

Good Shepherd  
Lutheran Church  
700 North Wright Rd  
Janesville, WI 53546  
608-754-0067  
gsluth@gmail.com

### Highlights!

#### Christmas Eve Services

Thurs, Dec 24th  
6:00 pm  
(In the Sanctuary)

Thurs, Dec 24th  
8:00 pm  
(Drive-In Service)

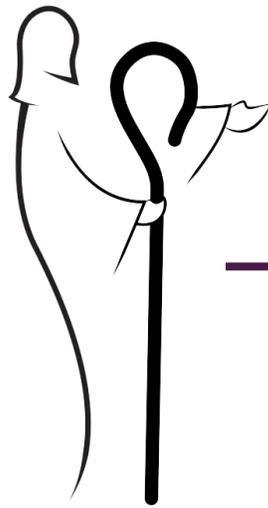
#### Evening Worship Svc

6:00 pm  
Sunday, Dec 6th  
Sunday, Dec 13th  
Sunday, Dec 20th  
Sunday, Dec 27th



ANNUAL  
CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING

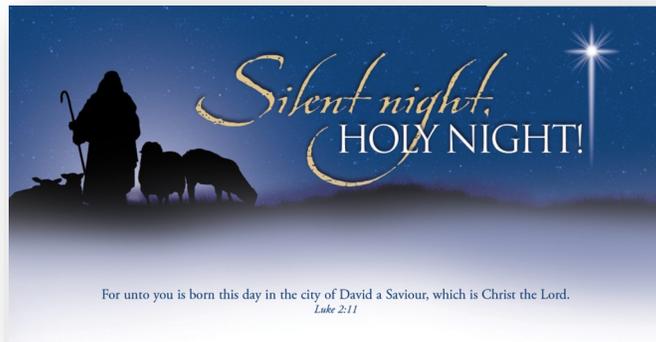
Our annual meeting date has been set for January 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. There will be no breakfast before the meeting this year. Our goal is to distribute the Annual Report early, so we will be emailing it out to people once it is complete. If you would like a hard copy of the report mailed to you, please give the office a call at 608-754-0067.



# THE STAFF NEWSLETTER

## DECEMBER

*What's happening at Good Shepherd*



**Big news! Big news!** Tell everyone you know. Christmas Eve will be just as magical, spirit filled, and joyous as years gone by. Because we are going to have a little fun here, at Good Shepherd. There will be **Two**, yes, two services on Christmas Eve. The first one, will be at 6:00pm in the sanctuary. As close to a normal Christmas Eve service as possible while considering the pandemic.

The second, will be a drive-in service, with scripture, a message, prayer, and even joining in singing hymns. (We will also be lighting candles at the end as we sing Silent night, and maybe some other surprises). You won't even need to get out of your car. It will be something to behold. This will begin around 8:00pm. Two choices to gather and celebrate the hope that only Jesus Christ can bring. Hope to see you there! Merry Christmas!



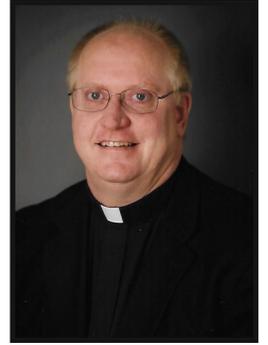
A big thank you to our Meals on Wheels drivers who delivered hot, nutritious lunches to grateful recipients on October 26th through October 30th. Our faithful drivers were Dan and Rita Milbrandt, Chris and Tami Schoeller, Reggie Hare, and Jerry and Gloria Oleston. Our recipients say "thank you" with their smiles and waves. We missed our pleasant chats with folks, but abiding by social distancing helps keep us all safe.

Reggie Hare and Gloria Oleston, coordinators

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

**Matthew 1:21-23**

“She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, God is with us.”



O come, O come Emmanuel, God with us. Who has come to save people from their sins. What a profound offering of hope. Given to us freely from our God. And I have to say, it is a wonderful message to receive, especially in times of struggle.

And most of us would agree, that 2020 has been a time of struggle. Yet, we are offered these grace filled words of hope. And on Christmas day, we can rejoice in knowing that our Lord walks with us.

God is not unconnected or distant from us. God isn't causing us suffering for some entertainment. And God hasn't just abandoned us in the midst of our times of trial. No, our God is with us. And our God loves you so much, that Jesus has walked in your shoes, knows what you are going through, and offers us peace, comfort, and even joy. When joy seems fleeting.

And here, at Good Shepherd, we will be doing things a bit different to celebrate the coming of the Messiah. We are adding a service for Christmas Eve. The details are on the front of the newsletter.

Yes, we will be having somewhat of the traditional service at 6pm, but we are adding a drive in service at 8pm. Now, I know, many of you aren't attending right now during the pandemic. And that's ok.

But we wanted to add the parking lot service as an option. So that we might gather, rejoice, and worship. While maintaining the safety of being socially distanced. Because you can join, while remaining in your car.

A chance to see each other's faces, sing some traditional hymns, and the good news that on this day in the city of David, a child is born. A child who has come to set us free. A child, that is the Prince of peace, King of kings, Lord of lords, and bringer of grace and hope.

Let's make this Christmas one to remember. I look forward to celebrating His birth with you, even while we are separated. Still, for those that can't make it, the 6:00 service will be livestreamed, so that you can even join us from home.

Options for all of us. To rejoice in the joy of the coming of our Lord. Merry Christmas. And may God be with you until we meet again.

Pastor Mike



God bless! This year, we are looking to spread joy, in song. Christmas carolers needed! And it will be done while maintaining social distancing!

We will be going out in groups of three to four (or family units).

When? Any day or time in December. How? Randomly pick names from the directory, pick only as many as you would like to do. Then go, and sing a couple songs. Many of us have felt a bit disconnected due to the current pandemic. This is a way to reconnect with our family of Good Shepherd and spread the magic of Christmas. If you need a group to join,

Contact me, (Pastor Mike). What songs? Your choice. You can borrow hymnals, or wing it. Let's join together to share the hope that Christmas brings with those we love.



Bob Hornby	12/2
Tammie Mueller	12/3
Virginia Schaeffer	12/7
Dave Waege	12/14
Briana Cook	12/16
Terry Seltz	12/16
Bobbi Bogner	12/17
Russ Snyder	12/17
Lane Mueller	12/18
Beth Dillivan	12/19
Mary Kilmer	12/22
Jeff Hall	12/23
Sandy Wing	12/23
Devon Schlegel	12/25
Lu Anne Schumacher	12/31



Todd & Bobbi Bogner  
12/8

#### ECHO News

Thank you to everyone who donated gifts or money for our Adopt-a-Family this year. The gifts will be delivered to ECHO on December 9th. Your generosity is helping to make this family's Christmas special. Thank you for your ongoing support of ECHO and our community.

Rita Milbrandt, Good Shepherd's ECHO rep



#### Christmas Toy Distribution

Due to COVID-19 and ensuring the safety of our clients, volunteers and staff, ECHO will be modifying their annual Toy Distribution.

This year, ECHO is requesting monetary donations or gift cards from Blain's Farm n Fleet. Parents will receive a gift card(s) to purchase presents along with a prepacked goodie bag full of stocking stuffers and holiday cheer for children in need in our community.

#### Donations accepted now through December 10 at the ECHO office, 65 S. High St.

9am-Noon & 1-4pm, Monday-Thursday, 9am-Noon, Friday, or call 754-5333 for appointment to drop off donations.

Last year ECHO provided 517 children with Christmas toys. ECHO also distributed Christmas trees and decorations to 98 families who otherwise would not have been able to afford these holiday extras. Please be a part of our holiday tradition.

#### Toy Distribution - Friday, December 11 Snow Day - Saturday, December 12 at ECHO (65 S High Street)

(Preregistration from Mon., Oct. 26 - Thur., Dec. 10 at ECHO is required for participation in program. Must bring photo ID, current utility bill with a Janesville address, and proof of income for the entire household.)

**Holiday wrapping paper is needed and can also be dropped off along with the gift cards.**

*Any toy donations will be used for Birthday presents throughout the year for children in need.*





This report, being delivered with your December Newsletter, is being drafted in mid-November, shortly before thanksgiving. Next month you will be receiving the annual report for the year, along with the proposed budget for 2020 as we prepare for our annual meeting.

We continue as a congregation to find new ways to continue our service to our members and communities spiritual as well as physical needs—providing services over Facebook and continuing to help the community thru ECHO and Meals on Wheels. The ongoing costs to continue church operations continues, and we thank you for your continual support. During this past year, we have held expenses to an absolute minimum—all categories apart from payroll have been kept under budget. We have honored our financial commitment to our staff throughout the year, so our payroll expense has been right on budget.

	2020 General Fund Receipts				
Date	Total	Budget*	Over/Under	General Fund Bal	2020 Average
January	14,527.20	14,192.31	334.89	(16,795.68)	3,631.80
February	7,974.24	14,192.31	(6,218.07)	(24,789.31)	1,993.56
March (5 sun)	15,070.90	17,740.38	(2,669.48)	(18,451.51)	3,014.18
April	23,771.01	14,192.32	9,578.69	(4,081.88)	5,942.75
May (5 sun)	14,245.02	17,740.40	(3,495.38)	18,325.80	2,849.00
June	6,584.00	14,192.32	(7,608.32)	14,582.72	1,646.00
July	11,414.69	14,192.32	(2,777.63)	12,022.32	2,853.67
August (5 sun)	15,404.00	17,740.40	(2,336.40)	15,108.56	3,080.80
September	10,290.75	14,192.32	(3,901.57)	11,866.08	2,572.69
October	8,499.03	14,192.32	(5,693.29)	6,776.32	2,124.76
11/1/2020	3,167.50	3,548.08	(380.58)	9,943.02	
11/8/2020	2,369.00	3,548.08	(1,179.08)	12,076.02	

Unfortunately, despite our economizing on most categories and the current absence of a mortgage payment, weekly offering continue to be lower than budgeted and our operating fund balance is falling. This Christmas season, please prayerfully consider if God is calling you to make an extra gift to the church.

As I noted last month, if we would average \$3550 per week, we would be able hit all our budget items, including funding the benevolence payments we have had to reduce or suspend during the year.

***God Bless you all for your continuing support of His work here at Good Shepherd!***

As always, thank you for meeting the ongoing challenges of COVID-19, changing schedules and challenges, and continuing your support of Good Shepherd with your offerings, time, and prayers.

Peace,  
Dan



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Second Sunday of Advent <u>10:00 am</u> Worship Svc <u>6:00 pm</u> Worship Svc	7 <b>Church Office Closed</b> <u>7:00 pm</u> Boy Scouts	8	9	10 <u>6:30 pm</u> Council Meeting	11	12
13 Third Sunday of Advent <u>10:00 am</u> Worship Svc <u>6:00 pm</u> Worship Svc	14 <b>Church Office Closed</b> <u>7:00 pm</u> Boy Scouts	15 <u>10:00 am</u> Deadline for newsletter articles	16	17	18	19
20 Fourth Sunday of Advent <u>10:00 am</u> Worship Svc <u>6:00 pm</u> Worship Svc	21 <b>Church Office Closed</b> <u>7:00 pm</u> Boy Scouts	22	23	24 <u>6:00 pm</u> Christmas Eve Service (inside, live on Facebook) 8:00 pm Christmas Eve Service (outside)	25 <b>Church Office Closed</b> <b>Christmas Day</b>	26
27 <u>10:00 am</u> Worship Svc <u>6:00 pm</u> Worship Svc	28 <b>Church Office Closed</b> <u>7:00 pm</u> Boy Scouts	29	30	31		

# Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

700 North Wright Road

Janesville, WI 53546



Return Service Requested

**DECEMBER 2020**



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*Silent Night Oh Holy Night.*