

The Hornblower

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

December 2002



FINDING THE SHEPHERD ONCE MORE

By Pastor Dave Sonnenberg
pastordave@goodshepherdonline.org

It's December again. Advent is here- the time in which the church prepares for Christmas. When Advent rolls around, I can't help but think of Christmas memories.

One of my fondest memories occurred during December, 2000- right before I began interviewing at Good Shepherd. We had this manger scene in our home- you know, the unbreakable kind that kids can play with. Our manger that year collapsed about 50 times. Frances and I put the manger back together 50 times. It collapsed because our kids enjoyed playing with all the characters in the Christmas story.

But, the collapsing of the manger wasn't the biggest problem. Our youngest daughter, who was 2 ½ at the time, kept hiding all the shepherds. She just grabbed them and hid them in places where only she knew.

I found it rather amusing and found myself dwelling on that image. Shepherds of course were the first people to whom the birth of Jesus was announced. They heard the news and ran to see Jesus. They wanted to be near him. They wanted to see what he looked like. They wanted to get to know who this special child was.

There is that shepherd in all of us, who longs to know something much greater than ourselves. There is that shepherd in all of us, who really wants to know Jesus very personally and be touched by his life.

My question is simple- do you sometimes allow others to steal the "shepherd" in you- the enthusiastic desire to know and love Jesus. Are there things in your life that steal the "shepherd in you?"

My prayer is that this Christmas, you will find the "shepherd" in you- that enthusiasm and joy that comes from knowing Jesus.

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From Pastor Lathrop

Welcome

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Office E-mail:

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Office Hours: M-F, 9:15 AM to 5:15
PM

Good Shepherd Lutheran Preschool
301/963-1955

GSLP Office Hours: M-F, 9:30 AM-12:00 PM

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Rev. David A. Sonnenberg, Jr.,
Senior Pastor

The Rev. Justin Lathrop,
Associate Pastor

Kevin Anderson, Council President

Peter Schmidt, Director of Music

Charles Pugh, Organist

Vicki Schmidt, Business Manager

Roberta Sybrant, Secretary

Brenda Kessler, Office Assistant

Laura Albanese, Director of Youth
and Family Ministry

John Maisel, Caretaker

Shelly Kline, Teen Choir Director

Caitlin Garry, Music Assistant &

Children's Choir Director

Deadline for the December Issue

of the Hornblower is Friday, Dec 13,
at 5:00 PM. All news items should
be placed in the Hornblower box in
the church.



Greetings in Christ

I saw a video a few years ago of a preacher giving his sermon on Christmas morning. The sermon centered on the evils of the secularization of the Christmas holiday. "Even our church has been invaded by sentiments that have nothing to do with the Christ-child," he said while motioning to a huge Christmas tree behind him. "This is not Christmas," he said. Just at that moment, the tree fell from its stand, and landed right on top of him. End of sermon.

To be honest, I like both aspects of the Christmas season. Certainly, the birth of the Christ-child is of most importance. But I like watching Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer as well. Why can't both exist? This year I'd like for us to attempt to bring both aspects of Christmas together. While we decorate the tree, wrap presents, and watch T.V. specials, let's try to find the good news of the birth of our Lord within. And be careful about vilifying the secular Christmas, or you might end up with a tree on your head.

Peace,

Pastor Justin

Council Notes

Council Action November 12, 2002:

2003 Budget: Gary Bowman, Chairman of the Finance Committee, presented the first draft of the 2003 budget. Council discussed the draft budget at length.

Annual Meeting and Council Retreat: The annual meeting of the congregation will be held on Sunday, February 2, 2003. A light meal will be served at 5:00 p.m., with the annual meeting to commence at 6:00 p.m. The Council retreat will be held on Saturday, February 8, 2003.

Nominations for Council: At the 2003 annual meeting, five new council members will be elected – four members to fill three-year terms and one member to fill a two-year term. All nominations should be directed to Pastor Dave or Kevin Anderson.

Andrea Maples,
Council Secretary



Advent Events

Walking Together Through Advent

Amid the bustle of preparing for the Christmas season, it's important to remember what Advent is at its core. This month, as we await the birth of our savior, we're given the opportunity to re-dedicate ourselves to prayer and devotional time with God and each other. This year we'll be offering a new and exciting, holistic approach to Advent. Walking Through Advent is designed to keep us all together in our journey through the season. There are multiple components, which speak differently to each different group of our diverse body. The goal is that while we may each use different offerings of the program, we all will be covering the same material.

Each Sunday, as you leave worship, make sure to pick up your week's **Dailywalk**. This is a series of **daily devotions**, which extend from Sunday's message. Along with Dailywalk, families can utilize **Familywalk** in their devotion. The familywalk portion of the devotional is centered around the **Bulletin Buddy**, which will be available for children to pick up before and after worship. Still want to further your study? Then come to Wednesday night's **Faithwalk**, a Bible study centered around the daily devotions and Sunday lessons. Please join us for some or all of these opportunities to corporately walk through Advent.

Good Shepherd Annual Christmas Pageant

Good Shepherd will hold the annual Christmas pageant on Sunday, December 22, at 10 am (Christian Education Hour) Please join us for fun, fellowship, and singing as the Sunday School students bring us the Christmas story. All ages are welcome for this very interactive celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Special for Advent



**Family Night –
Dec 4, 11, 18
6:00-7:30pm**

Join Us Every Wednesday in Advent for Family Night. Celebrate the Season with fellowship, singing, a children's craft each week, dinner and an Advent Service for families. Sign Up on the Family Night Board in the lobby.

Calling All Carolers!!

Please join us on Sunday, December 15th from 4:00 till 7:00 pm as we gather at Good Shepherd for an evening of fellowship and song. There will be a potluck dinner in the fellowship hall, followed by Christmas caroling at nearby retirement communities and at the homes of our shut-ten members. Sign up on the Music Ministry board in the education wing, and come sing along. For more info contact **Caitlin Garry** or Laura@goodshepherdonline.org or 301-367-7782.



Parent's Day Out! Sunday, Dec 1, 12:30- 4:00pm

Parents enjoy an afternoon of Christmas shopping while we have lunch, make Advent crafts, play games and watch a cartoon. The Youth Gathering 2003 participants will provide the supervision; any money donated will go to the Youth Gathering trip. Please sign up on the youth board. call 301 367 7782 or Laura@goodshepherdonline.org

Christmas Eve Tuesday, Dec 24th

*Christmas Message at all Services
by Pastor Dave Sonnenberg*

5:00 & 7:00 PM--Family Worship-
Special music by Children's and Youth Choirs, Chimers and Bells

9:00 PM--Festival Service of Lessons and Carols-Special music provided by our Chancel and Handbell Choirs

11:00 PM--Festival Service of Holy Communion with Candle Lighting-Special music provided by our Chancel and Handbell Choirs

9 & 11 PM Services include Brass Ensembles under the direction of Peter Schmidt, Director of Music

Christmas Day Wednesday, Dec 25th

Christmas Day Message by Pastor Justin Lathrop

10:00 AM--Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion

Regular Sunday Worship Schedule during all Sundays in December
7:45, 9:00 & 11:00 AM

Mission to Bosnia / Synod News

Bosnia Servant Trip June 23-July 9, 2003

July 5th 1:00am- What an amazing camp today in Sipo! We arrived to a sea of kids laughing and waving as we pulled in on the bus and although I was exhausted, seeing their faces gave me a new sense of energy.... There were over 200 kids at the camp and one very special 12 year old girl named Tatjanaas we left the camp Tatjana gave me the bracelet she was wearing that had her name on it and declared us sisters for life....to be a servant of Christ in this beautiful country and meeting Tatjana is truly a blessing from God.

Part One-Journal Entry Laura Albanese 2001 Bosnia Servant Trip

The war in Bosnia not only left hundreds of thousands dead, but also has created millions of refugees and has physically, psychologically and spiritually scarred much of the nation. Good Shepherd is answering Christ's call to serve the precious children of Bosnia this summer. **How will we serve?** We will spend as much time as possible with the children, holding day long "Friendship Camps" for all children affected by the war. These camps will focus on reconciliation and help the children explore God's gift of diversity.

How YOU can be involved?

- **Join the Travel Team. We are looking for 5-7 people to join the Bosnia Travel Team.** Applicants must be at least 18 years old or a 2003 high school graduate, have a solid commitment to serving Christ, a good physical stamina, enjoy working with children, a flexible character, the ability to work and live outside of your comfort zone and can **travel June 23-July 9. We will have a general information meeting on Wed, Dec 4th at 7:30pm.** Anyone interested in becoming a travel team member should contact Laura at Laura@goodshepherdonline.org or 301-367-7782 or Pastor Justin at pastorjustin@goodshepherdonline.org.
- **Interested in joining the Bosnia Servant Trip but unable to travel this summer? Then join the Bosnia Home Team.** There are lots of ways to be involved in this ministry: prayer, donating items for the camps, trip projects, financial gifts and other ways. More info on the Home Team will follow.
- If you have any questions about the Bosnia Servant Trip Travel Team or Home Team, please contact Laura at Laura@goodshepherdonline.org.

"This is our cry, this is our prayer: Peace in the world"

Metro DC Synod Scene

Synod and ELCA Events in December anyone may attend include:

"Wait Training" an Advent Quiet Day of guided prayer and meditation, Synod Prayer Resources Group, Holy Trinity in Falls Church, VA, Sat., Dec. 7 from 9:30 A.M.-3:30 P.M. Pre-registration encouraged: Pat Freitag at 301-983-6558.

"This Holy Night: CBS-TV Christmas Special," Christmas Eve, December 24, 11:35pm, pre-recorded at the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Chicago. The service will feature lessons, carols, and a special holiday message.

Christmas Party for a Poor Family--Lutheran single adults is sponsoring a Christmas Party for a less fortunate family. We gather on Friday, Dec. 13th at 7:00 pm at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 8922 Little River Turnpike in Fairfax (2 miles west of the beltway). An anonymous family has been chosen by LSS. We will each bring a gift for one family member. Call Mike to RSVP and get details on your family member. Potluck dinner. Cost: \$10 (donated to the family). We will sing Christmas carols, wrap our gifts, and party. 301 499 6222 or mendekoch@aol.com



Activities & Opportunities

Every Single One

Sunday Dec 15--Christmas party at Good Shepherd. We will meet at 6pm in Senior High Youth Room. Come enjoy some Christmas carols, cookie decorating (cookies and decorating supplies will be provided), potluck dinner, and maybe even watch Charlie Brown Christmas video? Admission is one or more canned food item for Gaithersburg Help. Going to try something different for potluck this time. Everyone bring a dish that reflects their heritage (international, regional, something you grew up with, etc, etc)?

Saturday Dec 28—We will drive to Lancaster, PA, to enjoy the biblical play "The Miracle of Christmas" staged in the Millennium Theater. (www.bibleonstage.com) Following the play, we will have dinner at a Smorgasbord Restaurant. For information about tickets please contact Mel Gienu at 301-948-8863. Deadline 11-30, 2002.

Also please watch your Sunday bulletin for more events that may be added to "Every Single One" December calendar. For information regarding "Every Single One" contact Joy Freund at GSEVERYSINGLEONE@Hotmail.com or 301-424-7988.

Worship Attendance

Date	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	Total
10-20	101	171	190	462
10-27	95	217	192	504
11-3	84	181	138	393
11-10	116	135	254	505

Phoebe Circle

We will meet Tuesday, December 3rd at 9:30am at the home of Betty Heflin, 7116 Blanchard Dr, Derwood. We will begin our study of the Gospel of John. Jeanne Ely will lead. . Please call Jeanne Ely (301 762 5338) or Alice Helm (301 977 2257) for more information. All women of Good Shepherd are welcome.

Bible Study

Sisters in Grace

We are setting up "Sisters in Grace," for stay-at-home Moms. If you are a stay-at-home Mom we would love for you to join us and enjoy fellowship and Bible study especially tailored to Mothers! Meetings are held each Thursday from 10:00–11:30 am in the Nursery. Mothers with pre-school age children should bring their children – babysitting will be provided. If you have any questions/wish to sign up, please contact: Margaret Mikulich: 301 515 9115 or mikulich@att.net, or Laura Albanese, Dir. of Youth & Family Ministries: 301 367 7782. We hope you can join us in developing a rewarding fellowship among Moms.

HELP WANTED: Looking for a nursery helper to watch children while the Mom's Group meets in the adjoining room. We are offering \$10.00 per hour and require help every Thursday morning from approximately 10:00 a.m. through 11:30 a.m. If you are interested/would like additional information, please contact: Laura Albanese, at: 301 367 7782, or Margaret Mikulich at: 301 515 9115 or mikulich@att.net.



Seniors-Retirees

December 26th--Christmas candlelight tour of Frederick Churches--bus will depart at 4pm. Contact John Maisel at 301 869 7146.

Antietam Luminaries

A few seats remain on the bus to view the 23,000 luminaries at Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg, on Saturday, December 7. The B&B Shepherding group will leave Good Shepherd at 4 p.m., travel west for dinner, and then drive through the fields and fields of luminaries, returning around 10 pm. Contact Art or Vera Mae Schultz, 301-972-0848, or atreefarmer@cs.com.

December Flock Assistants

DATE	TIME	GREETERS	READERS	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	BREAD/WINE	ACOLYTES
1 st	7:45	Joan Palmer, Robbie Ludwig	Al Zanner	Al Zanner, Tom & Carole Turner, Chris Bauer, Carole Weikert, John Reitz, Harley Heath	Joan Palmer, Robbie Ludwig	
	9:00	Art & Alice Johnson	Janelle Jensen-Stone	Janelle Jensen-Stone, Art & Vkgirnia Rabenhorst, Amy Schulz	Art & Alice Johnson	John & David Cappel, Sara Mann
	11:15	Ralph & Paula Bunge	Don Kress	Don & Joanne Kress, David Carlson, Tom Milke	Ralph & Paula Bunge	David Eccard, Jason Redmon, Kristen Krimminger
8 th	7:45	Vera Mae & Art Schultz	Darine Prok, Rachel Forcino	Darine Prok, Rachel Forcino, Joan Palmer, Verne & Lois Lewellen Kenneth & Elizabeth Lassek	Vera Mae & Art Schultz	
	9:00	Mary Jo & Elizabeth An- derson	David Eccard	David, Joan, & Walt Eccard, Debbie Beahm	Mary Jo & Elizabeth Anderson	Paul Bridgers, Andrew Freund, Solveig Peter- sen
	11:15	Allan & Gayle Carlson	Jud Stailey, Bill Risen	Jud, Laura & Elspeth Stailey, Bill Risen	Allan & Gayle Carlson	Keri Bridgett, Rebecca Neal, Christina Hetzel
15 th	7:45	Chris Bauer Vicky Hansen	Roberta & Meredith McFadden	Roberta & Meredith McFadden, David Carlson, Carl & Anne Crawford, Frank Walkulskie, Vonnie Bennett	Chris Bauer, Vicky Hansen	
	9:00	Janelle Jenson- Stone & Pierson Stone	Jill Whitley	Jill Whitley, Mike & Janice Commarato, Gwen Shinko	Janelle Jenson-Stone & Pierson Stone	Alex Christian, Katie Cole, Skylar Kuhn
	11:15	Walt & Shirlene Engle	Jeanne Ely, Tim Campbell	Jeanne & Chuck Ely, Tim Campbell, Barbara Zanner	Walt & Shirlene Engle	Lauren & TJ Blakely, Neil Ouska
22 nd	7:45	Lois Early, Marilyn Gowetski	Betsy Bruning	Betsy & David Bruning, Shayne & Debbie Sullivan, Ricky Phillips, Jack & Sandie Fowlkes	Lois Early, Marilyn Gowetski	
	9:00	Youth	Youth	Youth	Youth	Youth
	11:15	June Bingaman, Sara Torvik	Karen Munzer, TJ Blakely	Steve, Stephen & Karen Munzer, TJ Blakely, Carol Wigen	June Bingaman, Sara Torvik	Eliz K Andersen, Laura Brickley, Kyle Bridgett
24 th	11:00 pm	Christmas Eve		Brian & Linda Benoit, John & Sandy Redmon	John & Sandy Redmon	
25 th	10:00 am	Christmas Day		John Mathur	John Mathur, Carolyn Humerickhouse	
29 th	7:45	Jim & Phyllis Voldal	George Groninger	George & Esther Groninger, Gene & Dennis Ritz, Susie Ritz, Robbie Ludwig, Elizabeth Kay Anderson	Jim & Phyllis Voldal	
	9:00	Brenda & Ernie Kessler	Nancy Kaelber	Nancy & Charles Kaelber, Jim & Betty Rimmel	Brenda & Ernie Kess- ler	Julia Rood, Wesley Hughes, Stephanie Ramdat
	11:15	John & Marian Mathur	Shelly Kline	Shelly & Mike Kline, Joy Larson, Carolyn Humerickhouse	John Mathur, Carolyn Humerickhouse	Matt Ruiz-Stupi, Michael Flickinger, Fran Christian

If you can't serve on the above date, call Carolyn Humerickhouse (301) 926-3490.

Social Ministry News

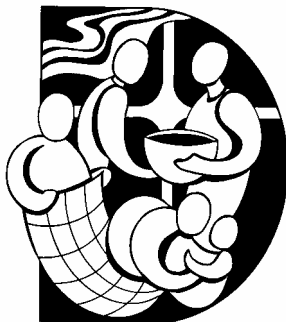


Gifts of Hope

Did you know you could purchase *Gifts of Hope* to give for Christmas and for other special occasions? The procedure is the same whether you are shopping for Christmas or for another occasion. Review the catalog where you will find unique gifts priced from \$2 to \$200. Don't you know someone who would like "Toys and Books for a Church Sponsored Kindergarten" for Christmas, or for a birthday? Could you honor that birthday celebrant by slipping an "Ice Cream Treat" into card or package you are wrapping? Or why not give a "One Year University Scholarship in El Salvador" as a graduation present to someone fortunate enough to be heading off to a university in the US? The catalog contains lots of ideas that are fun and inspiring. The inserts (gift descriptions) have been written to be appropriate throughout the year for any occasion.

After deciding what gifts you want to buy for the entire year, fill in the order form, available as a separate sheet. Make out a check to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church or use cash. For each purchase, you receive an insert describing your gift selection and a Christmas card.

Gifts of Hope Market will be open in the lobby on Sunday mornings after worship services on Dec. 1st, 8th and 15th.



Social Ministry is YOUR Ministry



December Holiday Giving Program

Here are some wonderful opportunities for members, friends and families of Good Shepherd to join in this annual Ecumenical Outreach to needy families in Gaithersburg:

1. Bring unwrapped toys for children of all ages to church and place in the Toys for Tots box beginning December 1st. All toys needed by Sunday, Dec. 15.
2. Buy gift certificates in \$5 & \$10 denominations for teens from places like, Wal-Mart, Movie Theatres, Best Buy, Lake Forest Mall, etc. Place in THE BOX outside the church office.....

3. Make a financial contribution to be used to fill in the gaps in donations payable to: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Memo: December Giving Program.

4. Volunteer your time (one four hour shift) on December 18 or 19th when we will be sorting, packaging, and distributing food and gifts. Dec 18th, 8-8, Dec. 19th, 8-3. Children over ten years old are invited to come with their parents!
To volunteer, call: Scott Chopas, Derwood Bible Church @ 301-948-5440 or Paula Bunge, 301-424-1762. Attn. Retirees and at home folks, we especially need help during the day!

5. Provide a plate of cookies to serve to workers and recipient families on Dec. 18 & 19.

With the support of area congregations, businesses & the City of Gaithersburg, we will be serving over 1,000 families & individuals of every variety this Christmas. Thank you for making this ministry possible!



Social Ministry News



Gaithersburg HELP

Gaithersburg HELP is in great need of food coordinators. As a food coordinator, you would work from your home one day each month for 4-5 hours. Your responsibility would be to take phone calls from clients in need of food, call them back, and schedule a pick up or delivery of food to them. If you can help in this way, please call Virginia Rabenhorst at 301-963-1248. Check out the information on the Social Ministry bulletin board for other opportunities to work at Gaithersburg HELP.

December Wish List

- Serve the hungry at the Lord's Table on the 4th Monday of each month any 2 hours between 1:00 and 5:00 (second shift is in greater need of volunteers)
- Many opportunities to help Rainbow Place Shelter which houses women from November to March (see related article)
- Food coordinators for Gaithersburg HELP (see related article)
- Volunteers needed to sort and bag toys for the Holi-

day gift giving program (see related article)

- New and gently used towels, bedding, and linens needed for the Interfaith Clothing Center (drop them in the green bin by the back lower parking lot door)
- Donate gently used household items, furniture, appliances and clothing to the Old Towne Thrift Shop in Gaithersburg (call 301-963-6600 for pick-up)

CHRISTMAS INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

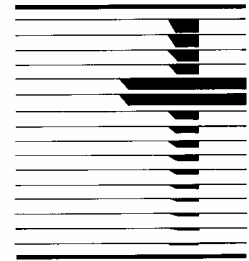
DEC10 till JAN 2,2003

It is time again to start thinking about our Christmas International House program. Our goal is to provide 12 students with a place to stay and activities during what should be a joyous season. This is the 23rd year that GPB and Gaithersburg area churches will host college students studying in the US from all over the world. We are asking for volunteers to host a student or two for all or part of the Christmas holiday break. This is the perfect time of year to exercise the gift of hospitality and be part of our Christmas International House program. As well as homes, we also need volunteers for dinners for two, tour guides for all day trips, and International Dinner hosts. For more information or to volunteer, call Margaret Curren at 301-990-0550.

Thank You!

Thank you to all the generous members of Good Shepherd who donated to provide Thanksgiving dinners for fifty needy families in the area.

Thank You to Brenda Kessler for her able assistance with the Social Ministry brochure that each member received in the mail recently.



Rainbow Place Shelter

Last year Rainbow Place Shelter in Rockville housed a total of 80 women from November 1 through March 31. It is truly the bottom of the shelter system and is the last overnight shelter for women who find themselves on the streets. There are many opportunities to help Rainbow Place. They include visiting for an evening, baking a casserole or a dessert, donations of clothing or money for toiletries, packing some lunches, day time driving to appointments, and many other special tasks such as helping at the holidays. If you are interested in helping, contact Jill Ochs at Rockville Presbyterian Church 301-762-3363 or at her home 301-482-2629.

COMMUNITY NEWS



Preschool Update

The Preschool opened its doors in September to 113 children. The doors stayed opened due to the diligence of David Maul, Joe Stavely, and John Maisel who managed to solve the plumbing back-up problem that plagued the education wing. The children, their parents and the staff are grateful for all the hours these men put in to making sure we had water – and a place for it to go. We now have cable internet, thanks to the efforts of Bill Simmelink, and the parents are taking advantage of this convenient method of communication.

Our October was dramatically changed due to the threat of the sniper. All field trips to the Pumpkin Patch were canceled, so we created our own Pumpkin Patch, along with many other activities, in the Fellowship Hall. The children – and the many many parents who volunteered to help, had a wonderful morning. We enjoyed it so much that we plan to do this again next year.

During November, the Preschoolers collected food and gift certificates for the food pantry. In December, the children participate in the Salvation Army "Christmas Angels" program which collects Christmas gifts for needy children in the area. These opportunities teach young children about the "giving" part of the holiday season, not just the "getting".

We have added two new members to the Preschool Board this year – Becky Reitz and Marian Mathur.

The other Board members are as follows: Royal Dellinger, Betsy Bruning, Chris Bauer, Pastor Justin, Vicki Schmidt and Kerry Hurley. We are thankful for the participation of Merrilee Bell and Frances Foltz who completed their Board terms this year.

This December we say good-bye to a much loved staff member. Mrs. Leslie Fleming is resigning her position as Assistant Teacher to pursue opportunities in other areas. She has been a member of the staff for several years, has had both of her children in the program, and will be greatly missed. We wish her success in her next position.

The Preschool program is expanding next fall and we are looking for new teachers to join our team. The qualifications include membership in a Christian church, a bachelor's degree with Early Childhood coursework and previous teaching experience. Please contact the Preschool for more information at 301-963-1955.



MAKING GOOD MARRIAGES BETTER

Come to know and experience God's full joy, love, and peace in your marriage by rediscovering the one you love on a Lutheran Marriage Encounter weekend. You will have 44 hours to focus on each other without the everyday distractions of jobs, children, chores, phones, etc. Lutheran Marriage Encounter has been called "one of the most effective

ministries to support Christian marriages." It provides couples with greater depth, growth, and enrichment in their relationship. You'll like the difference a Lutheran Marriage Encounter weekend can make! Weekends in this area are scheduled for--

- February 21-23, 2003 -- Herndon, VA
- April 25-27, 2003 -- Gaithersburg, MD

For info and to register, call Alan & Arline Fraser 301-869-2329.



Blood Pressure Screening From the Health Ministry...

Exciting news! Beginning December 1st the Health Ministry will be offering a blood pressure screening for all who are interested. The screening will be held the first Sunday of every month between the second and third services.

Hypertension is a silent disease process often undetected until related complications arise. Our goal is to educate and direct those with higher than "normal" blood pressure readings to seek follow up care with their family physicians. We will also provide informative brochures outlining hypertension and related complications.

Look for our table set up just outside of the office December 1st!

God Bless and Good Health,

Dan Sell

Christian Education

Confirmation

On November 10th, a total of 17 youth reaffirmed their baptism through the service of Confirmation. These youth led the late service as ushers, communion assistants, readers, acolytes, cantor, worship leader, greeters, and by giving sermonettes. Many thanks go to their parents, teachers, youth leaders, and Pastors Dave Sonnenberg, Justin Lathrop, George Handley, Patricia Barth and Roger Dahlin who assisted on this journey of faith during their lives and especially the past three years. Pastor Justin and Joe Kostecki were the Confirmation leaders this fall. A special thank you goes to Mary Jo Anderson and the eighth grade parents who prepared and served the Confirmation Banquet on Sunday November 3rd. Mary Jo also assisted the Confirmands on the day of Confirmation preparing the robes and corsages. Youth confirmed include: Victoria Anthony, Scott Bell, Laura Brickley, Katherine Cole, Jacqueline Doughty, Rachel Forcino, Melody Gannon, Hayley Kuhn, Jennifer Lintvedt, Amelia Martin, Russell McFadden, Daniel Munzer, Neill Ouska, Gregory Riesett, Patricia Rosemier, Katrina Schiefer, and Doug Seek.



God's Love: FEEL THE POWER

Each December during Sunday School the students participating in the Rotational classes will emphasize a different part of the CHRISTmas story. This year our students in grades 1 through 5 will focus on Mary, the mother of Jesus. Come each Sunday in December to learn about the Christmas story through the eyes of Mary.

Beginning December, the new Rotation schedule will be:

Rotation Schedule

- Dec 1st Mary
- 1st-Faith in Action
 - 2-3rd-Creation Corner
 - 4th-Acts of God
 - 5th-Holy Word Cinema
- Dec 8th Mary
- 1st-Holy Word Cinema
 - 2-3rd-Faith in Action
 - 4th-Creation Corner
 - 5th-Acts of God
- Dec 15th Mary
- 1st-Acts of God
 - 2-3rd Holy Word Cinema
 - 4th-Faith in Action
 - 5th-Creation Corner

Check the bulletin boards in the hallways each Sunday to determine your Rotation!! Hope to see you there!

Sunday school classes for all ages will be in Recess December 29th. Sunday School will resume on January 4th, 2003.

Senior High Sunday School

During December the Senior High Students will begin a Bible Study tailored for the season of Advent. Come and be a part of this exciting class.

Adult Education

Advent Adult Education offers unique opportunities for study and inspiration. Beginning December 1 at 10:00 A.M., a Parenting class will be team-taught by **Pastor Justin** and new member **Karn Carroll**. Karn brings to Good Shepherd skills from her former church where she was Associate Pastor. She and Pastor Justin will take the first and third sessions of this class, titled "Keeping Christ at the Heart of Christmas." On December 8 the session will be taught by Pastor Justin and **Meredith Walters**, who heads the Seneca Valley Cluster of Montgomery County PTA. This parenting class will not meet on December 22 when the children's classes will present their annual Christmas program.

Concurrently an Advent class, *Won't You Let Him In?*, at 9:00 and 10:00 A.M., will be taught by **Ernie Kessler**, and those who have attended his classes before know how Ernie brings meaning and biblical knowledge to the sessions.

Shelly and Mike Kline's Gospel of John bible class will continue to meet at 10:00 A.M.

On December 8 only, the popular *Parenting of Teens* class, convened by **Sandy Redmond**, will meet at 10:00 A.M.

Christian Education

Sunday School Attendance

Oct	6 th	13 th	20 th	27 th
3's	5	6	6	5
3-4's	12	9	8	9
Pk/k	9	7	5	7
Gr1	9	7	7	7
G2/3	9	9	9	7
Gr 4	7	9	3	7
Gr 5	13	13	7	13
Gr 6	11	11	1	11
Gr7	15	15		14
Gr 8	13	15		14
Gr 9	12	13		11
SrH	16	28		14
Ad9	12	9		12
Ad10	22	18		40
Parent	36	35		
Bible	13	9		6



Weekday Opportunities:

Meeting Wednesdays 7:30-8:45 p.m. **Pastor Justin's** group (see Advent opportunities). Thursdays 10:00-11:45 a.m. MOM's Group (Sister's in Grace), for fellowship and bible study, meets in the Nursery. Also Thursdays 10:30-11:45 a.m. **Pastor Fritz Foltz** continues the discussion of the popular book *The Jesus I Never Knew* by Philip Yancey (Fireside Room). All of these groups are open for any additional persons wishing to join.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

It is never too early to think about summer! Due to the National Youth Gathering trip being held early in July as well as a possible trip to Bosnia, the Christian Education Committee has decided to move Vacation Bible School 2003 to August 11 – 15. VBS will still be held during the morning hours for Three Year Olds through Grade 5. If you are interested in being on the team to help plan this awesome event, please call Betsy Bruning at 301-916-1934 or see Pastor Justin.

Meeting

The next Christian Education meeting is scheduled for December 2 at 7 pm. We are always looking for new folks to join our group. No matter what age group you are interested in, we have a place for you. Please prayerfully consider joining our group!!

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Christian Education Committee is interested in developing a team of people to create a cooperative Summer Sunday School experience for our kids. Our vision is that this would be a multi-age class that would meet every Sunday Morning during the Summer Months for a lesson, crafts, and singing, if you are interested in helping out please contact Pastor Justin.

WHY GO TO CHURCH?

A Churchgoer wrote a letter to the editor of the newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. I've gone for 30 years now, he wrote, and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all.

This started a real controversy in the Letters to the Editor column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!

When you are DOWN to nothing.... God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible!

Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!

REMEMBER; FAITH MAKES THINGS POSSIBLE,
NOT EASY!!

Worship and Music



New Singers Class: Join Us!

Music Assistant Caitlin Garry will lead two more sessions of her New Singers Class on Dec. 1 and Dec. 8 during the 10 a.m. Sunday Adult Education hour.

This is a great opportunity for folks who sang in high school or college choirs to get back in the swing of making music. Novices to group singing are welcome! Come join Caitlin in the sanctuary.



Music for Worship During December

During the church year, the choirs and instrumental groups will vary their schedules so that each worship service can enjoy their musical praise.

Dec 1st ADVENT

7:45 am Vocal Duet; Instrumental Ensemble
9:00 am God's Messengers Choir
11:15 am Chancel Choir

Dec 8th ADVENT

7:45 am Ignite the Light for JC Chorus; Shepherd's Bells
9:00 am Chancel Choir; Shepherd's Bells
11:15 am Chancel Choir; Good Shepherd Chimers

Dec 15th ADVENT

7:45 am Chancel Choir
9:00 am Chancel Choir
11:15 am Children's Choir; Rhythm and Good News

Dec 22nd ADVENT

7:45 am Vocal Quartet
9:00 am Chancel Choir
11:15 am Chancel Choir

Dec 24th CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 pm Children's & God's Messengers Choirs;
GS Chimers
7:00 pm Ignite the Light for JC Chorus; Bells of Joy
9:00 pm Chancel Choir; GS Ringers; Brass Ensemble
11:00 pm Chancel Choir; GS Ringers; Brass Ensemble

Dec 25th CHRISTMAS DAY

10:30 am Vocal Quartet

Dec 29th BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

7:45 am Vocal Solo
9:00 am Vocal Solo
11:15 am Vocal Solo

The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church website (www.goodshepherdonline.org) also has information about our choral and instrumental groups, and special events in Music Ministry.

Youth News



December Youth News

Christmas Caroling for All Ages! Sunday, December 15, 4:00-7:00pm- Join us for a potluck supper and Christmas Caroling! Sign up on the Youth Music Ministry Board!

Elementary Youth - 1-5th grade

Sunday, December 1, 12:30-4:00pm- Parent's Day Out! Parents enjoy an afternoon of Christmas shopping while we have lunch, make Advent crafts, play games and watch a cartoon. The Youth Gathering 2003 participants will provide the supervision; any money donated will go to the Youth Gathering trip. Please sign up on the youth board or email Laura@goodshepherdonline.org or 301-367-7782.

Sunday, December 15- Christmas Caroling!

Middle School Youth- 6-8th grade

Sunday, December 8, 12:30-3:00pm- Middle School Christmas Party! Meet in the youth room for food, fun and fellowship. Please bring a \$5-10 wrapped gift for the gift exchange. Please sign up on the youth board or by email Laura@goodshepherdonline.org or 301-367-7782.



Sunday, December 15- Christmas Caroling!

Service Opportunity for Middle/High School Students: Soup Kitchen at St. Martin's from 3:00-5:00 pm on Monday December 23rd. Please wear a baseball cap and sign up on the Youth Board.

Senior High Youth- 9-12th grade

Sunday, December 15- Christmas Caroling!

Service Opportunity for Middle/High School Students: Soup Kitchen at St. Martin's from 3:00-5:00 pm on Monday December 23rd. Please wear a baseball cap and sign up on the Youth Board.



Saturday, December 21 2:30-8:00pm- Senior High Christmas Party in Annapolis! Ice skate in the afternoon at Quiet Waters Park in Annapolis and dinner/fellowship at Laura and Tony's house afterwards. Please bring a \$5-10 wrapped gift for the gift exchange. Sign up on the youth board or email Laura@goodshepherdonline.org or 301-367-7782.

Sunday, December 22, 12:30-2:00pm- Youth Gathering Bible Study and Lunch in the Youth Room. Please let Laura know as soon as possible if you cannot attend.

++++There is no Children, Youth and Family Committee Meeting in December. Next meeting is January 8 at 6:30pm in the youth room. All are welcomed! +++++

Thank you...

Janice Wahlmann prepared a wonderful lunch for the Gaithersburg Clergy Association who met at Good Shepherd on Nov 5th, Thanks to Janice for your help!

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Thanks to Vicki, Roberta & Brenda,

Many thanks go to our wonderful office staff from the Stewardship Committee. Your gracious help, sometimes with short deadlines, during the preparations for Consecration Sunday was greatly appreciated. Your behind the scenes work made our program a resounding success!

Julia Carlson

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To the Council and Congregation:

It is with a grateful heart that I thank you for the loving support you offer me as I progress in my seminary studies. Your generous financial assistance helps to ease my student loans. The less money I borrow for school, the less I'll have to pay back later, so I can be more flexible when going through the first call process (which is still far off!) Thank you for enabling some flexibility. I am very happy in South Carolina and I am enjoying my studies. Thanks to all of you who keep me (and all who prepare for careers in ministry) in your prayers. There are no words to express my gratitude to the congregation that has helped to form me and raise me in the faith. You are all very special to me! I look forward to seeing you while I am home on break during the holidays. In the meantime, I always love to hear from folks, so e-mail me at mkuhlman@ltss.edu
In Peace, Michelle Kuhlman

Personal Note of Thanks

As we end 2002, let me just pause and say thank you for allowing me to serve this congregation. I find Good Shepherd to be an incredibly exciting and fun place to be. You have helped me to grow professionally and even more important than that, you have helped me grow spiritually. I am deeply moved by the care that you extend to my family- to my wife and my 3 children. Thank you for your prayers and support. May you all have a safe and happy Christmas season.

Pastor Dave Sonnenberg

With Sym- pathy

We pray for Ethelyn & Kurt Christopher and family on the death of Ethelyn's father, the Reverend William Schaeffer.

In Memory

On Nov 3rd, All Saint's Day, we remembered those in the Good Shepherd family who passed away in the past year. Those in our prayers include: Lucien Boiven, John Holder, Kenneth Ruth, Alice Schultz, Bette Sivert, Thaddeus Vincenty and Lucille Wise.

Did you know...

That the Reverend George Handley, one of the interim pastors who served Good Shepherd so faithfully, was recently appointed as the staff coordinator for the United Lutheran Appeal. This is an annual appeal on behalf of thirteen institutions and agencies either related to the synod or its congregations.

Farewell and God- speed

October 27th we said a fond farewell to Roland and Marian Foster. They are moving from Gaithersburg to their new home in Fayetteville, PA. We are thankful for Roland and Marian, loving members of Good Shepherd who have dearly blessed and ministered to this church family and our community for 27 years. Our love and God's blessings go with them to their new home. Their new address is 6718 Bent Oak Dr., Fayetteville, PA 17222

With Joy

We celebrate the baptism of Kathleen Anne Seaholm on Oct 27th.

Congratu- lations

God's blessings to Sara & Tim Toscano on the birth of their daughter, Marleigh Elizabeth, born Sep16, in Baltimore, MD. Marleigh is the granddaughter of Pastor & Mrs. Richard Hembrock.

Rocco and Heidi Armanda recently
completed their first triathlon in

Florida.