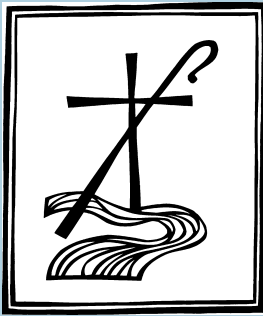


THE VOICE

JANUARY 2012



INSIDE
THIS ISSUE:

Adult Educa-
tion Opportu-
nities 2

Music/Health
Ministry 3

Youth News 4

Prayer Line/
Notes to the
Congregation 5

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Friends in Christ,

Merry Christmas! Yes, I know by the time you are reading this, the calendar will have turned to 2012 and the stores will have all shifted to Valentine's Day paraphernalia. However, it is still Christmas. The 12 days of Christmas is more than just a song, and those twelve days **begin** on December 25th. So Merry Christmas to you all!

Perhaps there is something for us to learn from this seemingly counter-cultural idea of celebrating Christmas for the whole twelve days. Christmas is, after all, about giving thanks to God for the miracle that God chose to dwell with us, taking on human form, and live. Jesus. Emmanuel. God-with-us. This is good news. It is news worth celebrating, not just for one holy night, but every day.

With this Christmas remembrance comes great expectation for all that God will continue to do in this world. As the candles of Christmas Eve fade, the light of the Epiphany star glows ever brighter. The light from the manger becomes the light to the nations, as the most unexpected guests, the magi, seek the Christ child. So much about the Christmas story is radical and inclusive. God-with-us is also God-with-them. God came for us. God also came for those who are other. God came for rough-around-the-edges shepherds who lived in the fields. God came for wise men from far away, astrologers who charted the stars in hope of divining some greater purpose in life. God came for women and children, for fishermen and tax collectors, for Pharisees and Roman centurions. God came for the world, to break into the darkness of this life and offer hope of light that cannot be overcome. God came for you.

So, I encourage you to continue to greet those around you with, "Merry Christmas!" When you get a strange look, remember this good news, that Christmas is the miracle that God came for the world, and God came for you. That's a message worth sharing every day of our lives. Thanks be to God!

With joy,

Pastor Kathy

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORLD OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. beginning January 8th

Are you looking for a richer understanding of the Bible? Have you ever wondered what life was like at the time of Jesus? This 4 session course will take an in-depth look at the culture and customs that shaped the New Testament writers. This is an in-depth Bible study, preparing participants to become more confident Bible readers and interpreters. The DVD presentations feature Dr. Ray Pickett, Dr. Sarah Henrich, and Dr. Rick Carlson, who introduce participants to the world of the text, the world behind the text, and the world in front of the text. John Crum will facilitate the discussion.

January 8th Session 1: New Testament Literature & New Testament Canon
January 15th Session 2: Greco-Roman World
January 22nd Session 3: The Jewish Context of Early Christian Literature
February 5th Session 4: Interpretation

"One of our primary goals in this course is to provide a variety of lenses and interpretive tools that will allow you to understand the literature of the New Testament in relation to its historical and cultural contexts so that you can faithfully and imaginatively interpret New Testament texts in your own contemporary ministry contexts. In other words, we want to teach you how to interpret the New Testament texts, not just interpret them for you."

Making Sense of the Christian Faith

Tuesdays at 1 p.m. beginning January 10th

Beginning Tuesday, January 10th at 1 p.m. the Tuesday afternoon Adult Study will resume. We will walk through the major tenets of the Christian faith, using the easy-to-read format of the "Making Sense" series. A sequel to the very popular *Making Sense of Scripture*, David Lose's *Making Sense of the Christian Faith* is written in the same conversational, accessible, and thought-provoking style. This time the topic is theology, as David introduces readers to seven central doctrines of the Christian faith, taking them up in the order of the Biblical narrative: creation, sin, covenant & community, incarnation, atonement, church & Holy Spirit, and eschatology.

Mark Your Calendars

The Good Shepherd Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 29th, 2012.

We will have one worship service at 9:30 a.m. followed by the annual meeting.

MUSIC

The seasons of Advent and Christmas were glorious in their celebrations at Good Shepherd this year. I want to thank all of the singers, instrumentalists and directors who helped to make our Advent and Christmas so joyous. I also would like to thank all of those who served as readers for the scripture segments of our Lessons and Carols. This is an integral part of the experience. Lastly I would like to thank Eleanor Trebilcock for the beautiful artwork prepared especially for our bulletin cover at our Lessons and Carols service.

In The Voice issue from January 2011, I discussed our commitment to singing psalms in worship. At that time I pointed out that our hymnal has 16 different tones for our use in singing of psalms. It was my goal to use all of them during the past church year. By way of update on this issue, I am pleased to announce that in fact Good Shepherd has used all 16 of the psalm tones in worship since that time. I again invite anyone to contact me who may be interested in serving as a cantor during the psalms.

Interested in learning more about Good Shepherd?

Beginning January 8th, all those interested in learning more about who we are at LCGS, our ministry and theology are invited to attend a series of conversations with Pastor Kathy. We will gather from 9:30-10:30 a.m. to consider the ways we walk together in faith and share Christ's love in the world around us. All are welcome to attend.

HEALTH MINISTRY

Always Check the Date!

Please Read...from Amy Canady and the Health Ministry Committee

This is a story I have wanted to share for a long time.... Years ago, when my children were just toddlers, one of them had a bad cold and I was out of cold medicine. So, I put all their coats on and we drove to the grocery store to buy cold medicine.

As soon as we got home, I poured out the correct amount of medicine into the little plastic cup that comes with children's liquid cold medicines. I had my arm outstretched to hand it to my daughter when out of the corner of my eye; I saw the box this medicine came in, sitting on the counter. More specifically, I saw the expiration date. This medicine, that I had just purchased not ten minutes ago, had expired two years ago!

Needless to say, I did not give my daughter that medicine and once again, I bundled them up and we drove back to the grocery store to let them know what happened and to buy some medicine that had not expired! Since then, I have made it a point to check expiration dates—no matter when it was purchased! So please...always check the date!

YOUTH NEWS

Youth Group and Dinner

4:30 – 6:00pm

Sunday, January 8th

Come join the youth as they prepare and enjoy a homemade dinner!

Gnomeo and Juliet Movie Night

6:30 – 9:00pm

Friday, January 14th

Join us as we watch the adventures of two backyard gnomes, Gnomeo and Juliet.

Youth Group and Dinner Preparation

4:30 – 6:00pm

Sunday, January 22th

The time has come to start preparing for the annual youth dinner! Come join us as we unite to plan the best youth dinner ever.

RoadTrip

January 20-22

Nine Good Shepherd youth and adults are attending RoadTrip! RoadTrip is the annual Delaware-Maryland Synod gathering for high school youth. The theme this year is "Still Speaking." We will learn different ways that God still speaks to us today, and how to share the awesome news He brings us. RoadTrip will take place from January 20-January 22 in Ocean City, Maryland.

Youth Dinner

Saturday, March 3rd

The Annual Youth Dinner will take place on March 3rd. Come join us for a themed meal with multiple courses, decorations, entertainment and more! Look for a sign-up sheet in early February.

Youth Retreat

March 16th – 18th

Our Annual Youth Retreat will take place the weekend of March 16- March 18. We are going to spend the weekend learning more about our faith, spending time outdoors, enjoying great fellowship, and having a generally awesome time! Look for more information in February. If you have any questions, contact Katie Mulrey.

PRAYER LINE REQUESTS

PRAY FOR:	CONCERN:	REQUESTED BY:
CHRISTINE ADGATE	Tumor Surgery	Sally Heinz
SUZANNE BEAM	Breast Cancer	Betsy Lengel
ROE BLUME	Lung Tumor	Pastor Kathy
RACHEL DELUCA	Leg Surgery	Helen Moyer
BILL FAGERSTROM	Surgery	Barbara Keller
DONNA HARRIS	Breast Cancer Surgery	Self
TRINA HAXTON	Auto Accident	Susan Wendt
KARLA KLUMP	Cancer	The Wolfe's
KELLY MALONE	Cancer Treatments	Barbara Keller
BOB MELEGA	Dementia	Victor Melega
JAMES PERSOLEO	Colon Cancer	Carol Lee Waslick
PAT REUSS	Critical	Betsy Lengel
JUNE ROBINSON	Continued Care	Debbie Sheridan
SUE SHANK	Valve Surgery	Barbara Keller
OTIS SHEALY	Continued Care	Pastor Kathy
SWAGGART DANNY	Cancer	Barbara Keller
GAGE TOBIN	Kidney Problems	Nancy Koch
KELLY TYSON	Cancer	Kaye Tyson
HELEN TORGERSON	Continued Care	Bob Torgerson
DON UMBRECHT	Cancer	Pat Umbrecht
FRED WENDT SR.	Colon Cancer	Susan Wendt
NANCY WILLIAMS	Well Being	Janet James



Friends & families of those persons removed from the prayer line thank everyone for their prayers and concerns.

Prayer requests may be made by calling Pastor Kathy at the church office, (302) 478-3030 or Faith Moyer at (302) 475-3122.

Congratulations!

Jane Elizabeth Pease, daughter of Gayl and Chandler Pease and the granddaughter of George and Sandy Andrews, will receive the sacrament of Holy Baptism on January 8th. Jane was born on June 2, 2011.

Many thanks to the members of Good Shepherd for your expressions of kindness and sympathy on the death of my 110 year old aunt.

*Sincerely,
Ruth Clark*

Once again, you have made our annual Thanksgiving Day a huge success. Because of your generous donation, we were able to serve approximately 150 people. We thank you so much for your blessing. May you and your family be blessed this holiday season and new year.

Yours in Christ,
Sister Bernice Barrett
Outreach Coordinator
Brandywine Community United Methodist Church

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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Wilmington, DE 19803

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E-mail: lgsde@gmail.com

On the web:

www.goodshepherd-wilmington.org

Sunday Worship

8:00 & 11:00 AM

Church Staff:

Pastor: Kathy Ierien

Youth Minister: Katie Mulrey

Secretaries: Susan Wendt and Sandy Andrews

Church Council President: Sharon Oslin

Director of Music: David Bowsbey

Handbell Director: Margaret Love

Parish Administrator: George Huemmrich

Parish Nurse: Heidi Preisendanz

Sexton: Bob Moyer

Volunteer Ministry Coordinator: Nancy Griffith

Voice Editor: Nancy Huber

Note to Contributors:

For the next issue, please submit your articles by January 15th. If you would like to send a contribution by e-mail, please send an attachment in Word to nancyhuber@comcast.net