

The Good Shepherd's Fold

DECEMBER 2017/JANUARY 2018



ADVENT DINNER

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

POTLUCK DINNER 5:30 PM

**BRING A DISH AND COME ENJOY THE
FELLOWSHIP**



ADVENT MID-WEEK WORSHIP

DECEMBER 6, 13 and 20

**5:30 PM—DINNER
7:00 PM—VESPERS**

**CHRISTMAS EVE
MORNING WORSHIP
SUNDAY, DEC. 24 9:00 AM**

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE
LIGHT SERVICE
7:00 PM**

**CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP
10:00 AM**

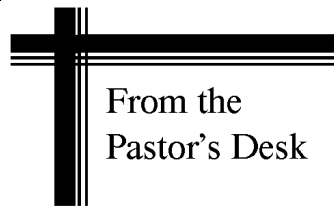


**MANY HELPING HANDS
BLESS THE NEEDY
EVENT AT GSLC**

**SATURDAY, DEC. 2
10:00 AM**

**Winter Essentials-Clothing,
Food, Hygiene Items &
HOPE**

See inside for details



From the
Pastor's Desk

"Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven." Mark 13:26-27

For the first time since 2006 we will gather for worship on Christmas Eve first in the morning and then again later in the evening. This year the days of the month fall in such a way that December 24th is both the Fourth Sunday in Advent and Christmas Eve. It is a little unusual but it has happened plenty of times before. I find it interesting though that this year some congregations have been debating about how to deal with this set up. Should they have worship in the morning and in the evening or should they just simply gather in the evening for the Candlelight Service? Years ago folks never pondered such things but in these days it seems most everything is on the table for discussion.

What doesn't seem to be discussed very often though is the coming of the Lord at the end of time. The season of Advent is both a time of watching and waiting for the return of Jesus as well as a time of preparation for the celebration of the Nativity, the birth of Jesus at Christmas. Needless to say no matter how hard we might try the main focus remains on the celebration of Christmas. Now there is nothing wrong with that one bit. However we have been called by Jesus in the Gospel to prepare our hearts, minds, bodies, and souls for his long anticipated and hoped for triumphant return.

Throughout these days of Advent preparation and Christmas celebrating perhaps we can set aside some time to reflect upon how we are to prepare for the coming of Jesus at the end of the age. This may be a challenge what with all the festivities and merriment taking place but it really could be good for our spiritual and devotional life. Maybe this year the contemplative and thought provoking nature of our Sunday and Wednesday worship in Advent will allow and encourage us to take a fresh look at how our preparations for the last day are going. If so you may be surprised to see how this renewed focus on Christ's return might actually enhance your celebration of His birth at Christmas.

In Christ,

Pastor Brad Carroll

SUNDAY ADULT EDUCATION

December 3 & 10 "Bethlehem Year Zero"
December 17 "Rick Steves' European Christmas"

There will be no classes on December 24 and 31.

MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY

The Tuesday and Wednesday Mid-Week study for the months of January and February will be on the Books of Daniel; Matthew; Acts; Ephesians; Colossians; 1 Timothy and James.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

“Why Did the Chicken Cross the Road? Or everything changes....”

As we moved from November to December, we also ended the liturgical year and started a new year at the beginning of Advent on December 3rd. Colors in the church change from green to blue. Blue is the color of hope. The season of Advent is not a season of rest as we might wish, but is full of opportunities to worship and share our thoughts as we prepare for the celebration of the birth of our Lord on Christmas.

We will start December with a “Bless the Needy” event given by Many Helping Hands on Saturday, December 2nd. They are requesting clothing items that are new or that have been gently worn for those in need.

This will be followed by the “Elders Annual Dinner” on Sunday December 3rd. After dinner we will have an opportunity to sing Christmas carols.

On the Wednesdays of December 6, 13 and 20 supper will be served beginning at 5:30 followed by Advent Vespers at 7:00 PM.

On Christmas Eve we change the color of the church from blue to white. White calls to mind the purity of the newborn Christ, and our light and joy in Him.

With Christmas Eve falling on Sunday, we will have the opportunity to celebrate both at the regular worship service at 9:00 AM and then gather again to celebrate the great anticipation of Christ's birth on Christmas with our annual Christmas Eve candle light service. The service is open to all with plenty of music and time for quiet reflection about Christmas and its meaning individually. The Christmas Eve Service will start at 7:00 PM.

Christmas Day service will be held at 10:00AM.

We start the new calendar year with the installation of a new council and board of Elders on January 14, 2018. With the new Church Council and Board of Elders, I am confident that this new Church Council and Elders will provide guidance for the congregation through 2018.

Starting on January 14th, we change colors again as we move from the Christmas Season to Epiphany which is accented by green - a symbol of growth. It is a time for growth in every Christian as we start anticipating traveling toward Lent.

Now on a personal note.... With the start of the New Year, it is time to “Cross the Road because Everything Changes.” As 2018 begins, we will have a new President and Church Council leading Good Shepherd through the upcoming year. I know that they will do a great job with the continued support from the congregation. I know that I will be doing my part to support their efforts...

This is the last letter that I will be writing for the “Fold” as my term of office ends. I am confident that Art will share his thoughts with us in the upcoming months.

The last three years have been very rewarding for me as President as I have continued to learn more about the inter-workings of the different areas of Good Shepherd, the Synod and even the national church. Every year has brought me new insight on the talents and energy that this congregation possesses. Like all of the past 52 years that I have been a member, this congregation continues to rise to the occasion as the need presents itself. Each of the past three years has been different but each has afforded me the opportunity to become more acquainted with the membership and to be sensitive to the individual needs of members.

Good Shepherd has remained focused on our Mission Statement: “Nurtured by God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we joyfully share God's word of love and forgiveness.” With our belief in this statement and the support that you have shared with me, I realize how blessed Sharie and I are to be members here at Good Shepherd.

Albert Einstein stated, “There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.” At Good Shepherd we believe that everything is a miracle and a gift from God.

God bless each of you,
Fred La Vail, President



MANY HELPING HANDS

A Big Thank You to anyone who donated in any way to the October Fundraiser. Monies raised came to \$15,439.00!

WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE AND BLESS THE NEEDY EVENT SATURDAY DECEMBER 2

**DONATIONS FOR MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN ARE NEEDED BY
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1ST AND MAY BE BROUGHT TO THE
CHURCH ON THAT DAY BETWEEN 4 AND 7PM. OR EARLY ON
DECEMBER 2ND.**

**ITEMS THAT ARE ESPECIALLY NEEDED ARE GENTLY USED BLANKETS;
SLEEPING BAGS; BACKPACKS; WARM CLOTHING; SHOES/BOOTS; COATS;
GLOVES; SOCKS; UNDERWEAR; HATS/SCARVES AND HAND/FOOT/BODY
WARMERS. ALSO NEEDED ARE HYGIENE ITEMS.**

ON-GOING FOOD & HYGIENE ITEMS AND SUPPLIES NEEDED

Bottled water, Vienna sausage, tuna packets, pudding, fruit cups, fruit snack packets or fresh fruit, granola bars, cheese/peanut butter crackers, individual peanut/chip packets, other snack items like individual cookie packs, juice boxes and anything else that you think would be great for a sack lunch kit. Boxes of plastic ware (forks, knives, spoons), napkins and brown paper sacks. Additional needs are for men's and women's razors; shave cream; deodorant; toothbrushes and small toothpaste; combs; mouth wash; shampoo; soap; band aids; men's and women's socks and men's size medium underwear.





Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Women Piecemakers



Great news! According to the most recent LWR tracker system report, at least some of our quilts were recently shipped to Georgia, a country located where Europe meets Asia, in what used to be part of the Soviet Union. Our school kits were shipped to Bosnia, a country located on the Adriatic Sea, which is struggling to recover from years of war. It is exciting to see the final home of the fruits of our labor which are touching so many lives across the globe. This is a wonderful example of "God's Work, Our Hands!"

We truly appreciate those of you who stepped up to the plate to purchase the final supplies we were lacking! We are now able to fill all 63 school bags which are currently in some stage of production. As previously noted, this is very significant, because these school kits fill a critical need in many impoverished countries. In addition to these kits, we currently have 55 quilts in some stage of production! We are truly on track to exceed our expectations!

We meet in the quilting room on the first and third Mondays of the month from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and will resume meeting Wednesday evenings from 7:15 – 8:30 in January 2018. Everyone who is interested in participating in this important ministry is welcome! We look forward to seeing you, as your schedule allows! For further information you can contact Sharon Josefy @ 972-986-8321 (home), 972-951-7995 (cell), or djosefy@verizon.net.

Sharon Josefy



GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Officers: Art Schneewind (President), Tony Hazelwood (Vice President), Mark Fox (Treasurer), Clarence Stieg (Financial Secretary), Betty Glendye (Secretary)

Council Members and Committee Chairs: Frank Wolfenbarger, Ed Halter, Lydia Eckert (Worship), Marilyn Potter (Discipleship), Don Heyden (Property), John Lukert (Fellowship), Linda Krampitz (Education), Georgia Carmody (Outreach)

ELDERS

Ardie Schneewind, Tom Jenkins, Anita Nigrin, Marcel Lund

Church Phone: 972-790-2121 • Church Fax: 972-790-4396

Church email: mail@gsclcirving.com • Church website: www.gsclcirving.com

Rev. Bradley T. Carroll, Pastor • btcarroll@gsclcirving.com
Cathy Gribnitz, Parish Musician • cagribnitz@gsclcirving.com

Mission Statement:

*Nurtured by God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
we joyfully share God's Word of love and forgiveness.*



DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

Fred LaVail	12/02
Taylor Jenkins	12/05
Dean Herdman	12/09
David Krampitz	12/09
Cheryl Heebner	12/11
Pastor Brad Carroll	12/24
Don Heyden	12/26
Gerhard Sass	12/27

JANUARY CELEBRATIONS



Georgia Carmody	01/06
Jackie Baxter	01/13
Sylvie Jenkins	01/16
Louise Sass	01/20
Debra Gebhardt	01/21



ANNIVERSARIES

Marcel & Izumi Lund	12/29
---------------------	-------

ANNIVERSARIES

David & Sandra Phillips	01/06
-------------------------	-------

IF YOUR BIRTHDAY OR ANNIVERSARY IS MISSING, IT MEANS WE DO NOT HAVE THIS INFORMATION ON FILE. PLEASE NOTIFY THE OFFICE SO WE MAY ADD IT TO THE LIST.

WORSHIP SERVERS



DEC. 03

Acolyte: April Stieg

Ushers: Anita Nigrin, Clarence Stieg,
Art Schneewind, John Lukert

DEC. 10

Acolyte: Jessica Krampitz

Ushers: Ed Halter, Betty Glendye,
Debi Gebhardt, Jenni Harvey

DEC. 17

Acolyte: Emily Stieg

Ushers: Sharon Josefy, Tony Hazelwood,
Don Josefy, Elsie Kroussakis

DEC. 24—CHRISTMAS EVE DAY

Acolyte: April Stieg

Ushers: John Mikkelsen, Lydia Eckert

DEC. 31

Acolyte: Jessica Krampitz

Ushers: David Krampitz, Lola Dean,
Georgia Carmody, Marilyn Potter

JAN. 07, 2018

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Acolyte: Emily Stieg

Ushers: Anita Nigrin, Clarence Stieg,
Art Schneewind, John Lukert

JAN. 14

Acolyte: April Stieg

Ushers: Ed Halter, Betty Glendye,
Debi Gebhardt, Jenni Harvey

JAN. 21

Acolyte: Jessica Krampitz

Ushers: Sharon Josefy, Tony Hazelwood,
Don Josefy, Elsie Kroussakis

JAN. 28

Acolyte: Emily Stieg

Ushers: John Mikkelsen, Lydia Eckert

**ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICES—ART SCHNEEWIND, ARDIE SCHNEEWIND,
ELSIE KROUSSAKIS, CLARENCE STIEG**



REMEMBER IN PRAYER



Current Prayer Concerns

Scott Hazelwood, Becky and Dan Bellar, Michael, Tasneem Dean,
Betty Cunningham, Joey Hinrichs, Larry Ebert, Robert Nelson,
Julie Stanley, Molly Johnson, Brittany, Frank Edison, Eva Dintamen,
Colton, Wilbur Graham, Allison Family

Ongoing Prayer Concerns

Curtis and Martha Dane, Greg Dane, Thelma Trojan, Oswald Hoffman,
Brian Sele, John Eckert, Linda Sims, Karl Gutzke, Dana Beth Harvey,
Mary Ann Nichols, Robyn Rorschach, Sue Stewart, Rodney Sims,
Steve Lund, Sandy Mashon and Rachel, Terry McClure, Joseph,
Nancy, Acie

If you would like to add a prayer request to this list, please write your request on the forms in the Narthex or Fellowship Hall and place them in the prayer boxes. New prayer requests will remain on the Prayer List for 4 Sundays unless otherwise requested. You may also add prayer requests at any time by calling the church office or by sending an email to prayers@gslcirving.com.

PLEASE LET THE CHURCH OFFICE KNOW WHEN TO REMOVE A NAME FROM THE ONGOING PRAYER LIST.



Blessed are those who die in the name of the Lord.

Our sympathy and prayers to William and Martha Balusek on the passing of LaVerne on September 29th.

Our sympathy and prayers to Martha Schelp on the passing of her brother-in-law Armond Schelp on November 13th.

Our sympathy and prayers to Luther Dube and family on the passing of Nell on November 17th. Luther and Nell were former members of GSLC.

Rest eternal grant them O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon them.



PHONE DIRECTORY UPDATE



A new phone directory will be printed in January. Please let the church office know as soon as possible if you have a change in phone number or email.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

If you would like to pick a Sunday to provide cookies, donuts or coffeecake for the Fellowship time after Worship please sign up on the sheet located on the counter in the kitchen.

DISCIPLESHIP COMMITTEE

MOSAIC'S MISSION: "Embracing God's call to serve in the world, and advocate for people with intellectual disabilities and provide opportunities for them to enjoy a full life."

The MOSAIC Group Home is in need of the following items if you would like to donate:

Towels (Hand and Bath)
Pillows(2 per room)
LED light bulbs
Toilet Paper
Baking Pans
Disinfectant Spray

Sheets (Full-size)
Clothing
Batteries
Paper Towels
Freezer Bags
Trash bags

and

Gift cards to grocery stores (Wal-Mart, Kroger, Target).

If you have any questions speak with Marilyn Potter.

Thank You

Dear GSLC Congregation,

Thank you all so very much for the \$20 cash and the \$25 Mardel's Gift Card. These things have really helped in building a fun, positive, and safe environment in my classroom. I am also incredibly thankful to call all of you family. Each and every one of you are a true blessing to me (and my family). Thank you for your continued love, support, and prayers. They mean the world to me. There just are not enough words to truly express how blessed and grateful I am for all of you.

❤️ **Sara Stieg**

Martha Schelp says thank you so very much for all the prayers; calls; cards and visits. She really misses the fellowship of her church home. Martha's new address and phone number:

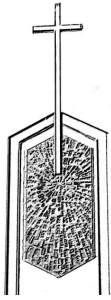


**The Villages on MacArthur
3443 N. MacArthur, Room 702
Irving, TX 75062**

PHONE: 972-600-8978



"With All Our Thanks For Your Thoughtfulness. We really appreciate it!" Thank you to Jean Stieg for all of the time and effort put into making the beautiful baby blankets and to all for the amazing things you do for our babies The babies will love the blankets! Love and God Bless You, The Nursery Nurses



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

2620 West Grauwyler Road

Irving, Texas 75061-4243

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Worship & Study

Communion Service Sunday 9:00 am

Adult Education Sunday 10:30 am (Sept.—May)

Phone: 972-790-2121

Website: www.gslcirving.com

