

Shepherd's Staff

Faith

The Monthly Newsletter of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

January 2022

Bringing in the New Year with An Article from Alexa Spoerle

Our very own Alexa Spoerle, a college sophomore at Miami University, recently wrote an article for her campus media, discussing why it's so important to have faith conversations with one another, even if we disagree. She beautifully encourages us to dive deeper in our faith, to wrestle together, and to have loving and gracious interactions with one another. What a gift in a polarized world. We encourage you to check it out below. Well done, Alexa!

[Alexa Spoerle's Article](#)

Congregational Meeting January 30th at 12:15 pm. In person and Zoom.

An invitation letter will be mailed to you. Please open the pdf. version [here](#), to access the Zoom Links for the meeting.



Josh Brecht
Lead Pastor

Christmas Eve at Good Shepherd

What a joy to gather with the people of God to celebrate the birth of Jesus this year! We were blessed to have many people gather in the sanctuary this Christmas Eve, but also to be able to share worship online with many of you, as well. While the disruptions and challenges of the past year have been difficult, I am also reminded of all the saints who have gone before us and our Christian siblings in other parts of the world even today who have struggled to gather safely and publicly for various reasons. I give thanks to God that we are united as the body of Christ regardless of where or how we worship.

We were able to bring back animals and costumes to help bring the Christmas story to life again this year! Cowboy Critters did a fantastic job, and we were surprised to be

able to be a part of a feature story that the St. Louis Dispatch was doing on their business! (View the story [HERE](#)).

A special thanks to Dolan Dye and Michael Kerber for being our lead animal handlers! And Michael for doing double duty (pun intended) with some clean up!



It is always a joy to have kids (and adults!) dress up in costumes to bring the story to life. From shepherds, to magi, to angels, we had a whole heavenly host there to help at both the 3:30 and 5:30 services!





The joy and interaction of the early services are wonderful, but there is also something so profoundly meaningful about the more contemplative traditional worship services as the evening goes on. The organ and choir, and especially the candlelight shining as we sing “Silent Night” at the end of the evening is nothing short of amazing every single year.



This season had the addition of new helpers with our audio/visual technology to make livestreaming possible! It was truly an intergenerational effort with kids, teens, and adults all jumping in to make our worship available to those at home on Christmas Eve!



Finally, we share a huge **THANK YOU** to all who shared their time and their gifts to make worship possible this year! Musicians, ushers, greeters, A/V team, readers, altar guild, and the Good Shepherd staff all worked hard to make this a truly holy and meaningful Christmas Eve.

May the joy of Christmas continue to warm our hearts in the days, weeks, and months ahead!

With much gratitude,
Pastor Josh



Dear Good Shepherd,

Thank you so much for the amazing retirement send-off. Thank you, also, for the gift of providing a meal a day for 24 children for a year via Feed My Starving Children. It so touched my heart, and the end number is still growing and far surpassed 24 children. I have often thought the image of a Lighthouse is befitting for Good Shepherd. The sole purpose of the Lighthouse is to provide safe harbor, help and comfort to vessels navigating the dark storms (of life). It will never fully know all that have been helped via that far-reaching light. And, those that have been helped will never forget how they felt to receive food, shelter, and warmth from that light. Over the years, I have had the gift of seeing the MANY ways Good Shepherd has shared the light of Christ via Service team, Welcome Team, Feed My Starving Children, Stephen Ministry, etc. I'm so thankful for the privilege of seeing Christ's light glow and grow in each of you. Again, thank you for the warmth expressed to me. I pray you continue to be the image of God's beam of light seen around the world.

Joyfully in Christ, Suzie



Help “Fill the Drawers” for Home Sweet Home

Home Sweet Home recipients are in need of the following kitchen items: dishcloths, kitchen towels, oven mitts, measuring cups/spoons, peelers, pizza cutters, ice cream scoops, whisks, rubber spatulas, wooden spoons, slotted spoons, meat forks, tongs and ladles to “fill the drawers” as they move into their first home. HSH’s mission is to give under-served families a sense of pride and to improve the quality of their lives by providing basic household furnishings. Please help them by donated slightly used or new items. Place donated items in the labeled drawers under the member mailboxes outside the office at GSLC starting January 2022. Questions contact Lori Klopf at 314.330.6358.

Check out the website <https://homesweethomestl.org/> for information on donations of other larger items. Thank you for your help!



Care Packages for Chaplains!

Project Boomerang scrappy ladies are asking for your help in showing our deployed some Valentine’s Day love! We coordinate with ELCA Chaplains overseas to support soldiers with our handmade greeting cards and care packages.

Pocket-sized items are best - beef jerky, non-melting candy, trail mix, nuts, gum, sunflower seeds, cough drops, Chapstick, sunblock, and the Prayer-Book-for-the-

Armed-Services are all soldier favorites! No metal, aerosol, liquid or flip-top products, please.

Items may be dropped off in the narthex starting January 9 in the labeled box until January 31. Contact Vicki Haugen (571.235.3935) or Robin Spence (314.249.7304) if you have questions – and Thank You for helping us share the Love!

A "Wink from the Welcome Ministry Team By Elliott Haugen



Happy New Year! Welcome to 2022 and another chapter in our spiritual and personal journeys. Remembering Advent's meaning of "coming", it is exciting and daunting to think about what may lie ahead. Thankfully, we are guided by the message and meaning of Jesus' birth and Christmas. May we joyfully and resolutely take advantage of opportunities that strengthen our faith, our lives and our shared mission. There are certainly unknowns and challenges ahead, but these Bible verses remind us that as Children of God we are not alone:

"For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for good and not for harm, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11

"...but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:31

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful." Colossians 3:15

On behalf of the Welcome Ministry Team, thanks again for everything you do to welcome, support, love and engage each other, visitors and all who share in Good Shepherd's worship, educational and music programs, and service and outreach projects.

[Visit our Website](#)

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