

# Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

7800 W. McCarthy Rd., Palos Heights, IL 60463

January, 2020

## *Christmas Continues . . .*



*The season of Christmas continues at Good Shepherd. That means that as the air still echoes the voices of our Sunday School Christmas Service, the music of the choir concert and the light of candles at the Christmas Eve service, we continue in our celebration of the gift of Jesus. All of these great events were the result of lots of people who gave their time and energy investing in celebrating Jesus with great joy. **Thank You** to all who prepared, attended or helped clean up from our wonderful Christmas gatherings.*

*As we strive to continue to reflect the spirit of Christmas all year, please make plans to attend our Congregational Meeting between the services on January 26. This is a time of reflecting on the past year and looking forward to where God is calling us in the year ahead. Childcare will be provided but we ask that you please sign up your child if such services will be needed. This annual time is important to share our appreciation for what has been done and stay informed about things upcoming. We look forward to seeing you there.*

*In Service,*

*Pastor Chris Buresh*

## ***New information about our Church Staff . . .***

The last two months have been very busy as the Church Council has spent time in prayer and discernment over how to meet both our immediate and long term staffing needs. Of utmost concern is how we may faithfully follow God's leading, sharing the good news in our community now and in the future. Several new developments have come about we would like to share.

We have been very thankful for Pastor Joe's ability to serve as our Interim Minister. As he has begun supporting our staff and ministries, particularly our youth ministry, we discovered that the needs and his availability require more time and energy than originally planned. As we want to ensure the effective support of these ministries, Council unanimously voted to increase Pastor Joe's hours. While he will still serve part time, we feel these additional hours will be very helpful to meet the immediate needs of our ministries.

In conversation and discernment of what is in the best long term interest for Good Shepherd, the Church Council unanimously voted to pursue calling an Associate Pastor to support our efforts to share the good news. This process will likely take some time but know that we will continue to work diligently to ensure it is as smooth as possible. Currently, we have a call committee established that will be meeting for the first time in January. Please know that once a candidate has been identified, the final step will be a congregational vote. We share this news to make sure you are aware that you will have a valuable part to play in this process. As the work of the call committee continues, please lift up in prayer our call committee, church council and the one for whom God is working to call here to Good Shepherd.

We look forward to continuing our journey together as we strive to share God's love and grace in and through our Good Shepherd community.

Sincerely,

Kristie Traverso – Good Shepherd Church Council Chairperson

Ron Jurkovic – Good Shepherd Church Council Vice-Chairperson



## People of Good Shepherd – December 2019

### **Baptisms**

Jack Tyler Kukulski — November 24, 2019  
Eleanor Irene Kukulski — November 24, 2019  
Kiera June DeWolf — November 24, 2019  
Ryleigh Jeanne Kruizenga — December 1, 2019



### **Weddings**

Alexa Kruszynski and Marc Calvey — December 14, 2019



### **New Parents**

Matt and Kalli Nies, a daughter, Hannah Noel

### **New Grandparents**

Paul and Darsi Kling, a granddaughter, Hannah Noel



### **Transfers**

Judy Below to Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church, Huntley, IL

### **Known to have been ill or hospitalized**

Sue Alberts, Joy Ausec, Nicole Baldwin, Marilyn Breen, Myrna Bronson, Barbara Brown, Beverly Choquette, Katie DiMambro, Cynthia Grzych, Sandra Keller, John King, Missy Korallus, Lowell Ladewig, Russ Luce, Char Mathis, Penny Mattes-Rumore, Sue McCoy, Penny McNicholas, Connor Mish, Deb Petritsch, Georgene Podewell, Melinda Rekar and unborn child, Ruth Sava, Bob Schaaf and Pam Stewart



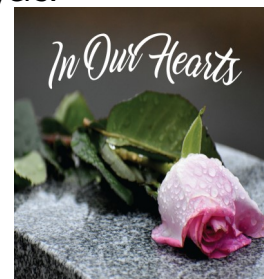
### **Known to have Experienced Bereavement**

The Steffenson family upon the death of Brenda's father, Fred Ritchie and aunt, Beatrice Walker  
The Finnegan family upon the death of Brian's brother, Dan  
The Pearson family upon the death of Tim's aunt, Dorothy Tibbits  
The Fabish and Kammerer families upon the death of Kevin Fabish  
The Gansel family upon the death of Cindy's uncle, John Ballin  
The Schmitt family upon the death of their friend, Sam Ziolkowski  
The Hennessy family upon the death of Kelly's uncle, Bob Hickey  
The Metro and Schmitt families upon the death of Nancy's sister-in-law and Joe's aunt, Diane Fenner  
The Meier family upon the death of Helen's niece and Deane's cousin, Sabra Lien



### **Funerals**

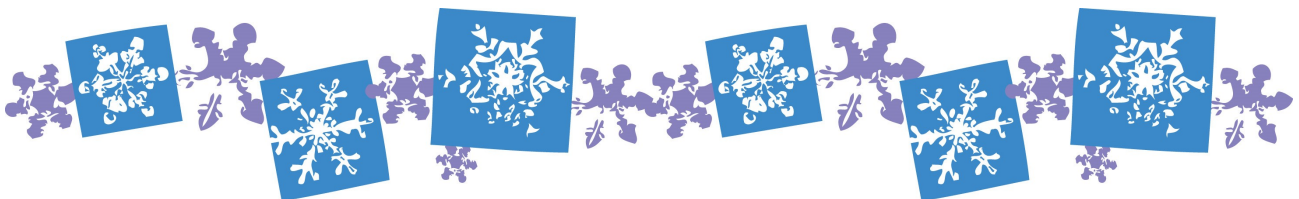
- † Maxine M. Piha— November 25, 2019 — Maxine had a passion for teaching, whether it was formally as a school teacher, with her humor among her friends at Victorian Village, or as she took great care of her grandchildren. We keep her children Vivian and Valerie and all her family in our prayers.
- † Nancy J. Thiele — November 26, 2019 — Nancy's fingerprints are all around Good Shepherd as she was part of the building committee and a regular at social functions. Her love and faith left an impression on family and friends. Our love goes out to her husband, Art, and her family and friends.
- † Dorothy E. Tibbits — December 9, 2019
- † Ann K. Burklund — December 16, 2019 — Ann had a passion for baking and spending time in her garden. As she now enjoys life without the struggles of this world, we lift up her daughter Linda and all of Ann's family.



## ***With Great Appreciation and Thanks . . .***



- ♦ to **All our choirs and musicians** who shared their gifts to highlight the gift of Jesus during our worship services and the Christmas concert.
- ♦ to **Those who generously gave of their time** this Christmas helping our various events and activities. Whether it was setting up, making or providing food, cleaning up or being guiding lights for these gatherings, your efforts were greatly appreciated.
- ♦ to **Everyone who attended and participated** in our worship services and Christmas events during December. Thank you for centering your holiday season around the gift of Jesus alongside the community of Good Shepherd.
- ♦ to **Everyone who helped with the L.S.S.I. foster gift program.** Your generosity provided a Christmas gift to more than 175 children in foster care. Thank you for sharing God's love in this real and powerful way and for making Christmas a more positive experience for these children.
- ♦ to **Our Sunday school children** who shared "Arise and Shine" on December 15. Many thanks to all of our Sunday school children, parents, teachers and staff for a job well done!
- ♦ to **Everyone who supported our Mission Trip Participants** by ordering gift cards. \$1,607.04 was raised this year.
- ♦ to **All who helped make the church facility beautiful** for the enjoyment of our community. A special thank you to Forest Reeder for his generous donation of the Christmas tree that adorned our sanctuary.
- ♦ to **Martin and Sons Cleaners**, the Oster family, in Worth, for cleaning the albs used by the pastor, communion assistants and acolytes. As Christmas is a season associated with the color white, thank you for keeping our whites so clean.
- ♦ to **You for your generosity** in sending cards, giving gifts, sharing a good word or expressing your faith to brighten the Christmas celebration for others. You are following God's call to be a community of people guided by the holy gift of Jesus Christ.



**And A Special Note:** To Whomever delivered the beautiful Christmas tree and security blanket to my door, your "unexpected gift" has warmed our hearts filling our lives with the light, joy and love of Christmas! Good Shepherd has always been blessed by exceptionally good sermon listeners. May the love of Christmas fill Good Shepherd's New year with peace and hope.

*With love and gratitude,*

*Charlie Brown, Pastor Emeritus*



*Good Shepherd is incredibly blessed and reflects that abundance through its generosity towards God's mission in the world. During the year, you helped collect over 175 Christmas gifts for foster children, pack dozens of boxes of clothes to be distributed to those in need, brought in all types of plastics to be converted to picnic tables, distributed food to our local food pantry, cooked for the homeless, built a home during the Big Build and made countless other efforts to make God's love real through tangible means. On top of all this, it was our privilege to send out more than \$180,000 for mission and ministry to places local, national and global. Please join us at the Congregational Meeting to hear more about how Good Shepherd is a vessel for sharing God's love with others. Thank You!*

*The Missions Board - Judy Lang, Chairperson*

## MISSIONS CONTINUE . . .

### **We continue to take food to the Palos Food Pantry.**



**Feeding the Community**

The need continues. Requested items for January include: skillet dinners, Jell-O, cereal, spaghetti sauce and pasta noodles, canned meats and canned fruit.

**Homeless Cooking . . .** The next cooking date for the homeless is scheduled for Tuesday, January 14 at 9:30 AM.

*New members are always welcome!*

### **Mission Trip Updates . . .**

Our **mission trip to St. Louis** is set for June 20-26. We have 16 youth signed up so far. You can bring a friend too; the more the better. We need a couple of adult chaperones. We will be driving in 2 sprinter vans. If you're going on the trip, there will be a youth and parent meeting between services on Sunday, January 5.



## ADULT EDUCATION CONTINUES . . .

**Make a 2020 resolution to explore God through reading the Bible and being in close community with others.**

Come to our **Tuesday Prayer Group** which meets at 9:30 AM. We will begin a new video series in January so it's a great time to get involved. **The Bible Study**, held on Tuesday's at 10:30 AM will

continue our journey through 1 Samuel. We laugh a lot and would love for you to come and share your laughter and perspective. **The Book Discussion group** which meets on Tuesday's at 4:00 PM is working through the fiction book, *Joshua*. **These groups will start meeting again on Tuesday, January 14 and then meet every Tuesday after.**

## Bible Study



**Prayer Partners and Discovering the Bible** will start up again on January 23. Our prayer service is very relaxed and begins

at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary. It's a great time to come and, alongside others, commune with God. At 7:30 PM, we continue our work through the book of Isaiah in the Galilean Room.

**Basketball and Bags** will be meeting at 8:00 PM for basketball on January 6 and every Monday after during the month of January. Come and get a sweat in or play bags alongside some friends, ones you know or will get to know.



**Soul Men's Group . . .** Mondays at 9:15 PM we take some time to gather as men and support each other in our shared faith. This is a great way to make a connection with others who are doing their best to try to live faithfully. Any guy is welcome to come. Talk to Pr. Buresh for more information.

## Faith





## ACTIVITIES CONTINUE . . .

### "OFF CLUB"



What better way of starting out the new year than welcoming in 2020 with the **"OFF Club" meeting on Wednesday, January 15.**

Our lunch will be appetizers and desserts provided by our members. After lunch we will be playing a fun card game. We hope you will be able to join us.

### YOUTH GROUP

Pastor Joe is really excited for the New Year. There is a lot happening, so let's get going!

If you're interested in being a part of the **basketball league** or an open gym night, email Pastor Joe ASAP. It starts Jan 14. There's a \$10 cost for the jersey.



The **Top-golf event** is set for March 15. If you're interested, email Pastor Joe.

### Youth will be meeting

in-between services Jan 5, 12 and 19. These meetings are very important, not only for information, but for getting to know each other.

We will be talking about basketball, the mission trip, Top-golf, Feed My Starving Children, the lock-in, fundraising and more.



**Youth  
Worship  
Service**

**YOUTH SERVICE . . .** Any High School Student who is interested in helping plan or would like to participate in the Youth Service on Sunday, February 9 should sign up on the bulletin board or see Pastor Joe.

**There is so much to workout,  
let's get talking and planning!**



I will be sending out an email blast once a week on Thursday's to keep you all up to date. So please send me your email addresses, that's youth and parents. If you only do text messages, please contact the church office to get my cell number. Pastor Joe's email: [joe@good-shepherd-church.com](mailto:joe@good-shepherd-church.com)

### SUNDAY SCHOOL & FAMILY



#### Attention all Early childhood moms . . .

A freezer meal making event is scheduled for Friday, January 17. Those that participate, sign up for either/both of the meals that are planned for.

There is a fee for the meals and that is determined after the shopping is complete. The fee is payable that night. You can email Lori Puttkammer, call the church office or sign-up on the Frolic bulletin board (closest to Nursery).

**Spare us some of your time and join us for Cosmic Bowl** at Orland Bowl on January 25 from 12:45 PM till 3 PM. All Sunday school students and their families are encouraged



to attend. We meet at Orland Bowl. Shoe rental, 2 hours of bowling, Pizza and pop are included. Treats for Strikes and Spares! A fee of \$10 per person attending is due to Mrs. Lori by January 19<sup>th</sup>. Please email Lori, call the church office, or sign-up on the bulletin board to let us know that you are attending.



#### Childcare for the Annual Congregational Meeting

will be available. Infants thru Preschool age will be looked after in the Church Nursery. Kindergarten thru older will be

looked after downstairs in Bethany hall. A sign-up sheet can be found on the bulletin board. Please sign-up, email, or call the church office.



**ANNUAL MEETING**

## ACTIVITIES CONTINUE . . .

### MORE SUNDAY SCHOOL & FAMILY



#### **Sunday School Bake Sale is around the corner!**

The Sunday school children will be hosting a Bake Sale on February 2 in the Narthex between services. The

funds raised will support Palos Food Pantry. All of the children are involved; some making signs, some helping to sell the baked goods at the table, all Sunday school families are asked to help bake items for the sale, and the 5<sup>th</sup> Graders will be going shopping for the food items that will be brought to the pantry. Please be sure to stop by the Bake Sale and fulfill your sweet tooth as well as the Sunday school's mission to help feed those that are hungry.



*Happy New Year* *Happy New Year* *Happy New Year*



**Save the Date! Join us in cheering on the Chicago Wolves vs. the Rockford Ice Hogs** on February 23 at 3 PM. **ALL** ages welcome to join us

for a Sunday afternoon of great fun! Tickets will be \$13 per person and ticket reservations must be made by February 9. All participants will meet at the Allstate Arena in Rosemont. Reserve your tickets on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board or email/call Lori Puttkammer today!

#### **Feed My Starving Children Fellowship Event . . .**

is planned for Saturday March 7 from 2-4 PM at the Schaumburg location. This is open to anyone from age 5 (minimum age) and up. Our group will be filling bags with food and packing them for shipping. Afterwards, a dinner reservation has been made at nearby Lou Malnati's for anyone who wishes to get a bite to eat. Further information will be posted on the bulletin board as the event draws near.



## OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUE . . .



**Become Part of**  
of a  
**Church Committee**

**Now's the time to get involved at Good Shepherd.** As we prepare for the congregational meeting,

we are looking for new people to join the various groups and committees that make up Good Shepherd. If you are interested, (or even just curious) please talk to Pr. Buresh about these great opportunities.

#### **Chancel Guild HELP NEEDED!!!**

Our Chancel Guild is a fantastic group of individuals who help get our sanctuary all prepared for worship. They are in need of some new help, particularly those who are able to prepare communion for the 9:00 AM services. If you are able and interested in meeting a fantastic group of wonderful people, contact the church office.



The **2020 Flower Chart** is posted on the bulletin board outside the church office. Feel free to sign up for flowers on any Sunday. Flowers can be donated in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a special occasion, such as a birthday or anniversary. The cost of the flowers is \$40.00 and checks should be made payable to Good Shepherd Chancel Guild.

#### **Greeters are always needed!**

Please sign up on the new 2020 greeter schedule to extend a word of welcome on Sunday mornings. Your help is appreciated!

