

# Good Shepherd Lutheran Church



## The Shepherd's Staff

February, 2019  
Monthly Newsletter

*Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church  
521 Cypress Street  
Manistee, MI 49660  
231.723.7161*

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR**

Two more sleeps. That is all we will experience and then it is home on the big bird. Our visit has been wonderful. And even with the bitter cold (-24), we have once again felt the unbelievable warmth of our family's love.

It started at the airport in Duluth. Anticipating our son to 'scoop us up', (as they say in Northern Minnesota) we were more than surprised when our granddaughter came running around the corner yelling 'Opa . . Oma'. Our hearts were profoundly warmed and the tears began to flow. I had not seen Miss Ella since last March. How had she grown so tall? She was now speaking in complete and understandable sentences. And she knew who we were, thanks to the wonderful development of Face-time. Her cognitive thinking and speaking was excellent. None of this, "What did she say or what does she want?" She knows what she wants to say and she says it. More wonderful change. Later that evening she was more than happy to greet 'Daddy' at the door and tell him the wonderful news. "Daddy, Oma and Opa are here!"

A few days later, we watched with great joy and love as others gathered around to celebrate her birthday and the gift that she is to all of us. It appears certain to us that our son and daughter-in-law have made a home in this place. In many ways, they have also made a family here on the cold shores of Lake Superior. And for that, I am most thankful. Created in the image of God, we were never intended to live in isolation one from the other. Instead, we were created to live in community; to share the experience of this gift called life.

## **Real God, Real Presence, Real People**

### **Our Mission:**

*To be followers of Jesus Christ by sharing God's grace and forgiveness through our loving witness and service to all.*

### **Our Vision:**

*To be a congregation where God's grace and forgiveness are experienced, where all gather in love to serve the Lord, and where all witness to their faith in Jesus Christ.*

**Traditional Eucharist**  
*Sundays at 9:30 am*

**Contemporary Eucharist**  
*Saturdays at 5:30 pm*

The church is no different. We are a family. We celebrate the gift of life found in the other. As the book of Act records, 'we share all that we have in common.' We take care of the widows and orphans, we gather together as a community and sing songs of praise and share a meal. We lift one another up in our prayers and rejoice when someone whom we have not seen in a while comes home and into our midst. We are one family, regardless of when we form community and worship. We are one parish with two services. One service is celebrated on Saturday at 5:30 and the other is celebrated on Sunday at 9:30.

So, what makes us family? Two things. "Father Abraham had many sons, and many sons had Father Abraham . . ." It is true. Some may have wandered into different places in which adaptation took place. (I know a scientific worldview, but we are NOT fundamentalist.) Nevertheless, we are brothers and sisters regardless of the color of our skin or the place of our birth. All of Humankind was made in the image of the Creator God.

Secondly, it is the water of Baptism that seals the deal. A trip through that water names us and claims us as children of God. Therefore we become brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus which makes us members of God's great family.

As, we continue our journey together, let's look around and see who is missing and then might we make a purposeful effort to bring them home? Might we even reach out to those who have no church family and invite them to become part of ours? Actually, why not bring them with you the next time we gather in community as God's family.

Remembering. . . there is always room for one more at God's Holy Table. See you in church this weekend!

-Pr. Jim

Day. I bet that right about now you are wishing I would stop with all this foolishness. One more cake to bake: the 22<sup>nd</sup> is time to wish our first president Happy Birthday; while you are waiting for the cake to bake you can walk your dog, it is National Walking the Dog Day. On the 28<sup>th</sup> it is Public Sleeping Day....do you do this at the library? Pretty cold to celebrate this day in Michigan!

I'm sure there are a few outside benches in the Manistee Area, and they are probably covered with a blanket, a blanket of snow that is. There are a lot of ideas on how to celebrate the month of February. You can come to church on February 10<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. It will be game day! Bring a game, a snack, join your friends, or make new ones.

Hi to all you snow birds, we miss you and hope that your Winter is as warm & wonderful as you are. We miss you!

Thanks to everyone who takes time to read this silly column....have a great February!



I John 4:7 Dear Friends, Let us love one another for love comes from God.

I Corinthians 13 Know that these three remain, faith, hope, love, but the greatest of these is love.

I John We love because he first loved us.



February has a lot of unique holidays.....Dr Gardin told me that February was National Children's Dental Health Month & maybe he could find a small toothbrush for me. He knows that I am a kid at heart! February 1 is Bubble Gum Day, maybe he will get me one by then.

Feb 1 is also NO POLITICS DAY.....won't that be nice. The 2nd is Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day, wonder how many parents will approve of it? It's a Saturday.....and only once a year. The 3<sup>rd</sup> is Feed the Birds Day.....don't forget our feathered friends who so much appreciate you thinking about them. The 3<sup>rd</sup> is also The Day the Music Died, as we millennials remember Buddy Holly, Richie Valens and the Big Bopper. Did you know that there is a National Weatherman Day on the 4<sup>th</sup>? The 8<sup>th</sup> is Boy Scout Day and also Kite flying Day.....in the middle of Winter? The 9<sup>th</sup> is Tooth Ache Day. The 11<sup>th</sup> is Don't Cry Over Spilt Milk Day & White Shirt Day, so don't spill your milk on your white shirt. The 12<sup>th</sup> is time to bake a cake for Abraham Lincoln & also Lost Penny Day.....see a penny on the street, pick it up & have good luck.

For those of you wanting to change your name you can do it on Feb 13<sup>th</sup> which is Get A Different Name Day. We all know that the 14<sup>th</sup> is Valentines Day. What do pilgrims give each other on Valentines Day? May flowers. What kind of Valentine Candy is always late? Chocolate. What kind of flowers shouldn't be given on Valentines Da? Cauliflowers. One more: why did the banana go out with the prune? It couldn't get a date. But February 14 is also National Organ Donor

## THIS AND THAT FROM THE PASTOR

**WORSHIP:** By the time you receive the February edition of the Shepherds Staff, we will have worshiped in the Unity Room a couple of times. So far, so good. Folks seem to be enjoying the space. Everyone seems to be especially appreciative of the intimacy of the space and the beauty of the south wall as the windows are now surrounded by a beautiful hue of blue. Spoiler alert . . . this same blue will appear in the nave. I think you will love it.

**MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY** will resume on Wednesday, January 30 at 10:30 am. We will begin with Luke 1: So, bring your Bible and perhaps a notebook. I will offer a printed outline and together we will take a journey with the Physician Luke. I promise it to be an enjoyable and learning experience for all of us.

**MIDWEEK EUCHARIST** will also resume on Wednesday, January 30 at 12:15. This service is about 30 minutes in length. Our hope is that it will be made available for all, especially those who work. Our thinking is that our timing will allow folks to participate during their lunch hour if they desire. So, come one, come all. A midweek spiritual lift is a wonderful thing to experience.

**ANNUAL NALC PASTORS' CONFERENCE:** The annual Pastors' conference will be held February 19-21, 2019 in Orlando Florida. The focus this year is on preaching for discipleship and cultivating a community of disciples. There will also be an extended study of the Lenten and Holy Week Scriptures for the season of Lent.

**BUILDING UPDATE:** Several areas within our building are now completed. The Unity Room, the front hall (west), the front restrooms, all but one of the stairwells, (south) and the main

hall way. The coat racks have been moved to the west hall, leaving us ample room in the main hall to fellowship and greet one another. The pews that were against the brick wall of the church proper will be returned with the nave pews after they have been refinished and recovered. This too will also allow us opportunity to meet and greet at each of our services.

**THE NAVE** restoration is moving along very nicely. Before we left for cold, cold, cold, Minnesota the ceiling was mostly repaired and our faithful painter and crew promised the ceiling to be primed by the end of the week. The primer is oil and has a very strong smell to it. So, if you call into the parish office and talk with Susan and she seems just a bit more happy than she always is, well you know . . . what is going on. Now, being the coward that I am, I have asked that the Pastor's Study be painted while I am away. I know, I know, wimp!

**TYING UP THE LOOSE ENDS:** We learned in the midst of the scraping and repairing of the nave ceiling that the original color of the ceiling was blue; we are returning the ceiling to blue. We also learned that on the east and west walls of the room the original stenciling was present. The same type of design with a stencil and a line boarder on top and bottom of the stencil will be returned. This pattern will help define the wall and the barrel ceiling with greater distinction. Finally, the seat and back upholstery material has been chosen. We looked at more than 25 different swatches before deciding on the final one. It has a distinctive tapestry look to it and looks extremely elegant with the windows, flooring, and wall colors.

**THANK YOU:** Thank you for our time away with our son and family. It was a special blessing to celebrate our granddaughter's 3rd birthday. It was -35 degrees on the day of her birth. This time it was only -11. Consequently one could say a vast improvement. However, one could also say, "there is no place like home." Looking forward to being back along the lake; Michigan that is! :-)

## SHEP'S CORNER

February, can you believe it? January gave us some cool weather but not a lot of snow. In January we received 32", last January we were blessed with 112". We also got 10 days of rain in 2019.....

Have you been to church to see what is going on? We are blessed with local painters, Olen's/ Talk of the Town and Haglund's, also local, for our flooring.

Paint colors have been changed and look great!

All the pews have been sent out to be redone, the church sanctuary is pretty bare....The Unity Room has been revamped into our worship space. Paint has been applied to the Unity Room, including an attractive blue around the windows. Pastor's office has been painted as well as a number of other rooms.....it is a big job! Once in awhile you might hear the painters giggle about something....it is the colors, painters tape, that were left behind form 20 years ago when the church was last painted. The east entrance has been painted a mauve and that too is attractive.

They say that most people don't like change but they are sure to like the "face lift" that is going on here. The snow birds will come back and maybe they won't recognize their own church.

I haven't found many places to rest with all this activity going on but the Pastor & Norma were gone for a week, so I did find some peace and quiet in there.

It's okay to step out of one activity because you have served and need a change. **Always remember you have never done your time until one of two things happens:**

- 1. God calls you home or**
- 2. Christ himself comes back for us all.**

No matter our age or our talents, Christ still needs each of us to serve him. You might feel you have done your time in certain situations. This is just an opportunity to serve a new way. You haven't served your time. Do you know how I know that? You are still here. As of this moment Christ has not returned. As long as you are still here on earth, think about where you can serve. Please consider where you can help. Many hands make light work. **One day, you will have done your time** and Christ will say: Well done my faithful servant! I know one thing for sure until God calls me home or until the Lord comes back to get us all, **my time is not done!**

Please consider some of these areas in the church that need your help:

- |             |               |                  |
|-------------|---------------|------------------|
| *Fellowship | *Youth/Family | *Cleaning        |
| *Readers    | *Bereavement  | *VBS             |
| *Greeters   | *Stewardship  | *Outreach        |
| *Office     | *Teaching     | *Social Ministry |
| *Ushering   | *Choir        | *Finance         |

We have not done our time yet! God's Blessings to you all!

## AROUND THE PARISH

**MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR JIM:** Every **Wednesday at 10:30 AM**. These next sessions will focus on Luke 1. All you need to bring is your bible and perhaps a notebook.

**MIDWEEK EUCHARIST:** Every **Wednesday at 12:15 PM**. Join us for a midweek spiritual boost. You will be glad you did.

**FIRST COMMUNION & NEW MEMBER CLASSES:** Begin in **February**. Please see Pastor Jim for additional information.

**FAMILY GAME DAY:** Is happening on **Sunday, February 10 at 2 PM** for all ages. Bring you favorite game and a snack/appetizer to share.

**FAITH LIKE A CHILD:** *Jesus Loves Me* on **Friday, February 15 at 6:30 PM**.

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY:** Resumes on **Tuesday, March 5** at 6:30 PM. Luke 1-14:35 will be studied over the course of six lessons.

**SPRINGHILL: March 10-12** for 7th—12th grade students. More details soon.

**SAFE HARBOR:** Good Shepherd will be hosting the week of **March 23—March 30th**. Be on the look out for a sign-up sheet. Please consider donating food, transportation, haircuts, blankets, socks, backpacks, and, most importantly, your time. The hours are tough but the experience is soul-stirring.

## THANK YOU NOTES

- ◆ Dear friends and family at Good Shepherd, Thank you for thinking of me this Christmas. I really enjoyed the stocking filled with fruit, the box of cookies, candies, and other treats, calendar and “our Daily Bread” and “Lutheran Message” devotionals. Thank you for everything. May God’s love and blessings be with you all through the year.

- Barb Wehrmeister

- ◆ We extend our heartfelt appreciation for the beautiful quilt, the many Christmas cards, all of the sweets, goodies, and well-wishes over the holiday season. God has blessed us abundantly as we serve the family of Good Shepherd.

- Pr. Jim & Norma

- ◆ To the Good Shepherd Church Family, We would like to thank you all for your many prayers and the love you have all shown. Pastor, thank you for your many visits and serving of communion which brought so much comfort. Thank you to the quilters for the beautiful quilt that looks so nice on the bed. Last, a big thanks to all that participated in the Christmas Cheer bag that was filled with much love. It means more than you know to have all of the support and care from all at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

God bless you.

- Bob and Ruth Tobey and Family

## PARISH ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE

February 2 & 3	GREEN	Sharon Hayden & Ann Ziehm
February 9 & 10	GREEN	Sally W. & Norma Friesner
February 16 & 17	GREEN	Sally W. & Norma Friesner
February 23 & 24	GREEN	Sally W. & Norma Friesner

### **Guild Meeting: Monday February 25th at 1:00 PM**

February Hostess: Sally Wolverton

## STEWARDSHIP NOTES

### **I have done my Time!**

By: Dawn Brown (Stewardship)

When we go to Ohio to visit our family, my sister-in-law Chris pokes fun at me. You see my sister-in-law Chris went to Catholic schools. Because she went to a Catholic school she thinks she did her Christian time. Chris and her family attend church twice a year. Yep, you guessed it Christmas and Easter. I think she finds it odd that even when we are on vacation we still like to go to church.

When Scott and I are heading out to church she will say “Does anyone want to go to church with Aunt Dawn.” (Knowing the kids will say No!) I said, “Yes does anyone want to come? It’s an amazing church and I think you would enjoy it.” My sister-in-law says “**No I have done my time.**” I replied, “are you kidding, Christ already came back and I missed it!” By the look on her face I can tell she doesn’t understand what I’m trying to say.

I have seen this often in my Christian journey. When asking people to help out, I often hear **I did my time. No, I’m not teaching, I did my time! No I’m not serving on Council, I did my time! No**

# THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT



## Rest in Peace

*"We have once again been reminded that we have not here an abiding city."*

### **Barbara Olson**

**Passed away on January 3, 2019**

**Funeral Services will take place at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
In the spring**

+++++

### **Susan Kukla**

Passed away on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Celebration of Life was held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
on January 26th, 2019.

Susan was the sister of Sandy Mikula

At the end of 2018, Good Shepherd's latest Team Jesus project, support for the Manistee Lighthouse Pregnancy Center, was concluded. The first Team Jesus project for 2019 will be similar to the last in that we will be collecting items and monetary donations for the Little Mary's Hospitality House in Wellston. Their stated mission is to offer "a free vacation to families with children who are battling life-threatening or serious illnesses. Families who have lost a child through illness and terminal adults are also welcome." Little Mary's Hospitality House was established in memory of three year old Mary Catherine Fischer who died of a terminal brain tumor in 1982. Little Mary's is affiliated with a number of Michigan medical centers including the Helen DeVos Children's Hospital, CS Mott Children's Hospital, and the University of Michigan Medical Center among many others. The Hospitality House provides apartments and activities for families including picnic and swimming areas; a fishing dock; and a recreation center. You can get further information on Little Mary's Hospitality House at their website, <http://www.littlemarys.org>.

Items that can be donated to the House are on a list in the narthex (or with the church rehabilitation, outside the unity room). Our Team Jesus donations through April will be donated to Little Mary's.

The Stewardship Committee is always soliciting ideas for Team Jesus projects. You can pass on ideas to the Committee, Pastor Jim, or to the church office.

Folks, our nickels, dimes, and quarters do make a difference. PLEASE continue your contributions.

The Stewardship Committee



"I am the resurrection and the Life"

## PARISH PRAYER CONCERNS

**Manistee County Medical Care** 1505 Parkdale Ave.  
Leona Amerell Doris Bowling Mary Kukla Bob Tobey

**Green Acres Retirement Community** 1835 12th Street  
Audrey Ann Amburgey Lois Rosenow Gary Hansen

### **Prayers for those in the military**

Alana Bergstrom James Dutkavich Thomas Dutkavich III  
and all those who are serving or have served.

### **Prayers for Parish members, family, & friends**



Audrey Ann Amburgey	Tammy Sue Metiva
Shirley Blakeslee	Phyllis Miller
Doris Bowling	Norm Olson
Keith Brown	Donna O'Rorke
Jackie Burmeister	Heather P.
Emma Carey	Vickee Sawhill
Diana Dutkavich	Jane Reeves, daughter of
Tom Dutkavich	Bob & Ruth Skiera
Tom Dutkavich, Jr.	Dale & Laura Shoemaker
Marc Edmondson	Randy Skiera
Jim Friesner, Sr.	Bill Smith
Pat Garber	Dale Sparks
Rick & Terry Guthridge	Laura Stefanski
Gary Hansen	Mark Steigenga
Marion Hilliard	Bob Tobey
Lea Illig	The family of Paul Byro
John K.	The family of Richard Hansen
Rick Kaminski	The family of Anita Krumins
Ed Knaffle	The family of Susan Kukla
Betty Lytle	The family of Barb Olson
Jon Madsen	The family of Rick Shively
Tom Mateer	The family of Ruth Turk
Anthony Metiva	

## PARISH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



### **BIRTHDAYS**

1 Benjamin Raines	12 Alice Axce
2 Grace Krentz	13 Ava Rae Bladzick
6 Clarence Schultz	13 Olyvia Groenwald
7 John Hoch	13 Keera Groenwald
7 Debbie Solis	13 Richelle Hartwig
8 Mary Kukla	13 Sheila Wittmer
8 Stephanie Linke	15 Barb Wehrmeister
8 Marily Zawacki	15 Karen Skiera
9 Chloe Brown	17 Taylor Yoder
9 Damien McEntaffer	23 Chris Amor
10 Micheal Amor	23 Spencer Linke
10 Don Meister	25 Bruce Hansen
10 Dale Sparks	27 Lee Erdmann
11 John Yakimow	27 Grace Funk

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

13 Don & Jean Cameron  
20 Don & Kay Meister  
22 Dale & Mary Sparks

