

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

December 2021 Newsletter

December 2021 Newsletter Messiah Bible Study

You are invited!

To a spiritual journey
From “Comfort my people . . .”
To “Hallelujah!”
Using the biblical texts of Advent
Carried by the words of Handel’s *Messiah*



I will be leading a Bible Study on Thursdays in December from 5-6 pm. These Bible Studies will be done by Zoom to enable all to participate. Each gathering will provide an opportunity to study the biblical text in its original setting and connect it meaningfully to our lives today. Our hearts will be moved as we listen to the Bible story told beautifully in the powerful music of *Messiah*.

The season of Advent is a time of preparation. Often the busyness of the season makes it difficult to nurture the preparation of our hearts. On Sunday worship in Advent we ask God to “stir up” God’s power and our hearts. The “heart preparation” of our Messiah Bible Study will feature this spiritual journey from Isaiah and Luke entering our hearts through the music of *Messiah*:

December 2 Isaiah 40:1-5 A nation (us!) returning from exile
preparing for all flesh (us!) to see the glory of God

Messiah Comfort my people
Prepare the way of the Lord
The glory of the Lord will be revealed to all flesh

December 9 Isaiah 40:6-9 God with us (us!) through birth and telling of Jesus Emmanuel

Messiah A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, Emmanuel, God with us
Lift your voice and say: behold your God

December 16 Luke 2:8-14 Unto us (us!) a child is born!
Good news to shepherds (us!) and all people (us!): Savior is born!

Messiah Unto us a child is born, and his name shall be called
There were shepherds, keeping watch over their flocks
I bring you good tidings of great joy
Glory to God!

All are welcome! Please come to prepare your heart, tell your story, invite God into your story, and listen to the living words of the Bible and *Messiah*. To receive the Zoom invitation please send your email address to me at dmesner@lcsduluth.org.

Advent and Christmas blessings to all,

Pastor Dave

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dave Mesner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'D'.

LCGS Congregational Survey Results and Forums

A summary of the LCGS Mission Vision Task Force (MVTF) survey is now available online at our website: www.lcgsduluth.org

Thank you to all who responded - we encourage everyone to review the survey summary. We will also be holding two forums to discuss the survey responses/results and to gather additional input and feedback. Please plan to join us for one of these forums:

ONLINE - Via Zoom: Thursday, December 9, 2021 from 7-8pm.

IN-PERSON – LCGS: Sunday, December 19, 2021 from 10:45 - 11:45

Please email Christine office@lcgsduluth.org to register for the online forum so she can send you the login information.

Register for Camp Today!! Invite a friend! www.vlmcamps.org Summer Camp Registration is open!

Join us this summer at Camp Vermilion and Camp Hiawatha Spend time at Camp Hiawatha or Camp Vermilion this summer and you will experience a week of a lifetime! It's a chance to try some new things, meet new friends, explore your creative side, learn team work, *be silly, sing, laugh, and learn what it means to live as God's people in the world!*



We have programs for all ages - a one day experience for those new to camp, a two night program for those not quite ready for a full week, and week-long programs for elementary, junior high, and senior high campers. No matter what option you choose, we will work hard to make it an experience to remember.

Stewardship Committee Information on Contributions

2022 Estimate of Giving

Thank you to the many households who have already completed and submitted their Estimate of Giving for 2022 during our recent *Connection and Call* Annual Financial Response. If you have not had a chance, we invite you to complete one. Cards are available in the office and at the Welcome Center. If you participate in an automated eGiving automated giving program, please complete an Estimate of Giving card also. If you have any questions, please call Christine in the office, 218-525-1922.

2021 Contributions

Thank you for your generous contributions this year to the life-changing ministry at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. Note: Contributions intended for the 2021 tax year must be postmarked on or before December 31, 2021 or delivered to the church office on or before December 29, 2021. No exceptions can be made due to IRS Regulations. Year-end giving statements will be mailed out in early January.



The Stewardship Committee is pleased to offer another personal finance workshop for our congregation. We are again partnering with LSS Financial Counseling Service to offer a free virtual workshop on financial well-being; “Get a Financial Health Checkup”

This program is a great way to start the new year - to check in on your financial goals for 2022 and assess your financial health for the year with a financial health checkup.

In this workshop, we will:

- Discuss habits to practice monthly, weekly and daily to build resiliency.
- Identify the numbers that indicate financial health.
- Set goals to support you in reaching your full financial health potential.



This is an important topic, that will help you take stock of your financial goals for the coming year – this is important information for everyone. All our welcome!!

This free workshop will be offered via Zoom on Tuesday, January 18th at 6:30 pm and will be about an hour in length.

Please sign up for this engaging and informative workshop in the church office or by emailing Susan Aulie at susan.aulie@outlook.com and providing both your email and phone number.

The link for the workshop will be sent out prior to the scheduled date.

If you have any questions, please contact Susan Aulie at susan.aulie@outlook.com or 218-341-1083

Join us for Sunday worship at 9:30am!

Advent and Christmas Happenings

Reflection time in the Sanctuary

Sunday afternoons Dec. 12 and 19 from 4-6pm. Linda Turpening will play music during that time.

Advent Zoom **Bible Study based on Handel's Messiah** led by Pastor Dave -
Thursdays at 5pm Dec. 2, 9 and 16.

Sunday School program is December 12th at 9:30am

Holy Communion will be Dec. 19, along with the "O Holy Night" liturgical dance.
Elias Mokole - Soloist

Christmas Eve

3- 3:30pm service Outdoors
4:30 indoors and "O Holy Night" liturgical dance with soloist - Elias Mokole
10-10:30 indoors with candle light

Christmas Day

9:30am

Sunday, December 26th

9:30am



*The Staff of
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
wish you and your loved ones a very happy and
joyous Christmas and New Year!*



Christmas Giving to CHUM & Honduras

We are not offering live poinsettias this year but we are offering two options this year for Christmas giving. If you would like to make a \$15 donation to Companion Synod Ministry with Honduras in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special occasion, please send this form to the church office before Monday, Dec.12th.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Amount of money enclosed: \$ _____

Please indicate what you would like your notation to say:
...given in loving memory of:

...given in honor (or other similar notation) of:

...given by:



Annual Christmas Cookies for Outreach Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

You can help brighten someone's holiday season! Good Shepherd's Visitation Team is collecting cookies for our home-bound members as well as for the CHUM Drop-In Center, and the Twin Ports Ministry to Seafarers. Due to COVID, this year St. Louis County jail will be purchasing cookies for the inmates and staff.

Please put your homemade cookies on the counter in the church office by 9:00am, Monday Morning, December 13th. To assure proper delivery, mark them "Visitation." Because of food allergies, if nuts, peanut butter or coconut are an ingredient please label your cookies accordingly. Prefer a batch to be 4 dozen or more.

Questions, contact Lois Opseth 218-340-3605.

The ELCA Wittenberg Center presents **Turning the World Upside Down: The Magnificat**. This three-part webinar series will mark the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's commentary on the Magnificat by examining the continued significance of Mary's voice. The first webinar will take place on Dec. 15 at 12 pm Central time. Learn more and register at bit.ly/MagnificatWebinar

Session 1: Dec 15 Wednesday Title: "My Soul Magnifies the Lord: The Gift of Mary's Voice."

Session 2: Dec 16 Thurs. Title: "Brought Down the Mighty From Their Thrones: The Strength of Mary's Voice."

Session 3: Dec 17 Friday Title: "From Generation to Generation: The Future of Mary's Voice"

It's time for our annual Giving Tree. We are going to once again direct our efforts to supporting the teens at LifeHouse. Please drop off your \$10 or \$20 gift cards for Target, Walmart or Walgreens in the decorated gift box by the church's office door no later than December 15th. The staff at LifeHouse are so grateful for our support in taking care of these teens in our community. Thank you for making this possible.



Support our Youth: Silent Auction

December 5-12 We are thrilled to have 8 high school students and 2 adult leaders representing our church at the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis next summer. Covid-19 is changing many of our traditional fundraisers, but we are excited to offer a Silent Auction in December! Items will be on display in the Gathering Space. You can bid on items December 5th-December 12th. We'll close the Auction on December 12, so that you'll have plenty of time to pick up items before Christmas.



Thank you for supporting our youth!

The Sunday School Christmas Program is almost here!

We'll have one more big practice (a full run through) on Sunday, December 5 starting at 10:15 am in the Fellowship Hall. The Program will be Sunday, December 12 during the 9:30 am worship service:

- Families, please arrive at 9:00 am to put on costumes, line up, etc...
- Worship begins at 9:30 am
- After worship, join us in the Fellowship Hall for the Advent Workshop! One of my favorite church traditions from when I was a kid – crafts and gift making to celebrate the season.

There will be no Sunday School on December 19, December 26, or January 2

We'll be back on Sunday, January 9th for a "Baptism Birthday Party!" Sunday School in January will go from 9:00 am – 9:30 am, so families can still attend worship together. We know Sunday School will look a little different now (it already looks different this year because of the pandemic) but we're excited to try new things. A new Sunday School Calendar will be available soon.

Confirmation Christmas Break

There will be no Confirmation December 8, 15, 22, 29.

Wednesday, January 5th will be a "Mentor Check In" at 6:00 pm – no Confirmation for the students, just volunteers.

Then, we'll launch into the heart of our "How To" Year:

- How to Ask Hard Questions
- How to Detect Good vs. Bad Theology (especially online...)
- How to "get through" a Funeral
- How to be Mad at God
- How to Help Others (and ask for help, too)

What an awesome Confirmation year!

CLOTHING DRIVE! Do you have gently used or new TEEN clothes? Confirmation students are hosting a clothing drive for Teen Closet Sunday the 12th in the Gathering Space! What kind teens we have!



Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd (ELCA)

1325 North 45th Avenue East, Duluth MN 55804-1507



2021

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Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

M-Th 9:00-4:00 Fri 9:00-12:00

Phone: 218-525-1922 •

Website: www.lcgsduluth.org

MEET THE STAFF

Pastor Dave Mesner, Lead Pastor
(home) 218-529-9715
email: dmesner@lcgsduluth.org

Pastor Nancy Hong, Interim Pastor

Katie Rich, Director of Youth & Family Ministry
email: kkrich@lcgsduluth.org

Christine Whitcomb, Office Manager
email: office@lcgsduluth.org

Amie Abenth, Communications Coordinator
email: communications@lcgsduluth.org

Greg Susens, custodian

Music Team:

Linda Turpening, Organist email:
linda@archdirect.com

Debbie Sanders, Good Shepherd Choir Director
email: debra.k.sanders@icloud.com