

Within the Fold

The monthly newsletter of Shepherd of the Hills

December 2020

DECEMBER MEMORY VERSE

"She will give birth to a Son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins."

Matthew 1:21



VOTERS MEETING—Information regarding the Special Voters Assembly and the Annual Voters Meeting will be made available next week. The church council and elders thank you for your patience.

WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

All services are offered in-person and on-line. Health and safety protocols will be followed for all worship services.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ADVENT SERVICES—5:45 pm
December 2, 9, and 16
(No Advent meals will be served following the service.)

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE—6:00 pm
Thursday, December 24
Family Friendly
(There will not be a candlelight service.)

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP SERVICE—9:00 am
Friday, December 25

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICES—6:00 pm
December 5—with Holy Communion
December 12
December 19—with Holy Communion
December 26—No Worship Service

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES—9:00 am
December 6—with Holy Communion
December 13
December 20—with Holy Communion
December 27—with Holy Communion

EDUCATION HOUR—Sundays at 10:30 am for adults, high school students and grades Pre-K—12

BIBLE STUDIES AND INSTRUCTION

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY —Thursdays at 9:30 am. Meet in the fellowship hall.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY—Wednesdays at 9:30 am

LADIES MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY— No Bible study scheduled for December. The study will resume on Monday, January 4, at 6:30 pm, with a devotional of Psalms 3 - 7, and 10, using the book "A New Song; Save Me, O My God", published by Concordia Publishing House. If interested, please contact Mindy Braun at 608-792-9238 as she has a few books available.

CATECHISM — Due to Advent Services, classes will start at **6:30 pm on Wednesdays** during December. Regular class time will resume in January 2021.

DEAF MINISTRY— Watch for updates about Bible study/potluck and when an interpreter will be available for worship services. If you know an interpreter who is able to sign for worship services, please contact Kay Conzemius at 608-783-3036. Please leave a message and clearly state your name and phone number.

Zoom available for all Bible studies and instruction. (Please contact Martha Keeffe at maklou98@gmail for instructions on how to connect via Zoom.) Face masks and social distancing practiced for all of the above. **For all activities: Please contact the organizer to verify whether or not you will be meeting.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MISCELLANEOUS

BLOOD DRIVE—Thursday, December 3, 1:00—6:00 pm. See flyer on page four of the newsletter for more information.

OFFERING ENVELOPE UPDATE— I will be conducting an entire renumbering of the offering envelope boxes. This "mass renumbering" has not been done for several years, and with our new database, it was the perfect time. Your 2021 offering envelope boxes should be ready to be picked up in the fellowship hall starting the first weekend of December. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding your offering envelopes. Thank you for giving to the Lord, and for your continued generosity to the Great Commission which Jesus, Himself called us to fulfill!

Dianna Hitchler - Administrative Assistant

TEXT MESSAGING SERVICE—On Tuesday, November 17, a text message was sent to church members to "opt-in" to receive text announcements and reminders from church in a timely manner. ***In order to "opt-in" you must have a cell phone number and a personal email entered into our church data base.***

If you qualify and would like to "opt-in" to this service, but did not receive an invitation, please email Martha Keeffe at maklou98@gmail.com with your email and cell phone number.

CONGRATULATIONS to Charlie and Sarah Sheffer who will celebrate their 10th wedding anniversary on December 26.

IN NOVEMBER, SOTH HAS BLESSED—

- Our Adopt-A-Seminary Student, Donnie Stein, Jr. with a check for \$2,730.00 (\$1,250.00 pledged + \$1,480.00 above and beyond)!
- The Dominican Republic Mission work with our Fall Mission Offering envelope total of \$820.00.
- The Onalaska Thanksgiving Meal donation totaled \$515.00 (\$250.00 pledged + \$265.00 above and beyond)!

JIM, SANDY AND MIKE GRABARCZYK have transferred their memberships to St. Paul Lutheran Church in Grafton, WI where Pastor Stein's son-in-law, Rev. Scott Kruse is the pastor. Drop them a line at:
*2044 Savannah Drive
Grafton, WI 53024*

PRAYER JOURNALING has been cancelled for December and January

THANK YOU to Frank and Casey Fischer and Joe and Jana Underkofler who donated their November Thrivent Choice Dollars to Shepherd of the Hills.

HUMAN CARE—*Submitted by Sharon Ryan*

THE ONALASKA EMERGENCY FOOD BASKET—735 Sand Lake Road, 608-783-7722
December: Personal Care Items (shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, etc.). Items may be left in the fellowship hall or delivered directly to the food pantry.

Food Donation Hours:

Monday 3:30-5:30 pm
Tuesday 9:00-11:00 am and 2:00-4:00 pm
Thursday 9:00-11:00 am

PRAYER CHAIN—To submit a prayer request, or to join the prayer chain, please contact the church office at 608-783-0330 or Sharon Ryan at 608-526-6731 or sryan6731@gmail.com.

THE PIECE MAKERS—Thursdays, 9:30 am. For information, contact Lorraine Koch at 936-242-9941.

SHEPHERD'S SENIORS— may or may not be meeting in December. Please contact Linda Vetsch at 608-269-2889 or Carolyn Bey at 608-526-4648 for updates.

LWML—*Submitted by Kay Conzemius*

MONTHLY MEETING— Monday, December 14, 11:30 am. Please bring a savory appetizer to share. We will have a devotional pertaining to Christmas. Next meeting: Monday, January 11, 1:00 pm.

THE GIVING TREE—Gifts can be placed under the tree through Friday, December 18. To donate a gift, select an ornament "Tag" from the tree, or refer to the list of items that are needed, in the PDF that accompanies this newsletter.

For more information on LWML or The Giving Tree, contact Kay Conzemius at 608-783-3036. Please leave a message and clearly state your name and phone number.

SHEPHERD'S FLOCK PRESCHOOL — Submitted by *Debbie Antoni, preschool director*



DECEMBER IS HERE and our staff is busy making plans for the celebration of our Savior's birth. We are very thankful that God has kept our families and staff healthy and safe in our first three

months of our school year. December is a very busy month. We have a birthday party for Baby Jesus, making gifts for parents, a giving tree (along with Shepherd of the Hills) to help others, and lots of songs to sing. **Our most important activity is preparing our hearts for His love at Christmas time! God gave us such a wonderful gift, a gift like no other gift. God gave us Jesus!**

The world around us gets busy and crazy. I encourage you and your family to STOP and prepare your hearts for the most wonderful time of the year! Put "CHRIST" in Christmas!

Children make Christmas fun and exciting! Shepherd's Flock is buzzing with excitement. Music is a very important part of our day and we have so many fun songs about Baby Jesus!

I wish you joy, happiness, and a heart full with the same love God felt, as he gave us His everlasting gift, Jesus! Merry Christmas to everyone at Shepherd of the Hills.

Thank you for all your love, support and prayers this past year!

I would like to wish you all a very blessed Christmas and a joyful new year! May your heart be filled with "HIS" love at the celebration of His birth!

May we all reach out in love to each other!
Debbie Antoni

PLEASE NOTE!

Our Christmas Program, Spaghetti Dinner, and Parent Teacher Conferences had to be cancelled, due to high COVID numbers.

SUNDAY SCHOOL — Submitted by *Jeanette Baumgarn,*



*O come, O come,
Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in
lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God
appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel
Shall come to thee,
O Israel.*

ONE OF MY FAVORITE SONGS during this time of year is "*O Come, O Come Emmanuel.*" The word "Emmanuel" means "God with us." At no other time in my life on this earth, have I needed that reminder that God is with us . . . than during this ongoing pandemic, online schooling, Zoom meeting after Zoom meeting, cancelled celebrations and church services, chaos within the government, and the list goes on. However, as believers in Jesus Christ, our LORD, and Savior, we can rejoice in the fact that He is Immanuel—God with us, no matter what else is going on (or not going on) in the world.

Sunday school lessons will be mailed for the next couple of weeks. After supporting the work of Samaritan's Purse through our Operation Christmas Child shoebox project during the past three months, we will support Cindy Wrucke with our Sunday school offerings during the months of December, January, and February.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD—Thanks to all who contributed money, gifts for the boxes, and to Jeanette Baumgarn, John and Karen Gardner, Lorraine Koch, Sarah and Elska Sheffer and Ann Wells who helped pack 50 boxes for Operation Christmas Child! The boxes are on their way to Chicago and from there will be distributed around the WORLD!

STEWARDSHIP CORNER — Borrowed by John Berg from LCMS Stewardship Ministry

CHRISTMAS IS COMING. It is a joyous time of feasting. The Church feasts upon the Word of God in sermon, song, and sacrament.

We hear the proclamation of the message of the angels: “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11). We mingle our voices with theirs as we sing, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased” (Luke 2:14)! We receive the proclaimed Savior, Christ the Lord, not wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in manger but wrapped in bread and wine placed into our mouths for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. We feast in great joy indeed because of this great blessing from our Lord and God.

God’s people in ancient Israel also feasted with great joy. The Lord showered His abundant blessing on His people. And He commanded them to feast upon it (Deuteronomy 16). The people were to go to the place appointed, where the Lord would make His name dwell, and give offerings, each man as he was able, according to the blessing of the Lord that He had given them (Deut. 16:10, 15, 17).

And there the Lord would bless them with joy as they feasted upon what the Lord had provided. They ate of the choice parts of their offerings. They enjoyed the company of all the people of God as they together heard His promises of blessing, sang of His bountiful goodness, and partook of what He gave.

We feast on the Word who became flesh to dwell among us, not just during Christmas but throughout all the year. We feast not just on the salvation He has wrought for us in His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, but we feast also on all the temporal blessings that God gives out of His fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us. We enjoy the rich bounty that God provides, not only in Word and Sacrament, but also in house and home, property and income, family and friends.

Let us then, as did our brothers in the faith from ancient Israel, give as we are able, according to the blessing of the Lord our God that He has given us. Let us, like them, give generously of the first fruits of our income, which He gives, so that all may know and enjoy the salvation He gives and the joy we have in the Savior born in the city of David, who is Christ the Lord.



BLOOD DRIVE

Season
of giving

**Thursday
December**

3

1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Helpful tip:
Make sure to eat a healthy meal
and drink plenty of water before
donating.
FDA face covering required.

**Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
Blood Drive**

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
1215 Redwood Street, Onalaska
Schedule an appointment online: bit.ly/caredec3
or call 877-232-4376

Due to the ongoing impacts of COVID-19, and the flu season, we are urging you to schedule an appointment to donate blood to ensure an adequate blood supply during the fall and winter months.

*COVID-19 Antibody Testing will be performed on all donations as part of our standard testing.

For more information, Call 877-BEA-HERO or visit Versiti.org


versiti
Blood Center of Wisconsin