



The Shepherd's Voice

The Newsletter of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church: Nov/Dec 2011



SERVING THE
CONGREGATION OF
GOOD SHEPHERD
LUTHERAN CHURCH,
ELCA

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Have Your Cake and Give it Too



Join us for special time of fine deserts and warm fellowship. Invitations will soon be coming to you to join the Stewardship Committee in our annual Cottage Meetings. This is an opportunity for you to get a first glimpse at the Mission Plan the Council has put forward as well as learn about our roll as stewards of God's gifts. This is an opportunity to give your input on how you visualize the mission of Good Shepherd Lutheran should serve the needs of our congregation, our community, and our world.

We are planning three meetings where break out groups will discuss committee missions,

priorities, and how the overall Mission Plan conforms to our vision. We will have this fellowship time over deserts and coffee.

Plan on attending one of the three Cottage Meetings **November 11, November 15, and Sunday November 20.** The meetings on the 11th and 15th will be at **7:00pm at the Church.** The meeting time on **Sunday the 20th will be at 3:00 pm at the Church.**

When you receive your invitation we are asking you to RSVP by placing the invitation in a designated basket in the Narthex. A list of attendees will be posted. You can change your meeting date if needed. We need you input and vision. Plan to attend. If you have any questions contact David Thiel or Karen Harris.

Social Action Ministry

Children International--Throughout the month of September, Good Shepherd members who sponsor children shared their experiences with the congregation on Sunday morning. This special event culminated on October 2, with seven new sponsorships of children in need of support. Our partnership with Advent Lutheran in this effort offers exciting opportunities for global outreach in the months and years to come. Many thanks to our liaison, Judy Hathaway, for her leadership in this important ministry.

CROP Walk--On Sunday, October 2, twelve Good Shepherd walkers ventured forth from Immanuel Lutheran to help relieve the symptoms of poverty around the world. We were bolstered by prayers and sponsorships from many supporters in our congregation. 25% of all funds raised in the annual Lawrence CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Walk stay right here in Lawrence, with 15% to LINK and 10% to Jubilee Cafe.

Family Promise--The week of October 2-9 brought Family Promise families back to Trinity Lutheran for their host week. Good Shepherd supports Trinity in this ministry by serving as evening or overnight hosts, or

providing all or part of evening meals. We recently learned of another way to support Family Promise. The day center is in need of the following items: size 4 diapers (urgent), wipes, tissues, and feminine hygiene products. These items may be placed in or near the Ballard Center plastic bin in the narthex; be sure to mark them for Family Promise.

Upcoming events include: Good Shepherd workday at LINK on Saturday, October 29; providing and serving lunch for the Lawrence Habitat construction volunteers on November 12; cooking side dishes for the annual community Thanksgiving dinner at the LINK dining site; the Mitten Tree to provide Christmas gifts and holiday dinner for Ballard Center families, coordinated by Ginger Ratzlaff (thanks, Ginger!); and the annual fair trade coffee and chocolate sale (look for us in the narthex after Thanksgiving!). Social Action Ministry meets at 6:30 on the first Thursday of each month. Everyone is welcome!

Contact Susie Brooks for more information at sbrksks@aol.com.

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Pastor's Page

Grace and peace to you from our Risen Christ!

In the next couple of months we will experience All Saints Sunday, Christ the King Sunday, our national holiday of Thanksgiving, the end of a church year, the beginning of a new church year, Advent, and Christmas. After spending almost half a year in one church season, now, over these next two months we will end a church year, start a new one, go through one entire church season and start a new one.

It is like we have been cruising along at a fairly significant pace and then all of a sudden we have to kick it in to warp speed. I'm guessing that many, if not most of us, feel like we are already going as fast as we can and that the idea of going faster, doing more – more work, taking on more tasks and responsibilities, being involved in more activities, well, it simply makes us feel more tired.

Something that is always important for us to be aware of, maybe never more so than now when we have holidays ahead of us that will require more – more planning, more activity, more shopping, and more expectation that everything be perfect – we need to pay attention to what we are to do and what God will do and is doing. It is easy to miss this. It is easy to get these confused.

As we go through the next two months, pay attention to our Scripture texts and your own devotional reading to see what more we are to do and what more God is doing.

We will hear both the apostle Paul and the Gospel of Mark tell us that we need to “keep awake” and “keep alert.” They are not talking about laying awake at night thinking about what more we have to do to make our holidays perfect. They are not talking about keeping alert to what sales there are in order for us to buy more gifts for Christmas.

The Gospel of Matthew will tell us that it is important for us to give the thirsty a drink, give clothes to the naked, care for the sick, visit those in prison, and to welcome the stranger.

But in addition to all of these things we need to do more of over these next two months, pay attention to what more God is doing and will do. We will hear how it is God who will search for God's sheep. It is God who will shape us, shape our lives as we are the clay and God is the potter.

We will also hear these wonderful words from I Corinthians, words desperately needed while we are looking ahead and wondering how we can possibly do more, words we all need to hear, that God, through Jesus Christ “will strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.” (I Corinthians 1:8-9)

We may not be able to come up with more strength for the months ahead, but God can. We may not be able to come up with the perfect gift, but God did. As we are concerned about what more we can do, we need to focus on what more God has done and will do.

These next two months will be filled with more. My prayer is that they will be filled with more strength, more love, more peace, more than you can imagine, more of what only God can give!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Ted



Learning and Growing IN

Faith



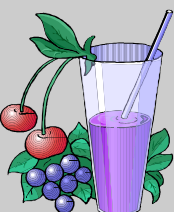
A Fruity Sunday School Year

Galatians 5:22-23 **"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."**

This year in Sunday School opening, kindergartners through 5th graders will be learning how the Holy Spirit working within them results in fruit of the Spirit "hanging from their branches" that others can see and know just what kind of "tree" they are. Would you recognize a kiwi tree or a lime tree if you could not see the fruit hanging on the branches? Love, joy, peace, kindness.....show that we are "trees" rooted in God's love, nourished by God's Word, and watered by God's grace. During opening, which begins at 9:15, children will praise God with songs and learn memory verses that tie in with each of the fruits of the Spirit.

Q: What did the banana in the sun say to the other banana in the sun?

A: I don't know about you but I'm starting to peel!



Q: Why did the grape stop in the middle of the road?

A: Because he ran out of juice.

Confirmation Field Trip

On Wednesday, September 28, six confirmation students and parents attended a Confirmation Kick-Off event sponsored by KCLYC (Kansas City Lutheran Youth Coalition) in Olathe where Wayne Simien, former JayHawk and NBA star, was the guest speaker. Wayne shared how God worked through a few courageous fellow students who approached him one day while sitting on the KU campus with his arm in a sling and offered to pray for him. They shared with him what God had done in their lives and he began to feel the stirrings of God calling him. Forgoing fame and fortune on the court, Wayne now shares God's message through his ministry to young people "Called to Greatness." Wayne's message that night was "Where Is God," but Wayne pointed out that the question we really need to ask is the question God asked Adam and Eve in the garden in Genesis 3:9, "Where are you?" In all of our busyness of life we sometimes have a hard time fitting God in. But God is right here, God never leaves us, God seeks us wherever we are.

Sunday, December 18 9:45 a.m.

**Sunday School Christmas Program
"Come to Bethlehem and See"**



Fall Family Fun Night

Fall fun was had on the farm under a nearly full moon on Saturday, October 15 at the Brooks' fabulous farm. Hayrides, pumpkin decorating and a cozy bonfire were enjoyed by all who came for the fun and fellowship. Thanks Susie and Mark for your hospitality!

Music & Worship Notes



Lara West, Music Director, larylwest@gmail.com 913-367-6486



Worship Survey: Thank you to everyone who participated in the worship survey. We received 39 completed surveys. Compiling the results has shown us clearly that Good Shepherd folks are passionate about worship and music!

We received many comments showing a wide variety of opinions and areas of interest. Out of 39 surveys, 34 they were “excited to share” our instrumental, choral, and solo vocal music. 25 said that congregational music helps them connect with the holy. 26 said the liturgy helps them connect with the holy. Music and worship environment were important in the worship experience of most of the respondents. 34 said they feel welcome serving as volunteers and feel their gifts are beneficial to the community. Although most respondents felt the bulletin was clear and we gave sufficient guidance about which hymnal to use, there was a significant minority (13 on each) who thought we needed more guidance in those areas. Most people were neutral about whether we should offer an additional service. The strongest opinions were probably in the area of contemporary worship. While some felt Good Shepherd needs to utilize more contemporary worship, others had strong comments against contemporary worship.

The worship committee will continue to discuss the survey results, especially those areas with divergent opinions, during our meetings in the coming year. We welcome your continued input and conversations, and encourage you all to remember that we are all part of the body of Christ, united through our faith. It is impossible for us to have a worship service that incorporates everyone's favorite songs and style and scripture every week. Try to keep an open mind and heart toward those songs and worship styles that may not be your favorites, and remember that they may be especially meaningful to another member of our community.

If you have questions or comments about worship at any time, or if you would like to hear more about the survey results, you may contact any member of the worship committee: Becky Foerschler, Judy Halverson, Joanne Hickey, Pastor Ted Mosher, Laura Neilsen, Kris Sterbenz, David Thiel, or Lara West.

Thank you to everyone who helped with our outdoor worship on Sunday, September 4, including those who played music, brought food, set up, transported items, organized, worshiped, ate, and played! We had a great time.

We enjoyed lovely weather and furry friends (~13 dogs and one guinea pig this year) at another outdoor service on October 9, when we celebrated the Blessing of Animals.

Thanks also to the Gather band for playing during Sunday morning worship in September and October, and to all the instrumentalists and singers who participated in our cantata and 50th anniversary kickoff worship on October 16.

Worship Volunteers: You should receive a new schedule in early December. If you would like to be added to or removed from the volunteer list for a specific duty, please let the office know by November 15 so those corrections can be incorporated into the new schedule. Be sure to check the schedule you receive in the mail and record the dates you are assigned to serve. If you have a conflict on an assigned date, please trade dates with another volunteer.

All Saints' Day

On Sunday, November 6, we will celebrate All Saints' Day at our 10:30 worship. We will give congregation members the opportunity to light candles to remember saints gone before, to celebrate living saints, or to rejoice in the life of a new saint born this year. In addition, we will celebrate the lives of congregation members and loved ones who passed away in the previous year by reading their names during worship. Please join us.

Advent



The four Sundays leading up to Christmas make up the season of Advent. This year, Advent begins on Nov. 27. Advent marks the beginning of the church year and has been observed since 490 CE. The word “Advent” comes from the Latin “to come.” Principal themes of Advent include hope, darkness and light, repentance, watchfulness, preparation, expectation, and anticipation.

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We look forward to Christ's incarnation at Christmas and to the fullness of time at Christ's second coming. During this time, we emphasize our yearning for Christ by refraining from Christmas celebrations in worship until December 24. We also omit the hymn of praise in this reflective season. We use the color blue to symbolize hope, and we light candles on an Advent wreath to mark our time of waiting.

Families may wish to make or purchase an Advent wreath to use at home. The circle of the wreath represents Jesus' eternal victory over death, and the candles remind us of Christ's light. A wreath may be made out of evergreens, which symbolize God's faithfulness. They can be treated with a flame retardant substance. Holly, laurel, and other green shrubs retain their freshness longer than pine. Candles may be blue, deep purple, or natural colored. See www.elca.org for more information on the season of Advent and the Advent wreath.

Wednesday Schedule for Advent

During the season of Advent, we will come together during the week to experience God's peace and listen to God's word. Please join us on Wednesdays, November 30, December 7, and December 14, for food, fellowship and worship.

6:00 pm Supper

7:00 pm Evening Prayer



Community Taizé Service at Good Shepherd

On Friday, December 9, at 6 pm, Good Shepherd will host a community Taizé service for Advent. These services are co-hosted by seven Lawrence churches. This group regularly holds Taizé services at 6 pm on the 4th Friday (or Sunday) of the month (except in November), and they hold weekly services during Advent and Lent. The services include music, reflective readings, candle lighting, and time for meditation. All are welcome. To volunteer to be a musician for the service at Good Shepherd, contact me.

A laminated bookmark with the dates and locations of the 2011-12 Taizé calendar is available in the narthex. Other December dates are as follows:

Fri. 12/2, 6 pm:

First United Methodist Church, 946 Vermont

Fri. 12/16, 6 pm:

Plymouth Congregational Church, 925 Vermont

For more information on the Taizé Community, its history and on-going work see www.taize.fr.

Greening the Church

Join us after Sunday morning worship on December 18 for a simple sandwich lunch followed by a joyful time of preparing our sanctuary for Christmas. We will put up and decorate the Christmas



tree and hang the greenery and other decorations. Many hands are needed to make the transformation, so save the date. If you plan to come, let Lara or the office know so we can have enough sandwiches available. (If you don't let us know, feel free to come anyway!)



Christmas Worship Schedule

Saturday, December 24, 5:00 and 9:00 pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Sunday, December 25,
10:30 am

Lessons & Carols with Communion

Sunday, January 1, 10:30 am Service of the Word (lay-led,
no communion)

GSLC Choir: Rehearsals are on Thursdays, 7:00-8:15 pm (no rehearsal on Thanksgiving Day, 12/29, or 1/5). New members are always welcome! Contact me for more information or to be added to the email list.

Instrumentalists/Vocalists/Cantors: Solos and ensembles are welcome to provide prelude or offering music, and accompany anthems, hymns or liturgy. Contact me to volunteer.



Good Shepherd Volunteers - Nov 2011

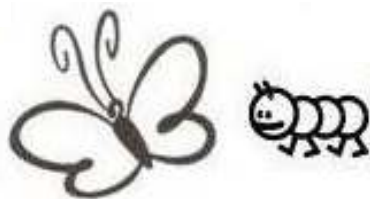
Position	4-Nov	11-Nov	18-Nov	25-Nov
Worship Coordinator	David Thiel	Becky Foerschler	Walter Willmert	Susie Brooks
Assisting Minister	Mark Algren	Kathy Algren	David Rasmussen	Kris Sterbenz
Reader	Barbara Tucker	Matt Foerschler	Kathy Rasmussen	David Rasmussen
Communion	Mosher/Schaible	Willmert	Brooks	Foerschler
Ushers	Harris/B Tucker	Dresbach	Christy/K. Algren	Halverson
Greeter	Sanden	Schaible/Mosher	Spears	Pope
Acolyte	Kat Sterbenz	Saraya Windibiziri	Taylor Mosher	Paul Jesse
Nursery Help	Ben Soukup	Zack Spears	Aimee Neilsen	Ian Pepin
Clean Upstairs	Pope	McCullough	Neilsen	Brooks
Clean Lower Level	*	*	*	*
Mowing	Soukup	Case/Spear	Neilsen	Sanden/Dresbach
Potluck	Sanden	*	*	*
Prayer Partner	Barbara Schaible	Becky Foerschler	Kathy Algren	Joanne Hickey

* Volunteer Needed

Good Shepherd Volunteers - Dec 2011

Position	4-Dec	11-Dec	18-Dec	24-Dec 5pm	24-Dec 9pm	25-Dec
Worship Coordinator	Ar Windibiziri	David Thiel	Becky Foerschler	Walter Willmert	Susie Brooks	Ar Windibiziri
Assisting Minister	Mark Brooks	Merlin Halverson	Mark Algren	Kathy Algren	David Rasmussen	Kris Sterbenz
Reader	Steve Dresbach	Ann Nichols	Gary Sanden	Volunteer Needed	Mark Algren	*
Communion	Halverson	Nichols Christy	Neilsen	Childers	Case	Hillmer
Ushers	Neilsen	Brooks	Mortensen	Sanden	Windibirizi	Pope
Greeter	S Brun/Butschle	Dresbach	C Case Thiel	Harris/Christy	Lignell	Mortensen
Acolyte	Ben Soukup	Volunteer Need	Sean Jesse	Paige Soukup	Volunteer Needed	Tristan Rethman
Nursery Help	Laura Neilsen	Ben Soukup	Zack Spears	Aimee Neilsen	Ian Pepin	Laura Neilsen
Clean Upstairs	Foerschler	Sanden	Thiel	Childers	Childers	Childers
Clean Lower Level	*	*	*	*	*	*
Shovel-ing	Foerschler	Soukup	Case	Neilsen	Neilsen	Neilsen
Potluck	Rasmussen		*	*	*	*
Prayer Partner	Barbara Schaible	Becky Foerschler	Kathy Algren	n/a	n/a	Joanne Hickey

* Volunteer Needed



News from Green Pastures Preschool

I really believe great things are happening at Green Pastures Preschool. We are almost completely full (2 beginner spots and one Pre-K spot after November. One of our Pre-K children is moving to New York). Thank you to everyone who has been praying for our enrollment. If you know of any families with young children, we hope you would consider recommending us.

Our next goal is to fill our Brown Bag Bible Club and start an afternoon class. We would much appreciate your prayers as we grow our program. Our prayer is we will continue to provide a spiritual and educational foundation for the children and families and others will learn of God's love based on our actions.



Each week in Chapel, Pastor Ted shares a Bible story with our children. We reinforce it in the classroom by reviewing the story and making a Bible story book with stories from the entire year. Another way we help the children learn God's word is through song. We are singing our way through Chapel and learning a new Bible verse each month. In September, we learned Genesis 1:1 and in October, Joshua 1:9. We are excited for the children to commit God's word to their hearts. The children are learning the verses quickly so I imagine by second semester we will be singing two a month and reviewing the previous months.

Our Brown Bag Bible Club is Green Pastures Preschool's version of Lunch Bunch. Each month we will learn about a different Bible Character. We learned about Noah in Septem-



The child brings a brown bag lunch and we provide the fun!

ber and have discussed Joseph in October. Our Brown Bag Lunch Bunch is open to any child ages 3 to 5 (it does not have to be a Green Pastures Preschool child) who needs care from 11:30 to 1:30 on Tuesday and Thursday.



Mark your calendar to join us on Tuesday, December 20th at 6:30 pm for our annual Christmas program. We will be sharing The Christmas Journey. It is great program with the preschoolers singing to tell about the birth of Christ. We hope to see you there!

Being a part of the ministry of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is a privilege. Each of us on staff want you to know how truly blessed we are to be a part of it and thank you for the opportunity! We hope Green Pastures Preschool will be as great of blessing to the church as you are to us.

Praying the best for you and yours during this holiday season,
Kathy Smith, director

Friend us on Facebook-
Green Pastures Preschool or check out our website at www.greenpasturespreschool.org



Lutheran Campus Ministry to Have a New Home at KU



After nearly 50 years as a spiritual presence at the University of Kansas, Lutheran Campus Ministry (LCM) is about to have a physical home of its own in Lawrence, thanks in large part to the generosity of a Kansas City church that closed its doors in August.

“We’ve been housed in various places since our founding in 1962,” said Shawn Norris, campus pastor. “But by the start of the fall 2012 semester we’ll have a permanent address in a visible location just across the street from the campus. It does feel like the end of a long pilgrimage and the start of something new and exciting.”

LCM is a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and its Central States Synod. Its mission is to be a center of worship, fellowship, witness, and service for students and staff at KU.

In June, LCM acquired the property at 1421 W. 19th St. It is located near Naismith Avenue at the southern entrance to KU, within walking distance of six residence halls, Stouffer Place Apartments, Allen Fieldhouse, and the Ambler Student Recreation Center. Pending City of Lawrence approval, LCM plans to renovate the existing house and add on space for use as a chapel and multipurpose room.

“The generosity of Westwood Lutheran Church is what made it possible for us to purchase the property and plan

the construction,” said Norris. The 105-year-old congregation, formerly located at 5035 Rainbow in Mission Woods, voted last summer to disband and sell its property. LCM and four other organizations shared in the proceeds of the sale: JayDoc Free Clinic at the KU Medical Center through KU Endowment, SAFEHOME assistance for survivors of domestic violence, Roeland Park Emergency Food Pantry, and the ELCA Disaster Response program. LCM was the single largest beneficiary.

Westwood also contributed to LCM from its memorials fund, and the Westwood Lutheran Women’s Group donated \$4,000 to help furnish a new kitchen.

“Westwood strived to be a servant to the local community and the larger church throughout its history,” said Scott Schaefer, former president of the congregation. “These donations are part of that legacy, and a good way to continue our mission into the future.”

The new LCM facility will be named “Westwood House” in honor of the congregation, said Norris. Other congregations, alumni, and friends of LCM have also contributed to a fundraising campaign that began in 2009 and concludes in December. A symbolic groundbreaking ceremony is planned for November 19, and the facility will be dedicated as part of LCM’s 50th anniversary celebration on October 14, 2012.

Fourth Friday Fellowship

On Friday, October 28, Fourth Friday Fellowship will gather at the Brooks farm for an Oktoberfest celebration. Bratwurst, sauerkraut, buns, and condiments will be provided, and plenty of seasonal beverages will be on hand. Plan to bring a side dish or dessert to share, and maybe a lawn chair. Come at 6:00 or whenever you can get there!

Since the fourth Friday conflicts with Thanksgiving and Christmas weekends, we will plan to meet on Friday,



December 2 at the church for what has become an annual tradition for our group. This will be an potluck dinner with an international theme; everyone is invited to bring a favorite dish from their own ethnic heritage, or pick an ethnicity that you like and cook accordingly! We will plan to start around 6:00.

All adult members, visitors, and friends of Good Shepherd are invited to these gatherings. Contact Susie Brooks at sbrksks@aol.com or 785-836-3148 for details.



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
2211 Inverness Dr.
Lawrence, KS 66047



Winter

Dates to Remember



November 6

All Saints Day
November 6

Thanksgiving
November 24

Advent Midweek Services
November 30
December 7
December 14

Community Taizé Service
December 9

Sunday School Christmas Program
December 18

Greening the Church
December 18

For more dates and scheduling changes, please see the calendar at www.gslc-lawrence.org.

PLEASE SEND NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY THE 15TH OF THE PRECEDING MONTH.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE DUE WEDNESDAY.