




Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
7800 W. McCarthy Rd., Palos Heights, IL 60463
www.good-shepherd-church.com

December, 2022



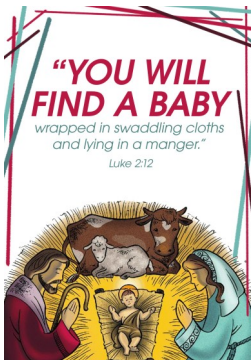
DECEMBER: winter, snow, Advent, Christmas, the last day of the year . . . The month of December brings with it the time in waiting that is Advent and the culmination of God's presence among us at Christmas. These are seasons of great expectation, contemplation, joy and celebration. Come celebrate God's love this month through *special events and services*.

The month begins with *Christmas Decorating* on *Decorate the Church* Thursday, December 8 beginning at 6:30 pm. All are welcome to come and take part in beautifying the sanctuary and narthex for the season. Be part of making the décor match the joy of the season. 



"A Night Like No Other!!" Children's Christmas Service, December 18 at 4:00 PM . . . Our Children will share the beloved story of Jesus' birth as told through poems, scripture and song with their family and friends. We are looking forward to sharing the good news of Jesus' birth with you.

"The Voices of Christmas" is the theme of this year's Christmas concert. This musical celebration of God's love is a centerpiece of our Christmas proclamation as all of our choirs share in the message of the Gospel through their music. The concert is *Tuesday, December 20 at 7:00 PM*. Be sure to reserve the time for this very special gift.



Christmas Eve Services, Saturday, December 24

- 4:00 pm – Our family service, filled with surprises, includes music from our younger musicians and reminds us how God surprises the world by showing up in a manger.
- 6:30 pm – A contemplative service highlighted by our bell choir and soloists that highlights the joy found in the simple message that God dwells with us.
- 10:30 pm – Our candlelight service of great exaltation sharing the good news with our adult choir.

Christmas Day Worship, Sunday, December 25, 10:00 AM

We welcome the Christ Child into the world and recall the great gift of Jesus through Holy Communion.

Welcome 2023!

New Year's Eve Worship, Saturday, December 31, 7:30 PM—We ring out the last year and look forward to the new year recalling the way God is always meeting us with grace.

New Year's Day Service, Sunday, January 1 at 10:00 am—Our Sunday service kicks off the new year, continuing the Christmas season and the hope Jesus brings.

SUNDAY WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT: Given the nature of the calendar, we will have only one service on the Sundays of December 25 and January 1. The service will be at 10:00 am so please make note of this adjustment.

Unable to make a service . . . We plan on live-streaming the Christmas Concert, the 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Service and the services on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Check out the website to be part of these services.



The People of Good Shepherd – November, 2022

Baptisms

Liam Michael Sage — November 6, 2022
Nicholas Gary Adair — November 13, 2022
Ronald Matthew Stevenson — November 20, 2022
Collins Brynly Kite — November 20, 2022



New Members

Samuel Beckless

Known to have been Ill or Hospitalized:

Paul Behrman, Myrna Bronson, Laura Cody, Lynn Evers, Barry Garr, Carol Gliwa, Bill Johnsen, Monika Korallus, Karl Krout, July Lang, Frank Mueller, David Leach, Sandra Leach, Priscilla Overgaard, Margaret Postweiler, Nancy Roesing and Judy Siwak.



Known to have Experienced Bereavement

Deanna Wachholz upon the death of her friend, Joan Halper
The Feil family upon the death of Mary Feil
The Paulsen family upon the death of Hank
The Kuikman family upon the death of Lillian



CELEBRATE the SEASON through OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual congregational meeting for Good Shepherd will take place that Sunday beginning at approximately 9:50 am. Please make every effort to attend and take part in hearing what God has done through Good Shepherd this last year and lending your voice on decisions for the next year.

Getting Involved in Good Shepherd...NOW IS THE TIME! As we look to the new year, is God calling you to get involved with leadership at Good Shepherd? There are always ways to serve whether it's through Church Council, Deacons, Ushering, Chancel Guild, Stewards, Trustees and a multitude of other ways. Contact the church office to find out how your gifts may fit the needs of the Good Shepherd family.

BE A PART OF THE



Church Leadership



Fund Raising...on December 17, one of our members, Diane Sweeney, will be undertaking the challenge of **climbing the stairs at Swallow Cliff 20 times for the purpose of raising funds for the family of Laura Cody**, another member of our congregation, who is going through treatment for cancer. If you would like to support this effort, you can catch Diane in the narthex on Sunday, December 4 or contact her directly to coordinate how you can contribute. Flyers are available in the church office with more information.

Monthly Book Group with Good Shepherd - ARE YOU INTERESTED?

Please let us know if you're interested in the new monthly Good Shepherd Book Club. We'll be setting a date to meet in January so let us know right away if you have questions or more information.



CELEBRATE the SEASON through MISSIONS

Thank
You!



The **Missions Committee thanks our church family for donating** more than 150 coats, hats, gloves and scarves that were dropped off at Morningstar Mission's thrift store. The Treasure Chest thrift store supports the Mission and the local needs of the surrounding communities. What a generous donation! **Thank YOU!**

In November, donations helped the **Palos Food Pantry** supply those in need with the ingredients for a marvelous Thanksgiving meal as well as other foods to supplement their needs. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!** The Pantry is planning to distribute boxes of personal care items for the Christmas holidays. In December, please include full-sized items such as: shampoo, conditioner, baby shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, soap and shaving cream.

This month's **"Cooking with Care"** date is Tuesday, December 13 at 9:30 AM. Come join this wonderful group and enjoy cooking and each other's company.



Don't forget our veterans! The Manteno vets home is in need of the following: Pepsi, Coke & 7-Up cans; gallon size Hawaiian Punch (regular flavor); **individual bags** of Lay's potato chips, Cheetos and Doritos; candy including Hershey, Kit Kat, Milky Way and Snickers (small Halloween size); and individual bags of cookies including Oreos, Chips-A-Hoy, butter and peanut butter. Also, **if you have reusable tote grocery bags you no longer need, please place them in the blue bins.** They will be used to help transport these items to the Manteno vets.

Friendly Reminder...Christmas gifts for the L.S.S.I Foster Children are DUE back to church on Sunday, December 4. You may place your gift in the Galilean Room on the counter. Lutheran Social Services of Illinois will be picking up the gifts during that week. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by LSSI.



CELEBRATE the SEASON through ADULT ED

The Advent season invites us to attentively wait for the coming of Christ. We attentively strive for the wisdom of God as we gather, study and learn alongside others. Come be part of that work this month.



"Just A Quick Word" Mondays at 4:00 pm on Facebook and the YouTube Channel. Pastor Bell is looking for input on what YOU would like to hear for this series. A reminder that these are short 3-5 minutes videos on the intersection of life and faith.

Faith Discussion: Monday at 7:00 pm in the Conference Room. All are welcome to come and join us to discuss biblical topics. We all learn from each other, and the members always challenge us to discover answers to questions they have encountered in their lives. **This month, we're only meeting on December 19.**

Body & Soul: Monday at 8:00 pm in the Life Center. Come get a sweat in and have some fun playing basketball and build friendships (you also get to see Pr. Chris dunk on people...don't believe him?...you'll have to show up).



Faith, Prayer and Joy Group: Tuesday at 9:30 am in the Galilean Room. The series, *Get Out of Your Head* by Jennie Allen prompts our discussion for the next few weeks. Come and build friendships, share God's work in your life and grow through prayer.

Bible Study: Tuesday at 10:30 am in the Galilean Room. We pour into Paul's letters for the wisdom God offers while laughing, pondering and asking real questions that help us grow to know God.

Discovering the Bible: We'll be taking a break until January. All are welcome to join up with this group in the new year.

Our Bible Study!

Please pay attention to the calendar as these groups have some schedule changes due to the holidays.

CELEBRATE the SEASON with VARIOUS ACTIVITIES!



Gingerbread House Decorating is Friday, December 2 from 6:30 PM – 8 PM!!!

Join us in the Family Life Center for a night of Faith and Fun!! We will begin this night with a message from Pastor Bell. We will then begin decorating houses. Each family will be able to take pictures with their cell phones at our Photo Spot. The Photo Spot will have a backdrop and props to utilize. Don't forget to bring a base (ex. Cookie sheet or small platter) to put your house on for easier transport home. A free will offering will be collected.

"OFF" Club Christmas Party is Wednesday, December 7—

There is no regular meeting of the "OFF" Club in December.

We will be going to our Annual Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 7 at *Silver Lakes Country Club* in Orland Park. Transportation is on your own or you may carpool. We will have lunch, enjoy great entertainment, and most of all, have fun with friends. The tickets, \$20 for members or \$30 for non-members, should be purchased ahead of time. If you are planning to come and have not yet paid, please drop-off your payment to the church office in an envelope marked **"OFF Club Christmas Party."** Please note: dues for 2023 of \$20 can be paid at the Christmas Party. Please contact Beverly Miller or the church office if you have any questions.



BOWLING — Our December bowling session is on the 10th. This is our holiday grab bag event so

if you wish to participate, a man brings a \$10.00 gift for a man and a woman a \$10.00 gift for a woman. Instructions for claiming a gift will be given at bowling. As a reminder, bowling begins at 3:30 with warm-ups starting at 3:15. If you can not attend, please let one of your teammates know and try to find a sub if possible. See you on the 10th!

Worship
SERVICE

SERVICE AT PEACE VILLAGE, Grewe Center – December 14 at 2:00 pm

Just a reminder that anyone is welcome to attend and partake in this monthly time with the residents at Peace. Come on out and meet some wonderful people, worship with joy and celebrate the greatness of God in new ways.

GAMER'S ANONYMOUS REMINDER: We won't be meeting in December or January. Enjoy your holiday and we'll see you on Wednesday, February 1, 2023!



Do you still need gift cards for Christmas?

A second holiday order is due on Sunday, December 11 and will be available for pick up on Sunday, December 18. Forms can be found in the church office or on the church's website. Please place your orders in the envelope on Pastor Bell's door or drop them in the church office. ***Proceeds from the gift card sales support the Youth mission trip this summer.***

CELEBRATE the SEASON with OUR YOUTH!



Prayer & Cookies & Cocoa, Sunday, December 11 at 6:00 pm

—We are having lots of fun with our Prayer & Ice Cream Group! BUT, we are making a small change. Instead of ice cream, we are going to have homemade cookies and hot cocoa to celebrate the Christmas season! So we hope you'll join us in December on Sunday the 11th at 6 pm. We will start upstairs in the youth room with games and conversation, and then head downstairs for the cookies and cocoa. We also invite you to bring a dozen of your favorite cookies to share! **PLEASE RSVP.** This is open to Confirmands, High School and anyone else who would really like to try it out. We gather around Jesus but we stay for the cookies. Because eating together is a great way to make friends and Pastor Bell LOVES his cookies.



YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUES

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL—

The Good Shepherd High School Basketball League will have an organizational meeting and scrimmage on **Sunday, January 8th from 7:00 – 8:00 PM** in the Family Life Center. If you are unable to attend this meeting but would like to participate in the league, please sign up on the bulletin board or call Pastor Bell. Any High School youth and their friends are welcome to participate. Cost is \$20 to participate in the league. Games will most likely begin on Sunday, January 22 at 7:00 and 8:00 PM and will continue on Sunday nights through the end of February. An exact schedule will be handed out on January 8 along with the rules. Please see Pastor Bell if you have any questions.

CONFIRMATION BASKETBALL will have an organizational meeting on **Saturday, January 14 at 9:00 AM** in Bethany Hall to see if there is enough interest to have a confirmation-age league. If you are unable to attend this meeting but would like to participate in the league, please sign up on the bulletin board. All Confirmation Students and their friends are encouraged to participate. Cost is \$20 to participate in the league. Games will most likely begin on Saturday January 28th at 9:00 and 10:00 AM and will continue on Saturdays through late February. A specific schedule will be handed out on January 14 along with the rules. Please see Pastor Bell if you have any questions.



Good Shepherd Youth Remind Groups

—Pastor Bell has set up a remind groups for all our youth to keep everyone up to date on what's going on here at Good Shepherd. We have groups for each confirmation class and a separate one for high school as well. If you want to be added, just text, call or email PB with your cell number and which group you want to join and he can get you all set up. If you're not a big email reader, this is the perfect way to stay in the loop!

Pastor Bell is looking for input for 2023 events

from our youth and families! So, he's asking for your wish list for the Good Shepherd Youth Program. **What events, trips, programs, ideas would you like to see us try?** We can't promise we can do them all, but the more we know what our youth and their families are looking for, the more we can keep planning stuff that is interesting and engaging. We will still talk about Jesus and serve our neighbor of course, because we are the church. But the ways in which we can do that are many and varied. **So, what's your wish list?** You can email, call, text or talk in person with PB as he always loves to talk with people.



Winter Youth Retreat at Lutherdale!

Friday Jan 20-Sunday Jan 22, 2023

Grades 6-12 Welcome! RSVP by Dec. 15!



The Chicago Area Lutheran churches are getting back together for an awesome winter Youth retreat for the first time since 2019. This is a great opportunity to get away for the weekend and enjoy the

beauty of Lutherdale Camp in Wisconsin! There will be large group activities during the weekend plus bible studies and other activities for Jr High and High School Youth separately. If you've never been on a mission trip or spent much time away from home on your own, this would be a great "test drive" to see how you like it! It's also a great way to build lasting friendships with other Lutheran Youth across our synod. So if you're interested, cost is \$60 for the weekend, with financial aid available if needed. Talk with Pastor Bell if you have any questions and for the registration forms. Hope we can take a group and have a great time at camp this winter!

CELEBRATE the SEASON with OUR CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY



“Come and See the Savior” is an **at-home Advent Pop-Up Window Calendar** for our families with children to begin enjoying together on December 1. Celebrate the

coming of Jesus with your children! Set the Pop-Up Window Calendar on a table and each day open the coordinating numbered window to reveal a surprising message and image. As the days pass, an entire scene will form.

It's not too late to pick up your Advent Pop-Up Window Calendar!! Stop by the Sunday school Welcome table to pick one up!!

A Night Like No Other!! Children's Christmas Service IMPORTANT DATES!

First Christmas Rehearsal: Saturday, December 10, 10:30 AM – 12 Noon Kindergarten – 5th Grade + Confirmation participants.

Second Christmas Rehearsal: Saturday, December 17, 10:30 AM – 12 Noon Preschool – 5th Grade + Confirmation participants.

Christmas Party: Saturday, December 17, 12 Noon – 1 PM.

Christmas Service: Sunday, Dec.. 18, 4:00 PM

Sunday school Christmas Party is on December 17 from Noon—1 PM following our rehearsal. We will enjoy a pizza lunch, sing Happy Birthday to Jesus, enjoy birthday cake with ice cream, create a Christmas craft or two and play a fun game. Please let us know that your child will be attending the party by signing up, emailing, calling or texting Mrs. Lori by December 12. Sign-up sheets can be found on both the bulletin board and Sunday school Welcome Table.

Thank you to ... **the Sunday school Teachers and assistants** for sharing their time, talent and love with our children of Good Shepherd, a true expression of Christmas!

Sunday school Parents please take note...we will *not* have Sunday school classes on December 25 or January 1st. We will resume our classes on January 8 at 11 AM.

CELEBRATE IN OTHER WAYS



In past years, the members of Good Shepherd have shared their **Christmas wishes by displaying cards** on the church bulletin board. Bring in or mail your card to be shared by our church family and take time to share the messages of your fellow members.

Sign up for **Poinsettias** is on the bulletin board. We will be having “red” poinsettias again this year to grace our Chancel. The cost is \$15.00 and orders will be taken through December 11. Plants may be taken home with you after the Christmas Day service.



Altar Flowers

The **2023 Flower Chart** is posted on the bulletin board outside Pastor's office. Donors may use this opportunity to celebrate anniversaries, weddings, birthdays or to remember a loved one. The cost of the flowers remains at \$40.00. Checks can be made payable to the Good Shepherd Chancel Guild. **Something new...when you sign up, please let us know if you would like to “take” your flowers or “donate” them. Thank you!!**



Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year!