

THE FLOCK'S NEWS

DECEMBER 2018

A VOICE CRIES OUT IN THE DESERT PREPARE YE THE WAY OF THE LORD

Advent is a time to slow down and practice the art of waiting patiently. It is a time of looking forward a time to refresh the spirit, recall the reason why we celebrate. It seems just last week it was spring and only yesterday it was summer, and now autumn is gone and we are looking forward to Christmas.

It is winter now and the voice of God whispers Hope and Joy. Sing a song about the coming of the Son of God and make room in your life for a little more hope. Hope that the birth of the Messiah reminds of the goodness of all creation that was there from the beginning. In the Gospel of John it is written, God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but have eternal life.



Advent

The hope of Advent is found in the knowledge that **GOD LOVES THE WORLD**. The message is not simply one of comfort, the Gospel urges us do the same: to love and care for the world.

Lord Jesus, help me this Advent to rededicate myself to loving the world god loves and caring for the earth the Father created. Amen

Guy French,
Council President

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*Come, let us
adore him!*

A MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

As I sat to write this December message, I had no message and the due date for the article was here! I had recently pulled out some books which I had received over the years as my role at Good Shepherd changed. It is typical for me to talk about the women of Good Shepherd who have greatly influenced my life and my faith development. Without the influence of these women, I would not be who I am today.

This message; however, is not about the women of Good Shepherd but rather the men of Good Shepherd. The women of Good Shepherd gave me the hope and confidence to be a leader in a very male dominated environment (remember women could not always sit on church council or be a pastor); but, it is the men of Good Shepherd who challenged me to see the Church and my faith differently. It is this challenge which is the basis of my message.

Now back to the books. Writing a monthly newsletter article is not as easy as it seems and some months I wander around trying to come up with an idea – thus the search for the books. Over the years, I have received books from many which have forced me to grow outside of my comfort zone. I will write about two books which have played a significant role in my faith development.

The first book is *God's Little Devotional Book for Leaders* and the second is *RECLAIMING the "L" WORD Renewing the Church from Its Lutheran Core* and both books were gifts. Each of the books is easy to read and both provide direction for leaders. The second speaks to us directly as Lutherans and challenges growth using the basis of our Lutheran faith as the foundation. I have reached for the first many times over the years when I am faced with a problem and uncertain of the solution. Finding the second at this point was interesting. We are in the midst of a pastor transition and so I immediately reread the chapter on Pastors. A great reminder, pastors are not our only ministers.

What made the finding the second book more riveting was the card that came with the book. I am certain other leaders in the congregation received the same book with a similar message. The book was a gift at a very trying time in the congregation especially for the leaders. The card had the following message:

It has been a long time since my confirmation classes. It has been so long since I really thought about what it really means to be a Lutheran – not just a Christian, but a Lutheran Christian. The thought crossed my mind that what we really need to do is to get in touch with our “Lutheran Roots” as part of our journey together. It is in our identity as Lutheran Christians that we will find our answers. Why are we here? What does God want us to do here? Why is Good Shepherd LUTHERAN Church unique?

So I need to thank and remember the men of Good Shepherd for encouraging me to see the church differently – Rick Myers, Bob Kintzer, Mark Casazza, Dan Jacobs, Guy French, Bob Hensley (gave me the second) and Brooke (gave me the first). Bob wrote the card with the challenge which was as relevant at that point in our ministry as it is today.

In *RECLAIMING the "L" WORD Renewing the Church from Its Lutheran Core*, the author states “vibrant & growing churches have this in common: They have a clear sense of vision, and they are open to change” (pg. 13). So to the questions above, I add - What is our vision? Are we living our vision? and most importantly What changes in me must I make to support our vision?

May you have a blessed Christmas!

Libby Yeager, Treasurer

December Special Schedule

Christmas Eve Services will be held at 3:00 and 7:30pm.

Sunday, December 30th there will be one service at 9:30am. There will be no Family Faith Journey or Confirmation on December 30th.



Gifts large and small make a difference to the congregation and the community. Many times we forget the small gifts, especially the mundane, when we acknowledge the work of various members and teams.

Small gifts that make a difference:

November Lectors: Diane Martin, John Daley, Gary Smith, Elizabeth Keator, Dan Jacobs, Wilma Gardner, Doris Romanowski and Ariana Taylor

November Altar Guild: Kay Korb, Charlene Moules, Carol Phillips, Brooke Fisher

Building Repairs: Mark Scaramastro, Sawyer Scaramastro, Elijah Scaramastro, Gary Smith, Jayson Yeager, Brooke Yeager

Advent Workshop: Adrienne French and the Connection Building Team

Veterans Narthex Bulletin Board: Emilee French

Snow Shovelers: French Family

Giving Tree: Harry Heck

Add to the list of thanks! Send your suggestions for our thanks page to the church office.

SERVANTS NEEDED

Do you have a free hour or two? Do you like to visit with others? If yes, please join the team to visit shut-ins. Kay Korb is coordinating the visitation team. Call the Church Office and leave a message if interested in assisting with this vital congregational ministry.

"I was
sick and
you visited
me . . ."
—Matthew 25:36 NKJV



Think spring....

....Think Summer....

....Think VBS

Mark your calendar for Vacation Bible School

Monday, June 17th thru Friday, June 21st 2019.

Our theme is --

"Follow your Dreams" (The story of Joseph)

The first planning meeting is scheduled for Saturday, January 19th 2019 from 9:30-11:00am in the Fellowship Hall.

Please mark your calendars!!!!

Your ideas and help are much appreciated!!!!



WELCA: BIBLE STUDY

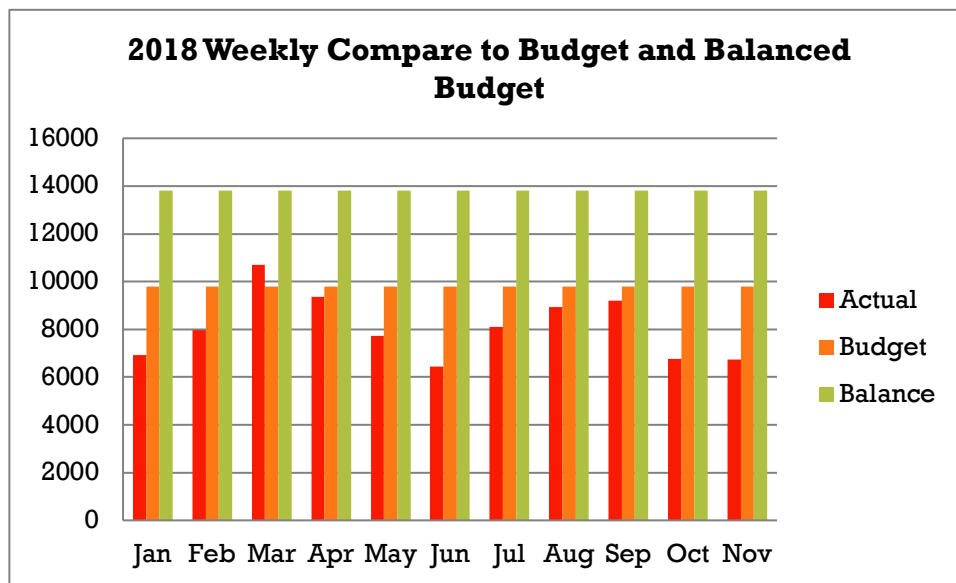
The Women of the ELCA will meet on Tuesday, December 11th at 6:30 pm at the Good Shepherd Center. The Bible study will be the third session on "Redemption", which is in the November issue of "Gather" magazine. Call Jane Hensley, 570-829-4394, for more information.

KNITTING & CROCHETING GROUP

The Knitting & Crocheting group will be meeting on the first Monday of the month for the fourth quarter of 2018 (December 3). The members of the group work on individual projects while sharing a time of fellowship. Don't know how to knit or crochet? No problem! The members of the group will help you get started as well as provide assistance when you hit a problem.



FINANCE UPDATE



Each month the newsletter will have a finance update. As a result of the income study, Finance has developed some charts which provide information on our current financial picture. This month's graph compares actual giving to the 2018 budget projected amount as well as to the amount needed each month for a balanced budget. If you have any questions, please see a member of the Finance Team or the Treasurer. In the first eleven (11) months only one (1) month exceeded the budget.



COOKBOOK ORDER FORM

Good Shepherd's cookbook is "cooking" at the publishers and will be here by Christmas. They will be on sale at church services on December 23rd and Christmas Eve, but you may pre-order. Cost is \$10 per book. Checks may be made payable to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Return forms and payment to the church office, in the offering plate, or team members at church services.

DECEMBER WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

December 2

Communion Assistants: Richard Raspen, Helen Johns (8:30); Elizabeth Keator, John Daley (11:00)

Lectors: Gary Smith (8:30); Fran Yekel (11:00)

Greeters: Gary & Donna Smith (8:30); Bea Bryan (11:00)

Ushers: Cliff Jones, Richard Raspen (8:30); Daren Bernecker, Brooke Yeager, Darren & Alex Martin (11:00)

Counters: Liz Keator, Gary Smith, Chris Casazza

December 9

Communion Assistants: Lois & Richard Myers (8:30); Kay Korb, Brooke Yeager (11:00)

Lectors: Dan Jacobs (8:30); Susan Patsko (11:00)

Greeters: Jane Hensley (8:30); Karen Figel (11:00)

Ushers: Barry & Doris Romanowski (8:30); Brian Yekel, Dionne, Brooke & Brielle Fisher (11:00)

Counters: Sally Ritchie, Gary Phillips, Daren Bernecker

December 16

Communion Assistants: Sally Ritchie, Richard Raspen (8:30); Libby Yeager, John Daley (11:00)

Lectors: Doris Romanowski (8:30); Sandra Atherton (11:00)

Greeters: Barry & Doris Romanowski (8:30); Brian & Fran Yekel (11:00)

Ushers: Barry & Doris Romanowski (8:30); Debbie Dervinis, Gabby Gregoire, Harry & Elizabeth Heck (11:00)

Counters: Jane Hensley, Lynn Muchler-Stash, Carol Phillips

December 23

Communion Assistants: Helen Johns, Lois Myers (8:30); Wilma Gardner, Kay Korb (11:00)

Lectors: Diane Martin (8:30); Lisa Martin (11:00)

Greeters: Helen Johns (8:30); Wilma Gardner (11:00)

Ushers: Carl Hurst, Dan Jacobs (8:30); Charlene Moules, Karen Figel, Cathy & Josh Jones (11:00)

Counters: Guy French, Kay Korb, Viktoria Yeager

December 24

Communion Assistants: Helen Johns, Evelyn Jones (3:00); Elizabeth Keator, Kay Korb (7:30)

Lectors: Dan Jacobs (3:00); John Daley (7:30)

Greeters: Evelyn Jones (3:00); Bea Bryan (7:30)

Ushers: Doris & Barry Romanowski, Dan Jacobs, Brian Yekel (3:00); Brooke Yeager, Debbie Dervinis, Harry & Elizabeth Heck (7:30)

December 30 (one service)

Communion Assistants: Carl Hurst, Evelyn Jones

Lectors: Kay Korb

Greeters: Helen Johns

Ushers: Guy French, Jane Newman, Cliff Jones, Richard Raspen

Counters: Guy French, Kay Korb, Viktoria Yeager

Altar Guild: Tammy Ioanna, Sandy Gorr, Lynn Muchler-Stash, Bea Bryan, Donna Yapple, Debbie Habib