devotions into the busy schedule that was each day. But, during Advent, perhaps the busiest of all, I tried to be faithful to that 'right after supper' opportunity. Often it wouldn't be until almost bedtime that we'd find the time or suppertime the next night when we'd have to double up. However, since we've been doing our own Lenten Devotions over the past ten years, I've found it easier to keep to a routine. It's become a habit – one habit that I'm pretty proud of actually. Try to include the Advent Wreath and devotions into your Advent this year. Don't forget to light the candle each day! Different sources have different names for each one. The ones we use in Midweek School are called:

- Week One Prophecy Candle aka Hope**
 - Week Two Bethlehem Candle aka Love**
 - Week Three Shepherd's Candle aka Joy**
 - Week Four Angels' Candle aka Peace**
- Suzanne Gillam Director of Christian Education**



The Sunday School Christmas Pageant

The Wonder

will be held at 10:15 a.m. on December 18 as part of our Sunday morning worship. Performances by Good Shepherd's children's choirs, the Allegro Chimes Choir, and our talented youth musicians will be woven into a nativity-based pageant. Parents who haven't returned the sign-up sheet yet and would like their children to participate should call Suzanne Gillam at 508-366-7095 ext.105 or email her at:

education@goodshepherdcares.org

Rehearsals are scheduled for:

- December 3rd** Major Speaking Actors 10 am – 11am
- December 10th** All Speaking Actors 10 am - Noon
- December 17th** All: Dress Rehearsal 1 pm – 3 pm

Potluck Brunch Following our 10:15 a.m. worship service on **Sunday, December 18th**. **EVERYONE** is invited to attend our annual Potluck Brunch in the Fellowship Hall. If you are able, please bring a main dish to share. (If you can't, please don't let that stop you from coming!) Families, whose last names begin with the following, are asked to bring:



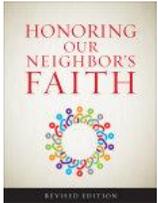
A - L Main dish and salad / side **M - Z** Main dish and dessert

Potluck Brunches are a not-to-be-missed intergenerational event and part of our Lutheran heritage. It's a way of *Passing on the Faith* **and** getting to know each other ! **Please join us!**

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT FORUMS

For the first two Sundays in December, join us for Adult Dialog at 9:00 a.m. in Room **4**, near Pastor Jeff's office (1st floor), or at 10:45 a.m. in the **Ken Bean Library** (2nd floor).

We continue learning about our neighbors' faith, beliefs, and traditions using the revised book *Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith, Revised* in 2016 by [Robert Buckley Farlee](#) (General Editor); [Beth Ann Gaede](#) (Editor).



Hundreds of Christian denominations and dozens of non-Christian traditions have followers in the United States. How do we view this wide variety of beliefs and practices? How does the Lutheran tradition compare with others? Since its release in 1999, *Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith* has been widely embraced as a valuable resource for congregational study or personal exploration around these questions.

Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith Revised Edition brings new light and nuance to these questions, which are as timely and vital as ever. Use this book to explore thirty-two faith traditions that represent a wide spectrum of beliefs or stand out due to their size or public profile in America. Each tradition constitutes a "chapter" that includes key teachings, worship patterns and practices, and how each is governed. This revision also includes updated statistics, enhanced tools for group study and discussion, and updated resource and website lists to facilitate further study.

12/4/16

Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith Revised Edition, we will examine key teachings, worship patterns, practice and governance of Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, Mennonite Church, Methodist Church, and Moravian Church.

12/11/16

Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith Revised Edition, we will examine key teachings, worship patterns, practice and governance of Presbyterian Church, Reformed Church in America, Religious Society of Friend, and Roman Catholic Church.

12/18/16 No Adult Dialog, Christmas Pageant

12/25/16 No Adult Dialog, Christmas Day.



Faith, Sexism, Justice: Conversations Toward a Social Statement

The ELCA Task Force on Women and Justice: One in Christ invites us to join a growing conversation and to add our input. After receiving feedback from more than 100 Listening Events and hearing from several dozen specialists, the task force has written the study

"Faith, Sexism, Justice: Conversations Toward a Social Statement" as a way to invite broad engagement with the questions and issues. This modular study includes a range of topics that can be used in different combinations to meet the learning needs and interests of different groups or individuals. *The response period runs until Aug. 31, 2017.*

We are considering this for our next Super Wednesday Adult Study beginning January 4th.

A very special thank you to Pastor Ed Sproul for his recent leadership of our Super Wednesday Adult Study on the novel **SILENCE** by Shusaku Endo – to rave reviews!

FRIDAY WOMEN'S GROUP: Do you enjoy getting out on a Friday morning?

Do you appreciate a good cup of 'Lutheran' coffee and a delicious baked goodie mixed with companionship and interesting conversation? If you answered 'yes' to the above, plan on visiting our

Friday Group some Friday morning at 9:30. You'll find them in the K.O.B. Library.



It's time for – Acolyte Training:

4th graders through adults interested in serving as acolytes and crucifers should contact Pastor Jeff to get your name on the training list.



FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES

Third Graders and older children who have not yet been prepared for the sacrament of Communion are invited to participate in Good Shepherd's First Communion classes.

Classes will be held in Room 11 at 9:00 and 10:45 a.m. during Sunday School beginning **January 8th**.

First Communion will be celebrated on March 5, 2017.



IN SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

Many **THANKS** to the Sunday School children and parents for their kind efforts in supplying food for **18** Thanksgiving Food Baskets for families in need; and to the congregation for their generous support in purchasing **22** turkey gift cards and supplying additional food! Special thanks to Ned and Celeste Rich for completing the 'baskets' and for their annual donation of materials for our beautiful advent wreaths!

- Ned estimates that: **290 items were donated**
- 18 baskets were delivered: **weighing over 300 pounds**
- \$1,445 was donated to purchase 19 - \$25 gift cards and 3 - \$50 cards and \$200 for missing food items and 6 Giving Tree gift cards. Balance to be used for Food Pantry Easter Baskets.

DECEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

WITNESS/SPARK Curriculum Age 3 - Gr3

December 4	John is Born
December 11	Jesus is Born
December 18	<i>Christmas Pageant</i>

FIRELIGHT II Curriculum Gr 4 & 5

December 4	Christmas & Epiphany Wk.1
December 11	Christmas & Epiphany Wk.2
December 18	<i>Christmas Pageant</i>

PULSE Curriculum Grades 6, 7 & 8

December 4	Life at School Wk.4 <i>Have You Heard?</i>
December 11	Life at School Wk.5 <i>Teachers Are People Too!</i>
December 18	<i>Christmas Pageant</i>

MIDWEEK Curriculum Grades 5 & 6

December 7	A Busy Time & From Prayer to Pain (Holy Week begins)
December 14	Las Posadas

SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING Sunday School envelopes are issued on the school year calendar from September thru August. Please continue using your current ones. If you would like a set, you can pick them up any Sunday morning at the Sunday School check-in desk. Giving Statements can be accessed online.

Special gratitude to **Al Graefing** who is serving as Sunday School's Treasurer for an 8th year. What a blessing!

HAVE YOU HEARD ? ***Children in Church Sundays*** will held on December 25th and January 1st. Attendance will count for Sunday School credit, if you remember to sign-in. One service will be held each Sunday at **10:00**. They will include children's sermons and music. Children and Youth are welcome to participate as readers and servers during these services.





Good Shepherd's Annual Talent Show and Pizza Supper Sunday, January 29th – SAVE THE DATE



A Fundraiser for **Camp Calumet Summer Camperships and Family Retreat Discounts**



Looking for a special gift idea for this Christmas – Look No Further Check out alternative gift giving ideas on Calumet's Website . . . <http://www.calumet.org/giving/alternative-christmas-gifts>

CAMP CALUMET REGISTRATIONS PLUS -

Now's the time to register for summer camp at Camp Calumet Lutheran in West Ossipee, NH. You can register online or forms will be on the Calumet bulletin board, the kiosk in the Narthex or can be downloaded from www.calumet.org. Don't wait as popular weeks fill up fast. **Be sure to include GSLC when registering;** and let the office or Mrs. Gillam know when you'll be going so we can arrange camperships and camper mail.



Don't miss out on a wonderful opportunity for - ages 8-18.
A bulletin board is set-up in the hallway into the Fellowship Hall.
Be sure to check out the various winter events being offered.