



In Light and Darkness

Blessed Advent. Happy New Year!

Sunday, December 1st, begins a new Church year with the season of Advent. Advent means “coming”, and traditionally the season of Advent is marked by a sense of waiting. Darkness and Light are important themes of this season; we wait for Christ the “Light of the World” in the darkness of winter. Throughout the four weeks of Advent, we will explore the theme of light and dark, how they exist together, and how darkness can be a place of growth and life.

This Advent, join us for the Journey:

Digital Advent Activities

Holding Space: an almost daily (Sunday-Thursday) devotional video on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube using the devotional *In Light and Darkness* by Illustrated Ministry. If you want to follow along you can get a digital or hard copy of the devotional by contacting Pastor Jess.

Advent Pause: a weekly streaming evening prayer service that includes prayer and scripture and is meant to be a quiet, centering experience. This will be posted by 5:00 pm on Wednesdays.

At-Home Activities for Families

Take-Home Advent Pack: These packs are intended for families to use as an Advent practice at home and include coloring sheets, a DIY Advent wreath, an Advent Calendar, and a Family Devotional, all provided by Illustrated Ministry.

This Advent, make space for contemplation and connection and gather together to wait, to explore, and to rejoice at the coming of God-with-us, in light and in darkness.

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

Pastor Jess

IMPORTANT DATES IN DECEMBER



All Congregation Christmas Program

Join us during worship for a short and fun telling of the Christmas story where you get to play a part!

Sunday, December 15, 2024

Longest Night Prayer Service

The Holiday season is not always filled with joy and light. On the longest night of the year we make space for the sadness, grief, and loneliness that can sometimes accompany this season. As a community of faith, we gather to support one another, name the things that are difficult for us, and pray for each other.

Sunday, December 22, 2024, 7:00 pm



Stories, Songs, and Sweets

Come early on Christmas Eve and join us for an intergenerational event aimed at kids. We will read Christmas stories, sing Christmas songs, and enjoy yummy treats before our candlelight worship.

Tuesday, December 24, 2024, 6:00 pm



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Our traditional Christmas Eve service of scripture, song, and Holy Communion.

Tuesday, December 24, 2024, 7:00 pm



BESTPALS DONATIONS



Thank you...

...to everyone who donated supplies for BestPals Animal Rescue Center.

Pictured receiving the supplies is Michelle Kenat, director, with Pastor Jess and Kris Norvell.



CHIME CHOIR REHEARSALS



Chime Choir Rehearsals

Chime Choir rehearsals continue December 1 & 8 and is performing during the December 15 service.

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS DINNER

WOMEN'S
*Christmas
Dinner*



Save the date!

The 2024 Women's Christmas Dinner is
Tuesday, December 10, 2024,
6:30 pm.

TEMPLE TALK - EOG RESULTS

What are the results of the EOG card program?

We had 47 EOG cards that were either picked up or sent out to the households of our congregation. 24 were returned and the total of those anticipated contributions was over \$140,000. If we add the estimated giving for this year of the 23 households that **did not** return an EOG card, the grand total is over \$ 190,000 to be contributed to the church next year. I don't know what the proposed budget for next year will be but this information will be helpful to those having to create that budget.

Thank you for your support of this church.

Whether you filled out an EOG card or not your stewardship committee hopes that you at least took some time to reflect on how much of your time and your finances you are contributing through the church to accomplish God's work. This may help you evaluate **your** current relationship with God.

The church has been doing God's work :

By supporting the making of quilts and assembling school kits for refugees and disaster victims

By supporting the efforts of Benjamin's Hope for individuals with special needs

By supporting Wings of Mercy to get people to needed medical care

By supporting Resilience an organization caring for Women in Transition

By supporting BestPals Animal Rescue Center

By supporting Walk for Warmth to provide heated facilities for families in need

By supporting Samaritas Christmas Wish program for children in Foster Care, Family Preservation, or Affordable Living.

And more.

As a congregation we can do **so much more** than we can individually.

We need this church not only to worship God on Sunday morning but to worship God by supporting our community organizations that are doing God's work.

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN THIS PROGRAM.



BOOK GROUP NEWS



The Book Group is taking a break for December.

Selections for the next three months are:

January
February
March

All My Secrets by Lynn Austin (a book bag book)
The Giver of Stars by Jojo Moyes (secure your own copy)
Lady Tan's Circle of Women by Lisa See (a book bag book)

See you in January!

SUGGESTIONS FOR NOICY OFFERING

Noisy Offering Recipients



The Mission & Outreach Committee is deciding on the Noisy Offering Recipients for 2025. If you have any ideas or suggestions, speak with or contact a committee. Committee members are:

Branden Bacon, branden.bacon@gmail.com
Carolyn Willaman, carolynwillaman@gmail.com
Julie Wolff, wolffwife@gmail.com
Suzanne House, wismhouse@icloud.com
Pastor Jess, pj.gslc@gmail.com

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your recent generous gift of \$300.00 to Lutheran World Relief's Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund...time and again recipients tell us how touched they are that someone far away remembered them and cared for them in their time of need.

Every quilt and every kit has a story. Thank you for ensuring these items get where they need to go.

Thank you,
Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhard
President and CEO

Rec'd Nov. 26, 2024



The Measure of Our Love

Computers connected via internet = Families

Total Sunday Attendance: 201

Families: 8

Average Sunday Attendance: 50

Breeze

Breeze is the secure church management software that we use to store member and giving information and for communicating with you through both email and text.

We occasionally use text messages to share last minute information such as worship service cancellation due to bad weather conditions. (Yes, winter is just around the corner.). Because of new texting guidelines we need to inform you that msg and data rates may apply to your cell phone carrier.

In order to keep our records in compliance we will need your permission to text your cell phone. Please follow the steps listed:

- On the table near the name tags is a list of names and mobile phone numbers.
- Please locate your name and confirm your mobile phone number. Initial to confirm your number and that it is a mobile phone, or make necessary corrections.
- If you agree to receive text messages from Good Shepherd, acknowledging the possible msg and data rates, sign your name in the last column.
- You also need to confirm permission within Breeze. To do this yourself follow the steps here.
 - Log into your access. Click on your profile.
 - Click on 'Enroll to Receive Text Messages' which appears at the top beneath your name.
 - Read the information. In the box that will appear choose 'this is my number' then 'enroll'.
- If you would like assistance see Vicki Russell or Elliott Eisaman.

If you would like to opt in to receive text messages and will not be in church you may send Vicki an email (Vicki0528@gmail.com). Include your cell phone number for confirmation and state that you would like to receive text messages from GSLC.

Once you are okayed in the system you will receive a verifying text. You must reply YES to that text or Breeze will continue to have you in the "pending" list.

If you do not complete these steps you may not receive a text message if one is sent indicating something like church service is cancelled. We use text messages rarely so you will not receive them unless it is important.

If you are new to Good Shepherd and would like to have access to this software to see your own information or contact other GS people see either Elliott Eisaman or Vicki Russell about being asked to join our secure group.



NOISY OFFERING

November/December Noisy Offering



Good Shepherd will again partner with Samaritas to collect Christmas gifts for those in need through their Christmas Wish program!

Samaritas has three options for Christmas Wish this year:

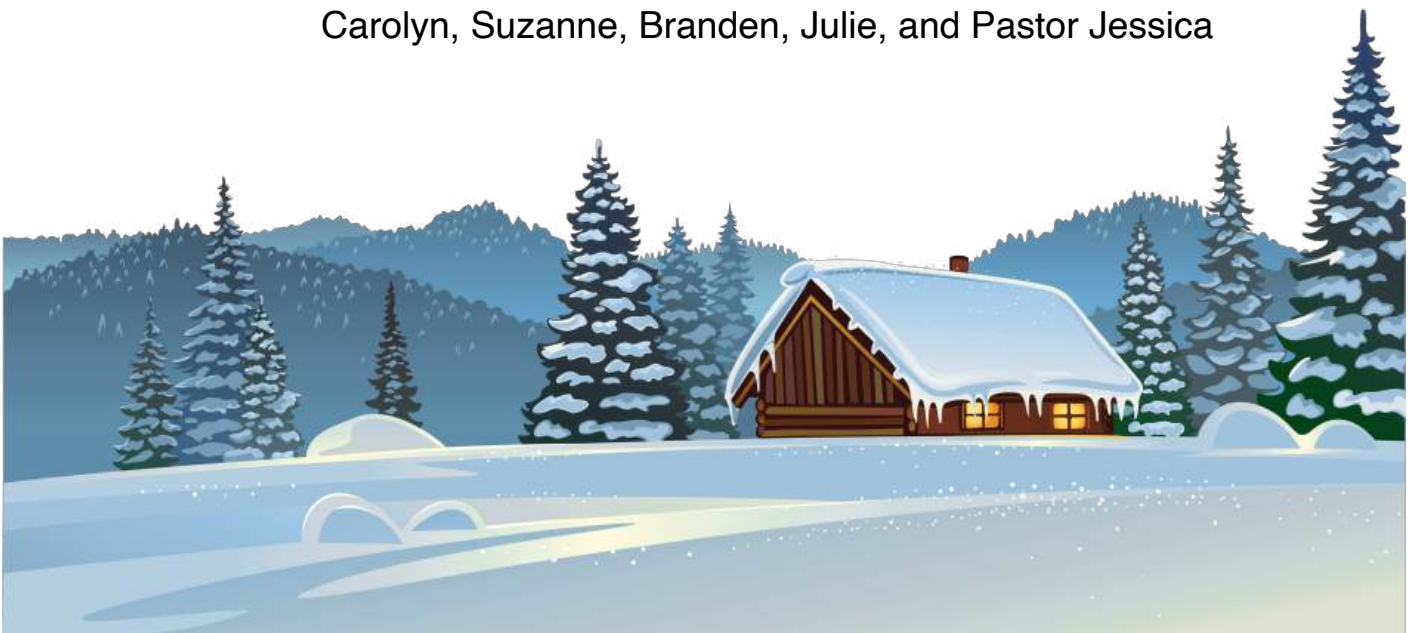
1. Receive a wish list written by a child in Foster Care, Family Preservation, or Affordable Living. Wish lists will be received around early November. Gifts are due in early to mid-December. We plan to sponsor 4-6 children. Watch for wish lists coming to the common area soon!
2. Donate individual toys to refugee children resettled through Samaritas' New Americans program. Any gifts collected beyond those for our wish lists can go to these refugees in need!
3. Collect gift cards (\$25 & \$50) that will be used to purchase Christmas gifts for children who enter care close to the holidays.

Please see the flyers from Samaritas for additional detail. You can also ask a member of the MOC with questions.

Samaritas also shared a thank you from last year as a video slideshow [here](#).

Thank you for helping bring Christmas joy to our community!

Mission and Outreach Committee
Carolyn, Suzanne, Branden, Julie, and Pastor Jessica



SUNDAY SERVANTS

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(s)	Usher	Communion Set-Up/ Clean-Up
December 1 1st Sunday of Advent	WL- CA- Lynda Parrott	Tom Ludwig		Deb Ludwig
December 8 2nd Sunday of Advent	WL - CA- Mary Sue Dawsey	Mary Sue Dawsey		Deb Ludwig
December 15 3rd Sunday of Advent	WL - CA-	Kids will Read		
December 22 4th Sunday of Advent	WL - CA -	Floyd Norvell		Vicki Russell
December 29 1st Sunday of Christmas	WL - CA -			

FELLOWSHIP SIGN-UP DECEMBER

Fellowship Sign-up.



Treats and Set Up & Clean Up	
December 1, 2024	Norvells
December 8, 2024	
December 15, 2024	
December 22, 2024	
December 29. 2024	

DECEMBER

Birthdays

Dave Wendt 13
Mike Russell 23
Branden Bacon 25
Ron Meyer 31



Anniversaries

Som & Chan
Vixayphone 24

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
Quilter's Meet, Tuesdays, 11:00 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 - Thursday
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:

Branden Bacon, (Sec)	(920) 889-8707, branden.bacon@gmail.com
Dylana Eisaman	(616) 953-0603, dylana.pinter@gmail.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	(616) 403-4660, pj.gslc@gmail.com

IN OUR NOVEMBER PRAYERS

In Our November Prayers...

- **Our Sympathies:** to the friends and family of Kathleen Schneider (friend of Norvells) who passed away October 24, 2024.
- **Som Vixayphone** and her Laos and Thailand Mission Trip.
- **Ministry of the Month, November:** Samaritas and Tapestry.
- **Healing/Peace:** Bethany Andrus, Lucas Barton, diagnosed with Dushanes Muscular Dystrophy (son of friends of Julie Wolff), Zach Bergland (Beckers' nephew), Greg Bolton, (friend of Julie Wolff), Gary Bowman, Patricia Bradfield, 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, Bret D'Agostino, Mark DeGraaf, stage 4 cancer, Diane (close friend of Kris Norvell) for new cancer treatment success, Steven Dwyer (Lynda Parrott's cousin), Jim Dyke, John & Amber Fanthorpe (friends of Russells) John is recovering from brain surgery, Jessie George (Deb P-G's daughter), Rick House, Tessa Hurt (out-of-town member) diagnosed with Myelofibrosis, Beth Lefever (friend of Tammy Walters) for housing and employment as she returns to the Holland Area. Tiffany Letourneau, being treated for breast cancer, Jan Mahalak, back surgery, will take several weeks for recovery, Iris Mears, (PJ's godmother), Richard Mueller (Terry Grossman's dad), Russell Norvell, (Floyd's brother), surgery, Diane Oberlin (former attendee) has cancer, Lynda Parrott, Nathan (Sally Ponstein's grandson), surgery complete, healing well, pray for continued recovery, Melissa Redding (grdaughter of Lois Robinson) lower back surgery, Roland Rivera, Casey Rosel (Norvell in-law relation) diagnosed with cancer in her skull, surgery occurred July 9, Greg Russell (Mike's brother) diagnosed with cancer, Richard Russell's cancer has returned, Kathy Shoup, Surgery for broken femur, Katherine Slee (friend of Beckers), Claire Smith (Norvell's grandniece) recovery from transplant surgery, Stella, 6 yrs old, (Sally Ponstein's friends grdaughter) needs a kidney transplant, Suzanne (Ellie's daughter) prayers for resolution of gastrointestinal problems, Rick Taylor, (Julie Wolff's cousin) heart surgery at the Mayo Clinic, Russ & Rita Taylor (Julie Wolff's parents), Sara Thompson (Corinne's friend) cancer diagnosis, Justin Walker (Pastor's husband).
- **Healthy Pregnancy:** Shelby Ahlstrom (Norvell's granddaughter).
- **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), Mitchell Johnson (Parrott's nephew) Zachery Wiesner (Gigi Howard's son-in-law).
- **Prayer Partners:** Christ the King Lutheran Church, Rev. David Sprang, Gladwin; Christ Lutheran Church, Rev. Robert Schmidt, Wyoming, Feast of Victory Lutheran Church, Rev. Haley Vay Beaman, Acme, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Rev. Christopher Laughlin, Allegan, Spruce Lutheran Church, Rev. Leslie Nye, Spruce.