



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

November 29, 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.

Tuesday: 11:30 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. - 2:00 pm.

Music Director

Nancy Flinner

Organist

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
November 29, 2015
First Sunday of Advent
8:30 am. & 10:30 am.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“AWAKE, AWAKE TO LOVE AND WORK” W. HELD

+ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free, the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy, the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace. **Amen.**

Let us come before God in confession.

To you, O God,
We lift up our souls. You know us through and through; we confess our sins to you. Remember not our sins; remember us with your steadfast love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Sisters and brothers, come with joy and draw water from the well of salvation. Remember the gift of baptism; your sin is washed away in the name of † Jesus; you belong to Christ you are anointed to serve. Stand up and raise your heads! The reign of God is near. **Amen.**

+ GATHERING HYMN

“COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS” ELW 254

+ 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 FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

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

“LIGHT ONE CANDLE TO WATCH FOR MESSIAH” ELW 240

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

+ KYRIE



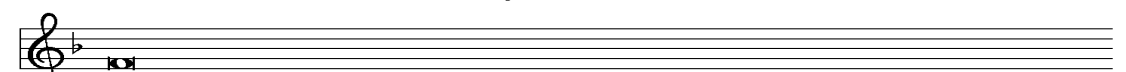
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



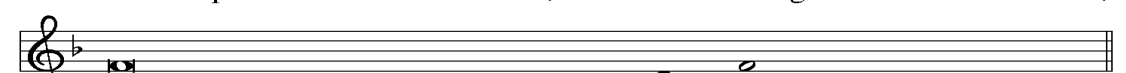
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



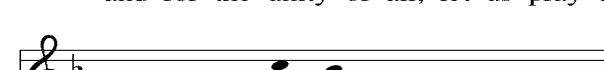
Lord, have mer - cy.



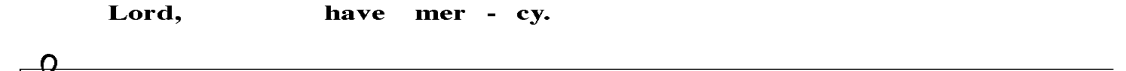
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



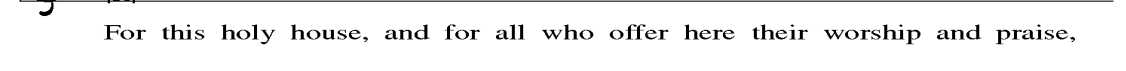
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



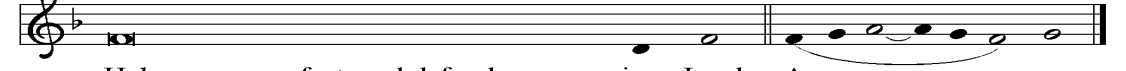
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



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

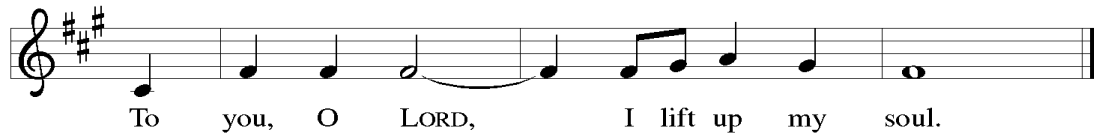
Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: JEREMIAH 33:14-16

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 146



¹To | you, O LORD,
I lift | up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

³Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your | ways, O LORD,
and teach | me your paths. R**

⁵Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting. R**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

⁹You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way.

¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies. R**

SECOND READING: 1 THESSALONIANS 3:9-13

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

+GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36

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



[Jesus said:] ²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The gospel of the Lord.



SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“ON JORDAN’S BANKS THE BAPTIST’S CRY”

ELW 249

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

Emmanuel has come, is here, and is coming soon. Let us join in prayer for the church, the earth, and those who are in need, that all receive what God promises to give.

A brief silence.

Come to the church, saving God. Grant to your people your redemption. Stand with all Christians who are persecuted for the faith. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Come to the earth, creating God. Protect the lands from environmental disasters. Nurture the animals and plants that you have made. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Come to the nations of the world, sovereign God. Inspire all leaders to work for justice. Bring peace to Jerusalem. We pray for peace in (*here places or situations in need of peace may be named*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Come to all in need, mighty God. Protect those who suffer injustice. Comfort those who live in fear. Heal the sick. Accompany the dying. We pray especially for Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Reveal yourself to this congregation and to our community, gracious God. Deepen our love for one another. In this season, give us compassion for all who suffer, and keep us from selfish excess. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Here other intercessions may be offered. Loving God, you bring to yourself all the faithful who have died (*especially*). Strengthen us in holiness until with all the saints we come to see you face to face. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers, merciful God, and make us ready to receive you when you come through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (8:30)

“THE JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM”

C. FRANCK

OFFERTORY (10:30)

“COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS” SENIOR CHOIR

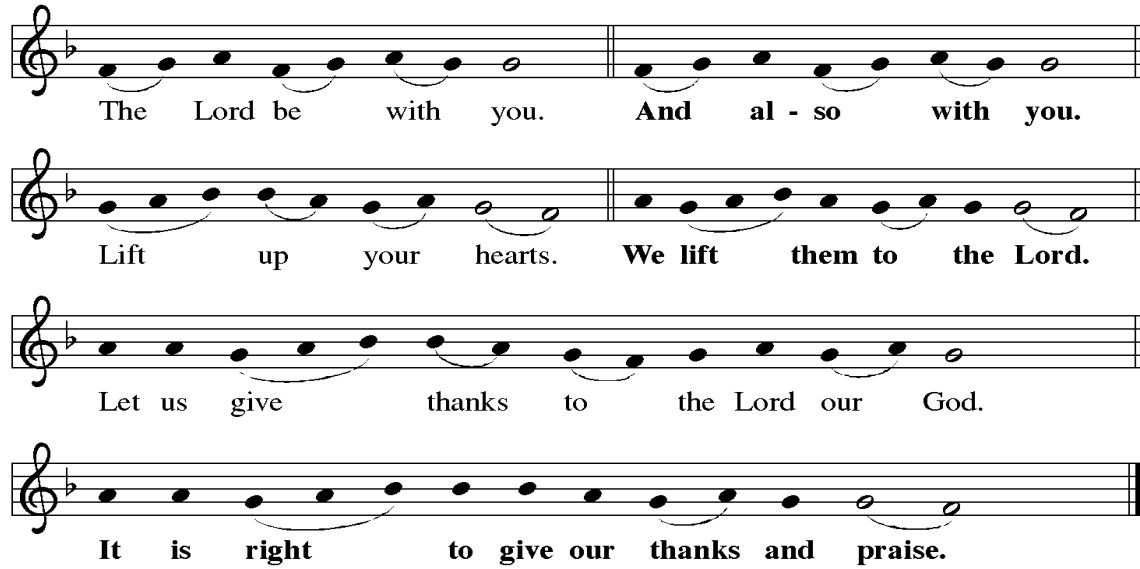
Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your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

+ OFFERTORY PRAYER

A God of abundance,

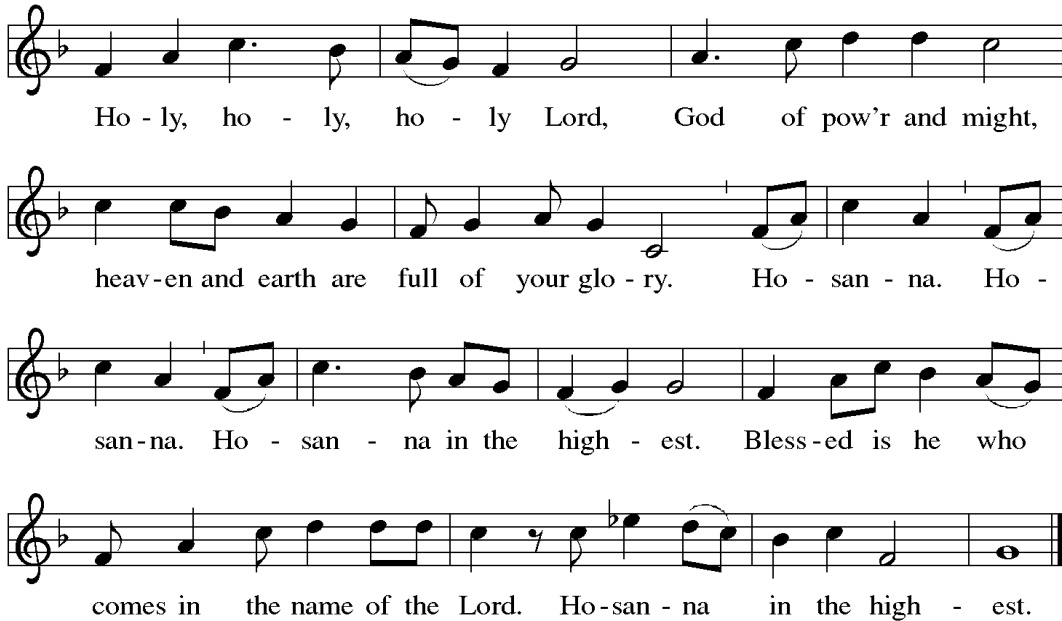
C we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

+ 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

God fills the hungry with good things. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

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 256, 264, 239

+ 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.

Those in care facilities:

Vanita Permar Audrey Troutman Peg Hobbs Ruth Gesalman Nancy Hebrank Martha Chomko
 Ann Shockey Evelyn Richter Bernie Fisher Delver Flock Eileen Silvis

Those in the Service

Lindsey Patrick Paul Harrold Adam Neiderhiser Sean Sabiston Ryan Cutcliffe
 Michael Shupe Derek Leach Ryan Ilich Tyler Beranek

Friends and relative of the Good Shepherd family:

Nancee Roberts – cancer – Cousin of Cyndi Stiles
 Esther Blackson – cancer of voicebox – requested by Mary Jane Aaron
 Jayme Flock – Childhood Cancer
 Nancy Walsh – Breast Cancer – Requested by Bill & Patti Benton
 Dorinda Dee – Niece of Mary Jane Aaron - Minimal change disease
 Richard Wright & Family – Blood Clots – requested by Joan Rappold
 Joan Foster – Sister of Jacki Guhl – had an accident & is unable to walk
 Frank Moore – Father of Megan Coppetti – needs a liver transplant
 Fran McCallen – Breast cancer – requested by Joy & Michael Stynchula
 Joanne Mazzoni – Heart Issues – requested by Jim Monnich
 Howard Parker – Pancreatic cancer
 Rachael Latshaw – Non-hodgkins lymphoma – niece of Doris & Jack Wood
 Betty Wenzel – requested by Bob & Donna Seiler
 Kathy Seiler – daughter-in-law of Bob & Donna Seiler
 Laurel Beranek – Diabetes – granddaughter of Jane Elliott
 Julie - cancer – requested by Rachel King
 Matthew Miller – awaiting liver transplant – requested by Augie Nicolai
 Paulette Willocheel – Back operation – requested by Dorothy & Jim Stewart
 Rosalie Stewart – Parkinsons’s Disease – requested by Dorothy & Jim Stewart
 Robin – Multiple Scrosis
 Morgan Krakosh & Family – Morgan is disabled & having lung problems – requested by Jim Monnich
 Cathy Smith - tumor on heart – niece of George Smith – requested by George & Mary Ann Smith
 Natalie Anthony – cancer – sister of Ken Hebrank – requested by George & Mary Ann Smith
 Laura Bell – rheumatoid arthritis
 June Muse – requested by Jim Monnich – heart attack
 Pat Depalma – requested by Joyce Coates
 Wanda – thyroid/heart – requested by Debbie Sullenberger
 Dorothy Kuschar – Internal Injuries – requested by Peg Hobbs
 Judy Shea – Cancer – requested by Lillian Shea
 Amanda & Tim – Expecting a baby and baby may have problems – requested by Doris Wood
 Joseph Misutka - cancer – requested by Debbie Sullenberger
 Marcus Malara – cancer – requested Linda Dunheimer
 Dick Jones – Recovering from major surgery – brother of Marion Bendl
 Orville Tustin -- Lung cancer -- requested by Sharon Greene
 Penny Newmann -- requested by Joyce Coates
 Bob Bayus -- pancreatic cancer -- requested by Monnich family
 Jill Coates -- sister-in-law of Joyce Coates
 Genevieve & Pam Hite -- medical issues
 William Simpson -- 3 yr. old needing heart transplant
 Larry Bowers -- req. R. Atwell and A. LeCuyer
 Randy Barker -- cousin of Joyce Coates

Remember to notify the office of any changes. Thank you....

CALENDAR FOR WEEK OF NOVEMBER 29 – DECEMBER 6, 2015

Sunday	8:30 am.	Holy Communion
	9:30 am.	Coffee Hour
	10:30 am.	Holy Communion
Monday		OFFICE CLOSED
Tuesday	9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Brunot – Sanctuary
	10:00 am. – 12:00 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	7:00 pm.	Christmas Choir
	7:45 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.	Coffee Hour
	9:30 am.	Camp Genesis
	9:30 am.	Fellowship Meeting
	10:30 am.	Holy Communion
	11:45 am.	6 th Grade Pre-Confirmation
	5:00 pm.	Advent Dinner
	5:30 pm.	Troop 416 Patrol
	6:00 pm.	Pack 416 Committee
	7:00 pm.	Troop 416 Committee

We have received 69 pledges to date. Please don’t forget to turn in your Estimate of Giving Cards if you haven’t already done so. The Finance Committee uses them to budget for next year.

A NOTE FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.....

47 Sundays
 Budget \$175,663.40
 Giving \$167,470.11
 Behind (\$ 8,193.29)



We still have names available in the office for our Christmas Wish List programs. Reminder that items need to be back to the church by December 7th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

We are in need of a Chairperson for the Evangelism Committee, the Stewardship Committee and Vacation Bible School. If you would like to consider serving Good Shepherd in this capacity, please let Pastor Frank or the church office know.

The Greensburg Lions are once again collecting used eyeglasses and hearing aids to be reconditioned for a new life. If you have any old glasses or hearing aids that you would like to donate, drop them off in the office.

The Social Ministry Committee thanks you for your help on the Personal Care Kit project.

The Office will be closed on Monday, November 30.

The Annual Advent Dinner is December 6th at 5:00 pm. Advent presentation to follow at 6:00 pm. Sign up in the commons area.

Thank you to everyone who purchased and/or helped make pies. Hope everyone enjoyed them.

MITTEN TREE

Our tree is up and waiting to be warmed! We are collecting mittens, gloves, scarves, socks and hats for children, teenagers, men and women. We will finish receiving items the weekend of Saturday, December 12th and Sunday, December 13th. After that, everything will be delivered to the Salvation Army. Last year our tree was overflowing and many people were warmer because of your generosity. Will our tree overflow this year????



CHRISTMAS CRECHE SHOW

December 3 & 4

4:00 pm. – 8:00 pm.

December 5

11:00 am. – 3:00 pm.

First United Methodist Church, 15 East Second St., Greensburg PA

Westmoreland County Live Nativity

Westmoreland County Court House 5:45 pm.

Dec. 3/4 Dec. 10/11 Dec. 17/18

Sponsored by Christian Leaders Mentoring