

The Shepherd's Staff

Monthly Newsletter of

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at Swan's Trail

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DECEMBER 2021



From the Bishop:

Miriam sings, *"Sing to the Lord, for God has triumphed gloriously!"* Exodus 15:21
Hannah sings, *"My heart exults in the LORD; my strength is exalted in my God!"* 1 Samuel 2:1
Mary sings, *"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!"* Luke 1:46

I am so grateful for the stories of Miriam, Hannah, and Mary. I love their spirit. I love their faith. I love their songs. I love that even with the great adversity, sorrow, and difficulty each of them endured, Miriam, Hannah, and Mary defiantly sang.

Each of these women's stories unfolded in a world that seemed bleak. A world of systemic injustice and no safety nets. A world where people upheld their own power to the detriment of others. A world where people refused to see another person made in God's image before them. A world where people threw away people because they were perceived as "less than." A world where people threw away people because they could not bear children. A world where people threw away people because they became pregnant without being married.

And while their experiences are not our experiences, for many still today, the world feels desperate.

Today, so many people are living in dire conditions. So many who are hungry, houseless, voiceless. We have injustice and violence, racism and hatred. We have anger and acrimony. We have the spreading of lies and misinformation. As I write this, our world is grieving the deaths of over 5 million people who have died of COVID. Over 100,000 people died of drug overdoses in the United States this past year. And so many other deaths and losses. There are still people that society throws away. There are still people that other people don't even look at as human.

And yet ... And yet ...

We have Miriam, Hannah, and Mary. We have their defiant voices lifted up singing not only to their world in their time – but beyond their time – to us – and to future generations beyond us.

In this Advent time, let us turn to the stories and the songs of Miriam, Hannah, and Mary. Let us remember their prophetic voices. Let us remember their perseverance, their faith, and their grit. For even as the reality around them was difficult, they continued to sing of a new day, a new promise, a new reality.

May these amazing prophet women bring hope to us in this time. May we remember that new life is coming. May we trust that the world now is not how the world will be. May we hold before us that, through Christ, a new day is being born.

In this Advent time, we live in anticipation and in faith. And we sing. We sing.

*People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel";
She conceived him, "God with us," our brother, whose birth
Restores hope and courage to children of this earth.
ELW #266, All Earth is Hopeful vs. 3*

In Advent Hope,
+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee
bishop@lutheransnw.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

*Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus
and for all people according to their needs:*

Our own Congregation as we seek to call our next Pastor

Michele Coady on the loss of her mother

The Kloes family on the loss of Karla's mother

For health concerns:

Joanne Walther and family as she deals with cancer

Bob Amberson

Richard McCutchan's sister

Heidi Ferria, Pat Heifort's daughter

Bo Henderson

Juli Reed, who is struggling with MSA

Karla Kloes' sister, Fara Schwencke

*For all others who are in need of healing and wholeness,
especially those affected by COVID 19*

For peace all around the world,

For our Congregational Leaders and for all people according to their needs.

*Into your hands, Oh, Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

THANK YOU TO

- Those contributing toward the Holiday Baskets and gifts.
- Pat Pehling and Al and Marilyn Errey for obtaining the beautiful tree and greens for the swags.
- The decorating crew who transformed the Sanctuary for Advent: Renee Deierling, Joni and Don Siewert, Al and Marilyn Errey, Joy Vaughn, Cheryl McCutchan and Pat Pehling
- Advent Fair - Joann Barstad for all the wonderful Advent crafts she provided, Dave Pehling for the Advent logs, Diane Campbell (Project Linus quilt), Renee Deierling and Pat Pehling for the Swags and Advent log creations, Evelyn Agostinelli for the delicious Krumkake, Richard and Cheryl McCutchan for the awesome Lefse, and those supervising the crafts and all those who helped with clean up!

- Bonnie Thoreson for her continuing amazing contributions toward each Sunday's worship service AND her talents on the Piano and Organ!
- Michele Coady for her special flute music that adds so much to worship.
- Those who donated poinsettias for the sanctuary:
 - Al & Nancy Moen "In Memory of our Loved ones"
 - Lori Pehling "In Memory of Doc and Carol Pehling"
 - Robin Ringdon "In Memory of Marilyn Henderson" and "In Honor of Bo Henderson on his 90th Christmas Birthday"
 - Pat Pehling "In Memory of her Parents, Doc and Carol Pehling"

Dates to Remember for December:

Worship each Sunday at 9:30 am following by Sunday School

December 5 – Council Meeting 11 am

December 10 – Women's Bible Study 10 am

December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 8 pm

December 25 – Christmas Day! Christ is Born!

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS NEEDED

Bo Henderson's 90th Birthday is Christmas Day and his daughter-in-law is asking those who know Bo to send a Christmas and/or Birthday card to him..She knows it would make him so happy to receive mail from friends at Good Shepherd. He is currently at a care home.

Bo Henderson

C/O Aegis of Lynnwood

Room 130B

18700 44th Ave. W.

Lynnwood, WA 98037

COUNCIL & COMMITTEE POSITIONS

There are several openings this year. If you are interested in serving, please contact the nominating committee: Pat Pehling (Chair), Karla and Dean Kloes, Cheryl McCutchan, Dell Deierling or Marilyn Sheppard.

We will need a chair for Ministry of Worship and Ministry of Youth and Adult Fellowship (all 1 year terms and can serve 3 years consecutively) and 2 positions on the Benevolence Committee (3 year terms)

FROM THE COUNCIL – Pat Pehling, President

There will be a Council Meeting following worship on December 5 at 11am. All are welcome. Pastor Andy will attend to update us on a Transition Pastor as we work toward calling our next Pastor. If you have any questions about the process, please contact a Council member for more information. We'll keep you updated as we move forward

MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND ADULT FELLOWSHIP – Marilyn Sheppard

Fellowship time after church service has returned!!!!

Please join us. If you'd like to sign up to host a Sunday, please let me know. Coffee and tea are provided...snacks and fruit juice are provided by the hosts.

WORSHIP & MUSIC – Pat Davis

Happy New Year!! The church year begins with the first Sunday in Advent; which this year began on November 28th. How exciting is it for us to begin a new church year as we also enter the season of anticipation...Advent. As a congregation we are “anticipating” many things as the church year begins:

- *beginning the transition process as we await the news of a Care Pastor and a Transition consultant
- *beginning the season of waiting for the birth of our savior
- *beginning to think about what do we need and want for the future as we transition from what we have done previously to what we will do

We will be having **one** Christmas Eve service this year. The service will begin at 8p.m. Pastor Mark Tanis, the Transition Pastor at Holy Cross will be presiding. We are working on the details of that service...if you have musical talent you would be willing to share with us on this special night please contact Marilyn Errey (425.273.3367) or Bonnie Thorson (206.715.8982).

There is still time to donate a poinsettia to beautify our altar during the season of Advent. Our sanctuary is always so lovely with the tree, the lights, and the poinsettias.

Thank you to everyone who has so graciously said “yes” when asked to help with Sunday services. The Sunday Supervisors truly appreciate knowing everyone is willing to pitch in during our time of transition.

Merry Christmas to everyone.

MINISTRY OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Dean Kloes

BIBLE STUDY

All are invited to the Sunday 6-7pm weekly bible study at the home of Daren and Joann Barstad We are studying Luther’s Small Catechism. (No Bible Study on December 26)

CHRISTIAN LEARNING - Sunday School for all ages follows Worship each Sunday from 10:45-11:15 am. Also, on Sunday December 12th, during the weekly church service, the youth will be providing a mini Christmas skit.

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY

December we will meet at the Anderson Chapel at 10:00 am on Friday, December 10th instead of the third Friday. All women are welcome!

MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE – Marilyn Errey

Thank you so much for your generous donations to Holiday Baskets! Five local families were provided with both fresh and non-perishable holiday food items to make good holiday meals.

For Christmas we will be providing gift cards for food as well as giving a toy or personal item and an article of clothing to each child in the same five families from the Riverview Elementary area. Joann Barstad is the contact person for this endeavor. The sign up is in the Narthex. You may also call or text Joann to sign up for a family or item(s).

The **wrapped and labeled gifts** can be brought to church no later than Sunday, December 19.

Thank you for your consideration, generosity and care for our neighboring families in need.

MINISTRY OF GIFTS – Dell Deierling

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who are faithful in their offerings and support of Good Shepherd. Your generosity of time, talents and offerings are greatly needed and very much appreciated!

DONATION TIP: USE YOUR IRA RMD TO SUPPORT GOOD SHEPHERD

Use your IRA RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) to support the church and save yourself \$'s on your taxes. December is the time to review your financial situation and how your income impacts your taxes. If you have an IRA (most IRAs qualify) and you are age 70½ or over, you can exclude up to \$100,000 from gross income for donations paid directly to a qualified charity (like Good Shepherd Lutheran Church!) from your IRA. This is a great way of making your contribution to the church while reducing your taxes. See [Forbes Article On IRA RMD Donations](#) for more details and consult your tax advisor before taking action.

GOD'S HOUSE – Chad Masche

Thanks to Doug Garland for getting the sprinkling system blown-out and for making several repairs to broken sprinkler heads. Also, thanks to all the individuals who gave a hand and volunteered throughout 2021 during our Yard Work Parties. THANK YOU!!!!

Projects are continuously being recognized, planned and completed. If you see something in need of repair, a safety issue, or have an idea for improvements in and around the church, please let me know so they can be addressed.

SPECIAL OCCASIONS IN OUR CONGREGATION:

(If we don't have your family's special dates, please write them down and pass it along to Pat Pehling - we'd like to include everyone!)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

December	1	Betty Martens, Terry Vaughn & Jacob Kloes
	4	David Martina
	6	Elizabeth Thoreson
	7	Camryn Kloes
	10	Barry Walther
	14	Mur Jensen
	17	Jeremy Reichelt
	18	Richard McCutchan
	24	Jody Rohde, Sabrina Adams
	25	Bo Henderson
	26	Rick Homme

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

December	23	Dave & Billie Nilson
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*"Somewhere in the din of it all
Beneath the rubble of our discontent
There lies in the heart of the world
In the soul of each of us—
A tender village
How shall we remember?" Author unknown*

I think about the village that lies in the soul of each of us as I read 1 John 4: 7-12. I am heartened. John reminds us: "God lives in us and his love is perfected in us." I'm also enlivened by the idea of lying still as the village sometimes must.

For so many of us this season, we struggle to love as God would have us love and to operate out of the village within that can act as manger for our God. This is the central message of Advent, isn't it? We prepare ourselves to greet God and to remember that He came into the world to baptize it. God confirms for us the grace of creation - so good, He chose to live in it with us.

And let's face it; it takes a village to love as we think God would have us love. Love often looks strong and challenging; sometimes, tender and soft. It calls upon all parts of the created good -- all parts of the village within -- to see, know, name and serve our sisters and brothers. When we struggle in this season, it is good to take heart in the promise of Bethlehem. Lying still, awaiting God.

Written by a staff member of Lutheran Counseling Network