

January 2019 Newsletter
Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church
2903 State Hwy. 155
Sayner, WI 54560-9698



Please consider accepting an email link to this newsletter in place of a hard copy!
Contact bacashman@gmail.com with your email address.

Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church

A member congregation of the Northern Great Lakes Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

Sunday Worship Service: 9:00 AM

June thru August, Saturday Service: 5:30 PM

Fellowship/Coffee: 10:15 AM

Weekday Church School (preschool-grade 5): Wednesdays 4 PM
(Weekday Church School runs from Labor Day to Memorial Day)

*EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT AND ROOTED IN THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST, WE ARE A
LOVING COMMUNITY THAT FOLLOWS JESUS, AND SEEKS TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD
AND DO IT IN OUR DAILY LIVES.*



Ministers: The People of the Parish
William Wendorf LLM 715-479-3114, Cell 715-617-6477
Council President: Doug Tarkowski 715-479-1154, Cell 715-891-0094
Church Telephone: 715-542-3701
Email:

On the World Wide Web:
www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org
www.nglsynod.org

Council Members:

Bill Wendorf, LLM 715-617-6477
Doug Tarkowski, President 715-479-1154
Jon Erpenbach, Vice President 715-542-2448
Jo Ann Kehl 715-542-4174

Karen Carter 715-542-4049
Larry Stephenson 715-542-4284
Sharon Geist 715-892-7486
Joan Ebert 239-910-3986
Margaret Lindquist 715-542-2434

Office Hours

Bill Wendorf LLM's office hours:

Wednesdays 12 noon to 4 PM
Thursdays 12 noon to 4 PM
Fridays 12 noon to 4 PM

Next scheduled printings of this newsletter!

| Month | Date Articles are Due (Thursday) | Printing Date (Saturday) |
|---------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| February 2019 | 14 th | 16 th |
| March 2019 | 14 th | 16 th |
| April 2019 | 11 th | 13 th |
| May 2019 | 16 th | 18 th |
| June 2019 | 13 th | 15 th |

Email articles to Barb Cashman at bacashman@gmail.com. Thank you.

RECORDED SERMONS: All sermons at Shepherd of the Lakes are now recorded and are available shortly after the service on the Shepherd of the Lakes Church's website. Go to shepherdofthelakeschurch.org to listen to them at any time.

Special Events at Shepherd of the Lakes

Watch what is happening with our church membership!

Recap of 2018

WELCOME New Members

Patricia Lichter

Marney Mann

Bill & Laura Sima

Barb Steinhilber

Jack Carlson

Baptisms

Harper McKay

Olivia Schowalter

Avery Rose Knipfer

Confirmations

Mason Justice Thomas

Ross Patrick John Neal Cooper

Frankie Paige Will

Funerals

Lillian Crall

Darlene Mursett

Marilyn Sheldon

Weddings

Jimmy Mortag & Katie Pockat

A MESSAGE FROM BILL

It was 43 years ago I found myself preparing for a Christmas Eve service, much like I am now. It was 1975, I was a freshman in high school, meeting new friends, being invited to participate in a number of holiday activities, spending more and more time working with my dad. It was a time of change in my life, as it was for most people my age. But there was something very special that was ending that Christmas as well. It was my last year of confirmation, and I was preparing to participate in my last Christmas Eve children's program. A program I had been a part of since I was old enough to sing, and memorize lines. Back then, the children's program was the Christmas Eve service, and the small church would fill with family and friends of the children participating in it. Over the years I memorized bible verse, sang songs (even a solo or two), and I know I played Joseph at least 3, if not 4 times. But the one thing I always wanted to do before I was confirmed, was to be the narrator. To stand up on the elevated pulpit, that looked down on the congregation, and tell the Christmas story, in public, one last time. Well I am pleased to tell you I was given such an honor, and the evening went without a hitch. But as it ended, a bittersweet moment for sure, I envisioned that to be the last time I would ever tell that story in public, and certainly not again from the pulpit. Well we all know how that turned out. ☺

But now let me tell you about another Christmas Eve program. It was some years later that my family and I moved back to my home town, and of course, transferred our membership back to the little church I was confirmed in. We had only been members for about 3 months, and I was teaching 6th grade Sunday school at Christmas, and the Christmas program approached. Entering the sanctuary with my 6th graders for program practice, I noticed all of the confirmands were all seated in the back pew of the sanctuary. So, I asked one of the other teachers why, and for what purpose were they sitting so far back. It was then I was informed that they (the confirmands) had taken a vote, and had decided not to participate in the program, because at their age it was embarrassing, and beneath them. I immediately turned, and walking out of the sanctuary, asked them to follow me into the narthex. I began by telling them how disappointed I was in their behavior, and reminding them that I knew all of their parents, and had for over 25 years, and how disappointed they would be if I made a phone call explaining their position. But I did not dwell on this long, as I remembered that type of admonishment had little or no positive affect on me at that age. But began to explain why this night would be so important, and special, why it was important to me, and why it should be important to them. That this may be the last time they get to participate in announcing once again the birth of this baby wrapped in swaddling clothes, and lying in a manger. Not just any baby, but the Messiah, who is Christ the Lord. To proclaim once more the greatest gift ever given, to be a part of the greatest story ever told.

So I asked them to rethink what was beneath them, and consider embracing their parts, set a good example for the younger children, be the young adults of the church I knew them to be, and passionately tell this story again, as though it may be the last time. I am honored and thankful to tell you that that is exactly what they did. And as with other Christmas programs past, the program went on without a hitch. Family and friends were excited and proud of their children, and before the night was over, most, if not all, of the confirmands (memory is lacking) came and thanked me for encouraging them to participate in their final program.

I look back on those two nights fondly and with a great deal of satisfaction, as in the first to fulfill a goal/desire of my own before being confirmed, and years later, to help a new generation do the same, whether it was their intended goal or not. But looking back now I realize that my understanding of the night and my intended message may have been a bit off. As a young man I understood this message to be taught to children and told by them, or by the Pastor, or in some other formal setting. That this is a Christmas

story, told at Christmas, but not given much attention the rest of the year, or once confirmed there was no longer a need to tell it.... the responsibility falls to someone else. All unintended consequences of what I might have said, or more importantly, what I didn't say.

What I would now tell that 15 year old young man and that group of young adult's years later, that this is most certainly a story for children, but also a story of love and hope for all people, as the angel said. That at Christmas we take time once again, to listen, pray, celebrate, and give thanks to God for the gift of his son. That we remember the hope the Christ child brings to a world in desperate need of it. The spirit of hope and love it brings, should fill us every day, and all our days, not just at Christmas. And regardless of age, achievement, or how busy we are, out of love and gratitude for such a gift, we share the story of Jesus birth, the Christ, God's great gift of love and hope, to humanity.

I would tell those young people, as I am telling all now, that this is a story of the greatest gift ever given, the beginning of the greatest story ever told, and it is our story. But it brings hope to no one unless it is believed, unless it is lived the whole year through, unless it is shared. So I challenge all to embrace your part in such a great story, to set an example in word and deed that may be felt and heard by all those near and far, who doubt, despair, and live without hope, and to passionately share this story of love and hope, as if we had but one last chance to tell it.

Luke 2:8-14

And in the same region there were shepherds, abiding in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And an angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shown round about them, and they were filled with fear. But the angel said unto them, "Fear not, for I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall come to all people, for unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior who is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you, you will find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace among those whom he favors."

Merry Christmas
Bill †

COUNCIL PRESIDENT MESSAGE

I write this month to remind you of our congregation's up-coming annual meeting which will be held after services on January 27th. At the meeting we will be voting to elect five new members of the church council. At this time two persons have indicated that they will be willing to serve on council and we have the names of several others who have indicated that they may be interested in joining this important group. If you would like to add your name to this list please contact either Bill Wendorf or me. We would be glad to talk and answer any questions you may have.

Other items to be addressed at the meeting will be approving the budget for 2019, a report from the Endowment Fund committee and the need to elect at least one new member of that important group, a discussion of security upgrades at our facility and a discussion of possible improvements to our facility. The council needs your input on these important topics.

I would like to remind you that the Sunday service sermons are now available on our website. I have heard good comments about this improvement. We have been trying to make needed improvements to the site and we will continue to do so. As always please let us know if you have any ideas that you think might help improve it more.

Watch for changes coming in the music program at Shepherd. Karen Carter will be retiring as our organist as of the end of December. Because of this we will be trying various different ways to accompany our voices. Let's all work together to make this change a positive effort and something we can be proud of. As I end this message I'd like to say a special word of thanks to all of you who helped, in any way, with our first community Thanksgiving Day dinner. We served about 65 people a very nicely prepared and tasty meal. This event was a joint effort between Shepherd of the Lakes and St. Mary's Catholic Church. We worked together well and look forward to another event next year.

Please watch your mail for the necessary announcement of the annual meeting and plan on attending on January 27th.

Doug Tarkowski
Council President

ANNUAL REPORTS

The last week of January is the annual congregational meeting. This means that the annual report will need to be ready at that time. If you headed up a committee during the year for any ministry at Shepherd, please write a report on the event for the annual report and email it to Barb Cashman by January 10, 2019. The report does not need to be lengthy, but should include the outcome of the event and, if available to you, the amount that was given to one or more of our outreach ministries from it. Thanks very much.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Don't miss the Christmas eve service at 4 p.m. on December 24, 2018. During the service, there will be a special **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** that I know some of you wait for all year!

PRAYER CONCERNS

We are currently seeking a volunteer to assume the duties of the Prayer Chain Leader. This would involve receiving and sending out prayer requests as needed. Please prayerfully consider this and, if you feel a calling to this ministry, please contact Doug Tarkowski or Bill Wendorf.

Prayers requested since the last newsletter: Tom & Carol Miles, Tom Durkee, Samantha Thompson, Charlie Seehafer.

Ongoing health issues: Joan Kirschner, Katie Fingerson, Diane Muri, Larry & Joan Stephenson, Bob Bernhardt, Lisa Scheel, John Neuman, Betty Abraham, Linda Anderson, Tom Miles, Corey Soberg, Rich Kysiak, Tim Boman, Jessica, Charles Webb, Shelle Blair, Jessica, Debbie Kroll, Alair Peck, Sean Gabriel, Dave Tarkowski, Rick Troyer.

Prayers of strength & comfort for the homebound or those in nursing homes: Ginny & Lovell Morris, Jackie Larsen, Ramona Schaeffel.

Prayers of comfort and hope for those in prisons and those struggling with addictions: Larry (friend of LuAnn Brentlinger), Jamie Goodrum.

Prayers for those who serve in our armed forces: Jeff Hammer, Brian Kriek, Adam & Brittany Recob, Brooks Maines, Will Schmidt, Sgt. Keara Kangas, Alex Bauer, Jared Mann.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Your church family would like the opportunity to pray for you, make arrangements for you to receive Holy Communion, or support you by other means. Please contact us:

- ...if you or someone in your family are ill at home or hospitalized.
- ...if you are anticipating surgery or another medical procedure.
- ...if you have a birth or death in your family.
- ...if you want to request prayers for someone else, ask their permission first.
- ...if you have any other significant event in your family.
- ...if you would like to schedule a visit with Bill Wendorf LLM or another church member.

Never forget that each of you are valued, loved, and cared for by your church family. Please notify Barb Cashman at 715-892-2166 or email bacashman@gmail.com if you need prayers for any reason. *Prayers can also be requested thru Bill Wendorf LLM or Barb Maines.*

We also have a telephone calling tree with the prayer chain so those without a computer can participate in this ministry. If you would like to be included, please let Barb know by calling 715-892-2166. An updated list will be mailed to you with a further explanation of how this works.

THANK YOU'S

From The Humane Society of Vilas County: *Thank you for the generous donation!*

From Northern Great Lakes Synodical Women's Organization: *Thank you for your donation of \$2000 for the Mikuza Girls' School to help with their water project and vehicle need..... Thanks to generous gifts from individual churches, individual WELCA units, and individuals, we were able to meet the goal to fully fund the water project/vehicle request. In fact, we have surpassed the goal! The excess funds will be used to help upgrade the school's science/lab classroom. ... Wishing you blessings for the Christmas season and the New Year. Kris Carlson, Treasurer.*

From Jeanne Kroll: *I want to “thank” everyone for the giving of their time to make the first Community Thanksgiving Dinner a success. Thanks to all the bakers, cooks, and pie makers. Thank you for all the donations, in every form, especially thank you for the “fellowship.” I believe it was a good time had by all! In God’s Love, Jeanne.*

Thank you notes received from:

NATH: 10/05/2018 - \$25; 11/09/2018 - \$25

Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp - \$200

VITAL LINKS

Dear Friends and Supporters of Vital Links,

We are thankful for the doors God has been opening for ministry this year! This edition of Vital Signs shares about the recent trip our staff and volunteers took to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, as well as Siem Reap, Cambodia, where we led the ALWM Young Adult Discipleship Conference.

It is an exciting time as we have opened up applications for the 2019 ALWM Vital Links Vietnam Mission Trip next summer, and we are also looking to send our first ALWM Young Adult Missionary Interns (YAMI) to Vietnam next fall!

If you would like more information or would like to support the work of Vital Links, write vitallinks@alwm.org.

In Christ,

Rev. Bill Moberly, Founder & Director

Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church

Reach Out This Christmas

What better way to pay tribute to those we love
than by honoring them with a gift that will help others.

This Christmas season, you can once again make a "poinsettia donation" in memory of, or in honor of, a loved one. Your donation (not the dollar amount) will be acknowledged in the bulletin on Christmas Eve.



This year, donations will go to:

Seasons of Life Hospice House

I would like to make a donation of \$ _____ (any amount is welcome)

___ In honor of _____

___ In memory of _____

My Name _____

Please attach a check (payable to Shepherd of the Lakes) or cash to this form and return to the offering plate or church office, by December 20. Mailing address for the church is 2903 State Hwy 155, Sayner, WI 54560.

Please note that 100% of this year's donations will go to Hospice House. The original forms that were distributed in church on 12/09/2018 incorrectly stated that it would be divided between two ministries.

This page for Bishop's Christmas letter to congregations.

SHEPHERD OF THE LAKES LUTHERAN CHURCH – December 2018

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|-------------------------|
|  Food pantry items needed for the month of December: Baking items including sugar, flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, brown sugar, powdered sugar, other spices, cookie cutters, cookie decorating items. Place items in the appropriate containers in the Coat Room. | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 8 AM Choir Rehearsal 9 AM Worship Service | | | 3:45 PM Children's Classes | 9 AM Text Study | 10 AM Worship Service @ Avanti | 9 AM Men's Breakfast |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 8 AM Choir Rehearsal 9 AM Worship Service Fellowship Brunch 10:15 AM Endowment Fund Mtg 10:15 AM Council Mtg | | | 9 AM Quilting Group 3:45 PM Children's Classes | NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE 9 AM Text Study | | 4 PM Christmas Caroling |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 8 AM Choir Rehearsal 9 AM Worship Service | | | 3:45 PM Children's Classes | Ahlborn Eq using Comm Rm 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. 9 AM Text Study | Blood Drive 12:30 – 4:30 PM 10 AM Bingo @ Avanti | |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 8 AM Choir Rehearsal 9 AM Worship Service | 4 PM Christmas Eve Service | | 3:45 PM Children's Classes | 9 AM Text Study | | |
| 30 | 31 | Forget your problems by helping others solve theirs. | | | | |
| 8 AM Choir Rehearsal 9 AM Worship Service | | | | | | |

December Birthdays:

| | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Joanie Stephenson | 5 th | Michael Kriek | 10 th |
| Cheri Biedermann | 9 th | Barb Harvey | 11 th |
| Mary Sutor | 10 th | Samantha Thompson | 15 th |

SHEPHERD OF THE LAKES LUTHERAN CHURCH – January 2019

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--------|---------|---|---|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | | | 3:45 PM Children's Classes | 9 AM Text Study | 10 AM Worship Service @ Avanti | |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 8 AM Choir Rehearsal 9 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Council Mtg | | | 9 AM Quilting Group 3:45 PM Children's Classes | NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE 9 AM Text Study 6 PM WELCA Bible Study | | 9 AM Men's Breakfast |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 8 AM Choir Rehearsal 9 AM Worship Service Fellowship Breakfast | | | 3:45 PM Children's Classes | 9 AM Text Study | 10 AM Bingo @ Avanti | |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 8 AM Choir Rehearsal 9 AM Worship Service | | | 3:45 PM Children's Classes | 9 AM Text Study | | |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |
| 8 AM Choir Rehearsal 9 AM Worship Service Annual Cong. Mtg. | | | 3:45 PM Children's Classes | 9 AM Text Study | | |



Food pantry items needed for the month of January: Storage items including Ziploc bags, wax paper, aluminum foil, kitchen size plastic garbage bags, disposable kitchen storage containers. Please place items in the appropriate bins in the coat room.