



Happy New Year

Greetings in Christ and Happy New Year!

It's 2024, and as you read this you are probably busy with beginning-of-the-year activities; for some of you the new year is a time of reflection on the year that has passed and goal-setting for the year to come, for some of you it is a chance to start again or to re-set after the indulgence of the holidays. Whatever your new year tradition is, it probably has something to do with looking forward, setting goals and envisioning what 2024 will bring.

In the context of the church-year, the new year comes just before the feast of Epiphany on which we celebrate the arrival of the Magi at Jesus' home, and with that the revelation of Jesus to an ever wider audience. In other words, this too is a season that celebrates looking forward, new knowledge, and a search for the Kingdom of God here and now. Epiphany, invites us to be part of the unveiling of Jesus' light in the world, part of God's creative process of uncovering and revealing the Kingdom of God present within us and within the world.

So what does this creative process look like in your life? What might God be inviting you to do, or to create? What is God inviting the community of Good Shepherd to create and how might you be a part of this process?

At Epiphany we celebrate the widening of God's message, and we are invited to be a part of that through our own witness as individuals and as a community of faith. Just as the Magi were drawn to the Christ-child, we are drawn into God's creative work in the world and just as the Magi carried the news of the Christ-child back to their own lands, so we carry the good news of Jesus Christ into all of the parts of our daily lives. This year I invite you to explore the ways in which you can be part of the ministry of Good Shepherd and the creative work of God in your community; and I invite us as a community of faith to envision all of the ways we can bring the light of Christ into Holland and beyond while we work together to accomplish that vision.

May the light of Christ shine in each of us, and in this season of light and renewal, may we join in God's creative work of love in the world. Amen.

Peace in the name of Christ,

Pastor Jess

OPPORTUNITIES TO BE INVOLVED IN THE MINISTRY OF GOOD SHEPHERD

Ministry Opportunities

Worship leadership

from ushering to reading, assisting with the worship service to helping with sound and video, your gifts for reading, counting, gathering, praying, working with sound and video equipment are welcome!

Mission and Outreach

your out-of-the-box thinking, organizational skills and heart for service are welcome in our Mission and Outreach ministry where we work to collaborate with local ministries and bring service opportunities to the congregation.

Stewardship

your creativity, enthusiasm for growing the ministry of the church and for creating a culture of generosity and giving are welcome in our Stewardship Ministry where we work to create a culture in which the gifts of the congregation are celebrated and generosity is a way of being.

Building and Grounds

your eye for design, attention to detail, ability to organize and enthusiasm are welcome in our Building and Grounds ministry where we work to be faithful stewards of our resources and our building while also working to create a safe and sacred place for the people of the community to experience.

Membership and Events

your creativity and fun-loving spirit are welcome in our Membership and Events ministry where we work to gather our community in fellowship and fun while also inviting the greater community to come and see what we are all about.

In all of these ministries your time and enthusiasm is valued, whether you are a regular part of the ministry team or whether you want to be a part of just one or two events, your participation is welcomed and valuable, together we are the Body of Christ in Holland and beyond.



GRAND RAVINE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Grand Ravine Christmas Party

We had a wonderful brunch and Christmas celebration with Grand Ravine and Immanuel Lutheran Church of Allegan. Brunch consisted of quiche, fresh fruit, yogurt, and pastries along with boisterous discussion.

The lively group joined us in some holiday trivia, including musical clues from Pastor Jessica and Pastor Chris Laughlin of Emmanuel Lutheran, Allegan. Each table put their heads together to match the songs with the hints. We had to pick some challenging songs to stump this group. All of the teams did really well and won prizes donated from Good Shepherd. Remaining prizes were won from rounds of holiday bingo!

We rounded out our event with beautiful carols and chimes. The Grand Ravine community has wonderful singers and we even had a volunteer from their group to play chimes!

We all had a great time bringing these communities together to celebrate the coming of Jesus.

The Mission and Outreach Committee

From Grand Ravine Residents:

Dear Members of Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church,

Thank you folks for all the good food and the fun games we played and your friendly volunteers. Singing was wonderful, you got us in the mood for Christmas for sure.

Bless you and your congregation.

Sincerely,

Laurie Keckler

Carol, Todd, Deb, Pat B., Karen, Bobby
Jo, Norma, Pat S., Libby, Diane, Jacque, Joy J.

rec'd Dec. 18, 2023

Good Shepherd Congregation,

Thank you so much for a wonderful
Christmas party at Grand Ravine!
Wishing you all a merry Christmas and
many blessings in the new year!

Sincerely,

Anna Zatzke, Manager

Rec'd Dec. 20, 2023



GRAND RAVINE CHRISTMAS PARTY



Dennis Willaman & Bill House



BOOK GROUP NEWS

If I Were You by Lynn Austin

Two friends, Eve and Audrey, social opposites, are brought together by the threat of Nazi invasion. Marriage to an American serviceman ends in tragedy. After the war, Audrey and her young son move to America for a fresh start and help from her in-laws whom she has never met. She arrives to find her friend Eve has been impersonating her for the past four years.



Book Group

A sweeping story that transports readers to WWII England and 1950s America and explores the deep, abiding power of faith and friendship.

Next meeting is January 17, 2024 at 4:30 pm.

END OF YEAR GIVING STATEMENTS

End of the Year Giving Statements



Per council direction, end of the year giving statements will be emailed after January 12, 2024. If you would like a printed copy please notify Vicki Russell (616 796-8606 or vicki0528@gmail.com) prior to that date.

Reminder: if you changed your giving amount on your EOG and have recurring giving you must also change the amount within Breeze. As always, if you need assistance with Breeze see Vicki Russell or Elliott Eisaman.

MEN'S BREAKFAST



Men's Breakfast

Join us for the next Men's Breakfast,

Saturday, January 27, 2024,

9:00 AM.

NOISY OFFERING

January/February Noisy Offering: Ottawa County Community Action Agency Walk for Warmth



Walk for Warmth, an annual two-mile walk organized by the Ottawa County Community Action Agency, raises money to keep the heat on for financially qualifying families in Ottawa County who have received a utility shut-off notice for gas, electric, water or deliverable fuels like propane. 100% of the funds raised stay in Ottawa County to help your neighbors. The one-time assistance provided by Walk for Warmth funds might be just the help these working families need to settle bills and feel hope for the future.

Last year, Walk for Warmth raised \$10,888 in order to assist 224 families with utility payments. Community Action Agency also plugs these residents into programs that increase the energy efficiency of their homes, reducing utility costs in the future.



The Walk for Warmth 2024 event will be:

Friday, March 8, 2024

6:00pm - 8:00pm,

and start at

EV Construction

86 E. 6th St.

Holland, MI 49423

The event is scheduled in the evening this year. You are welcome to wear your glow gear and join us for a night of fun that will include walking, a bonfire, food trucks, prizes, warm hearts, and more! A sign-up sheet will be placed in the commons for interested families.

Those interested in helping plan our MOC events can join us for our next meeting on Wednesday, January 10 @ 6:30pm.

We appreciate your support!

Mission and Outreach Committee



FROM BENJAMIN'S HOPE

Dear Friends at Good Shepherd Church,

What an encouragement to receive a gift from your congregation for the Live, Learn, Play, Worship Ministry of Benjamin's Hope. Thank you!

Please visit our open campus any time or join [us] for an all-abilities worship service any Sunday at 6 pm.

We are grateful for you!

Sue



PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

Thank you for the fun and fellowship at the ladies Christmas Dinner!

Paula Brink & Jeanne Weerink

rec'd Dec. 13, 2023



The Measure of Our Love
 Computers connected via internet = Families

Total Sunday Attendance: 290
 Families: 13
 Average Sunday Attendance: 48
 (six services)

SUNDAY SERVANTS — JANUARY

Sunday Servants Needed for January

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(s)	Usher	Communion Set-Up/ Clean-Up	Counters
January 7 Baptism of Our Lord	WL- CA-			Deb Ludwig	1. 2.
January 14 2nd Sunday of Epiphany	WL - CA-	Tom Ludwig		Deb Ludwig	1. 2.
January 21 3rd Sunday of Epiphany	WL - CA-				1. 2.
January 28 4th Sunday of Epiphany	WL - CA -			Deb Ludwig	1. 2.

FELLOWSHIP – JANUARY

Fellowship Sign-up.



Treats and Set Up & Clean Up	
January 7, 2024	
January 14, 2024	
January 21, 2024	
January 28, 2024	

CHURCH CLEANING SCHEDULE

January 7 – February 3, 2024 Cleaning Schedule.

Sign-up: 2-week period preferred, however, 1-week period is acceptable. Cleaning includes cleaning all areas of the church building: sanctuary, sacristy, entrance, hallway, bathrooms, kitchen, conference room, nursery and Commons.

To sign-up:

Use the Cleaning Schedule form in the Commons
or Contact Deb in the office:

gslc.office@icloud.com

616.772.4075



Dates	Name(s)
Weeks of December 24 - 30 Dec. 31 - Jan. 6	Sharon Wendt Sharon Wendt
Weeks of January 7 - 13 January 14 - 20	Russells Russells
Weeks of January 21 - 27 Jan. 28 - Feb. 3	Fosters Fosters

January

Birthdays

Dennis Willaman - 2
Laurie Schuldt - 2
Jessica Bacon - 5
Lois Robinson - 10
Annika Pearson - 22
Brian Hurt - 23
Lisa Pearson - 27
James Walker - 30



Anniversaries

Dennis & Carolyn
Willaman - 13

SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Sunday Services are also on-line.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87525508195?pwd=MmtjVENGaUg3ODFuaXhhUHR1TVR3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 875 2550 8195

Passcode: 022399

Sunday Services, 10:00 -11:00 am, also available via Zoom
Choir Rehearsals, Mondays at 6:30 pm, September - May, begins Sept. 13, 2023
Quilter's Meet, Tuesdays, 10:30 am on site. No Quilting in December.
Women's Bible Study, Wednesdays, 10:30 am, September - May
Book Group, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 4:30 pm. September - May

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Church Council Members:

Jessica Bacon,	(920) 889-8706, jessica.lois.bacon@gmail.com
Larry Heckel	(616) 399-8238 (H), (616) 403-1476 (C), laurenceheckel@icloud.com
Steve Johnson	(616) 212-6833, sgjcfp@gamil.com
Brian Underhill (Pres)	(616) 292-7194, underhillbrian@yahoo.com
Julie Wolff (VP)	(616) 566-6251, wolffwife@gmail.com
Pastor Jess (Sec)	(616) 403-4660, pj.gslc@gmail.com

IN OUR DECEMBER PRAYERS

In Our December Prayers...

- **Our Sympathies:** to Donna Vargo on the death of her sister and her nephew, separate occasions; and to husband David Baar, and family and friends of Beverly Baar who passed away (college friends of Tammy Walters).
- **In Thanksgiving:** Andrew Wagner, Patricia Bradfield's grandson, has retired from the military. Thank you for your service.
- **Healing/Peace:** Dave and Beverly Baar, Beverly has pancreatic cancer (college friends of Tammy Walters), Lucas Barton, diagnosed with Dushanes Muscular Dystrophy (son of friends of Julie Wolff), Karson Becker (Russell's grandson) healing prayers, Zach Bergland (Beckers' nephew), Greg Bolton, (friend of Julie Wolff), Patricia Bradfield has cancer again. Tom & Elizabeth Brookover, (friends of the Wentz') Tom has a rare form of ocular cancer, Dylan Brophy, age 26, (nephew of Kris Norvell's friend), stage 4 melanoma, Kory Casey, (mother of Kris Norvell's friend), stage 4 breast cancer, Bret D'Agostino, Mark DeGraaf, stage 4 cancer, Kody De Haan, Diane (close friend of Kris Norvell) at Mayo clinic for treatment for inoperable cancer, John & Amber Fanthorpe (friends of Russells) John is recovering from brain surgery, Jessie George (Deb P-G's daughter), Carol Grossman, (Steve's mom), cancer has returned on top of Parkinsons, Rose Heckel, Johanna (friend of Pastor Jess) diagnosed with lung cancer, Karen Heidenreiter (Branden's mother) heart issues, Tessa Hurt (out-of-town member) diagnosed with Myelofibrosis, Cathy Kelly, Tiffany Letourneau, being treated for breast cancer, Kory Mace (friend of Kris Norvell), Iris Mears, (PJ's godmother), Molly (friend of Deb P-G) diagnosed with uterine cancer, Diane Oberlin (former attendee) has cancer, Lori Ponstein diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer, Roland Rivera, Casey Rostos (friend of Norvells), Richard Russell's cancer has returned, Kathy Shoup, (friend of Larry Heckel) recovering from hip surgery, Katherine Slee (friend of Beckers), Stella, 6 yrs old, (Sally Ponstein's friends grdaughter) needs a kidney transplant, Suzanne (Ellie's daughter) prayers for resolution of gastrointestinal problems, Russ & Rita Taylor (Julie Wolff's parents), Justin Walker (Pastor's husband), Jon Wiening.
- **Healthy Pregnancy:** , Sarah Hitchcock, (Naomi Wahl's daughter), Madison Visser (Norvells grdaughter-in-law).
- **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:** Lutheran Church of the Savior, Rev. Alexander Steward, Kalamazoo; Trinity Lutheran Church, Revs. Ken Johnson & Jacob Lehman, Kalamazoo; Bethany Lutheran Church, Rev. Zachary Nelson, Kaleva; Mamrelund Lutheran Church, Rev. Michael Conklin, Kent City; Ascension Lutheran Church, Father Michael Wernick, Kentwood.