

February 2017

The Staff

The Newsletter of Shepherd of the Glen Lutheran Church

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Sunday Worship & Sunday School 9:30 AM



*A community of
Christians, called
Together by the Holy
Spirit, where all people
Can come to know
God's grace and grow in
Faith, give and receive
The love of Jesus Christ
And of one another, and
Serve one another and
The community in which*

Since Lent and Easter come relatively late this year, we have an extra long season of Epiphany—which is a wonderful thing! First off—it means that Easter will be warm, the flowers will be up and my grandchildren won't be shivering in their Easter outfits. But, besides all that, the Epiphany season deserves some time. The Epiphany story is all about light—wise men following a light, Jesus bringing light, shining our light. We need that this time of year—the Christmas lights are conspicuously down, the daylight hours are short, and aside from a couple of three day weekends (and Valentine's Day—which went up in the stores December 26!) there's not a lot to look forward to. But the light of Jesus never stops shining! And we are called to be light to a world that needs to hear a word of hope and redemption.

I encourage you to think about doing a house blessing this Epiphany season. The church has long celebrated this season of light-in-the-darkness by blessing homes, and I can attest to the fact that there is a very special sense of "home" in a place that has been blessed. It's also a very good way to spread the light of Christ.

Neighbors and friends who might not otherwise go near church or anything religious can be invited over for the blessing and refreshments and can see how your home reflects your faith.

I also encourage you to attend our study of the creeds beginning February 5 and continuing through the month. The study will culminate in the group writing a "Shepherd of the Glen Creed" that we can use in worship. The creeds are succinct statements of faith accepted by most western Christians, and the tenets of our faith deserve, and can bear,

examination. This is important for a congregation in transition, as we are, so that we know the foundation on which we move forward. This year is also the 500th anniversary of the reformation, so it's particularly important that we understand the distinctly Lutheran "light" we contribute to the understanding of what it means to be a Christian.

Speaking of February 5—this will be a special Sunday also because it's "Souper Bowl" Sunday (no, I didn't misspell that!). We'll be collecting cans of food and we'll see just how many we can stack up. A light to those who need it, for sure.

So—hang in there as the calendar creeps towards Spring and the days get slowly longer! God's light always shines, as does yours.

Peace and all good,

Pastor Susan



ANNOUNCEMENTS



WELCOME TO ZOEY ANN BRILHART, CHILD OF GOD
Baptized January 22, 2017



Thank you to all who served and provided the meal for Route 1 Day Center!

Coffee Fellowship will be held on February 5th. The signup sheet is on the bulletin board next to the kitchen.

Still time to have a House Blessings, Epiphany 2017. It's been a long tradition in the church to bless homes during the Epiphany season. This is a short service in your house, where we move from room to room light a candle, read a scripture and pray (and yes, there is a blessing for a bathroom!). This is a nice opportunity to invite in friends and neighbors for the blessing and share some refreshments and fellowship. Contact Pastor Susan if you'd like to set up a time to do this.

Call Committee update – Pastor Judy Cobb, from the Synod, has been in contact with the call committee to set up a meeting to discuss a possible candidate. With that in mind, please keep the call committee in your prayers. With God's guidance and your prayers we will find the path to our future.

(Continues on the back page)

Adult Education this winter

Starting Sunday February 5th - Apostles Creed Study The word “creed” comes from the Latin “I believe,” and the creeds of the church are an integral part of our worship service. We use the Apostles Creed most of the time, so examining it closely can help us distil our beliefs and grow closer to the God we confess. For SOTG during this interim period, it’s particularly important that we understand and live in identity with what we believe. Join us Sundays in February (beginning Feb 5) for a study of the Apostles Creed. Our study will culminate with a writing of our own creed February 26, to be presented during Lent. We will meet after worship, and finish by 11:30-11:45 so you’ll be home (or up at Smokin Hot) in perfect time for lunch

Looking ahead to Lent:



Ash Wednesday is March 1. We will have “Drive by Ashes” in the parking lot from 3-5PM. Please let your neighbors know that whatever their religious affiliation or lack thereof, they are invited to come by for imposition of ashes and prayer. We will have a worship service of Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion that evening at 7:30 PM.

Our Lenten project this year will be “New Life Kits” for recently released ex-offenders from the prison system. These people are released with nothing and need items to set up housekeeping. Knowing that we care and are supporting them is crucial to helping them stay on the better path they intend. So, if you see good deals on any of the following, please start collecting:

Laundry detergent
Dishwashing detergent
Dryer sheets
Dish clothes and towels
Kitchen spray cleaners/windex
Toilet paper
Tissues
Bathroom cleaners/toilet bowl cleaner/toilet bowl brush
Anti bacterial wipes
Kitchen sponges
Bath towels and washcloths
Toiletries such as shaving cream, soaps, hand cream
Bucket or laundry basket to put items in



We’d also like to include note of encouragement to each one, with Bible verses, inspirational stories, etc. that have kept us through trying times. At some point after we’ve collected the items, we’ll assemble the kits and have them ready as the men are released.

*Knowing is not enough, we must apply.
Willing is not enough, we must do.
Goethe*

Shepherd of the Glen Lutheran Church - Church Council Meeting
January 10, 2017

The meeting was called together with a reading of a story from Story Tour: The Journey Begins by Rachmiel Tobesaman.

Minutes from the December 13, 2016 meeting were read and approved.

Email vote for approving Patsy Pickrel's nomination as 2017 Vice President was discussed. The votes were unanimously yes. Motion was made to accept Patsy Pickrel as Vice President and approved. Thank you Patsy for volunteering!

Financial Reports:

The Financial Secretary's report was distributed.

From the week ending December 31, 2016.

Pledged Envelope Offerings:	\$62,112.00
Actual Envelope Offerings:	\$61,227.00 (98.6%)
Loose Offerings:	\$956.00 (year to date)
Building Fund:	\$1,375.00 (year to date)
Gifts and Memorials:	\$4,515.00
Miscellaneous Donations:	\$1,134.43 Boy Scout Donations/\$100 Wedding/ \$141.00 Rte. 1 Center/ \$600.00 LWR Sheep/ \$165 St. Dysmas/ \$86.50 Shepherd's Table

Tax Receipts for 2016 have been completed.

Offering Envelopes for 2018 have been ordered.

The Treasurer's reports for 2016 End of Year and 2017 week ending January 10 were distributed.

December Envelope Income: \$5,820.00

From the week ending December 31, 2016

Total Income: \$73,577.64

Total Expenses: \$63,348.89

2016 ended with \$10,228.75 more in income than expenses.

As of January 10, 2017 Envelope Income: \$2,095.00

As of January 10, 2017 Total Income: \$2,189.00

As of January 10, 2017 Total Expenses: \$2,781.30

Dennis Hunt warns that 2017 might be a challenging year financially.

Dennis has opened a State Government Tax Account and a Social Security Account.

The W-2s and 1099s have been completed. Dennis did these himself at a cost of \$12.99 for preparing the 1099 on line.

It was suggested that the insurance policies should be reevaluated to see if a better price could be found.

Financial reports were accepted as given.

Board of Christian Education:

A Coffee Fellowship was held on January 1. There will be a fellowship on January 22 for the Baptism of Zoey Brillhart.

Sunday school continues to be offered each Sunday.

The Prayer Shawl ministry is going very well. Everyone who has received a shawl absolutely loves them. Thank you Linda Hunt for making them.

Board of Trustees Report:

Trustees completed maintenance; replacing light bulbs, shoveling snow etc.

Board of Deacons Report: met on January 2, 2017 with Pastor Susan.

Upcoming projects:

- *Collecting Box Tops for the schools.
- *Removing Christmas Decoration on Jan. 8th.
- *Rte 1 Day Center menu is set and posted on the bulletin board.
- *Linda Krause – Chairperson Alice Corrigan – Secretary for Deacons
- *Souper Bowl of Caring February 5-collect canned goods and paper products such as toilet paper for St. Michaels food bank.
- *Creed Studies after worship in which participants would discuss what the Creed mean to them and to update the Creed as to how it is relevant today. Then on 2/26 finalize it into a form to be used during Lent instead of the Nicene Creed.
- *Review the hymns for March
- *Review Lent Offering: Ash Wednesday, March 1, have the Drive Thru ashes distribution and have a 7:30 pm service. Lent, still deciding which day of the week the soup supper/service will be held.
- *Lenten project: New Life Start-Up Kits for ex-offenders. Would like to include a prayer shawl, if possible. A list of items will be posted. Pastor Susan will give these to the newly released.
- *Suggestion that SOTG participate in: the Temple Isaiah works with the Islamic center to have a Tuesday evening, Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve service.
- *Pastor Susan stressed that we interface with the community to gain visibility and continue with such things as meeting at Dunkin' Donuts and have face time with the community.
- *Discussed offering rides to anyone who would like to attend an evening service.
- *Pastor Susan and Deacons will be completing the Synod's Congregational Report for 2016.
- *Discussed revising the membership roster. Suggestions were made and approved. Add Samatha Mader (baptized 1/2016). Remove Herb Becker, Nicholas Biersdorf, Bethany Biersdorf, Glen and Teri Hollrah and Marilyn Young.
- *Next meeting will be held February 7 from 10-12

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Susan continues to meet with members and make Pastoral Care visits; prepare for services including one Baptism and one funeral; prepare "Lectionary Alive" Bible study which ended December 11 and meet with Boards. Pastor Susan attended Synod Installation and the Baltimore West Conference meeting. She conducts worship services for St. Dysmas on Wednesday mornings. Pastor Susan continues to hold Friday morning "office hours" at the Dunkin Donuts on Route 97. People were extremely receptive to talking with Pastor Susan in December at Dunkin Donuts.

New Business: Welcome back to Council Gene Handler and Patsy Pickrel!

Old Business:

Pastor Susan stressed the importance of the council members stepping up and giving the evening prayer during the council meeting. If anyone is interested, please contact Pastor Susan.

The next Council meeting will be held on February 14 at 7:00 pm.