



Happynings

November 27, 2009

This Week's Readings

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalms 25

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke 21:25-36

The newsletter and calendar for Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (ELCA) Rochester • Minnesota

Come One Come ALL for our intergenerational Advent event on Sunday, November 29th between services starting at 9:15am to kick-off the Advent Season!! We will gather together in the fellowship hall as a community of faith for some crafts, fun and fellowship!!!

Blue Christmas, Sunday, December 20 at 5:30pm

Is this time of year hard for you?

Instead of joy do you often feel heart ache as the Christmas season approaches?

You are not alone.

For many, the approaching Christmas holiday does not bring with it all the joy and happiness that is advertised on television or in greeting cards.

Many are facing the upcoming holiday season after the death of a loved one or after a divorce. Some are dealing with chronic illness while others have been unable to have children. Still others feel pressured and overwhelmed by holiday preparations.

If any of this rings true for you, or if you would simply like to get away for a time to feel renewed, comforted and in the presence of a caring community, then come to the Blue Christmas Worship Service. It is for you.

Through music, readings, Holy Communion, prayer and a time to slow down and reflect... kindness, calm and peace have an opportunity to reach inside of us. The Blue Christmas service is for everyone who longs for this kind of peaceful worship experience, but especially for people who have suffered a loss or for whom the holidays make the heart ache. Come, bring a friend, a family member, come alone... but come...you are invited.

Photo Directory Update: Yes, even Fido and Fluffy can be in your family's directory photo! Bring your favorite pet along to be included in your Lifetouch portrait. Available spots are filling up quickly. You only have a few days left before the online signups close on Dec. 1. You can either sign up for an appointment by going to the Good Shepherd website at www.goodshepherdchurch.net OR by signing up at the Lifetouch table in the narthex after services on Nov. 28/29 OR by calling Robyn Floyd at 507-261-0750 for help getting an appointment that works best for your family. The photo dates are Dec. 8, 10, 15, 17, 18, 19, 29 or 30 right here at Good Shepherd Church. Get your free 8 X 10 family portrait and a free copy of the 50th Anniversary Good Shepherd Pictorial Directory. (See p. 3 for more pictorial directory information)

THIS WEEK AT GOOD SHEPHERD

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27

OFFICE CLOSED

5:00pm Kelly-Martz Wedding Rehearsal

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28

3:00pm Kelly-Martz Wedding

5:30pm Worship

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

8:00am Worship

9:15am Education Hour, Adult Bible Study

10:30am Worship

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30

1:00pm YSLI (Room A)

6:30pm Celebration Handbells

7:30pm Jubilation Handbells

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1

7:30am Men's Coffee

10:30am Staff Meeting

6:00pm Green Team Meeting

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2

9:30am Stay & Play

5:20pm First Word

5:30pm Praise Kids, Ring & Sing, Praise Link, Wed. Night Air, Confirmation

6:00pm Simple Supper

6:45pm Worship

7:30pm Remix, Joyful Noise Singers

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3

7:00am Adult Bible Study

7:00pm Sisters in Faith

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

8am-12pm 50th Anniversary Bake Sale

5:30pm Worship

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

8:00am 50th Anniversary Bake Sale

8:00am Worship

9:15am Education Hour, Adult Bible Study, Understanding Divorce w/ Don Carlson

10:30am Worship

Understanding Divorce – An Adult Forum on Sunday, December 6: Whether one has personally experienced the end of a marriage, or has lived through the divorce of a parent, sibling or friend, it can be a most troubling and traumatic time in one's life. Don Carlson is a pastor who has spent a good deal of time supporting and working with people who have gone through divorce. He will be leading an adult forum entitled "Understanding Divorce" on Sunday, December 6 during the Education Hour. Since nearly everyone has been touched by divorce, everyone is welcomed and encouraged to attend.

Senior High Ski Trip – Lutsen Mountain – January 28-31. Cost: \$250 (transportation, lodging, 3 days of lift tickets. Does not include cost of ski rental). \$150 if you are not skiing. \$100 deposit and health release due to church by Dec. 15th, with remaining balance due January 10th. Call Jeff Brown (287-0465), Marie or Dan Johnson (252-0720) for information.

Summer 2010 Canoe Trip - 13 GSC Youth, and Adult Chaperone & 2 professional guides will navigate sandstone sea caves, shipwrecks, beaches and lighthouses exploring the pristine shores of the Apostle Islands and the awe inspiring waters of Lake Superior! Come join us and feel your spirit renewed. To reserve your spot please turn in a \$200 deposit by December 1st to Pastor Karen. We need 8 deposits to make this trip happen.

Our **Summer Mission Trip** is to Kansas City, Kansas on June 20-25, 2010. With the recent downturn in the economy and a climbing unemployment rate, families in Kansas City are struggling in many ways. To reserve your spot please turn in a \$50 deposit by January 8, 2010 to Pastor Karen.

SCRIP CARDS: The Holiday Season is upon us and we encourage you to consider purchasing SCRIP cards for your gift giving!!!! We now have VISA gift cards in amounts \$25, \$50, and \$100 denominations. Remember to order early so that your cards can arrive on time. If there is something you don't see please ask as there are many other gift cards that can be ordered that we don't keep in stock. Please direct questions to Erik Schlicht 507-258-0258 or theschlichts@gmail.com.

The Giving Tree - For those of you that once again this year, helped out by grabbing a request or two from the Giving Tree in the narthex, thank you. We're asking that all gifts be returned to church no later than December 6th in order to deliver them to the Zumbro Valley staff in plenty of time for Christmas giving. Your generosity will bring a little cheer into the lives of their clients. Remember to consider packaging your purchases in our Green bags to reduce gift wrapping waste and provide the recipients with a bag to use in the future. Thank you.

If you are baking items, please DELIVER YOUR BAKED GOODS to the Church Office Conference Room anytime Friday Dec. 4th between 8:30 a.m & 4:30 p.m. OR before 8 a.m. on Sat. Dec. 5th.

PRAYERS

+ For all members of Good Shepherd, especially: Todd & Michele Osman (Andrea, Anthony, Peter), Andrew Osterhaus, Megan Immerfall, Michael & Pamela Pagelkopf.

+ November 29, 2009: 1st Sunday in Advent

Calvary Lutheran in Rapidan, Isanzu Lutheran Church in Tanzania (partnered with Calvary, Rapidan), Cedar Valley Lutheran in Winona, Bethel Lutheran in Scarville, Iowa, First Lutheran in Hope, El Salvador Lutheran Church in Colombia

BIRTHDAYS

- 28th Jennifer Ridgeway, Sherry Pearson, Verna Wharton
30th Molly Jepsen, August Ridgeway, Chad Ridgeway, Chad Wallaker
Dec. 1 Thomas Junge, Olivia Worlton
Dec. 2 Lisa, Feenstra, Roger Harty, Mallory Medes, Linnea Olson, Dale Sanford, Bob Steege
Dec. 3 Zane Angerman, Gary Lipp, Heidi Meldahl
Dec. 4 Sarah Frey, Joyce Grendahl, Brittany Mann, Carter Sheehan, Teagan Tagtow

CONTACT INFORMATION

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

559 20th Street SW • Rochester, MN 55902

Phone: (507) 289-1748

Office hours.....8:00 AM - 4:30 PM Monday - Friday

E-mail info.... gscsecretary@goodshepherdchurch.net

Worship Services (with Holy Communion)

Wednesday 6:45PM; Saturday 5:30 PM;

Sunday 8:00 & 10:30 AM

Staff

Dave Berg Pastor

Karen Pahl..... Pastor

Jack Friedli Pastoral Assistant

Cynthia McLaren Associate in Ministry

Mike Thilges Office Administrator

Roger Harty, Mark Kubat, ABC Custodians

Mike Thilges gscsecretary@goodshepherdchurch.net

Web site..... www.goodshepherdchurch.net

Paul Willemsen, Admin.....(willemsen@charter.net)

Help needed for Lifetouch photo sessions:

We need hosts and/or hostesses to help during Lifetouch photo sessions on December 8, 10, 15, 17, 18, 19, 29, and 30. You will work with a partner for 3 hours at a time. Responsibilities include checking in members as they come for their photo appointments, helping things run smoothly, and making phone calls to remind members of their upcoming photo sessions. Cookies and coffee provided.

Call Robyn Floyd at 261-0750 or email her at rwfloyd1@charter.net to volunteer.

Lifetouch photographers will be at Good Shepherd Church in December to take your family's photo. If you participate in a photo session, your family will receive a free 8 X 10 family portrait plus a copy of the photo directory celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Good Shepherd Church. Families are free to order additional prints from Lifetouch of favorite portraits to have as keepsakes or gifts. Any family who has a photo session and brings a boxed or canned food item to support Lifetouch's "Feed the Need" campaign will receive a coupon for \$5 off their order. Seniors 60 and older automatically receive 20% off their order.

Multiple dates in December were chosen to hopefully meet each family's busy schedule.

Those who want their prints in time for holiday giving should schedule their photo session on one of these dates:

Tuesday, Dec. 8 2:30-9:00 PM
Thursday, Dec. 10 2:30-9:00 PM

Those who don't need photos before Christmas should schedule their appointment during one of these dates:

Tuesday, Dec. 15 2:30-9:00 PM
Thursday, Dec. 17 2:30-9:00 PM
Friday, Dec. 18 2:30-9:00 PM
Saturday, Dec. 19 10:00 AM-4:30 PM

Those who want their returning college students and extended family members included in their family photo should choose from one of these dates:

Tuesday, Dec. 29 2:30-9:00 PM
Wednesday, Dec. 30 2:30-9:00 PM

Two Ways to Schedule a Photo Session Appointment:

For those with home Internet access, you can schedule online starting immediately and continuing through December 1 by going to www.goodshepherdchurch.net and clicking on the blue "Portrait Sign-up" link. Directions follow on the Lifetouch site to make online scheduling easy. You will get a confirmation notice and an email reminder three days before your photo session.

For those who are less comfortable with computers, you can schedule at church on the weekends of Nov. 14/15, Nov. 21/22, and Nov. 28/29. Members of the Pictorial Directory Committee will be in the church narthex after services to facilitate your scheduling of an appointment. You will receive a reminder post-card on the spot.

Questions? Call Robyn Floyd, 261-0750.



Christmas 2009

*Celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus
at Good Shepherd!*

Sunday, December 20 at 5:30pm
Blue Christmas Worship Service

A quiet worship service of prayer and meditation for those who struggle in the midst of an overly busy season. See description on this page for more details.

Thursday, December 24

Christmas Eve Worship

3:30pm — Family Service

5:30pm and 10:00pm — Candle Light Service with Holy Communion

Saturday, December 26 at 5:30pm

Saturday Evening Worship with Holy Communion

Sunday, December 27 at 9:30am

Worship with Holy Communion

(Only one Sunday Service)



Advent & Christmas Poinsettias

To enhance our worship experience during Advent and Christmas, GSC will again be adding poinsettias to our seasonal sanctuary décor. You may purchase a poinsettia for this purpose and bring it to your own home after the Christmas Eve service. Many members buy a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one. The price of the plant is \$8 and can be placed in the offering plate, dropped in the mailbox outside the office door, or turned into the office during regular business hours. You can use the form below to note how many poinsettias you are ordering and who they are honoring.

Your name: _____

of Poinsettias _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____