

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

January 4, 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

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 4, 2015

“Epiphany of Our Lord”

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

“AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD”

ELW 302

+ 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.

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.**

O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1–6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

²For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

⁵Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.\

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 72:1–7, 10–14 (Read Responsively)

¹Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
and your righteousness to | the king's son;

²**that he may rule your | people righteously
and the | poor with justice;**

³that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
and the | hills, in righteousness.

⁴**Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor. R**

⁵May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
from one generation | to another.

⁶**Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**

⁷In his time may the | righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace
till the moon shall | be no more.

¹⁰**May the kings of Tarshish and of the | isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba | offer gifts. R**

¹¹May all kings bow | down before him,
and all the nations | do him service.

¹²**For the king delivers the poor who cry out | in distress,
the oppressed, and those who | have no helper.**

¹³He has compassion on the low- | ly and poor,
and preserves the lives | of the needy.

¹⁴**From oppression and violence he re- | deems their lives,
and precious is their blood | in his sight. R**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1–12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles —
²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you,
³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words,
⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.
⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ,
⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things;
¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,
¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

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: Matthew 2:1-12

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

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

"O MORNING STAR HOW FAIR AND BRIGHT"

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 in the light of Christ that shines upon us, we pray for the church, the world, and all according to their needs.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, we pray for the church. *(Pause)* Make it one body and send it to proclaim the boundless riches of Christ. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Gracious God, we pray for the creation. *(Pause)* Send rain where it is needed and sun to dry what is too drenched. Feed all living things with your abundance. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Gracious God, we pray for the nations. *(Pause)* Make your wisdom known to rulers and authorities. Defend the needy and rescue the poor. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Gracious God, we pray for those in any need. *(Pause)* Enfold and heal the fearful and brokenhearted, the wounded and sick *(especially)*. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Gracious God, we pray for this assembly. *(Pause)* Open our hearts as we adopt budgets and shape ministries. Rouse us to holy courage and generosity. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Gracious God, we give you thanks for those who have died in faith. *(Pause)* Unite us with them forever, and strengthen us through their witness. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Hear the hopes and prayers of our hearts, O God, and magnify our joy at the birth of your Light among us, Jesus Christ our Savior
Amen.

PEACE

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (8:30)

ANTHEM (10:30)

“SHINE, JESUS, SHINE”

SENIOR CHOIR



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our



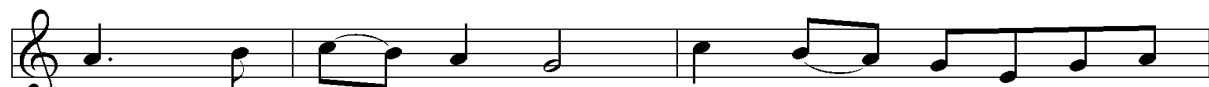
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the



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.

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.

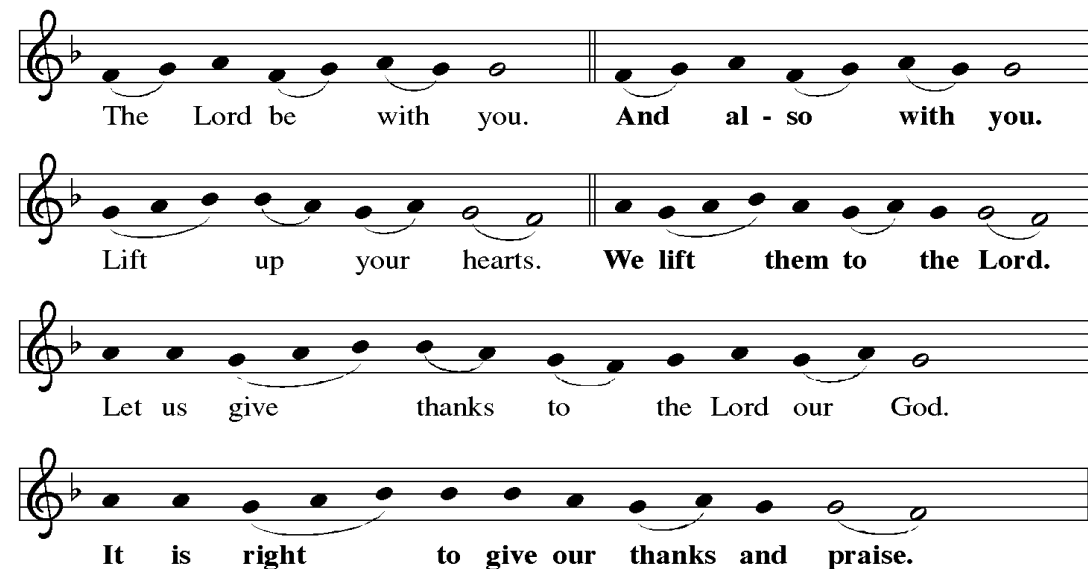
LORD'S PRAYER

**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.

+ GREAT THANKSGIVING



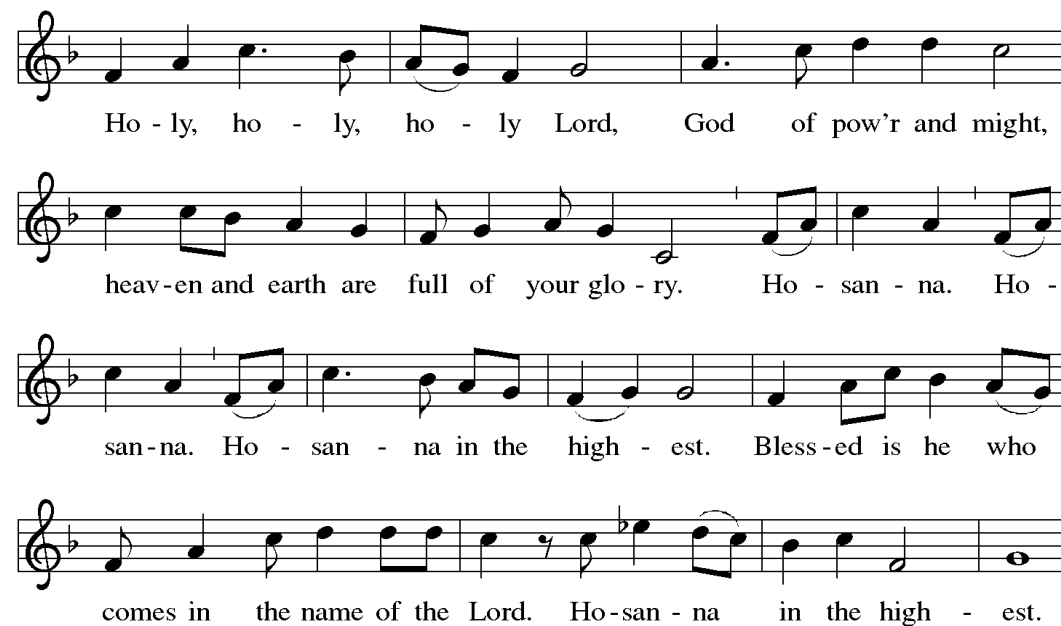
The Lord be with you. **And al - so with you.**

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.

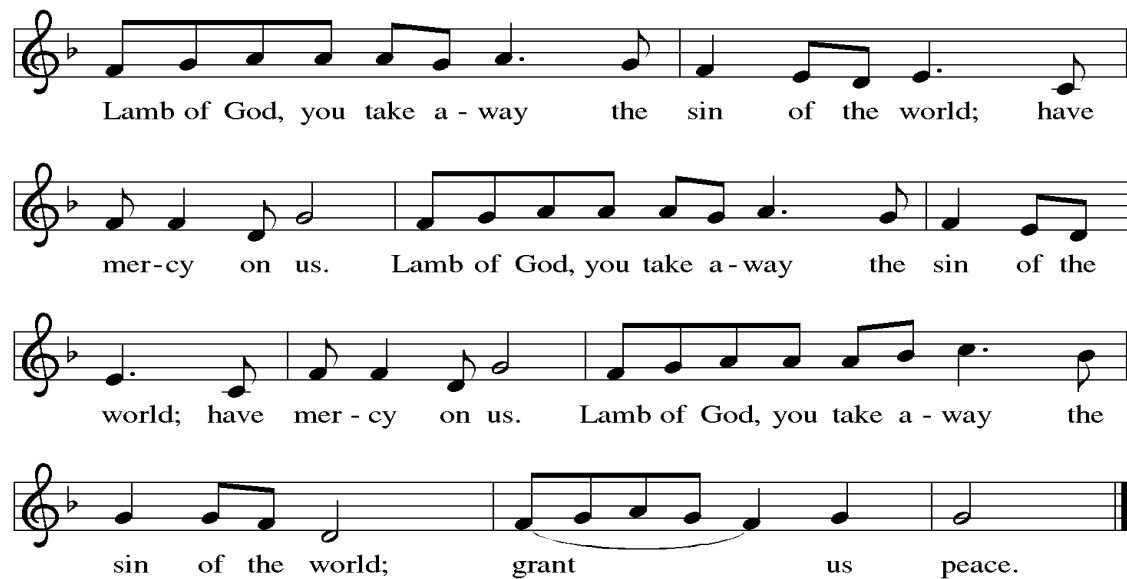
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

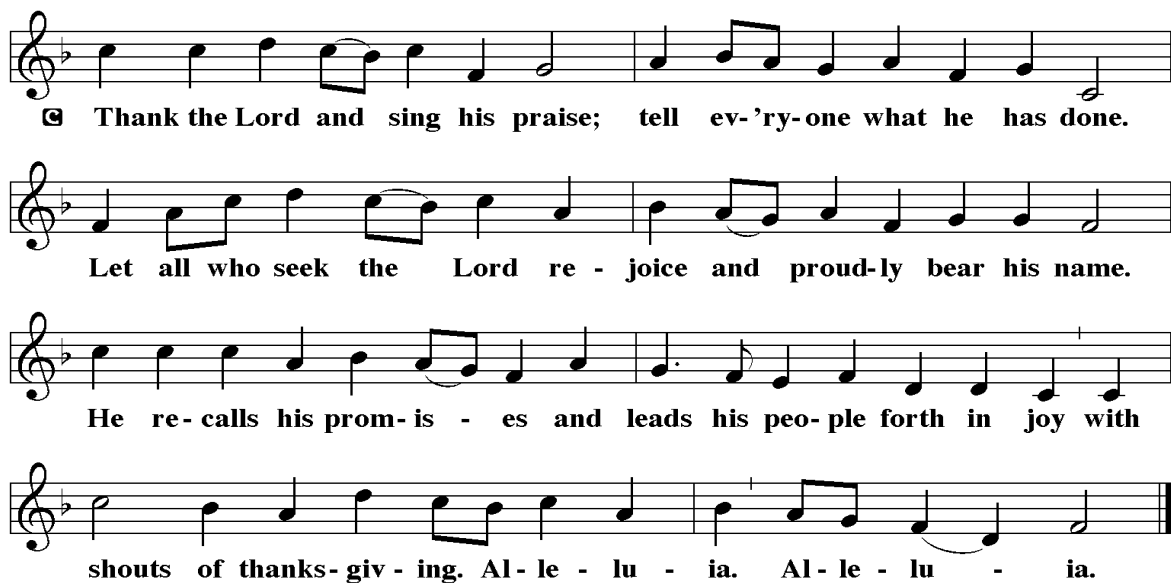
During the distribution the congregation and choir shall join in singing *Lamb of God*



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 306, 300, 301, 286.

+ 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

SENDING HYMN **“BRIGHTEST AND THE BEST OF THE STARS” ELW 303**

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.

LIVING GIFTS have been designated by:

George & Joan Billig to the Youth Group in honor of the birth of Arkham Gregory Neel on December 9th. He is the son of Alexandra (Goehrig) & Travis Neel and the great-grandson of Joan & George Billig.

Wally & Karen Gunter to the Memorial Fund in honor of Eleanor Lipko, mother of Rob Lipko.

SERVING TODAY:	8:30	10:30
Worship Assistant	Open	Open
Lector	Melanie Wood	Andrea Cuda
Acolyte	Maggie Isler	Michael Hook
Crucifer	XXX	Open
Torchbearers	XXX	Open
Greeters	Open	Denny & Carol Clawson
Ushers	Open	Joe Cottrill & Jack Rutter
Altar Guild	Open	Open

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.

THANK YOU to all who donated to the mitten tree. Jack Gesalman took the following items to the Salvation Army (43 Hats, 6 Scarfs, 27 sets of Gloves & Mittens, 10 pairs of socks, 1 pair of booties and 1 Headband).

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.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on January 18th following the 10:30 service in the sanctuary. Annual Reports will be available January 10th. If you have any questions or would like to see any information earlier, please contact the office.

If you have not picked up your Poinsettias and would like to have it, please do so today.

Attention Ladies: Please join us at our annual Epiphany Tea on January 4th at 2:00 pm. at Donna Sheridan's home. Bring your favorite tea cup and a tea savory to share. Sign up in the commons area.

Senior Choir will now rehearse at 9:00 am on Sunday Mornings. There will be no chime or bell rehearsals until February/March.

It is time to dust of those hidden art/craft projects. The second Art Show will be Saturday evening, January 31, 2015. Watch the bulletins for more details.

Important Dates

January 4		Epiphany Tea – Donna Sheridan's House
January 18		Annual Meeting following 10:30 Service
January 31		Art Show

CALENDAR FOR WEEK OF January 4 – 11, 2015

Today is “Food Pantry” Sunday

Sunday	8:30 am.	Holy Communion
	9:00 am.	Senior Choir
	9:30 am.	Fellowship Coffee
	9:30 am.	Sunday School
	10:30 am.	Holy Communion
	2:00 pm.	Epiphany Tea – D. Sheridan’s home
	5:00 pm.	Troop 416 Patrol
	5:30 pm.	6 th Grade Pre-Confirmation
	6:00 pm.	Pack 416
	6:30 pm.	7 th & 8 th Grade Confirmation
	7:00 pm.	Troop 416 Committee
Monday	9:00 am.	New Neighbors
	6:30 pm.	Webelos II
	7:00 pm.	Chairperson Meeting
Tuesday	10:00 am. – 1:30 pm.	Chat-n-Sew
	3:00 pm.	Kindermusik
Wednesday	9:30 am.	Kindermusik
	6:45 pm.	Troop 416
	7:00 pm.	Bible Study
Friday	10:00 am. – 3:00 pm.	Bridge Club
	7:00 pm.	Brownie Sleepover
Saturday	5:30 pm.	Holy Communion
Sunday	8:30 am.	Holy Communion
	9:00 am.	Senior Choir
	9:30 am.	Fellowship Coffee
	9:30 am.	Sunday School
	10:30 am.	Holy Communion
	6:30 pm.	Grades 6 – 12 Youth Group

Council Openings

There are FIVE (5) openings on council this year: (4) Three year terms 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.