



## *Shepherd's Staff*

*January, 2018  
Happy New Year!*

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**Josh Brecht**  
**Associate Pastor**  
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### **All Things New**

As we come to the end of one year and turn the page into another, it seems we are always encouraged to pause and look back at what has passed, and then to look forward toward what will come. Indeed, much has happened in 2017! For our family, it has truly been a year of "all things new." We have experienced a new home, new city, new church, new schools, new friends, new foods (toasted ravioli, yum!), and new experiences. It has been a year of tremendous change, but tremendous blessing.

As we look back on our year of ministry at Good Shepherd, there is also much to celebrate. We just wrapped up a successful capital campaign to enable ever greater ministry into the future. The work of the WHIRL teams (Worship, Healing, Involvement, Relationships, and Leadership) has made significant strides in strengthening our work at Good Shepherd. Several new ministries have been created in 2017 such as Father Figure, Brews & Hymns, Cancer-Now What? Young Families' Small Groups. All the while, existing ministries such as Feed My Starving Children, Our Neighbors Our City, and many, many more continue to thrive. People of Good Shepherd, you have much to celebrate as we look back on 2017!

As we look forward, we peer into the future with anxious hope. Some of the future is known, but some is still hazy. We know world is changing, and we continually adapt to minister to the people inhabiting this ever-shifting cultural landscape. We have confidence and hope because we know that Good Shepherd has been built on a rock-solid foundation. We have excitement because we know the Holy Spirit is at work in this place and that God will continue to lead and guide the ministry of this congregation. As the Apostle John reminds us, we are the branches, Jesus is the vine, and when we remain connected to the vine we will bear fruit that will last. I cannot wait to see how

God moves in and through the people of Good Shepherd in this new year ahead!

As we turn the corner into this new year, be reminded of God's promise that in Christ we are always being made new. Maybe we yearn new beginnings in our relationships, our work, or areas of our lives. Be assured, this is the season where are reminded that God promises to be with us and make all things new! Finally, I invite you to dwell on these words from one of my favorite passages from the Apostle Paul, "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" - 2 Cor. 5:17

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Josh



### **Welcome Gail Brecht (again)**

We are happy to announce that Gail Brecht has accepted a part-time staff position here at GSLC as "Contemporary Music Director / Worship Leader". Starting on January 1, 2018 Gail will coordinate, plan, and lead the musicians at the 11:00 AM Contemporary Worship services.

Gail's background in worship leadership is impressive, with a Master's degree from Wartburg Seminary, experience as a professional musician (along with husband Josh), and her continuing work as a Global Musician - Educator for the ELCA.

I'm sure that Gail's leadership and expertise with a variety of worship styles will help us continue to offer a quality worship experience for members and visitors alike.

Please welcome her (again) as she takes on these new responsibilities.

Grace & Peace,  
Pastor Rich



### **Jim Anderson Council President**

It is this time of year that we reflect on the past year and plan for the year ahead. I had several goals in 2017 as your Congregation President:

- Improve the sound system in the Sanctuary
- Deliver a strong Capital Campaign for the kitchen and building improvements
- Grow membership and worship attendance
- Increase giving and stewardship to support our vibrant ministry
- Continue our focus on WHIRL and achieve measurable goals
- Support our Mission with our time, talent and treasure

We have new speakers in the sanctuary, have nearly achieved our goal of \$ 2 million in capital, and updated our kitchen. Our membership has grown slightly and attendance has been ticking up during 2017. We continue to struggle a bit with our regular giving. Our focus on WHIRL has achieved many new ministry opportunities, including a focus on supporting those struggling with cancer.

As 2018 begins, we will be working to finalize our first strategic plan. I'm personally excited to see what our Strategic Planning Taskforce will present to Council. This will cap off our efforts that started with the Council Retreat in August.

In closing, I wanted to tell you that we have hired a Contemporary Worship Director. This position is a direct result of WHIRL and the congregational survey. We learned from that survey that we needed to improve the worship experience and a team targeted the 11:00 am service for an overhaul. This included recommending adding a part-time position to focus on this important service. The Council adopted the plan and our Vice President, Joyce Candela, led a search for this position. We had a number of qualified applicants and after interviews and deliberation, Good Shepherd has hired Gail Brecht as our new part-time Contemporary Worship Director. Gail will be starting the position in January.

I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 28th, starting at 12:15 pm. A light lunch will be provided.



**Becky Howard**  
**Director of Children & Family Ministry**  
[bhoward@gslcelca.org](mailto:bhoward@gslcelca.org)

**New Year/New opportunities in Children's Ministry!** As our children's ministry programs continue to grow, we are looking for folks interested in being part of our special event ministry teams. We are team driven and would love to collaborate and coordinate with you. Please contact Becky Howard at 636.391.6685 if you are interested in being part of any of these event teams!

**Easter Egg Hunt** - looking for a team of 3 or 4 folks to plan this family-friendly celebration of Easter event scheduled for Saturday morning, March 31st!

**Be Like Jesus 24-Hour Service Event** - Friday, April 13 through Saturday, April 14, 2018, over 100 3rd - 8th graders from area ELCA churches will gather at Good Shepherd for a lock-in focused on serving others. We will need help preparing snack on Friday evening and then to prepare and serve breakfast Saturday morning, pack



lunches Saturday morning AND to lead outreach events such as crafts, woodworking during the 10:00 a - 3:00 p time frame on Saturday. Whether you can help with pre-event preparations or be here for the fun, we would LOVE your

partnership for this great outreach event (time commitment needs from two-hours to ten).

**Team VBS** - Looking for a team of folks to work on planning, recruiting and communications for this annual week of fun, faith-growth and community! Our Shipwrecked-themed 2018 VBS week is Jul. 30 - Aug. 3.

**First Communion Classes for Second and Third Graders Starting Soon!**

First Communion instruction will be held on three consecutive Wednesday evenings Jan.17th, 24th and 31st from 6:45-7:30 pm in the sanctuary. These classes are offered to all second and third graders and to youth above third grade who have not received this instruction. Parents are asked to attend these evenings as well, and in this way can be an important part of this a meaningful and important event in their child's faith journey.

On Saturday, Feb. 3rd, there will be a special First Communion Family Event from 7-8:30 pm. The whole family, as well as extended family and baptismal sponsors, are invited to attend. There will be discussion and active learning as we prepare for the First Communion Celebration the next day. The children will receive their First Communion on Sunday, February 4th at the 11:00 am service. Please contact Becky Howard for more information.

**January Family Fellowship Sunday - January 14th, 10:40-11:15 in the gym!** Parents, join us in the gym for refreshments and coffee. Meet some new friends or catch up with some old friends while the kids have indoor fun with flakes!



**Parenting Group** - Join us on Sunday, January 14th, as we kick off a new year in this monthly ministry focused on bringing parents together to learn, grow, support and laugh together. 9:30-10:30 in Rm. 108.

**Youth Club -**

Our Wednesday evening Youth club program will be starting our new year on Wednesday, January 10th for both PREP (2nd -5th Grade) and SOS (6th-8th Grades). Here's what's happening in January:

Jan 10      PREP & SOS begins(New Year Rec night after dinner for SOSers!)

Jan 17      PREP & SOS-Week Two (Wear your Youth Club T-Shirt Night!) First

Communion classes for 3rd & 4th graders & parents-6:45-7:30pm in the sanctuary; first night dinner for these families at 6:00 in Room 150.

- Jan 19-21 Quake Youth Ministry event for registered 7th - 8th graders.
- Jan 24 PREP & SOS-Week three First Communion classes for 3rd & 4th graders & parents-6:45-7:30 in the Sanctuary.
- Jan 31 PREP & SOS - week four (Inside Out & Backwards Night!) First Communion Classes for 4th graders & parents-6:45-7:30pm in the Sanctuary.

### **Kick the New Year Off in Sunday School - Fun Begins Jan. 7th! - Sunday mornings in TheMiddle!**

Middle School youth, meet Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:40 in theMiddle (Room 147). We're excited about a new discussion series starting this month - come join us for warm conversation among friends!



**Fellowship of Lutheran Youth - FLY**  
**Pastor Amy Stewart**  
**Director of Youth Ministry**  
[astewart@gslcelca.org](mailto:astewart@gslcelca.org)

*Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles.*

Isaiah 40:31



#### FLY Schedule

- Jan 7 6:30-8pm, FLY night kickoff!
- Jan 14 11am, FLY friends lead 11am worship (let PA know how you'll help!); 6:30-8pm, FLY night
- Jan 17 6:15-7:15am, Fresh Start at Starbucks, Dougherty Ferry
- Jan 21 6:30-8pm, FLY night
- Jan 24 6:15-7:15am, Fresh Start at Einstein Bagels, Ellisville
- Jan 28 5-6:30pm, Gathering team mtg (you and adult leaders; dinner provided); 6:30-8pm, FLY Christmas party (bring a cheap/silly, wrapped gift)
- Jan 31 6:15-7:15am, Fresh Start at Bread Co, Frontenac
- Feb 2-3 5:30pm-5:30pm FLY retreat (details TBD)

#### **Stewardship**

**by: Christina Kling-Garrett, Chair**

*"May all kings fall down before him; all nations give him service." Psalms 72:11*

Happy Christmastime! Amidst the hustle and bustle of family parties, bowl games, and returning presents, we are smack-dab in the middle of Lords-a-

leaping, Ladies dancing, turtle doves and a slew of other birds calling out and swimming around until we reach Epiphany.

Epiphany is my favorite feast day; it takes the wise men until January 6th to reach my Nativity set, I watch shows on exactly which astrological occurrence was the Star of Bethlehem, and I love songs about the Magi, especially a mash-up of "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" and "We Three Kings" by The Barenaked Ladies. And while that's all fun, that it isn't what makes Epiphany special.

Epiphany means "the first manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles" and the third meaning is "an illuminating discovery, realization, or disclosure; a revealing scene or moment." In a combination of those two meanings, we know that Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar brought gold, frankincense, and myrrh and presented them as an acknowledgement of who Jesus was. Each gift held a special significance - gold symbolizing kingship on earth, frankincense representing deity, and myrrh foreshadowing Jesus' suffering and death.

But how does any of that impact us or have anything to do with stewardship? I'd say it has a lot to do with Christians today and a skew on stewardship. I've been part of many conversations where we tried to count up how many gifts were given out by the "True Love" in "The Twelve Days of Christmas." While the song sounds like it's about getting even more presents at Christmas, it was written for persecuted Christians not allowed to talk about their religion, and now many of the feast days between Christmas and Epiphany are no longer celebrated. That's why when we celebrate Epiphany, and the Magi bringing what they had before Jesus, it is so sacred. Did it take them a long time to get there? Did they have questions about what they were doing, and why? Yes. But when they finally reached the young Jesus, they offered to him what they had. "Gold I bring to crown Him again. King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign."

If you're interested in learning more about the real meaning behind "The Twelve Days of Christmas" song, visit: [Real Meaning Link](#)

Together in Christ,  
Christina Kling-Garrett  
Stewardship Chair

# Youth Gathering pancake supper fundraiser



Save the date: Feb 13th

## Bible Studies & Adult Education

**Sunday Morning Adult Topical Discussion** - 9:30 am -10:30 am \* Rm. 205. Join us on Jan.7 as Gary Kallansrud gives us an update from his recent trip to Russia as part of the Central States Synod.

**Sunday Morning Bible Study** - 9:30 am-10:30 am in Room. 214 \* Jan.7 starting a new study in Galatians and Ephesians. Great time to join the group and help decide what we study next. Join us as we discuss what God is saying to us and how we can put it into practice. All Are Welcome! Questions? Contact Steve Spoerle at [fsspoerle@gmail.com](mailto:fsspoerle@gmail.com)

**Men's Bible Breakfast - Thursday Mornings 6:15-7:15** - Thursday Mornings 6:15-7:15 at St. Louis Bread Co. Winchester. Now discussing the Fruits of the Holy Spirit.(Love, Joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control). Being more fruitful and enjoying the fruits of the holy Spirit in our lives.Join us for coffee, fellowship, and inspiring discussion. For more info contact Shawn Geurkink at [sgeurkink314@gmail.com](mailto:sgeurkink314@gmail.com).

**The Thursday Lunch Bunch** - 12:00 pm \* Fireside Room-The Thursday Lunch Bunch begins again on Jan.18, in the Fireside Room at noon. The group will read and discuss *The Faith Book Club* book each week. This is about three mothers from three faiths-Islam, Christianity, and Judaism, who got together to write a picture book for their children. The book highlights the discussions between these ladies trying to understand and answer questions for their children. Please join us for this study and discussion. Contact Joanna Brooks at 314.640.4946 or email [joannabrooks2000@gmail.com](mailto:joannabrooks2000@gmail.com). All are welcome.

**Naomi Circle** - Meets the 2nd Thursday of the month. For information contact Brenda Jansen at 636-273-6876 or [luvsflowers@charter.net](mailto:luvsflowers@charter.net).

**All Anew Women's Bible Study**- Meets 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Fireside Room. For more information contact Vicki Haugen 571-235-3935, Kim Sherwood 636-236-8601 or Marilyn Jones 636-394-3904.



# TRIVIA NIGHT & SILENT AUCTION



**MAR 3  
7PM  
GYM**

**FLY FUNDRAISER**  
Registration and donation  
information in the narthex and  
[@ goodshepherdlutheran.com](mailto:@goodshepherdlutheran.com)



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT PASTOR AMY - 636-391-6685

**Small groups of GSLC: Please consider putting together a basket to donate to the FLY Trivia Night silent auction. Contact Pastor Amy: 636-391-6685.**

## Service Team - Janie Wolfangel

There are always many service-related activities going on that the Service Team helps to organize or coordinate. This past month was a busy time for everyone, but with your unselfish giving, it was a blessed time for many unfortunate





people.

We were able to help Wings of Love and Care distribute Thanksgiving Baskets to 160 people. Operation Christmas Child was amazing, we delivered 99 shoe boxes for children, the Christmas Giving Tree was also amazing, giving 6 families from Circle of Concern a wonderful Christmas, plus helping 20 teenagers for the First Step Back Home party.

- **Meal-a-Month for January** will support the Maplewood/Richmond Heights School District Food Pantry. Needed Items include: peanut butter & jelly, canned vegetables, & fruit, breakfast items, soups, mixed meal starters, such as Hamburger Helper.
- **Monthly Benevolence Fund:** Each month the service team has a theme which helps guide the selection of recipients for that month's Benevolence fund disbursements. The theme for December was - Christmas Giving. The Service Team researched several agencies and chose to support Village of Hope, 100 Neediest Cases and Santa's Helpers. The Team also elected to continue support for Mary Mule, a student from Tawa, Kenya.

One of the agencies we supported was Santa's Helpers, an organization that provides gifts to poor children at Christmas, which are delivered by an "elf" dressed as Santa to the child's home. It is an ALL volunteer group which believes no child should feel overlooked at Christmas. Recipients are identified by local social agencies and hospitals.

The Service Team meets on the first Tuesday of the month - the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 2nd at 7:00 pm in Room 205.

We are always looking for new members to support this worthwhile ministry at Good Shepherd - Please joins us!

## A "Wink" from the Welcome Ministry Team

by: Elliott Haugen



*Happy New Year!* I hope you had a blessed, meaningful and merry Christmas. During the past few months you or someone you know may have traveled to be with family and friends. During those trips, the waiting or burden of travel often led to the question "Are we there yet?" Once we arrived, we realized it was worth it as we shared time together and created new memories.

The messages of Advent and preparations for Christmas guided us during our December journey that culminated in the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. The arrival of Jesus fulfilled the prophecies and was an inspiring moment for those who traveled from afar to welcome him or waited for the good news. However, Jesus' birth was more than a destination. It was the beginning of a journey of faith and discipleship we share today, throughout 2018, and beyond.

On behalf of the Welcome Ministry, thank you for sharing a smile, handshake or welcome with each other and our guests. You do not view Good Shepherd as a destination, but rather as part of an ongoing journey of caring, healing, and

support as we follow Christ, grow in faith and share God's love.

*A "wink" is a brief form of communications that implies a hello or friendly greeting. Watch for future Winks with thoughts and information about Good Shepherd's welcoming ministry.*



**Building Blocks Preschool**  
**Kathy Rebholz, Director**  
[krebholz@gslcelca.org](mailto:krebholz@gslcelca.org)



**BUILDING BLOCKS  
PRESCHOOL**

December was an exciting month for Building Blocks!

The students enjoyed learning and singing about Jesus's birth in all areas of our preschool program. They were truly filled with the Christmas spirit as they



learned about the season of advent, the meaning of the candy cane and making and wrapping



gifts to give loved ones. They had a memorable time celebrating this time of year at Christmas Pajama Parties and our annual Christmas

Program.

Building Blocks Preschool prepares for the 2018-2019 school year with preschool registration around the corner. Our program, ages 1-5 runs from 8:45 - 11:45 am with a Lunch Bunch option that ends at 1:30 pm. Our engaging curriculum incorporates the Learning Without Tears Program, Chapel Time, Science Time, and Music Time to promote thinking, reasoning, and problem solving. If you are interested or know someone looking for an excellent preschool, please contact Kathy Rebholz to schedule a tour.



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