



# The Shepherd's Voice

Vol. 51, Issue 8 Serving Rockland County, NY & Northern Bergen County, NJ Nov., Dec., Jan.

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

NOVEMBER 2013



**Good Shepherd's  
Thanksgiving Service**  
Tuesday, November 26th — 8:00 p.m.

**Interfaith Thanksgiving Observance**  
Monday, November 25th, 7:30 p.m.  
Nauraushaun Presbyterian Church

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS ON  
NOVEMBER 3rd.  
REMEMBER TO TURN BACK YOUR CLOCK ON  
NOVEMBER 2nd, BEFORE BEDTIME!**

**GOOD SHEPHERD  
WILL HOLD ITS  
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING ON SUNDAY,  
NOVEMBER 17th**

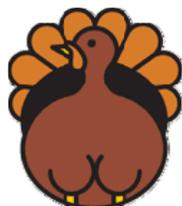
## MAINTAINING YOUR MEMBERSHIP

The congregational constitution states that membership is maintained by receiving the sacrament and making a contribution of record.

Every January, the congregation updates its membership records by noting those who have maintained membership or removed themselves from the rolls.

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

## ANNUAL SUNDAY TURKEY RUN



WE WILL BE COLLECTING TURKEYS AGAIN THIS YEAR TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO THOSE UNABLE TO AFFORD THEIR OWN, BUT WITH TWO BIG CHANGES. OUR COLLECTION DAY WILL BE ON **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24 (THE SUNDAY BEFORE THANKSGIVING)** INSTEAD OF THE USUAL SATURDAY. ANOTHER EXCITING CHANGE IS THAT **THE YOUTH FROM THE UPPER ROOM** WILL BE JOINING US IN THIS OUTREACH MINISTRY. SINCE BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH HAS CLOSED, WE WILL BE DISTRIBUTING THEM AT FORDHAM LUTHERAN CHURCH, ALSO IN THE BRONX. THIS IS PASTOR JONATHAN RECABARREN'S (OUR FORMER VICAR) CHURCH, AND HE AND HIS PARISHIONERS ARE DELIGHTED WE ARE COMING.

HERE IS WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: DROP-OFF WILL BE IN THE CHURCH PARKING LOT FROM 7:00 UNTIL 9:15 am. WE WILL LEAVE PROMPTLY AFTER THAT SO WE HAVE TIME TO UNLOAD THE TURKEYS AND ATTEND THE CHURCH SERVICE AT FORDHAM LUTHERAN. BEGINNING NOVEMBER 3, THERE WILL BE SIGN-UP SHEETS IN THE COAT ROOM AND THE LOBBY OF THE EDUCATION BUILDING. **IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE KNOW IN ADVANCE HOW MANY TURKEYS TO EXPECT. PLEASE, PLEASE SIGN UP IF YOU WANT TO DONATE. WE DON'T WANT TO PROMISE MORE TURKEYS THAN WE CAN DELIVER AND THERE IS NO STORAGE ROOM FOR FROZEN TURKEYS AT EITHER CHURCH, IF THERE ARE EXTRAS.** IF THAT SUNDAY ISN'T GOOD FOR YOU AND YOU WOULD LIKE US TO PICK UP YOUR TURKEY DURING THE PRECEDING WEEK, OR IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL JAYNE OR TOM KNARICH AT 845-358-7632. THANK YOU!

DECEMBER 2013

## CHRISTMAS AT GOOD SHEPHERD

ADVENT WREATH WORKSHOP - DECEMBER 1ST. - 9:00 am -1:00 pm

### ADVENT CANDLELIGHT ORGAN MEDITATIVE MUSIC TIME

Wednesdays in Advent - December 4, 11 and 18th

Quiet time in the Sanctuary, from 12:30 - 1:00 pm

### ST. NICK FAMILY LIFE CELEBRATION - DECEMBER 7TH - 2:00-3:30 pm

Christmas Activities for Pre-K thru 2nd graders

### WHITE GIFTS PRESENTATION - DECEMBER 8th -10:30 am

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

### SUNDAYS @ NOON - CONCERT SERIES - DECEMBER 8TH - 12:00 pm

Sanctuary Choir Cantata—*Season of Praise*

### CHRISTMAS CAROLING IN PEARL RIVER - DECEMBER 14TH - 1:00-2:30 pm

Sponsored by the Evangelism Committee —all are invited to participate

### WHITE GIFTS DELIVERED - DECEMBER 15th

Senior Youth deliver White Gifts to churches in the Bronx

### WORSHIP SERVICE WITH CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT - DECEMBER 22nd

8:15 am Service of Holy Communion

9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship

10:30 am Worship Service/Sunday School Christmas Pageant

### CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES - DECEMBER 24th

7:00 pm Canzona - Orchestra Prelude

7:30 pm Family Service/Pageant

8:30 pm Renaissance Camerata

9:00 pm Festival Communion Service

10:30 pm Evening Bells Hand Bell Choir (*enter quietly*)

11:00 pm Service of Lessons & Carols



### CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE - DECEMBER 25th

10:30 am Service of Holy Communion



**JANUARY 2014**

## **PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION**

At the end of September, Marsha and I became grandparents. All that others have told me about the magic of grandparenting is true. What a delight it was to see the entry walk of the church building flanked with blue balloons on the Sunday after William John's birth, serving to welcome us into this new life venture. Special thanks to the kind souls who got out there at 6 a.m. to fill all those helium balloons. I remember, nine months ago, thinking that it would take forever to get to the delivery, but now that I look back, I can't believe where the time went.

In some ways, I feel much the same with my call to the active ordained ministry. I can't believe that so many years have passed so quickly, even considering that there were days when time seemed to stand still. We have been very intentional about planning for changes that come and will continue this course into the near future. Here, in this Annual Report, my plan is to share something of our ministry together this past year and to conclude by sharing those ministries that I would love to have seen initiated or accomplished, but for one reason or another, remain unfinished or never started. Nonetheless, my hope is that they can be considered in our congregation's future, even if I am not actively involved in helping realize them.

In looking back this year, my sense is that it has been quite a challenging year in our ministry; yet, we have stayed the course and have seen progress in our work together under the saving grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Mostly, this year has represented transitions in our staffing ministry. When I wonder why I experience vertigo in the spring and the fall, I am adding another dynamic to its cause. With all these changes, my head often felt like it was spinning. Thankfully, the Music Ministry has continued its incredible program, even as Brenda Ferguson had to be away from the console because of personal responsibilities. Along with Brenda, we are grateful for her assistants, Craig Sloane and Fran Clancy. Moreover, we are delighted to see how effective this ministry is in helping congregation members grow spiritually through music, as well as in an increase of participants. All professional congregation analysts point to the Director of Music as the second most important position in a congregation's staff like ours. We look to fund this position as the full time plus position it is, expressing our gratitude through this response and ensuring that it will last for years to come.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



### **ON SUPER BOWL SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd LET'S HAVE A SOUPER BOWL OF CARING**

Starting January 19th, we will be collecting cans of soup to fight hunger in our community. With all the snacking and feasting we do watching football, let us share with others, and fill the shelves of *People to People*. Soup can be dropped off in the entrance to the Education Building



### **January 12th, 2014—A chance to start the New Year by giving the gift of life!**

There is a great need for all blood types at present, so we ask you to mark your calendar for the annual Pearl River Blood Drive. Red Cross officials say just one person donating blood could potentially save three lives.

"At this point, there is no substitute for human blood. We do not have a synthetic or alternative source. We really do rely on human donors, to give blood," said Sylvia Kacheris of the American Red Cross. Details on time and place will be in upcoming *Cross Connections*.

**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”**

**SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICES**

Sundays: 9:30 a.m.  
Mondays: 7:30 p.m.

**WORSHIP SERVICES**

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

**CONTACT US**

Church Office: (845)735-2243

Fax: (845)735-0819

E-mail: office@gspr.org

Web site: www.gspr.org

Parsonage: (845)624-3615

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

**AT YOUR SERVICE**

The Reverend John W. Havrilla - Pastor  
Ione Mensing - Diaconal Assisting Minister/  
Director of Outreach  
Susan Baumeister - 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  
Deanna Lauer - SCS Office Adm./ Worship  
Leader/Youth Coordinator  
John R. Taylor - Pastor Emeritus

**LIFE STATIONS**

**BAPTISMS**

Madison Grace Nowell 10/13/13

**WEDDINGS**

Joseph Felten & Donna Diaz 9/07/13  
Joshua Partridge & Carolyn Fields 9/21/13  
Matthew Stack & Keri Anne Ryan 9/27/13  
Paul Esperanzate & Mallory Dash 10/11/13  
Daniel Stensgard & Kristen McCarthy 10/18/13

**DEATHS**

Margaret Smith 9/18/13  
Elizabeth (*Betty*) Hallock 10/07/13  
Harold Bertha 10/10/13  
Tom Stensgard 10/16/13  
Ted Haderler 10/23/13

**General Memorial Fund**

In memory of Dorothy Mehr, given by Elizabeth Kuhlmann

**Music Outreach Fund**

**In memory of Harold Bertha**

given by Mr. Michael Mouacdie  
given by Mr. & Mrs. F. Mitolo  
given by Fred & Renate Spiegelberg  
given by Ben & Vilma Riccardi  
given by Jane Heinig and The Murrays  
given by Michael & Wendy Sherman  
given by Alexandra & Charles Finger  
given by Marge Pearson  
given by Theresa Volz  
given by Don & Gloria Liebert  
given by Bernadette & Ken Sibon  
given by Dorothy & Woody Winkler  
given by Ruth & Glenn Schultz

**2013 CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

Susan Baumeister - President  
Jayne Knarich - Vice President  
Robert Bergman - Treasurer  
Kim Arcidiacono - Council Secretary  
Rob Bayer - Property  
Werner Boecker - Financial Secretary  
Barbara Bow - Worship & Music Liaison  
Brian Brooker - Property Liaison  
Steve Habina - Youth Liaison  
Daniel Lamadrid - Finance  
Katie Lauer - Youth Representative  
Herman Mensing - Stewardship Chairman  
Kenneth Merring - Personnel  
Jena Rankin - Christian Education  
Barbara Sloane - Fellowship Liaison  
Donald Widmayer - At Large  
John W. Havrilla - Pastor

## LOOKING BACK---STEPPING BACK

After almost fifteen years of working at Good Shepherd, I will be stepping down as Parish Worker as of November 30<sup>th</sup>. Although only a part-time position, this hasn't been an easy decision, as my work has become an integral part of my life and my faith. At the core of this are the relationships that have been formed as we have walked this road of faith together.

It brings to mind the song "The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple....the church is a people." Whether brainstorming at committee meetings, getting acquainted at new member gatherings, chatting with those who stop by the office, weeding in the garden, preparing for a service, or cleaning up after an event...there is something about working side by side with others who have a vision and a strong love for Good Shepherd....working with others who want to deepen their involvement and faith...working with those who want to build relationships. I have learned so much from each of you, and I give God thanks for each of you. As we have shared the Good News on a Sunday morning, and come to the Lord's Table, each with our joys and burdens, we are united in a communion that binds and sustains us in an inexplicable way.

I am especially thankful to Pastor Havrilla and the staff for having been so supportive and enlivening throughout the years...a joy to work with.

The good news for me is that Herman and I will continue to attend and participate in the life of Good Shepherd, and for awhile, I will continue my diaconal work, which includes assisting with worship.

These years have been a full and rewarding experience, and I am grateful for this opportunity of being part of your ministry.

Ione Mensing

**PLEASE JOIN US ON NOVEMBER 10TH FOR A SPECIAL COFFEE RECOGNITION FOR IONE MENSING, AS WE THANK HER FOR HER YEARS OF SERVICE AS OUR CONGREGATION'S PARISH WORKER.**



The November meeting of WELCA will be held on Tuesday, November 5th, at 1:30 PM in the parlor. Program to be determined.

In December, the meeting will be on the second Tuesday, December 10th, at 1:30 PM in the parlor. It will be our Christmas program, with surprise entertainment. We will also have a grab bag. For those who are interested in participating, bring a wrapped gift. Keep the dollar amount between \$10.00 and \$15.00.

There will be no meeting in January and we will resume in February.

Also, we will be making Personal Care Kits again this year, for Lutheran World Relief. They are to include the following:

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

Wrap items in towel and tie with ribbon or yarn. Do not add or exclude any items. Do not enclose kit in plastic bag.

There will be a container in the educational building for the kits to be left. Thank you in advance for your participation. These kits are badly needed.

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

### **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 that you'd like us to use.

### **Voice Publication Deadline**

Items to be included in The Shepherd's Voice must be submitted to the church office by **January 10th** for the **February/March 2014** 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.



## OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTING

Once again, we will have various opportunities to choose from for "gifting" during December. There will be more details in the upcoming *Cross Connections*, but we will have the usual White Gifts, the MittenTree, Food Pantry, gifts for the teens at Rockland Psychiatric, and more....stay tuned.

### *Season of Praise Concerts*

#### Sunday, November 24 Music @ Noon

*Music Through The Year*

Evening Bells

#### Sunday, December 8 Music @ Noon

*Season of Praise Christmas Cantata* - Joseph Martin  
Sanctuary Choir

#### Christmas Eve, December 24

7:00 pm Canzona - Orchestra Prelude

8:30 pm Renaissance Camerata

10:30 pm Evening Bells

11:00 pm Sanctuary Choir

### ALL IN THE FAMILY

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Eric and Jaimie Havrilla on the birth of their son, William John, born September 26th., 6lbs. 1 oz. William is the first grandchild for Pastor John and Marsha.

**GODSPEED** to Warren and Florence Johnson, who have moved upstate and will be joining St. John's Lutheran in Poughkeepsie, NY. Warren and Florence will be missed and we thank them for their years of volunteering in so many ministries here at Good Shepherd.



### **OUR ANNUAL ADVENT WREATH MAKING...**

will be on December 1, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Join us in Fellowship Hall, before or after you worship, to make a wreath for your home. The wreath form, candles, live and artificial greens, cones, and ribbon are provided for

\$10.00 (If you have a form, it will be \$5.00). Advent devotions and ideas for a meaningful preparation of the celebration of Christmas will be available. **Please place your order for the wreath workshop ahead of time to make sure we have enough materials.** These forms are available at the church entrances.

### Food, Faith & Friends

#### Tuesdays, November 19th, December 10th & January 21st

*Food, Faith & Friends* will meet on Tuesdays, November 19th and January 21st from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the church parlor. We also will meet on Tuesday, December 10th from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the home of Rich Bowman. We invite you to join in these opportunities to meet new people, share a little of our faith journeys (including our questions), and eat a meal together. Child care is available if you let us know in advance.

You are cordially invited to join us for the next meeting. Bring yourselves, an open heart, an open mind, and an appetite! For more information, directions, or to RSVP, please contact Rich Bowman at [rbbp@yahoo.com](mailto:rbbp@yahoo.com) or (845) 627-6967, or contact Lone Mensing in the church office at [parishworker@gspr.org](mailto:parishworker@gspr.org).

### 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 (\$25).

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 Narthex of the Church, or call Scoutmaster Bob Klein at 845-624-3216. Ordered wreaths can be picked up on December 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<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.

## **CREATIVE PLAY NEWS...**



In November, our Program Committee parents will act out the first Thanksgiving. Our children learn about how children and families lived and played long ago. At our Thanksgiving feast, we will serve a meal of turkey, corn, mashed potatoes and juice. Our children will wear their Native American macaroni necklaces and headbands to the Feast. They are all so thankful for the wonderful families and teachers who are part of their world.

In December, as the weather keeps us from going outside, our children will be visiting Fellowship Hall to ride their new tricycles, and learn fun ways to work out their wiggles. We will have a visit from our holiday entertainers, Beth and Scott, who always put on a rocking musical show for the children to participate in.

As we turn to 2014, we will be gearing up for our registration for the 2014-15 school year. At the beginning of January, church members and alumni families can stop by the office for an application for their incoming 3- or 4-year old child. Please call the school office (735-2737) and arrange to come visit us and watch the fun we are having here.

Maureen Connelly  
Director

**JUST A NOTE:** Our Mitten, Scarf and Hat tree will be set up at the entrance of Creative Play, from November 26th - January 3rd. Please feel free to help us "decorate" our tree and share these items with the children in Appalachia.



**FROM OUR PARISH PROGRAM DIRECTOR** - Kathleen Harpster

### **Environmental Stewardship Comes to Good Shepherd!!!**

Maybe you heard Pastor John make the announcement that we have implemented a recycling program. You may have seen the new blue and green recycle containers in Fellowship Hall, in the parlor, and in Upper Room. Or possibly, this article is the first indication that Good Shepherd is actively striving to enhance our care of the environment.

Although we have been recycling to some extent for the past several years, Good Shepherd is now stepping up to make it easier for all members to participate in our recycling. Blue containers (for paper and cardboard) and green canisters (for comingled items of glass, plastic, and aluminum) are in all the major meeting areas and in all the Sunday School/Creative Play classrooms. Near the large containers, we have the Rockland County Recycling Chart to help you determine what things can be recycled and what should be put in the trash basket. If you already recycle at home, it will be easy for you to continue the same process here at the church. For those of you not accustomed to recycling, please check the recycling guide and help us take care of our planet.

Made in the image of God, we are called to care for the earth as God cares for the earth. According to Gen 2:15, our role within creation is to serve and to keep God's garden, the earth. "To serve," often translated "to till," invites us again to envision ourselves as servants, while "to keep" invites us to take care of the earth as God keeps and cares for us (Num 6:24-26). Let us serve as stewards of God's green earth by recycling when we are here at Good Shepherd and wherever we are.

"Creator of the universe — of people and plants, earth and sky, creatures and constellations — we praise you for the splendor of your world. Make us more aware of the good earth that you have made, and mindful of the many ways in which we know you through the community of creation. Amen."

Green Faith. Splendor Retrieved from <http://greenfaith.org/resource-center/spirit/religious-environmental-education/splendor>



**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**

Fellowship Hall

Saturday December 14, 2013 at 7:00 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

**Youth Happenings**

**November 2013-January 2014**



We have several exciting Youth and Family activities coming up over the next few months; don't miss your chance to be a part of the Good Shepherd Youth Happenings! Whatever grade you're in, we have something for you. On the social side of things, we have Bingo, Snow Tubing, and a Lock-In coming up. On the service end, we have crafts, carols, and a turkey run! For more details, watch your emails, follow us on Facebook ([facebook.com/gslcpr](https://www.facebook.com/gslcpr)), visit us online [gspr.org](http://gspr.org), or contact me ([tim@gspr.org](mailto:tim@gspr.org)).

Grace and peace,  
Timothy Kellogg, Youth, Education, and Family Director

**November**

**Confirmation (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade)**

Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 7-8:30 pm, 6<sup>th</sup> grade session.

6<sup>th</sup> grade dinner at 6:15 pm.

Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 7-8:30 pm, 7<sup>th</sup> grade session.

Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, 7-8:30 pm, 8<sup>th</sup> grade session (includes Acolyte Training at 8 pm).

Tuesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, 7-9 pm, 6<sup>th</sup> grade session and Thanksgiving Service.

Confirmands will help lead the service.

**Upper Room (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade)**

Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, we will be spending the day (7 am-2 pm) at Fordham Lutheran Church in the Bronx! First, we'll have a **Turkey Run** (delivering turkeys from Good Shepherd). Then, we'll join them for Worship. And, the Upper Room youth will participate in a combined Sunday School session with the youth of Fordham Lutheran!

**J-Crew (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade)**

Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2-4 pm; the J-Crew and H2O youth will bring Thanksgiving comfort to local area shut-ins with a **baking and crafts** service activity.

**H2O (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade)**

Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2-4 pm; the J-Crew and H2O youth will bring Thanksgiving comfort to local area shut-ins with a **baking and crafts** service activity.

**Project 4:12 (8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade)**

Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, from 4:12 pm-6 pm; all 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade youth are invited to come check out our exciting new **youth group dinner** event.

**Youth Gathering (7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grade)**

Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>; all Youth Gathering participants will begin their road to Detroit by helping run different elements of **Oktoberfest**. Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, Vicky Bowman runs the NYC Marathon on behalf of Youth Gathering participants.

## December



### **Confirmation (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade)**

Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 7-8:30 pm, 6<sup>th</sup> grade session.

Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 7-8:30 pm, 7<sup>th</sup> grade session.

Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 7-8:30 pm, 8<sup>th</sup> grade session (includes Acolyte Training at 8 pm).

### **SCS (Sunday Church School)**

Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 9 am-noon, **Advent Wreath Making**. No Mini-Service in Fellowship Hall. SCS students go directly to classrooms.

Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2-3:30 pm; **St. Nick Celebration** in Fellowship Hall.

Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, **White Gifts Presentation** during the 10:30 service.

Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 11:15 am; don't miss the **SCS Christmas Pageant!**

### **J-Crew (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade)**

Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2:30-5 pm; the J-Crew and H2O youth will bring Christmas cheer to a local nursing home as we go **Christmas Caroling** and present them with ornaments.

### **H2O (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade)**

Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2:30-5 pm; the J-Crew and H2O youth will bring Christmas cheer to a local nursing home as we go **Christmas Caroling** and present ornaments to the clients.

### **Project 4:12 (8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade)**

Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>; all 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade youth are invited to participate in the White Gift Delivery to the Bronx, followed by a Christmas Party and movie at Good Shepherd, for our monthly youth group event. More details TBA.

Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 10 pm-10 am; it's a Merry Lock-In Christmas! All 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders and friends, will be kicking off Christmas break with a Lock-In and White Elephant gift exchange! Bring \$10 per participant and a snack to share. More details TBA.

### **Youth Gathering (7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grade)**

Stay tuned for the December fundraising event. Details TBD.

## January

### **Confirmation (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade)**

Thursday, January 9, 2014; 7-8:30 pm; 6<sup>th</sup> grade session.

Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 7-8:30 pm, 7<sup>th</sup> grade session.

7<sup>th</sup> grade dinner at 6:15 pm (please RSVP with [youth@gspr.org](mailto:youth@gspr.org)).

Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7-8:30 pm, 8<sup>th</sup> grade session (includes Acolyte Training at 8 pm).

Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 7-8:30 pm, 6<sup>th</sup> grade session.

### **J-Crew (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade)**

Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, from 11:30 am-12:30 pm, the J-Crew (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade) youth will challenge one another to a fun-filled game of **Bingo!**

Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 5-8:30 pm; all 3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade youth and their families will be going **Snow Tubing at Campgaw!**

Please RSVP by January 2<sup>nd</sup> to get your spot.

### **H2O (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade)**

Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 5-8:30 pm; all 3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade youth and their families will be going **Snow Tubing at Campgaw!**

Please RSVP by January 2<sup>nd</sup> to get your spot.

### **Project 4:12 (8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade)**

Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 5-8:30 pm; all 3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade youth and their families will be going Snow Tubing at Campgaw!

Please RSVP by January 2<sup>nd</sup> to get your spot.

### **Youth Gathering (7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grade)**

Vicky Bowman will run at the Walt Disney World Dopey Challenge (48.6 miles over four days) on behalf of Youth Gathering participants! Stay tuned for other fundraising events. Details TBD.

**Christian Education Activities**  
**November 2013, December 2013, January 2014**

I've met some of the most enthusiastic learners at Bible Study and Theology Pub (two of our adult education ministries at Good Shepherd). These ministries are a conversation where we explore faith and scripture together. All are welcome and encouraged to attend our Wednesday night Bible Study, where we are taking an adventure through the Gospel according to Luke. All participants (ages 21 or older) are invited to join us for Theology Pub, where we discuss different topics and issues, guided by the scriptures. For more information, please contact me ([tim@gspr.org](mailto:tim@gspr.org)).

Grace and peace,

Timothy Kellogg, Youth, Education, and Family Director

**November**



**Bible Study**

Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, from 7:30-9 pm, in Pastor's Office.

Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, from 7:30-9 pm, in Pastor's Office.

Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, from 7:30-9 pm, in Pastor's Office.

**Theology Pub**

Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, from 7:30-9:30 pm, at the Nanuet Hotel.

**December**

**Bible Study**

Off for the holiday season, will resume January 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Theology Pub**

Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 7:30-9:30 pm, at the Nanuet Hotel.

**January**

**Bible Study**

Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, from 7:30-9 pm, in Pastor's Office.

Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, from 7:30-9 pm, in Pastor's Office.

Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 7:30-9 pm, in Pastor's Office.

Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, from 7:30-9 pm, in Pastor's Office.

**Theology Pub**

Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, from 7:30-9:30 pm, at the Nanuet Hotel.

**PASTORS ANNUAL REPORT (CONTINUED)**

Along with our outreach in music, our new Creative Play Director, Maureen Connolly, has done nothing short of a fantastic job in continuing the highly acclaimed work of our pre-school. Further, we helped train our last intern with Jerod Freeberg returning to seminary in Minnesota. This learning ministry is just that—a learning ministry in which congregation and intern learn together through mutual support. Jerod was our youngest intern and our youth were among those especially appreciative of his ministry. The congregation especially enjoyed his preaching. In addition, we helped integrate our new staff members more fully in our work and are very grateful for the gifts they bring to us. Nuptial blessing goes to our Program Director who was married this year and to our Youth, Education and Family Director who will be married in the coming year. They bring marvelous gifts, even as they are learning “on the job” in their new positions. Our office staff members have seen quite a few changes and have been wonderful in managing the challenge of keeping the work on schedule with reduced hours. Special appreciation is extended to Dale Damon, Dagmar Klein, Deanna Lauer and Steve Damon for their attention to detail, while holding to the vision of our mission.

## PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT (CONTINUED)

Finally, our deepest appreciation is extended to Ione Mensing, our Parish Worker of many years, who will retire from this position at the end of November, but continue service in her non-salaried position as Diaconal Assisting Minister. In her time with us, Ione has shaped our congregation's life with her expertise and love. We look to express our appreciation in a more formal way and look to share in that with you. Ione, we thank you and we thank God for calling you to our shared ministry. While we are not happy losing you, we are happy that you will have more time to travel with Herman and are delighted that you will continue to serve especially in our worship and healing ministries.

As appreciation is being expressed, I want to thank the members of the congregation for helping us meet a number of financial challenges that came upon us this year, including the challenge of relocating the sexton off our premises and those financial challenges which we did not adequately address in years past. Increased giving and the reduction of costs helped us move into the future with greater financial confidence. Bob Bergman continues to serve us well as our Treasurer, particularly in our times of challenge. Special appreciation is extended to Sue Baumeister, Council President, for her steady hand and guidance through these challenges. Along with Sue, appreciation is extended to our council members and our congregational ministry leaders who make the work of this congregation get done day in and day out. God bless you, one and all and especially those whose term of office on council ends this year, Don Widmayer, Herman Mensing and Barbara Sloane. Your commitment and sharing of talents with our congregation is greatly appreciated.

Taking seriously and joyfully our mission to welcome the world in the Word (WWW) that has come among us in Jesus Christ, along with the willingness to take risks and share the gifts God has given us, we have been given a vision for 2020 by which we will become more fully a family of God, inspiring people, nurturing faith and elevating service. Denominations and congregations throughout the country

Now what about those things that I would have liked to see begun, if not completed? First, I regret that our renovations were not able to include a handicap bathroom. A congregation of our size and breadth of ministry has to make room for those who are physically challenged. This matter goes to the heart of who we are as a people of God. I also would have delighted in making slight changes to our chancel area in order to accommodate all the new music programming that takes place there, as well as the needs of those who worship best with visualization of the message.

In the area of renovation, my hope is also that we will consider how to create more accessible space for community fellowship time. Perhaps the sexton's apartment, no longer utilized, can be used for this purpose or that other space might be designed for this purpose. Further, a study will need to be done in the area of future funding for our ministries. If we think we have seen a lot of change in the past several years, the future will involve even more. The Finance Committee will need to address this matter sooner rather than later. The great news is that our Sunday Church School classes are growing even beyond our physical capacity. This is an unusual problem to have today in our area.

In addition, our Service schedule will have to be re-evaluated as our attendance patterns have shifted among our three Sunday services. Increased attention will also need to be given to working with other congregations for the purpose of sharing ministry of worship and mission in our part of God's world. Thankfully, this attention has been well underway through the leadership of Don Widmayer and Jayne Knarich.

To be sure, we are grateful for the significant bequest from Ed and Laura Bouton, which will help us maintain our facilities and provide a needed cushion of which Ed wrote in a letter to the council over thirty years ago. Special gratitude is extended to their son, Ed, for facilitating this gift. Please remember the church in your estate planning. Our Good Shepherd Fund has been working in this area and helping us get the message out about the vitality of our ministries and how they can be supported through bequest planning. Along with our ministry of stewardship, these gifts will ensure a vital ministry in the future.

Finally, in the coming year I will be taking vacation time and study time that was to have been used in 2013. This schedule had to be amended because our funding issue related to our budget and the availability of Sunday altar and pulpit supply pastors, which requires considerable advance planning. We will do our very best to see to it that pastoral care is available during my absence. As we are now in the season of Thanksgiving, the words from the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter of Matthew can speak to all of us in the middle of so many changes in our world, congregation and personal lives. "I tell you, do worry about your life....Look at the birds of the air, they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them....Strive first for the kingdom of God and God's righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well." Our hope is in that One who gives us the gift of God's realm of grace. As the years seem to fly by, this is the one gift that can never be taken away. I thank God for this opportunity to have served alongside you in this ministry we share together.

Grace and peace,  
John W. Havrilla



# The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

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