

The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

Announcements & Newsletter | January 8, 2017

Sunday Worship Times are 8:00 and 11:00 a.m.
Fellowship and Education Hour begins at 9:40 a.m.

Mission Group Spotlight - CLAS

The CLAS (Congregational Life & Service) Mission Group encompasses many different Ministry Teams all geared towards promoting fellowship and providing various service to our members. Some of these include: **Stephens Ministry, Grief Share, Caring Ministry, Prayer Ministry, Funeral Reception Committee and Peacemakers Ministry**, all of which assist members in their times of need.

Our **Lay Eucharistic Ministers** bring Communion on a regular basis to members who are ill or homebound.

The **Healthcare Ministry Team's** goal is to promote wellness through such activities as Blood Pressure screenings, walking groups, sharing of health tips and recipes and fun activities such as the Walk to Bethlehem and Valentine's Dance.

Groups like *Mom2Mom* and *Daytimers* provide fellowship, service opportunities and support to their members.

The **Hospitality, Coffee Social and Kitchen Committees** act as our Host and Hostesses! They welcome members and visitors through the Greeter Ministry, keep us well fed and watered during Sunday Fed Hour and other events, and keep our kitchens stocked and maintained!

If you have the gift of service or hospitality and are looking for a way to share it, contact Mission Group Leader, Sallie Gartside, sallieabn@aol.com or one of these Ministry Teams. **We are hosting today's coffee social...stop by and take a look.**

Congregation Council begins new terms

At the December Council meeting, officers for the 2017 term were elected. We are pleased to announce that **Chris Poling was elected as President and Patty Resnik was elected as Vice-President.** Chris, Patty and Pastor Greg have had their first executive committee meeting to begin discussing goals and objectives for the new year.

For 2017, Mission Group Leaders will be:

Christian Education - Lauren Rein

Congregational Life and Service (CLAS) - Sallie Gartside

Facilities Operation - Larry Burkhardt

Finance, Legal and Operations (FLO) - Dave Stark

Outreach - Gail Fricke

Stewardship - Blair Fetzer

Worship and Music - Sharlene Krause

Youth - T. Gordon Brown

Please keep these volunteer leaders in prayer as they work to help fulfill God's mission for LCGS this year.

Adult Education Resumes Today

Pastor Greg will be leading the lectionary study today in the Celebration Hall and Manna & Mercy will resume in the Music Room. Both groups begin at 9:40 a.m. No registration needed....drop in!

Faith Group Sign-ups Begin Today

Faith Groups are gatherings of 8-12 people that meet weekly for fellowship and study over the course of 10-12 weeks in the Fall, Winter and Spring. Faith Groups are about building relationships and doing life together. When we are grounded in community we can grow as disciples who pray, worship, study, encourage, invite, give and serve God and others.

Please join us in the Narthex starting today to learn about the many options you have for joining a Faith Group! All groups are now forming to prepare for the first session being held **February 9 to April 21**. You can't go wrong by taking this step to experience community and grow in your faith as Gail Fricke shares. *"There are few places where I have experienced as much comfort and acceptance in being myself than in the women's study group. I always feel free to ask questions and to offer my opinions. The group - with membership changing due to life circumstances- has studied, prayed and learned together. We have enjoyed some studies and laughed at others, but have always been a support to each other. That we may attend different services or have a variety of interests contributes to the enjoyment of touching base and growing in faith."*

Daytimers News

At December's Daytimers meeting Pastor Don Beutel of Oak Crest Village told the meeting's 40 attendees that Santa kneels down to pray before his night journey delivering gifts as he connected the secular and religious observances of Christmas. Adam Koch led the group in singing Christmas carols and everyone had a good time!



This month's meeting is **Tuesday, January 10**, at 11 o'clock in the morning in the Celebration Hall. After a business meeting and a good ol' Lutheran potluck lunch, the program will consist of a talk about senior depression led by Pat Thompson of University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health's behavioral unit. Whether you sometimes suffer depression or just want information to help someone who suffers from occasional depression, it should be a good program for all of us.

Daytimers will serve the community as we sort groceries at Mason Dixon Services **January 17th**. Just how the groceries are sorted is what makes this an interesting and fun outing. And pizza afterwards is the frosting on the cake!

Daytimers is Good Shepherd's senior ministry, a group of retirees and soon to be retired folks who gather for fellowship, learning, and service. If you fall into that category, come and join the love-you won't be sorry you did. Questions, contact Tom Meyer, cheztomas@verizon.net



The Path of the Peacemaker

There's no doubt about it. Anything worth having is worth working for.

PEACEMAKER[®]
MINISTRIES

While many of us are willing to work hard in pursuit of our practical, personal or professional goals, there are those of us who find it difficult to put the same level of effort into our relationships. Yet if we desire relationships that are moving toward health and healing, it requires a huge investment of our time and energy. It takes a deeply devoted, all-in level of commitment.

In the parable of the Good Samaritan, we see a compassionate man who came close enough to allow his heart to be touched by the pain of a beaten and broken man. We see a man who was willing to get personally involved and do all that he could to help. We see a man who was willing to give of his time, energy, and resources to restore a wounded man to health without concern for the cost.

Then [the Good Samaritan] put the [wounded] man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. "Look after him," he said, "and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have." (Luke 10:34b-35, NIV).

The Good Samaritan recognized the healing process would take time, and without any conditions or guarantees, he paid

the price - not just for healing to begin, but for healing to continue.

Are you impressed by just how far this man was willing to go, how much he was willing to do, and how much he was willing to give to help a stranger begin the journey of healing? Think of your treasured relationships. Are you unselfish in the way you care for others? Do you invest time in your relationships to keep them healthy? For relationships in need of mending, are you committed - fully, deeply, completely committed - to seeing the process of healing through from beginning to end?

If you are wrestling with similar questions, look to your Savior for wisdom and guidance. Allow Him to search your heart and guide your feet along the path of peace. Yes, it may cost you. Follow where He leads. Pay the price. Walk the path.

Dale Pyne, Peacemaker Ministries

Need help? If you desire help in reconciling a conflict, disagreement or broken relationship, consider calling a LCGS Peacemaking Reconciliation Team member. Owen Ashbrook 410-879-7386; Debbie Smeton 410-937-2258 or Gail Fricke 410-569-9213. All communications are confidential.



December Happenings

Excitement was in the air at Good Shepherd Preschool in the month of December! How could we not be excited about the birth of baby Jesus? The children learned the story of His birth in

chapel at the beginning of the month and they reviewed that story again and again through various activities. The three year-old classes talked about all of our different feelings and learned the color green, the star shape and the number 5 as they read Christmas stories. They continued to work on their cutting skills while making Christmas decorations. The four year-old classes read and compared different versions of the gingerbread boy story. They made ornaments and gingerbread projects. The transitional kindergarten participated in a gingerbread man exchange with 12 other preschools around the country. They also made Christmas crafts and decorations. All the classes had a special Christmas celebration in their classrooms, sang songs and finger plays, and made gifts for their families. All of us at Good Shepherd Preschool hope that you had a very blessed Christmas!

Rhonda Messick

2017-2018 Registration Information

Registration for the 2017-2018 school year opens to the general public on **January 9, 2017**. Registration is handled on a first come/first serve basis. Please be aware that some classes fill up quickly, so register early for the best class selection. If you have questions concerning the registration process, or would like to visit a class before the registration date, please contact Lois Dobart, the preschool director, at 410-838-8457 or school@lcgsselca.org. We look forward to seeing you on registration day!

Lois Dobart, Good Shepherd Luther Preschool Director



Youth Sunday Kick-off, Tonight

Each year, *usually the Sunday after Easter*, the youth of LCGS take over the planning and leading of worship. It is a high energy and powerful service that always invigorates our faith! If you are a youth in grades 6 - 12 and want to be part of Youth Sunday 2017, come to the kick-off meeting being held **Sunday, January 8th at 7:00 p.m. in the Celebration Hall**. At this meeting, we will begin to develop a theme and gather ideas for the different elements we want to incorporate into the service. In years' past, we have included: sermon drama, children's sermon, liturgical dance, Christian clowning, and contemporary music led by the youth praise bands. We also need artists, worship leaders, tech crew, and adult mentors on the team. At the kick-off, will also begin to set the schedule for upcoming planning meetings to work on all the different facets of the service, enjoy some fellowship and game time and study to help deepen our faith in Christ. Gather your ideas (and a snack to share) and join us! If you are interested in participating and can't make the kick-off, please contact me so you can be included in upcoming emails, Cowboysrule87@gmail.com.

Connie Charitonuk



Friday Night Drop-In is coming!

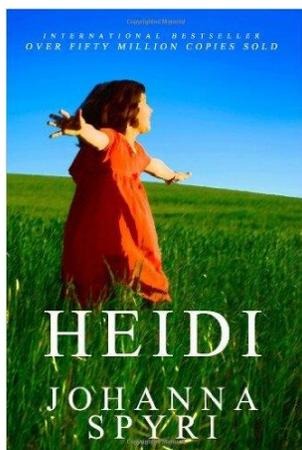
Our next Friday Night Drop-In for youth in grades 6 - 12 will be **January 13th**. Come on over to the parsonage from 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. We will be moving over to the Celebration Hall and Gym for a Nerf Nite! You've been asking for it, so grab your gear and come out for all kinds of Nerf Fun! Battles, target contest, nerf ball....you name it and we'll be playing it!

Bring Nerf guns, Nerf darts and eye protection to share if you have them. Snacks will be on hand too! Contact Mrs. Karina or Mrs Gina with questions, karina.jackson5@gmail.com or tgjsmiller@yahoo.com

Interested in becoming a member of LCGS?

The next new member class will begin on **January 29th** and is intended to help you become more connected and involved in Good Shepherd's life and ministry. Pastor Greg will lead the class which will run for four weeks, on Sunday afternoons in our Celebration Hall from 12:15 - 1:30 p.m. Lunch and childcare are provided. For those who wish to join our congregation, new members will be received into fellowship on Sunday, February 26, 2017.

Coming to the new member class does not obligate you to join, so if you are simply interested in learning more, you are encouraged to attend. Please contact the church office if you plan to attend. We look forward to seeing you!



Brown Bag Book Club - January 15th *Heidi* by Johanna Spyri

The Brown Bag Book Club will next meet on Sunday, January 15th following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. We will meet in the LCGS Conference Room. Please bring your lunch or snack and join us as we discuss Heidi

by Johanna Spyri. All are welcome at the LCGS Brown Bag Book Club!

"Brought to the Swiss Alps to visit her grandfather, five year-old Heidi manages to win the hearts and souls of those around her, while growing up and facing the fears that every child faces in some form: the anxiety of being without parents. A sweet and heartwarming story for readers of all ages." - Provided by Amazon.

Contact Andrea Hooper, ajhooper@comcast.net or Linda Ruese, lruese@comcast.net with questions about the Brown Bag Book Club. Upcoming schedule of books is posted on the kiosk in the Narthex.



Capital Improvements Fund

In memory of Gladys Brandt and Richard Dause
From: Jim & Helen Porter

Christmas Basket Program

In honor of LCGS Volunteers
From: Steve & Jeanne Matthews

Communion Rail Offerings

We recognize the generosity of those who contributed to communion rail offerings last year.

For the upcoming year, in lieu of the communion rail offering, we will identify offerings to support our congregational mission as needs are identified. Thanks again for your support. Gail Fricke, Outreach Mission Group Leader.

Health Care Ministry News

Save the Date!! On Saturday, **February 11**, the Health Care Ministry will be hosting a Valentine's Day Dance! Details soon!

Walk to Bethlehem Results

In November we set our sights very high with a goal of 5,850 miles to walk from Bel Air to Bethlehem. We have surpassed our activity goal and we have reached Bethlehem in time for Christmas. It has been an amazing and uplifting journey and the entire Healthcare Ministry Team would like to thank everyone who participated. Again, thank you to everyone who joined us in our journey--both in mileage and in spirit.

Blood Pressure Screening:

Today, the Health Care Ministry will offer free blood pressure screenings. You do not need an appointment, just come to the Library between 9:15 and 10:45!

Health Tips and Recipes:

Please continue to check the narthex for our quarterly health tip and recipe of the month.

If you have any questions or would like to join the Health Care Ministry team, please contact Diane Brown at (410) 569-1277 or tgnd.brown@verizon.net.

Is the Sacrament of Baptism in your family's future?

If so, you'll want to plan on attending the Baptism workshop scheduled for **Monday, January 16th at 6:00 p.m.** The workshop is intended for parents and sponsors and adults seeking baptism for themselves. Pastor Greg will lead the group through Bible study, a walkthrough of the service and, the meaning of the sacrament. There will also be some time for fellowship and childcare will be provided in our cribbery. Please call the church office if you plan on attending.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Day

On **Saturday, January 14, 2017**, the African Descent Lutheran Association, the Coalition of Lutherans Advancing in Mission, the Racial Justice Ministry Team, and the African Descent Strategy Implementation Team will host our synod's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Day. This year, we are honored to have William Horne, recently elected Vice President of Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, as our keynote speaker. The program will be held from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Journey of Faith Lutheran Church (7902 Liberty Road, Baltimore, MD 21244), and will include worship, devotions, and workshops. There is no cost to attend, and lunch is included. You may register online as a group or as an individual. The registration deadline to receive lunch is Friday, January 6. See the flyer on the kiosk in the Narthex for more details.

The Bishop Blogs

Each week, Bishop Gohl writes for our synod blog. See part of the message below: *The Christmas Eve sermon I might have preached.*

"In all of the hundreds of times I've heard these words [from Luke], spoken these words to expectant Christmas crowds, I've never given much thought to Quirinius, governor of Syria.

Until now."

To view the rest of the blog, go to <http://demdblog.weebly.com/blog/the-christmas-eve-sermon-i-might-have-preached>

Need Prayers?

To list someone on the Prayer List call the church office at 410-838-8081 or Coordinator Doris Mellor at 410-671-4209, or complete a prayer card (*in the pew pockets.*) Provide the person's first and last names and a contact number, or include your contact number. The Coordinator will verify a member's desire to be on the list and specific purpose to be listed. In order to make the extensive list of family and friends current and manageable, we will keep the name listed for three weeks unless it is resubmitted. Any congregation member can receive the Prayer List via e-mail or hard copy, simply contact the church office or Prayer List Coordinator.

Christmas at LCGS



Contact Information

The Rev. Greg Fetzer

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Mrs. Sallie J. Gartside, OSSD

sallieabn@aol.com

Adam Koch, Music Director

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Gina Miller, Office Manager

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2017 Congregation Council:

President - *Chris Poling*

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Vice President - *Patty Resnik*

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Treasurer - *Linda Ruese*

treasurer@lcgsselca.org

Secretary - *Gini Polley*

secretary@lcgsselca.org

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Youth - *T. Gordon Brown*

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Outreach - *Gail Fricke*

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Congregational Life and Service
(CLAS) - *Sallie Gartside*

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CONNECT WITH US!

www.lcgselca.org

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