



Merry Christmas



Volume 26, Issue 11
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We Decked the Halls!

Shepherd of Peace Lutheran Church

There's a Place for You at
SOP!



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The Shepherds and the Angels

adapted from the Bible

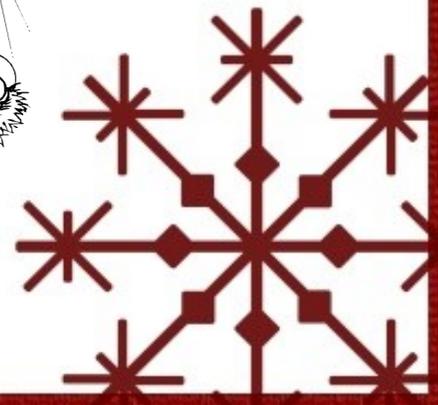
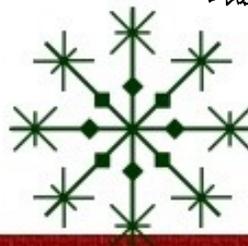
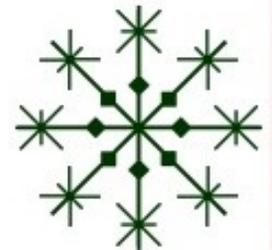
And there were shepherds in the same country abiding in the field, and keeping watch by night over their flock. And an angel of the Lord stood by them and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Be not afraid; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all the people: for there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this is the sign unto you; ye shall find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, and lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, Good will toward men.

And it came to pass, when the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing that is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the babe lying in the manger. And when they saw it, they made known concerning the saying which was spoken to them about this child. And all that heard it wondered at the things which were spoken unto them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these sayings, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, even as it was spoken unto them.

And when eight days were fulfilled his name was called: JESUS

O welcome, little Christmas Guest,
Dear Jesus, from above;
Upon Thy face, so pure and mild,
We see God's smile of love.
Amen.





astor's Corner

One-Year Lectionary - What does that mean?

As we enter into a new Church Year, a very subtle change has happened in our worship services. I dare say that it probably was not noticed at all this past Sunday (the First Sunday in Advent). We are now using the One-Year Lectionary.

First off, it's probably important to understand what the lectionary is and why we use it. The lectionary is simply the system of readings for scripture that we use in our worship services. There are three readings each Sunday: the Old Testament Reading, the Epistle, and the Holy Gospel. These readings are appointed for each Sunday of the Church Year as well as festivals that occur throughout the year. While it may seem restrictive to be tied to specific readings each week, there are a couple of huge benefits to using a lectionary. One is that I don't have to figure out what section of scripture we're going to use for every service. All I have to do is look at the date on the calendar and find the readings that match that day. Another is that it protects you from me. Hopefully you don't need protection from your pastor, but the truth is that if I were allowed to pick the readings out of thin air each week, you'd probably see some troubling patterns develop. I would pick my favorite topics to talk about and then choose Bible passages to back me up. It's far better--not to mention more faithful--to work things the other way around.

Since about the 5th Century, the Church has made use of such a list of readings. This system of readings became pretty well normalized over the years to the point that the lectionary that was used in the 13th Century is pretty much the same one we are using now at Shepherd of Peace. This means that I can go to the bookshelf in my office and look up a sermon from Luther, C. F. Walther, Johann Gerhard, or any number of other Lutheran Church fathers and see how they approached a given text for any Sunday in the Church Year as I prepare to preach the same text here in 21st Century.

So what's different now as opposed to two weeks ago? We were using the Three-Year Lectionary. This means that instead of using the same list of readings for each year, we were using three sets of readings. We would use Year A one year, Year B the next, and Year C after that. Then we would repeat the cycle again. The Three-Year Lectionary was developed in the 1960s in an effort to expose people to a greater number of scripture readings. Year A focused on the Gospel of Matthew, Year B on Mark, and Year C on Luke. John was sprinkled throughout--especially during the season of Easter. Instead of that, we will be using the same set of readings each Church Year. The Gospel readings are taken from all four Gospels somewhat equally. One major difference you'll notice early next calendar year is that Transfiguration will move up a few weeks. The One-Year Lectionary includes a "Pre-Lent" season. I'll write more about that in the months to come.

So why switch to the One-Year? Isn't more scripture better? On the surface, perhaps. But in reality, I would much rather you know the story of Christ and his redemption for all sinners well than that you know a huge body of scripture. There is a Latin phrase that says "*repetitio mater memoriae*," that is, "Repetition is the mother of memorization (or learning)." If you want to learn a thing well, repeat it over and over again. Repeating the readings from the lectionary each year will hopefully have that effect on us. As I mentioned before, the One-Year Lectionary has been used for centuries. This means that other liturgical resources were developed over the years to go with the readings for the lectionary. In particular, the early Lutherans wrote hymns that summarized the Gospel reading for each date of the Church Year were written. Add that to the afore-mentioned sermons of the Lutheran Church fathers and there is a vast treasury of resources available to us to say the least.

And so there is something new at Shepherd of Peace to go with the new Church Year, but that something new is something that's actually really, really old! Have more questions about this or anything else? I'd love to talk more about it!

In Christ,
Pastor Vandercook

Interesting (or not) Fact About Pastor #3: While in Minnesota serving my vicarage (internship) during the 2005-2006 school year, I raced vintage snowmobiles. In fact, I was named the ROLA (Regional One-Lunger Association) Rookie of the Year. I have the plaque on the wall in my office to prove it!

2017 - Reaching out to our neighbors.

Recently a fellow member of SOP made a reference to 'needs' at Audubon Pointe. I asked for a list of items. I had no idea about the depth of needs just outside our doors.

Residents of Audubon Pointe are 62 years of age or older, handicapped or disabled. It's considered affordable Senior, independent living, with over 200 either 1 or 2 bedroom apartments and cottages. When exiting SOP parking lot, go left and it's the large multiple story building just ahead of you.

When I went to visit, I learned that some residents are moved in with nothing! Whatever the situation is or was, they don't have kitchen items, no furniture, no towels, no dresser, no TV, no radio, the list goes on and on. Think about it, no basics. Many residents have NO one who comes to visit, holidays are just another day.

This is where I would like Shepherd of Peace to 'REACH' out to help these neighbors in 2017 and before.

Maintenance can change light bulbs (if the resident buys them) but there's no one to hang a curtain (if they even have a curtain or rod), repair or glue something, flip a mattress, move furniture, etc. I'd like us to put together a group (men/women/both) that works on a list supplied by the Coordinator at Audubon.

There are approx. 50 residents that will receive nothing for Christmas. A Senior Support group does supply over 20 gifts but they don't or can't supply enough for everyone. I would like us to supply for the others will be acknowledged with a gift & receive something.

They have a wonderful baby grand piano in the lobby. Let's take a group, (choir or other groups) to go sing or just go play music.

Some because of disabilities can't get out to get groceries. Some don't even get out of their room.

I'm supplying you with 2 lists for donations to the shopping cart. One is specifically marked for Audubon but the other can be used in a multitude of ways. It's a list of items to make a 'Love Box'. The items are shelf stable and can be given to families in need.

Please, let's get our heads together and support our neighbors in need. To think of no visitors, no family to come, nothing to make their days special or important, breaks my heart. We can do better for them!!

Please print off this list and pick up items as you can or maybe they're in your cupboard. Let's get started!!!

Paper Towels
Dryer Sheets
Laundry Soap
TP Paper
Dish Soap
Pump hand Soap
Tissues
Denture Cream/Polident
Denture Cleaner/Polident
Liquid Body Soap
Shampoo
Deodorant for men & women
Female Panty Liners
Adult Diapers
Adult Bed pads
Baby Wipes
Batteries AA - AAA
Dog & Cat food, treats, etc.



***** Items below do not have to be new *****

Long handled brooms & dust pans
Dusters for High places & Regulars also
Canes
Reading glasses 1.50-2.75
Umbrellas
Night Lights
Light Bulbs
Flashlights
Small Starter Plants
Note Cards
Greeting Cards (birthday, anniversary, sympathy, etc.)
Paperback books
Magazines
Games; Checkers, Cards, Spades, etc. (*no puzzles*)
NO CANDY PLEASE



Happy Holidays



DECEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <i>Bible Study, 10:30a Mid-week teens, 6:30pm</i>	2	3
4 <i>Bible hour, 8am Worship, 9am Decorating, lunch, voter's meeting</i>	5	6	7	8 <i>Bible Study, 10:30a Mid-week teens, 6:30pm</i>	9	10 Birthday Party for Jesus, 9am 
11 <i>Bible hour, 8am Worship, 9am</i>	12	13	14 <i>Meal @ 5:30p Advent service, 7pm @ SOP Choir Rehearsal</i>	15 <i>Bible Study, 10:30a Mid-week teens, 6:30pm</i>	16 Youth Party, 6pm	17
18 <i>Bible hour, 8am Worship, 9am Caroling @ Audubon Pt., 2pm</i>	19	20	21 <i>Meal @ 6pm Advent service, 7pm @ Trinity Choir Rehearsal</i>	22 <i>Bible Study, 10:30a Mid-week teens, 6:30pm</i>	23	24 Christmas Eve Service, 7pm, @ Trinity 
25 <i>Bible hour, 8am Worship, 9am</i> 	26	27	28	29 <i>Bible Study, 10:30a Mid-week teens, 6:30pm</i>	30	31

- ◆ Sundays, Bible Hour 8am
- ◆ Sundays, Worship 9am
- ◆ Wednesdays, Advent meals 5:30pm SOP/6pm Trinity
- ◆ Wednesdays, Advent Service 7pm
- ◆ Wednesdays, Choir Rehearsal after service
- ◆ Thursdays, Bible Study 10:30am
- ◆ Thursdays, Mid-week teens, 6:30pm
- ◆ Sunday, December 4th, decorating church, lunch, voter's meeting
- ◆ Saturday, December 10th, Birthday Party for Jesus, 9am
- ◆ Friday, December 16th, Youth Party @ Ms. Dani's, 6pm
- ◆ Sunday, December 18th, Cantata & Childrens Program
- ◆ Sunday, December 18th, Caroling @ Audubon Pt, 2pm
- ◆ Saturday, December 24th, Christmas Eve Service, 7pm @ Trinity

- 12-2 Connor Smith (B, 11)
- 12-5 Morgan McDonald (B, 13)
- 12-6 Will Creasman (B)
- 12-8 Alec Bishop (B)
- 12-9 Jim & Carolyn Drane (A, 10)
- 12-12 Karen Johnston (B)
- 12-14 Elaina Flakoll (B, 9)
Pat Wheat (B)
- 12-15 Mark Filter (B)
- 12-21 Duanne Markman (B)
- 12-22 Mark & Jeanie Filter (A)
- 12-24 Christmas Eve
- 12-25 McKayla Tyndall (B, 12)
Christmas Day
- 12-28 Jim Drane (B)
Marc & Cookie Higgins (A, 20)
Kay Murray, (B)
- 12-31 Janet Elwood (B)
New Years Eve