



By the Light of a Star

Grace and Peace to you and Happy New Year!!

We are in a brand new year, a time when most of us set goals or intentions for the coming year and look forward to a new start. January also includes the Feast of Epiphany on January 6th. This celebratory day marks the end of the Christmas season and moves us from the worship of the baby in the manger to the proclamation that the Messiah has come! We celebrate that the light of a star led the three Magi to the place where Jesus was; the Magi are the first people outside of the Jewish people to acknowledge that this child was the promised King. It was the Magi who made Herod aware that something important had happened in Bethlehem, and it is the Magi who will bring this news back to their home countries.

That is why, during the season of Epiphany, we move in the Biblical narrative from stories about Jesus' birth into stories of Jesus' public ministry. Jesus was revealed to the people through his actions and teachings, Jesus is revealed to us through Scripture and Jesus is revealed to the world through our actions of loving our neighbor. Being a witness to Jesus means living our life of faith out loud, letting love and not fear lead us just as the light of the star led the Magi.

This January, as we look toward a new year, may we also look to the guiding light of Christ, may we live our faith loud and without fear, proclaiming God's grace and justice has come to us in Jesus.

Happy New Year and Blessed Epiphany

Pastor Jess



CHRISTMAS WISH GIFT COLLECTION



The congregation collaborated to purchase Christmas gifts for 6 children in need this year, Michael L, Armanie L, Blake L, Deztanee L, Giovanne L, and Memphis L. They all received ample gifts from the congregation and we also received more than \$250 of gift cards for additional families that enter the program late in the season. Samaritas is again grateful for the generosity of our congregation!

Thank you all for making a difference in our community for those most in need! You bring joy to so many!

Mission & Outreach Committee: Julie Wolff, Carolyn Willaman, Suzanne House, Pastor Jessica, & Branden Bacon

GRAND RAVINE CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Saturday December 14, we joined the Grand Ravine Senior Living Community for another joyous Christmas party. We enjoyed a luncheon of Larry's famous pulled pork, salads, desserts, and a hot cocoa bar. We then held a competitive round of Christmas bingo. Luck was in the air and all of the residents got at least one bingo and were able to pick from prizes including Burt's Bees, cozy socks, toiletries, and bibles.

Below l-r, Dennis & Carolyn Willaman, Bill & Karrie Foster, Kris Norvell, in front, Nicole Letourneau.



We collaboratively assembled gingerbread villages. Several residents exhibited a flair for design and applied beautiful decorations to the gingerbread houses. The event culminated in lovely chimes and Christmas carols. The residents expressed their gratitude for again bringing the Christmas spirit to their community!

Above, Branden Bacon assisting residents with gingerbread houses.



WINGS OF MERCY

2024 BIV CareAffaire and Runway 5K

The Holland CareAffaire and Runway 5k was a huge success thanks to the efforts of volunteers from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, the West Ottawa High School Robotics Team, Scout troops 157 and 57, Chapter 145 of the EAA Young Eagles, Thom Spelde, and the Zeeland Recreation Zumba Girls. We would also like to thank Courtney and West Michigan Regional Airport, Ben Fogg, and Sue Lamar for being such wonderful hosts for this event.

Pictured are some of our awesome volunteers from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

From the Wings of Mercy newsletter, *Wings Flyer*, Fall 2024.
A High Five to all our volunteers from GSLC!

CHOIR PERFORMANCE



Ali Andrus accompanying the choir on her flute, Sunday, November 24, 2024.
Eve Andrus at the piano. Choir l-r, Carolyn Willaman, Sharon Wendt, Ellen Lichtman,
Dave Wendt, Tammy Walters, Tom Ludwig, Brian Underhill, and Dennis Willaman.

Thank you Ali!

CHRISTMAS EVE SPECIAL MUSIC



At left Bethany Andrus; Choir l-r Carolyn Willaman, Sharon & Dave Wendt, Tammy Walters, Tom Ludwig, Brian Underhill, & Dennis Willaman.

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS DINNER

Thank you to all the ladies that attended the Christmas dinner. Once again we had another lovely evening enjoying fellowship, good food, entertainment by Corinne and Carolyn and an enthusiastic singing of Christmas carols.

A thank you to Lynda for the grant from Trivent and Corinne for all the special desserts.

Thanks, Sharon



Above, Carolyn Willaman & Corinne Becker

At left, l-r, back, Pastor Jess, Karrie Foster, Corinne Becker

Singing Christmas Carols in the Sanctuary.



END OF YEAR GIVING STATEMENTS

2024 Giving Statements...

...will be emailed out mid-January. If you would like a printed copy, please sign the sheet in the Commons. Printed statements will be available in February, any unclaimed statements will be mailed at the end of the month.

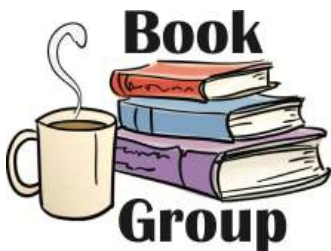
Questions? Contact Vicki Russell or Elliott Eisaman.

NEW CHILDREN'S QUIET AREA



Children are now able to participate in quiet play during our worship services. A new area was set-up in the sanctuary with a small table, carpet squares and soft play toys with biblical themes.

BOOK GROUP NEWS



The January selection is:

All My Secrets by Lynn Austin

Gilded Age New York, 1898. An unexpected death and the lives of three generations of women, grandmother, mother, and daughter, are upended. How do they cover up their impoverished status upon learning that the will leaves almost everything to the nearest male heir? Should they marry or remarry? Is there another way?

All three must come to terms with the choices they've made, why they made those choices and how they can create a lasting future for themselves, their family and each other.

QUILTER'S NEWS

The Quilting Group Resumes

January 7, 2025,
11:00 am - 3:30ish pm



PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING



The Measure of Our Love

Computers connected via internet = Families

Total Sunday Attendance: 225

Families: 12

Average Sunday Attendance: 45

Christmas Eve Attendance: 60

TEXT MESSAGES FROM BREEZE

Breeze Text Message Changes

We will occasionally use text messages to share last minute information such as worship service cancellations due to bad weather, road conditions, etc. Because of new texting guidelines we need to inform you that msg and data rates may apply to your cell phone carrier. That information was shared in the December newsletter and in Sunday announcements. Many of you have given permission to receive those text messages.

If you did not and would now like to give that permission please follow these steps:

- Log into Breeze.
- Click on your name to see your profile.
- Under contact information confirm that your mobile number is listed as a mobile phone.
- At the top, beneath your name, Click on 'Enroll to Receive Text Messages'
- Read the information. In the box that will appear choose 'this is my number' then 'enroll'.
- Breeze will send you a text to which you can reply YES or NO.
- Once you reply YES, under your name, it will say "Enrolled to receive text messages"
- If you reply NO it will say you are blocked.

New to Good Shepherd?

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 connect with either Elliott Eisaman or Vicki Russell about being asked to join our secure group.



NOISY OFFERING

January/February Noisy Offering

Community Action House

In particular, we will be collecting Winter Gear and Food Items. See the lists below.

In addition, we will focus on raising money for the Financial Wellness Program. Community Action House provides courses, services, and counseling at no cost to community members for home buying education, financial capability, and foreclosure intervention. Everything from the basics of saving and building a budget to the knowledge of how to buy a home.

Mission and Outreach Committee

Carolyn, Suzanne, Branden, Julie, and Pastor Jessica



Winter Gear:

- Adult-sized hats, gloves and mittens (waterproof and durable materials preferred).
- Adult-sized tall socks (thicker material preferred).
- Adult-sized coats and snow pants (waterproof and durable materials preferred).
- Twin-sized or larger blankets (cotton and fleece preferred).
- Sleeping bags.
- Emergency thermal blankets.
- Hand Warmers (regular or 72 hour).

New and gently used items are appreciated. Please ensure that used items are in good condition, with working zippers and fasteners.

Food Items:

- Dried beans (pinto or black)
- Healthy cooking oil (olive, coconut, canola or grapeseed oils)
- Red Lentils
- Broth
- Whole wheat pasta
- Gluten free pasta
- Flour
- Spices (salt, cinnamon, cumin, ginger, chili powder)
- Corn masa
- Basmati rice
- Canned fruit in 100% juice
- Tea or coffee
- Canned coconut milk
- Canned beans
- Juice (low-sugar/no sugar added)
- Ensure or protein drinks
- Alternative nut butters
- Unsalted nuts

Low Sodium or Low Sugar items Preferred.

SUNDAY SERVANTS

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 |
|--|--|---------------|-------|-------------------------------|
| January 5 2nd Sunday of Christmas | WL- CA- | Tom Ludwig | | Deb Ludwig |
| January 12 Baptism of Our Lord | WL - CA- | Branden Bacon | | Deb Ludwig |
| January 19 2nd Sunday of Epiphany | WL - Brian Underhill CA- | | | |
| January 26 3rd Sunday of Epiphany | WL - CA - | | | |

FELLOWSHIP SIGN-UP - JANUARY

Fellowship Sign-up.



| Treats and Set Up & Clean Up | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| January 5, 2025 | Dixon Family |
| January 12, 2025 | Bacons |
| January 19, 2025 | |
| January 26, 2025 | |

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

No known anniversaries
this month.

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 DECEMBER PRAYERS

In Our December Prayers...

- **Our Sympathies:** on the passing of Richard Russell, December 25, 2024 (Mike Russell's brother) Please pray for his sons Scott, Chris & Nathaniel and his brothers Michael & Greg and their families, also to the family and friends of Nancy Blair, (Ellen and Sally's sister) who passed on Friday, December 20, 2024, to the friends and family of Kathleen Schneider (friend of Norvells) who passed away October 24, 2024. And to the family and friends of Mick Vogelzang, (a co-worker and friend of Tammy Walters,) who passed away on December 10, 2024.
- **Congratulations:** Dawson Jean Ahlstrom was born December 3, 2024 at 11:42 pm. She weighed 6 lbs. 3 oz. and she is 19 inches long. Mom, Shelby, and Dawson are both doing great. Dad, David, is over the moon in love! and so are we! (Floyd and Kris Norvell)
- **Ministry of the Month, December:** Samaritas and Council.
- **Healing/Peace:** Kirk & Roberta Addis, (decades long friends of Norvells), Kirk's treatments for liver and bone cancer causing severe side effects, 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), John & Amber Fanthorpe (friends of Russells) John is recovering from brain surgery, Jayce Genzinger (Tammy Walter's step-niece's son) born premie in July, twin died, needs our prayers, 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), surgery, Diane Oberlin (former attendee) has cancer, 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, Jerry Shoup, 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), Madison Visser, (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:** Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Rev. Tom Orth, Alpena; St Paul Lutheran Church, Rev. John Shipman, Alpena; St Paul Lutheran Church, Rev. Max Miller, Au Gres; St John's Lutheran Church, Rev. Vicky Blough, Baroda; St. Peter Lutheran Church, Rev. Edward Ruble, Battle Creek.