



# Good Shepherd Monthly News

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills

Volume 2, Issue 12

## December Worship

Advent is a time of joyful expectation. We celebrate God's faithfulness to us and we look forward to His return. We invite you to worship with us, in person or online, and share this invitation with your friends and family. Our services are livestreamed on our [YouTube Channel](#), and the recorded service is available within a few days.

**December 5**—2nd Sunday in Advent—Pastor David Weeks

- 9 am Sunday School/Adult Bible Class
- 10:15 am Worship with communion

**December 12**—Children's Christmas Service—Pastor Barry Keurulainen

- 9 am Sunday School/Adult Bible Class
- 10:15 am Worship

**December 19**—4th Sunday in Advent—Pastor Barry Keurulainen

- 9 am Sunday School/Adult Bible Class
- 10:15 am Worship with communion

**December 24**—Christmas Eve Worship with Communion

- 2pm—Pastor Barry Keurulainen
- 6pm—Pastor Barry's sermon from the 2pm service will be replayed

**December 26**—A Service of Lessons & Carols—10:15am Worship

**January 2**—Epiphany (celebrated)—Pastor Barry Keurulainen

- 10:15am Worship with communion

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*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. — Romans 15:13*

# Ministry News

## Home for Christmas!

- A note from Pastor Barry

The Christmas music is playing, at least in the stores. In our house though, we have a rule that no Christmas music gets played until Thanksgiving Day.

Thinking of Christmas music, what are some of your favorites and why?

One of the popular ones that you are bound to hear will be “I’ll Be Home for Christmas!”

I'll be home for Christmas  
You can plan on me  
Please have snow and mistletoe  
And presents by the tree  
Christmas Eve will find me  
Where the love light gleams  
I'll be home for Christmas  
If only in my dreams

There is a certain melancholy tone to the lyrics. “I’ll be home for Christmas, if only in my dreams.” There is a deep longing within us to be at home, especially at Christmas. What happens though, when this cannot be so because a loved one has recently died or distance and work make it impossible?

As I thought about it, I realized that in the Christmas Story, no not the one with the B-B Gun, but the one with the baby lying in the manger, that no one in that story is at home!

The Shepherds are tending their flocks in the field, far from their homes. The Magi have traveled thousand of miles, following a star, to present their gifts to the King. The Angels have left their home to announce the news of Christ’s birth to bewildered shepherds. Then there are Mary and Joseph who have left Nazareth, 65 miles away from Bethlehem, and find themselves alone, ready to give birth to their baby. Last, but certainly not least, there is Jesus. He is not home. He has left the throne of His Father and the glories of heaven to be carried in the womb of His own creation and then placed in a manger.

Who is it that is no longer with you and you so wish they could again be home for Christmas? The good news is that they are home, home with Jesus. This is why Jesus was born. He came to earth so that one day, we could finally be home with Him. Our loved ones who have passed over to glory are the ones that are home for Christmas. They are singing with the very angels who sang at Jesus’ birth. We are the ones who are not home yet.

May the lights of this Christmas season remind you of the light of Jesus that came into the darkness of our world to lead us home to Him and all those we love.

I will close with the second verse of “I’ll Be Home for Christmas.” But for those in Christ, it is not a dream, it is a promise that Jesus made and died for on the cross.

Christmas Eve will find me  
Where the love light gleams  
I'll be home for Christmas  
If only in my dreams

## Sunday School Notes

The **Children's Christmas Service** is **Sunday, December 12** at **10:15am**. A reception will immediately follow the service. We are practicing for this program on Sunday mornings (Dec. 5th and 12th) at 9am during Sunday School. We will have a **dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 11 at 10am**. Thanks to the teachers and families helping support this service!

There will be Sunday School on December 19, but not on December 26 or January 2. After Christmas, Sunday School resumes on January 9.

**Youth Sunday** has been **rescheduled for January 23**, so we will have a few weeks during Sunday School in January (9th and 16th) to prepare.

## Lending a Helping Hand

Did you know Good Shepherd has a Pastoral Benevolence Fund? This fund exists to assist church members, their families and friends, in times of urgent, short-term financial need. Distributions from this fund are at the discretion of the pastor and elders and are confidential. If you or someone you know could benefit from this fund, speak with an elder. Requests for aid from this fund can be made by members for themselves or on behalf of non-members sponsored by a member.

This fund is maintained by individual and Thrivent Choice Dollars contributions. Personal donations to this fund may be given to an elder or the church office. Make checks payable to *Good Shepherd Benevolence Fund*. If you are a Thrivent Member eligible for Thrivent Choice Dollars, by directing your Choice Dollars to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills, you are benefitting the Benevolence Fund. Thank you for your generosity.

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve on another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. – 1 Peter 4:10*

## A Labor of Love

Thank you to the members of our Worship Technology Team – Jeremy Frantz, Kaleb Arnold, Ella Frantz, Sam Ressler, Maddie Thurston, and Sean Thurston – for their continued dedication to manage all things technical related to worship (sound system, slides, live streaming). As we approach the holidays, we would love to grow this team more! If you are interested or have questions, please speak with Jeremy or the church office.

There are a group of individuals who regularly provide maintenance around the building such as changing lightbulbs, cleaning the hall and sanctuary, taking care of weeds, etc. Ken Meyer, Walt Meyer, Dominic Molinari, Mike Ressler and Ray Vogel quietly work behind the scenes, sharing their time and talents to maintain Good Shepherd's building and grounds. Thanks for your commitment to Good Shepherd!

Be sure to check [goodshepherdpittsburgh.org](http://goodshepherdpittsburgh.org) for a live calendar and up-to-date information.

# December 2021

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<b>Worship Sermon Schedule:</b> See page 1 of the newsletter			<b>1</b> 7:30p Narc Anon	<b>2</b> 5p Soccer Shots	<b>3</b> 5p Preschool Family Fun Night 7p Plastic Model Society	<b>4</b> 9:15a Soccer Shots
<b>5</b> <sup>9a</sup> SS Hour 10:15a Worship w/ Communion 11:30a Bells Pract.	<b>6</b> 7p Boy Scouts	<b>7</b> 6p Scrapbookers 7p Elders Mtg	<b>8</b> 7:30p Narc Anon	<b>9</b> 5p Soccer Shots	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9:15a Soccer Shots 10a SS Christmas Program Practice
<b>12</b> <sup>9a</sup> SS Hour 10:15a Worship 11:30a Bells Pract. 12:30p Soc Shots	<b>13</b> 7p Boy Scouts	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 7:30p Narc Anon	<b>16</b> 5p Soccer Shots	<b>17</b> Articles Due for January Newsletter	<b>18</b> 9:15a Soccer Shots
<b>19</b> <sup>9a</sup> SS Hour 10:15a Worship w/ Communion 11:30a Bells Pract.	<b>20</b> 7p Boy Scouts <b>No Preschool—12/18/21-1/2/22</b>	<b>21</b> 6p Scrapbookers	<b>22</b> 7:30p Narc Anon	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Church Office Closed Christmas Eve 2p & 6p Worship with communion	<b>25</b> Christmas Day
<b>26</b> 10:15a Worship	<b>27</b> 7p Boy Scouts	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 7:30p Narc Anon	<b>30</b> — Church Office Closed —		<b>31</b>

Sunday morning worship continues in-person and it is also being live streamed.

[Click here](#) Sundays to join us in worship via our YouTube Channel.

Complete the [Online Worship Fellowship Record](#) to let us know you have joined.

## December Birthdays

12/1—Dominic Molinari

12/3—Jackson Reed

12/5—Jim Marlowe

12/6—Fred Winkler

12/7—Grace Chioda

12/8—Kaleb Arnold

12/10—Carole Shade

12/12—Bud Hoellein

12/15—Kevin Vietmeier

12/24—Luke Eicher

12/26—Katelyn Marcovecchio

12/29—Mark Coleman

12/29—Charli Winters

12/31—Zoey Voland



## December Anniversaries

12/23—Dominic and Carol Sue Molinari (42)



*“Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine! – Isaiah 43:1b*

## Memorials Received

Thanks to all those who gave memorials to Good Shepherd in memory of loved ones and friends in the prior month:

*In memory of Mary Jane Richards*—George & Rose Ann Zimmerman; Carole Shade; Donna McCoy (LWML)

*In memory of Lou Pingel*—Larry & Joan Krueger; Ray & Chris Vogel; Rev. Gilbert & Linda Pingel; Don & Roz Small; Friends of the Hartke Family (GMAC); George & Rose Ann Zimmerman; Donna McCoy (LWML)

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### Prayer Requests for Members, Family and Friends:

Dottie Gerstacker, Marian, Pastor Bob McCanless, Larry Winker, Cindy Geis, Lorraine, Rob Welsh, Karen, Rob, Mike Brennan, Jim Stocker, Rose Ann Zimmerman, Erika Similo, Dana McNulty, Jan Kleiser, Sherri, Betsy Thurston, Lisa Brady, Don Matthews, Phyllis, Don Richards, Pastor Tim, Debbie Volland, Tiffany, Jennifer Meyer, Earl Richards, Mary Jane Forrest, Evie Jones, Fred "Butch" Taylor, Dottie Tritsch, Florence Christiansen, Scott Garretson, Hope Leydig, Dennis Lee, John Wilson, Sam Langol, Linda, Barb Hentsch, Melissa Medved, Anne Malone, Gary Cooper, Carolyn Uhlyar, Joan Steigerwald, Norma Mikoleit, Rose Spencer, John Simpson, Tillye Koerth, Pam Spechtold, Joan Uhrinak

## Follow Good Shepherd on Social Media



[Facebook.com/GoodShepherdLutheranChurchofSouthHills/](https://www.facebook.com/GoodShepherdLutheranChurchofSouthHills/)



[Instagram.com/goodshepherdpg/](https://www.instagram.com/goodshepherdpg/)



[Youtube.com/channel/UC3Vh06JeoKM-rVRkXRRVpvQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3Vh06JeoKM-rVRkXRRVpvQ)

(or, go to YouTube and search for Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills)

If you are receiving this newsletter in your home mailbox, consider giving us an email address, and you'll receive the newsletter more quickly each month. And just a reminder, the Monthly Newsletter and Weekly Tidings can be viewed on the website at: <https://www.goodshepherdpittsburgh.org/news-to-note/>.