



THE SHEPHERD'S CALL

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF SHEPHERD OF THE LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 2015 VOL. 9, NO. 12

Come, Lord Jesus, and Show Us the Father

Dear members of Shepherd of the Lake,

Advent means coming and coming means preparing. This Advent, during our midweek services at 6:00pm each Wednesday, the truth that will prepare us for Christ's coming is the First Article of the Apostle's Creed, "I believed in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth," as well as Luther's Small Catechism explanation of that article of faith. Our theme is that Jesus came, will come, and does come today by His Word and Spirit in order to show us who God is. Our goal is not only to learn the doctrine, that is, the teaching of the faith, but to learn the faith, that is, true trust in the Father who justifies us by grace through faith on account of Jesus Christ. Our prayer is that Christ would indeed come among us and show us the Father.

The first Advent midweek service on December 2 will prepare us for Christ with the truth that Jesus shows us our Creator. Luther says, "I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them" (SC, explanation of the First Article). Psalm 95.1-7 says, "*Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.*"

The second Advent midweek service on December 9 will prepare us for Christ with the truth that Jesus shows us our Provider. Luther says, "He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life" (SC, explanation of the First Article). Psalm 104.27-30 says, "*These all look to you, to give them their food in due season. When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. When you send forth your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground.*"

The third Advent midweek service on December 16 will prepare us for Christ with the truth that Jesus shows us the Father's heart. Luther says, "He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him" (SC, explanation of the First Article). Psalm 103.11-13 says, "*For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.*"

May God send His Spirit among us this Advent that through the truth that Jesus shows us the Father, we may be ready to receive Him when He comes again.

In Christ,

Pastor Rusnak

December 2015 Monthly Worksheet



THIS MONTH'S ELDER

Dennis Anderson
320-277-3542



USHERS

?

Bruce Sundberg



FELLOWSHIP SERVERS



01st LWML
08th David & Elaine Drahosh
15th Messena Smude
22nd Ken & Jean Stokes
29th NEEDED



Thank you to *everyone* for giving so generously of their time volunteering at our many functions. It is so appreciated and we depend on your participation! We are looking for volunteers in the coming months to be fellowship servers. Please see the bulletin board if you are able to help. You can always trade with someone else if need be, but please inform the Church Office so that the correct information can be printed in the bulletin.



CHURCH OFFICERS

Pastor: Rev. Jonathan Rusnak
President: Ken Stokes
Recording Sec.: Elaine Drahosh
Treasurer: John Kinzel
Financial Sec.: Barb Scherfenberg
Church Sec.: Sue Raddatz
Elders: Gaylord Ryg-Chair
Dennis Anderson
Steve Lawrence
Jerry Scherfenberg
Trustees: Larry Collison-Chair
David Drahosh
Doug Feltmann
Randy Feltmann

Welcome
to Our Church

This Month's Birthdays!

04th Shirley Kuschel
08th Kim Spicer
13th Faye Feltmann
15th Bill Alleman
Janet Uhlig
17th Bob Priller
23rd Nancy Collison
Bonnie Ryg
24th Sheila Anderson
29th Marcy Schulze



07th Bill & Linda Eno
08th Bob & JoAnn Priller
Bob & Joan Wandersee
14th Ken & Shirley Kuschel
David & Candy Larson
16th Steve & Beth Lawrence
22nd Gaylord & Bonnie Ryg
28th Dale & Verdean Franklin



03rd Evangeline Rusnak
09th Destiny Raddatz
17th Paul Ruesch

In an effort to support and build one another up to the glory of God (Romans 15:1-7), we include in our monthly newsletters birthday and anniversary dates for members and friends of the congregation. If you would like your birthday and/or anniversary date included, or if our information needs to be corrected, please contact our Church Secretary, Sue Raddatz. Thank you!



THIS MONTH'S ALTAR GUILD:

Rose Mihalko



SOTL News for December 2015



BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES
 Jesus promised: *"If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free"* (John 8:31). Join us as we study the Word of God together:

Sunday Morning Bible Study meets at 8:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome!

BIBLE BREAKFAST: Bible Breakfast is now meeting at McDonald's in Garrison. The time is the same: 8:00 a.m. Starting in December we will be meeting on Thursday's instead of Wednesdays. Everyone is welcome to join us for a little breakfast and Bible study.

Thursday Morning LifeLight meets at 9:30 a.m. each week on Thursday. All are invited to join us.

Please see the bulletin board for updated information on each Bible study.



Office Hours: The Church Secretary is in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. If you would like to meet with Pastor, please call him to schedule a time.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS



Prayer Requests: If you have someone or something that you would like Pastor Rusnak to include in either his personal prayers or in our public Prayer of the Church on Sunday morning, please fill out a prayer request card, located on the guest book stand, and place it in his box or contact him at the Church Office.

It is important that all of our members receive pastoral care when it is needed, especially during times of sickness or other difficulty. If you know of an individual, even if it is a non-member, who would appreciate and benefit from a pastoral visit, please contact the church office or Pastor Rusnak.



SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES: Sunday school meets at 8:30 a.m. every Sunday. We have divided the class this year into an older and younger group. If you are interested in attending, teaching, or helping, please see Pastor.



As of 11/15/15
 Received: \$100,232.84



As of 11/15/15
 Received: \$25,721.86



Vision Statement: Share the Gospel

Our Mission: We will share the GOSPEL as we

- Glorify God in all that we say and do
- Offer Him our time, talents, & treasures
- Share the good news of Jesus
- Pray without ceasing
- Engage the community
- Love one another





SHEPHERD'S LAMBS: Christmas Party! On Sunday, December 20th we will be having a Shepherd's Lambs Christmas party from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Shepherd of the Lake. Come and join us for a lesson, games, treats and pizza! The whole family is welcome. Please invite friends, as well.



Rides Available

RIDES FOR HEALTH: The Cancer Support Center, Inc. provides transportation to anyone of any age in the Aitkin County that does not have someone to take them to medical appointments. These appointments must be medically necessary (medical, eye, dental), but do not need to be cancer related. Please check the bulletin board for more information or call (218) 927-4077.



RUBY'S PANTRY: Everyone who eats qualifies: \$20 cash donation; bring your own boxes or basket for the food. This is a hand up not a hand out and is not income based.

Please check out the bulletin board for information on when Ruby's Pantry is going in Brainerd and/or Onamia.



SHEPHERD OF THE LAKE'S WEBSITE: We invite you to check out our website at shepherdofthelake.org. You can access sermons, pictures of church events, any announcements and more.



RECYCLING ALUMINUM CANS: We are accepting all donations of empty and recyclable aluminum cans to support our Sunday school program.

Please bag the cans in large garbage bags (not plastic grocery bags) and bring the bags to the trailer beside the garage. Thank you!



FELLOWSHIP SERVERS NEEDED: We are in need fellowship servers in the upcoming months. If you are able to help with serving fellowship please sign the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Your help is greatly appreciated. You will find the new sign-up sheet soon.

UPDATING OUR CHURCH RECORDS: If you have made changes with your address and/or phone numbers in the past year please contact the church secretary, Sue Raddatz with the new information, if you wish for the information to remain private please let us know, but we need the information for our records at the church. If your birthday and/or anniversary are listed incorrectly in the newsletter or not listed at all please get the information to the secretary as well. Your help would be greatly appreciated!



Thanks!

LAWN MOWING: We want to thank everyone who helped with mowing the lawn here at Shepherd of the Lake, your help was greatly appreciated.



HUNTER'S SUPPER: THANK YOU to everyone who helped in any way to make our Hunters Supper a success.
Stewardship Committee



THANKSGIVING DINNER: We want to say *THANK YOU* to the Kinzel family for putting together and serving another Thanksgiving Dinner to the community. We also want to thank all who helped in any way with donations and help of any kind that you may have done.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Operation Christmas Children evangelism project here at Shepherd of the Lake. We received 39 boxes. Your donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you so much.



EMERGENCY CHURCH CLOSING: It is that time of year again when we start thinking about bad weather, etc. The emergency closing of the church because of bad weather will be decided by Pastor and the Elder of the month. Members can check about closing of the church because of weather by listening to radio station KKIN 94.3FM in Aitkin, or calling the church.





LADIES CHRISTMAS

LUNCHEON: The Shepherd of the Lake LWML is hosting this year's Garrison Community Ladies' Luncheon at noon on Tuesday, the 8th of December. Featured will be

the Rusnak family's collection of nativity sets from around the world. Julie will relate their stories. Additional nativity scenes are welcome and will be on display during Advent. If you have one you'd like to share from somewhere around the world and a story to tell about it at the luncheon, please contact Marge Berndt at 218-678-2965.

There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Men are welcome if they don't mind doing the dishes. The ingathering for this event will be money or food items for the Garrison Food Shelf. There is no charge for the luncheon.



MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES

This years theme:

"Come, Lord Jesus . . . and Show Us the Father"

ADVENT #1

Jesus Shows Us Our Creator ~

Psalm 95:1-7

ADVENT #2

Jesus Shows Us Our Provider ~

Psalm 104:27-30

ADVENT #3

Jesus Shows Us the Father's Heart ~

Psalm 103:11-13



2016 OFFERING ENVELOPES: You will find the new church envelopes set out in the Fellowship Hall very soon. Please pick up your envelopes when they are set out. If you don't find envelopes and would like to receive them please let the church secretary know and she will get you set up. If you wish not to receive envelopes next year please let the church secretary know and she will remove your name.



ASSISTANT LIVING UPDATE:

Dear Shepherd of the Lake members,

After worship this past Sunday, Gaylord Ryg gave the following report regarding our assisted living project in partnership with Good Shepherd Community:

"The people of Good Shepherd have decided against building an assisted living facility in Garrison, Minn. The primary reason was the unexpected announcement that the Aitkin Armory will be converted into forty-one assisted living units. To use their words, "that was a game changer." There was also concern about finding staff workers, given the conditions of the local economy. They also expressed reservations about what they perceived as a lack of commitment by the congregation to the project."

Gaylord Ryg
Head Elder and Good Shepherd Liaison

No doubt, this project has been a fruitful process for our congregation. Many thanks to all those who led us through this process, most notably Jerry Scherfenberg. No doubt, God has other opportunities for us in the future. God's richest blessings to you, our congregation, and on that future God has in store for us. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Pastor Jonathan Rusnak



**MEALS ON WHEELS
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!**

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

CARE is looking for volunteer drivers to deliver nutritious, hot meals and a warm smile right to the doors of Aitkin seniors.

CALL Betty at 218-927-1383
or visit us at 503 Minnesota Ave N.





POINSETTIAS FOR THE ALTAR: Everyone is invited to bring a poinsettia plant to place by the altar in memory of a loved one or for a special occasion. Any color will work. You may take your plant home at the end of the holiday season. Thank you!



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: Our Sunday School children will be participating in our Christmas Eve worship service. We want to invite all the children's families to come and show your support to the children.



CHRISTMASTIDE SCHEDULE:

Midweek Advent: 6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer
 Christmas Eve Service: 6:00 p.m.
 Christmas Day Service: 10:00 a.m.

On Sunday, December 27th Rev. Jerry Creighton will be leading Bible Study and Services
 No New Year's Eve Service

The church secretary will be out of the office from December 24th to January 4th. If you need anything during this time Please contact Sue at 218-764-3244 and she will help you.



A recipe from...

BUTTERMILK COOKIES

From the kitchen of: *Memory of Ollie Thaemert*

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| 3 c. Sugar | 2 tsp. Soda |
| 2c. Shortening | ½ tsp. Nutmeg |
| 2 Eggs | 1 tsp. Baking Powder |
| 1 tsp. Vanilla | 4 c. Flour |
| 2. Buttermilk | Enough Flour to Roll |

Mix shortening, sugar, and eggs, beat together. Add vanilla. Mix buttermilk and soda, and add to mixture. Sift nutmeg, baking powder and flour and add to mixture. Roll out and cut cookies. Bake in quick oven at 410° for approximately 10 minutes. Decorate as desired.



MINCEMEAT APPLE BETTY

From the kitchen of: *unknown*

- 1 ¾ C. Prepared Mincemeat
- ½ tsp. grated Lemon Peel
- 4 c. pared and sliced Apples
- ½ c. Brown Sugar
- ½ c. Flour
- 1 tsp. Cinnamon
- ¼ c. Butter

Combine mincemeat and lemon peel; place half the apples in bottom of greased 10X6X2 inch pan. Cover with half of the mincemeat. Repeat layers. Combine remaining ingredients and sprinkle over top. Bake in a 350° oven until apples are tender, about 45 minutes. Serve warm with cream.



RECIPES WANTED: *If you have a favorite recipe you would like to share, please write it down and put it in Sue Raddatz' mailbox or email it to suzie_q_79@live.com*

Merry Christmas



Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church Garrison, MN

December 2015



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 8AM-Bible Breakfast @ McDonalds 9:30AM- LifeLight 5PM- Potluck Supper 6PM-Midweek Advent Service	3	4 	5
6 8:30AM-Bible Study & Sunday School 10AM-Divine Service w/LS 11AM-Fellowship Hour	7 9AM-Circuit Pastors 7PM-Brd of Elders Meeting	8 12:30 PM- LWML Brd Meeting 1PM-LWML Meeting	9 5PM-Potluck Supper 6PM-Midweek Advent Service	10 8AM-Bible Breakfast @ McDonalds 9:30AM- LifeLight	11	12 
13 8:30AM-Bible Study & Sunday School 10AM-Divine Service 11AM- Fellowship Hour	14 	15 9AM-Board Meetings 10AM-Church Council	16 5PM-Potluck Supper 6PM-Midweek Advent Service	17 8AM-Bible Breakfast @ McDonalds 9:30AM- LifeLight January Newsletter Articles Due	18	19
20 8:30AM-Bible Study & Sunday School 10AM-Divine Service w/LS 11AM-Fellowship Hour 4-6PM-Shepherd's Lambs	21	22 Printing January Newsletter	23 	24 Christmas Eve 6PM- Christmas Eve Children's Service	25 Christmas Day 10AM- Christmas Day Service	26
27 8:30AM-Bible Study 10AM- Divine Service 11AM-Fellowship Hour	28	29 	30	31 New Years Eve		

Vision Statement: "Share the GOSPEL"



Shepherd of the Lake

LUTHERAN CHURCH

— Missouri Synod —

P.O. Box 155
10583 US Highway 169
Garrison, MN 56450

To Those Loved by Christ:



2015



Shepherd of the Lake

LUTHERAN CHURCH

— Missouri Synod —

Email Addresses:

Pastor's e-mail: pastor.sotllc@mlecmn.net

Secretary's e-mail: sotllc@mlecmn.net

Phone Numbers:

Pastor's #: 320-630-3811

Church's #: 320-692-4581

WINTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Education Hour: 8:30 a.m.

Sunday Divine Service: 10:00 a.m.

Fellowship Hour: 11:00 a.m.