



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

January 3, 2016

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

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
January 3, 2016
“Second Sunday of Christmas”
8:30 am. & 10:30 am.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE (Silent Meditation Time)

+ 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

“ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID’S CITY”

ELW 269

+ 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 have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, 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: Jeremiah 31:7-14

⁷Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
“Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel.”

⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

⁹With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.”

¹¹For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,

and they shall never languish again.

¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy,

I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 147:12-20



Wor - ship the LORD, O Je - ru - sa-lem; praise your God, O Zi - on.

¹²Worship the LORD, | O Jerusalem;
praise your | God, O Zion,

¹³**who has strengthened the bars | of your gates
and has blessed your chil- | dren within you.**

¹⁴God has established peace | on your borders
and satisfies you with the | finest wheat.

¹⁵**God sends out a command | to the earth,
a word that runs | very swiftly. R**

¹⁶God gives | snow like wool,
scattering | frost like ashes.

¹⁷**God scatters | hail like bread crumbs.
Who can stand a- | gainst God’s cold?**

¹⁸The LORD sends forth the | word and melts them;
the wind blows, and the | waters flow.

¹⁹**God declares the | word to Jacob,
statutes and judg- | ments to Israel.**

²⁰The LORD has not done so to any | other nation;
they do not know God’s judgments. | Hallelujah! **R**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

+GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: John 1:[1-9] 10-18

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



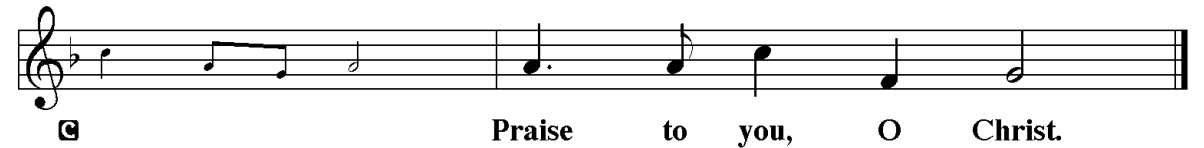
[¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

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. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.]

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'")

¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.



SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

"OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN"

ELW 295

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 bishops, pastors, ministers of word and service, and all other leaders; for teachers and missionaries; for the newly baptized and those preparing for baptism. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For coastlands and mountains, rivers and deserts, prairies and valleys; for wilderness and cities, lakes and oceans; for farmlands and pastures, forests and rangelands; and for orchards, vineyards, and gardens. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For those who live in the north and the south, the east and the west; for all who work for peace; for those whose safety is threatened by warfare; and for immigrants and refugees. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For those who are hungry; for those who live with disabilities; for those who fear what the future holds for them; for those who grieve; and for all who are sick (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For this assembly; for council members and all other leaders; for those who help us learn from our past and plan for the future; and for all whose faithful stewardship sustains this congregation's ministry. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Here other intercessions may be offered. With thanksgiving, we remember all who have died (*especially*) and those who have pointed us toward the light of Christ and the truth of your 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

ANTHEM (10:30)

“THAT BOY CHILD OF 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 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

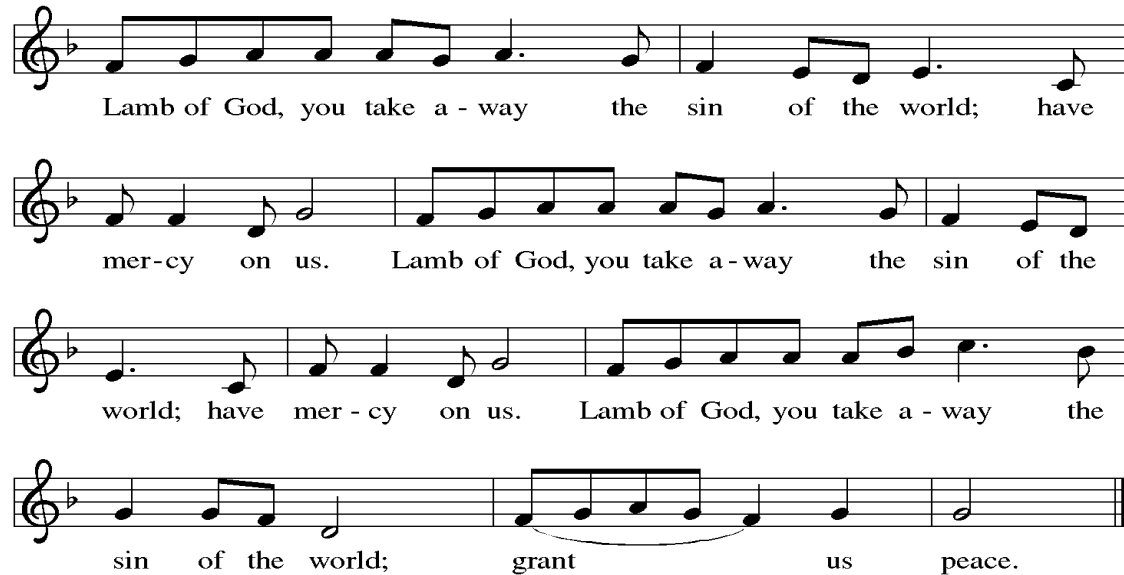
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is 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

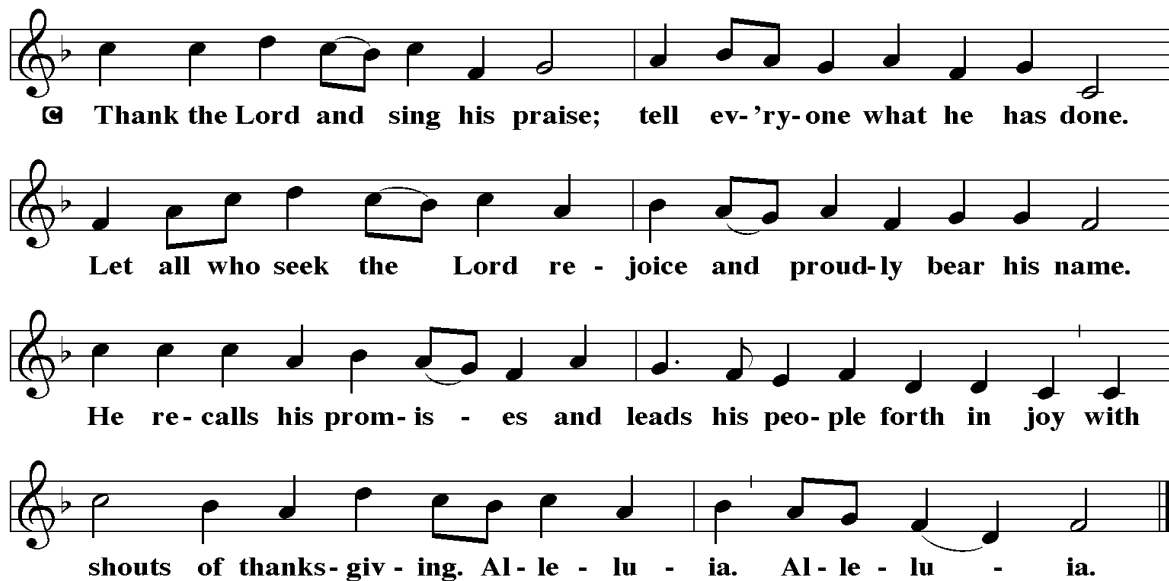
During the distribution the congregation and choir shall join in singing *Lamb of God*



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 490, 487, 876.

+ 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.

+ BENEDICTION

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

“LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVE EXCELLING”

ELW 631

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the honor and glory of God by Debbie Territ in honor of Gertrude Pezzoni's 84th Birthday.

SERVING TODAY:	8:30	10:30
Worship Assistant	Open	Open
Lector	Tammy Welsh	Todd Meyers
Acolyte	David Welsh	Thomas Meyers
Crucifer	Open	Open
Torchbearers	Open	Open
Greeters	Open	Open
Ushers	Open	Roger Sullenberger & George Billig
Altar Guild	Open	Shelley Cottrill

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.

There are still Poinsettias that may be picked up.

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

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

CALENDAR FOR WEEK OF January 3 - 10, 2016

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
Monday	9:00 am.	New Neighbors
	6:15 pm.	Bears
Tuesday	10:00 am. – 2:00 pm.	Chat-n-Sew
	7:00 pm.	Chairperson Meeting
Wednesday	9:30 am.	Kindermusik
	7:00 pm.	Bible Study
	7:00 pm.	Troop 416
Thursday	7:30 pm.	Senior Choir
Friday	10:00 am. – 3:00 pm.	Bridge Club
Saturday	5:30 pm.	Holy Communion
Sunday	8:30 am.	Holy Communion
	9:30 am.	Camp Genesis
	9:30 am.	Fellowship Coffee
	10:30 am.	Holy Communion
	2:00 pm.	Epiphany Tea at Eleanor Besser's House
	6:00 pm.	Senior Youth Group Game Night

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.