

CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2014



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

December 14, 2014

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

Pianist

Helen Bell

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
December 14, 2014
Third Sunday of Advent
10:30 am.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE (Silent Meditation Time)

“CANTIQUE DE NOEL”

ORGAN & PIANO

+ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
Who shapes the whole creation, who comes with might and mercy, who fills the hungry with good things.

Amen.

Let us approach the throne of grace with repentant hearts.

Faithful God,

We confess that we have been unfaithful to you. Like dry leaves and withered grass, our lives are blown about by our sins and the powers of evil around us. Restore us, O God; let the light of your face shine on us, and we shall be saved.

Amen

God is patient, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. In the name of + Jesus Christ, I bring you this good news: You are free from all that imprisons you; your sins are forgiven; God heals your broken heart. Live in peace and harmony as you wait for the day of God.

Amen.

+ GATHERING HYMN

“AWAKE! AWAKE AND GREET THE NEW MORN”

ELW 242

+ 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.

+ LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

(THE VERSE WILL BE SUNG BEFORE THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE AND THEN AGAIN AFTER THE ADVENT PRAYER)

“O COME, O COME EMMANUEL”

ELW 257 VERSE 3

We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord’s coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

Amen.

ANTHEM

“CHRISTMAS CAROL FANTASY”

SENIOR CHOIR

HYMN

“O LORD, HOW SHALL I MEET YOU?”

ELW 241

ANTHEM

“THE HURON CAROL”

SENIOR CHOIR

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,

because the LORD has anointed me;

he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,

to bind up the brokenhearted,

to proclaim liberty to the captives,

and release to the prisoners;

²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,

and the day of vengeance of our God;

to comfort all who mourn;

³to provide for those who mourn in Zion —

to give them a garland instead of ashes,

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

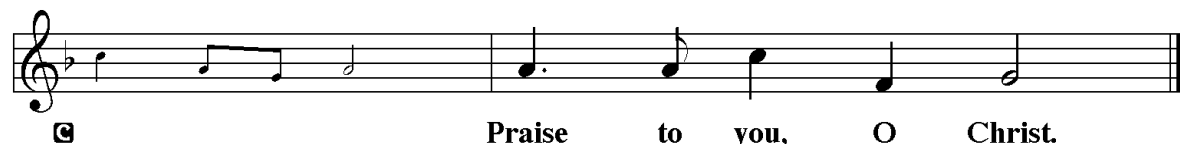
²³He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

'Make straight the way of the Lord,'"

as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.



HYMN "THE KING SHALL COME" ELW 260

ANTHEM MEN'S SR. CHOIR
"ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT, ALL CHRISTIANS SING"

HYMN "AWAY IN A MANGER" ELW 278

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ORGAN & PIANO
"BRING A TORCH, JEANNETTE, ISABELLA"



+ OFFERTORY PRAYER

A God of abundance,
C we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

ANTHEM "WHAT CHILD IS THIS" SENIOR CHOIR

HYMN "GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE" ELW 288

ANTHEM "JOY TO THE WORLD" SENIOR CHOIR

HYMN "ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH" ELW 289

ANTHEM "O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL" SENIOR BELLS

HYMN "SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS COME" ELW 263

CHRISTMAS CHOIR

SOPRANOS	ALTOS	TENORS	BASSES
Alice Podolinski	Helen Bell	Jim Monnich	Mark Gesalman
Linda Dunheimer	Dorothy Stewart	Jim Stewart	Greg Bittner
Karen E. Gesalman	Ellen Monnich		Derek McMahan
Janet Ambrose	Lillian Shea		Fritz Demi
Debbie Sullenberger			

SENIOR BELLS

Alice Podolinski	Tami Stewart	Kathy Wolfe
Shelley Cottrill	Barbara Tychinski	Brian Tychinski
Bill Stewart	Andrew King	Rachel King

Christmas Eve Services

4:00 pm., 7:30 pm., 10:00 pm. Holy Communion & Candlelight
Volunteers are needed for Christmas Eve services. Please pitch in where you can.

December 28 – Lessons & Carols - 10:30 Service Only

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the honor and glory of God by Jane Croushore in loving memory of Robert Croushore, Sr.

LIVING GIFTS have been designated:

By Jane Croushore and son, Robert Croushore, jr. to Meals on Wheels in loving memory of Robert Croushore, Sr.

By Jim & Carol Stewart to the Music Fund in memory of sister, Kathy Gorman.

SERVING TODAY: 10:30

Worship Assistant	Open
Lector	Jim Monnich
Acolyte	Matthew Smith
Crucifer	Jaden Biller
Torchbearers	XXX
Greeters	Harry & Linda Harbaugh
Ushers	Chuck & Brady Luffy
Altar Guild	XXX
Counters	Eleanor Besser & Helen Bell

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

As of December 9th, we have received 95 Estimate of Giving cards and a total commitment of \$141,882.00.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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 sign up sheet to purchase a poinsettia is posted in the commons area. The cost is \$5.00.

The Youth still have coupons books available to purchase. The books are good until March 31, 2015 and are being sold at the discounted price of \$5.00. (Coupons for Subway, Dick's, Rizzo's, The Boulevard, Ground Round, Meadows just to name a few). Books available in the office.

Our annual mitten tree is up. We are collecting mittens, gloves, hats, scarves and even socks for all ages. Our collection will run until December 15th. All items will then be taken to the Salvation Army.

Help is needed at all services during the holiday season. If you know you are attending a service, please consider serving in some way.

The Advent and Christmas seasons are very busy times for Altar Guild and extra help is needed. If you are able to help, contact Mina Rutter (724)832-1285. If you are attending a service and it looks like someone could use a helping hand, that helping hand would be much appreciated.

Important Dates

December 24	Services at 4:00, 7:30 & 10:00 pm
December 28	*Lessons & Carols – 10:30 service
January 4	Epiphany Tea – Donna Sheridan's House
January 18	Annual Meeting following 10:30 service

Giving Report as of December 7th:

Budget	\$199,485.40
Giving	\$173,883.25
Behind	\$25,602.15

CALENDAR FOR WEEK OF December 14 - 21, 2014

Today is "Meals on Wheels Cookie" Sunday

Sunday	9:30 am.	Sunday School
	9:30 am.	Fellowship Coffee
	10:30 am.	Holy Communion
	6:30 pm.	Grades 6 – 12 Youth Christmas Party
	7:00 pm.	Bell Practice
Monday	6:30 pm.	Webelos II
	7:00 pm.	Council Meeting
Tuesday	9:00 am. – 12:00 pm.	Brunot in Sanctuary
	10:00 am. – 1:30 pm.	Chat-n-Sew
	3:00 pm.	Kindermusik
Wednesday	9:30 am.	Kindermusik
	6:45 pm.	Troop 416
Thursday	6:45 pm.	Pack 416
	7:30 pm.	Senior Choir
Friday	10:00 pm. – 3:00 pm.	Bridge Club
Saturday	11:00 am.	Racculia
	5:30 pm.	Holy Communion
Sunday	8:30 am.	Holy Communion
	9:30 am.	Sunday School
	9:30 am.	Fellowship Coffee
	10:30 am.	Holy Communion
	2:00 pm.	K – 5 Youth Group
	5:30 pm.	Pre-Confirmation
	6:30 pm.	7 th & 8 th Confirmation
	7:00 pm.	Bell Practice

Last night we welcomed into the Good Shepherd Family:

The Askey Family
John, Brandi, Kayden & Caleb

The DeMatt Family
Amy, Michael, Owen & Allison