

The Shepherd's Call

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DECEMBER 2015

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Stewardship—

Loraine Seder

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Nancy Crosby

Property—

Brian Tompkins

Mission—

VACANT

Youth/Fellowship—

Elinor Leili

Media Outreach—

James Kloos

Dear members and friends of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd,

Now that December is here and Thanksgiving weekend is over it will be hard to think of much else other than Christmas. I know my mind is wrapped up in Christmas glee. Our busy Christmas seasons might seem like an unending distraction from something more majestic and cosmic—we are celebrating the birth of Jesus after all—yet, all the fanfare spirals out from this pivotal event that took place millennia ago. The birth of Jesus, God's own Son in human flesh captures our imagination. The Christ child has captured the imaginations of artists, poets, writers, and many more. One of my favorite Christmas poems is John Milton's *On the Morning of Christ's Nativity*. You may be familiar with the poem's opening stanza:

This is the Month, and this the happy morn
Wherein the Son of Heav'ns eternal King,
Of wedded Maid, and Virgin Mother born,
Our great redemption from above did bring;
For so the holy sages once did sing,
That he our deadly forfeit should release,
And with his Father work us a perpetual peace.

Milton opens the poem with a line that takes us right to Christmas morning, not the Christmas morning we will celebrate in on December 25th 2015 but the first Christmas morning. The amazing thing about Milton's poem, which he wrote at the tender age of 21 in the year 1629, is what he decided to leave out. There are no Magi, Mary is only referred to, Joseph is not even mentioned, and even Milton himself is absent from the poem. Because of this, Milton give the reader a nearly timeless experience of Christmas morning. What I love the most about this poem is that year after year I can read it and, with Milton's imagination, experience a timeless wonder of the first Christmas morning before the Magi arrive, before the shepherds hear, without Christmas music or presents to distract me.

The Christmas celebration comes and goes quickly, nearly in the blink of an eye. For some, it seems like Christmas never stays around long enough. We celebrate the resurrection of our Lord every Sunday and every time we gather for the Lord's Supper. Paul even reminds us of the death and resurrection of Jesus in connection to the Lord's Supper in 1 Corinthians 11:26, "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." Christmas is different. We reserve the celebration of Jesus' birth to one day a year. The flurry of the season and the frantic preparations for this one day, this special day makes sense when we consider that on Christmas Day we remember that God continued to keep his promise of redemption and restoration by sending his Son into the flesh to be born of a virgin. With Milton we can proclaim, "This is the Month" and what a month it is.

In Christ,
Pastor Justin

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



From the cockpit of the President..

I hope that everyone had a BLESSED THANKSGIVING. I want to thank everyone for their support and participation in this year's Stewardship Drive. We are always looking for people to step up and help with the different committees.

The church decorating went well Saturday and I would like to thank everyone who helped.



As we start the new church year and the beginning of Advent, please remember all those who are in need of our help as a congregation, and as individuals. Love others as Christ loves each and every one of us!

I will be retiring in January after 37 1/2 years of airline flying and 6 years of military service. I hope that I can fulfill my duties as the congregation's president starting this month, but becoming full time in January when I will be around. I look forward to working with the church board and every member of the congregation. If there is something that is bothering you, please feel free to talk to me anytime.

Remember, we are all one family in Christ. May God bless you and your families during this Christmas season.

Don Breeger

Stewardship

Thank you to all who have made their pledges and completed the Time and Talent sheets for 2016!

Your generosity is much appreciated! Also, Thank you for everyone's prayers and support for Ed and I during his continued recovery.

Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year! Loraine Seder

PROPERTY

Beverly Breeger and Christine Kish have volunteered to do the weekly cleaning in the church. They will literally be volunteers and not accept any payments for this work. We THANK them very much for doing this job.



WOMEN'S SERVICE LEAGUE

The Giving Tree items will be gathered this year for the Women's Center in Danbury. Take a tag from the tree and purchase the item. Bring the item in and put it under the tree. Many tags have gift cards which are needed by the women to provide for their children and themselves. Let's all make someone else's Christmas a little brighter.



DECEMBER 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
			7:30 pm—Choir 8:00 pm—AA	10:00 am—WSL		
6-9:00am-Sunday School 9:15am-Adult Bible Class 10:30 am Divine Service with Communion	7 6:30pm Knitting	8	9 11:30 pm - Choir 8:00pm—AA	10	11	12 5:00 pm-9:00pm Christmas Party at the Smiths
13-9:00am-Sunday School 9:15am-Adult Bible Class 10:30 am Divine Service with communion Sunday School Pageant	14 6:30pm Knitting	15 7:45 pm Board	16 7:30 pm—Choir 8:00pm—AA	17 10:00 am—WSL	18	19
20-9:00am-Sunday School 9:15am-Adult Bible Class 10:30am Divine Service with Communion	21 6:30pm Knitting	22 7:00 pm - Discipleship	23 7:30pm-Choir 8:00pm— AA	24 5:00pm-Service 11:00pm-Service	25	26
27-9:00am-Sunday School 9:15am-Adult Bible Class 10:30am Divine Service with Communion	28	29	30 7:30pm-Choir 8:00pm— AA	31		

SERVING PAGE for NOVEMBER

	12/6	12/13	12/20	12/27	1/3
Ushers:	D. Kish C. Kish F. Bok J. Bok	L. Hamilton C. Hamilton B. Tompkins P. Tompkins	E. Davis E. Davis A. Golino C. Woodside	C. Dice B. Dice J. Kloos	T. Renz E. Davis E. Davis C. Woodside
Tellers:	T. Renz R. Renz	C. Dice J. Bok	C. Woodside J. Bok	B. Dice S. Kloos	T. Renz R. Renz
Lay Reader:	R. Renz	B. Woodside	N. Falsetti	C. Woodside	L. Smith
Greeters:	K. Dupre	S. Haber	C. Hamilton	S. Lowry	J. Smith
Comm. Asst.:	L. Smith	R. Smith	L. Hamilton	T. Renz	L. Smith
Altar Guild:	E. Leili L. White	H. Abrantes L. Seder	L. Smith B. Breeger 12/24—5pm— Jane 12/24-11pm— Patty	E. Leili L. White McGowan & Tompkins &	H. Abrantes L. Seder Helen Scully Liz Thomson

BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

	Pedro Soto	Dec 04		
Larry and Nancy Crosby	Madison Lehmacher	Dec 05	Ed Davis	Dec 18
<i>December 24</i>	Mark Larson	Dec 07	Christine Conklin	Dec 20
<hr/>	Nicholas Zustovich	Dec 10	Carol Hamilton	Dec 20
DATES TO REMEMBER	Ingrid Wixted	Dec 10	Nichy Hudson-Thiel	Dec 24
December 12 -	Carol Kissmann	Dec 10	Lisa Golino	Dec 21
Christmas Party	Kai Wismar	Dec 13	Renee Renz	Dec 24
December 13 -	Bonnie Dice	Dec 13	Nicholas Zustovich	Dec 25
Sunday School Pageant	Madelyn Soto	Dec 13	Elizabeth Thomson	Dec 26
December 24— 5:00 pm	Brian Hamilton	Dec 14	Alexander Thomson	Dec 27
Christmas Eve Candlelight	John Alit	Dec 15	Bob Woodside	Dec 28
Service	Abby Hamilton	Dec 15	Jane McGowan	Dec 30
11:00 pm—Midnight Divine	Amanda Scalzitti	Dec 15		
Service	Seth Renz	Dec 16		