

# The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd Newsletter & Announcements | February 5, 2017

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**Today is Scout Sunday. Thank you to the youth and adult leaders for all the good work they do in the name of scouting! Girl, boy and cub scouts are serving at both services today and hosting the coffee social!**

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I ❤️ **During February, we will be helping you get to know Mar-Lu-Ridge!** Mar-Lu-Ridge is an amazing outdoor ministry right here in our synod! Read on to find out why so many people love MLR!

Can you imagine a day filled with sunshine, water, fresh air, and friends? Add in new challenges, laughter, and face paint, and end the day around a roaring campfire. Unplug from technology and get outdoors into God's beautiful creation! Summer camp has been providing these opportunities and so much more for decades. Mar-Lu-Ridge has more than 50 years of camping experience and is ready to serve you!



Studies show that children learn independence, gain confidence, and develop life-long skills while at camp. They feel accepted just the way they are. They learn to work as part of a group to accomplish a task. Campers also try new things for the first time - perhaps new food,

or a zip line that makes them a bit nervous. Our amazing, gifted staff members nurture and lead - sharing God's unconditional love with all. What better place to spend a week of summer? Camperships and church assistance make these opportunities available to everyone. Visit our website to learn more and to register online: [www.mar-lu-ridge.org](http://www.mar-lu-ridge.org)

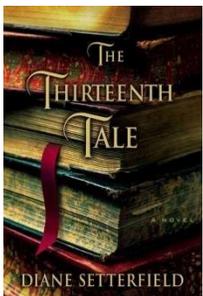
**There are also summer camp brochures on the Kiosk in the Narthex.**

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## **Brown Bag Book Club: February 26**

*The Thirteenth Tale* by Diane Setterfield

The next book discussion will be on **Sunday, February 26**, following the 11:00 a.m. worship service in the LCGS Conference Room. Please bring your lunch or snack and join us as we discuss *The Thirteenth Tale* by Diane Setterfield.



" When Margaret Lea opened the door to the past, what she confronted was her destiny.

All children mythologize their birth...So begins the prologue of reclusive author Vida Winter's collection of stories, which are as famous for the mystery of the missing thirteenth tale as they are for the delight and enchantment of the twelve that do exist.

The enigmatic Winter has spent six decades creating various outlandish life histories for herself -- all of them inventions that have brought her fame and fortune but

have kept her violent and tragic past a secret. Now old and ailing, she at last wants to tell the truth about her extraordinary life. She summons biographer Margaret Lea, a young woman for whom the secret of her own birth, hidden by those who loved her most, remains an ever-present pain. Struck by a curious parallel between Miss Winter's story and her own, Margaret takes on the commission.

As Vida disinters the life she meant to bury for good, Margaret is mesmerized. It is a tale of gothic strangeness featuring the Angelfield family, including the beautiful and willful Isabelle, the feral twins Adeline and Emmeline, a ghost, a governess, a topiary garden and a devastating fire.

Margaret succumbs to the power of Vida's storytelling but remains suspicious of the author's sincerity. She demands the truth from Vida, and together they confront the ghosts that have haunted them while becoming, finally, transformed by the truth themselves.

The Thirteenth Tale is a love letter to reading, a book for the feral reader in all of us, a return to that rich vein of storytelling that our parents loved and that we loved as children. Diane Setterfield will keep you guessing, make you wonder, move you to tears and laughter and, in the end, deposit you breathless yet satisfied back upon the shore of your everyday life." (Simon and Schuster)

All are welcome at the LCGS Brown Bag Book Club!

10 copies have been provided by the HCPL for our book club. Contact Diane Erikson, [derickson09@yahoo.com](mailto:derickson09@yahoo.com) if you wish to receive a copy. Four copies are available in general circulation at the Harford County Library. 406 pages. Published in 2006.

Any questions? Please contact Linda Ruese at [lruese@comcast.net](mailto:lruese@comcast.net) 410-569-0605 or Andrea Hooper at [ajhooper@comcast.net](mailto:ajhooper@comcast.net).

Our upcoming 2017 schedule is posted on the kiosk in the Narthex.

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## Daytimers' News

Sixteen Daytimers sorted 145 bags and many boxes of groceries at Mason Dixon's food bank in northern Harford county on Tuesday, January 17. Besides the joy of helping those in need, the other

joy of the event was a delicious pizza lunch at Buon Gusto!

Come and join February's meeting on **Tuesday, February 14**, at 11 a.m. in the Celebration Hall. After a business meeting and a delicious pot luck lunch, have

some fun playing a get to know you game, "speed dating". And you don't have to be single to play!

Daytimers is Good Shepherd's retired and soon to be retired folks who gather for fellowship, learning, and serving. All in that demographic are welcome. Any questions, contact Tom Meyer at [cheztomas@verizon.net](mailto:cheztomas@verizon.net)

Pat Thompson, a nurse with Upper Chesapeake Behavioral Health, shared a video and spoke with us at January's meeting about depression.



*Photo credits: Lowell & Thelma Repp*



## Red Cross Blood Drive

Please mark your calendars for the next Red Cross Blood Drive which will be held on Thursday, **February 9th from 2:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** in the Celebration Hall. Our last blood drive resulted in 30 donations for the Red Cross! Please consider giving the gift of life through blood donation.

The sign-up sheet is on the counter in the Narthex, or you may contact Patty Resnik to schedule your donation time at [par\\_06@verizon.net](mailto:par_06@verizon.net) or call her at (410) 340-3317. Thank you!



## Youth Group Events

### Youth Group Mission Trip to Toronto

Eleven youth and two adults will be getting their passports ready for our mission trip to Toronto, Canada in July 2017. Our group will be serving in soup kitchens, helping in homeless shelters and working with disadvantaged youth in this urban area. The cost for each person to attend is \$289 with additional funds needed for a 15 passenger van rental. There are several ways you can help support our trip!

The Fellowship committee will be holding the **Second Annual Chili Cook-off on March 11th** with the proceeds benefiting our trip! Save the date and watch for more details soon!

Our "**Gas Pump**" campaign will kick off this Spring as well. Please consider sponsoring a "gas can" from our display board to help fund our trip. Cans will have varying monetary values and every donation helps and is greatly appreciated in getting us to Toronto! If you are interested in sponsoring a youth by paying their way or would like to know more information, please contact Connie Charitonuk.

### Youth Sunday

The youth are currently hard at work planning worship services to be held April 23rd. Our next planning meeting is **Monday, February 6th** at 7:00 p.m. If you haven't been to a meeting but would like to get involved with Youth Sunday, there is still time! Either come to the meeting or contact Mrs. Connie at

[cowboysrule87@gmail.com](mailto:cowboysrule87@gmail.com). Meeting dates can also be found on the LCGS calendar on our website.

### Friday Night Drop-in

Youth in grades 6 - 12 are invited to Drop in at the parsonage on **Friday, February 17th** from 7 - 10 p.m. Bring a friend and a snack to share. Board games, cards, movies, or just hang out with friends, it will be a night to just chill out!

### Kids For Christ (Junior Youth Group)

Kids in grades 3 - 5 are invited to the Celebration Hall on **February 17th** from 7 - 8:30 p.m. for some Valentine's Minute to Win It games. Bring a snack to share if you'd like. Sign up on the sheet in the Narthex to let us know you are coming. Contact Mrs. Meghan Marx at [marxjo@hotmail.com](mailto:marxjo@hotmail.com) with questions.

If you'd like to participate in Youth Sunday by being a greeter/usher, please let Mrs. Meghan Marx know. She will also need to know your size to order t-shirts. T-shirt price is \$10.

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### Preschool Happenings

The children of Good Shepherd Preschool heard the story of Noah's Ark in the month of January. They learned that God loved and protected Noah, his family, and the animals and that He loves and protects us too. In January the 3 year-old classes learned about the five wonderful senses that God has given each one of us to

experience His amazing world. There are so many things to see, hear, touch, taste, and smell and the children enjoyed some fun activities that made use of these senses. They also studied the season of winter and created winter pictures with puffy "snow" paint. The 4 year-old classes also enjoyed learning about the season of winter. They studied polar bears and penguins and did some fun science experiments with ice. They laced mittens, made winter pictures, and ordered objects by size while making 2-D and 3-D snowmen. The Transitional Kindergarten explored the season of winter by doing some fun science experiments with freezing, melting, and temperature. They also studied dinosaurs and measured how tall a dinosaur was by using a balloon with a very long string in the church sanctuary. They also had fun building a volcano and watching it erupt.

*Rhonda Messick*

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PEACEMAKER<sup>®</sup>  
MINISTRIES

## **The Path of the Peacemaker** **Forgiveness and Hebrews 9:22**

Forgiveness may be described as a decision to make four promises:

"I will not dwell on this incident."

"I will not bring up this incident again and use it against you."

"I will not talk to others about this incident."

"I will not let this incident stand between us or hinder our personal relationship."

By making and keeping these promises, you can tear down the walls that stand between you and your offender. You promise not to dwell on or brood over the problem or to punish by holding the person at a distance. You clear the way for your relationship to develop unhindered by memories of past wrongs. This is exactly what God does for us, and it is what he calls us to do for others.

*(Taken from "The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict" by Ken Sande, Updated Edition (Grand Rapids, Baker Books, 2003) p. 209.)*

## **Food For Thought**

Do you sometimes find yourself breaking (or tempted to break) one or more of the Four Promises of Forgiveness sometime after you make them? That's a very normal experience-and, believe it or not, it's an invitation from God to draw closer to him. The key is remembering and applying Hebrews 9:22. That verse tells us that in the universe there is only one source of durable forgiveness: the Cross of Christ. "Without the shedding of blood," the verse says, "there is no forgiveness."

For a time, we may be able to forgive someone out of our own willpower or our human desire for reconciliation, but eventually even our best efforts will buckle (yes, even when they're buoyed up by the Four Promises). If we want our forgiveness of others to "stick", we ourselves need to "stick" continually-to the Cross. So when you sense a long-buried hatchet rising to the surface, don't dwell on those thoughts. Instead, dwell on Christ's forgiveness of your own sin. The more

real that becomes for you, the less real temptations toward unforgiveness will be.

**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.

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## **Faith and Society**

"Faithful participation in society is integral and vital to the mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America." - *Social Statement Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective*

The ELCA is a church that believes God is calling us into the world - together. As part of this call, we seek the common good for society, provide moral vision and are committed to addressing social and cultural injustices and issues. The ELCA participates in God's just and loving purpose for all of creation in many different ways, from the daily actions of members as citizens, to efforts in social service, to public witness for justice.

In response to God's gracious love that seeks justice, the ELCA equips and nurtures us for our callings in the world, fosters social service and ministries of mercy, encourages learning and moral deliberation around social and cultural concerns, enacts social teaching and policy documents, interprets and applies social policy,

and partners with agencies, organizations and institutions dedicated to service and justice.

Resources and opportunities for participation in addressing social concerns are found on many ELCA Web pages; see especially those dedicated to "Publically Engaged Church" (<http://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church>) You may also find the ELCA social messages and statements at (<http://www.elca.org/Resources/Faith-and-Society>).

*From ELCA.org*

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On **Friday, February 10th** from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. in the Narthex, Mom2Mom will have our first meeting of the new year. This is our candy making meeting. We will be making lots of yummy chocolate treats!

Childcare will be provided for children 1-6 years old. Please bring a sippy cup and \$5 dues (per family).

On **Friday, February 24th** at 6:30 p.m. we will meet at Boston's pizza for a Mommy Night Out!

Mom2Mom is a mommy Christian support network. We offer a time to get together with other women who face similar situations and challenges you do. We encourage each other, have fun, and learn together!

If you have any questions about our group, please contact Cindy Burkhardt or Jennifer Nesaw. You can email us at [mom2momlcgs@gmail.com](mailto:mom2momlcgs@gmail.com) Jennifer Nesaw

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## **A Note of Thanks**

THANK YOU to everyone who generously donated to our coat drive last month. We tallied 136 coats, 60 hats, gloves and scarves, plus an additional 37 miscellaneous snow pants, boots and heavy sweatshirts. The items were delivered to Mason Dixon for distribution at their annual give-away day in early December. Folks who attended the annual event are mostly small families that Mason Dixon did not assign to other churches or groups for Christmas gifts. Each year several Harford County churches combine efforts for the give-away event providing bed sheets, bath towels, laundry detergent, canned goods and sometimes small toys or hand gloves. Imagine the excitement when attendees saw they could also go home with a new winter coat!

Leftover/un-chosen coats were retrieved and given to the guests at the Edgewood Sharing Table at their Christmas Eve meal. As winter comes to an end and you find you have outgrown or no longer need your winter coat, please save it to donate next fall to our drive!

*Karen Hilton, Servanthood team member*

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**Deaths**  
**January 2, 2017**  
Bonnie Lee Hoffman



**Youth Mission Trip**

In memory of Bonnie Hoffman  
From: Ethel Scheeler

**Worship & Music Fund**

In memory of Bonnie Hoffman  
From: Nancy Miller

In memory of Ruth Ann Einhorn  
From: Kenneth & Lynn Evans

**Undesignated Fund**

In memory of Bonnie Hoffman  
From: Alan & Joan Sharman, Beverly Sharman,  
Sue Hughes, and Hugh & MaryBeth Blocker

In memory of Ruthanna G. Lehnert  
From: Susan Quigley

## **Pastor's Discretionary Fund**

In memory of Bonnie Hoffman  
From: Kenneth & Lynn Evans, Tim & Gina Miller  
and Phyllis Berger

## **Altar Guild**

In memory of Bonnie Hoffman  
From: Carole Evitts, Helen & Jim Porter,  
and Charles & Sharon Sorrentino

## **Flower Fund**

In memory of Bonnie Hoffman  
From: Don & Marge Blair, Merrill & Betty Messick, Jr.,  
and Marge Slater

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**Adult Education Opportunities during the FED Hour Today**, you can join one of these adult education sessions:

"Manna & Mercy" discussion in the Music Room. Each week, one chapter in the book is reviewed and discussed.

The lectionary series which focuses on the day's text. This week, Ruthann Sutherland will lead the discussion on Luke 7:1-17 - Raising the Widow's Son and will meet in the Gym.

Check the poster on the kiosk in the Narthex for upcoming education opportunities. Contact Adult Education Team Leader, Debbie Smeton with questions.



# Valentine's Day DANCE



**All adults are invited to join us  
Saturday, February 11 from 7-10p.m.  
in the Celebration Hall to Dance  
the Night Away!**

*Couples and singles are welcome. If dancing  
is not your thing, come listen to the music  
and enjoy some great fellowship.*



**Event is free! Just bring a snack or  
dessert to share and your dancing shoes.  
Please Sign up in the narthex.**

Music courtesy of the Herget Family DJs



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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## Health Care Ministry News

### Free Blood Pressure Screenings

**Today** in the Library. No appointment needed, just stop by between 9:15 and 10:45. Regular blood pressure screenings are a helpful tool in maintaining your good health!

### 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](mailto:tgnd.brown@verizon.net).

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## Lutheran Marriage Encounter Registering Now

Marriage Encounter invites married couples on a journey - a deepening of your love. The program allows husband and wife to eliminate all distractions and focus solely on each other for the weekend. A \$100 per couple registration fee gets you signed up; and toward the end of the weekend, you will be given an opportunity to make a confidential contribution of whatever amount you wish toward continuation of the program. **Two nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you, and all supplies are included.** The 2017 Northeast US Weekends are:

- **March 24-26** at Toftrees Golf Resort Conference Center -- a peaceful resort nestled in 1500 wooded acres in State College, PA.
- **April 28-30** in Lancaster, PA, at the all newly-renovated Heritage Hotel Lancaster, home of the unique tree-house-inspired restaurant, "Loxley's."
- **September 15-17** at Spruce Lake Retreat Center, Canadensis, PA, a new hotel-style facility on Spruce Lake in the heart of the Pocono Mountains - an hour north of Allentown.
- **October 6-8** at the Black Swan Inn in Lee, Massachusetts. Nestled in the foothills of the Berkshire Mountains, a hidden gem overlooking Laurel Lake - an hour north of Hartford, CT.

To sign up online, go to:

[www.GodLovesMarriage.org](http://www.GodLovesMarriage.org) For questions, or if you would like a brochure mailed to you, contact Northeast US Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at 724-325-3166 or email: [fjschamber@comcast.net](mailto:fjschamber@comcast.net). **Registrations are limited, so act TODAY to ensure that you can attend the Weekend of your choice!**

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## **Update on the Call Process for Vicki Beilfuss**

As many of you know, Vicki has been a member here at LCGS for many years. When she began to recognize God's calling her into ministry as a Pastor and she made the decision to go to Seminary, LCGS supported her both with tuition assistance, mentoring and guidance,

and prayer. Vicki gives an update below as one journey is nearing completion and another is about to begin....

My Dear Friends,

A number of you have asked me where I am in the process of interview, call and ordination. So here it is.

I am on the last step of the interview process. On February 10 & 11, I will meet with the councils and membership of a two point parish in central PA. Then that Sunday (February 12) I will preach for both congregations and they will vote on whether to extend me a call. So far, we like each other and seem to be a good match. The bishop's office is very confident that we are a good match and I will receive a call.

If all goes as expected, and I receive a call, I will make a formal announcement that Monday. Then, I would be ordained here at LCGS on **Friday evening, February 24**, by Bishop Michael Rhyne of the Allegheny Synod.

Please pray for me and for Holy Shepherd Parish, that we might be guided by the Holy Spirit in discerning a possible future together doing God's work.

I thank you for all of your support over this very long journey.

Blessings,  
Vicki

## Contact Information

<b>The Rev. Greg Fetzer</b>	<a href="mailto:pr.greg.fetzer@lcgsselca.org"><u>pr.greg.fetzer@lcgsselca.org</u></a>
Mrs. Sallie J. Gartside, OSSD	<a href="mailto:sallieabn@aol.com"><u>sallieabn@aol.com</u></a>
Adam Koch, Music Director	<a href="mailto:music@lcgsselca.org"><u>music@lcgsselca.org</u></a>
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<b>2017 Congregation Council:</b>	
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Youth - <i>T. Gordon Brown</i>	<a href="mailto:youth@lcgsselca.org"><u>youth@lcgsselca.org</u></a>
Outreach - <i>Gail Fricke</i>	<a href="mailto:outreach@lcgsselca.org"><u>outreach@lcgsselca.org</u></a>
Congregational Life and Service (CLAS) - <i>Sallie Gartside</i>	<a href="mailto:CLAS@lcgsselca.org"><u>CLAS@lcgsselca.org</u></a>
Stewardship - <i>Blair Fetzer</i>	<a href="mailto:stewardship@lcgsselca.org"><u>stewardship@lcgsselca.org</u></a>

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