



# The Shepherd's Voice

Serving Rockland County, NY, & Northern Bergen County,

DEC.' 14/JAN.' 15

Reaching and Risking to Welcome the World in the Word that has come among us in Jesus Christ.

## CHRISTMAS AT GOOD SHEPHERD

### CANDLELIGHT ORGAN/PIANO ADVENT MEDITATIONS

Wednesdays: Dec. 3, 10, 17 - 12:30-1:00 pm

### ST. NICK COCOA FUN DAY CELEBRATION - DECEMBER 6th

Christmas activities for Pre-K thru 4th Grade - 2:00-3:30 p.m.

### WHITE GIFTS PRESENTATION - DECEMBER 7th - 10:30 am

Sunday Church School children present White Gifts at 10:30 service.

### SEASON OF PRAISE SACRED CONCERTS @ NOON - DECEMBER 7th - 12:00 pm

Christmas Cantata—Sanctuary Choir

### ST. LUCIA CELEBRATION & CELEBRATION, CHRISTMAS PARTY - DECEMBER 7th

Sponsored by the Stenland Lodge No. 727 in Fellowship Hall - 2:00 pm

### H2O CHRISTMAS CAROLING - DECEMBER 13th

3:00-5:00 pm

### WHITE GIFTS DELIVERED - DECEMBER 14th

Senior Youth deliver White Gifts to Bronx Lutheran Churches

### WORSHIP SERVICE WITH CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT - DECEMBER 21st

10:30 am Worship Service/Christmas Pageant

### SERVICE OF WHOLENESS AND HEALING - DECEMBER 21st

with the theme of "The Longest Night," 5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary

### CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES - DECEMBER 24th

4:30 p.m. Family Service with Pageant

8:00 p.m. Festival Communion Service

10:00 p.m. Festival Communion Service

(special music will precede each service by a half hour)

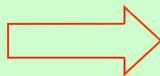
### CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE - DECEMBER 25th

10:30 am Service of Holy Communion

### FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS - DECEMBER 28TH

8:15, 9:30 and 10:30 am Services

**NEW TIMES**



**The Evangelical Lutheran  
Church of the Good Shepherd**

112 North Main Street  
Pearl River, New York 10965

**OUR MISSION**

**“Welcoming the World in the  
Word that has come among us  
in Jesus Christ”**

**WORSHIP SERVICES**

Sundays: 8:15, 9:30, 10:30 a.m.

**SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICES**

Sundays: 9:30 a.m.

**CONTACT US**

Church Office: (845)735-2243

Fax: (845)735-0819

E-mail: [office@gspr.org](mailto:office@gspr.org)

Web site: [www.gspr.org](http://www.gspr.org)

Creative Play Pre-School: (845)735-2737

**AT YOUR SERVICE**

The Reverend Henry Morris, Interim Pastor  
Ione Mensing - Diaconal Assisting Minister  
Richard Struck - Council President  
Robert Bergman - Treasurer  
Maureen Connolly - Creative Play Director  
Dale Damon - Church Secretary  
Steve Damon - Bookkeeper  
Brenda Ferguson - Organist/Director of Music  
Kathleen Harpster - Parish Program Director  
Tim Kellogg - Director of Youth, Family &  
Education Ministries  
Dagmar Klein - Church Administrator  
Jeanette Kunow - Superintendent of  
Sunday School  
John Lampkin - Composer-in-Residence  
The Reverend John R. Taylor - Pastor Emeritus

**LIFE STATIONS**

**BAPTISMS**

Skyler Raven Riemenschneider  
Phoenix Jagger Riemenschneider

**date**

11/2/14  
11/2/14

**DEATHS**

Barbara Smellegar  
Robert Schwarzler  
Florence Zannetti

**date**

08/03/14  
10/29/14  
11/12/14

**GENERAL MEMORAIL FUND**

In memory of James MacRobbie, given by Ed & Donna Lundgren

**ALL IN THE FAMILY**

Congratulations to Jeff, Dawn and big sister Katherine Bergman on the birth of their daughter (sister), Vivian, on November 18th. Proud grandparents are Bob and Diane Bergman.

**Voice Publication Deadline**

Items to be included in *The Shepherd's Voice* must be submitted to the church office by **January 9th** for the February 2015 issue. Electronic submission (e-mail) is preferred. Articles submitted after the deadline may not be published, due to space and time restrictions. Please e-mail articles to: [secretary@gspr.org](mailto:secretary@gspr.org).

**GET YOUR COPY OF THE “VOICE” E-MAILED....**

It will be exactly the same *Voice* that you've been receiving through the mail, but delivered via e-mail instead. That way you receive your copy faster, and we save on mailing expenses. To sign up for the e-*Voice*, send an e-mail to [secretary@gspr.org](mailto:secretary@gspr.org), as well as the e-mail address you'd like us to use.

**COMMUNICATION REQUEST**

We would like to establish a new email distribution list that would enable us to notify folks of an event that is happening at Church, between Sundays, such as a funeral or weather-related meeting cancellation. If you would like to be notified, please fill out your name, cell # and email address and return it to the Church Office, drop this form in the offering plate, or go to this link to sign up: <http://eepurl.com/Y5XKf>.

Thank you!

NAME:

\_\_\_\_\_

CELL # (for text message reminder)

\_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL:

\_\_\_\_\_

FOR UP-TO-DATE CALENDARS,  
GO TO [WWW.GSPR.ORG](http://WWW.GSPR.ORG)

Each Winter, as the Year Grows Older ELW 252



*Each winter, as the year grows older, we each grow older too,  
The chill sets in a little colder, the verities we knew seem shaken and untrue.*

It is not an accident that we celebrate Christmas at the darkest time of the year. In ancient times people grew fearful and sad each year as the nights got longer and the days got colder. In our times, we call this seasonal affective disorder (SAD), but the remedy is the same: turn to the light.

*Yet I believe beyond believing that life can spring from death,  
That growth can flower from our grieving, that we can catch our breath and turn transfixed by faith.*

The birth of Jesus is God's guarantee that the light returns and cannot be overcome. Our celebration of Christmas is an active embracing of the Light in the face of darkness. We turn to the Lord, who is our light.

*So even as the sun is turning to journey to the north,  
The living flame in secret burning, can kindle on the earth and bring God's love to birth.*

It is not enough to think happy thoughts. We must make merry, we must take action to promote good cheer. We have parties, sing songs, and in our worship sing the hopeful, happy tunes that turn our hearts to God.

Henry Morris, Interim Pastor

## WELCA—Women of the ELCA

Hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and are looking forward to a Blessed Christmas.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:30 PM in the parlor. This will be our Christmas "party." We plan to have a Grab Bag. If you wish to participate, bring a wrapped gift. Try to keep it in the price range of \$10.00 to \$15.00. We will have some entertainment, wonderful refreshments and fellowship time.

We are once again, going to put together Health Kits for LWR. Following is a list of items to include:

- 1 52 x 27 (approx) dark color bath towel
- 2 Bath-size bars of soap in original wrap
- 1 Adult toothbrush in original wrap
- 1 Sturdy comb, remove packaging
- 1 Metal nail clipper, remove packaging

Wrap items in the towel and tie with ribbon or yarn. Do not enclose kit in plastic bag and please do not add or delete any of the listed items. A bin will be placed in the entrance of the educational building, after Christmas, to deposit your kits. We have had much success in the past and hopefully we can continue this.

If you have any questions or need a ride to the meeting, please call Barbara Bow at 845-215-5866 or Mary Iseman at 845-623-7638.

## CREATIVE PLAY NEWS



The children at Creative Play are getting excited for the Christmas holidays. All the classes are busy making a special "child-crafted" gift for their families. Our musical friends Beth & Scott will be entertaining the children with a special performance filled with music and laughter. Throughout the month of December, Creative Play invites its families to share the true meaning of the holiday by participating in two special sharing opportunities. Our annual **Giving Tree** is decorated with the donated hats, scarves and gloves from our Creative Play families. In conjunction with the church, we also invite our families to bring a white wrapped Christmas gift that will be distributed to the families of St. Peter's, in The Bronx. What a wonderful way to share in the true meaning of this blessed day.

Our Creative Play classes resume on January 5, 2015, and we will start our registration for the 2015-16 school year. If you are an alumni or church member, applications are available in the school office. If you know anyone with a 3-or-4 year-old, tell them to call the school and set up a tour of our wonderful program. We will be hosting an Open House on Saturday, January 24th, from 12:30-2:00.



### GOOD SHEPHERD'S BOY SCOUT TROOP 36 WREATH AND GRAVE BLANKET SALE

Boy Scout Troop 36, sponsored by Good Shepherd Church, will be selling Christmas wreaths (\$20) and grave blankets (\$30).

The wreaths and blankets are beautifully hand-decorated by the Scouts, with natural evergreens, pine cones, a red bow, and seasonal decorations. The Troop wishes to thank the congregation for their past generous support of their annual fundraiser. Order wreaths and blankets beginning early November by signing the sign-up sheet in the entrance of the church, or call Scoutmaster Bob Klein at 845-624-3216. Ordered wreaths can be picked up on Nov. 30th and Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>. Additional wreaths will be for sale on these dates, as well. If you need your wreaths before Thanksgiving, please call the Scoutmaster to make arrangements.

### Food, Faith & Friends Meets Tuesday, December 16, beginning at 6:30 PM

*Food, Faith & Friends* will hold its **Annual Christmas Celebration** meeting on **Tuesday, December 16** from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the home of Rich Bowman in Nanuet. We cordially invite you to join in this opportunity to meet new people, share a little about our faith journeys (including your questions), sing some Christmas carols, and eat a meal together. Child care is available if you let us know in advance. Bring yourself, an open heart, an open mind, and an appetite! For more information or directions to Rich's home in Nanuet, please contact Rich Bowman at [rpbb@yahoo.com](mailto:rpbb@yahoo.com) or (845) 627-6967, or contact Kathleen Harpster in the church office at [kathleen@gspr.org](mailto:kathleen@gspr.org).

### **ON SUPERBOWL SUNDAY (Feb. 1st)** **LET'S HAVE A**



Starting January 11<sup>th</sup>, we will be collecting cans of soup to fight hunger in our community. With all the snacking and feasting we enjoy while watching football, let us share with others, and fill the shelves of *People to People*.



### January 11, 2015 — A chance to start the New Year by giving the gift of life!



As a blood donor, you help meet the daily transfusion needs of cancer and surgery patients, accident and burn victims, newborns and mothers delivering babies, AIDS and sickle cell anemia patients, and many more. If you don't feel comfortable giving blood, consider assisting the New York Blood Center in one of the following ways: Make phone calls to past donors (list and script provided), or put posters up around town (posters provided).

On January 11<sup>th</sup>, volunteers are needed throughout the day to assist with donor escort and at a canteen. This year's annual Pearl River Interfaith Blood Drive will be held on January 11, 2015, from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, at Pearl River High School. Please consider helping save a life!

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTING**



*During the holidays, our hearts are opened to those in need. At Good Shepherd, we offer these suggestions as possibilities for you to choose from. Doing this as a family activity is a teaching tool, living out the joy of giving to others.*

1. **White Gifts** – On December 7<sup>th</sup>, we will collect gifts for children, wrapped in white paper and noted with age/boy/girl, and dedicate them at the 10:30 service. On December 14<sup>th</sup>, these gifts will be taken by our youth to the children in The Bronx. – *sponsored by Youth/Sunday Church School*
2. **Project Joy** – Collection of gifts for needy families (determined by *People to People*) Chart will be available Nov. 23rd and Nov. 30th – gifts taken to *People to People* on December 7th - *sponsored by Social Ministries*
3. **Mitten Tree** – Mittens, scarves, hats for children in Appalachia – *sponsored by Creative Play*
4. **Gifts for teens in Psychiatric Hospital** - PJs, T-shirts, sweatshirts and pants, games (other items will be provided on list in coat room) – *Pat Hoffman*
5. **Monetary gifts for Needy Families in The Bronx** – *The Men's Group*
6. **People to People Food Pantry** – especially during the holidays, there is need for filling the shelves of the pantry - *sponsored by Social Ministries*
7. **Lutheran World Relief:** – Lutheran World Relief works with local partners to provide lasting solutions to poverty, injustice and human suffering. They are working in refugee centers, providing health and financial aid in areas affected by disasters, drought, ebola, and wars, by providing shelter, quilts, and kits. Give: [www.lwr.org](http://www.lwr.org); call: 800-597-5972 or mail to Lutheran World Relief, P.O. Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21297
8. **God's Global Barnyard** – Buy an animal for a needy family at: [www.elca.org/ELCA/eCards/Categories/Gods-Global-Barnyard](http://www.elca.org/ELCA/eCards/Categories/Gods-Global-Barnyard) or pick up a gift card available in the office.
9. **Buy your Christmas Gifts from SERRV International** – This organization works with artisans across the globe, by marketing in a just and direct manner – beautiful items are found on their website: [www.serrv.org](http://www.serrv.org)

### **FROM OUR PARISH PROGRAM DIRECTOR**

It's early November as I sit to write this December *Voice* article. By the time you read this, we will have shared a church potluck and Annual Meeting, hosted the Interfaith Thanksgiving Observance, and joined in fellowship while making our Advent Wreath. In just a few weeks, we will celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior. While we hustle to and fro gathering gifts, attending parties, and preparing food, God's generosity is easily missed.

The red, gold, orange, and green that adorn the trees enhance my drive to and from Good Shepherd. The Palisades Parkway is a living mural with subtle changes as the days go by. Over these past weeks, many of us were blessed as we spent time with family and ate delicious food. Following that great meal, were you lucky enough to climb into a nice warm bed? Did you notice God?

God's generosity is present not only in these tangible gifts, but also through the blessings of grace, forgiveness, and eternal life. As our awareness of God's generosity grows, our gratitude leads us to joyfully give. Paul described the Macedonians as "begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints." May we too recognize the sharing of our time, talents, and treasures as an opportunity to worship our loving God who sent His only Son.

Kathleen Harpster

### **How's Your Stewardship Life Going?**

The Reverend Greg Rickel, an Episcopalian Bishop in the State of Washington, states the following, as to what stewardship means to him:

*Stewardship is all that I am, and all I do with what I have been given, after I say "I believe."*

Paraphrased, Bishop Rickel is saying that once we say we believe, and sincerely, actively, and daily seek to do God's bidding as responsible stewards of all we've been blessed with, to the best of our abilities—then we are faithful stewards indeed.

Our Christianity, our Christian faith, is not determined by just speaking those words, "I believe." That is not enough. Real faith involves doing, and is meaningful only when those words become reality, in lives of faithfulness and response.

### **How's Your Stewardship Life Going?**

**Stenland Lodge No. 727,  
Vasa Order of America  
an Educational, Cultural  
and Fraternal Organization**

invites you to their  
**Annual Lucia Celebration  
and Christmas Party  
at Good Shepherd Church**

Fellowship Hall  
Sunday Dec.7, 2014, at 2:00 p.m.  
Refreshments will be served  
Requested Donation \$8.00  
Children under 16 are free.

For Information: Contact Ingrid Allison at [ingridallison@optonline.net](mailto:ingridallison@optonline.net)  
or 845-425-1574

## SERVICE OF WHOLENESS AND HEALING (Longest Night)

DECEMBER 21st, 5:00 p.m.



There are many moments in our lives when we need comfort. There are tough times when we yearn for consolation. The suffering people who looked for the long-awaited Messiah were given a hope-filled image of God in the writings of Isaiah. It expresses the belief that no matter what happens to us, God will be there to comfort and support us. Christmas can be a time for many when they are in need of that reassurance and comfort.

For those people, the approaching Christmas holiday does not bring with it the joy and happiness that is advertised on television or in greeting cards. Christmas can be a painful time.

The constant refrain on the radio and television, in shopping malls and churches, about the happiness of the season, about getting together with family and friends, reminds many people of what they have lost or have never had. The anguish of broken relationships, the death of loved ones, the insecurity of unemployment, the weariness of ill health, the pain of isolation—all these can make us feel very alone in the midst of the celebrating and spending. We need the space and time to acknowledge our sadness and concern; we need to know that we are not alone. Holy Communion will be received today, continuously, at the center aisle of the chancel. In Holy Communion, those baptized into Christ's death and resurrection receive the real presence of Christ, with his true body and blood, in, with and under the forms of bread and wine. We are drawn to his sacrament with this understanding and receive forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. Please receive the host in the palm of the hand. Today, we receive the wine by intinction, dipping the host into the chalice. After receiving, please return to the pew using the aisle on your side of the sanctuary. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available on the trays on either side of the aisle, in front of the first pew. If you are unable to come forward but would like to receive communion, please inform an usher and communion will be brought to you in the pew.

In recent years, many churches have attempted to reach out to people who feel such burdens by adding "Longest Night" services to their worship offerings for the entire community. These services have a more quiet, somber feel than a traditional Christmas worship service. Scripture, music and meditations focus on the comfort God offers during dark times.

**The Service of Wholeness and Healing, with the theme of "The Longest Night," will be held Sunday, December 21, at 5 p.m., in the Sanctuary.**

## **HSG: High School Group Spotlight**

The HSG met for games and a planning meeting recently; everyone had some wonderful ideas to share, and events that they want to happen. I am happy to report that most of their ideas were service ideas to help others! Deb Thaler and I are very excited to work with these amazing high school youth as we continue to plan events with them for the year, and see what other exciting project ideas they come up with! We encourage all high school-age youth (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) to come to the events, and help our numbers grow! The more the merrier!

Deb Frederick

**December 2014**

# Youth Happenings

## **Learning & Service:**

Confirmation meets monthly for grades 6-8 and holds four family sessions a year. All Confirmation sessions take place **Thursdays from 7-8 pm, in Fellowship Hall.**

6<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation meets December 4<sup>th</sup>

7<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation meets December 11<sup>th</sup>

8<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation meets December 18<sup>th</sup>

Acolyte Training will be held Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, from 8-8:45 pm, in the Sanctuary. This training is for youth scheduled to acolyte between December 21<sup>st</sup> – January 4<sup>th</sup>, who have not received training or have served as an acolyte fewer than five times. Visit [gspr.org/worship](http://gspr.org/worship) to view our Acolyte Training video.

Family Bible Study for Confirmation students who are unable to attend their monthly learning session and families who desire to attend, will meet, Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Children/youth and their accompanying parents will spend an hour discussing a passage from the Gospel of Luke. RSVPs are necessary to participate. Please RSVP by Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> if you and your child plan to participate.

SCS: Sunday Church School Christmas Pageant will be held Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, at noon, in the Sanctuary. You do not want to miss this wonderful rendition of the Christmas story presented by our Sunday School children. Final rehearsals will take place on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am, in the Sanctuary, and Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 11 am, in the Sanctuary.

SCS: Sunday Church School White Gift Collection and Presentation will take place on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. We will collect gifts for children. Please wrap the gift in white paper, note with appropriate age and whether it is for a boy or girl. These gifts will be presented by the Sunday School children at the 10:30 service. The following Sunday, these gifts will be distributed to churches in The Bronx. Thank you for your spirit of giving this Christmas season and for being a light of joy to others in need.

HSG: High School Group White Gift Delivery to the Bronx on, Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. Times will be announced via email and Cross Connections in the Sunday bulletin. Our 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders will be taking the white gifts that were presented by the Sunday School to The Bronx. This is a great opportunity for high school youth to serve the wider community and express the love of God in a season of giving. Contact [tim@gspr.org](mailto:tim@gspr.org) by December 7<sup>th</sup> to RSVP.

The Upper Room plans to do its traditional **Christmas Visit to Shut-Ins** on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, from 1-3:30 pm. 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade youth and adult volunteers will pay a visit and deliver homemade gifts to shut-ins. A pizza lunch will be provided prior to the visits. More details to come via email newsletter. Contact [tim@gspr.org](mailto:tim@gspr.org) by December 14<sup>th</sup> to RSVP.

Christmas Eve Family Service and Pageant has a new start time of 4:30 pm on Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. But, that's not all the news we want you to know for this service. We need the help of committed adults to organize our Christmas Eve, live-action reading. We also need kids who will be available to read or act out the living nativity story. Adult volunteers will have the experience and guidance of our Christmas Eve Pageant Liaison, Joanie Hampton, to assist them with them with preparations. Please contact Tim Kellogg ([tim@gspr.org](mailto:tim@gspr.org)) for more details on this wonderful opportunity.

## **Fellowship:**

St. Nick: Cocoa Fun Day Celebration for J-Crew (PK-4<sup>th</sup> gr.), Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, from 2-3:30 pm, in Fellowship Hall. Come for a delightful celebration. We will learn about St. Nick, share our joy with others, and have a cocoa fun day! This is a time for fun, and a way to reinforce the love and heart of giving during this Christmas season, for our younger participants.

H2O (5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> gr.) presents, Caroling at the Promenade **Saturday**, December 13<sup>th</sup>, from 3-5 pm. Participants will meet in Fellowship Hall. 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade youth will gather together to prepare Christmas ornaments and sing carols for residents of the Promenade Senior Living center; sharing the joy of the season with others. More details will be provided via email newsletter.

HSG Christmas Party (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> gr.), Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, following the White Gift Delivery. After returning from the Bronx, the HSG will enjoy a Christmas Party. More details will be provided via email newsletter.

**January 2015****Learning & Service:**

# Youth Happenings

Confirmation meets monthly for grades 6 – 8 and holds four family sessions a year. All Confirmation sessions take place **Thursdays from 7-8 pm in Fellowship Hall.**

6<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation meets January 8<sup>th</sup>

7<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation meets January 15<sup>th</sup>

8<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation meets January 22<sup>nd</sup>

Acolyte Training will be held Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, from 8-8:45 pm, in the Sanctuary. This training is for youth scheduled to Acolyte between December 21<sup>st</sup> – January 4<sup>th</sup>, who have not received training or have served as an acolyte fewer than five times. Visit [gspr.org/worship](http://gspr.org/worship) to view our Acolyte Training video.

Family Bible Study for Confirmation students who are unable to attend their monthly learning session and families who desire to attend, will meet, Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>. Children/youth and their accompanying parent will spend an hour discussing a passage from the Gospel of Luke. RSVPs are necessary to participate. Please RSVP by Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, if you and your child plan to participate.

SCS: Sunday Church School Fellowship Day (PK-K) will take place on Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, during the SCS hour. PK-K students will have a special opportunity to do a collaborative activity and have a unique learning experience. Parents are invited to help and observe. Activities will be led by adults and Confirmation students who signed up to help with these events. Contact [tim@gspr.org](mailto:tim@gspr.org) if you are interested in helping with this event.

## **Fellowship:**

Youth and Family Snow Tubing at Campgaw Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, from 5-8:30 pm. Participants and their families are invited to enjoy a fun and exciting evening of Snow Tubing. This is a can't miss event for fun and fellowship for youth 42" tall-8<sup>th</sup> grade. If you've never done this before, make this your first snow tubing experience. Riders must be at least 42" tall and will need to complete release forms that are in addition to our event permission slips. \$24 per person gets you 2 hours of endless tubing awesomeness. Contact [tim@gspr.org](mailto:tim@gspr.org) to RSVP/drive by January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Detroit Youth Lock-In Saturday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 pm-Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at 8 am. Detroit-bound youth will begin their team building journey with a lock-in. This event will include fellowship, fun, Detroit-related activities, and an HSG selected service project. More details to come via email newsletter. Detroit Youth should RSVP by December 23<sup>rd</sup> to participate. Please send RSVPs to [tim@gspr.org](mailto:tim@gspr.org).

HSG (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> gr.) Snow Tubing at Campgaw Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, from 5-8:30 pm. This high school exclusive evening of Snow Tubing is part of the many great additions described in the HSG Spotlight insert. If you've never done this before, make this your first snow tubing experience and invite your friends from Good Shepherd. Riders must be at least 42" tall and will need to complete release forms that are in addition to our event permission slips. \$24 per person gets you 2 hours of endless tubing awesomeness. Contact [debfrederick@rocketmail.com](mailto:debfrederick@rocketmail.com) to RSVP/drive by January 17<sup>th</sup>.

## **Season of Praise** **Music @ Noon Sacred Concerts**

Music for your spirit... 30 minutes of praise and thanksgiving, offered to God in the serene beauty of our sanctuary.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23 CHRIST THE KING CONCERT: Renaissance Camerata & Canzona Youth Orchestra**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 SEASON OF PRAISE: Advent/Christmas Cantata - Sanctuary Choir & Friends**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: Sunday School Children - Directed by Michelle Zaro**

**WEDNESDAYS, DECEMBER 3, 10, 17 Candlelight Advent Organ/Piano Meditations 12:30-1:00 pm**

<b>WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24</b>	<b>4:00 Prelude</b>	<b>The Organ School</b>
	<b>7:30 Prelude</b>	<b>Renaissance Camerata &amp; Canzona</b>
	<b>9:30 Prelude</b>	<b>Evening Bells</b>



## Good Shepherd's Online Giving Option

Did you know that Good Shepherd Lutheran Church has a safe and secure online option for making offerings? Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account. Our electronic giving program, called **eOffering**, provides convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. Good Shepherd's eOffering website is regularly monitored through a Security Metrics® Site Certification vulnerability scan, for the safety of your personal data.

If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, by using eOffering you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. Plus, when travel, illness, or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, eOffering will continue your weekly offerings on an uninterrupted basis to help Good Shepherd Church meet its weekly expenses. *eOffering also enables you to make other donations electronically, such as special offerings for Christmas, Easter, Music Outreach, Benevolence Support, World Hunger, Buildings & Grounds, Missionary for a Day, etc.* You can even change your donation or discontinue eOffering at any time. In addition, you always can donate by check or cash for other special offerings & events.

### Setting up an account or updating an existing account is easy:

Go to the church's website: [www.gspr.org](http://www.gspr.org)

Look for the box below on the bottom left hand side of the church's webpage, go to "Give" and click on "eOffering."

#### **Email: Contact**

- Call: 845-735-2243**
- Join Us: New Members**
- Give:: eOffering**
- Visit Us: Facebook**
- Find Us: Directions**

If you don't already have an account, click on "Click here to create a new profile," click on the "Create Profile" tab and follow the directions to create a user name, password, and enter your profile and account information.

If you already have an account and would like to add to or change your contribution, log in with your user name and password and select "Edit" for your

Scheduled Transaction, or add a new transaction.

For more information or for assistance with setting up your eOffering account, please contact **Rich Bowman** at (845) 627-6967. Thanks for your support!



Thank you to Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for providing the church office with several copies of their 2015 calendars. As always, this is greatly appreciated!!



### **MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP**

Good Shepherd's Men's Breakfast Group meets on the third Saturday of every month at 9:00 am in the Church Parlor. The December breakfast will take place on the 13th. All men of Good Shepherd are invited to join us for fellowship and a great breakfast!



## **Message from the Council President – Annual Meeting Results!**

Good Shepherd held its 2014 Annual Meeting, along with a Church 'Potluck' Luncheon, on November 16th, in Fellowship Hall. From all reports, most everyone enjoyed the new format, the positive spirit and the amazing array of wonderful food provided by congregation members!

We immediately posted the results of the Annual Meeting on the Good Shepherd website and our Facebook page so they would be available to all. In case you missed seeing these, here they are:

1. The December 2014 – November 2015 budget passed. We will now proceed with a budget of \$520,351, beginning December 1st.
2. We needed a quorum of 28 voting members. We had a quorum of 63 voting members, from nearly 100 actual attendees!
3. The Budget Vote was 56 in favor, 6 opposed and 1 abstention, an 89% vote in favor.
4. We had a very positive meeting, with many participants, many questions, and discussion and dialog on budget matters and church programs. Our spirit was also uplifted by the great variety of delicious food served at our luncheon!
5. 6 Council Members were elected; Rob Bayer to his 2nd 4 year term, Janet Maleski to her 1st full 4-year term, James Cleary to his 1st 4 year term, Christine Dingler to her 1st 4-year term, Wendy Gates to a 2-year unexpired term and Carole Meehan to a 2-year unexpired term. New Council members begin their service in January 2015. The Church Council now has its full complement of 16 members.
6. 4 Delegates were elected to represent Good Shepherd at the May 2015 Synod Assembly: Barbara Bow, Jayne Knarich, Herman Mensing and Rick Struck.
7. 6 Members were elected to serve on the 2015 Council Candidate Nominating Committee: Lynn Beers, Robert Bergman, Carol Dyer, Deb Frederick, Steve Habina and Ken Merring.
8. The coming budget year will be a challenge, but Good Shepherd has always met this challenge. With everyone pitching in, our church life will continue to enrich our own and be a growing and effective instrument for Christ's message to the world!

Many, Many Thanks to everyone who worked so hard on this all-new approach to an Annual Meeting!! Thanks go to Council, staff, volunteers, cooks, set-up/clean-up people, singers, AV coordinators, vote counters and our wonderful Interim Pastor Henry for all that you all contributed to this wonderful day!!

Richard Struck  
Council President

## **OUR Cupboards are Bare!.....And the Need is Still There!**

### ~ Shopping List ~

Cereal or Oatmeal  
Canned Juice & Juice Boxes  
Canned Vegetables  
Canned Chili & Beef Stew  
Individual Fruit Servings  
Soup (Dry & Canned)  
Beans (Dry & Canned)  
Pasta (All Varieties)  
Macaroni & Cheese (Boxed)  
Flour, Rice & Sugar  
Tomato Sauce & Tomato Puree Tuna Fish  
Mayonnaise (Regular & Reduced Fat)  
Cooking Oil (in plastic bottles)  
Peanut Butter & Jelly  
Parmalait & Powdered Milk

### ~ Other Needed Items~

Diapers (all sizes)  
Shampoo & Conditioner  
Toothpaste & Toothbrushes  
Feminine Hygiene Items  
Toilet Paper & Tissues  
Deodorants & Lotions

(Our food bin, for donations, can be found at the entrance to the Education Building)





**ORDER FORM**  
**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA FOR ALTAR**  
**ON CHRISTMAS EVE**

Deadline for order: December 7, 2014



In Memory of:

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In Honor of:

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Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (suggested donation \$10)