

# Pastor's Page

Dear Beloved Church-

I recently learned (on Facebook) that although my parents' families always opened their Christmas gifts on Christmas Eve, as children my sisters and I voted to open our gifts on Christmas Day. I have no memory of this! Yet, it's not the sort of thing my mother would make up. As I've thought about it, I wonder if we three girls wanted to stretch Christmas out for as long as possible. We went to church on Christmas Eve and then the morning could be all about our family celebration.

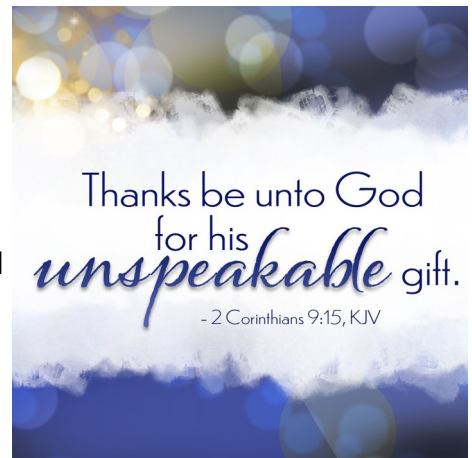
However it all happened, my father declared that we must be dressed, with our teeth brushed, before the gifts could be opened. In addition, gifts were opened one at a time. The first person got to open a present, "ooh and ahh," discard the paper and save the bow before the second person could open one of their packages. As you might imagine, this can take awhile, but I have always appreciated the orderliness and the intentionality of it all. After spending time trying to find the perfect gift, you got to see it be opened. You were able to witness the joy of their receiving.

I am willing to acknowledge that there are flaws with our family routine. The year Katie was five, she and her cousin Liam fell asleep before all the presents were unwrapped. And it's no fun to wait while your little sister goes to the bathroom! But as I said, I do appreciate the intentionality of it all.

This year I am inviting my family, and you, to include another tradition around your tree. It is a **Blessing of the Gifts**. It's a simple prayer and you could of course, come up with your own. It's purpose is simple— to remind each of us that at the heart of our celebration is God's greatest gift— our Savior Jesus Christ. Again, it's about intentionality.

May you and yours be blessed this Advent and Christmas season with joy and good cheer, for we have been given the most marvelous of gifts!

*Pastor Heidi*



## Blessing of the Gifts

Blessed be your name, O God; you are the source of every blessing. From your hand we receive the good gifts of life, health, and salvation. As we give and receive these presents, bless us with hearts thankful for the gift of your Son and lead us to share from our abundance with those in need. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.

From sundaysandseasons.com.



## Christmas Eve Worship

9:30 am: 4th Advent Service/Facebook Service

3:00 pm: Christmas Eve Service

6:30 pm: Christmas Eve Service

## Christmas Day Worship

9:30 am: Christmas Day Worship in your pjs!

## A Message from the Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry

**LIFT** has resumed! We are excited to have a new curriculum, **Whirl**, which is a lectionary-based Sunday School program. This means the lessons will correspond with the lessons from each week's worship service. LIFT is expected to last no more than thirty minutes and everyone is invited to attend.

We have much more to come for Children Youth and Family but I'd love suggestions of things you would like to see at the church. Please feel free to email me at [cyfm@luthgoodshep.org](mailto:cyfm@luthgoodshep.org) or talk to me after church.

## Our Church Directory is Online!

View our church directory online or via the **FREE** mobile app today.

To view the directory online, go to [members.InstantChurchDirectory.com](https://members.InstantChurchDirectory.com) and follow the prompts under "Sign In" to "Create a login now." Please remember, you must confirm your email address before you can sign in.

There is also a free mobile app available for download at the Apple® App store in iTunes®, Google Play™ store and the Amazon Fire App Store. Simply search for "**Instant Church Directory**" to get the download.

You will need to use your email address as listed in our directory to create a log-in the first time you use the directory online and via the mobile app.

## Need help or have questions?

Please contact Sandy or Pastor Heidi.



Our Church Directory is powered by [Instant Church Directory](https://members.InstantChurchDirectory.com).

## Looking For New Worship Team Members

Our Worship teams do a great job with leading us, but we could use some more members for weekly leadership. If you would like to be a regular or substitute worship team member, sign-up forms can be found on the Welcome Center. Team assignments will be made in December.



## Hanny's Bible Study

Hanny's Bible Study meets every Wednesday at 10:30 am in the Café.

All are welcome!



## BEAR CREEK CAMP

### Get Ready for Summer 2023!

We're excited to announce our Summer 2024 theme: One in Love!

Our theme for the 50th summer of camp at Bear Creek is based on the final phrase of the beloved BCC song *Go in Peace*. "The part of you in me and the part of me in you will keep us all together **one in love**."

We can't wait to share more information about our summer programs in the coming weeks!

**Summer Registration opens January 2, 2024!**



## 2024 Sponsorships

Signup sheets for 2024 are now up outside of the Pastor's office.

The price for flowers is \$40 for 1 vase/\$80 for both.

The Eternal Candle remains at \$15 per month. Bulletins are \$10/week. There is no sponsorship available for Children's Bulletins.

Grass Cutting will be posted in early spring.

Thank you!

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR

## Children's Christmas Pageant December 10, 2023 , 9:30 Worship

The youth of LCGS are proud to present *Sing a Song of Christmas* on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am in Fellowship Hall. This 25-minute program presents the Christmas story in a fun way that people of all ages can understand and enjoy! Everyone loves to hear children sing, especially at Christmas, so let the joy of the season ring throughout our church as your children present *Sing A Song of Christmas!*

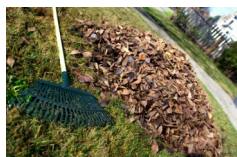


### Poinsettias for Christmas Eve

We will again be adorning the altar with Poinsettias for Christmas Eve. Flowers may be purchased in honor of/memory of loved ones. Each flower is \$8.00 and can be taken home after the last service Christmas Eve. Orders are due no later than Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>! Order forms and drop off box are

### Property Clean Up - December, 3, 2023

Come to church in your work clothes and stay after service to help clean up the church grounds. Pizza will be provided for lunch! Signup in the Narthex, or call the church office!



### BREAKFAST WITH SANTA!

**Saturday, December 16th  
9:00am-10:30am**

*Breakfast will be served  
beginning at 8am*

Children and their families are invited to see Santa and enjoy breakfast

Visits and photos with Santa Activities, crafts, face painting and favors.

Breakfast, featuring scrambled eggs, pancakes, French toast, bacon, sausage, home fries, chipped beef, toast, & beverages

\$10 for adults, FREE for children 12 and under

### Inclement Weather

With the winter months approaching, it won't be long before there is snow and ice in our forecast! In order to ensure everyone's safety, there may be times that it will be necessary to cancel Sunday worship services.

Church closure information will be available by calling the church office, 610 384-2035. We will also make every effort to have this information posted on our website and Facebook page.

Please do not attempt to attend worship if you



## How Can Kids Serve in Worship?

On Sunday, December 3rd at the weekly LIFT Gathering Pastor Heidi will be leading our children in youth in a training session for worship leadership. She'll be covering acolyting, ushering, assisting with communion and serving as a reader. If you have youngpeople who enjoy serving in worship, please make sure to have them at church on December 3rd at 10:30am!



## Good Shepherd Food Ministries – Powered by You!

Many grateful thanks to our Good Shepherd congregation for your faithful support of our food ministries. So many of you have faithfully provided much-needed food donations for our Food Table, Blessings Box, Coatesville Library Food Bin, and Holiday Meals. We also sincerely thank our community supporters – Good Shepherd's neighbors, Good Shepherd's Scout troops, Rosebud's Daycare, Olivet United Methodist Church, Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, retired Friendship Elementary schoolteachers group, Coatesville Lions, and others! Finally, big thanks to Thrivent for their generous Action Team grants which allow us to make timely food purchases.  
**Thank You All!**



### The Blessings Box

#### Add the Blessings Box to your shopping list!

Every day a Good Shepherd volunteer replenishes the Blessings Box with non-perishable food, personal care and household items. Often when they arrive, the box is nearly empty which tells us that people depend on us as a regular resource. With changes to SNAP, the need for assistance only increases. Additionally, spring into summer can be a difficult time for people in need. As you do your weekly shopping, please remember this important ministry.

### Prayer Chain Updates

Kim Tapscott has the prayer chain up and running!

Kim can be reached at 484 678-9255 for all prayer requests. You can also contact Pr. Heidi or Sandy at the church office.

If you would like to be a part of the Prayer Chain, please contact Kim and she will see that you are included!





12/2 Bendu Dorley  
 12/4 Maureen Breuninger  
 Sandy Haines  
 12/8 Tara Zaplitny  
 12/11 Shaquell Dorley  
 Zwannah Dorley  
 12/12 Ray Taylor  
 Stephanie Laubenstein

12/14 Larry Garver  
 12/16 Meredith Nussbaumer  
 12/19 Jacob Kuhn  
 12/24 John Anderson, Sr.  
 12/25 David Grigsby  
 Philip Castro  
 12/29 Noelle Raytik  
 12/30 Charlotte Townsend  
 William Huston  
 12/31 George Kristof

12/13 Lisa & Daniel Barnes 8 yrs.  
 12/31 Chris & Kristen Solt 21 yrs.



*Dear Good Shepherd family,*

*Thank you for all of the prayers, visits, food, and cards during Jim's illness and death. Your love and support is what helped us through the very difficult times and continues to hold us up.*

*God's Blessings - love, Sue Durborow and family*

## Financial Update - October 2023

**Receipts:** Total Current Receipts through October 2023 were up (+3.1%) compared to the same period in 2022. Adult Receipts (pledged giving) was down (-2.6%). Other Adult Receipts were up (+34.7%). Hall Donations/Rental Fees were up (+14.7%). Mortgage Receipts were down (-11.0%).

**Expenses:** Total Current Expenses through October 2023 increased by (+17.2%) compared to the same period in 2022. The largest portions of the increased expenses were due to Staff salaries and Property maintenance.

## Giving

Activate the QR Reader to make an online gift to the general fund or designated ministries.

## Thrivent Choice Dollars

Are you a member of Thrivent? You may have unused Choice Dollars! Choice Dollars can be designated to Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. Another great way to keep our ministries going! Check with your Thrivent Representative for more information.



## The Mortgage is Paid! But wait...



As you have hopefully heard, Good Shepherd completed its mortgage payments this summer. We will be celebrating by **burning the mortgage** in worship on Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>. A celebratory luncheon will follow the service that day.

In the meantime, please know that any offerings received that are designated "mortgage payment" are being used to offset the cost of the recent kitchen remodeling in the parsonage. Additionally, our 2024 offering envelopes will no longer include a *Mortgage* option but will offer an option to give gifts designated as *Building Maintenance*.



As the Council has worked on the 2024 Budget, we are hoping that you will continue to give at the same level as in the past. We may not have a mortgage but there are other ministries in need of support. Thank you