

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd (ELCA)
1325 North 45th Avenue East, Duluth MN 55804-1507

January 2015

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“Oncology in Advent”

Bonnie Thurston is a biblical scholar, a spiritual director, and a cancer survivor. She wrote this poem in response to her own and her husband’s journeys with cancer (“Oncology in Advent,” p. 40 in *The Cancer Poetry Project*, 2001). I am touched by how honestly she asks the hard question of cancer and of life: Where is God? I am encouraged by the strength of her answer: God is with us! This question and answer take us to the heart of not only Advent and Christmas, but also to the depth and height of all times, not least the new year.

As I write this we are still 10 days short of the solstice. I long for the return of light, even a few minutes each day. Where is God in the darkness? As I write this our community is journeying through Advent with fresh experiences of light and darkness, oncology and birth, life and death. Where is God in all of this? Mindy Beaudry has written an eloquent testament of faith on the occasion of her mother Pat Solem’s funeral. She concludes: “My God is right here with me . . . I do not walk alone.”

As you read this we will be entering the new year, full of the ultimate question for each of us: Where is God? As a community centered on Christ, we know the answer: God is with us! Hear the words of Bonnie Thurston:

Where are You
when diseases maim and kill
not quickly and cleanly,
but with messy tendentiousness?

How am I to see you here
unless, perhaps, as Emmanuel,
a fellow sufferer,
bald and trembling.

May you feel the presence of God with us!
Pastor Dave

Congregational Forums

You are invited to congregational forums hosted by the Vision Council at 10 am (between Sunday worship services) on January 4, 11 and 18.

The purpose of these forums is to provide an opportunity for conversation on the proposed Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions that will be presented at the Annual Meeting on January 25.

Copies are available online at our website (www.lcgsduluth.com) or in the church office. Discussion will also include the Proposed Budget for 2015, as well as any questions, suggestions and affirmations that you would like to raise.

The forums will be held in the Upper Lakeside Room. We hope to see you there!

- ◆ **January 4th 10 AM— Constitution Forum**
- ◆ **January 11th 10 AM— Constitution Forum**
- ◆ **January 18th 10 AM— Budget Forum**

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD MISSION STATEMENT:

*A Community of Christ
Experiencing God † Reaching Out † Nurturing Faith*

WHAT'S NEXT?

Calling all high school Juniors and Seniors!

What's your plan?

What are you going to do after high school?

What are you going to do the rest of your *life*?

My guess is, you're starting to hear these questions A LOT! And, my guess is, you might be starting to worry about those questions, too!

Join Katie and Pastor Tim for a great conversation:

Wednesday, January 28th

7:30 – 9:00 pm

We can't promise to answer those questions for you. But, we will talk about "Where is God in all of this?" After all, God has a plan for your life, right?!

We've never done anything like this before, but we'd like to offer a place for students to come and learn, share, and question. Contact Katie or Pastor Tim for more information!

JOYFUL NOISE IS BACK!

Joyful Noise Choir resumes Wednesday night rehearsals from 7-7:30 pm beginning February 11th, 2015. Join our email updates to receive the full schedule by contacting Christa at christa.overson@gmail.com. We welcome 5th through 12th graders.

WOMEN AND YOUTH

We are planning a special chorus of "Eatmemen Vuelie (Fairest Lord Jesus)" to be sung on Feb. 8 for both worship services. Join with the women of the choir and the Joyful Noise for rehearsals Jan. 14, 21, 28 and Feb. 4 from 7:00 - 7:30pm. in the choir room.

Good Shepherd Choir

We have openings in our Choir. If you enjoy singing in a fun and relaxed atmosphere contact Debbie Sanders at debra.k.sanders@icloud.com for details and rehearsal times. Experience is not necessary!

Snow Cancellations

We will use our weekly email and our Facebook page to announce weather related closings at LCGS.

If you are not already receiving emails, text "LCGS" to 22828 to be added to our email list. Please take a moment to "Like" our PAGE at facebook.com/lcgsduluth



A Note of Thanks

Dear, Pr. Mesner and the people of Good Shepherd,

On behalf of the Lake Superior Conference of the N.E. MN Synod, I'm writing to thank you for hosting the lectionary overview of The Year of Mark & John this month.

We give thanks for your gifts of insight and teaching for your gifts of insight and teaching and how you so faithfully incorporate worship and companion synod accompaniment experiences into our dwelling in the Word.

God's rich blessings to you at the dawn of a new church year!

In Christ,

Dave Carlson, Dean

Music, Drums, Culture, and History of Modern Cuba

Sunday, January 11, 2015

3 - 5 PM

at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd



Join Duluth percussionist and educator Andrew Turpening as he gives an informative presentation about Cuba, its rich musical and cultural heritage, and its fascinating modern history.

There will be a suggested donation of \$5.

2015 Giving Envelopes are available for pick up in the Gathering Space. If you contribute to Good Shepherd through Thrivent Simply Giving electronic program, there will not be giving envelopes for you. If you do not yet have envelopes and wish to use them, please contact the church office. *Thank you!*

HUNGER NOTES

Our Hunger Team is enjoying a relative calm before their campaigns take off in March.

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK—As Spring approaches, each year we highlight an opportunity to contribute funds to Second Harvest Food Bank as part of the matched funds appeal through the Feinstein Foundation.

MN FOOD SHARE—As March nears we will also support the Minnesota Food Share Program.

We will have specific details and opportunities to donate “as you are able,” in future newsletters and Sunday Announcements.

WORLD HUNGER—In recent years, we challenged our members during Lent to meet a goal for donations for World Hunger. Each year we are humbled by the generosity of our membership. This year, we will be combining our appeal with the current Honduras Ministry and tie

in our appeal with the spring visit from some of our Honduran brothers and sisters.

WATER & NEEDS— To maintain our theme of Water and Needs, we will be supporting the current Companion Synod approach of three areas of ministry which are; health, in regards to water sanitation and education, long range Kindergarten development programs and spiritual teaching.

WATER—Donations for this Lenten season will help purchase personal Water Filtration Systems. The filters are made and bought in Honduras.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, visits, phone calls, altar flowers and prayer shawl that I received during my recent hospitalization and rehabilitation at Lakeshore. I appreciate them all. God’s Blessings to you all.

—Anita Jones.

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

Classes will be held January 27, February 3, and February 10 from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. We will welcome the group on New Member Sunday February 22. Child care is available upon request. Please call the Church Office to Register 218-525-1922.



New Member Class

BELL RINGING

Christmas is the time when The Salvation Army has the greatest opportunity to do the most good. The Red Kettle campaign is their largest fund raising event. THANK YOU everyone who helped - the Weber & Jahn families, Susan & Pat Sage, Terri & Sarah & Amy Maki, Jay & Cathy Kreft, the Venberg's, the McIntosh Family, Grace Monson, Bill Kovala, Roger & Helen Munson, the Jeff Kreager Family, the Kerola's , Dick & Barb Skogg, Amy Lemenager & friends, Laurie Seidelmann & friend, Linda Susens, Kathy Kreager, Marcia & Mary Semerau. We covered 20 hours at Cub Foods! People were richly blessed as a result of your generous contribution of time and for your giving spirit during this very busy time of year.

COOKIES+ OUTREACH

Many thanks to Kathy Kreager for motivating a great group of bakers to make cookies for the Visitation Team to take to our congregation's homebound members, CHUM, Twin Ports Seafarers, and the St. Louis County Jail for their holiday celebrations. Over 167 dozen treats were delivered!!

GIVING TREE

With grateful hearts we thank Cathy Kreft and her daughter Heather Kerola and all who gave to the Giving Tree. Through their time and your generosity we provided dozens of gifts for families in need in our community.

CHUM

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Thank you for your gifts to CHUM! We are grateful you have chosen to support us and the important work we do in the Duluth community. With your help, we continue to provide basic necessities to the men, women and children who come seeking assistance. Your gifts will support the Backpack program, the Food Shelf and our work of providing better lives for our neighbors whether that is through food, shelter or giving them a voice. —CHUM

Advent & Christmas Music

Thank you to all the children and adults who have offered their talents during the Advent and Christmas Season. Our worship is enriched by your offering. We are grateful for your time and your talent.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, January 4th – No Sunday School

We hope our dedicated volunteers have enjoyed our little “Christmas Break”

Sunday, January 11th – Come Back for Camp Sunday!

Meet Camp Staff! Sing Camp Songs! Play Camp Games! And, 3rd-6th Graders can sign up for the Elementary Retreat! (March 6-7, but space is limited!)

Sunday, January 18th – Family Sunday School: Cinnamon Roll Day!

Fresh baked cinnamon rolls for everybody!

Sunday, January 25th – Annual Meeting / Annual Movie Day!

As parents attend the Annual Meeting Upstairs in the Sanctuary, children will attend our Annual Movie Day downstairs in the Lower Lakeside Room.

CONFIRMATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday, January 7th – Confirmation Parent/Family Night

6:00 in the Fellowship Hall

Please make sure a parent or other caring adult is present this Wednesday! We will be sharing important information about the rest of the Confirmation Year! And, there will be time for family learning/conversation.

January 9th – 11th – Confirmation Retreat!!!

Led by our Peer Ministers at Camp Hiawatha! Always the highlight of our Confirmation year! We'll be sharing more information and logistics on Jan. 7th

Please hold our Confirmation Students, Peer Ministers, and Adult Leaders in your prayers – especially during this special retreat time.

Worship Attendance

November 30	151
December 7	286
December 14	445



CHURCH BUSINESS

Church Office



ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION & ENDOWMENT FUND ANNUAL MEETING

The Endowment Fund Annual Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Congregation are scheduled for **Sunday, January 25, 2015, at 9:45 AM.**

ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE

Leadership team and committee chairpersons, please have your annual reports emailed to Patti (office@lcsduluth.org) by the end of December if possible or Monday, **January 5** at the latest. Finance reports are due as quickly as possible in January. Thank you!

2014 CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions intended for the 2014 tax year must be postmarked on or before **Wednesday, December 31, 2014**, or dropped off at church before the office closes at noon on Wednesday, December 31, 2014. No exceptions can be made due to IRS Regulations.

Regular Hours:
Monday ~ Thursday
9 AM to 4 PM
Friday
9 AM to Noon

Limited Hours:
New Year's Eve
Dec 31 - 9 AM to Noon

Closed:
New Year
Jan 1 - Jan 2

FAITH @ HOME

Prayers for Snow Days and Cold Days

As I write this newsletter article, there haven't been any snow/cold days canceling school – yet! But it is winter, and I'm sure these days are coming! When those snow days come, here are some simple prayers and Bible verses for all ages to think more deeply about a day off from school...

God thank you for all the fun things that I can do today. Thank you for my mind and body and my ability to play.

“This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” – Psalm 118:24

God thank you for this special day off of school. Please be with those who can't stay at home today. Keep them safe.

“The Lord will keep you from all harm – he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going, both now and forevermore.” —Psalm 121:7-8

God thank you for my home. Thank you for the roof and walls that protect me from wind and snow. Please be with those who don't have a home today.

“But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

— Joshua 24:15

God, thank you for the extra time to rest and relax. My life is pretty busy, but today I can relax. Teach me to rest in You all throughout the year – not just on snow days.

“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work... For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.”

— Exodus 20:8-11

Dear God, your creation is so beautiful! You created the earth and all that is in it – snow and trees and sunshine. You even created every snowflake to be unique. Help me enjoy your beautiful creation today!

“May you be blessed by the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.”

—Psalm 115:15

—Katie Rich

Director of Youth and Family Ministries



If you would like us to pray for a specific concern, please call the office at 525-1922 and your request will be shared with others who care about your needs and believe God will hear and answer. If you have a prayer request emergency and it is after church office hours, you are invited to call Karin Lemenager at 721-4332.

PRAYERS FOR HOSPITALIZED PERSONS shared with the Prayer Chain (and in the Prayers of the Church) will begin with “God knows the names of all for whom we pray...” unless permission has been granted by the hospitalized individual or a family member of the individual. This is in keeping with our Privacy Policy. If you have questions/ comments regarding this policy, please feel free to discuss it with one of the pastors.

Good Shepherd randomly prays for all its members. During these weeks we are keeping the following in our prayers:

Jan. 4	Lisa & Jeff Jarvela, Jack, Annika and Reid; Peggy MacDonald; Laurel & Bill Pagel; Susan & Pat Sage
Jan. 11	Jody & Bruce Jensen, Zachary and Nicholas; Audrey Madson; Amy & Jeff Packer, Elizabeth and William; Anita Saline
Jan. 18	Barb & Bill Jahn, Jessica, Brandon and Eric; Lois Maine; Saundra & Buzz Palmer; Nancy & Rick Sall
Jan. 25	Carolyn & Chris James; Karen & Bill Majerle; Margaret & Michael Palmer; Debra & Craig Sanders

Prayer

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world would giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

— John 14:27

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

Worship service at 8:45 AM & 11:00 AM

Office Hours: M-Th • 9AM-4PM; Friday • 9AM-Noon

Phone: 218-525-1922 · Website: www.lcgsduluth.com

MEET the STAFF

Pastor Dave Mesner, Lead Pastor
(home) 218-529-9715

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Pastor Tim Berdahl, Pastor

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Katie Rich, Director of Youth & Family Ministry

218-525-1922

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Patti Hallback, Office Manager

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Jessica Hehir, Communications Coordinator

218-525-1922

email: communications@lcgsduluth.org

Gordy Nyenhuis

218-525-1922

email : custodian@lcgsduluth.org

Beth Lee, Treasurer

218-525-1922

Kayla Hoeft, Nursery Director

218-525-1922

Music Team:

Linda Turpening, Organist

218-525-1922

email: linda@archdirect.com

Debbie Sanders, Good Shepherd Choir Director

218-724-9065

email: debra.k.sanders@icloud.com

Christa Overson, Joyful Noise Director

email: christa.overson@gmail.com

Ailie Davidson, Sing & Ring Leader

218-525-1922

February
Newsletter
Deadline:
January 15