



THE STAFF

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

January 2015

Pastor's Message

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. (John 1:4-5)

Happy New Year!

The start of every new calendar year (welcome, 2015!) brings with it a sense of “beginning over.” As far back as Babylonian times (1900 years before the birth of Christ) humans have embraced an annual ritual of re-setting our moral and ethical clocks. Some of us take the time to write out long lists of “New Year’s Resolutions,” others think of 3 or 4, while some of us choose one thing that we’d like to work on throughout the year. Certainly, any time that we take to stop, look at our selves and our lives and re-evaluate is good! The opening of the Gospel of John reminds us of another kind of beginning – a cosmic one, if you will – in which we are told that before everything that exists in the world, before all history recorded and unrecorded, before everything we could know and discover, there is God, and God’s Word, whom we know and believe was incarnated as Jesus of Nazareth. Our ancestors knew this when they wrote stories of creation (there are two in Genesis) – nothing came into being without God, and all that was good was caused by God. The next time you see a sunset, or winter berries on a bush, or deer walking through the woods, or the smile of a baby, pause for a moment and give thanks to God for creating such beauty. It’s all God.

John goes on to describe the Word as a light which “shines in the darkness” – a proclamation of the power of God’s goodness to overcome even

the most frightening, depressing or overwhelming reality. No matter what, God’s light shines on, shines in our lives, shines through the cracks in the doorways and into the shuttered parts of our lives on which we’d rather not dwell – and this light comes, not to shame us or remind us of things about which we’d rather not think, but to show us that God’s presence turns even the most awful of experiences into an awe-some opportunity to rejoice and give thanks.

I believe this, and I admit that I am also quite impatient about it. During the long, dark winter months, when depression shows its ugly face, it’s easy for me to lose sight of the light. I want to feel happy now - I don’t want to have to wait for the days to get longer and the grass to get greener! And yet, if I stop for a moment and reflect back on years past, I realize that every winter has had wondrous moments of giftedness: gatherings with family, births of children, beautiful snowfalls, reunions with old friends, the care and presence of those I love and who love me - as dark as it gets, it *always* gets lighter! Whether that happens because of the actions of others or the coming of spring, I can count on God’s presence and goodness to overcome whatever sorrow or fear or anxiety I have.

That’s the thing I find so powerful about these verses from the Gospel of John. Not only are we reminded that God, that Jesus, are at the beginning of all things, not only are we given the word that God’s light shines on all things, but we are also told that the darkness did not, can not, will not EVER overcome it. No matter what, God’s light will lift us up and carry us into

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Church Events

- 1/15 **Book Club** 7:00pm
- 1/22 **Council Meeting** 7:00pm
- 1/25 **Confirmation** 12:30pm

**LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**
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Council Members
1/1/15—12/31/15

President	Lisa Ball-Goodrich
Vice-President	Linda Kapitan
Treasurer	John Downs
Secretary	Brenda Samal
Christian Education	Emma Barnes
Evangelism/ Publicity	Deb Meydag
Fellowship	Lisa Martinell
Financial Secretary	Barbara Kuslan
Stewardship/ Missions	Sue Hartley
Property	James Learned
Worship	Ken Watson



Pastor
Daphne *Knoob Family*
John W. *Anna*

Stacy *Holly* *Jessika* *Mary Lou*

Lou *Elfriede* *Sue* *Victoria*

Joy *Marianne* *CindyLu* *Pam*

Harold *Arnold* *Catherine* *Mike*

Rex *Gertrude* *Howard* *Barbara*

Barnes family *Wakefield family* *Amanda* *John*

Kathy D.

Members of Good Shepherd who are homebound
Family and friends whom we name in our hearts

Military personnel

Pray for the mission of the church

PLEASE TAKE A POINSETTIA HOME WITH YOU!

The beautiful poinsettias that Emma and Paul Barnes placed throughout the church will be removed on January 11. Please take one home with you and enjoy its winter finery. If you want to know how to keep it happy and growing throughout the year, talk to Elfriede Fleishmann who has a green thumb!



Pastor's Message [continued from page 1]

places of joy. Every time. Always. And most often, in ways we simply cannot imagine. (Think back –is there something good in your life right now that you couldn't imagine this time last year, or the year before, or the year before that?)

It is indeed a gift to be able to use the beginning of a calendar year to re-commit ourselves to living out our faith in ways that make a difference in our own lives and the lives of others. It's also a great time to simply pause and give thanks – for God's being in the world, for God's light which shines on like a beacon through the fog, and for the fact that there is no darkness – anywhere– that God cannot break through with new life, new promise, new light.

Thanks be to God!

Pastor Daphne †

**THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!**

Thank you so much for your very generous Christmas gift! Wow! Thanks too to all who brought food, volunteered to take care of my animals, and looked in on me as I have recovered from surgery. Serving as your pastor is one of the greatest blessings in my life; your gifts to me are icing on the cake!

Gratefully,
Pastor Daphne



JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

Anniversaries

- 7-Byron & Miranda Dinkla 37 years
- 9-Robert & Susan Landino 34 years
- 18-Richard & Holly Rosa 29 years

Birthdays

- 4-Starr O'Connor
- 7-Tracy Costa
- 8-Marie Woronick
- 13-Christopher Costa
- 14-Roman Costa
- 14-Gary Olson
- 14-Emma Ingerson
- 14-Marianne Turner
- 15-Brian Moreland
- 19-Destiny Dinkla
- 20-Ken Watson
- 27-Deb Meydag
- 31-Thomas Samal



Baptisms

- Alpha Podgwaite, John Downs,
- Carl Sharon, David Goodrich, Brenda Samal,
- Christopher Knoob, Michaela Rowold,
- Stacy Barnes

YOUR GENEROSITY IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!

Thank you everyone for your wonderful monetary gift. As I have said before, it is a blessing to be a part of such a spiritual congregation and I am glad to be able to help out in any way possible.

Best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year! *Brenda*

PLEDGES STILL WELCOME

Thanks to all of you who took the time to prayerfully consider giving regularly to the church. Getting into the habit of including Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in your weekly or monthly financial planning is one way to offer thanks to God for all your blessings. If you haven't pledged yet, forms are available on the table in the back of the church. And thank you!

MUSICAL NOTES FOR JANUARY 2015

Merry Christmas, everyone, and Happy New Year! I hope that you all had a very blessed Christmas surrounded by family and friends, and that this new year brings health and happiness. I myself cannot believe that I've made it through my second Christmas season at Good Shepherd! It seems like only yesterday I was arriving for my first Sunday, and here we are almost a year and a half later, still making beautiful music together; time flies when you're having fun!

I'd like to thank the fantastic adult choir for their dedication and work throughout the fall, and ensuring that our Christmas services were filled with joyous music. It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces in the choir pews! I'd also like to thank Pastor Daphne and Elizabeth Ingerson for singing at the 6PM service, and ensuring that we added just a little extra something to make it even more special! A big thank you has to go out to Deb Meydag, who is always ready and eager to play her flute, guitar, drums, cello (the list goes on!) at any service; she really adds something special to our sound. Finally, thank you to each and every member of this wonderful congregation. You are all far too kind in your words, and in your Christmas gifts! I truly appreciate all of the kind sentiments from you all, and I hope you know that it's those sentiments that carry me through the week. Thank you all.



PASTOR'S HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE
FESTIVE & FUN!

As we move into the new year, and soon Lent, I encourage anyone who is interested in assisting with our music program to please do so. Whether it's singing in the choir, playing an instrument, or anything else that you think might add a little something special, please feel free to talk to me about some opportunities. As most of you can see, our choir has shrunk in numbers for several reasons. And, there isn't even a choir on some Sundays. While our physical numbers have decreased, our spirits and love for the Lord and music have only increased. I encourage you to take part in our soaring spirits, and help make a joyful noise unto the Lord. If there's anything I can do to enhance your worship experience, please let me know. It is always my pleasure to serve you.

Again, many thanks and blessings for your contented kindness and gratitude. Here's to a very Merry Christmas, and a very Blessed New Year.

Peace...

Tyler

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

DATE	ACOLYTE	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	READER	USHERS	ALTAR GUILD
1/4/15	Jonathan Goodrich	Mary Lou Knoob	Barbara Kuslan	Goodrich family	Starr O'Connor
1/11	Anthony Papa	Linda Kapitan	Lisa Ball-Goodrich	Lisa Martinell John Downs	Chuddy Watson
1/18	Elizabeth Ingerson	John Downs	Ken Watson	Papa family	Deb Meydag
1/25	Christopher Olson	Paul O'Braonain	Deb Meydag	James Learned Sue Hartley	Liane Moreland
2/1	Elizabeth Ingerson	Linda Kapitan	Linda Kapitan	Goodrich family	Starr O'Connor

*If you cannot serve on your appointed day, please find a substitute, and make the change on the master schedule.
Thank you for your service!*

Return to Setting 6 (the jazzy one!) during the Season of Epiphany

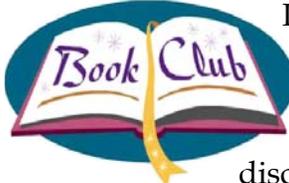
Last year we learned several new worship settings:

- * ELW Setting 6 (the “jazzy” one),
- * LBW setting 3 (the “mournful” one), and
- * Now the Feast and Celebration (the one with the pre-printed bulletins).

Now that we know them, we will be using them throughout the year during the seasons Pastor Daphne and Tyler think are appropriate. So get ready to move and groove during the Epiphany Season (Jan 11 – Ash Wednesday) as we return to setting 6!

**Voters’
Annual Meeting**

February 2015
Following worship
A light luncheon will be served



Reading a book is so much more fun when you have a chance to meet with others and discuss it!

FINANCIAL FORECAST

Receipts thru November	\$6,460.71
Expenses thru November	\$7,004.57
DEFICIT	(\$543.86)

Our first meeting will be on Thursday, January 15th at 7:00 at the parsonage (please enter through the porch door). We will set other meeting dates and pick our first book. Snacks will be provided - come and bring a friend!

Lisa Martinell
Fellowship



In Memory / Honor Of

Ken & Chuddy Watson	Loved Ones
Tom, Brenda, Alicia Samal	Jennifer Samal
Sue Hartley	Loved Ones
Jim Learned	William & Dorothy Learned
Christine Edgar	Edward Budycko
John Downs	Warren & Minnie Downs
Joy Downs	Edna & Leroy Anderson
Dorothy Podgwaite	Podgwaite Family
Ruth Podgwaite	To the Glory of God

THANK YOU

Paul and Emma Barnes for the poinsettias Starr O'Connor for taking care of Punky, Pastor Daphne's cat Justin Barnes, Jim Learned and Lisa Martinell for walking Idgie, Pastor Daphne's dog outgoing council members Dorothy Podgwaite and Susan Landino for doing such a great job during the year Ruth Podgwaite for writing thank you notes for special gifts to the church Chuddy Watson for baking communion bread everyone who calls and checks up on those who are sick and shut-in, and Jeff Peterson for plowing the parking lot (we did have a little snow in December – remember?)

As called Christians responding to the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18-20), we commit ourselves to nurturing the spiritual growth of our congregation by proclaiming the Gospel, bearing witness to God's saving grace, being stewards of the earth, and serving others, in our congregation, our community, and in all the world.

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
MISSION STATEMENT**

<u>Worship</u>	
Sunday School	9:30am
Holy Communion	10:30am



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FIRST CLASS MAIL