



News of the Flock



From the Pastor



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Happy Advent! That greeting is usually not often expressed, even though it is a good one. The word "Advent" is derived from the Latin word "adventus" meaning "coming". So the greeting, "Happy Advent!" means, "May you have happiness now because of the arrival of Jesus." Matthew 4:16 says it this way, "The people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned." NIV 1984

In our church year, Advent is also the name for the first season of the liturgical year. The way the 2011 calendar falls, Advent began on November 27. Traditionally this season is a time of preparation for Christmas which has been chosen as the date to honor the birth of Jesus to Mary in Bethlehem. Over the centuries and even during our lives Christmas and Advent have taken on all kinds of traditions and meanings. Some of which enhance the celebration of Christmas, whereas other traditions detract. I trust that you each are doing what you can to keep Christ in your Christmas preparations and celebrations.

There is something else I want to say about Advent. When we look around us many will say that in 2011 we need a strong input of hope. We have to have hope for improvement of many things in this world, our country, and in churches including ours. This implies that currently there is something, if not everything amiss. In contrast to the gloom surrounding us, the greeting, "Happy Advent" carries a message of hope. Changes for the better are coming. We know this because Jesus has arrived and is waging a winning battle against

the forces of darkness and the shadows of death. He will make all things better in the future. Have hope and celebrate the blessings which will be coming. That is a good way to think. And there is more to the story.

"Happy Advent" is also a greeting for where we are now in the present. We do not have to be bogged down as we wait for our lives to improve. Allow me to put ourselves into the Matthew 4:16 passage. "[We] The people [who are] living in darkness [of anxiety and discouragement] have seen a great light; on [us] those living in the land of the shadow of death [that we cannot overcome with wars and science] a light has dawned."

That light is now shining all around us and can be seen through spiritual eyes. Spiritual eyes that are opened by the Holy Spirit though the Bible and the Sacraments. Jesus is the light of the world and Matthew goes on in the next verse to describe the process of turning on the lights. Verse 17, "From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Repenting is the turning away from looking at the darkness and shadow of death and turning toward God to see His light on us and all that is happening.

Not only are there great things ahead of us, there are great things that are happening now. All of it revolves around Jesus so "Happy Advent".

May God bless you with great joy that is for all the people.

Pastor John Kolb, Vacancy Pastor



ANNUAL VOTER'S MEETING

DECEMBER 11, 2011

Following worship Service

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Special points of interest:

- PEP group, December 1, 11:00 am at church
- LWGS Advent by Candlelight, Monday, December 5, 7:00 pm at GSLC
- Children's Christmas Program, December 14, 7 p.m.
- Annual Voters' Meeting, Sunday, December 11
- Christmas Eve Family Service, 7:00 pm
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 11:00 pm
- New Year's Eve Service 7:30 pm

Church Council Highlights

The Church Council met on November 9 with 10 members in attendance. Pastor Kolb opened with reading 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 followed by a prayer.

Financial Secretary and Treasurer gave their reports. Income was \$13,386.96 and expenses were \$12,458.95 (*Financial Statement is available in the Church Office*). The Stewardship Report stated that giving is down 5.0% year to date. Pledge Sunday will be December 5 this year.

Paul Cox reported Orkin has installed the Sentricon system around the church building and pest control will start in January. Church clean-up went very good with approximately 20 people helping.

Linda reported there are 18-22 children practicing for the Christmas program on December 14. Adult Bible Study is studying Revelation. The Women's Bible study group will finish their study of Colossians

and Philemon on November 16.

Pastor Kolb stated he will try and let the congregation know when to sit and stand during worship service. He has been attending the Deacon and Worship Planning meetings. The deacons are to let him know when he needs to call on members and shut-ins. He will be in the office in the late afternoon on Mondays and Thursday mornings.

Randy Powers reported the deacons met with District President, Dan May when he was in Seymour. His advice was to decide what we do well, and continue to focus on those things. The Call Committee will begin their meetings after the beginning of the year.

Carla Cole reported the Chili Cook-off was well received by those present. They decided they were all winners this year.

Thanks to all who helped clean and those that prepared chili. Parent's Night Out will

December 9th from 6-10 pm. Volunteers are needed.

Budget discussion was continued from our October meeting. The Board of Deacons section will remain the same as 2011 and the postage will be cut due to the newsletter not being sent out by bulk mail. We still need some members to volunteer to fill the positions of Trustee Chairman and Stewardship Chairman. Anyone interested, please see Doug Stahl. The Council went over the suggested changes to the Constitution and By-Laws made by the committee.

With few changes the Council agreed on all changes made and it will be posted on the bulletin boards with a few copies available for the congregation to review. These changes will be voted on at the Voter's Meeting on December 11, 2011. Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's prayer.

Voter's Meeting—December 11, 2011

Care and Concern Christmas Angel Tree

In Our Prayers: We pray for continued healing for Betty Cox as she recovers (surgery) and continuing treatment; Gary (Don Haddock's brother), as he continues with his medical issues.



Also, pray for our shut-ins that cannot make it to worship service on Sunday due to various reasons and ailments.

November 27 is the beginning of Advent — a beginning and preparation of the birth of our Lord. Celebration of the things he has blessed us with this past year and the wonderful things to come.

There have been those that have also struggled with loss of jobs, less money to do things with and continued increases with food, clothing, utilities and all that it takes to sustain us. We have been blessed to have family and friends, our church brothers and sisters to help us if we need them. Many others are not so fortunate. This year we will once again adopt two families

to share our blessings with in regard to the most blessed holiday, Christmas. With your help, we will give our love and caring spirit to assist our brothers and sisters.

There will be a tree with paper ornaments. On each ornament will be a name, age, and an article for a family member. Please select what you are comfortable in helping with. Purchase the items, and bring them back to church with the ornament attached to them. We will wrap the gifts and get them to the families before Christmas.

Mission Committee

LWGS

LWGS would like to thank all of you who purchased nuts & snacks from Uncle Al's, we were able to raise \$235 for missions. Thanks so much! We also served meals for two precincts at the November election and brought in another \$150. We have asked our members (which include all GSLC women) to be thinking of mission projects that we can support. Bring your ideas to our January meeting or see one of the board members.

Last day to sign-up for our **2nd Annual Advent by Candlelight** is Sunday, December 4th as the event is being held Monday, December 5th. Please call Anne Hartman at 317-738-2290 to sign up, if needed, or with questions.

LWGS has appointed the following **officers for 2012** and will be installed at our meeting, Tuesday, January 9th: President—Anne Hartman; Vice President—Shirley Marten; Secretary—Rose Krimmel; Treasurer—Gerda Martin; Christian Growth—Amy Houck; Christian Outreach—Sharon Peters; Member Development—Donna Jones; Kitchen—Ginny Hill

Decorating

LWGS ladies will be providing Soup and Sandwiches for Supper on November 30 at 6:30 p.m. After having a hardy bowl of soup and a sandwich we will decorate the church for this festive time of year celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Stewardship Corner ~ ~ Mike Hartman

Commitment Sunday at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday, December 4th. By this time, you should have already picked up your commitment card at church or have received your commitment card in the mail.

Once again, this year we are asking you to make your commitment to God, not to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. The commitment cards should be placed near the altar in the enclosed self-addressed envelopes. They should be sealed as they are your own, personal commitment, known only to God. In October they will be returned to you along with your giving statement to date. At that time you should review your commitments and decide how you are doing. The enclosed

letter will explain the process to you. If you need additional cards for your family they are available. Just be sure to self-address the sealed envelope.

These commitments aren't just for the adult members of our congregation either. Our children, that have been confirmed, may not have the financial resources but the other 3 items still apply. This can be a teaching opportunity for the parents to instruct the family. Include your children in the discussion of these commitments. Encourage them to also make their promise to our heavenly Father. Pray about your commitments as a family, make your decisions, and return the forms on December 4th.

This year's Stewardship dinner featured guest speaker Paul Poteet discussing the stewardship principle "The Gift of Time". He emphasized the importance of our sharing of our time as well as our financial resources. This applies not only in our willingness to serve at GSLC as a committee head, a committee member, or as part of our many volunteer opportunities, but also the sharing of our time with the community around us. The need is great no matter where you look. Have a very blessed holiday season as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Christ Jesus.

Your Stewardship Committee

Larry's notes ~ ~

In this newsletter for the last two months I have attempted to outline the "call process" that we follow as members of LCMS. Sometime in the coming year Randy, Chairman of the call committee, will start the process. It is important to remember that it is the voters and prayers what will call our next pastor not this committee only. If you have concerns or questions on this please see me or Randy.

This month is a busy month at Good Shepherd with all of our opportunities to worship our Savior's birth including a children's program on the 14th, concluding with a New Year's service. The annual voters meeting will be on the 11th immediately after morning worship. There are several important agenda items, including review and approval of constitutional and bylaw changes, budget, committee reports, and a report on the intentional interim ministry. This is a program we

are considering to fill the time before our next called pastor arrives. The election of church council officers and approval of deacons are also on the agenda. I will do my best to keep the meeting on track so that we can get this done in a timely matter.

At this writing we still have at least two open positions to be filled on the council: trustee, and stewardship chairman. These are important and I know can be time consuming tasks; but the chairman does not have to do it alone, others can be appointed to help. It has always been my experience at Good Shepherd that getting others to help is not a problem; getting someone to chair an office is the difficult part. Over the past years many of your fellow members have given freely of their time/talents to serve Our Lord. So prayerfully consider

chairing one of the positions or volunteering to help the new chairperson.

We also need to elect (appoint) a person to represent our congregation at the Indiana District Convention June 28-29 at Fort Wayne. This is a good opportunity to get acquainted with and be aware of the District's programs etc. of which we are part. Also remember that next month, to save some of Rose's time, paper and postage, we are no longer mailing out 200 copies of this newsletter. If you have turned in an e-mail address you will receive notice when it is available. You can always go to our website and see just the newsletter, the calendar is not out there you need the e-mail. Some hard copies will be available at church also.

Lords Blessing to all in the Christmas season.

Thank you

My sincere thank you for the phone calls and cards I received for the sudden death of my sister. My son flew us to Rome, New York for her November 5th memorial service and reunion with my sister's family. Your caring eased a difficult time. Gerda Martin

Food Pantry

Our food drive for the Interchurch Food Pantry is in progress. It is a huge help for many in these economic times.. We have collected several bags so far, if you haven't contributed yet, you still can until the 11th. The mission board would like to thank each and every one of you in aiding our sisters and brothers. God's blessings to you and your families. Mission Board



PEP

The PEP group will meet at the church Thursday, December 1 at 11:00 a.m. The group will carpool to for our Christmas lunch. All 50+ men & women are invited for good food and fellowship.



Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study will begin a new study on January 4, 2012 on the Book of Hebrews and learning more about God's Word for our daily lives.

If you would like to invest \$5.00 for the book and attend classes from 6:30 to 7:30 pm each Wednesday night at Good Shepherd, please contact Elaine Powers at 317-736-8709 or epowers20@aol.com.





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*Where Faith is Born, Nourished
and Extended.*

We pray God's blessings on:



Board of Education

There has been 18-22 children practicing for the Christmas Program "Come to Bethlehem" on December 14 at 7:00 p.m. A reception with cookies and hot chocolate will follow. Practice will be held during the Sunday School hour through December 11th.

The Adult Bible Study class on Sunday mornings has been studying Revelation. Pastor Kolb leads this study. The Women's Bible Study group on Wednesday evenings will complete their study of Colossians and Philemon on November 16. They will take a break until January 2012.

The next Board of Education meeting will be held on December 4 after the worship service.

The Nursery is available for child care from birth through age 3 during Sunday school and worship service.

Eleanor and Michelle Coner do the Beginnings program for children birth through 3 years of age. If you know of anyone in the congregation not receiving this information mailing, please let Linda or the office know.

Linda Haddock

Board of Christian Education

**A Christmas Card
for you**



*May that timeless story of
Christ's birth give meaning
to your past, joy to your present
and hope for your future.*

*Pastor Kolb, Rose
and the Church Council*

**Holiday Happenings
at GSLC**

LWGS "Advent by Candlelight"
Monday, December 5, 7:00 pm
Fellowship Hall

Parent's Night Out
Friday, December 9, 6-10 pm

Children's Christmas Program
Wednesday, December 14, 7:00 pm

Annual Voter's Meeting
Sunday, December 11, after fellowship

Family Christmas Eve Service
Saturday, December 24, 7:00 pm

**Christmas Eve Candlelight
Communion Worship**
Saturday, December 24, 11:00 pm

New Year's Eve Service
Saturday, December 31, 7:30 pm

