



December Newsletter in the Year of Our Lord 2020

I am the Good Shepherd. The good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord” (Lk 2:11)

What if Christopher Columbus or Thomas Edison had never been born? I suppose someone else would have discovered the new land or invented the electric light bulb. But what if Jesus had never been born? What is there had been no angel’s announcement that night over Bethlehem’s field?

If Jesus had never been born, there would be no salvation. Then Adam and Eve would still be crying; not only at Eden’s door, but in hell. Then the thief on the cross would have no answer to his plea for just a corner in paradise. Then Paul would still be the chief of sinners. Then you and I would be along with all sinners most miserable and sure only of punishment in a never-ending hell. If Jesus had never been born, I wouldn’t going to any services this Christmas time. Not now or ever because what would I have to sing about, to hear about, to rejoice about. There’s be no message of hope for needy ears. It’s bad enough that the corona virus has limited our worship opportunities. But just think if there were no Jesus and no promise of eternal life. That’s a thought to make even the angels weep.

No Jesus – how horrible! A Savior who is Christ the Lord – how wonderful!

Your partner in worshipping him in any way we can,
Pastor Richard E. Lauersdorf

Christmas Services

Children’s Christmas Service

Due to Covoid safety concerns and following Washington County health department guidelines concerning large crowds inside, our leaders have decided not to hold the Children’s Christmas services in person on Christmas Eve. Instead we will record the children’s service featuring all the children from

Worship Christ with us!

Saturdays at 4:00* & 5:00 pm

Sundays at 8:00 and 10:30 am.

*A shortened service with no congregational singing. For the health and safety of others, masks are required for all .

THANKSGIVING

Join us for Thanksgiving Worship Wednesday November 25th at 5:00 or 6:30 pm and Thursday November 26th at 9:00 am. Note that 5:00 pm service on Wednesday is an additional worship opportunity. This is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on God’s goodness to us and praise him for his awesome blessings.

Midweek Advent Worship

Wednesdays - 10:00 am and 6:30 pm; December 2, 9, and 16

“Advent Parables” Jesus teaches us how to live wisely as we await his coming

(There will be no Advent Dinners this year.)

December 2 _ PREPARATION – Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins

December 9 – PRIORITIES – Parable of the Mina

December 16 – PRIZE – Parable of the Great Banquet

our elementary school and Sunday School. You will be able to may watch the service online at our website. We look forward to hearing the children share the joyful Christmas message with us in word and song!

Christmas Eve Services

December 24th at 3:00 & 5:30 pm

We will celebrate Christmas Eve this year with a worship service of word and song, but the children will not participate in these services.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24 at 9:00 pm

Enjoy Christmas with special singing, musical groups, and candlelight. At the end of the service we put out all the lights except the Christmas tree, and sing "Silent Night" by candlelight as we each hold our own lit candles.

Christmas Day Festival Services

December 25th at 8:00 & 9:00 am

Please note the 8:00 am service is an additional worship opportunity this year.

New Year's Eve Communion Worship

December 31st at 6:30 pm.

Our regular worship schedule remains in effect Saturday, December 26th at 4:00 & 5:00 pm and Sunday December 27th at 8:00 and 10:30 am.

As you come for special holiday worship services, make sure not to miss out on our regular worship opportunities. There will be no Sunday School or Bible Study December 27th.

Opportunities to Grow through the Word

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDIES AT 9:15 AM through December 20th

"The Word Endures – Lessons from Luther, from yesterday and today." We will explore key truths from God's Word as echoed by Martin Luther during the Reformation era. By discovering the ways Luther taught these principles to the people of his day, we will gain a better understand the faith of the famous reformer and grow in our knowledge of doctrines that still root the Christian faith today. Led by Pastor Paustian in the Fellowship Hall.

"Angels and Demons". There is a battle going on behind the scenes between angels and demons. Learn about their origin and purpose as we learn to overcome the attacks of Satan and his evil angels, and find comfort in the protection of the good angels. Led by Pastor Hein down in the Commons Area.

Teen Bible Study for 8th grade and up is held Sundays in the Fireside Room. Topic - Focused living in Christ - Remember! Led by our Christ-teen leaders.

Mom's Bible Study - Fridays from 8:00-9:00 am, in the Fellowship Hall on Fridays when school is in session. Child care is provided in the Parents Room by moms through a child care exchange. Topic: The Chosen. Grasp the world in which Jesus chose his disciples and see how he revealed his grace with his understanding of their Jewish culture. Led by Marilyn Sievert.

Griefshare Support Group meets Sundays at 6:00 pm in the Fireside Room through December 20th. Anyone is welcome to attend. Contact Pastor Paustian to learn more.

Service and Fellowship Opportunities

"Christmas for Kids Takeout"

Christmas for Kids will be held this year in a different format. On Saturday, December 5th from 10:00 – 11:30 am, Children are invited to come to the carport entrance of Good Shepherd and pick up Christmas takeout boxes. For kids ages 3-10.

Register at www.goodshepherdwels.org. By registering, it guarantees a takeout box will be reserved for your family. Otherwise, we cannot guarantee availability. Takeout boxes include a craft project, candy cane, Christmas story booklet, games and virtual tools. Invite your friends and neighbors to attend as well.

Christmas Tree Set Up - Volunteers are needed to help decorate our church Christmas tree, Wednesday, December 9th at 11:00 am and take it down Wednesday, January 6th at 10:00 am. Contact Ron Kempf for more information. We now have a prelit Christmas tree.

The Little Lambs Christmas Program will be recorded and shown online this year at our website mid December. Enjoy our little children sharing their joy of Christmas in word and song.

The Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School Band Concerts will be Sunday, December 8th at 2:00 pm (grade school) and 4:30 pm (high school). Admission is for family with tickets only. You can view the service online at www.kmlhs.org.

KML Christmas Choir Concert will be held Saturday, December 14th at 6:30 pm. Admission is for family with tickets only. You can view the service online at www.kmlhs.org.

A Giving Tree will be set up in the welcome center in late November. Instead of ornaments, it will have tags with gifts items listed. These gifts will help families from our church and school receive some special Christmas gifts. Please DON'T wrap the gifts. Place them under the tree unwrapped.

We will have a pizza / wrapping party (following covid guidelines) Sunday Dec. 20th after the late service in the fellowship hall. Everyone is invited to attend.

Thank You – Helping Hands wants to thank all who purchased quilts. We sold 18 for \$365 which we use to buy batting. We gave 20 quilts to Northside Ministries. Northside Ministries also thanks us for our donations of non-perishable good and gently used clothing. The people in Milwaukee served by Northside Lutheran Ministries are often struggling with physical as well as spiritual needs. Your gifts help us reach them with the precious message of salvation through Jesus as we provide food and clothing following our Bible studies.

Ladies League Christmas Party is Tuesday, December 8 at 6:00. Due to gathering limitations we are limiting attendance to members only this year. For planning purposes please sign up on the sheet on the sign up table.

We will be collecting donations for WELS Lutherans for Life & donations towards Little Lambs mortgage. If anyone is interested in donating there are stamped envelopes by the sign up sheet, you can place any donations in the payment box by the cards in the back of the Narthex or drop off at the office.

Christmas Gifts for Good Shepherd Staff and Children - Christmas is a time for gift giving. We celebrate the greatest gift ever given, the gift of God's Son Jesus to be our Savior and give gifts to others as a reflection of his love. We receive donations during the month of December for these gifts.

We express our appreciation to called workers, Sunday School teachers, organists and staff with a financial gift. Children who participate in our Children's Christmas Service will receive a gift certificate for a special treat. We invite you to give a special gift for this purpose. You may use the designated envelope included in your envelope packet, returning it by way of the offering plate or directly to the church/school office by December 15th. A special door offering will also be received after each service December 12-13th for this purpose.

New Bible Information Class—"Who Is the LORD?"

Monday nights at 7:00 pm, beginning January 4th. This course covers the key truths of Christianity, a great refresher course for our members and an introduction to the Bible for those who may be looking for a church home. This 13 session course serves as our Adult membership class. There is no cost or obligation to join.

To register, contact the church office at 334-7881. Led by Pastor John Paustian in the Fireside Room.

Wednesday Morning Bible Class - We meet Wednesday mornings from 9:00-10:00 am. We are studying the Life of Abraham." Led by Pastor Richard E. Lauersdorf in the church. No class December 23rd or 30th.

Ministry Update/Building Connections

The Christmas season is a time for giving. We cherish the most precious gift God gave us to meet our greatest need – the gift of his Son to be our Savior. We also delight in sharing Christmas gifts with others.

As you count your blessings, consider also the gifts you wish to bring to Jesus as a grateful act of worship. Prayerfully consider your joyful response to the blessings and opportunities Christ sets before you. Consider bringing a special year end offering in gratitude for God's goodness to you and to meet our ministry needs.

Remember, "This service you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people, but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God." 2 Corinthians 9:12

Action Plan Update - In 2019 Good Shepherd leaders gathered input from leaders of various areas of ministry and a cross section of our members concerning key areas of ministry to enhance. Our Action Plan includes these goals.

- Initiate a congregation-wide member ministry effort to help God's people discover their strengths and link them to service.
- Revise our church structure to increase involvement and ownership from all the members of our church family, male and female, young and old.
- Call a full-time pastor whose primary focus is on youth and younger families (ages 18 to 35) giving special encouragement to worship regularly, grow spiritually, and serve joyfully.

Our Coordinating Council, at its October meeting, approved a recommendation from our Pastoral Review Committee to establish the need for a third full time pastor as our top staffing priority.

Presentations concerning these goals were offered at an Open Forum November 9th. Copies are available in the narthex, along with a feedback form.

Once fully developed proposals will be offered to the Coordinating

Our Congregational Purpose

Compelled by the love of our Good Shepherd, we gather together around God's Word to

- WORSHIP** our Lord with joy,
- GROW** spiritually,
- SERVE** God and others in love,
- SHARE** the good news of Jesus.



*My sheep listen
to my voice,
I know them,
They follow me.

I give them
eternal life
and
they shall
never perish.

No one can
snatch them out
of my hand.*

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Council. If approved, these proposals would then be forwarded to our Voters' Assembly for consideration. Changes to bylaws would be discussed at one Voters' Assembly and voted on at another meeting.

IRA Distribution – If you are 70 ½ or older, you may direct your IRA distribution to the church as a gift and not be taxed for it. Contact Mr. Jim Sievert for more information.

Special Gifts

In celebration of Norbert & Lucy Carter's 72nd Wedding Anniversary

\$200 was given for Building Connections

In Memory of Joyce Gatzke

\$50 from Ken & Marcia Weber for Little Lambs;

\$20 from Mary Lutz for Current Expense;

\$25 from Herman Schiefelbein for Building Connections;

\$50 from Carol Fisher for General Fund

In memory of Lonny Borns

\$570 from family and friends for Building Connections;

\$50 from Susan Blaine for Ziesemer Scholarship Fund;

\$45 from family and friends for the General Fund;

\$210 from family and friends for Choir Music

In memory of Anita Eulert

\$175 from family and friends for Building Connections

From Roy & Marlene Biermann

\$318 for the Banner Fund and

\$1,000 for WELS Christian Aid & Relief for Bore Holes in Zambia

In memory of Ralph Kohlwey

\$300 from family and friends for General Fund;

\$100 from Jerry and Arlene Prochnow in for Memorial Fund

Questions and Answers concerning a new Good Shepherd ministry structure

Why are Good Shepherd leaders considering a new structure and bylaws for the ministry of our congregation?

In 2019 Good Shepherd leaders gathered input from leaders of various areas of ministry and a cross section of our members concerning key areas of ministry to enhance. A Task Force, working with consultant Jeff Davis, developed a three year Action Plan of goals to strive for, which was adopted by our Coordinating Council. This Action Plan was shared with our members at our Building People Connections emphasis. One of these goals calls for us to: Revise our church structure to increase involvement and ownership from all the members of our church family, male and female, young and old.

What does God's Word teach us about member ministry?

- Every Christian is a royal priest of God, called to offer sacrifices of praise
- Every Christian is a vital member of the Body of Christ with an important role to play.
- Pastors and teachers are called to equip God's people for works of service.
- We wish to honor Biblical callings for men and women in the church.

What goals are we striving for in a new ministry structure?

- Get more members involved in ministry, give everyone a role
- More Biblically appropriate roles for women
- Less meetings, more actions
- Action Plan for each area of ministry developed every year with input and ownership from congregation
- Shift from called worker led to lay led with coaching from called workers
- Boards offer planning, coordination, communication
- Better train leaders and volunteers for service, maintain updated job descriptions and policies
- Create structure that allows for revision of ministry and adding new ministries
- Leadership group assigned to do ongoing master planning and vision setting
- Shorter terms of service; two years for Coordinating Council, one year for others

What do the six Ministry Boards do?

- Coordinating Council consists of church officers, plus elected chairman of the six boards
- Six ministry boards consisting of three or more men each will be established: Adult nurture, Family Nurture, Outreach, School, Support, and Worship.
- Boards will develop the specific structure, goals, and job descriptions for the areas of ministry under their care as part of an overall yearly Action Plan.
- They will give and receive communication to the coordinators and ministry teams under their care and hold them accountable for implementing their Action Plan.
- Coordinators and Ministry teams are accountable to their respective boards.

A copy of the Open Forum presentation is available in the narthex. If you have any questions or input, you may return a survey form or contact bylaw committee member, Mr. Jim Sievert. Another open forum with an update, is scheduled for Sunday, December 6th at 9:15 am, taking the place of one of the Sunday Bible studies.