

Good Shepherd  
Lutheran Church  
700 North Wright Rd  
Janesville, WI 53546  
608-754-0067



# THE STAFF NEWSLETTER

## DECEMBER



### What's happening at Good Shepherd



On November 13th, we officially welcomed the Clark family to the Good Shepherd family! Welcome Richard, Samantha, Aaron, and Sophie!



Our sanctuary looked amazing in red for Reformation Sunday.



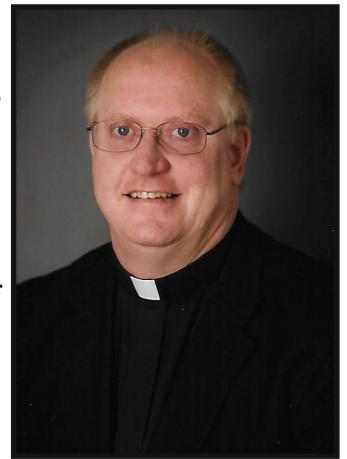
Alma Mae Frye was baptized at Good Shepherd on November 20th. Congratulations to her parents, Pamela & Russ Frye.



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

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" Luke 2:8-14.



December. What a magical and mystical time of the year. A time of pristine snow, purifying the ground in a blanket of bright white. Christmas decorations can be seen on every single street. And our own sanctuary has been adorned with reminders of that most holy of days that will soon be upon us. A time of peace, love, and goodwill.

At least, that is what it is supposed to be. Sadly, it has also become a time of anxiety and stress. People, frantically shopping to fulfill "obligations." Food is being purchased and prepared. Last minute decorating, planning, and cleaning.... It can be overwhelming. Not to mention the financial toll it can be for us.

Black Friday mayhem, cyber-Monday craziness, and of course, finding time to fill out the annual Christmas card. (Hope we don't miss anyone.) With all the hustle and bustle, commercialism, and 20 page long "to do" lists... It's no wonder that the meaning of Christmas sometimes gets lost in the shuffle.

Even at the church, the busyness can interfere with focusing on the coming of our Savior. Let's just look back at the last month or so. We had reformation Sunday, All Saints Sunday, new member worship, baptism, the beginning of Advent, and Thanksgiving Eve service.

There was a pie night, the beginning of the women's Bible study, church decorating day, the stewardship drive, starting of the nominating committee, the conclusion of Table Talk, the men's morning breakfast and Bible study, planning for the upcoming pot-luck, work on a new service setting for advent, preparing end of the year reports for the annual meeting, and other stuff I'm sure I missed. This is not including the day-to-day things that need to be attended to.

This is why, I opened with the gospel text from Luke. It is a living reminder, of the blessed day ahead. So, if this season becomes hectic, or anxious, or stress-filled. Take a moment, and read it again. Feel God's love, grace, and peace. Because this is What Christmas is all about.

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. That is what truly matters. Emmanuel, God is with us. And may God be with you, until we meet again. Merry Christmas.

~Pastor Mike



*"For God so loved the world  
That He gave His only begotten Son..."*

John 3:16

How can we give to God after He loved us this much? Answer – we can't!

This is the season of giving to those we love, those we don't know but are in need, to Good Shepherd, the list goes on and on. Our giving is our way of saying "Thank You" to God for the love He gave/gives us – continually.

May God continue to bless you this Holy Season and in 2023.

Cordy Madorin  
Stewardship Chair

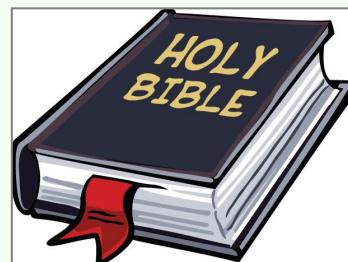
Our annual meeting will be Sunday, January 15th, after service. All annual reports are due no later than Monday, January 2nd.



You now have two new options for sending your offerings. You can send them electronically through both our website ([goodshepherdjanesville.org](http://goodshepherdjanesville.org)) via PayPal, and our Facebook page ([facebook.com/GoodShepherdJanesville](https://facebook.com/GoodShepherdJanesville)) by using the "Donate" button.

### Gospel lessons for December

- ◆ December 4 – Matthew 3:1-12
- ◆ December 11 – Matthew 11:2-11
- ◆ December 18 – Matthew 1:18-25
- ◆ December 24 – Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)
- ◆ December 25 – John 1:1-14





## PROPOSED COUNCIL MINUTES NOVEMBER 6, 2022

Present: Pastor Mike Rahlf, President Russ Frye, Treasurer Reggie Hare, Property and Grounds Terry Seltz, Care and Concern Kris Arneson, Stewardship Cordy Madorin.

Absent: Vice President Dianne Punzel, Education Michelle Webb, Worship and Music Tami Schoeller, Secretary Gloria Oleston.

President Russ Frye called the meeting at 11:38 a.m.

Devotions: Reggie Hare

The minutes from last month were read from the newsletter by Pastor Mike. Motion to accept the minutes was made by Reggie Hare and seconded by Kris Arneson and it carried.

Treasurer's Report: Was submitted by the treasurer. The offering for October was well below expectations. Gordy questioned whether we should keep track of the mail-in offerings which seem to be more than what is in the offering plate each Sunday. This is not feasible for this church. This information would be confidential and not something to be shared with others. Most of the monies that come in by mail are people who do not regularly attend service for various reasons. This has been discussed at several council meetings by Pastor Mike.

Pastor's Report: Reformation Sunday went great. All saints Sunday was received well by participants. Votes are needed to accept Richard, Samantha, Aaron and Sophie to our congregation. Gordy made the motion to accept and Kris seconded it and it was carried. A vote was taken to accept Alma Mae Frye for baptism on November 20th. Reggie so made the motion and Kris seconded it and it was passed.

Upcoming important dates: November 13 we will celebrate our new members and have cake and gifts after service.

November 20: Baptism for Alma Mae Frye.

November 23: Thanksgiving Eve service at 7:00 p.m.

November 26: Christmas decorating for the church from 10-12 a.m. Pastor Mike is encouraging everyone to try and be there. It will go a lot quicker and is a lot of fun.

November 27: Advent begins.

If the November 23rd service has a low attendance the council will then consider whether to continue it in the future.

Table Talks: November 10th is the last one for this year.

For our flowers this Christmas we are now looking elsewhere instead of K & W Greenery. Pastor Mike has been looking for a cheaper alternative. We may be looking at some of the big box stores which would be less expensive. This will be announced at the next service. All orders are to be in by the first week of December. Gordy volunteered to pick up the flowers. Motion made by Gordy to go ahead with getting the flowers and it was seconded by Terry.



## PROPOSED COUNCIL MINUTES—Page 2 NOVEMBER 6, 2022

**Stewardship:** Pastor Mike read a letter from the Synod office. All churches are struggling with low attendance and offerings. There were some suggestions made on how to use all of our resources, which this church has been doing a lot of them already.

**President's Report:** The first meeting for the nominating committee will be Thursday Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. There will be two from the council, Russ and Dianne and four from the congregation.

**Property and Grounds:** Cleaning day went well. There may have been at least 12 who participated. Terry relayed a really funny story about the day but you would have to ask him!!

**Care and Concern:** After the Thanksgiving Service we will have pie night. Kris will talk to Lori and have it put in the bulletin.

Sock collection is still continuing. The amount of socks already collected is awesome.

**Stewardship:** Pledge cards were handed out to the council members. Letters are ready to be mailed to the congregation. They will go out on Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup>. They will be due by November 20 and dedicated on the 27. Cordy will be purchasing a wooden box to place the pledges in and it will be placed on the altar.

We will be having members of our congregation speaking on why they joined Good Shepherd Church. Today we heard from Ericka Nelson and next Sunday Karen Schumacher will speak.

**New Business:** None

A motion was made by Terry to accept all of the reports. This was seconded by Cordy and it was carried. Kris motioned that we adjourn and it was seconded by Reggie. The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

rmh

"But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand."

1 Chronicles 29:14





Our Good Shepherd Family is once again participating in the Adopt-a-Family program at ECHO. This program is designed to assist families who need an extra measure of care not only during the holidays, but during the entire year. Your generosity will ensure that a struggling family (2 families this year!) will enjoy a special Christmas season. Please choose 1 or more of the yellow stars off the Christmas tree in the Fellowship room. Purchase the gift, wrap it, add the yellow star for the name tag and return it to church by Sunday, December 11th. Thank you, everyone for your generous spirit during this Advent season.

In other ECHO news, we are in continual need of small jars of peanut butter and saltine crackers for our homeless food bags. We take 20 food bags every week to the Hedberg Public Library for people in need. We also need yellow Festival Foods plastic bags and Woodman's plastic bags. Drop at church and I'll make sure they get down to ECHO. Thank you to everyone who has brought in peanut butter already. Thank you, too to those who brought in canned cranberries for the Thanksgiving Baskets. If you have any questions, please contact Rita Milbrandt at 608-931-1372

Merry Christmas!

## ECHO Christmas Toy Distribution

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

**Donations accepted now through December 9  
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.



**amazon smile**  
You shop. Amazon gives.

Did you know that simply shopping on amazon can benefit ECHO? You can either use the link below or change your account settings to add ECHO as your favorite charity.

[smile.amazon.com/ch/39-1222279](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/39-1222279)

**Daniels Foods Sentry**  
est. 1922

### Funds for Friends Program

ECHO is blessed to have Daniel's Sentry on Court Street as a supporter

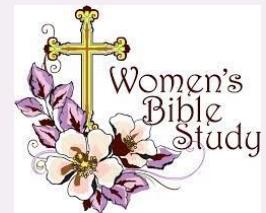
Save your receipts from Sentry with a "Funds for Friends" sticker on each one (ask for a sticker from the customer service counter)  
Mail or deliver the receipts to ECHO at 65 S. High St., Janesville, WI 53548

ECHO will receive 1% back based on the purchase price



**Potluck** On Sunday, December 11th, we will have a potluck after church. Please bring a dish to pass and a white elephant gift. Come join us! There will be a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall.

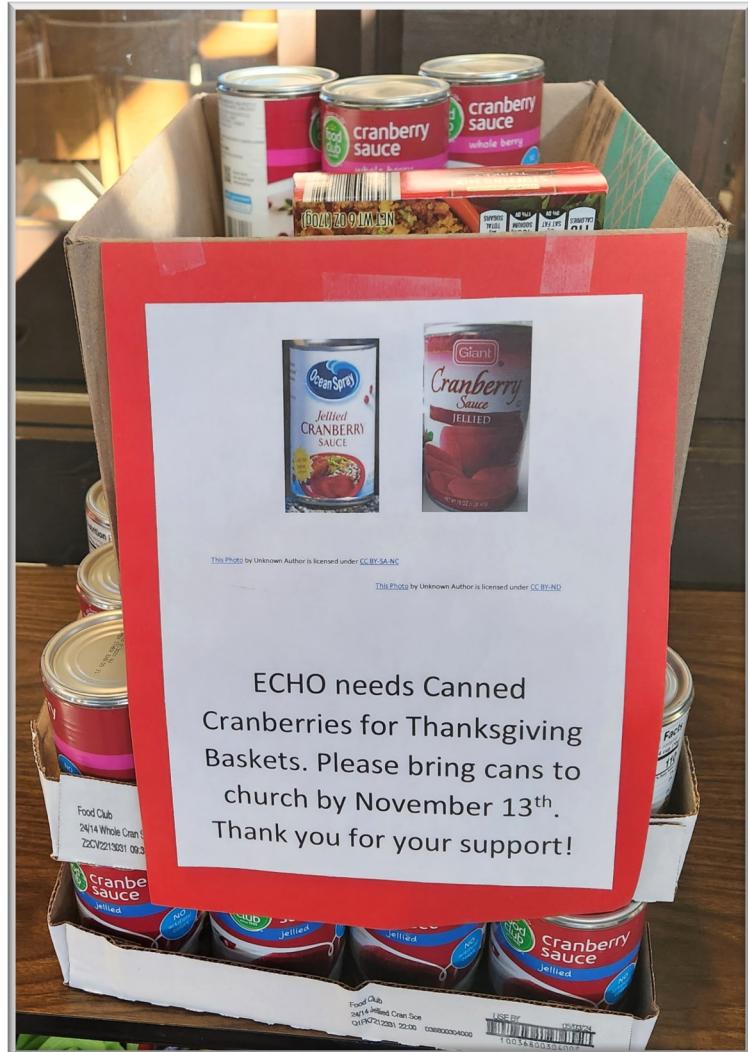
Women's Bible study has started back up. Currently, there is no set day and time, but we will be announcing times in church when scheduled.



Bob Hornby	12/2
Tammie Mueller	12/3
Aaron Clark	12/5
Virginia Schaeffer	12/7
Briana Cook	12/16
Terry Seltz	12/16
Bobbi Bogner	12/17
Lane Mueller	12/18
Beth Dillivan	12/19
Mary Kilmer	12/22
Jeff Hall	12/23
Sandy Wing	12/23
Samantha Clark	12/25
Lu Anne Schumacher	12/31



Todd & Bobbi Bogner  
12/8



Thank you for all the donations of canned cranberries. We collected over 60 cans.

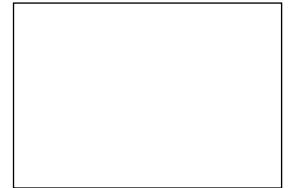


# DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <u>8:00 am</u> Men's Group	2	3
4—Matthew 3:1-12 <u>10 am</u> Worship Svc <u>11 am</u> Council Meeting	5 <b>Church Office Closed</b>  <u>7:00 pm</u> Boy Scouts	6	7	8 <u>8:00 am</u> Men's Group	9	10
11—Matthew 11:2-11 <u>10 am</u> Worship Svc <u>11 am</u> Potluck	12 <b>Church Office Closed</b>  <u>7:00 pm</u> Boy Scouts	13	14	15 <u>8:00 am</u> Men's Group  <u>10:00 am</u> Deadline for newsletter articles (January Newsletter)	16	17
18—Matthew 1:18-25 <u>10 am</u> Worship Svc	19 <b>Church Office Closed</b>  <u>7:00 pm</u> Boy Scouts	20	21	22 <u>8:00 am</u> Men's Group	23 <u>5:30 pm</u> Milo Crandall-Swanson Baptism	24 <u>6:00 pm</u> Christmas Eve Service Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)
25—John 1:1-14 <u>10 am</u> Worship Svc  <b>Christmas Day</b>	26 <b>Church Office Closed</b>  <u>7:00 pm</u> Boy Scouts	27	28	29 <u>8:00 am</u> Men's Group	30	31

# Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

700 North Wright Road  
Janesville, WI 53546



[Return Service Requested](#)

**DECEMBER 2022**



Phone: 608-754-0067  
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Email: [gsluth@gmail.com](mailto:gsluth@gmail.com)

## Sunday Worship

10:00 am

## Office Hours

Tuesday—Friday  
9:30 am—3:30 pm



Join us for worship live on our Facebook page every Sunday morning at  
<https://www.facebook.com/>



**South-Central Synod of Wisconsin  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

To keep current on news from the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, visit <https://scsw-elca.org/>