



**CELEBRATING  
CREATIVE PLAY'S  
50TH YEAR**

# The Shepherd's Voice

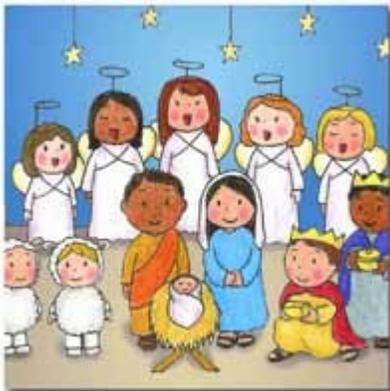
Serving Rockland County, NY, & Northern Bergen County, NJ

Dec. 2018/Jan. 2019

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

## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT GOOD SHEPHERD

- December 2** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent worship at 8:00, 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.  
St. Lucia Celebration & Christmas Party sponsored by Stenland Lodge No. 727 in Fellowship Hall & Sanctuary, 2 p.m.
- December 5** Wednesday Holden Communion Service, 7:15 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.
- December 9** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent, worship at 8:00, 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.  
10:30 a.m.—White Gifts Presentation by Sunday Church School  
11:30 a.m.—St. Nick Celebration in Fellowship Hall. All are invited.
- December 12** Wednesday Holden Communion Service, 7:15 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
- December 16** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent, worship at 8:00, 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.
- December 19** Advent Cantata—by Sanctuary Choir, Wednesday, 7:15 p.m.
- December 21** Longest Night Worship Service, Friday, 7:15 p.m.—Fellowship Hall
- December 23** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent, 8:00 a.m. Holy Communion Service, 10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Christmas Pageant
- December 24** Christmas Eve Services: Monday, 4:30, 8:00, and 10:00 p.m.
- December 25** Christmas Day Service: Tuesday, 10:30 a.m.
- December 30** Christmas I: Sunday, 10:30 a.m.



**Good Shepherd Christmas Pageant**  
**SUNDAY, December 23<sup>rd</sup>**, during the 10:30am worship service.  
Enjoy hearing and “seeing” the story of Jesus’ birth, led by the children of the congregation, and sing many of our beautiful carols of faith!



**Advent Cantata, Adult Choir,  
Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:15pm**



**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**

Sundays: 8:00, 9:00, 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesdays: 7:15 p.m.

**CONTACT US**

Church Office: (845)735-2243  
Fax: (845)735-0819  
E-mail: office@gspr.org  
Web site: www.gspr.org  
Creative Play Pre-School: (845)735-2737

**AT YOUR SERVICE**

The Reverend J. Lena Warren - Pastor  
Don Widmayer - Council President  
Robert Bergman - Treasurer  
Brian Burns - Director of Music  
Elaina Burns - Organist  
Maureen Connolly - Creative Play Director  
Dale Damon - Church Secretary  
Lisa Filatov - Bookkeeper  
Lisa Holliday - Coordinator of Faith Formation  
Dagmar Klein - Church Administrator  
Janet Maleski - Council Secretary  
The Reverend John R. Taylor - Pastor Emeritus

**Voice Publication Deadline**

Items to be included in *The Shepherd's Voice* must be submitted by January 11th, for the February 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.

**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, as well as the e-mail address you'd like us to use.

**LIFE STATIONS**

**Baptisms**

Abigail Margaret Meyersburg

11/11/18

**2018 CHURCH COUNCIL**

J. Lena Warren, Pastor  
Donald Widmayer, President  
Anthony Armenio, Vice President  
Janet Maleski, Secretary  
Robert Bergman, Treasurer \*  
Kim Arcidiacono  
Werner Boecker \*  
James Cleary  
Jake Daniels  
Wendy Gates  
Linda Hecker  
Jayne Knarich  
Deanna Lauer  
Carole Meehan  
Kenneth Merring  
Mark Olson  
Christopher Ryan  
Debra Thaler  
(\*non-voting)

**STEWARDSHIP MOMENT...**

**“God loves a cheerful giver.” Have you ever thought about that and tried to analyze your own feelings regarding giving. Well, when you discover that a more precise translation from Greek, of the word “cheerful,” is “hilarious,” the question becomes even more interesting. How many of us give with hilarity? Perhaps the ability to give with cheerfulness or hilarity is related to our motivation for giving: Grudge-giving says, “I have to.” Duty-giving says, “I ought to.” Thanks-giving says, “I want to.”**

**Author unknown**

**PRAYER CHAIN**

if you, a loved one, or a friend experience difficulty and you desire prayer support, the Good Shepherd Prayer Chain may be helpful.

When you have a request or a thanksgiving to share, please call: Ione Mensing at 201-664-1235; email: himensing@gmail.com or Carol Westphal at 845-624-5732; email: carolwestphal9@gmail.com

The Prayer Chain will then be activated, and many will be praying with and for you.

## PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION 2018

8"[Jesus] also told them a parable: "No one tears a piece from a new garment and sews it on an old garment; otherwise the new will be torn, and the piece from the new will not match the old. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the new wine will burst the skins and will be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed. But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. And no one, after drinking old wine, desires new wine, but says, 'The old is good.'" - Luke 5:36-39

"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" - 2 Corinthians 5:17

I've spent my entire ministry thinking about old and new things. I've thought a lot about the way the Church has been blessed with an incredible legacy and treasury of beautiful practices, sustaining histories, and abiding faith. At the same time, I have wrestled with the refrain that the church has to change and that it is dying and that it must be born anew for a new world. I have seen the call of the gospel to be about always being made new and I have heard the cry of the Reformers, *Semper Reformanda!* (Always Reforming), as a reminder that we never have it exactly right and that we need to always be about the work of re-forming ourselves, of re-centering ourselves in God's love for a world that is currently here.

I'm glad to know that I am not alone in the struggle with keeping old and new. The scriptures themselves seem to always be pushing to new things (take God's call in Isaiah: "Do not remember the former things ... I am about to do a new thing." - from *Isaiah 43:18-19*); at the same time, they keep bringing up the treasures of the old and Jesus himself seems to lean toward balancing the two somehow (in another parable in Matthew [*Chapter 13*] he talks about every scribe trained for the kingdom of heaven bringing out of his treasure what is new and what is old), while recognizing (especially in the parable above) that holding both old and new causes uneasy messiness.

This past year at Good Shepherd, it seems like a bit of a struggle finding the right balance. We've been experimenting with lots of new things while trying (sometimes unsuccessfully, sometimes successfully) to hold on to the true treasures of old. I have a feeling that this balancing act will continue. It's, I think, the nature of trying to be a living community of the Gospel. And, while I constantly hope that this balancing act will get easier (and I believe it will, in some ways), I have an uncomfortable feeling that it will always be harder than I would like. But, I also think that it is a worthwhile challenge because the word "treasure" is rightly applied to so much beautiful old and so much delightful new. If we are willing to try, to experiment, to be challenged by the continual tension of living out our communal faith with old and new things, I think we will all be richer for it.

Some of the tension I think our community has felt this year certainly has to do with all the funerals that have punctuated every month. So many dear members of our congregation and our extended family have died this past year. We read twenty-four names on All Saints Sunday this year. This is a whole lot of loss for a community. While I hear it's not entirely unusual around here, it's still hard. Fortunately, we've also been blessed with weddings (I've performed three this year), a renewal of vows, beautiful baptisms (we've welcome eight children through the waters of baptism), and six new members, as well. Those would be wonderful to see more of, for sure!

An area of focus has been in the area of adult education. We continue to do book groups on Thursdays and Sundays, we hold a Bible study on Thursday mornings, we have a retooled, and are regrowing the Food Faith and Friends group that meets on Wednesday nights, now over dessert and conversation. Something that we tried this summer that seemed to work pretty well was Adult Forums after Sunday worship. The classes were all independent, offering people the opportunity to come and go as they were able and interested, and we had some excellent topics, including the afterlife from the perspective of many different faith traditions by Rich Bowman, a wonderful concert on music from around the world by Elaina Burns, a great presentation from Brian Burns on the African American Spiritual, a thought-provoking discussion about the Eucharist led by Merold Westphal, a very well-attended discussion on the future of the Church (as in the whole Church, not just Good Shepherd, though the discussion certainly helped us think about impacts locally), and a lively and well-attended discussion by visitors about LGBTQIA+ and what all those letters mean. I hope to continue having adult forums on the occasional Sunday in the spring and next summer, and hopefully next fall, as well. These are really great places for us to examine our faith more deeply, to think together about different issues and how they touch our lives, and to grow in community with one another.

An area that has undergone some serious restructuring in the last couple of years has been in our Confirmation program. We've done some rearranging in order to emphasize community and relationship formation, and we've started having the youth in the program become involved in different activities around the church, so they have the opportunity to learn the full ministry of the church and find ways in which their gifts, skills, and preferences fit. As I've looked at the curriculum, I've tried to keep in mind a criticism that I read a while ago in a book on Youth Ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, which argues that we've done a great job of teaching children *about* God, but not helping them to *experience* God. What the incarnation and pouring out of the Holy Spirit teaches me is that we find God in the face of one another and in the stranger. Therefore, the changes in curriculum (and schedule) are an effort in this direction. Also, we sent out a survey to parents and youth at the end of the program year this year looking for feedback and, based on that feedback, we made additional adjustments for the fall. Confirmation is an area that is changing all over the world and we are trying to ensure that what we do helps to give our youth a faith that can grow with them through a lifetime. And so we keep trying and growing, too.

*Continued on P. 4*

Speaking of youth, this year has been a big one: we sent thirteen teenagers to the ELCA youth gathering in Houston. Watching from a distance, it looked like an incredible time and convinced me that I would really like to go with them next time. This event really helped to energize and create some great community among the “new youth” of our congregation, as so many others graduated this year and went off to college. This energy will be something to foster with more youth activities, lock-ins, and opportunities for them to get involved in the broader life of the congregation.

We've had a busy year in the way of ministry and I'm so grateful for all who have been involved in making it happen. The music ministry is certainly in the process of being rebuilt and reformed under the new vision of Brian and Elaina Burns, and the current gifts and interests of volunteers who dedicate their time. I'm so grateful for the faithful dedication of the choir, which adds so much beauty to our worship services, week in and week out. I'm thrilled that the bell choir has been able to participate more in worship and look very much forward to hearing more from them. I'm also excited that our Music at Good Shepherd concert series has gotten off the ground and would love to see more concerts next year as a way of outreach to the community and a welcome space for the arts in Pearl River. We have such amazing musical talent here and we are blessed by that presence among us.

Our Fellowship Committee is really quite new this year. It's been built on a slightly different model than in the past. Members of the committee each take on the leadership of different fellowship events throughout the year, seeking out volunteers from beyond the committee to make things happen, and they get together regularly to support each other. I think they've been doing a really spectacular job and I hope this ministry can continue to grow as volunteers step in to help out throughout the year. Special thanks to Robin Riemenschneider for heading up the committee.

Also, we've started a monthly food collection for Advent Lutheran Church in the Bronx. This is a great way that we reach out to our sisters and brothers in ministry and help our community. It is really, though, just one more of many ways that we act in service toward our neighbor. Thanks to our Social Ministry committee for all their hard work in drawing attention to different ways we can help throughout the year, and calling us to the work of loving our neighbor as we love ourselves.

A significant step in the life of Good Shepherd has been the decision to install solar panels on the roof. As, I believe, the first congregation in Rockland County to do this, we are leading the way as an example of caring for the environment and being good stewards of the resources we've been given. I've heard that so far we have 24 households that have committed to help pay for these panels; we expect to have them on the roof by the end of November. This is part of a larger project for Good Shepherd to become a more “green” church. We've updated all our lighting to LED, we're going solar, and I'm excited about the conversations that I've been having about looking for ways that we can be even greener, and help our members be greener, too.

I think the biggest change this year has been our changes in the worship schedule. In January, we switched to 8am, 9am, and 10:30am worship times on Sundays, and 7:15pm on Wednesdays. I think this has been really helpful in a lot of ways, but there are still some kinks to work out. Because of this, I've recommended to the Worship Committee and Council that, starting in January, we make a minor tweak by moving the 9am service to 9:15am. I think this will help those who find 9am just a little too early, especially in those cases where the 8am service goes longer than 45 minutes. During the summer, we plan to maintain two Sunday services: 9:15am and 10:30am, which I hope will increase summer attendance.

Speaking of next year, there are a lot of things that are in the works and ideas that we are continuing to refine and hope to get off the ground. First of all, we have already started working on a closer relationship with Beth Am Synagogue and Rabbi Pernick, in an effort to work on reducing anti-Semitism in our community. In December (December 2<sup>nd</sup> to be exact), we will have the special opportunity to have Rabbi Pernick come and preach for us at the 10:30 service, and I will be headed to Beth Am to speak on Shabbat a couple of Fridays later. Rabbi Pernick and I have also been bouncing around ideas for group learning opportunities, to learn about each other's traditions, to wrap our mind around our historic relationships, and to brainstorm together ways to make a difference here in Pearl River.

Also in the works, thanks to Wesley Pinedo volunteering and Eileen Kennedy's help and support, we're in the process of building a new website. There are also ideas down the line for more ways to connect via technology. Maybe even the development of an app! Keep your eyes out for ways to plug in to Good Shepherd and if you have ideas and expertise in these areas of technology, let me know. It would be great to build a team around these already dedicated volunteers, including those who keep our in-house tech: Rich Baumeister, Werner Boecker, and Eileen Kennedy.

Community outreach is certainly going to be a focus this year. We will continue events like Ashes to Go, the Longest Night service, and the Animal Blessing in October, as ways to reach out and invite. We are also in dialogue in working with Prince of Peace in Old Tappan and Christ Lutheran in Woodcliff Lake in getting lists of new residents to our area and sending a mailing to them, with invitations to our churches, as well as other useful information about each of our communities. Our Evangelism Committee has some really great ideas and energy. I'm looking forward to working more closely with them this year.

An activity that is coming up that I encourage you to put on your own calendar and invite friends to is the St. Nick festival, which will take place after worship on Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> along with White Gifts. There will be an extended coffee hour along with activities for children and a story time with St. Nick. It should be a great night. There is a lot of energy around regrowing our youth programming, for all ages, and so I expect to see more activities like an Easter activity and maybe next fall, we will do something fun for Halloween. Special thanks to Rich Bowman, Sharon Martini, Brielle Nostro, Jennifer Nowell, Kristen Ventry, and

Lee Warren for all their work and energy around restarting these activities for families, for revitalizing Upper Room, and for working on vitalizing a really critical part of our Church: ministries with and for youth.

In addition to these ministries for youth, we're looking at more opportunities for adults and families this coming year. There is a lot of talk about trying to put together a Couple's Retreat. If you're interested in such a function and would like to help, please let me know! And, we have the amazing opportunity next year to go to the Holy Land with Dr. Ira Spar and an interfaith group drawing from churches and synagogues in the area. This is really exciting. I also continue to think of ways to help different people within the church grow in connection with their faith. I've been batting around the idea of restarting Pub Theology on a Wednesday night, once a month. I've been working on starting a leadership development group for younger people in our congregation who seem to be our up-and-coming leaders. I've been thinking about ways to engage with our LGBTQIA+ members and visitors in a more intentional way. And, I've been thinking about starting a small group for those who wrestle with (or are uncomfortable with) doubts about the existence of God, how to be a Christian, suffering in the world, etc. I don't know what I'd call this group yet, maybe something like "Free to Doubt," but I'd like for it to be a safe space to share ideas, contemplate doubt, not feel judged or pressured to believe anything in particular, and maybe even read books like *Jesus for Atheists: Why He Still Matters in Our Secular World* by Amy-Jill Levine, and things like that. If you'd be interested in such a group, I'd love to talk to you.

My highest priority this year is greater out-reach and in-reach. I want to spend more time visiting, sending cards, praying for each of you. I want to spend more time away from my office, to get out into the community getting to better know those who are both part of and those beyond Good Shepherd's membership. I want to reach out to those whom I haven't seen in a while, or maybe I haven't even met. We have delayed updating the membership rolls for the last few years because I wanted a chance to reach out and try to be sure that everyone had the opportunity to feel heard, connected, and if this isn't the right place, given the opportunity to find another community in which they would feel welcome. As I finally find my feet here (which took longer than I wanted, for sure), I want to do more of this relationship building. I also am thrilled that there are a number of members of the congregation who are also excited about doing this work. They want to make more phone calls, send more cards, and better connect each of us to the Good Shepherd community. Expect to hear from them this year.

My second highest priority this year will be stewardship. I am continually surprised at the generosity of spirit of people here at Good Shepherd and I have no doubt that you faithfully give. I hope I can invite you, in the coming year, to think faithfully about your finances and giving. I hope we might open a dialogue about how to faithfully manage financial pressures in today's economic realities. I hope we can grow giving to the mission of the church. I want to see Good Shepherd thrive. I want to see the ministry of this church grow. I want to see more lives touched and transformed by this amazing community and beautiful place. I want to see God at work—here and through us all. The only way that can happen is if we find ways to be consistently as generous as I know we can be.

There are a few people I have not yet mentioned who I really want to particularly thank. First of all, there is the amazing staff at Good Shepherd who make so many things happen here, who work more hours than they get paid for, who give their hearts and hope and faith to this place. Thank you, Brian and Elaina Burns, Dale Damon, Lisa Filatov, Lisa Holliday, and Dagmar Klein. You all are truly gifts from God.

Also, there are so many volunteers who do so much to make every day happen here. The energy at Good Shepherd, day in and day out, is incredible and is sustained by literally hundreds of people. I wish I could name them all. But I know I would forget someone and so I am only thanking a few. Special thanks to Don Widmayer, who has gone above and beyond as Council President this year (as I imagine he always does), to Martha Traynor for continuing to organize such a faithful group of people who make sure the sanctuary is ready for worship, that communion is set up, and that we always have candles and bread and wine and water for baptism, and all the rest. Thank you to Herman Mensing, who continues to be a faithful voice of stewardship in our congregation. Thank you to all the people who volunteer with finance, behind the scenes, making it all work, and to Werner Boecker, who organizes all our counting teams, our data entry teams, and who keeps me up-to-date on the congregation's great generosity. Thank you to Bob Bergman for all his work on getting the solar panels ready for installation and through the hurdles of town politics. Thank you, Lisa Filatov, for organizing our worship leaders for every Sunday and Lone Mensing, for making sure our shut-ins receive communion, for organizing so much behind the scenes, for being a voice of wisdom to me. Thank you, Peni Widmayer, for your continued leadership in our card ministry and your commitment in ensuring that people feel welcome and cared for. And thank you so much for all our committee chairs for their work! Jake Daniels – Worship and Music, Kristina Olsson – Evangelism, Robin Riemenschneider – Fellowship, and Jayne Knarich – Social Ministry. Thank you.

Faithfully submitted,

Pastor Lena

**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 Lutheran Church**

Enter through Fellowship Hall  
Sunday, December 2, 2018, at 2:00 p.m.

Refreshments will be served

Requested Donation \$10.00 Children under 16 are free.



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

### 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:

1. **White Gifts** – On December 9<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. For children in the Bronx - sponsored by Youth
2. **Project Joy** - Collection of gifts for needy families (determined by *People to People*) a chart with wish lists will be posted at church on November 18th and 25th, with drop--off on December 2nd - 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, and other items will be provided on list in coat room) – Pat Hoffman
5. **Food Pantry** – *People to People* food pantry – food and non-food items - sponsored by Social Ministries
6. **ELCA Disaster Relief:** With all the hurricanes and fires, this ministry is needed. [elca.org/disaster-relief](http://elca.org/disaster-relief) or mail: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009
7. **Lutheran World Relief:** Lutheran World Relief works with local partners to provide lasting solutions to poverty, injustice, disasters, and human suffering. [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** – ELCA Good Gifts - Buy an animal ornament that provides goats, pigs, honey bees and chicks for a needy family and make a difference in their lives. Available December 2nd in the coat room.

WELCA will meet on Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 PM, in Fellowship Hall. This will be our Christmas meeting. We will have a "Grab Bag" gift exchange. If you want to participate, please bring a wrapped gift. We are keeping the price at between \$10.00 & \$15.00. We will share memorable Christmases from our past. Of course, they are all wonderful, but I'm sure we each have one that is special. Then, of course, we will enjoy refreshments and social time.

Also, don't forget we will be collecting Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. A container will be in the lobby of the educational building after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year. Thank you.

#### Personal Care Kit

52 x 27 (approx.) dark color

Bath towel

Bath size bars of soap, in original wrap

Adult tooth brush, in original wrap

Sturdy comb; remove packaging

Metal nail clipper; remove packaging



Wrap items in towel and tie with a ribbon or yarn. Do not add or leave out any items.

Do not enclose kit in plastic bag.

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Ladies, if you are a member of Good Shepherd, you are a member of WELCA, so please join us. If you have any questions or need a ride call: Barbara Bow at 845-215-5866 or Mary Iseman at 845-623-7638.

Gods peace and blessings to all.

## **An Invitation to...Longest Night Service... December 21st, 7:15 pm**



The holiday season can be a painful time for many of us. 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 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 we are not alone.

Our spirits often sink, as the days grow shorter. We feel the darkness growing deeper around us. We need encouragement to live the days ahead of us.

*Good Shepherd Lutheran Church* is offering a special "Longest Night" service on Friday, December 21, at 7:15 pm, in our Fellowship Hall.

Come out, and join with us in sharing and hearing prayers, scripture, and music that acknowledge that God's presence is for those who mourn, for those who struggle – and that God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness. Everyone, regardless of church background (or lack of it), is welcome.



**CELEBRATING  
CREATIVE PLAY'S  
50TH YEAR**



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas...! Our children are all excited for the holiday season. All the classes are busy creating unique gifts for their families. The excitement on the children's faces, as they wrap their presents for their families, is contagious. Our 4-year-old Creative Play classes are presenting their delightful musical, "*Santa's Workshop*," for family and friends. There will be some beautiful singing and colorful costumes to show off.

Throughout the month of December, families at Good Shepherd will have the opportunity to participate in two special sharing opportunities that teach the children the true meaning of Christmas. Our annual Giving Tree is decorated with the donated hats, scarves and gloves from our Creative Play families. These items will be donated to people in need, in Appalachia. In conjunction with the Church, the families of Creative Play are invited to bring a Christmas gift, wrapped in white paper, to school. These gifts 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. We will end the month of December with the classes being entertained by our favorite performers, Beth and Scott, who will have the children singing and laughing with their musical performance.

After Christmas break, our classes will resume on Wednesday, January 2019! Our registration for the 2019-2020 school year will begin. If you are an alumni or church member, you can pick up the applications in the school office. We encourage families to come visit us during the month of January, or attend our Open House on January 26<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 p.m.– 2:00 p.m. You will have the opportunity to meet some of our staff and board members, who are happy to share the good news of Good Shepherd Creative Play. We wish everyone a most joyous Christmas season and a Happy, Healthy New Year!

## CONFIRMATION NEWS

### 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Classes

Confirmation Class in November will be held the following evenings, in Fellowship Hall:

**6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Grade** – Monday, **December 3** – 6:30 to 8:15 pm

Topic: *The church year and the liturgy: how they help us make time holy*

Monday, **January 7** – 6:30 to 8:15 pm

Topic: *Others' stories of God: Testimony*

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade** – Monday, **December 10** – 6:30 to 8:15 pm

Topic: *What are you going to do with your one, precious life? (Vocation)*

– Monday, **January 14** – 6:30 to 8:15 pm

Topic: *Social Media, Relationships, and God*

**For all grades:** Monday, **January 28** – 7:00 to 8:15 pm

Topic: *New Year's Resolutions: "An unexamined life is not worth living." Socrates*



**Help Needed:** If you would like to organize one of the dinners for family night, please contact Dagmar Klein in the church office: 845-735-2243 or [office@gspr.org](mailto:office@gspr.org)

### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY

If you and your family will be home for the holidays, please consider being an usher, greeter, communion assistant or acolyte. Please contact the church office to volunteer.

Good Shepherd Lutheran  
 Welcomes All to  
 Celebrate  
 St. Nicholas  
 Sunday  
 December 9, 2018  
 11:30am-1:00pm

The true story of Santa Claus begins with Nicholas, who used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God and was made [Bishop](#) of [Myra](#). Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need, and his love for children.

Crafts  
 Games  
 Storytelling  
 Christmas Cookies

ALL ARE WELCOME

Don't forget to bring your white gifts to the church service on December 9th!



WELCOME  
 2019



ON SUPERBOWL SUNDAY  
 (Feb. 3rd)  
 LET'S HAVE A  
 "SOUPER" BOWL OF CARING

Starting Sunday, January 13th, 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*.



Dear Good Shepherd Families,

We are so grateful for those who have joined us in making music at Good Shepherd so far this year! You are welcome to join us throughout the year, so please find one of us before or after a church service or email [elaina@gspr.org](mailto:elaina@gspr.org) to learn more about how you can participate!

Cherubs through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students begin Christmas Pageant Rehearsals on November 11<sup>th</sup> and we will hold the Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> during the 10:30 service. Students from 9<sup>th</sup> grade through adult can join us in adult choir and/or bell choir.

The Bell Choir played beautifully in church on Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, and they will play for us again at the 8:00pm service on Christmas Eve. There is still time to join us if you are interested in ringing! We meet on Thursday evenings, from 6:15-7:15pm.

We will have special instrumentalists joining us during Advent and Christmas this year, so please enjoy this music featuring flute, clarinet, trumpet, and violin, among other instruments this Christmas season!

As always, if you would like to play a prelude, postlude, or other special music during a service, please let us know! We would love to have you share your love of music with the church!

Our next events are as follows:



Advent Cantata, Adult Choir, Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:15pm

Christmas Pageant, preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 10:30am

Please feel free to contact me to learn about dates for all ages to get involved!

Hope to see you soon!

Elaina

**NEW SERVICE TIME STARTING JANUARY 6TH....  
9:00 CONTEMPORARY SERVICE WILL NOW START AT 9:15**

## EIGHTH ANNUAL TURKEY RUN

### MANY THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all, for your generosity at this year's turkey run. Your time, money and food donations will benefit so many.

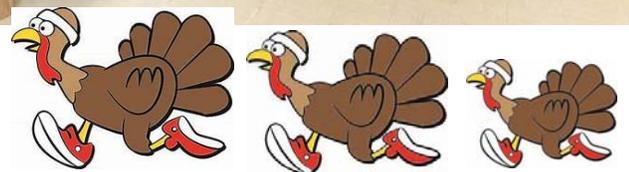
Through your generosity and with the help of 25+ volunteers, we were able to sort groceries, pack bags, load cars and deliver 66 turkeys, 1 ham and 60+ bags of thanksgiving groceries to our sister churches in the Bronx; Pastor Larry McFarland at Epiphany Lutheran Church and Pastor Jonathan Recabarren at Fordham Lutheran Church.

This is a multigenerational effort, with Good Shepherd volunteers as young as 5, teenagers and entire families taking part.

I would also like to thank the Pearl River Elks for their donation of 18 turkeys and the Good Shepherd Men's group, for sharing their breakfast with our volunteers.

As you sit down to share a meal with your family and friends, please know that your generosity has allowed others to do the same. Blessings to you and yours.

Dagmar Klein, for Social Ministry



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

**Deadline for order: December 10, 2018**



In Memory of:

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In Honor of:

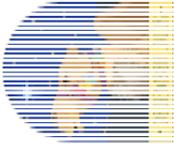
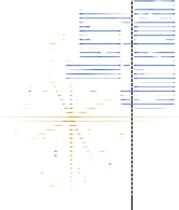
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Given by:

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>DECEMBER 2018</b>					<b>I</b>
<b>2 ADVENT I</b> 8:00 Worship Service 9:00 Contemporary Worship 9:30-10:15 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Holy Communion/SCS 11:45 Children's Choir 11:30 Coffee Hour—Parlor 1:00 St. Lucia Festival—FH & Sanctuary 6:00 AA/Fellowship Hall	<b>3</b> 9:00/12:30 Creative Play/UPK 6:30-8:15 Confirmation 6th & 7th Grade 7:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry	<b>4</b> 9:00/12:00 Creative Play/UPK 1:30 WELCA—Fellowship Hall 7:00 Book Group—Parlor 7:00 Boy Scouts—Fellowship Hall	<b>5</b> 9:00/12:00 UPK 9:30/1:00 Creative Play. 7:15 Holy Communion Serv.	<b>6</b> 9:00/12:30 UPK 10:00 Bible Study—Parlor 6:00-7:00 Evening Bells 7:30 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	<b>7</b> 9:00/12:00 UPK 9:30/1:00 Creative Play 10:00 Creative Play Christmas Play 7:45 AA/Fellowship Hall	<b>8</b>
<b>9 ADVENT II</b> <b>White Gift Presentation</b> 8:00 Holy Communion Service 9:00 Contemporary Worship 9:30-10:15 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Worship Service/SCS/White Gifts 11:30-2:00 St. Nick Celebration—Fellowship Hall 11:30 Coffee Hr.—Fellowship Hall 6:00 AA/Fellowship Hall	<b>10</b> 9:00/12:30 Creative Play/UPK 6:30 Confirmation 8th Gr.	<b>11</b> 9:00/12:30 UPK 9:30/1:00 Creative Play 7:00 Book Group—Parlor 7:00 Boy Scout Troop 36—FH	<b>12</b> 9:00/12:30 UPK 9:30/1:00 Creative Play 11:00 Staff Mtg. 4:30 Executive Com. Mtg. 6:00 Evangelism Mtg. 7:15 Holy Communion Serv.	<b>13</b> 9:00/12:30 UPK 9:30/1:00 Creative Play 10:00 Bible Study—Parlor 6:00-7:00 Evening Bells 7:30 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	<b>14</b> 9:00/12:30 UPK 9:30/1:00 Creative Play 7:45 AA—Fellowship Hall	<b>15</b> 9:00 Men's Breakfast
<b>16 ADVENT III</b> 8:00 Worship Service 9:00 Contemporary Worship 9:30-10:15 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Holy Communion/SCS 11:45 Children's Choir Rehearsal 6:00 AA/Fellowship Hall	<b>17</b> 9:00/12:30 UPK 9:30/1:00 Creative Play 6:30 Food, Faith & Friends off-site 7:00 Confirmation Choir 7:00 Confirmation Parent Mtg	<b>18</b> 9:00/12:30 UPK 9:30/1:00 Creative Play 7:00 Boy Scout Troop 36—FH 7:00 Church Council Mtg.—Parlor	<b>19</b> 9:00/12:30 UPK 9:30/1:00 Creative Play 11:00 Staff Mtg. 7:15 Advent Cantata with Holy Communion Service	<b>20</b> 9:00/12:30 UPK 9:30/1:00 Creative Play 10:00 Bible Study—Parlor 4:00-6:00 Cub Scout Troop 36 Holiday Party 6:00-7:00 Evening Bells 7:30 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	<b>21</b> 9:00/12:30 UPK 9:30/1:00 Creative Play 7:15 Longest Night Service Fellowship Hall	<b>22</b>
<b>23 ADVENT IV</b> 8:00 Holy Communion 10:30 Worship Serv. with Children's Pageant and Confirmation Choir 6:00 AA—Fellowship Hall	<b>24 Christmas Eve</b> 4:30 Family Service 8:00 Festival Communion Ser. 10:00 Festival Communion Ser. Special Music will be played before each service.	<b>25 Christmas Day</b> 10:30 Service of Lessons & Carols with Holy Communion 	<b>26</b> No Evening Service tonight	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 7:45 AA/Fellowship Hall	<b>29</b>
<b>30 CHRISTMAS I</b> 10:30 Holy Communion Service 6:00 AA—Fellowship Hall						

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>JANUARY 2019</b>		<b>I NEW YEAR'S DAY</b>	<b>2</b> 9:00/12:00 UPK 9:30/1:00 Creative Play. 7:15 Holy Communion Serv.—FH	<b>3</b> 9:00/12:30 UPK 10:00 Bible Study—Parlor 6:00/7:00 Evening Bells 7:30 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	<b>4</b> 9:00/12:00 UPK 9:30/1:00 Creative Play 7:45 AA/Fellowship Hall	<b>5</b>
<b>6 Baptism of Our Lord</b> 8:00 Worship Service 9:00 Contemporary Worship 9:30-10:15 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Holy Communion/SCS/Baptism 11:30 Coffee Hr.—Parlor 6:00 AA/Fellowship Hall	<b>7</b> 9:00/12:30 UPK 9:30/1:00 Creative Play 6:30 Confirmation 6th & 7th 6:30 Creative Play Teachers Meeting	<b>8</b> 9:00/12:30 UPK 9:30/1:00 Creative Play 1:30 WELCA—Fellowship Hall 7:00 Boy Scout Troop 36—FH	<b>9</b> 9:00/12:30 UPK 9:30/1:00 Creative Play 11:00 Staff Mtg. 4:30 Executive Com. Mtg. 7:15 Holy Communion Serv.—FH. 8:00 Food, Faith & Friends	<b>10</b> 9:00/12:30 UPK 9:30/1:00 Creative Play 10:00 Bible Study—Parlor 6:00/7:00 Evening Bells 7:30 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	<b>11</b> 9:00/12:30 UPK 9:30/1:00 Creative Play 7:45 AA—Fellowship Hall	<b>12</b>
<b>13 Epiphany II</b> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:00 Contemporary Worship 9:30-10:15 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Worship Service/SCS 11:30 Coffee Hr.—Parlor 6:00 AA/Fellowship Hall	<b>14</b> 9:00/12:30 UPK 9:30/1:00 Creative Play 6:30 Confirmation 8th Gr.	<b>15</b> 9:00/12:30 UPK 9:30/1:00 Creative Play 7:00 Boy Scout Troop 36—FH 7:00 Church Council Mtg.—Parlor	<b>16</b> 9:00/12:30 UPK 9:30/1:00 Creative Play 6:30 Evangelism Mtg.—Parlor 7:15 Holy Communion Service—FH	<b>17</b> 9:00/12:30 UPK 9:30/1:00 Creative Play 10:00 Bible Study—Parlor 6:00/7:00 Evening Bells 7:30 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	<b>18</b> 9:00/12:30 UPK 9:30/1:00 Creative Play 7:45 AA/Fellowship Hall	<b>19</b> 9:00 Men's Breakfast
<b>20 Epiphany III</b> 8:00 Worship Service 9:00 Contemporary Worship 9:30-10:15 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Holy Communion/SCS/Baptism 11:30 Coffee Hr.—Parlor 6:00 AA/Fellowship Hall	<b>21</b> MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY NO CREATIVE PLAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	<b>22</b> 9:00/12:30 UPK 9:30/1:00 Creative Play 7:00 Boy Scout Troop 36—FH	<b>23</b> 9:00/12:30 UPK 9:30/1:00 Creative Play 7:15 Holy Communion Service—FH	<b>24</b> 9:00/12:30 UPK 9:30/1:00 Creative Play	<b>25</b> 9:00/12:30 UPK 9:30/1:00 Creative Play 7:45 AA/Fellowship Hall	<b>26</b> 9:00-12:00 Creative Play Classroom Clean-up 10:00-1:00 Cub Scout Troop 36 Pinewood Derby 12:30-2:00 Open House Creative Play
<b>27 Epiphany IV</b> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:00 Contemporary Worship 9:30-10:15 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Worship Service/SCS 11:30 Pot Luck Luncheon—Fellowship Hall 6:00 AA/Fellowship Hall	<b>28</b> 9:00/12:30 UPK 9:30/1:00 Creative Play 7:00 Confirmation Choir 7:00 Confirmation Parent's	<b>29</b> 9:00/12:30 UPK 9:30/1:00 Creative Play 7:00 Boy Scout Troop 36—FH	<b>30</b> 9:00/12:30 UPK 9:30/1:00 Creative Play 11:00 Staff Meeting 7:15 Holy Communion Service—FH	<b>31</b> 9:00/12:30 UPK 9:30/1:00 Creative Play 10:00 Bible Study—Parlor 6:00/7:00 Evening Bells 7:30 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal		