



THE SHEPHERD'S CALL

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF SHEPHERD OF THE LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

January 2016

Vol. 10

No. 01

The Word of God to Sanctify the New Year

Have you ever wondered why we Lutherans are so peculiar? I recently had a conversation with someone who was comparing the way Scripture is used in Lutheran worship services to the way it is used in other Protestant worship services. Their contention was that Lutheran sermons tend to be shorter with less Scripture while sermons in other traditions tend to be longer with more Scripture. In other words, why are you Lutherans content with less Scripture in worship and preaching? Of course, they ignored the fact that the Lutheran liturgy is taken entirely from Scripture.

My response was twofold, though I should have said something about the liturgy. First, Lutherans, based on their biblical confession that the Spirit works through the spoken Word, understand a sermon to be a direct address from God to His people through a pastor who is called and ordained by God and authorized by the written Word of God to say and do certain things, such as forgive and retain sin, by the power of the Holy Spirit. In other words, the sermon is aimed at bringing something about in the hearers, namely, repentance and faith. Not every tradition understands the sermon this way. Most see it is a time of teaching for the sake of learning. Second, Lutherans study Scripture more deeply in something called Bible class. So, there is a distinction with an important difference in terms of the content and aim of these two different events. We try to let sermons be sermons and Bible study be Bible study. Without separating them completely, sermons are aimed at delivering the Word while Bible classes are aimed at teaching the Word. This distinction, however, makes it absolutely necessary that Lutherans be in Bible study. Unfortunately, far too many Lutherans allow the Sunday sermon to suffice for their time in Scripture for the week. What happens to the plant that isn't watered or the coal that is taken out of the fire? It's the same with disciples and the Word of God (Romans 10.17).

Since we are talking about Lutherans, we should hear what Martin Luther has to say about this. He makes the following comments in His *Large Catechism* in the section on the Third Commandment: "Because so much depends on God's Word that no holy day is sanctified without it, we must realize that God wants this commandment to be kept strictly and will punish all who despise his Word and refuse to hear and learn it, especially at the times appointed. Therefore this commandment is violated not only by those who grossly misuse and desecrate the holy day, like those who in their greed or frivolity neglect the hearing of God's Word or lie around in taverns dead drunk like swine. It is also violated by that other crowd who listen to God's Word as they would to any other entertainment, who only from force of habit go to hear the sermon and leave again with as little knowledge at the end of the year as at the beginning. Remember, then, that you must be concerned not only about hearing the Word, but also about learning it and retaining it. Do not think that it is up to your discretion or that it is an unimportant matter. It is the commandment of God, who will require of you an accounting of how you have heard, learned, and honored his Word."¹

Luther is strong on this point. Luther-*ans* should be strong on this point. Be in the Word. When we are in the Word and put it into practice we and our days are set apart and sanctified. That is true not only for each new day, but also for this New Year. May we all obey God's command this New Year and trust His promise that His Word does not return empty, but accomplishes the purpose for which He sends it (Isaiah 55.10–11).

In Jesus, the Word made flesh,

Pastor Rusnak

¹ Kolb, R., Wengert, T. J., & Arand, C. P. (2000). *The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church* (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press): 395–399.

January 2016 Monthly Worksheet



THIS MONTH'S ELDER

Jerry Scherfenberg
218-678-2648



USHERS

Bob Rubbelke
Barb Scherfenberg



FELLOWSHIP SERVERS



03rd
10th Dennis & Sheila Anderson
17th
24th Voter's Potluck
31st



Many thanks to all who volunteer their time, talents and treasures for all the various functions at Shepherd of the Lake. Our congregation depends on your participation! **Volunteers are needed in the coming months to serve as fellowship servers.** Please check the bulletin board if you are able to help. If you sign up and something comes up, please find someone else to serve for you and let the Church Office know about the change. Thank you!



CHURCH OFFICERS

Pastor: Rev. Jonathan Rusnak
President: Ken Stokes
Vice-President: Bob Wandersee
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

This Month's Birthdays!

03rd Jan Sorell
05th Arleen Johnson
09th David Raddatz
10th Ruth Hughley
11th Vicki Kocina
12th Mike Raddatz
Rev. Matt Ruesch
13th Duane Posner
15th Russ McLaughlin
19th Terry Thorson
22nd Bernice Ranallo
24th Steve Kocina
27th Darwin Beck



27th McKayla Smude

In an effort to support and build one another up to the glory of God (Romans 15:1-7). We need your help in making sure that our birthday and anniversary lists are correct, if you find any error please let Sue Raddatz, our church secretary the correct information so that she can update her files and make the corrections. If you would like your birthday and/or anniversary date included, please let the secretary know. Thank you!



Welcome
to Our Church

SOTL News for January 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 for Bible study!

Sunday Morning Bible Study meets each week at 8:30a.m. This month, we are studying *Bible On Trial: Beyond A Reasonable Doubt*.

Bible Breakfast meets at 8:00a.m. on Wednesdays at McDonald's. We are currently reading through 1 Kings.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study meets at 9:30a.m. We are studying *Lutheran Doctrine and Practice Today*.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study will be meeting at 7:00p.m. and will also be studying *Lutheran Doctrine and Practice Today*.

Please watch the bulletins for updated information on each Bible study.



Office Hours: Pastor is available throughout the week for pastoral care and counsel. The Church Secretary is in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:30am to 1:30pm. The Church office will be closed on Fridays.



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.

God Answers Prayers



SUNDAY SCHOOL: We have around a dozen children between our two Sunday school classes this year. Thanks to everyone who is involved in this important ministry.



For Project 24
 Received to date
 (11/15/2015):
 \$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



Spread the Word



Rides Available

RIDES FOR HEALTH: The Cancer Support Center, Inc. provides transportation to anyone of any age in 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.



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.



RECYCLING ALUMINUM CANS: We are accepting all donations of empty and recyclable aluminum cans to support our Sunday school program. Please bag the cans and bring the bags to the trailer beside the garage. Thanks!



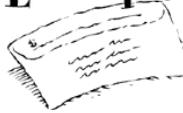
2016 YEARLY BOOKLET: We are redoing the yearly booklet and hope to have it all done and ready to hand out at the Quarterly Voters' Assembly in January. If any of your information has changed, please let the Office know so that all information in our records are up to date. If you have any information you would like to keep private, please let us know in the office and we won't publish the information. Your help is appreciated!



THANK YOU TO ALL: Thanks to everyone who served fellowship this past year. We wouldn't have Fellowship Hour without you!



Offering Envelopes



2016

OFFERING ENVELOPES:

You will find the new 2016 offering envelopes in the Fellowship Hall. Please pick your up. If you don't find an envelope box and would like them please let the church secretary know and she will get you set up. If you don't wish to receive them please let us know and we will remove your name from the list.



EMERGENCY CLOSING:



Emergency closure of the church and cancellation of worship and other events as a result of bad weather will be decided by Pastor and the Elder of the month. Emergency closures and cancellations will be broadcasted on KKIN 94.3FM Aitkin and KLKS-104.3FM Breezy Point.



LWML UPDATE: The LWML group will not be meeting in January or February. Please watch for more updates next month.



EPIPHANY SERVICE: We will be having a Divine service with the Lord's Supper on Wednesday, January 6th at 6:30 p.m. We hope to see you.



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.





ALTAR FLOWERS: A new 2016 Flower Chart has been put up on the bulletin board. Everyone is welcome to bring flowers for the altar. If you would like to do so in commemoration of a person or occasion, please contact the church secretary so that we can recognize the commemoration in the Sunday bulletin.



TAKING DOWN DECORATIONS: On Sunday, January 3rd following Fellowship, we will be taking down the Christmas decorations. We appreciate all the help that we can get with this project.



QUARTERLY VOTER'S ASSEMBLY: Our next Voters meeting will be on Sunday, January 24th. We will have a Potluck luncheon after morning services followed by the Voters meeting. We hope to see you there. You will find a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for the potluck.



PORTALS OF PRAYER: The new Portals of Prayer booklets are available and can be found on the table in the narthex. Please take one for yourself and one for someone else.



LABELS PROGRAM: LWML is collecting Campbell's soup labels, GM box tops for education, milk bottle caps, cancelled stamps, and pop can tops. They collect these items and give them to the different organizations who use them. The VFW will take used stamps but they ask that you keep a quarter of an inch of the envelope with them. If you have any questions, please contact Marge Berndt or Elaine Drahosh.



GARRISON CAREGIVERS: The Food Shelf and Thrift Store in Garrison are looking for help during the winter months with the snowbirds gone. This is a great way to help our community. Please prayerfully consider serving.



COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: As you know it is a "free will" offering basket on the counter during the Sunday morning fellowship. The purpose is to help defray the various kitchen expenses, such as purchasing coffee, creamer, sugar, etc. This money is not used for the special donuts, cookies, cakes, etc. These items are provided by the servers on that Sunday. We ask that the people serving fellowship please take home whatever leftovers there are. Thank you!



CHRISTIAN CARE PROGRAM: This program is to help members who are sick, hurt, coming home from the hospital, or just can't get out. The LWML will come to your home and bring a little something, it could be a small container of hot dish, soup and crackers, stew, bread or buns, sandwich makings, cookies or bars, fruit (canned or fresh) maybe even some homemade jams and jellies. If you know of anyone in need of this program, or if you would like to get more involved with this program, please contact Elaine Drahosh or Marge Berndt.



INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS: We will be installing the 2016 elected Church Officers on Sunday, January 3rd during our Worship service. Please come and welcome them. Thank you to all who served the church in 2015 your involvement was greatly appreciated.



QUILTING AND KNITTING RETREAT: Lutheran Island Camp is having a Quilting and Knitting Retreat January 19-24, 2016. Cost includes lodging, brunch, and supper each day. Please check out the bulletin board for more information.



UPDATING MAILBOXES: The Church secretary, Sue Raddatz will be updating the church mailboxes in January, please check for the changes.



**SHEPHERD OF THE LAKE LUTHERAN
CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2016**

Pastor: Rev. Jonathan Rusnak
President: Ken Stokes
Vice President: Bob Wandersee
Recording Sec.: Elaine Drahosh
Treasurer: John Kinzel
Financial Secretary: Barb Scherfenberg
Board of Ed.: Marie Nelson
Julie Rusnak
Lauren Rogers
Roxanne Rasmussen
Board of Elders: Dennis Anderson
Steve Lawrence
Gaylord Ryg
Jerry Scherfenberg
Board of Evangelism: Jessica Collison
Lauren Rogers
Messena Smude
Jim Stigen
Bruce Sundberg
Board of Trustees: Larry Collison
David Drahosh
Doug Feltmann
Randy Feltmann
Stewardship Comm: Bill & Linda Alleman
David & Elaine Drahosh
Doug & Sandy Feltmann
Church Secretary: Sue Raddatz



A recipe from...

NANCY'S CHINESE SURPRISE
From the kitchen of: *Nancy Grzybowski*

1 (16 oz.) pkg. Coleslaw 2 pkg. Ramen noodles
1 c. Honey Roasted Peanuts
3 Green Onions (chives), chopped

Dressing:
1/2 c. Vegetable Oil 3 - 4 Tbsp. Rice Vinegar
3 Tbsp. Sugar Pinch of Salt & Pepper

Blanch Ramen noodles. Put dressing in microwave for 20 seconds. Cool before adding to salad. Combine coleslaw, onions, and Ramen noodles and pour dressing over the salad. Right before serving, add the honey roasted peanuts. Serves 8.



CRANBERRY CHICKEN
From the kitchen of:
In Memory of Lauralee Klein

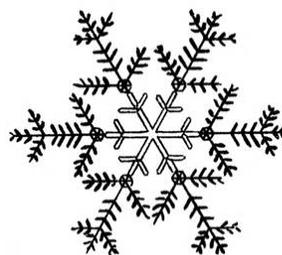
6 Boneless, skinless Chicken
1/2 c. Raisins
1 (16 oz.) can Whole-berry Cranberry Sauce
1/4 c. chopped Walnuts
1 large Tart Apple, peeled and chopped
1 tsp. Curry Powder (I omitted, did not have any)

Place chicken in 9X13 inch baking dish coated with "Pam", Bake, uncovered, at 350° for 20 minutes.

Meanwhile, combine the remaining ingredients. Spoon over chicken and bake, uncovered, for 25 to 30 minutes longer (or until chicken is done).



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.*





Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church Garrison, MN



January 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 8:30AM-Bible Study & Sunday School 10AM-Divine Service w/LS 11AM-Fellowship Hour 11:30AM-Take Down Decorations	4 9AM-Circuit Pastors 7PM-Brd of Elders Meeting	5 	6 8AM-Bible Breakfast @ McDonalds 9:30AM-LifeLight 6:30PM-Epiphany of Our Lord Service w/LS 7PM-Evening Bible Study	7	8	9
10 8:30AM-Bible Study & Sunday School 10AM-Divine Service 11AM-Fellowship Hour	11	12 12:30 p.m.- LWML Board Meeting 1:00 p.m.- LWML Meeting	13 8AM-Bible Breakfast @ McDonalds 9:30AM-LifeLight 7PM-Evening Bible Study	14	15 	16
17 8:30AM-Bible Study & Sunday School 10AM-Divine Service w/LS 11AM-Fellowship Hour	18 	19 9AM-Board & Committee Meetings 10AM-Church Council	20 8AM-Bible Breakfast @ McDonalds 9:30AM-LifeLight 7PM-Evening Bible Study	21 Feb. Newsletter Articles Due	22	23
24 8:30AM-Bible Study 10AM-Divine Service 11AM-Voter's Luncheon Quarterly Voter's Assembly	25	26 Printing Feb. Newsletter	27 8AM-Bible Breakfast @ McDonalds 9:30AM-LifeLight 7PM-Evening Bible Study	28	29 	30
31 8:30AM-Bible Study & Sunday School 10AM-Divine Service w/LS 11AM-Fellowship Hour						

Mission 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:



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.