



Time, Space and Silence This Advent

*“Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descending comes full homage to demand”¹*

These words from the first verse of the hymn “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” invite us into the deep meaning and purpose of the Advent season; making time and space for Christ to dwell with us. This Advent season, let us accept the invitation to step away from the busyness of the season and into God’s time, making space for Christ to dwell within us, and listening in still silence for God’s voice.

Over the next four weeks, Good Shepherd will be offering many ways to set aside time and create sacred space for silence and prayer alone or with your family.

Monday through Thursday at 9:45 a.m. you can join us on our YouTube channel—GSLC Holland, MI—for a short service of morning prayer; we will also be posting, and emailing, a short devotional based on the scripture reading for that day.

While Advent is a time of hope and joy, it is also important to acknowledge that the Holiday season is not easy for everyone. This time of year can be difficult for those who are alone, who suffer from depression or mental illness, or who have lost loved ones over the past year, and it is important to make space in this season for expressing feelings of sorrow and lament. At 7pm on Wednesday, December 21st —the longest night of the year—we will create sacred space for these emotions by having a Longest Night Service. Gathered together by candlelight we will pray, hear scripture, sit in holy silence and sing hymns as we lift up our own laments to God.

PASTOR'S PAGE CONTINUED

This busy Holiday season, take time, make space, and open yourself to holy silence and contemplation; may you receive the blessing of the One who came into the world to bring peace. Amen. Alleluia.

Yours In Christ

Pastor Jess

Text: Liturgy of St. James; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829-1885. Music: French Folk Tune, 17th Century. From *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, copyright 2006 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Augsburg Fortress. Used with permission.

ADVENT MORNING PRAYER SERVICE - ONLINE & VIA EMAIL



JOIN US...

... during Advent, on our YouTube channel- GSLC Holland, MI -for a short service of morning prayer.

We will also be posting, and emailing, a short devotional based on the scripture reading for that day.

Monday - Thursday, 9:45 am

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

Longest Night Service

This time of year can be difficult for those who are alone, who suffer from depression or mental illness, or who have lost loved ones over the past year.

It is important to make space in this season for expressing feelings of sorrow and lament. Gathered together by candlelight we will pray, hear scripture, sit in holy silence and sing hymns as we lift up our own laments to God while creating a sacred space for these emotions. All are welcome.

Wednesday, December 21, 2022
- The longest night of the year -
at 7:00 pm



FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Thank you so very much...

to the over 60% of the possible households from which we could expect an Estimate of Giving card. Many have been able to increase their giving over their 2022 giving.

At this point, the Estimate of Giving from the cards we have received and with estimates of how much those who did not submit an EOG card might give, amounts to about 85% of the budgeted expenses. Although this is not good it is not unusual.

In the past our EOG has been less than actual giving and less than the budget submitted to the congregation and the Synod. Some of the congregation will move away, or lose their jobs, or get a promotion and share some of the increase with the church. Some will just find better ways to organize their expenditures to give more than they estimated on their EOG cards. Some new people will become members. Others will realize that they should be giving more and decide to do so. Lots of things happen in our lives that may change how much we give to the church.

There are lots of variables in this process but we have to try to create a reasonable budget. It is pretty scary for the council and the congregation to adopt a budget that doesn't have much flexibility incorporated in it. That is sometimes what we have to do, however. This year will be one of them.

All of that being said, remember that your contributions are extremely important and absolutely essential, for the operation and continuance of this congregation and church. Please give generously. God's work through our church depends upon you.

ESTIMATE OF GIVING FORM - 2023

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

2023 ESTIMATE OF GIVING

In gratitude for all that I/we have received from God, I am/we are planning to return to God the following from our treasures:

\$_____ Please check one of these: ___Weekly___Monthly___Annually

Check if this is an increase in giving from your household.

Name(s) Please print

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it." Psalm 24:1

FROM LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

An Update and Thanks From Lutheran World Relief



“When violence broke out in her hometown, Nadia fled with her 2 year old son, Kyrylo, to Western Ukraine. Because of your generosity, they were welcomed with warm meals and a safe place to stay at a Lutheran World Relief supported center....”

“Because of the love of thousands of Lutheran World Relief quilters and kit-makers, Nadia and Kyrylo also received an LWR Mission quilt and Personal Care Kit. We’ve now shipped or distributed nearly \$1 million worth of LWR Quilts and Care Kits in Poland and Ukraine. Please extend our deep gratitude to the quilters and kit-makers in your congregation.”

QUILTING NEWS

No Quilting for this month as we take a break for the holidays.

Merry Christmas Everyone!



CHOIR NEWS

Choir Practice

Sunday	December 4:	Worship Service - 9:30 am
Monday	December 5:	Choir Practice - 6:30 pm
Sunday	December 11:	Worship Service - 9:30 am
Monday	December 12:	Choir Practice - 6:30 pm
Saturday	December 24:	Christ. Eve Service-6:30 pm

Chime Choir Practice

Performance will be during the Special Advent Service,
December 11, 2022.

Sunday, December 4: Chime Choir Practice 11:15-11:45 am



LADIES CHRISTMAS GATHERING

Ladies Christmas Gathering

December 6, 2022 — 6:00 pm

As we enter the season of Advent the women of Good Shepherd have always sponsored special activities to spread Christian charity and love to those that have a special need. We also gather in early December for an evening together to enjoy food, fellowship, a devotional and to sing some Christmas carols.

Over the years we've had good weather, bad weather, large groups, smaller ones of late, sang a Spanish carol when we had our Spanish friends as guests, done crafts, had special presentations but we always enjoy our evening as sisters in Christ and with our guests.

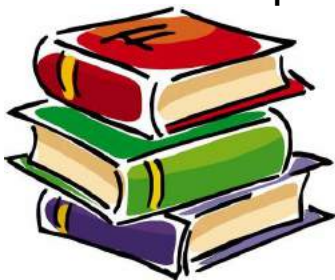
We look forward to continuing this event with a light meal of appetizers and homemade desserts along with an enjoyable evening together.



BOOK GROUP

Please note that there will be
no Book Group in December, 2022.

Book Group



January Selection:

The Book Woman's Daughter by Kim Michele Richardson

We all enjoyed *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* so much that we wanted to know what happens to her daughter. Therefore, our January 18 discussion will be on ***The Book Woman's Daughter*** by Kim Michele Richardson. Books will be available for pick up mid December.

We will read about Honey Mary Angeline Lovett, the daughter of the beloved Troublesome book woman, who must fight for her own independence with the help of the women who guide her and the books that set her free. Picking up her mother's old packhorse library route, Honey begins to deliver books to the remote hollers of Appalachia.

SOUND EQUIPMENT UPDATE

Well, Mike Did It.



Council approved the purchase of a new sound board as shown in the picture. A problem with the microphones then became an issue. For a few weeks it was impossible to understand the sound over the Facebook transmission but now it is working very well. Mike purchased a specific device that picked up the microphones more clearly. Thanks to Mike Russell and his technical acquaintances.

Now if you want to see the church service from past Sundays or Live just do the following: Go to "YouTube Channel - GSLC Holland, MI" in your internet browser and click on the LIVE tab near the top of the page or select from the list of previous services.

If you have any problems you may contact either Mike Russell or Dennis Willaman.

Looking forward to seeing you at church but if you cannot be there check out the worship service on the computer through YouTube as shown above.

THANKS MIKE WE REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS.

NEWS FROM BRET

Bret Sends His Best Wishes.

The men in this picture are Dennis Willaman, Perry Pearson, Don Burmeister, and Bret D'Agostino. The picture was taken when Dennis, Perry, and Don took some of Bret's furniture to him at his apartment in Plainwell, MI. on Nov. 17th. Many of you know that Bret D'Agostino was no longer able to stay in his house in Holland. He has finally found an apartment in Plainwell, MI. Donna Preisler helped him find the place. The apartment is much smaller than his house so he has had to downsize. Tom Lindsley helped Bret take his computers to Plainwell on Nov. 12th. They are not hooked up because Bret does not have internet connected to his apartment yet but expects it to be in soon.

This has been a very anxious and disturbing time in Bret's life. Moving is always a major issue for all of us but to leave a house he has lived in for 30 years and to be confined to a wheelchair just compounds the anxiety. He needs to make new contacts for people that can help him with his life activities. The only way he has to communicate, at this point, is with a cell phone (616-251-7157). Please keep Bret in your prayers. If you want you can contact his cell phone or send him a note. His current address is:

Bret D'Agostino
318 Cross Oaks Dr. Apt. #5
Plainwell, MI. 49080

Written by Dennis Willaman



NOISY OFFERING

Our Noisy Offering Recipient for November and December is Samaritas.

We are excited to partner with Samaritas for their refugee and senior living missions during our November and December noisy offerings. GSLC has worked with Samaritas before when they were known as Lutheran Social Services of Michigan. We will support Samaritas in three ways:



Household Starter Kits

With the many global crises overlapping, Samaritas is working to provide suitable housing and training for New Americans who are often learning a new culture and a new language to settle in the US. This will be the first Michigan winter for many of these families and Samaritas offers us a meaningful way to support these refugees. We will be collecting goods for Household Starter Kits to help welcome refugees and older foster youth into their new homes.

Senior Living Christmas Party

We are also finding ways to spread Christmas cheer. Samaritas noted that their senior affordable living center in Allegan is isolated and does not get many community groups stopping by to celebrate Christmas. We are in the early stages of planning a Christmas party, including the Confirmation youth, as a service opportunity. We plan on activities like caroling, Christmas bingo, and cookie decorating. Watch for dates in the upcoming weeks!

Christmas Gift Cards

We will be joining with Tapestry to collect gift cards for the Christmas Giving Drive to provide gifts for foster care youth and refugee children. For this drive, we encourage gift cards in \$25 increments to common stores with numerous gift offerings, such as Target or Meijer.

We appreciate your continued contributions to our community charities!

Mission and Outreach Committee



FROM THE TREASURER



As we are closing in on the first full year back inside our building, it has been a challenge, no doubt. We have faced so much new turf in the past 2 1/2 years that we really can't always rely on the past to predict the future. That has been true with the church finances.

As of October 31, 2022, we had \$148k in contributions with \$167k in expenses. The \$19k shortfall has hit our savings hard. As we are looking forward to 2023, we are tightening our belt further.

Hope to see you in person or online soon.

Peace,

Michael Russell, Treasurer

SUNDAY SERVANTS –DECEMBER

Sunday Servants Needed for December

Please help us fill the spaces. Volunteer to be a Sunday Servant

Use the form in the Commons or contact Deb in the office.

616.772.4075 or gslc.office@icloud.com

Date	Worship Leader/ Communion Assistant	Reader	Usher	Communion Set- Up/Clean-Up	Counters
Dec. 4 2nd Sunday of Advent	WL - CA-Corinne Becker	Brandon Bacon	Elliott Eisaman	Terry Grossman	1.Elliott Eisaman 2.
Dec. 11 3rd Sunday of Advent	WL - CA-	Christmas Program No Reader Needed		Terry Grossman	1. 2.
Dec. 18 4th Sunday of Advent	WL - CA -	Vicki Russell	Mike Russell	Vicki Russell	1. 2.
Dec. 25 Christmas	WL - CA -				1. 2.

CHURCH CLEANING SCHEDULE

New Cleaning Schedule

The new cleaning schedule for October 30 - January 7 is below. Please take a turn and sign up to clean.

Dates	Name(s)
Weeks of Oct. 30 - Nov. 5 Nov. 6 - 12	Dennis Willaman & Gary Bowman Dennis Willaman & Gary Bowman
Weeks of Nov. 13 - 19 Nov. 20 - 26	Sharon Wendt Sharon Wendt
Weeks of Nov. 27 - Dec. 3 Dec. 4 - 10	Dennis Willaman & Gary Bowman Dennis Willaman & Gary Bowman
Weeks of Dec. 11 - 17 Dec. 18 - 24	
Weeks of Dec. 25 - 31 Jan. 1 - 7	

Sign-up is for a 2-week period and includes cleaning all areas of the church building: sanctuary, sacristy, entrance, hallway, bathrooms, kitchen, conference room,

To sign-up:

Use the Cleaning Schedule form in the Commons
or Contact Deb in the office:
gslc.office@icloud.com
616.772.4075



ONLINE DEVOTIONS

Online Devotions

Join us for a weekly online devotional video that you can find on our YouTube page* and our Facebook page* Each week Pastor posts a short devotion where she invites you to “hold space” for a scripture passage, question, topic or ‘wondering’.

*Find us on YouTube: GSLC Holland, MI

*Find us on Facebook: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church-ELCA-Holland, MI

<https://www.facebook.com/GoodShepherdLutheranChurchHollandMI>

FELLOWSHIP — DECEMBER 2022

Fellowship Sign-up.



Treats and Set Up & Clean Up	
December 4, 2022	
December 11, 2022	
December 18, 2022	
December 25, 2022	

SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Sunday Services and Activities are also on-line.

Sunday Services, 10:00 -11:00 am, also available via YouTube 10:00 am

Choir Rehearsals, Mondays at 6:30 pm

Quilter's Meet, Tuesdays, 10:30 am on site. No Quilting in December.

Women's Bible Study, Wednesdays, 10:15 am

Book Group, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 4:30 pm. No December Book Group

OUR THANKS AND PRAISE

The Measure of our Love

Computers connected via internet = Families

Total Sunday Attendance: 151

Families: 9

Average Sunday Attendance: 38



December

Birthdays

Benjamin Rohrer - 2
Dave Wendt - 13
Michael Russell - 23
Nancy Hazekamp - 30
Ron Meyer - 31



Anniversaries

Som & Chan Vixayphone - 24

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Church Council Members:

Jessica Bacon, Secretary (920) 889-8706, jessica.lois.bacon@gmail.com
Steve Johnson (616) 212-6833, sgjcfp@gamil.com
Rob Parrott, President (616) 836-0172, parrott@chartermi.net
Vicki Russell (616) 796-8606, vicki0528@gmail.com
Julie Wolff, Vice President (616) 566-6251, wolffwife@gmail.com

PASTOR JESS' SCHEDULE



Pastor Jessica is available Monday - Friday
via phone, text, email and Facebook messenger.

Phone: (616) 403-4660

Email: pj.gslc@gmail.com

To view Pastor's weekly in-office hours, look on the Breeze
calendar on our website at goodshepherdhollandmi.com

IN OUR NOVEMBER PRAYERS

In Our November Prayers...

- **Thanksgiving:** Ann (daughter of Kerry Johnson's friend) delivered a healthy baby. Julie (10 yr. old friend of Eve) recovering well after her bike accident and getting back to normal. Ann (daughter of Kerry Johnson's friend) delivered a healthy baby.
- **Healing/Peace:** Lucas Barton, diagnosed with Dushanes Muscular Dystrophy (son of friends of Julie Wolff), Zach Bergland (Beckers' nephew), Ellie Buggeln, Selena Casillas, 8 yrs old-diagnosed with cancer (friend of Ellen Lichtman), Dale Cramer, Bret D'Agostino, prayers for secure housing, Kody De Haan, Merissa DelaGarza (Deb P-G's daughter), recovery from ankle surgery, Diane (close friend of Kris Norvell) at Mayo clinic for treatment for inoperable cancer, Carol Essig (Bret D'Agostino's aunt), Jessie George (Deb P-G's daughter), Carol Grossman (Steve's mother), diagnosed with cancer, Larry Heckel, Julie (10 yr. old friend of Eve) recovering from a bike accident, Gigi Howard, shoulder surgery; Cathy Kelly, Tiffany Letourneau, diagnosed with breast cancer, Iris Mears, (PJ's godmother), Trudy & Dale Medendorp, (close friends of Vicki R.), Dale diagnosed with stage 4 cancer, Molly (friend of Deb P-G) diagnosed with uterine cancer, Richard and Joanne Mueller (Terry's parents), Diane Oberlin (former attendee), has cancer, Dan Ponstein (son of Sally P.) health issues, Rita Ponstein, (Sally's sister-in-law), Howard Reister diagnosed with cancer (Sally & Ellen's brother), Roland Rivera, Casey Rostos (friend of Norvells), Katherine Slee (friend of Beckers), Calvin & Adam Stoltz (son & grandson of Lois R.) injured in a serious car accident, Russ & Rita Taylor (Julie Wolff's parents), Justin Walker (Pastor's husband), Jon Wiening.
- **Healthy Pregnancy:** Jessica Palys (friend of Russells).
- **Assisted Living/Nursing Home/Homebound:** Christopher St. John (Son of Bonita Zielke), Bonita Zielke,
- **Serving Our Country:** John Bounthapanya (Som's nephew), Ryan Felgenhauer, William Felgenhauer, and Evan Felgenhauer (great-nephews of Kerry Johnson), Cortney and Konstantin Ivanov (Gigi Howard's daughter and son-in-law), Andrew Wagner (Patricia Bradfield's grandson), Zachery Wiesner (Gigi Howard's son-in-law).
- **Prayer Partners:** Resurrection Lutheran Church, Saginaw; Saron Lutheran Church, Rev. Joan Oleson, St. Joseph; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Rev. Jonathan Reid, Suttons Bay; St. John's Lutheran Church, Rev. James Smith, Three Rivers.