

Illustration by Tim Donahue

*The Evangelical Lutheran Church
Of the Good Shepherd
501 Fairfield Drive
Greensburg, PA 15601*

December 24, 2015

Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
**A congregation of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

*"We are a caring family of God nourished by the Word, guided by the Holy Spirit to share
the love of Jesus Christ."*

The Rev. Frank S. Podolinski, Jr., Pastor

Pastor's Cell Phone -- 724-858-7816

Pastor's e-mail -- preacherpod@comcast.net

Pastor's Office Hours:

Monday: 9:30 am. – 1:30 pm.

Church Phone -- 724-834-1940

Church's e-mail -- Shepherd501@yahoo.com

Church website – www.goodshepherdgbg.org

Rocking Horse Preschool – www.rockinghorsepreschool.com

Parish Secretary -- Jenny Luffy

Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 9:00 am. to 2:00 pm.

Music Director

Nancy Flinner

Organist

Jean Brunot

Piano & Trumpet

Greg Bittner

We welcome all visitors with us and ask that you sign our guest register. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to consider the Good Shepherd family.

ALL BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Children may come forward for a blessing. During communion, we offer wine and grape juice, if you would like to receive grape juice do not bring a cup, it will be provided by the Worship Assistant.

Our congregation's Stephen Ministry equips gifted lay people to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian Care to individuals in our congregation who are experiencing difficulties in their lives and extends the care that Pastor Frank continues to provide.

If you could benefit from the confidential, one-to-one care and support of a Stephen Minister, please speak to Pastor Frank. Or you may refer to the Stephen Ministry flyers and cards available in the pew racks.

Please take a moment to fill out a yellow RCR card located in the pews. Please place completed cards in the offering plate.

When you see the following symbol "+", please stand.

Service of the Word and Sacrament
December 24, 2015
“The Nativity of Our Lord”
7:30 pm. & 10:00 pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE (Silent Meditation Time)

(7:30)

“PARAPHRASE ON ‘STILE NACHT’”

R. HUGHES

(10:00)

“SILENT NIGHT”

ORGAN & PIANO

+ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,

The maker of heaven and earth, the Word made flesh, the Lord and giver of Life.

Amen.

Let us come into the light of Christ, confessing our need for God’s mercy.

God of peace,

We confess that we are not at peace – with others or with ourselves. We bring to you all that tears us apart: discord in our families, violence in our world, our own conflicted hearts. In your mercy, mend us. Reconnect us to one another and to you. Let peace reign over all the earth, through the Prince of peace, our Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen

In the Word who has come to dwell with us, God has given us grace upon grace: forgiveness that is stronger than our sins, love that can heal every broken heart, Hear this word of God’s pardon and peace: in the name of † Jesus our Savior, you are free from all your sins. Rise, shine, for your light has come.

Amen.

+ GATHERING HYMN

“HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING”

ELW 270

+ APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

+ APOSTOLIC GREETING

Glory to God

Assisting minister
Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s peo - ple on earth.

All
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,
we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;
you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,
in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

ANTHEM (10:00)

“AWAY IN A MANGER”

SENIOR CHOIR

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace

for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 96 (Read Responsively)

¹Sing to the LORD | a new song;
sing to the LORD, | all the earth.

²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name | of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.**

³Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations
and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.

⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised,
more to be feared | than all gods. R**

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have | made the heavens.

⁶**Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.**

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power.

⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the | holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the LORD. R**

⁹Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, | all the earth.

¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: “The | LORD is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peo- |
ples with equity.”**

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the | earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that | is therein.

¹²Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD,

for you come to judge the earth.

¹³You will judge the world with righteousness

and the peoples with your truth. **R**

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

+GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

“GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN”

ELW 290 vs. 1

The holy gospel according to St. _____, the _____ chapter.



¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

[¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]



SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR”

ELW 282

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Or, "who proceeds from the Father." The phrase "and the Son" is a later addition to the creed.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing with all the faithful, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Let us pray for the church throughout the world; for those who proclaim the gospel; for teachers of the faith; for poets, artists, and musicians; and for all the baptized. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the earth, your beloved creation and our fragile home; for rivers and woods, mountains and valleys; for marshes and oceans, towns and cities; for shepherds, ranchers, and all who care for animals. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For those who govern and for all in authority; for those who work to bring lasting peace to the land of Jesus' birth; and for all who protect the lives of children. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For innkeepers and travelers; for those whose needs for food or shelter depend upon the generosity of others; for those struggling with addiction; for those who suffer neglect, and for all who are sick (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For this assembly; for those celebrating their first Christmas; for those whose joy is diminished by loneliness or loss; for those absent from us; and for those who are far from home. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With thanksgiving, we remember all who have died (*especially*) and those whose lives have inspired us to deeper faith, more passionate service, and stronger love. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Pondering the mystery of your love, we offer our prayers in the name of Christ, the Word made flesh.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (7:30)

“AWAY IN A MANGER”

NANCY FLINNER

ANTHEM (10:00)

“ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH”

SENIOR CHOIR

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

+ OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Good and loving God,
C we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessings for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san - na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,

the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

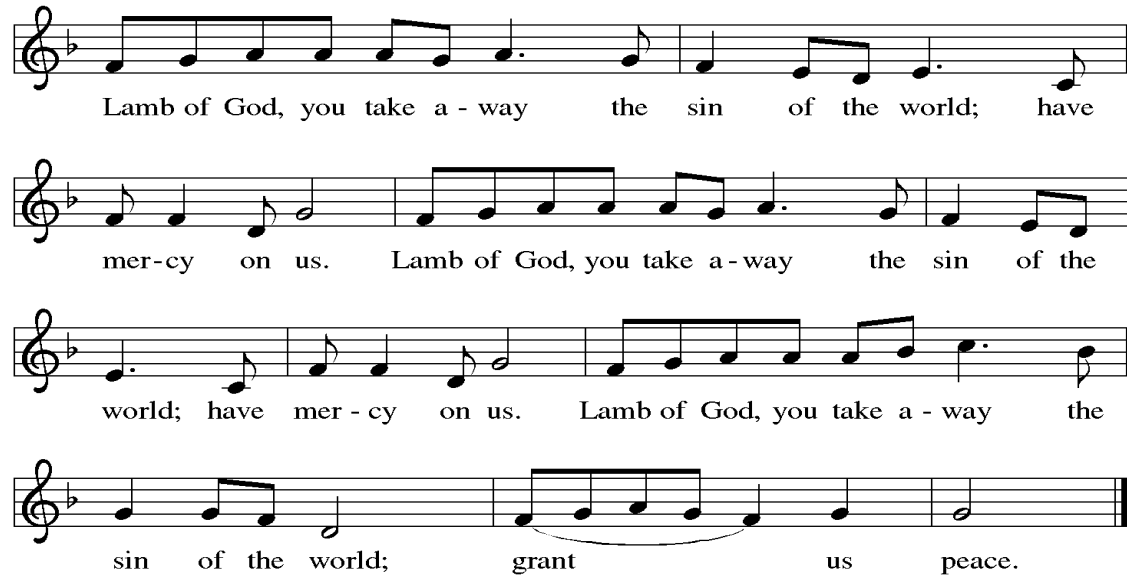
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The mystery hidden for the ages is revealed for us in this meal. Come, behold and receive your God.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

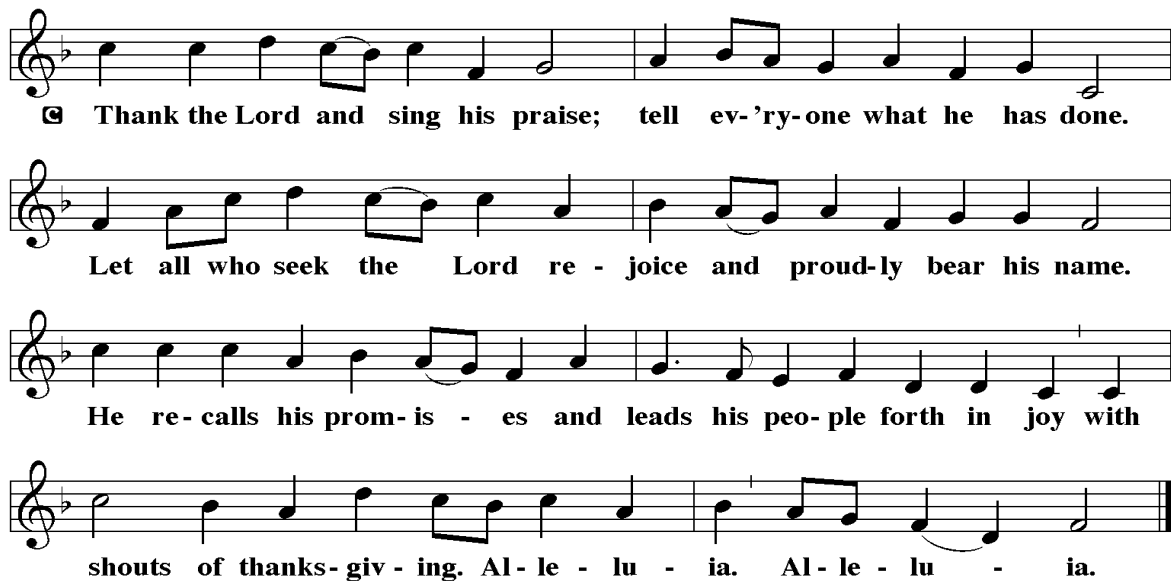
During the distribution the congregation and choir shall join in singing *Lamb of God*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Please continue singing during distribution of communion the following hymns: ELW 279, 274, 276, 277, 271.

+ POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.
Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.
He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

+ POST COMMUNION PRAYER

O God, whose grace and truth are revealed in the Word-made-flesh, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick/homebound/imprisoned. Nourish and strengthen those who receive this Holy Communion, that through the body and blood of your Son all may rejoice at his birth and in his presence among us now and forever.
Amen.

THE CANDLE LIGHTING

(When lighting your candle, hold it to your neighbor's flame. Only unlit candles should be tilted. Lit candles should remain upright. Please assist children as needed.)

HYMN

“SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT”

ELW 281

(Candles remain lit for the benediction)

+ BENEDICTION

(Please extinguish candles by blowing gently. Thank you.)

May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.

Amen.

May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength.

Amen.

May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.

Amen.

And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the +Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN **“ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY”**

ELW 275

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“BREAK FORTH INTO JOY”

J.S. BACH

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ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the honor and glory of God by Joy & Michael Stynchula in gratitude & thanksgiving for God's blessings in our lives.

LIVING GIFTS have been designated by:

Jack & Mina Rutter to the Choir Fund in loving memory of Dick Hall.

Barbara Henderson to the Choir Fund in loving memory of her in-laws, Kathryn and Whitey Henderson and their son, Elliott

Barbara Henderson and family to the Choir Fund in loving memory of husband, Ralph and son. Alan, Barbara's parents, Catherine & Rex Myers, sister, Janet Ponchione and brother, Rex.

Barbara Henderson to the Choir Fund in honor of daughter, Jodi Schneider, husband, Tom and granddaughter Aidan and Ryan (Henderson) Ilich and his wife, Shelby and their daughter Lorelai.

Gus & Linda Dunheimer to the Choir Fund in loving memory of son, Daniel Paul Dunheimer.

Don and Jean Turnbull to the Choir Fund in loving memory of son, J.D.

SERVING TODAY:	7:30	10:00
Worship Assistant	Zach Meyers	Jim Stewart
Lector	Todd Meyers	Debbie Sullenberger
Acolyte	Thomas Meyers	Open
Crucifer	Alex Ryan	Open
Torchbearers	Open	Open
Greeters	Bill & Janet Ambrose	Roger & Lindsey Sullenberger
Ushers		Jennifer & Scott Connor
Altar Guild	Podolinski/Ambrose	Ambrose/Open

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be considerate to those around you and observe silence during the prelude and service. This time is designed for personal meditation.

2016 OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP IN THE COMMONS AREA. ENVELOPES ARE IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER.

ALTAR FLOWERS/LIVING GIFTS - A new sign-up sheet has been posted in the hall. Please sign up for those dates that may have special meaning to you.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on January 17th following the 10:30 service in the sanctuary.

Poinsettias may be picked up after the 10:00 pm. service tonight.

The church office will be closed Monday, December 28th and Thursday, December 31st.

Attention Ladies: Please join us at our annual Epiphany Tea on January 10th at 2:00 pm. at Eleanor Besser's home. Bring your favorite tea cup and a tea savory to share. Sign up in the commons area.

The Fellowship Committee is hosting the 3rd Annual Good Shepherd Art Show January 23-24. It is time to think about showing your creativity or the creativity of a relative (Parent, child, grandchild...). If your child does a piece of art in school, save it! If you took a photograph you're thinking of framing, frame it! If you have a project half done, finish it! If you have a home-made Christmas decoration, don't pack it away! You have talent and we want to show it. Last year we had nine youth and twenty adults show a total of 88 items. We would like to see all these numbers increase for our upcoming show. Painting, sketches, etchings, woodwork, sculpture, quilting, stitchery, charcoal, crayon, photography, carving Any media from oil paint to crayon or pencil, clay sculpture to Play-do, wood construction to Lego... If you have any questions see or call Jack Gesalman 724-837-7556. Registration papers, asking for number of pieces, title of work and medium will be available in January.

Important Dates

December 26	Lessons & Carols 5:30 pm.
December 27	Lessons & Carols – 10:30 service
January 10	Epiphany Tea – Eleanor Besser's home
January 10	Senior Youth Game Night 6:00 pm.
January 17	Annual Meeting following 10:30 Service
	Books, Games & Scriptures following Meeting
January 17	K – 5 Youth Group
January 23	Art Show 6:30 pm.
January 24	Art Show between services



Poinsettias 2015

CALENDAR FOR WEEK OF December 24, 2015 – January 3, 2016

Thursday	4:30 pm.	Christmas Eve Service
	7:30 pm.	Christmas Eve Service
	10:00 pm.	Christmas Eve Service
Friday		Merry Christmas
Saturday	5:30 pm.	Lessons & Carols
Sunday	9:30 am.	NO Sunday School
	10:30 am.	Lessons & Carols
Monday		Office Closed
Tuesday		Youth Grades 6 -12 Pizza & A Movie
Wednesday	10:00 am. – 3:00 pm.	Bridge Club
Thursday		Office Closed
Friday		Happy New Year
Saturday	5:30 pm.	Holy Communion
Sunday	8:30 am.	Holy Communion
	9:30 am.	Camp Genesis
	9:30 am.	Fellowship Coffee
	9:30 am.	Fellowship Meeting
	10:30 am.	Holy Communion
	11:45 am.	8 th Grade Confirmation
	12:45 pm.	6 th grade Pre-confirmation
	5:30 pm.	Troop 416 Patrol
	6:00 pm.	Pack 416
	6:30 pm.	7 th Grade Confirmation
	7:00 pm.	Troop 416 Committee

Council Openings

There are SIX (6) openings on council this year: (4) Three year terms, (1) Two year term and (1) One year term. Candidates must be communing and contributing members of the congregation. Why not take a more active role in the congregation. These are very important positions to fill. Council members are no longer required to count offering unless they choose to. The requirements include attending a monthly meeting and acting as a liaison to a committee. If you are interested in running, please contact Pastor Frank, a current council member or the church office.

In Honor of

Donna Sheridan	Grandchildren
Bonnie Altman	Fran Ober
Bill & Janet Ambrose	Family, Jenny, Chuck, Brady & Jamie
Don & Carole Bridges	Son, Derek
Jennifer & Scott Connor	God's grace
Frank, Alice, Jacob, Abigail & Ben Podolinski	Margaret Podolinski

In Thanksgiving for

Barb & John Spitznogle	Our Family
Luffy Family	Family
Jack & Mina Rutter	Our Family
Stynchula Family	Gratitude to God
Frank, Alice, Jacob, Abigail & Ben Podolinski	Marvin & Shirley Huls

In Loving Memory of

Karen Gesalman	Brother Joel Thomas Gesalman
Jack and Mina Rutter	Loved Ones, Paige & Parents
Bill and Janet Ambrose	Son, Jim & Parents
Bonnie Altman	Husband, Gerry
Terry & Pat Gatons & family	Kevin Gatons
Eleanor Besser	Nicholas Besser
Ted Johnson	Wife, June Johnson
Jim & Carol Stewart	Kathy Gorman & Sam Fredo
Luffy Family	Grandparents & Jim
Territ & King Family	Andrew Pezzoni & Robert Territ
The Adams	TJ. Adams, Stuart Phelps, Dorothy Gault
Fran Robb	Ray Robb
Ryan Family	Dan "Pop" Musiak
Stynchula Family	Our Parents
Ed & Judy Monchak	All our departed Loved Ones
The Harbaughs	Parents, Harry & Nancy Harbaugh & Francis Cramer
Carole & Don Bridges	Parents, Don & Bunny Bridges and Woody & Ruby Harman
Eleanor Elliott	William R. Elliott
Rich & Tammy Welsh	David Welsh & Patty Mellor
Terry, Karen & Tristyn Mays	Stacey Mays