

MESSENGER



Dear Partners in Ministry,

At home, I have recently found myself intrigued by the tradition of making a Christmas list. A few days ago, my daughter came home from school with a Christmas list of gifts she hoped to receive. She then took it upon herself to make one for my son too, who isn't old enough to read or write on his own just yet.

Most Christmas lists I have seen come from children. Plus, there are many children-oriented Christmas activities. That is true in our world, with town tree lightings and visits from Santa. That is also true at Good Shepherd, with Christmas school and the Christmas Pageant coming in the next few weeks.

In many ways, it makes sense. After all, Jesus came into this world as a little child too. But, what would it look like to set aside the focus on children, and instead, focus on how to keep the season of Advent *for ourselves*? If we were to fill out a Christmas list as an adult, what kinds of things would you put on it? What spiritual characteristics are you feeling the need to cultivate, as a way to prepare your heart for Jesus' birth? Patience? Hope? Love? Joy? Silence?

As Advent begins, I invite you to intentionally adopt a way of marking this season for yourself. We often get asked what we intend to give up or do to observe the season of Lent. What if we had a similar expectation that we would intentionally observe Advent?

If you're looking for ideas, please investigate the Advent resource table in the lobby at church. There are books full of ideas and prayers and devotions to walk through Advent for people of all ages. There are pamphlets you can take home to use for prayers with an Advent wreath.

And if nothing else, come and join us for worship in this season. On Sunday mornings, you will find us experimenting with some different ways to more clearly mark this time of waiting and of preparation. On Wednesday Dec. 5th, there will be an Advent Prayer Around the Cross service at 7:30 PM. On Wednesday Dec. 12th, we'll explore the Advent narratives of different Biblical characters and God's command to "Fear Not!"

So, what is on your Christmas list? What is the prayer of your heart for this Advent? I pray that God's gift of love through the coming birth of Jesus Christ will answer your deepest longings.

*Walking with you,
Pastor Jeff*

Deck the Halls!

Older . . . Wiser . . . Lutherans

Celebrate the Christmas Season with the OWLS as we gather in the Fellowship Hall at noon on Tuesday, December 11th. At the November luncheon the group decided to have the "Yankee Swap" once more. If you wish to participate, please bring a wrapped gift in the \$15.00 price range! Wear Red or Green!

Chef du Jour will be providing the menu for your selection of either beef tips, chicken piccata or vegetarian entrée, with sides of rice and carrots. Please notify Joan Olson what your choice will be by Saturday, December 8th and she will collect payment of \$15.00 per person when you arrive at the luncheon.

DECEMBER LECTIONARY

Date	Readings
December 2nd 1st Sunday in Advent	Jeremiah 33:14-16, Psalm 25:1-10, 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 & Luke 21:25-36
December 9th 2nd Sunday in Advent	Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 1:68-79, Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6
December 16th 3rd Sunday in Advent	Zephaniah 3:14-20, Isaiah 12:2-6, Philippians 4:4-7 & Luke 3:7-18
December 23rd 4th Sunday in Advent	Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1:46b-55, Hebrews 10:5-10 & Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]
December 24th Nativity of Our Lord I: Christmas Eve	Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96 , Titus 2:11-14 & Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

Friday, December 21st is the **January Messenger Deadline**

Please email your articles to Caryn Francese in the office at office@goodshepherdcares.org



Merry Christmas from the Staff

*Loving God, Help us remember
the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song
of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.*

*Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all
over the world.*

*Let kindness come with every
gift and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ
brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.*

*May the Christmas morning make us happy to be
thy children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with
grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.*

-- Robert Louis Stevenson

Many thanks to you, the congregation of Good Shepherd for a wonderful 2016 and we wish you a happy, healthy and safe 2017.

Pastor Jeff, Pastor Larson, Beth Singley, Christian Ed. Director, Kirby Stalley, Music Director, Steve Brevik, Sexton, Randy Gomez, Contemporary Music Leader, Shell Heusmann, Nursery Coordinator, & Caryn Francese, Parish Secretary



November Congregational Meeting

Recap

Our most recent Congregational meeting was held on November 18, 2018 and began at approximately 12:00 PM. The agenda items included; the 2019 budget review and vote to approve, election of nominated candidates, and discussion of and vote to approve GSLC as a "Welcoming Congregation"

In summary, the proposed budget was passed demonstrating \$672,762.00 in total expenses against a projected revenue of \$666,250.00 resulting in a deficit of \$6,512.00. Details of budgeted expenses may be obtained from the church office.

Newly elected officials to the church council for 3-year terms include Joann Duncan, resuming her second term and Randy Koopman, who will replace Don Fontes (end of 3-year term).

Elected candidates to the Kathryn B. Baines Mission Endowment Fund for 3-year terms include Dale Hava, who replaces Benet Bianchi (end of 3-year term) and Bert Oetsen, resuming his second term.

Several appointments were recently made by council and those names were also announced during this time. Don Fontes, Dave Schwingbeck and Patti Bianchi were appointed to a 1-year term on the Nominating Committee. Bruce Grams, Joann Duncan and Calleigh Herren (Youth Representative) were named to be Synod Voting Members for a 1-year term. Deb Casey was appointed to the Finance Committee for a 3-year term. Dave Kaiser and Phil Fischer were appointed to the Audit Committee for a 2-year term.

Pastor Larson and Kathy Grim presented the resolution to approve Good Shepherd as a "Welcoming Congregation" and detailed what

the designation meant for the members of our congregation. A spirited question and answer session ensued with a final vote to approve and adopt the following:

- **In obedience to God's call and the Spirit's action in our congregation, which has recently brought us into blessed relationship with new members of the Westborough community who were forced out of their homes in Guatemala in fear of violence, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church shall adopt the official designation of a Welcoming Congregation.**
- **We agree to engage with the responsibilities of this designation by:**
 - **welcoming and ministering to migrants;**
 - **physically accompanying migrants in our local communities;**
 - **praying for justice for migrants;**
 - **and advocating for public policies that will positively impact the current immigration crisis.**

SNOW ALERTS & CANCELLATIONS

In the event of snow related closings Good Shepherd will change the outgoing voicemail, send a blast email (be sure your email is current) add an announcement on our website www.goodshepherdcares.org, as well as list our closings on the local television stations, be it for worship services, Mid-Week School or other events.

2017 ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE

Tuesday, January 22nd is the deadline for Annual Reports to be turned in to the office via email at office@goodshepherdcares.org

December Schedule

December 2nd

1st Sunday of Advent – Regular Schedule

Advent Wreath Workshop (FH)



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA: Last day to order poinsettia is TODAY!

December 5th

SuperWednesday – Swedish Smorgasbord

(Potluck)

December 8th

10 am – 12 noon Pageant Rehearsal

(Speaking Parts Only)

December 9th

2nd Sunday of Advent – Regular Schedule

December 12th

SuperWednesday – Taco Bar

December 15th

10 – Noon Pageant Rehearsal II (S)

Pageant Brunch Set-up

December 16th

3rd Sunday of Advent

Special Services

8³⁰ – Traditional

10¹⁵ Christmas Pageant

Christmas Brunch

Please bring a dish to Share

Main Dish + Salad/Side families A – L

Main Dish + Dessert families M – Z

December 22nd

Choir and Brass Rehearsal

9³⁰

December 23rd

4th Sunday in Advent

Special Services

8³⁰ – Traditional

10¹⁵ – Contemporary Service

December 24th – Christmas Eve

3³⁰ Children's Service – Grace Notes

5 Children's Service with Children

Instrumentalists – Intergenerational Choir &

Allegro Chimes

7³⁰ Traditional

11 Festival Service - Gospel Ringers & Brass

December 25th & 26th

Office Closed

December 30th

1st Sunday of Christmas

10⁰⁰ Traditional Service

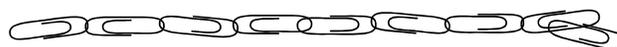
Christmas Lessons & Carols

December 31st & January 1st

Office Closed



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLIPS



Advent Wreath

Workshop: Please join us on **Sunday, December 2nd** between services in Fellowship Hall! *We invite*

you to include your Advent Wreath in your devotions this year. Don't forget to light the candle every day! Many families find right after supper is a good time.

Week One	Prophecy Candle	(Hope)
Week Two	Bethlehem Candle	(Love)
Week Three	Shepherd's Candle	(Joy)
Week Four	Angels' Candle	(Peace)

The Advent Tree, our Christmas Pageant, will be held on **Sunday, December 16th** during **our 10:15am worship service.**

Our children's choirs, talented youth musicians and speakers will perform in our pageant about the Advent Tree and Nativity. If you haven't signed up yet, please call or email Beth Singley at 508-366-7095 ext.107 or beth.singley@goodshepherdcares.org to participate.



Rehearsals are scheduled as follows, but if you are not able to attend, **we are flexible and will work with you:**

December 8th 10 am – Noon

All Speaking Actors

December 15th 10 AM -Noon

All Speaking Actors

December 15th 11 AM - Noon

All: Dress Rehearsal

Potluck Brunch Following our 10:15 a.m. worship service on **Sunday, December 16th.**



EVERYONE is invited to attend our annual Potluck Brunch in the Fellowship Hall.

Families are asked to bring:
Last names beginning with:

A - L Main dish and dessert / side

M - Z Main dish and salad

Please join us for a delicious & enjoyable time!

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 during Sunday School beginning **January 6th.** **First Communion will be celebrated on March 3rd.**

THANKSGIVING FOOD BASKETS

Many **THANKS** to the Sunday School children OWLS, TAGS, Midweek/Confirmation students and all in our congregation for your generosity in donating Thanksgiving food items and gift cards for **23** local families in need, as well as supplying additional food!

Children in Church Sundays will held on December 23rd and December 30th with children's sermons and music. We invite all families to bring your children to church (no Sunday School).



Looking for a special gift idea for this Christmas?

Check out alternative gift giving ideas at <http://www.calumet.org/giving/alternative-christmas-gifts>

CAMP CALUMET REGISTRATIONS

Register for summer camp at Camp Calumet



Lutheran in West
Ossipee, NH!

Summer camp is a
wonderful
opportunity for

everyone ages 8-18.

Register online at www.calumet.org or pick up a form at the Calumet bulletin board in the hallway into the Fellowship Hall.

Please include GSLC when registering; and let the office know when you'll be going so we can arrange camperships.

Save the Date: Sunday, January 27th for our Annual Pizza Supper & Talent show to benefit Camp Calumet Summer Campers!

Music Ministry Notes



Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel. John Mason Neale

December 20th:

10:30 Worship service at Beaumont

Gospel Ringers:

We are still looking for one more person to join our bell choir, Gospel Ringers. It is a great way to get involved with music ministry here at Good Shepherd. If you cannot read music, that is ok! We will help you learn. We rehearse Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:30 and we have a great time doing it. If interested, please email the Director of Music Kirby Stalley at kirby.stalley@goodshepherdcares.org

Chancel Choir:

Please join chancel choir for Christmas Eve! We will be singing at the 11:00pm festival service. We will start rehearsing the music for that Christmas Eve service on December 2nd. And continue with rehearsals each Sunday. There will

also be a Saturday afternoon rehearsal on December 22nd. If you can not commit to all the rehearsals that is okay, we will make it work! We rehearse from 10:45-11:45. We would love to have your voice. If you are interested, please email the Director of Music Kirby Stalley at kirby.stalley@goodshepherdcares.org

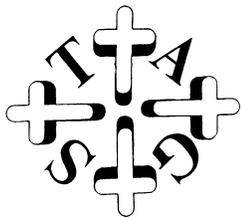
Christmas Eve Intergenerational Choir:

There will be an Intergenerational Choir for the 5:00pm Service on Christmas Eve. We will rehearse on December 16th after the pageant and December 23rd after the second Service in the music room. If you can only make one of the rehearsals, that's ok, it is a very easy piece to learn. This is a great opportunity to get the entire family involved during a very special service! Hope you will join us!

Special Music for Christmas Pageant and Christmas Eve:

If there are any children (of any age, we are all children of God) that play an instrument and would like to play for the Christmas Pageant on December 16th, and/ or for the Children's Services on Christmas Eve at 3:30pm and 5:00pm. We also need special music for to be played as prelude music at the 7:30pm service on Christmas Eve. If you or your children are interested and willing to play for any of these services please contact Director of Music Kirby Stalley at kirby.stalley@goodshepherdcares.org.

Teens At Good Shepherd



**Together Always
Growing Spiritually**

TAGS in DECEMBER

The TAGS have kept busy throughout the fall!
Some highlights from this past month:

- ✓ Our Sale of Indulgences on Reformation Sunday earned a little over \$300! The TAGS voted to tithe 10% toward the Thanksgiving Baskets Good Shepherd sponsored for local families who were food insecure this past holiday season.
- ✓ The Pancake Breakfast covered us in pancake batter and earned about \$242. The TAGS voted to tithe 10% toward a tag from the Giving Tree to provide a gift for a child in need during the Christmas season.
- ✓ One of our youth, Calleigh Herren, was nominated to be our youth representative to the 2019 Synod Assembly.

(That creaking sound you hear is my heart growing three sizes, Grinch-style, because these young people are awesome.)

December promises to be a busy month too! We've changed around some of our scheduled events to accommodate busy calendars, so please double-check yours!

- On November 30th and December 1st, the TAGS will be helping out with the Craft Fair, a fundraiser that goes a long way toward sponsoring our mission trips. TAGS: *help is still needed especially on December 1st!*

- Our bimonthly meetings, usually the first and third Sundays, will be replaced by ONE regular meeting this month on **December 9th**, from 5:00-6:30pm in the TAGS room.
- The TAGS Christmas Party will be held at PJ Mann's Escape Room on Saturday December 16th, tentatively at 6pm. Thanks for hosting us, PJ!
- TAGS will be on hand to help with the Pageant Brunch on December 16th. We await your crockpots, stirring hands at the ready.

After December 16th, we slow down for a while. Our next gathering will be in the New Year, on January 6th. Just FYI: we've chosen to reschedule our Cathedral in the Night trip (which is usually on the first Sunday in January) to late March.

A blessed and rich Advent and Christmas season to everyone!

Questions about TAGS? Email Pastor Larson. (pastorlarson@goodshepherdcares.org)

Christmas Eve and 1st Sunday after

Christmas Worship Support

Due to travel planning for Christmas, it is always hard to schedule people for Christmas Eve Services and the 1st Sunday after Christmas. As such, here is an electronic sign-up for December 24th and December 31st:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4EA5AC2DAAFF2-worship>. Please take a moment and review your calendar and if you feel you can help on December 24th and or December 30th, please feel free to sign-up to serve.

Save The Dates

January 2nd

SuperWednesday Resume

6 MidWeek **S**ingers

6³⁰ – 8 **S**tudy

MidWeek (DFH)

Confirm. (L & CRs)

Activity Group (K-4)

6³⁰ Discussion for Adults

7³⁰ MidWeek Worship **S**ervice (FH)

January 6th

Epiphany Sunday

1st Communion Classes Begin

Regular Services & Sunday School

7⁴⁵ & 9⁰⁰ Traditional

10⁴⁵ Contemporary

9 & 10⁴⁵ Sunday School 3yr.-8th Gr.

9 Adult Forum (Classroom 5 – first floor)

10⁴⁵ Adult Forum (KOB)

9 to Noon Coffee & Bagels (FH)

9³⁰ New Direction Rehearsal (MR)

10⁰⁵-10³⁵ Children's Music Rehearsals:

- *Grace Notes: Pre-K – Grade 1 (CR 10)*
- *Joyful Noise: Grades 1-5 (MR)*
- *Allegro Chimes: Grades 4 & up (DFH)*

10⁴⁰ Choir Rehearsal (MR)

January 9th

SuperWednesday

6 – 8

January 11th

Annual Report Deadline

January 11 – 13

Confirmation Retreat to Calumet

January 13th

Baptism of Our Lord

1st Communion Classes

Regular Services & Sunday School

January 16th

SuperWednesday

6 – 8

January 20th

4th Sunday after Epiphany

1st Communion Classes

Regular Services & Sunday School

January 23rd

SuperWednesday

6 – 8

January 25th

February Messenger Deadline

January 27th

5th Sunday after Epiphany

1st Communion Classes

Regular Services & Sunday School

Pizza Supper, Silent Auction & Talent Show

5 – 8³⁰

January 30th

SuperWednesday

6 – 8

February 2-3

30 Hour Famine Lock-in

February 2nd

1– 4 pm

Food Packaging Event

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

183 W. Main Street + Westborough, MA 01581 + 508.366.7095

www.goodshepherdcares.org

prayercircle@goodshepherdcares.org

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America - *God's Work, Our Hands*

STAFF DIRECTORY

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Yeon Soh, Organist	109	yeon.soh@goodshepherdcares.org
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Caryn Francese, Parish Secretary	101	office@goodshepherdcares.org
Steve Brevik, Sexton	108	

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<p>The Rev. Jeffrey Goodrich 1329 Main Street, Concord, MA 01742 Home: 978-254-5272 Cell: 508-808-1795</p>	<p>The Rev. Victoria Larson 46 Summer Street, #2 Westborough, MA 01581 Cell: 302-897-4167</p>
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Please consider signing up for **Simply Giving™** so that Good Shepherd can count on your contribution even while you are away. Contact Stan Corbett, Financial Secretary at finsec@goodshepherdcares.org to sign up. The online giving form is accessible for changes in your pledge. Go to <http://www.goodshepherdcares.org/online-pledge/> anytime to add a pledge or amend your current pledge.



ADULT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Day	Opportunity	Time(s)	Contact
Sundays	Adult Forums	9:00 & 10:45 am	Mark Booher mark.booher@verizon.net
Mondays	Bible Study	9:30 am	Joan Olson jeolson423@icloud.com
Tuesdays	Men's Breakfast	8:30 am	Tom Olson tomo815@me.com
Wednesdays	Super Wednesday	6:30 pm	CED@goodshepherdcares.org
Fridays	Friday Group	9:30 am	Joan Olson jeolson423@icloud.com

See Calendar for more specific about locations

Feel free to contact the office at 508.366.7095 with questions or email office@goodshepherdcares.org

See us on line at: www.goodshepherdcares.org

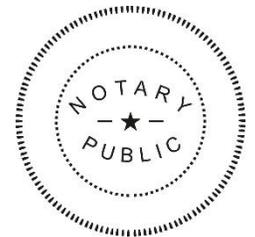


On facebook
Search for Good Shepherd

NOTARY PUBLIC SERVICES

Caryn Francese, Notary Public

Caryn is in the process of renewing her Notary, which has expired. As soon as this is completed, there will put a note in the Weekly News.



These services are provided at no cost to the congregants of Good Shepherd. Please call before you come and note that she will not be available to notarize on Wednesdays between Noon & 3. *Caryn's office hours are: Mon., Tues. Wed. & Friday 8:00 am to 3:00 pm, & Thurs. 8:00 am to 4:00 pm*