



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

*December 21, 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](mailto: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](mailto:Shepherd501@yahoo.com)

Church website – [www.goodshepherdgbg.org](http://www.goodshepherdgbg.org)

Rocking Horse Preschool – [www.rockinghorsepreschool.com](http://www.rockinghorsepreschool.com)

Parish Secretary -- Jenny Luffy

Office Hours:

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

Music Director  
Organist

Nancy Flinner  
Jean Brunot

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 21, 2014  
Fourth Sunday of Advent  
8:30 & 10:30 am.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE (Silent Meditation Time)**

***“OF THE FATHER’S LOVE BEGOTTEN”***

**W. HELD**

**+ 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**

***“WAKE, AWAKE, FOR NIGHT IS FLYING”***

**ELW 436**

**+ 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 FOURTH 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 4**

We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word made flesh. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

**Amen.**

**+ KYRIE**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup>Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" <sup>8</sup>Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup>and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Luke 1:46b–55

<sup>46b</sup>My soul proclaims the greatness <sup>1</sup>of the Lord,

<sup>47</sup>my spirit rejoices in <sup>1</sup>God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your <sup>1</sup>lowly servant.**

**From this day all generations will <sup>1</sup>call me blessed;**

<sup>49</sup>you, the Almighty, have done great <sup>1</sup>things for me,

and holy <sup>1</sup>is your name.

<sup>50</sup>**You have mercy on <sup>1</sup>those who fear you,**

**from generation to <sup>1</sup>generation. R**

<sup>51</sup>You have shown strength <sup>1</sup>with your arm;

and scattered the proud in <sup>1</sup>their conceit,

<sup>52</sup>**casting down the mighty <sup>1</sup>from their thrones**

**and lifting <sup>1</sup>up the lowly.**

<sup>53</sup>You have filled the hungry <sup>1</sup>with good things,

and sent the rich <sup>1</sup>away empty.

<sup>54</sup>**You have come to the aid of your <sup>1</sup>servant Israel,**

**to remember the prom- <sup>1</sup>ise of mercy,**

<sup>55</sup>the promise made <sup>1</sup>to our forebears,

to Abraham and his chil- <sup>1</sup>dren forever. R

**SECOND READING: Romans 16:25–27**

<sup>25</sup>Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith — <sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

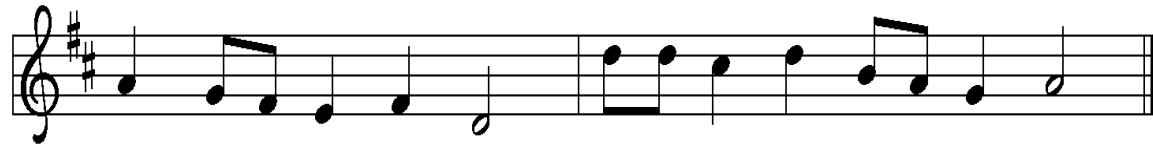
The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

**+GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

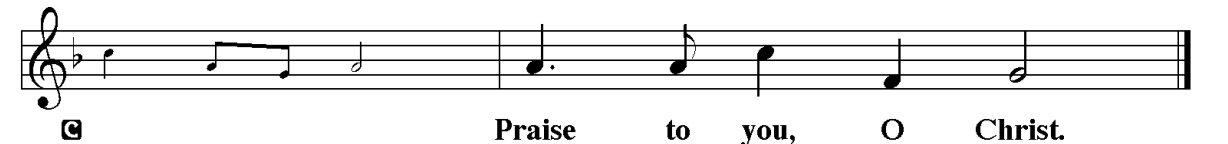
**GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38**

The holy gospel according to St. \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.



Praise to you, O Christ.

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*"MY SOUL PROCLAIMS YOUR GREATNESS"*

**ELW 251**

## 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

With longing and hopeful expectation, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

Fill the church with your Spirit, that it may be a messenger of peace and goodwill. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Anoint the leaders of nations to protect and care for those who are vulnerable, weak, poor, and oppressed. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Fill us with gratitude for sun, moon, and stars as we today mark the shortest day of the year and welcome the light. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Shelter all who are hungry and homeless, strengthen all who are perplexed or afraid, and comfort all who are grieving or ill (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Draw near to all in this assembly who will travel or welcome others this week, who are expecting a child or struggling with infertility, and who face the holidays with eagerness or anxiety. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

With Mary we ponder the mystery of your grace, and give thanks for those who have gone before us in the faith. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, faithful God, as we watch and wait for your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY (8:30)**

**“FOREST GREEN”**

**W. HELD**

**ANTHEM**

**“NOW TELL US GENTLE MARY”**

**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 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.

**+ 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,**

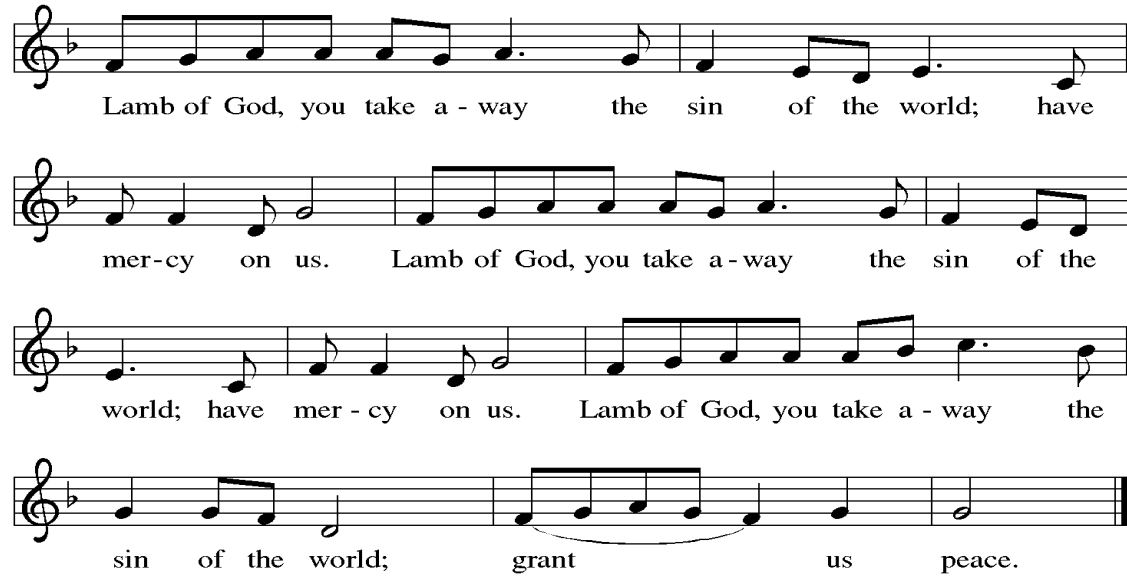
**forever and ever. Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to Christ, who comes to us in this holy supper.

## DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

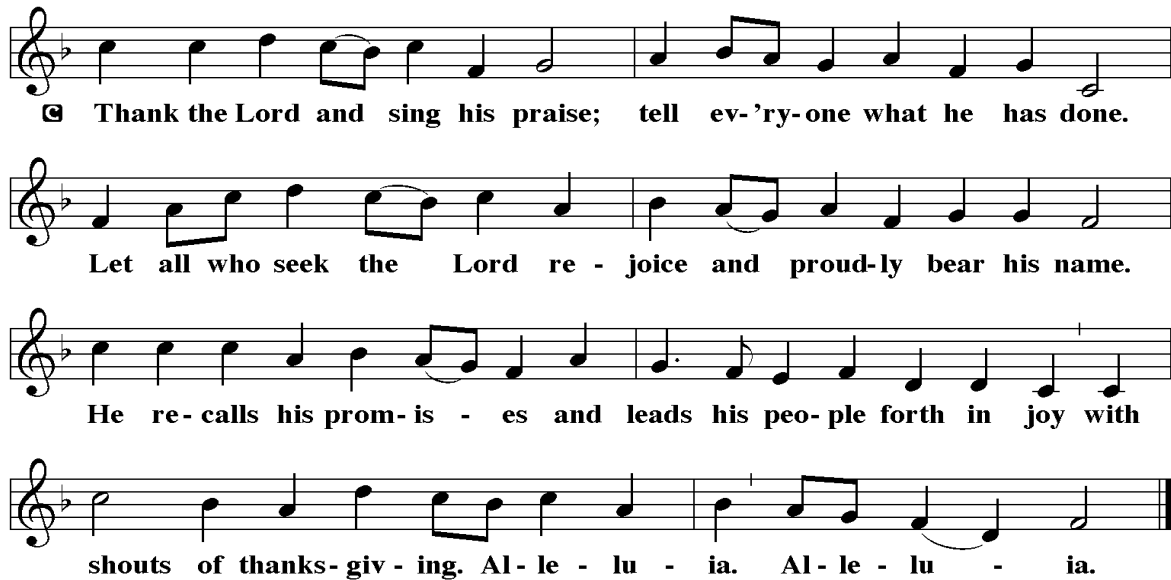
During the distribution the congregation and choir shall join in singing *Lamb of God*



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 253, 265, 272, 311.

## + 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

Lord God, we give you thanks that you have fed us even now with the banquet that is yet to come. Keep us alert for signs of your presence in the world around us. Send us as healing oil and sheltering comfort to those in need, and make us bold in testifying to the light of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## + BENEDICTION

God most high, God with us, God poured out on us, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

SENDING HYMN “*HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING*” ELW 270

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

“*POSTLUDE ON VENI, EMMANUEL*” **R. POWELL**

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**ALTAR FLOWERS** are presented to the honor and glory of God by Don & Dana Park

**LIVING GIFTS** have been designated:

By Nancy and Juli to the Music Department in loving memory of husband and father, Brad Flinner.

By Kathy Wolfe to the Youth Gathering 2015 in loving memory of Eugene “Skip” Crosby.

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<b>SERVING TODAY:</b>	8:30	10:30
Worship Assistant	Open	Jim Stewart
Lector	Morgan Ryan	Joy Stynchula
Acolyte	Taylor Dunn	Tyler Fauth
Crucifer	XXX	Abigail Fox
Torchbearers	XXX	XXX
Greeters	Open	Alice Podolinski
Ushers	Open	Don Bridges & Ken Hill
Altar Guild	Open	Rachel King
Counters		Jack Gesalman & Jenny Luffy

## ***ANNOUNCEMENTS***

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

***2015 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 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.

Thank you for all the donation for the annual mitten tree. All items were 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 14th:

Budget	\$203,550.00
Giving	\$179,312.75
Behind	\$24,237.25

CALENDAR FOR WEEK OF December 21 - 28, 2014

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.	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Pre-Confirmation
	6:30 pm.	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation
Monday	6:30 pm.	Webelos I
Tuesday	9:00 am. – 12:00 pm.	Brunot in Sanctuary
Wednesday	4:00 pm.	Christmas Eve Service
	7:30 pm.	Christmas Eve Service
	10:00 pm.	Christmas Eve Service
Thursday		Merry Christmas
Friday		Wedding Rehearsal
Saturday	3:00 pm.	Wedding
	5:30 pm.	Lessons & Carols
Sunday	9:30 am.	NO Sunday School
	10:30 am.	Lessons & Carols

**STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN**

As of December 14th, we have received 107 Estimate of Giving cards and a total commitment of \$150,022.00.

*Congratulations to Lindsey Patrick on her graduation from IUP  
and rank of Second Lieutenant Army officer.*