



# The Parish Pulse

Bi-monthly newsletter of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

December/January 2020

## Christmas Spider

By Pastor Koepsell

*And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.*

- Matthew 2:12

A few times a year I take out the Shop-Vac and suck up all the spiders and cob webs in the garage. I find it rather cathartic. But, it's inevitable that the next morning there will be new spiders and new webs. Not really sure how that works. This year, as I was digging out the Christmas totes from the basement, I noticed again some spider webs and dust bunnies in those places that never get a good cleaning. These webs though, brought to my attention to this story of the little known Christmas spider (as told by Pastor Allen of Pilgrim Church)...

Among the countless Christmas legends, there is one involving a Christmas spider. According to this legend, when Joseph was warned in a dream to flee from King Herod and the massacre which he intended to inflict upon the children of Bethlehem, several animals from the manger decided to accompany the Holy Family on their journey. Each of the animals was determined to protect the baby Jesus, and each felt sure his or her particular talents would prove invaluable in that task.

There also happened to be a spider who wanted to come. Yet none of the other animals felt the spider would be helpful. After all, she was only an insect. She had no keen ears or sharp teeth, no strong bones and no claws whatsoever. However, the spider persistently pleaded to be included, until at last the other animals agreed she could join them, provided she did not get in the way.

Unfortunately, as the journey unfolded, all of the other supposedly brave animals either were frightened off or else were distracted. They ended up returning home or embarking on a more appealing adventure of their own. With Herod's troops on the march, and with the Holy Family growing more and more tired, Joseph and Mary had little choice but to try and hide.

Finding a small and inconspicuous cave, they huddled inside, seeking shelter and rest, with the donkey and the spider their only remaining companions.

Holding Jesus in her arms, Mary gently rocked him to sleep, and, for a while, it appeared everything would be fine. The only immediate problem was the chill in the air. Seeking to be of help in some small way, the spider carefully wove a web over the opening of the cave to try to keep the baby warm.

*(Continued on page 2)*

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## **Christmas Spider** (Continued from pg 1)

The spider had just finished her weaving when suddenly voices were heard outside the cave. The soldiers had caught up with the Holy Family, and they were diligently searching the entire area. When they came to the cave where the Holy Family was hidden, both Mary and Joseph held their breath, certain their doom was upon them. Yet the soldiers passed by the cave. One soldier said it was a waste of time to search it, since anyone who had entered the cave would have broken the spider's web over the opening.

Thus it was that the seemingly insignificant spider saved the day; and the legend goes on to say that this is why we hang tinsel on our Christmas trees ... to remind us of the silver strands of the web which the little spider wove ... and to remind us that no act of kindness, no act of courage, no act through which we seek peace with justice is ever wasted.

The legend also reminds me that someone once suggested we need not only remember that Christ is the reason for the season, but also, believe it or not, to keep Herod in Christmas, because Herod, like Pharaoh before him, worships the love of power (enforced by violence) rather than the power of love. And in turn Herod reminds us all that we do not live in an ideal world but one where we often face both the threat and the destructive reality of violence.

For the followers of Jesus, then, to be alive in him—to be alive in the adventure the Christ Child calls us to—is to side with all those who are vulnerable, even as the Christ Child was vulnerable. It is to live in defiance of those who see the vulnerable as expendable. It is to refuse to bow to any and every Herod and to any and every ruthless regime. It is instead to kneel by the manger before the Prince of Peace and then to go out to weave whatever webs we can as we continue to commit ourselves to acting justly, loving tenderly, living kindly, and walking humbly with God.

May you have a blessed Advent season and Christmas (And a joyous New Year!). Let us not lose sight of the little miracles that go on around us as we scramble to bake the cookies, decorate the house, attend all the kids' recitals and enjoy Christmas parties. Take time to reflect on how God can and does amazing things through all His people, both young and old. See you in church! -Pastor

## **Voices Uplifted**

By Cam Bedroske, Music Director

It is that beautiful time of year when music is on everyone's minds. We start listening to Christmas music, attending concerts, and singing some of our favorite hymns and Christmas songs.

Music truly is a gift to us. It gives us joy and stirs our hearts to praise. As I write this, I am still thinking about the Hymn Festival we hosted at our church on Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>. Everyone was blessed beyond imagination. We were inspired by the guest Chant Claire singers and then dove into 4 hymns. Each one had congregational singing, special instruments along with organ and choir stanzas. We sang a Christmas, Easter, Good Shepherd and Pentecost Hymn. A delicious reception followed and allowed us a chance to visit. Thanks everyone who helped, especially our Adult Choir.

Now we prepare for Advent and Christmas. Adult and Youth Choirs are busy, but feel free to join us at any time!

This year we have 2 Christmas Eve services. Both services will have communion and candle lighting. Only the 7p.m. Evening Service will have special music starting ½ hr before the service. The Adult Choir will sing only at the 7 pm service. With this schedule change being a recent one, this is how we will work things this year. Let me know if you want to play an instrument or sing for the Christmas Eve Preservice. Thanks everyone!

Looking way ahead.

Lenten Meditation – Palm Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> 3:00 pm

Summer Polka Service- Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup> 9 am



## The List

By Gary Bedroske, Head Elder

I recently saw a T-shirt on a person and it read, "I love my church." It got me thinking, "Yep, I love my church too." What do I love about it? I started making a little list in my head.

- I love how we smile and greet each other.
- I love how I get to hug friends and visit after church.
- I love singing to my Savior and hearing us sing together.
- I love listening to my Pastor read the Bible and teach during the sermon.
- I love watching the little and 'big' kids snitch cookies at Fellowship Time.
- I love distributing communion and kneeling at the rail.
- I love listening to us recite the Lord's Prayer and Creeds.
- I love hearing that we are forgiven because of Jesus.

When I look for a common theme, I see that I love being part of a family, especially one that is united and serves Jesus together. We share faith! Our faith expresses itself in words and actions of love. So let's keep looking for ways to love and serve others.

Yep, that's what I love about our church. It is Jesus' Church and we are the servants!

Here is a schedule of servant and worship opportunities.

**Advent Services** start Wed. Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>

Sunday School Service Dec. 22 10:30 am service

**Christmas Eve 4:30 pm and 7:00 pm** *Both will have communion and candle lighting, but only the 7 pm will have ½ hr music prior to the service and the Adult Choir participating.*

**Christmas Day 9:00 am**

No worship on Thursday Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>.

No Worship on New Year's Eve.

Thank you servants! Including: Bible Study leaders, Sunday School Teachers, Fellowship/food organizers, Choirs, Ushers, Altar Guild, Offering Counters, Office Staff, Pastor, Elders, Organists, Board Members, Prayer Chain, and the many, many volunteers!

Thank you family! I love serving with you,  
Gary Bedroske

P.S. The Board of Elders will have a new leader in January. Welcome and thanks, Tom Dunham.

## Joyful Response

Joyful Response is a way to electronically give your church offering. No more forgetting your offering envelope on a busy Sunday morning or worrying about missing offerings when you are sick or on vacation.

If you are interested in setting up a Joyful Response account please talk to Heather Klauer or email her ([heatherklauer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:heatherklauer@sbcglobal.net)) You can also pick up a form in the atrium with other "Good Shepherd" paperwork in the hanging organizer. On the form you can now designate what ministry programs your funds go to!



## Scrip

Exciting news! Scrip can now be ordered online! Look for a flyer in the bulletin explaining how to do this. Speak to Linda if you have any questions.

Continued thanks to the many members who have helped support the church by buying Scrip. So far, the amount of Scrip purchased this year has netted approximately \$2,400.00 back to the church!

Remember, it is never too early to start your Christmas shopping with a Scrip card. These cards also make great birthday gifts. Cards can be purchased Sunday between services.



## **Spirit of Sharing**

By Keith Casey, Congregational President

50 years and still going and growing strong! This past year, Good Shepherd celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with celebration, reflection and a positive outlook for the next 50 years. As the Apostle Paul says in 2 Corinthians 9:15 “Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!”. Of course, Paul was referring to our Lord and Savior, but I give thanks to God for the incredible members of our congregation. I thank all of you for the success over the past year and I look forward to sharing His love for the next 50!

I would like to thank our outgoing Council members who have served us admirably for the past two years and in a couple of cases more. Noah Hinrichs (Stewardship), thank you for wise council, knowledge, and inspiration that you provided not only to me, but the entire congregation. Mike Kirchoff (Trustees), thank you for everything you have done to ensure that our physical Church has been relatively maintenance free. Gary Bedroske (Head Elder), for expertly shepherding and leading the congregational members. You and the elders have done a phenomenal job. Finally, Heather Klauer (Treasurer), you have done an incredible job keeping our Church finances in order. Your ability to navigate those tricky situations when it came to keeping our budget on track is going to be missed.

To our incoming Council members, Dan Weiss (Stewardship), Frank Jarvenpaa (Trustees), Tom Dunham (Elders) and Joan Warwick (Treasurer), thank each of you for stepping forward to continue to serve not only our Church, but also the Lord. As Therese of Liseux said, “It’s not so much that God calls us to do great things; but rather, he calls us to do small things with great love”. Again, thank you for volunteering your time and talents.

From the business side of our congregation, finances, as always, are well, despite some unforeseen expenses this past year. We continue to pay down our mortgage debt, cover all expenses and reach out to the local, national and international communities through our missionary work. Again, I do ask everyone to prayerfully consider what you can give in the coming year, both financially and of time. We can use volunteer help in lots of areas and your gift of time and treasures are very much appreciated.

I would like to thank everyone for all their help in making our church grow and prosper. Again, it truly amazing to see how the Holy Spirit works in each and every one of you in your own special way.

In closing, as the Apostle Paul said, “Whatever you do, work heartily, for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward.” Colossians 3:23-24

## **Family 345**

By Jennifer Charles, Board of Education

Families with children in grades 3, 4, and 5 have continued to get together once a month for fun activities. November had us turkey bowling! Lots of laughter and a good time was had by all. We will not be meeting in December but look forward to a fun outing of tubing in January. There will be more details to come. If you have a child in grades 3,4,or 5 we encourage you to attend these fun events. Your kids can invite a friend as well! If you have any questions, please get in touch with Jennifer Charles.



Turkey Bowling Participants



Winners of the well tenderized turkeys



Going for the spare!



## MaMa Mia!

By Matthew and Julie Toll , Youth Leaders

Have you heard the news? The dates have been set for the next National Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas! Mark your calendars on July 9 - 13, 2022. We are so excited to start planning our next trip.

As part of our planning, we will be having our first fundraiser. We will be selling pizzas that the youth will be making. Maybe you could order some for your Superbowl party, or stock pile your freezer for your teens when the need a midnight snack. Keep a look out for more information soon!

God's blessings!



## Church-wide Craftiness

By Pat Phillips, Craft Group

The Wednesday Craft Group would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of this year's Craft and Bake sale. It would not have been possible without you. In addition to crafters and bakers we have a dedicated group of people who worked the day of the Fair by greeting, cashiering and bagging. This year we raised over \$9,000 and had over 800 people attend the Fair! God has blessed us with the talent and opportunity to make our church known in the community and to earn money to serve others.



Some of the many volunteers who helped out.

## Boxes and Boxes of Love

By Vivian Mittelstaedt, Head of Evangelism

This year, we again participated in Operation Christmas Child. Thank you to all who filled boxes. This is a wonderful way to share Christmas with girls and boys around the world. The amazing journey of these boxes begins with YOU. These boxes full of small toys, school supplies, hygiene items and a personal notes can change lives. The love of Jesus goes out with every box.

We have again been approved for a \$250 Action Team Event. The plan is to combine Operation Christmas Child with our Advent Dinners. The Thrivent seed money will be used to purchase the food. The Free Will Donations will then be used to off set any shipping that may have been needed to send the boxes, or to fill more boxes. Our goal this year was to fill 175 boxes. We were able to fill over 140 boxes.

Thank you to the groups that have offered to help with setting up/cleaning up our coffee. Between services anyone can help. If you see someone busy setting up, please lend a hand. The treats we enjoy on Sunday are also great. Thank you to those that have brought some. If you would like to help with either bringing in treats or setup/clean up, there is a calendar is on the kitchen counter in the atrium or on the serving table. Instructions on how to make coffee and other procedures are inside the cabinet door. It is very easy, just come 20 minutes before early service. Also, please continue to meet and greet each other. We have many visitors and new members.

In the atrium we have some sheets for you to add to your directories with new member pictures and info. Please get one and add it to your directory.

We have just finished celebrating Thanksgiving but let us not be done thanking God for all our blessings year round. May we share those blessings with other less fortunate during this Advent time and throughout the year.



Thank you, Youth Group, for helping assemble to shoeboxes!



## Keepin' Busy

By Daniel Weiss, Stewardship Chair

If you attended the hymn sing last month, you already understand a great deal about stewardship. The voices of our choir mingled with those of Claire Chant created one of the most soul-aching and beautiful musical events I have personally experienced. I have always wondered how anyone could sing praises to God for eternity. Now I know. With sounds this beautiful, even a poor miserable sinner like me could begin to glimpse the majesty of heaven.

C.S. Lewis explained the feeling I think everyone felt that day: "We do not want merely to see beauty...We want something else which can hardly be put into words—to be united with the beauty we see, to pass into it, to receive it into ourselves, to bathe in it, to become part of it."

The hymn sing really was this amazing. Especially enjoyable was how we were all able to be drawn into the same beauty together. It wasn't just the professional choir, or even our own singing. It was the congregation. We all had something to offer to one another and the members of Chant Claire were able to receive from us as well as give of themselves.

The hymn sing is, in many respects, the essence of stewardship. Take a moment to reflect on how the gifts of God were used for His glory that day. We shared our building with the public, our offerings to help with event expenses, our baking abilities to nurture fellowship, our voices to offer beauty to our community, and our worship to give glory to God.

I took over as the head of the stewardship committee last month and I intend to help the worshiping community of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church explore how we might better utilize all of the gifts God has granted us.

Part of this work involves revising our Time and Talent survey, which should be done before the end of the year. However, don't wait for me! Whether you are a new or long-time member, there are many ways to get involved at Good Shepherd, some of which haven't started yet, because you haven't shared your idea yet!

If you would like to get more involved and are wondering how, please call me at 920.642.3990 or email me at [dweiss@brushfiresfoundation.org](mailto:dweiss@brushfiresfoundation.org) and let's find out where you fit. All of us have something to offer. I can't wait to learn what yours is!

## Treasurer's Report

Compiled by Treasurer  
Heather Klauer

### September

Bank Deposits:	\$34,671.87
Bank Withdrawals:	\$39,856.56
End of month bank balance:	\$62,033.75
Mortgage Balance:	\$474,258.50
Joyful Response:	\$6,195.00

### October

Bank Deposits:	\$27,827.81
Bank Withdrawals:	\$27,963.45
End of month bank balance:	\$61,898.11
Mortgage Balance:	\$470,899.87
Joyful Response:	\$5,725.00

Interest rate increased from 4.125% to  
4.375% effective 11/3/19



## **Happy New Year!**

**By Daniel Weiss, President of Brushfires**

Welcome to the new Church year! I love that we end each calendar year with the start of the Church year, a time of reflection and holy longing. Just as it has for so many years already, the world still groans in expectation of the Savior, Jesus Christ. Indeed, how many of us have thought, "You can come any time now, Lord."

Yet, as long as the Lord tarries, we have work to do. For my part, I have never been so busy *AND* so full of hope as I am right now. Brushfires has been in a transition phase for the past two years and it is becoming clearer what God is leading us to become.

If you have followed this ministry, you know that our mission is to equip Christian leaders to foster sexual integrity, healing, and wholeness in their churches and communities. Over the past few years we have been working in the community and around the country to do just that.

Many of you attended our community film series at the Grand Opera house in 2016-2017. Some of you have also read out original research conducted with Barna Group and released in 2018. You have also followed along as we helped plan and execute two national training events, the Sexual Integrity Leadership Summit in San Antonio (2018) and Atlanta (2019). Most recently, we conducted a pastors' training program on sexuality issues. Our hope is to hold four more of these around Wisconsin in 2020.

As Brushfires works on these issues, more and more leaders, ministries, and everyday folks are coming to us for guidance, teaching, and direction. The work of the Sexual Integrity Leadership Summit is expanding significantly, and yet, there has been no single organization to take over this crucial leadership role. Until now.

Starting in May, I have been working with a small leadership team to plan and begin executing a transition strategy that would place Brushfires at the center of this national sexual integrity community. Our mission so closely aligns with the work and will of this growing movement that other leaders are asking us to take point on developing the community further.

Practically, this means that we will now be running the annual summits and developing year-round in-person and online training for pastors and other leaders. This might also mean that the Brushfires name is dropped in favor of something that more clearly identifies our work and mission.

As these plans develop over the next year, I would like to ask for your continued prayer and support. We encounter a great many obstacles and significant spiritual oppression with everything we do. Your support is more uplifting and encouraging than you can ever know. Thank you.

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## **A Time of Giving**

**By Judy Mehn, Sunday School Superintendent**

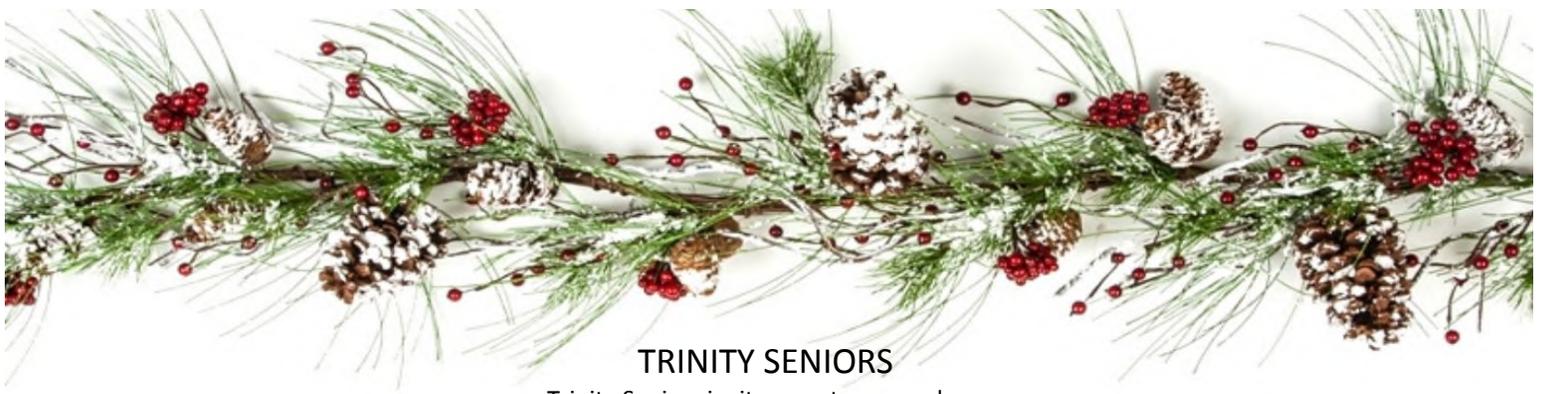
Christmas is the time of giving and the Sunday School students took great pride in preparing to give to the homebound for Christmas. Pointsettias were ordered, along with a personalized gift basket using the Sunday School offering for any purchases. A big thanks to the Craft Group for donating blankets for each of the members. Another shout out goes to the Youth Group who tied one of the blankets!

Attention all Sunday School families, Good Shepherd is asking Sunday School families to run the "Coffee Hour" during the first Sunday of every month. A sign up sheet will be available for families to set up, clean up, and bring a treat. If every family signs up for one spot, we will fill all needed roles through June! See Judy Mehn for details 379-5095. Many hands make little work!

Good Shepherd has a nursery! We are collecting names of interested individuals who want to attend Bible Study while responsible church members watch your young children; ages birth to 3. A cozy room is set up downstairs. Check it out!

Do you know where your child's Sunday School folder is? Let Judy Mehn know if you need a replacement. Planning a time for memory work weekly or daily can create a common time to have conversations with God...and with your children! Rich conversations arise when diving into the meaning of God's word. "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it," Proverbs 22:6

Blessings on this Advent season and upcoming new year!



## TRINITY SENIORS

Trinity Seniors invites you to come along  
and enjoy some great entertainment, wonderful food and plenty of fellowship!  
We'd love to have you join us!

December 7, 2019 – “Clauson Family Christmas” at Coloma on the farm  
January 11, 2020 – “Saturday Night Fever” at The Fireside  
March 21, 2020 – “Guys and Dolls” at The Fireside  
April 25, 2020 – “A Mighty Fortress” at The Fireside  
June 27, 2020 – “What Happens in Vegas” at The Fireside  
August 15, 2020 – “Cinderella” at The Fireside  
September 19, 2020 – “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat” at The Fireside  
December 5, 2020 – “Holiday Inn” at The Fireside”

“CLAUSON FAMILY CHRISTMAS” This performance will be filled with Holiday music that’s sure to put you in the Christmas spirit.

“ SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER” This performance explores relationships on and off the dance floor with humor, conflict and unforgettable swagger powered by the chart-breaking hits of the BEE GEES.

“GUYS AND DOLLS” This is one of Broadway’s hottest shows with fabulous music such as “LUCK BE A LADY”, “IF I WERE A LADY”, “A BUSHEL AND A PECK” and “SIT DOWN, YOUR ROCKIN’ THE BOAT”.

“A MIGHTY FORTRESS” This is another installment of The Church Basement Ladies series with the year being 1960 and a reformation is underway. These ladies stand strong in their faith and in their friendships with more crazy attics, more great songs and more lessons reluctantly learned.

“WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS” The Fireside will pay tribute to many legendary performers in an all new live band show featuring Steve Watts and the celebrated Fireside Band!

“CINDERELLA” This is a show designed to delight the child in all of us. Whether you’re eight or eighty you’ll be captivated by its humor, its romance, its beauty and its great, great music. (Special pricing for children ages 14 and under)

“JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAM COAT” This is one of the most popular musicals of the last 50 years telling of the biblical story of Joseph and his brothers filled with great music, costumes, laughter, joy and heart.

“HOLIDAY INN” This Irving Berlin hit tells the story of Jim, who leaves the bright lights of show business behind to settle down on his farmhouse in Connecticut, but life just isn’t the same without a bit of song and dance. This all changes when he meets Linda a spirited schoolteacher with a talent to spare.

CONTACT JANET OR TOM DUNHAM (920 233-0263)



## **Council Minutes (September 17, 2019)**

Transcribed by Donna Tritt

Present: Gary Bedroske, Keith Casey, Jennifer Charles, Noah Hinrichs, Mike Kirchoff, Heather Klauer, Pastor Koepsell, Sharon Leinweber, Vivian Mittelstaedt, Lori Purath, Chad Smith, Julie Toll, Matt Toll and Donna Tritt

Guests: Judy Mehn and Krista Weiss

President Casey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Vivian read Amos 8:4-7.

**Motion M/S/C to accept the minutes of the August 20, 2019 Council meeting.**

**Financial Secretary – Deb Bochinski (absent)– No report.**

**Treasurer’s Report – Heather Klauer:**

<b>August 2019 Bank Deposits</b>	<b>\$26,050.61</b>
<b>August 2019 Bank Withdrawals</b>	<b>\$24,808.12</b>
<b>End of August 2019 Bank Account Balance</b>	<b>\$67,218.44</b>
<b>Mortgage Balance</b>	<b>\$477,605.62</b>
<b>Joyful Response for August 2019:</b>	<b>\$5,820.00</b>
<b>Cost to replace 2 sewage pumps:</b>	<b>\$7,483.24</b>
<b>Waterfest Proceeds:</b>	<b>\$645.13 (3% gross beverage sales)</b>

**Pastor Koepsell’s Report:**

- Thanks for everything
- Good Shepherd is holding its own.
- We will welcome 15 new members this weekend.
- Average Weekly Worship Attendance for August: 241 (173 in 2018); Thursdays: 39 (35 in 2018). Worshipping over half of our members
- 1 Adult Baptism, 1 Courtesy Wedding – another wedding coming, 1 Funeral – Irvin Henriksen
- Bible Study: Wednesday averaging 15 – 20. If you work second shift or are retired or available, please come join us. It is a nice group. Ladies Group: 6. Men’s Group is meeting; Sunday (19) Pastor Hayman is leading bible study on the book of Revelation.
- Calls/Visits up-to-date. Thank you Pastor Hayman for assisting.
- Confirmation class has 21 sixth, seventh, and eighth graders.
- Started 2 Sunday services on September 8<sup>th</sup> – pretty split in numbers. Don’t forget to speak positively about your church
- Personally and family doing very well
- Keep up the good work!

**Board of Elders** – Gary Bedroske: Chad Smith distributed our usher schedule for our two Sunday services. A congregation meeting was held in place of the Elders meeting for September.

*(Continued on page 10)*



## **Council Minutes (Continued)**

**Board of Stewardship** - Noah Hinrichs: Worked with Krista to get PayPal system to work but was unsuccessful. Will try again.

**Board of Evangelism** – Vivian Mittelstaedt: Welcome our new members. Photos will be taken of our new members. A cake has also been order to celebrate our new members. Please pick up your photo directory update. If you would like to assist with fellowship between services, please contact Vivian. We can always use more help.

**Board of Education** – Judy Mehn: Thanks to the individual(s) who cleaned our Sunday School rooms. It was noticed and appreciated. We had a great week of Sunday School. Our Christmas program is being discussed. We have a Facebook page for announcements. Offerings will go to missions. We are using updated Concordia curriculum. There will be a feedback meeting for teachers on September 29<sup>th</sup>. Sunday School is available for all children (after they are potty trained thru grade 8). We used online registration and most families signed up.

Jennifer Charles – Jennifer thanked Judy. Family 345 group started with kickball – good little turnout. Krista will be hosting the September activity. Activities are being planned for each month. The purpose of the group is to build relationships. A confirmation retreat may be held at Camp Luther next spring. Joe Stephenson and Sam Kirchner are interested. Also, looking to expand small group bible study.

**Board of Trustee** – Mike Kirchoff: Noticed roof shingles loose. He was advised to speak with Mike Phillips, Chuck Spiegelberg, and Craig Dreger about that. New towel dispensers have been installed. Mike will check into having a dedicated phone line for our elevator.

**Board of Fellowship** – Lori Purath: Served meal for Dorothy Nottelson’s funeral in July. July 21<sup>st</sup> had a corn roast to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. First part of August assisted with food for VBS. Served meal for Irvin Henriksen’s funeral in August. Set up continental breakfast for Pastors’ Conference.

**Board of Youth** – Matt Toll: Recently had a movie night. Saw Overcomer at the theater. One student and family were present. Sunday bible study has resumed. Next Wednesday (September 25) Fox Valley Lutheran High School Community Parents Night will present “Screenagers” from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the auditorium.

### **New Business**

Keith received a letter and check for the Dorothy Nottelson Memorial Fund in the amount of \$1,190 to be used for choir items. Keith will contact Cam Bedroske, our music director, to make her aware of this generous donation. Keith and Krista will write a letter to the family to inform them what was purchased.

**Motion M/S/C to approve.**

### **Old Business**

Missional Pathways Process – To proceed or not -- After much discussion a decision was made that Council would table the decision tonight. All members of the congregation will be invited to a town hall meeting to discuss the Missional Pathways Process.

**Motion M/S/C to adjourn at 9:04 p.m.**

Pastor led us in closing prayer followed by The Lord’s Prayer.



## **Council Minutes (October 15, 2019)**

Present: Gary Bedroske, Keith Casey, Noah Hinrichs, Heather Klauer, Pastor Koepsell, Sharon Leinweber, Vivian Mittelstaedt, Lori Purath, Julie Toll, Matt Toll and Donna Tritt

Guests: Judy Mehn and Krista Weiss and Dan Weiss

President Casey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Opened with the daily devotion from Lutheran Hour Ministries for October 15, 2019.

**Motion M/S/C to accept the minutes of the September 17, 2019 Council meeting.**

**Financial Secretary – Deb Bochinski (absent)–** No report.

**Treasurer’s Report – Heather Klauer:**

<b>September 2019 Bank Deposits</b>	<b>\$34,671.87</b>
<b>September 2019 Bank Withdrawals</b>	<b>\$39,856.56</b>
<b>End of September 2019 Bank Account Balance</b>	<b>\$62,033.75</b>
<b>Mortgage Balance</b>	<b>\$474,258.50</b>

**Interest rate increase from 4.125 to 4.375 effective 11/3/19.**

**Joyful Response for September 2019: \$6,195.00**

**Pastor Koepsell’s Report:**

- Thank you from the bottom of my heart
- Good Shepherd is holding its own.
- We welcomed 13 new members
- 1 transfer out – Ginny Lawson
- Average Weekly Worship Attendance for September: 212 (198 in 2018); Thursday: 46 (40 in 2018). Worshipping over half of our members
- 0 Baptisms, 1 Courtesy Wedding , 1 Courtesy Memorial Service
- Bible Study: Wednesday averaging 15 – 20. If you work second shift or are retired or available, please come join us. It is a great group. Ladies Group: 6. Men’s Group is meeting; Sunday Pastor Hayman is leading bible study on the book of Revelation. Pastor enjoys being available and visible during education time to assist where needed during our education hour.
- Confirmation class has 21+
- Calls/Visits up-to-date. Thank you Pastor Hayman for assisting.
- 8 – 10 new members joining in December
- Started 2 Sunday services on September 8<sup>th</sup> – pretty split in numbers. Don’t forget to speak positively about your church
- Personally and family doing well. Keep up the good work!
- One of our mission projects that we support each month is a hydroponic grow machine through Jericho ministries in Oshkosh. They grow lettuce, herbs, etc. to feed those in need. Abigail will be here the second Sunday in November if anyone has any questions.

*(Continued page 12)*



## **Council Minutes (Continued)**

Transcribed by Donna Tritt

**Board of Elders** – Gary Bedroske: November 17<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. we will be hosting a Hymn Festival. A guest choir will be here. Reformation is Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. We will have communion at both the 8:00 and 10:30 service. We would like to welcome confirmed youth to usher.

**Board of Stewardship** - Noah Hinrichs: Noah will be stepping down as chair of the Board of Stewardship. Thank you Noah for serving as our chair of the Board of Stewardship! Dan Weiss will be completing his term. Motion M/S/C to welcome Dan as our chair of the Board of Stewardship!

**Board of Evangelism** – Vivian Mittelstaedt: New directory inserts: In order to try and keep our directory up to date as we welcome new members, we will periodically offer paper inserts with new members' pictures and contact information. Please pick one up from the atrium information wall hanging organizer and get to know more people at church. There will be a Veterans Day celebration on Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. Vivian will apply for a Thrivent card for our advent suppers. We will be participating in Operation Christmas Child again. We are looking for volunteers to set up coffee for our fellowship time between services.

**Board of Education** – Judy Mehn (Sunday School Superintendent): Sunday school money collected will be used for gifts for our homebound. Judy is working with Sunday School to recycle items that are recyclable. Working with a great group of teachers! Judy had a question about the nursery room. She will talk with Pat Phillips. Joe and Sam are incorporating technology in their Sunday School lessons.

**Board of Trustee** – Mike Kirchoff (absent): Issue with windows and keys.

**Board of Fellowship** – Lori Purath: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday served Danish and donut holes during fellowship time between services.

**Board of Youth** – Matt Toll: Had a really good month with the youth. Five students escaped from Escape Oshkosh. Three to five students have been attending bible study. Cindy Meier will be working on fundraising events. Discussed opening the Youth Group up to 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

### **New Business**

Keith distributed a letter (see attached) that Chad Smith had given him from Grace Lutheran Church Preschool, Omro about ways to be a financial supporter.

Upcoming Meetings:

- Voters' Meeting between services on Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Budget Meeting to create our budget for 2020. Members of the committee are: Pastor, President, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Chairman of Trustees, Chairman of Stewardship and the Chairman of the Board of Elders.
- Calendar for 2020

Dan Weiss is another mission project we support. Motion M/S/C that Dan can use our church building for Brushfire presentations.

**Motion M/S/C to adjourn at 8:08 p.m.**

Closed with The Lord's Prayer.



## **Voter's Meeting Minutes (October 27, 2019)**

Transcribed by Donna Tritt

President Keith Casey called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Pastor Koepsell opened with prayer.

Members present: 75

Motion M/S/C to accept the following four (4) individuals as voting members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church: Sharon Leinweber, David Leinweber, Gary L. Bunke, Jan D. Bunke

Motion M/S/C to accept the minutes of the June 23, 2019 Voters' Meeting.

2020/2021 Elections: Our nominating committee has submitted the following slate of candidates: Vice President - Chad Smith, Treasurer - Joan Warwick, Chair of the Board of Trustee - Frank Jarvenpaa, Co-Chairs of the Board of Youth - Matt and Julie Toll, Chair of the Board of Education - Jennifer Charles, Chair of the Board of Elders - Tom Dunham

President Casey stated the above have agreed to serve in the position listed next to their name. Chad Smith received a verbal unanimous consent for Vice President. Joan Warwick received a verbal unanimous consent for Treasurer. Frank Jarvenpaa received a verbal unanimous consent for Chair of the Board of Trustee. Matt and Julie Toll received a verbal unanimous consent for Co-Chairs of the Board of Youth. Jennifer Charles received a verbal unanimous consent for Chair of the Board of Education. Tom Dunham received a verbal unanimous consent for the Chair of the Board of Elders.

There were no nominations from the floor.

Announcements from Pastor Koepsell and member feedback:

- Thanks to Heather, Mike, and Gary for serving as Treasurer, Chair of Trustee, and Chair of Elders respectfully. It has been a pleasure working with you!
- Welcome Joan, Frank, and Tom as our new Treasurer, Chair of Trustee, and Chair of Elders respectfully. Looking forward to working with you!
- Please use the time and talents the Lord has blessed you with to join one or more of our many boards. If you have a question about what the boards do, please ask or refer to our Constitution and By-laws.
- Per our Constitution each Board should have a minimum of 3 people serving. Get involved.
- You are always welcome to attend a Council Meeting – it meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. downstairs.
- Pastor would like us to choose 5-6 mission projects and do them well.
- Jennifer Charles, Chair of the Board of Education, shared some exciting events being planned. Watch the bulletin for details.
- Vivian Mittelstaedt reminded everyone to pick up the new directory inserts. Vivian would like to increase the size of her board. If interested, see her.
- Vivian stated that our Thrivent project to assist with purchases for our Advent Suppers has been approved!
- Pat Phillips reminded everyone of the Craft/Bake Sale on Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. See our bulletin for details. Pick up a sign and display it in your yard.
- 2 services working – attendance is pretty evenly split between them
- Welcomed 13 – 14 new members recently

*(Continued page 14)*



## **Voter's Meeting Minutes (Continued)**

- Will welcome another 13 – 14 in December
- Our website should be updated to list committee chairs and the purpose of the committee.
- Special Voters' meeting in December to approve the 2020 budget.
- Keith Casey would like to create a master calendar for 2020 to minimize conflicts.
- Howard Hoppe shared that November 3<sup>rd</sup> is the last day to order our amazing commemorative plaque celebrating our 50 years.
- Bill Koltz is chairing our outside sign project. It is a long-term project and we are in the exploration stage.  
Purchases made using monies received at the craft fair should be approved by Council.

Motion M/S/C to adjourn at 10:02 a.m.

Closed with The Lord's Prayer.



## **Altar Care**

By Pat Dreger

The 2020 Altar Care sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway by the bathrooms. If you are interested in helping out with Altar Care please sign up for the weeks/months that you are interested in doing. Now that we have two services, you can set up for the early service on Saturday and for the second service you can come early to the 10:30 service to set up or you can set it up after the 8:00 service. If you have never done Altar Care before and are interested in becoming involved and would like to know what it all entails, please contact me, Pat Dreger, 920-420-9665, or talk to me before or after service. It is not a difficult task. You don't have to attend any meetings and you don't have to worry about changing paraments or banners, I take care of all those things. You basically just set up communion before service and clean up after service. Please consider getting involved. If you only take one month out of the year that is a big help. If you just want to sign-up for a month or a couple of weeks and have not done it before, please include your phone number on the sign-up sheet and I will contact you about showing you how it is all done and I will help you through it until you are confident with doing it yourself. It is nice to have someone to do it with so if you can find a helper to work with you that would be nice. Thank you to everyone who has helped out with Altar Care in the past. Your help is truly appreciated. Also, thank you to those of you who may be considering getting involved, that is also greatly appreciated.

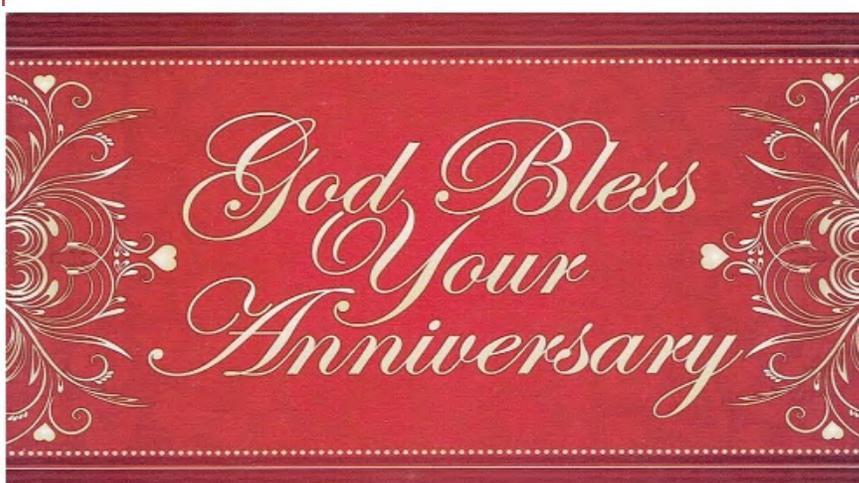


## Wedding Anniversaries for December & January

Matthew & Catherine Lute	12/1
Seth & Jessie McDonald	12/13
Pete & Judy Mehn	12/24
Rev. Mark & Edna Hayman	12/26
Chad & Elyssa Berry	12/29



Mike & Genie Kuble	1/3
Eric & Linda Nienass	1/14



## Pray For Those in the Military

God of compassion,  
we pray for military personnel,  
offered for the sake of others,  
and separated from family and loved  
ones. Care for them;  
meet their needs.

Grant them courage, compassion,  
strength, and all they need for the  
living of these days. Sustain them  
through their every trial. Remind  
them of the humanity they share  
even with those who are called  
"the enemy;"

Through Jesus Christ our Lord we  
pray. Amen.

**JARED RIVERA**  
( US ARMY)

**CHAD BERRY**  
(WI ARMY NATIONAL GUARD  
— MISSOURI)

**ALYCIA MUELLER**  
(ARMY NATIONAL GUARD)

Please let the church office know if you  
have family serving in the military. We  
will add their names and our members  
can be praying for them. We are grate-  
ful for those who serve our country.



## Birthdays for December and January

### Upcoming Events



#### Sunday, December 15th

Sunday, December 15th, between worship services we will be holding a Voter's Meeting to approve the 2020 budget. Please plan on attending and being an active member in your church.

#### Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>

Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, during our 10:30 am Worship Service, the children of the congregation will be holding their Christmas program titled "The Fumbly Bumbly Angels" Come enjoy how they share the Christmas message with all of us.

#### December 24th & 25th

This year we are offering three different Christmas Eve/Day worship times. Christmas Eve services will be at 4:30 pm and 7 pm. Christmas morning service is at 9:00 AM. All services will be offering Holy Communion.

Nicole Reifschneider	12/1	Danielle Flouro	1/4
Benjamin Heideman	12/3	Diana Trinoskey	1/4
Tami Klauer	12/5	Kurt Brunner	1/6
Dana Rasmussen	12/5	Zoe Brunner	1/6
Doris Wojahn	12/5	Lynn Kramer	1/7
Brittany Bandelow	12/6	Pamela Laatsch	1/8
Linda Nienass	12/6	Gavin McMillan	1/8
Andrew Makurat	12/7	Samuel Boche	1/9
Kyle Makurat	12/7	Elisha Charles	1/9
Jennifer Wiley	12/7	Bryan Koch	1/9
Sandra Casey	12/8	Alfred Piotter	1/10
Diane Flouro	12/8	Brad Wiley	1/10
Lydia Brunner	12/10	Valorie Gebel	1/11
Patricia Warning	12/10	Rori Hinrichs	1/11
Ella Beck	12/11	Bill Wagner	1/11
Renate Piotter	12/11	Ashlyn Casey	1/12
Gary Vowels	12/13	Jenny Mehn	1/14
Benjamin Wiley	12/13	Jimmy Smith	1/14
Doreen Dittberner	12/14	Darci Doan	1/15
Richard Tritt	12/14	Shawn Kirchoff	1/15
Rebecca Dittberner	12/15	Keith Reetz	1/15
Deidra Flouro	12/16	Cody Skadahh	1/15
Catherine Lute	12/19	Zoe Skadahh	1/15
Brian Spaeth	12/19	Marsha Clarkson	1/19
Justin Mielke	12/20	Tom Dunham	1/19
Ken Szweda	12/20	Lea Potratz	1/19
Sherri Groskreutz	12/21	Bill Fenlon	1/20
Kat Skadahh	12/21	Bill Koltz	1/21
Ryan Bandelow	12/22	Rick Rasmussen	1/22
Dylan McDonald	12/24	Paul Mittelstaedt	1/23
Ryan Beck	12/26	Kathy Groskreutz	1/24
Bette Lienhard	12/30	Camala Bedroske	1/26
Heather Beck	12/31	Mike Zellner	1/26
<hr/>			
Willie Lewis III	1/1	Marlee Potratz	1/29
Kari Steinbeck	1/1	Chad Berry	1/31
Susan Schaefers	1/3	Sandra Dordel	1/31
		Brenda Hawig	1/31



## Good Shepherd Council And Board Members

OFFICE	NAME	TELEPHONE
PRESIDENT	KEITH CASEY	(785) 226-3147
VICE-PRESIDENT	CHAD SMITH	(262)-442-0061
RECORDING SECRETARY	DONNA TRITT	(920)420-2803
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	DEB BOCHINSKI	(920) 312-0417
TREASURER	HEATHER KLAUER	(920) 428-3169
BOARD OF EDUCATION	JENNIFER CHARLES	(414) 517-9322
ELDERS	GARY BEDROSKE	(920) 426-0533
EVANGELISM	VIVIAN MITTELSTAEDT	(920) 479-0775
FELLOWSHIP	LORI PURATH	(920) 379-9202
STEWARDSHIP	DANIEL WEISS	(920) 642-3990
TRUSTEE	MICHAEL KIRCHOFF	(920) 203-0101
YOUTH	MATTHEW & JULIE TOLL	(920) 379-9938



Hospitalized?? Or you desire a call?? If you are going into the hospital, please call to let the Church Office know. We do not always receive the information in a timely manner so that the appropriate visitation can be made. Also, hospitals can no longer release information to us about your admittance and room number if you have not signed a waiver. If you want a home visit from Pastor Koepsell, a call or other service, please contact the church office with your request.



Before you donate an item to the church, please check with the Church Council. They can assist in placement or find the best use for your donated item.

Thank you!

## Contact Information

### Staff

Rev. Gregory A. Koepsell, Pastor  
[pastor@oshkoshgoodshepherd.org](mailto:pastor@oshkoshgoodshepherd.org)  
 Cell (763) 913-8445  
 Call or text Pastor Anytime

Krista Weiss, Office Manager  
[krista@oshkoshgoodshepherd.org](mailto:krista@oshkoshgoodshepherd.org)

### Office Hours

M-TH 8:00 am - 1:00 pm  
 Office (920) 231-0530

Pastor's Hours Tues - Thu  
 11:30 - 3:00 PM

### Web Site:

[goodshepherdinoshkosh.com](http://goodshepherdinoshkosh.com)

### E-Mail Address:

[church@oshkoshgoodshepherd.org](mailto:church@oshkoshgoodshepherd.org)

### Facebook:

[facebook.com/oshkoshgoodshepherd](https://facebook.com/oshkoshgoodshepherd)

### Worship Services

Thursday - 6:30 pm  
 Sunday-8:00 am & 10:30 am

### Coffee Hour & Refreshments

Served every Sunday in Atrium after 8 am worship service.

### Bible Study

Adult—Wednesday at 10:30 am  
 Adult—Sunday at 9:15 am

### Sunday School

Sundays at 9:15 am during the public school year.

### Prayer Chain

Kathy Reehl—(920) 688-2312



\* Indicates Communion Service

# December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 5:30 PM Advent Meal 6:30 PM Worship Service 7:15 PM Adult Choir	5	6	7 7-8 AM Men's Group
8 8:00 AM Worship Service* 10:30 AM Worship Service 6:00 PM Youth Choir	9	10 7:00 PM Elder's Meeting	11 5:30 PM Advent Meal 6:30 PM Worship Service 7:15 PM Adult Choir	12	13	14 7-8 AM Men's Group
15 8:00 AM Worship Service 9:30 Voter's Meeting 10:30 AM Worship Service* 6:00 PM Youth Choir	16	17 7:00 PM Council Meeting	18 5:30 PM Advent Meal 6:30 PM Worship Service 7:15 PM Adult Choir	19	20	21 7-8 AM Men's Group
22 8:00 AM Worship Service* 10:30 AM Worship Service Christmas Program	23	24 4:30 PM Worship Service 7:00 PM Worship Service	25 9:00 AM Worship Service	26 No Worship Service	27	28 7-8 AM Men's Group
29 8:00 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM Worship Service*	30	31				



\* Indicates Communion Service

# January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 6:30 PM Worship Service	3	4 7-8 AM Men's Group
5 8:00 AM Worship Service* 10:30 AM Worship Service 6:00 PM Youth Choir	6	7	8 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study 5:15 PM Confirmation Class 6:30 PM Adult Choir	9 6:30 PM Worship Service	10	11 7-8 AM Men's Group
12 8:00 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM Worship Service* 6:00 PM Youth Choir	13	14 7:00 PM Elder's Meeting	15 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study 5:15 PM Confirmation Class 6:30 PM Adult Choir	16 6:30 PM Worship Service	17	18 7-8 AM Men's Group
19 8:00 AM Worship Service* 10:30 AM Worship Service	20	21 7:00 PM Council Meeting	22 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study 5:15 PM Confirmation Class 6:30 PM Adult Choir	23 6:30 PM Worship Service	24	25 7-8 AM Men's Group
26 8:00 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM Worship Service* 6:00 PM Youth Choir	27	28	29 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study 5:15 PM Confirmation Class 6:30 PM Adult Choir	30 6:30 PM Worship Service	31	