

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
2220 E College Ave Appleton, WI 54915
920-734-9643 Fax: 920-882-8978
www.goodsheplutheran.net



Office Hours:
Monday—Thursday
8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Friday 8:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Email: goodshep@gschurch.net

NEWSLETTER / BULLETIN NEWS FOR NOV. 28 AND DEC. 1, 2019

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP TODAY. “I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the LORD!’” (Psalm 122:1, ESV). May we, too, find joy in worshiping God.

AS WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP TODAY. “Look out!” is about all we can yell as something unexpected is about to happen. The person we are warning has to be awake in order to respond. That’s why Jesus tells His disciples, including us, to be awake and watchful for His return. He is our Lord and Master—our King! Advent is a gracious time of preparation for Jesus’ coming, once in history, to us in Word and Sacrament today, and at the end of time. When our Lord returns, it will be to usher in the kingdom of God, which Isaiah says will be so peaceful they will “beat their swords into plowshares.” Before that day, preparing means leading loving lives, Paul tells us, for “salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.” Look out! The King comes!

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH: Our nation and military, our President; Mr. Trump and our Governor; Tony Evers. Our staff and congregation.

ALTAR FLOWERS: Are given to the glory of God by Mike and Tammy Gritton.

PEOPLE IN NEED OF GOD’S CARE: Susan Reineking, and the church staff.

PRAYERS FOR OUR CONGREGATIONAL FAMILIES: Each week we will be lifting up our family members in prayers. Please take your bulletin news home so you can pray for the families during the week. We will be listing every family in the congregation up in prayer during the year.

- ♥ Ronn Elliott
- ♥ Chassidy Heino, Jazmarie Duran, Isai Duran, Bella Gonzalez, Rey Gonzalez
- ♥ Kristie Kobussen

For prayer requests call or email the church office to be listed in the prayers.—Thank you.



PASTOR SEABAUGH'S MESSAGE

Good News of Great Joy!

News that is good, is that possible? Seems like most of what is transmitted is not so good is it? But we have plenty of good news. What are some of your life events that you have experienced that are good news and the words that were used?

It's a boy or it's a girl! That is good news! I now pronounce you man and wife! That is good news! The St. Louis Blues are Stanley Cup Champions! That is good news! Finally, from Luke 2: 10-12, "And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

Did you catch that last bit of news? The Savior has been born! What great news this is?! The One promised to Adam and Eve after they sinned, and death was pronounced upon them and all people. The One promised to all generations following, and the One who was needed and great anticipated. For without this One, the people only walk in darkness. Without this One, Satan's head is not crushed, without this One, we remain in the Old Covenant under the curse of the law.

Thanks, be God for his faithfulness! God made a promise to save us from sin and death and He delivered on this promise! In the promise of a Savior we receive the love that God has upon all He has made. He wants all to be His now and forever.

Now, like the Shepherds, we go with haste, we go urgently to witness the Savior. We don't go the manager where He was laid, but rather we go to Church where we witness His love giving us forgiveness at Baptism, through His Word, and Holy Communion. We know in these means what has been accomplished for us and we live as Gospel or Good News people every day. Not only do we go with haste to receive Him in these means at Church, but we should daily go with haste to receive Him in our daily Bible readings, devotions, podcasts, wherever God's Word is proclaimed in its truth and purity. Like the Shepherd, this Good News is not just for us only, but must be shared. They went and witnessed what they saw and heard. We do the same! We want this Good News that lives inside of us to be the Good News that lives inside of all people. We want all people to have the same joy and peace! God has Good News for us and for all, ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!

Merry Christmas!
Pastor Seabaugh



LEADING IN WORSHIP—NOV. 27, 28 & Dec. 1, 2019

	Nov. 27 & 28	Officiant.....Rev. Timothy Seabaugh
	Dec. 1	Officiant.....Rev. Rex Rinne
		Liturgist.....Rev. Timothy Seabaugh
	Thursday and Sunday	Organist.....DPM Jacob Erdman
<u>Elder/ Worship Assistants:</u>	6:30	Matt Halada
	9:00	Steve Calder
	8:00	Lyle Parins / Dan Lenz
	10:30	Ryan Neumeier / JoDelle Carroll
<u>Ushers:</u>	6:30	Adam & Carter Theis
	9:00	Gene Mason / Rob Worth
	8:00	Brian & Casey Krueger
	10:30	Krista Nigbor / Dustin Schmidt
<u>Acolyte / Crucifer:</u>	6:30	Alyson Van Hammond
	9:00	Volunteer
	8:00	Sean Knops
	10:30	Kendall Hengst
<u>Readers:</u>	8:00	Diane Simon / Herb Mahaffey
	10:30	Karil Simmerman / Joy Block
<u>Nursery Attendant</u>	8:00 / 9:15 / 10:30	Stephanie Blixt
<u>Greeters</u>	8:00	Liz Parins
	10:30	Don Voigt
<u>Children's Message:</u>	8:00 / 10:30	DCE David Stuckwisch
<u>Screen Operator:</u>	6:30	Melissa Hanson
	9:00	Elizabeth Hanna
	8:00	Diane Simon
	10:30	Josh Nigbor

LEADING IN WORSHIP—DEC. 4, 5, AND 8 2019

	Dec. 4, 5, & 8	Officiant.....Rev. Timothy Seabaugh
		Organist.....DPM Jacob Erdman
<u>Elder/ Worship Assistants:</u>	6:30	Hal Neitzel /
	6:30	Pat Leigl /
	8:00	Mike Hintz / David Stuckwisch
	10:30	Joel Railling / David Stuckwisch
<u>Ushers:</u>	6:30	Dan Hutter
	6:30	Jim & Mary Wacker
	8:00	Kurt & Kylee Miller
	10:30	Bill Strullmyer / Rob Worth
<u>Acolyte / Crucifer:</u>	6:30	Volunteer
	6:30	Vicki Sheets
	8:00	Abbey Hintz
	10:30	Jack Woldt
<u>Readers:</u>	8:00	Susan Reineking / Judy Becker
	10:30	Rob Worth / Carolyn Berg
<u>Nursery Attendant</u>	8:00 / 9:15 / 10:30	Jean Vander Heiden
<u>Greeters</u>	6:30	Carol Pete
	8:00 / 10:30	Carol Hidde & Judy Becker / Carolyn Berg
<u>Children's Message:</u>	8:00 / 10:30	Mary Curtin
<u>Screen Operator:</u>	6:30	Bonnie Sielaff 8:00 Tommy Hintz 10:30 Melissa Hanson

THIS WEEK AT GOOD SHEPHERD

DECEMBER 1, 2019—DECEMBER 8, 2019



SUN		Blood Pressure Check / Giving Tree
	8:00 A.M.	Worship/Communion Service
	9:15 A.M.	Christian Education hour / Christmas Program practice
	10:30 A.M.	Worship/Communion Service
	11:45 A.M.	1st Communion class—CR
	12:00 P.M.	Middle School Youth
	1:00 P.M.	Hmong Worship
	3:00 P.M.	Zion French/African Congregation—CR
	5:00 P.M.	High School Youth
MON		Pastor Tim Seabaugh's day off
	9:00 A.M.	Prayer Chain I
	5:00 P.M.	Men's Basketball
TUE	9:30 A.M.	Staff/Called Mtg./Devotions
	4:00 P.M.	Prayer Chain II
	4:15 P.M.	Human Care Mtg.
	5:00 P.M.	TOPS—RM 5
	6:00 P.M.	Trustees / Stewardship—Rm. 3
	7:00 P.M.	Bell Choir
WED	9:00 A.M.	Women's Bible Study—Room 3; Kiwanis Mtg.—CR
	5:00 P.M.	Adult Bible Study—CR
	5:30 P.M.	Advent Meal
	6:30 P.M.	Advent Service
THU	6:30 P.M.	Worship/Communion Service
	7:30 P.M.	LMF / Christmas Decorating
FRI		DCE David Stuckwisch/DPM Jacob Erdman day off
SAT		Giving Tree
	7:30 A.M.	Men's Bible B-fast @ Perkins
	9:00 A.M.	LWML Bake Sale Set up - CR / Zion French/African Bible Study—Sanctuary
	3:00 P.M.	Zion French-African Worship Team Practice—CR
SUN		LWML Bake Sale / Giving Tree
	8:00 A.M.	Worship/Communion Service
	9:15 A.M.	Christian Education hour / Christmas Program practice
	10:30 A.M.	Worship/Communion Service
	12:00 P.M.	Middle School Youth
	1:00 P.M.	Hmong Worship
	3:00 P.M.	Zion French/African Congregation—CR
	5:00 P.M.	High School Youth



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

ATTENTION USHERS AND WORSHIP ASSISTANTS: Please sign up to help at the extra services we have coming up which include Thanksgiving Eve and Day, Advent, Christmas Eve and Day, and also New Years Eve and Day. Sign up sheet is *on the bulletin board in the back of church*. Thanks for volunteering to help out at our services. The Board of Elders

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN... The sign-up sheet is in the Sign-Up Center located in the coat room, ordering your **poinsettia plants** for the Christmas services. The price of each 6 ½ inch pot is \$14.00. We need two hanging baskets for the front of the church the price is \$40.00 per basket.

Prices did not change from last year. Please take the time to **sign up before Sunday, Dec. 1st**. Make checks payable to *Good Shepherd Lutheran Church*. You may put your check in the offering plate or bring it to the church office. On the memo line of your check, please write *festive flowers*. You may take your plants home after the 9 a.m. service on Christmas Day. Plants that are not picked up by Jan. 1st will be taken to our shut-ins. Thank you.

THE LUTHERAN WITNESS: If you are interested in renewing or receiving a yearly paper subscription to *The Lutheran Witness* please have **your payment of \$22.56 to Debbie Koeller in the office by Dec. 29, 2019**. If you would like to see a copy of *The Lutheran Witness*, there are some copies in the church office. **Please make the check payable to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church** and in the memo line write **Lutheran Witness**.

PRESCHOOL IS LOOKING FOR a substitute teacher along with aides for Mondays and Wednesdays. Please call Joanne Sidwell at 920-850-2291 or email at jmaesidwell@att.net or David Stuckwisch at dstuckwisch@gslchurch.net

Women Rejoice! Annual Retreat **LADIES ...** Join us for a weekend of renewing your faith, having fun, making new friends and reconnecting with "old" friends. The **2020 Women Rejoice! Retreat** will be held **Feb. 14-16**, at the Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake. The retreat theme, Lavish Love, is based on 1 John 3:1, "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God." Our guest speaker, Wendysue Fluegge, is a traveling worship leader, a singer/songwriter, a retreat speaker and a BOLD, blessed Christ follower. Wendysue is energetic, sincere and fun! **Registration is due Monday, Jan. 6th**, and registration forms are available online at womenrejoice.org or on the counter near the front entrance. Scholarships are available for those who need financial assistance, and all requests are confidential. If you have questions about the retreat, just ask! Contact Bev Lenz at 788-5096 or Bonnie Sielaff at 687-5026.

THE FELLOWSHIP HOUR schedule has been posted on the bulletin board in the coat room for the upcoming year. Willing groups, boards, and/or families are encouraged to sign up to host. Please contact the church office with any questions. Also, if you are hosting fellowship it is your responsibility to make coffee and to clean up afterwards, which includes emptying and cleaning out the coffee pots and putting them away. Thank you.

NAMING CONTEST: We are looking for a creative, fun, and appropriate title for our weekly bulletin news/ newsletter. Please submit your entry at goodshep@gslchurch.net. We hope to finalize a name by the New Year! ***Keep the submissions coming**, these are great! So far we have: The Bullet, The Post, Good Shepherd's "Good News", The Informant, The Burning Bush, The Lamp Lighter, Hark, Good Shepherd Harold, God's Vocational News, The Shepherd's voice, The Sheep Shout, News from the Flock, The Fleece Weekly and The One Oh Eight Update.

VOLUNTEER FOX CITIES' ANNUAL VOLUNTEERFEST IS TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3RD AT WAVERLY BEACH IN MENASHA! If you're looking for a new volunteer opportunity, or just a reason to network with like-minded individuals, here's your chance! Come enjoy refreshments in a relaxed setting while meeting representatives from over 60 different nonprofit organizations in our area. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres, cash bar. Tuesday, December 3rd (Giving Tuesday), Waverly Beach in Menasha, 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. There will also be a chance to win door prizes, including an overnight stay at Christmas Mountain in Wisconsin Dells! Event is free and family friendly. Presented by Volunteer Fox Cities. Please get your free tickets by signing up at <http://bit.ly/VolunteerFEST2019>.

HUMAN CARE NEWS

BLOODMOBILE Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication on your blood drive this weekend! We are so thankful to you and all of the generous donors at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church! You should be very proud of how your donations will give back to our community! With your help, we were able to register 19 donors! We collected 9 good units of whole blood. We have the potential of saving up to 27 lives. WONDERFUL! We also had 9 first time donors. AMAZING!

CARE CORNER: Presenting a variety of opportunities for you to live our motto, "Cared for by Christ, we care for all others"

- Food for Salvation Army

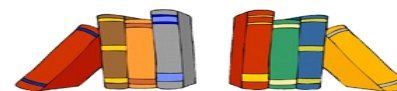
OUR GIVING TREE is here! Loaded with tags for Christmas giving! Please take a tag, buy a gift and return by December 15th. Your giving will benefit the less fortunate, Shut-ins and organizations in our area. Thank you for your generosity I helping others!

THE DECEMBER COTS menu is posted in the sign up area. Please take a look and see if there is something you can sign up for. Thank you for helping to further this ministry and live out our motto "Cared for by Christ, we care for all others."

OUTREACH NEWS

MOST MINISTRIES-SEEING 20/20 IN 2020: Join our Good Shepherd team as we assist with an eye-glass clinic and share the Good News of Jesus Christ with the people of Belize this upcoming summer. The cost for this mission trip is \$2500-2700 per person. The tentative dates for this trip are July 23-30. Please contact Cindy Reinhold at [tcreinhold@gmail.com](mailto:creinhold@gmail.com) if you have any questions about this opportunity or if you are interested in joining us.

LIBRARY / BOOK CLUB NEWS



We hope everyone is getting Christmas cards, decorating, gift buying, gift wrapping all under way. The holy day is meant to reflect on God's gift to us. But sometimes the hustle and bustle just keeps us from thinking what joy the gift of God's only Son has been given

to us. With the holiday, many of you may have some vacation or days off. Good Shepherd library has many books to help put you in that Christmas spirit. Perhaps a good novel – "The Christmas Box" by Richard Paul Evans or "Shepherds Abiding" by Jan Karon. Or maybe you just need inspiration on prayer or bible study. Maybe you need decorating or craft ideas for your children to keep busy with on school break. There are many selections and ideas at the church library. If you need assistance, ask Diane Simon who is around most Sunday mornings. She can be reached by phone at 920-720-8771. Anyone over age twelve may check out the books by signing your name. Parents please sign for children's books with your name so we can contact you if we haven't seen the books in a while. We hope you have a wonderful Christmas. May there be Peace on Earth!

In the spirit of Christmas, the Good Shepherd Book Club chose "Away in a Manger" for its December read. This Molly Murphy mystery set in 1890's New York explores the worlds of the ultra rich and the ultra poor. Molly and her ward Bridie are on an outing when they hear a beautiful voice singing the popular Christmas song. Ever sharp Molly notices that the song is sung to a British tune and not the American version. So the mystery begins as to who is this young girl? Why is she begging in the streets of New York? What happened to her mother? Molly finds the answers to all these questions while her nursing her husband back to health, preparing for the Christmas holiday and entertaining her mother-in-law. The Good Shepherd Book Club wishes you a very Merry Christmas and hopes you will join us in the New Year every second Monday of the month in the Community room. God bless us. Everyone.



DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN:

Read the Bible daily with the help of our 3 year Bible reading calendar! You can pick it up monthly in the coat room or the back of the church OR go online and see/print all of 2019 and 2020, (2021 coming at a

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
ADVENT BEGINS • Is. 2:1-5; • Ps. 122; • Rom. 13:11-14; • Matt. 21:1-11	• Is. 2:6-22; • Ps. 124; • 1 Cor. 13:1-13	• Is. 3:1-17; • Ps. 125; • 1 Cor. 14:1-25	• Is. 3:18-4:6; • Ps. 126; • 1 Cor. 14:26-40	• Is. 5:1-12; • Ps. 127; • 1 Cor. 15:1-34	• Is. 5:13-30; • Ps. 128; • 1 Cor. 15:35-49	• Is. 6:1-13; • Ps. 129; • 1 Cor. 15:50-16:4
1	2	3	4	5	6	7



EDUCATION/BIBLE STUDY NEWS

ADULT SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDIES:

- Pastor Seabaugh's is in the community room.
- "A Longer Look at the Lesson" is in room 5.

MEMBER CLASSES: Winter Classes begin on January 22nd at 6:00 p.m. This class lasts five weeks and will cover the basics of Lutheran doctrine and practice and a view of Good Shepherd. If you are already a member of the LCMS, we encourage your attendance to brush up on the catechism and meet those who will also be joining. We will hold our member welcome on February 23rd at our 10:30 a.m. service. Please sign up to attend via email at tseabaugh@qslchurch.net or goodsheph@qslchurch.net **Please RSVP by January 12th!** Good Shepherd welcomes you!



It is hard to believe that we are in our third month of classes. For the month of November, we will be learning about families, our colors, Thanksgiving, and Nutrition. We will be having a Thanksgiving Celebration as well. The last day of classes for 2019 is December 11 and we will be celebrating the holiday by having a Trim the Tree party on that day. On a side note, Do you know that the Good Shepherd Lutheran Preschool has been providing quality, Christian based education for 40 years. Join us as we will be included memories and facts about the preschool in upcoming monthly newsletters.

STEWARDSHIP

MINISTRY FAIR: Mark your calendars now for Sunday, January 5, 2020 to attend the Ministry Fair. You ask what is a Ministry Fair? This is your opportunity to learn more what each board and various groups of the church are doing and how you can lend your time and talents to help. Your interest may be peaked to further explore these areas of interest for further involvement. It will be held in the community room after the first service, beginning at 09:15 am. Watch the announcements for further information regarding the event.

FIRSTFRUITS OR LEFTOVERS

Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce...(Proverbs 3:9). How do you like leftovers? Most people don't like yesterday's soggy pasta, overcooked steak, or mushy vegetables. Even when leftovers are doctored up, they're still leftovers. What does God say about leftovers? When it comes to gifts, He wants our firstfruits, not leftovers! Stories are told about families who made conscious decisions to give their offerings to the Lord first and then pay their monthly bills. God blessed their firstfruits, offerings given with love and in faith. God gave His Firstfruit, His one-and-only Son, Jesus Christ. His death on Calvary's cross assures us of life and salvation, and those gifts are ours through His Spirit's gift of faith. Because He gives us His best, can we offer Him our leftovers? No, in faith-filled response to His love, we want to give Him our best. A Point to Ponder: What time, talent, and treasure firstfruit gifts can I offer today?

DPM ARTICLE

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh
Awake and hearken for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of Kings (LSB # 344 v.1)

As Thanksgiving passes, we approach the beginning of the Church Year. It begins with the season of Advent. The word "advent" comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means "coming." When we think about Christ coming to us, we certainly think of Him coming as a baby in Bethlehem. Advent is a season of preparation.

Matthew 3:2-3 says, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"

John the Baptist let it be known the Christ was coming. That Jesus would come to redeem His people and save us from our sins. During Advent, we not only prepare for Christ's first coming as a baby in a manger. We prepare for His second coming, as judge of the world on the Last Day.

Is Christ judging the world something to worry about? No, but rather we eagerly await with joy the coming of Immanuel, "God with us." We anticipate His second coming to when we will finally be with him in Heaven, free from sin and sorrow.

From heav'n above to earth I come
To bear good news to ev'ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say and sing.

This is the Christ, our God Most High,
Who hears your sad and bitter cry;
He will Himself your Savior be

From all your sins to set you free. (LSB #358 vv. 1, 3)

God bless,
Jacob Erdman

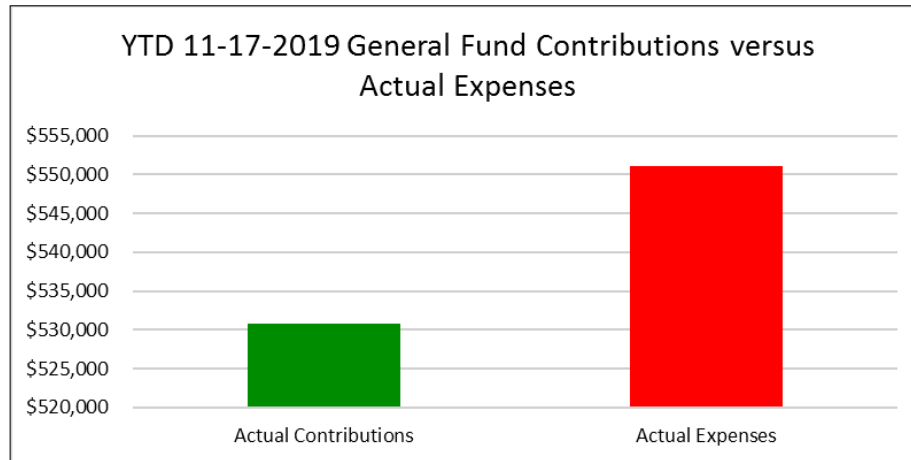
MUSIC NOTES

CHOIR PRACTICES FOR CHRISTMAS EVE: The choir will be singing December 24 on Christmas Eve at the 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. services. We will be having 2 rehearsals: Wednesday, December 4 at 7:15 p.m. and Wednesday, December 11 at 7:15 p.m. Both rehearsals will follow our midweek services. All are welcome to come and sing. Please join us for rehearsal if you would like to sing on Christmas Eve!

FINANCIAL NEWS

Memo from the Finance Board:

- ⇒ Year-to-date contributions as of 11-17-2019 are \$530,798.
- ⇒ Year-to-date actual expenses as of 11-17-2019 are \$551,162.
- ⇒ As such, we currently have an actual deficit of **\$20,364**.
- ⇒ This is shown in graph form below.



OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE ~ LAST WEEK

Church Attendance:
 Thu. 6:30 – 68; Sun. 8:00– 175; 10:30– 126= 369
 (Communed: 306)

WEEKLY BUDGET INFORMATION

General Fund: \$9,188
 Designated Funds: \$370
 Weekly Budgeted Needs: \$13,678
 Our budget this past week is short by:\$4,490

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK:

It takes real faith to begin to live the life of heaven while still upon the earth, for this requires that we rise above the low of moral gravitation and bring to our everyday living the high wisdom of God. And since this wisdom is contrary to that of the world, conflict is bound to result. This, however, is a small price to pay for the inestimable privilege of following Christ. *A. W. Tozer*

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. *Colossians 3:15 RSV*

LWML NEWS



LWML COOKIE/CANDY SALE: Reserve the date now. Sunday, December 8th, 2019 beginning after the 8AM service is the annual LWML Cookie/Candy sale for the congregation in the Community Room. There will be a vast array of goodies to choose from and enjoy. Also back by popular requests, there will be some Christmas wreaths available to purchase made by one of our congregation members. All the proceeds go to further mission work of the LWML.

LWML CHRISTMAS GATHERING: LWML Christmas Program is open to ALL women of the congregation. There will be potluck meal of delicious appetizers, salads and desserts preceding the program and the Secret Sister reveal. If you did not participate in the Secret Sister program for this year and would like to next year, please fill out a slip provided and join in the fun for next year. The festivities will begin at 6:15 pm on Monday, December 16th, 2019 in the Community Room. Hope to see everyone there.

LMF NEWS

PACKER WATCH PARTY, DECEMBER 1, 2019 GAME TIME IS CURRENTLY SET AT 12:00 NOON. LMF will supply pizza. If you are able please bring a snack to pass. **A sign up sheet is on the LMF board** please let us know if you will be there so we have enough pizza. Soda is available from the youth group or bring your own. No alcohol please.

LMF WILL BE RINGING BELLS FOR THE SALVATION ARMY again this year. Dates are Friday December 6 and Monday December 9. We have 13 one hour slots to fill so need about 26 volunteers. A sign up sheet is on the LMF board. We will be ringing at the Festival Food Store in on east College Ave. Same place as in years past. This is a great cause and a fun way to spend an hour. Thanks for your help.

THIS AND THAT

† Christian Symbol †

Holly

Holly was first used by pagans to decorate for the festival of Saturnalia. When Christians began celebrating Christmas in honor of Christ, they adapted that decorating practice to reflect Jesus' life and death. Holly's pointed leaves symbolize the crown of thorns and its red berries symbolize Christ's blood shed on the cross. Because holly thrives and its berries retain their brilliance even in harsh winter conditions, non-Christians saw it as a symbol of eternity — which is fitting for Christians as well

