



News of the Flock



From the Pastor

Dear Christian Friends,

As the holiday of the New Year is observed one of the many rituals that are practiced is reviewing the experiences of the past year, and reflecting on hopes for the coming one. As we listen to and participate in this annual practice I suggest that we attempt to keep the passage of Isaiah 30:18 in mind. "Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; he rises to show you compassion. For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!" (NIV 1984) When you hear past experiences mentioned and hopes expressed think about the Lord's desire. He longs to be gracious and is rising to show compassion. You will be blessed to wait for Him. He is a God of justice that is a God of power and effectiveness.

In 2012 we plan to review what has happened and reflect on our hopes for future ministry at Good Shepherd. These steps are part of the Intentional Interim Process, which began when you called me to be your Intentional Interim Pastor. There are five goals which we will be working together to achieve. These goals are as follows.

The congregation:

1. Comes to terms with its history
2. Claims a new or renewed identity
3. Adapts to new leadership directions
4. Strengthens ties to District and Synod
5. Embraces a vision of the future.

The steps of moving toward these goals will dovetail into the process of calling a new permanent pastor. For most congregations the time it takes to accomplish these is one year. I am looking forward to working with you and an Intentional Interim Task Force that will be assembled to achieve these goals. The Lord's desire is to be gracious and to show compassion.

May God bless us as we wait for Him,

Pastor John Kolb



*New Year's Eve Service
7:30 p.m.*

*New Year's Day
Service
10:00 a.m.*

Inside this issue:

Church Council Highlights	2
Care & Concern	2
Board of Education	2
Lutheran Women of Good Shepherd	2
Stewardship Chairman	3
Larry's Notes	3
Letter from Board of Deacons	3

Special points of interest:

- Women's Bible Study every Wednesday, 6:30 PM
- PEP group, January 5, 11:00 am at church
- Installation of Church Council and Deacons, January 8, during worship service
- LWGS Installation of Officers & Meeting, January 10 at 7:00 pm

Church Council Highlights

(The complete minutes are posted on the bulletin board.)

The Church Council met on December 7, 2011 with 12 members in attendance.

Pastor Kolb read some scripture from Isaiah followed by prayer.

The Financial Secretary and Treasurer gave their reports. Income for November was \$10,292.03 and expenses were \$13,643.31 (Financial Statement is available in the Church Office) The Stewardship Report stated that giving is down 4.65% year to date.

Average attendance for November was 90. Pastor's report: Worship Services 5; Bible Classes 4; Confirmation 4; Deacon Meetings 1; Worship Committee 1; Church Council 1; Counseling 5.

Trustee Chairman stated he is monitoring the water system and sent in the year end water sample for testing.

The Deacon Chairman reported they assigned deacons for the special services in December. They reviewed proposed changes to the Constitution & By-Laws of GSLC and will present a change at the Voter's meeting. The Call Committee has not met yet.

Missions Chairman stated the Parent's Night Out will be this Friday, December 9. The Interchurch Food Pantry donations were very good. Randy delivered 3 grocery carts to the pantry and there is some in the kitchen to be delivered. Thanks to everyone that donated. The Christmas Angel Program is in full swing for two families. We will wrap and deliver the gifts to the families before Christmas. Thanks to Elaine Powers for chairing this event.

Board of Education reported the children have been practicing for their program on

December 14th. The Sunday School offerings will go to help support a missionary starting in January 2012.

Voters meeting is December 11 after the worship service. All reports will be given along with election of officers; explanation of an Intentional Interim Pastor versus a Vacancy Pastor; and changes to our Constitution and By-Laws.

As there was no further business, the meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.



LWGS

LWGS is very pleased to announce another wonderful Advent by Candlelight, *The Light of Christmas*. We had 7 hostesses, Carla Cole, Michelle Coner, Linda Haddock, Anne Hartman, Amy Houck, Gerda Martin and Barb Miller. A big thank you to each of them, they did a wonderful job inviting guests, providing beautifully decorated tables and dessert! 41 women, 1 toddler and 2 infants enjoyed an evening of candlelight, lighting of the Advent wreath and its meaning and sung many Christmas Carols. LWGS provided

favors this year for each guest, Max Lucado's advent devotional *Celebrating Christmas with Jesus*. Thank you to Carla, our reader, Donna Jones, acolyte, Shirley Martin and Helen Rinehart, ushers. Miriam Neumann, Anne's friend from Concordia, was our accompanist. It is a great way to reach out to others in our community! All who attended were blessed and reminded of the real reason for the season, Jesus.

LWGS will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, January 10 at 7 p.m. We will be discussing our events for the year and look at

which missions we would like to support this year. Bring your ideas and join us at this important meeting. May God continue to bless all that we do for Him!

*Happy and
Blessed New Year!*

Care & Concern

Good Shepherd extends its sympathy and prayers to Debra Holmes' niece, on the death of her husband.

Remember in your prayers Barb Miller, recovering from surgery; Thana Carlisle, at home after a hospital stay; Shirley Marten & Betty Cox in chemo therapy; and to Kristen McCartney's son-in-law allergic reaction.



Board of Education

The Sunday School has been practicing since the beginning of November for the Christmas program "Come to Bethlehem and See". They will present the program on December 14 for the congregation and the public. Everyone, the children, choir and audience will sing some of our favorite Christmas hymns. We will have cookies and hot chocolate afterwards. Beginning in January everyone will continue with their Bible studies at 9:00 am on Sunday mornings. Linda Haddock, Bd of Education

"Come to Bethlehem and See"



Stewardship Corner ~ ~ Mike Hartman

How did you do with your resolutions for the year 2011? About the same as for other years? As we enter into this New Year we have another opportunity to start over. Having the privilege of starting over is one of the things in life that gives us hope and courage as we look to the future. As we take down our 2011 calendars and replace them with 2012 calendars we really can start over.

In Romans 12:12 (NIV) the Holy Spirit gives us some great ingredients for a really good New Year's resolution. The encouragement is to **"be joyful in hope, patient in affliction and faithful in prayer."** Life would be so sweet if everyone could adopt and live out those three pieces as a New Year's resolution.

"Be joyful in hope" should be pretty easy

for Christians because our hope is in Christ and **"that hope will never disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us."** (Romans 5:5 NIV)

"Be patient in affliction" can be considerably more difficult because we do not like affliction. Who of us likes to be mistreated by people who are rude, inconsiderate and downright nasty? Where can we get the strength to be patient in affliction? No one in the history of mankind had to deal with as much affliction as Jesus, our Savior! And He did it out of love for us so that we do not have to fear eternal affliction!

"Faithful in prayer" Keep us in touch with God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus spent entire nights in prayer with

His Father in heaven so that He would have the strength to carry out His mission of dying for sinners so that they might have the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. Prayer is an excellent way to stay in touch with God and His love and power.

How does this threefold resolution make a difference in our lives and the lives of those around us? It does because the Holy Spirit is at work within us to make us more and more the children of God. As children of God we seek to do the same things that give Him such delight. God has entrusted us with all of life and life's resources and desires that we manage them wisely according to His purposes. Loving and giving are at the heart of Christian stewardship.

May God bless us all as His stewards in this New Year of 2012.

Larry's Notes ~ ~

This time of the church year, after we have celebrated the birth of Christ, we enter the Epiphany season that continues until February 19th, then into Lent. Also, we enter a new calendar year for our church. I would like to thank the outgoing council members for their time that was spent serving the church the past two years, Mike Hartman Stewardship; Paul Cox, Trustee; Michelle Walker, Secretary; and Sharon Peters, Member-at-Large and welcome the new

members Johannah Pollert, Secretary; Rebekah Haugh, Member-at-Large; and also Rose Krimmel who was re-elected Treasurer. These people are volunteers who give (have given) of their time to make sure the programs and the building are in good condition for our worship services etc. Your support and prayers are welcome. You can find copies of the committees annual reports presented at the voters meeting on the table next to the kitchen, or in the office. If you

Have any questions or concerns now or in the coming year, just ask me or one of the Council members. We are your servants in this capacity and any input is always welcome and needed. I am sure as we enter the New Year we may have challenges to overcome but along with that there will be many blessings from the Lord. Those challenges just need prayer applied to them to become blessings.

From the Board of Deacons ~ ~

As we begin a new year it is a good time to reflect back on the past, and to look forward to the future.

In the past year at Good Shepherd we have again undergone changes. However, we should remember that changes can also be seen as an opportunity for growth and improvement.

Pastor Kolb has now been called as our Intentional Interim Pastor. In this position he will have regular office hours, help us to sustain our ongoing programs, and help us to begin to set our future direction under guidance from God's Word. He will also help us to define and recognize the qualities we want in our next permanent

pastor. This is in addition to his normal Sunday worship services, adult Bible study, and confirmation.

This sounds like a lot of work for Pastor Kolb, and it is. It will also require much effort from the members of Good Shepherd.

In the coming year each of us can make a difference in the life of Good Shepherd. If each of us does just a little more for God, Good Shepherd can continue to grow in our mission to serve God.

We have a Sunday morning prayer intercession for the members of Good Shepherd and the church. We have a choir. We have a women's Bible study on Wednesdays.

We have LWGS. We have an altar guild. We have a need for cleaning volunteers in the church. A men's Bible study is being planned. We have many more activities and opportunities for involvement.

Attend worship service and Sunday morning Bible study a little more regularly. Bring your children to Sunday morning classes. Read the Bible daily. Pray regularly.

All of these things have an effect on the life of Good Shepherd, and all will have an effect on our lives.

May Christ continue to bless us in the New Year.

Board of Deacons



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and Extended.*

We pray God's blessings on:

