

# Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

## S H E P H E R D ' S V O I C E



### Good Shepherd Lutheran Church WORSHIP TIMES

#### Saturday

5:00 pm ~ Evening Prayer

#### Sunday

8:30 am ~ Traditional Service

11:00 am ~ Praise Service

~~~~~



### Inside Your Newsletter...

|                                                               |         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| <i>Serving—All Through the Year</i>                           | page 1  |
| <i>Visioning for GSLC</i>                                     | page 3  |
| <i>The Challenge to Change</i>                                | page 3  |
| <i>The Poinsettia Project</i>                                 | page 4  |
| <i>Youth Ministries</i>                                       | page 5  |
| <i>New Outdoor Electronic Sign</i>                            | page 8  |
| <i>Lutheran World Relief</i>                                  | page 8  |
| <i>GSLC Full Year Results</i>                                 | page 9  |
| <i>New Leadership</i>                                         | page 9  |
| <i>Annual Benevolence Report</i>                              | page 10 |
| <i>Upcoming Holiday Happenings<br/>&amp; Worship Services</i> | page 11 |
| <i>Ongoing Opportunities</i>                                  | page 12 |

## *Serving—All Through the Year*

*by Pastor Jamie Vannoy*

Well, this is the time of year when we give thanks for blessings in our lives. In reality we should be giving thanks all year round. This is a funny time of year, between Thanksgiving and Christmas, when we get a glimpse of how we can act when we let go, and embrace what God created us to be. At this time of year we see all the good of humanity that we have been blessed with, but we let the jadedness of everyday life ruin the rest of the year. We see people helping other people out; we see people helping strangers just because they are in need of some help; we see feeding programs where people give back; we see how humanity is supposed to be with each other all year round.

One of the best Thanksgivings and Christmases I ever had was when I was able to serve with my family. One Thanksgiving we spent the morning in a kitchen with hundreds of volunteers preparing a meal and then serving it in the afternoon. Then we went home and had our own meal together and it never tasted so good. The same thing happened a different year when we gathered with a much smaller group of volunteers and a local businessman who provided a meal for the community on Christmas morning. That was a good feeling, too, because this meal was not based on need, but was based on whether people wanted to be with others on the day we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child.

*This is a funny time of year, between Thanksgiving and Christmas, when we get a glimpse of how we can act when we let go, and embrace what God created us to be.*

*(continued on page 2)*

**Good Shepherd**  
937-298-0136  
937-299-1170 fax  
gslchurch@woh.rr.com  
goodshepherdkettering.com

**STAFF**  
**Senior Pastor**  
Jamie Vannoy  
pastor@goodshepherdkettering.com

**Director of Youth & Family Ministry**  
Don Bennett  
donbennett@goodshepherdkettering.com

**Office Manager**  
Linda Newcomer  
office@goodshepherdkettering.com

**Chancel Choir Director**  
David Keener

**Organist/Accompanist**  
Deborah Macaulay

**Praise Worship Leader**  
Deb DeVilbiss

**CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**President**  
Debbie Kempf

**Vice President**  
Ed Thieman

**Secretary**  
Ardith Hargrave

**Treasurer**  
June Newell

**Members**  
Connie Jones  
Richard Kellstrom  
Bob Sauer  
Wayne Weyhrauch

**COMMISSIONS**  
**Worship & Celebration**  
Michele Weyhrauch

**Life Long Learning**  
Don Bennett

**Parish Life & Response**  
Mary Ann Sauer

**Witness & Outreach**  
Roger Bauser

**Resource Development**  
Jim Kempf

To contact any of the staff, council or commissioners, visit our website for contact information. You may also call the office or send an email to the Office Manager and she will be glad to assist you.

## *Serving—All Through the Year* (continued from page 1)

These were both meaningful experiences for me and my family, as we were able to serve together side by side, and be with others who might not have had family to eat with during the holidays.

It's not so much the serving though, because there were plenty of people to serve. It was the opportunity to sit with, listen to, and enjoy the company of others whom I was meeting for the first time. It was spending time with them: listening to parents talk about children, children talk about siblings, and all of them talk about the things they were thankful for. Moments like these are what I cherish not only in ministry, but in life in general.

But why does it only happen a few times during the year? Why do we need special times of the year to care for people in this way? We should care for people all year round, and that is something we do at Good Shepherd. Whether it's the second Sunday of the month at First Lutheran Church downtown where we're serving breakfast, or the fourth Wednesday of the month serving lunch at Project Blessing, or whether it's our weekly Wednesday meal at Good Shepherd, we are caring for ourselves and others. And this caring happens in so many other ways than just with meals. We care for people in all sorts of ways—so ask around and see how you might want to help.

One thing I am extremely thankful for this year is that I was called to Good Shepherd. It has been an amazing six months and I'm looking forward to many exciting things in the future. I look forward to our continued work together as we answer God's call to serve in the future. 🌸

*Whether it's the second Sunday of the month at First Lutheran Church downtown serving breakfast ... or the fourth Wednesday of the month serving lunch at Project Blessing... or our weekly Wednesday meal at Good Shepherd, we are caring for ourselves and others.*

This newsletter is a publication of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)  
901 E. Stroop Road Kettering, OH 45429  
937-298-0136 Fax: 937-299-1170  
gslchurch@woh.rr.com • www.goodshepherdkettering.com

The information contained in the *Shepherd's Voice* has been compiled using information and articles submitted by our members for publication. We regret any errors or omissions published in this newsletter, and inconvenience this may have caused. It is our intention to ensure that the contents of this publication are always as accurate as possible.

## *Visioning for GSLC*

by Pastor Jamie

In October, I met with Council to begin discussing and developing a new Vision, Mission & Strategic Plan for Good Shepherd. "Why?" you may ask. Because without these things, any ministry we do is just a trivial and arbitrary decision. With a vision, mission and plan in place, as we look at doing new ministries, both inside and outside our walls, we have a clearer sense of how we want to go about it.

I began our meeting with the devotion (*on this page*) from an article from the Alban Institute. It's a story that is similar to what many people experience when they come to a worship service, and I thought it would be a good way to open our eyes to what we're up against—something that wasn't just a bunch of declining statistics. This story had a name that we could put a face to; this was a story we could relate to.

After our devotion together, Council and I reviewed the Bible Study GSLC did several months ago from the Book of Acts. We discussed different points from those discussions in order to re-center our sights on modeling our ministry after the early church, when they didn't wait for people to come to them, but went out seeking new followers. We're not talking about rummaging through Kettering neighborhoods to knock on doors, but we are talking about reaching out, and then not judging people if they do feel safe enough to come in and join our worship.

We are beginning to envision a new mindset—a new culture—here at Good Shepherd where all people feel accepted and cared for, not because they are "a member," but because they are "a child of God" and deserve to be cared for. We hope you enjoy the article, and we look forward to you helping us make this process become a reality when we get it developed and present it to the congregation. We are all going to have to be in this together, or we're just spinning our wheels and wasting people's time. I trust the Holy Spirit to inspire us and guide us to serve our community better. 🌸

## *The Challenge to Change*

by Karen A. McClintock

I am neither a sociologist nor a researcher into congregational trends or statistics. What I do know, however, is that over the past few decades, many



congregations in the United States have been facing a slow and steady decline in membership. Once honored in society as pillars of community virtue, our congregations are now seen as organizations of hypocrisy and irrelevance. I believe congregations are in decline because they have become shame-bound.

Shame is so debilitating that many of our congregations are now critically ill. Shame blocks our ability to evangelize effectively, embrace diversity, and heal individual members. Pervasive shame limits congregational healing after experiences of ineffective and abusive leadership.

At the university where I teach, I once sat listening to a twenty-two-year-old psychology student I'll call Amanda. Amanda was telling me about her search for a church. "I never felt welcomed in the congregations I visited," she said. She went on to describe her first impressions, which included aging congregants, somber moods, and squinty-eyed stares as she walked in the door. "It's like they were suspicious of me!"

Hoping to still hear something positive in her story, I asked her, "What was it like once you took a seat?" She told me that once the prelude began, she had an increasing sense of being out of place. She opened the order of service, and as she read the announcements, she found that they were in code language. They said, "A luncheon will be hosted by the UMW in the FSH. An adult study class on EPH takes place at the usual time in the FSR. Sign up for an upcoming retreat for the UMYF. On Tuesday the

(continued on page 7)

# The Poinsettia Project

by Deb DeVilbiss



What could be more beautiful at Christmas than the church sanctuary beautifully adorned with dozens of red poinsettias? And what could be more meaningful than the knowledge that those poinsettias were given in honor and memory of members' loved ones? This year at Good Shepherd we think we've come up with something even better! The "Poinsettia Project" this year is to NOT purchase poinsettias. Yes, you read that right! Instead, we've decided to take the money that would have been used to buy flowers that would last only a few days and then wither and die, to purchase items that will not only last much longer, but that might actually change the lives of the people to whom they will be given.

This is how it's going to work. During the Advent season, you will have the opportunity to make a contribution of ANY AMOUNT to the "Poinsettia Project" fund. Just as in other years, you will be able to make that contribution in honor or memory of loved ones. Forms and/or envelopes will be made available both in the *Weekly Staff*, and in the narthex on **December 2, 9, and 16**. In addition, a card with your name and who you are remembering with your contribution, will be displayed on a Christmas tree in the narthex throughout the holiday season. Finally, just as in past years, there will be a list of contributors in the Christmas Eve bulletins IF your contribution is received no later than December 16. Because we are certain that there will be others of you who simply wish to give to this endeavor without necessarily honoring someone in particular,

*At this time of year especially, we stop to remember the precious gift that God gave to us – his Son.*

the actual "Poinsettia Project" will last for the entire month of December.

In case you're worried that there won't be ANY poinsettias on the altar for Christmas services, the plans are to use a small amount of the money to purchase several as decoration, with the bulk of the money being used to make life-changing purchases from the Evangelical Lutheran Church's Good Gifts program. Those purchases could include chickens, goats, pigs or other farm animals, as well as malaria nets, irrigation piping, or even hymnbooks for worship. The purchases made will depend on the amount of money collected and, of course, after the holidays we'll communicate both the final amount that was collected and specific information about the purchases.

Finally, we are hoping that some of you might decide to use this idea of giving ELCA Good Gifts as Christmas presents to your family members and friends who "have everything." Therefore, there will be other handouts and reminders in the *Weekly Staff* and the E-blast with additional information, and catalogs will be available in the narthex. You can even go to your computer, type in [elca.org/goodgifts](http://elca.org/goodgifts) and view all of the ways you can help. "It's quite simple to make your contribution online and have a special free card sent to you that gives some information about the item you purchased. You can then send that card

to your friend or family member, to inform them what you did instead of buying them an ordinary gift.

At this time of year especially, we stop to remember the precious gift that God gave to us – his Son. That gift changed our lives forever. Just think – we can do the same thing through the "Poinsettia Project." We can change someone's life, too, and we can do it in honor of the one who gave much more than a few earthly coins. He loved us so much that he gave his life! Let's celebrate that this Christmas with the beginning of a new tradition here at Good Shepherd. Let's share that love through our gifts to the "Poinsettia Project." And let all God's people say "Amen!" ❀

# Youth Ministries

by Don Bennett

**We did it!** This year, young people of the ELCA set out to raise \$250,000 in 2012 to support the water projects of ELCA World Hunger where they are needed most. We have met and exceeded our goal, thanks to the generosity of youth across the nation. To date, more than \$400,000 has been received in support of this effort. This congregation raised over \$9,000 of that amount ourselves.

God is calling us into the world – together. Keeping up the energy of the ELCA Youth Gathering, the 100 Wells Tour is coming to eighteen cities around the country, as they bring music, inspiration and support for the water projects of ELCA World Hunger.

## 100 Wells Tour

On **November 30**, the 100 Wells Tour is coming to Christ Church, the Lutheran Church of Zionsville, Indiana, near



Indianapolis. There is no charge but there will be a free-will offering taken. There will be a group of us traveling to the concert. Let Don Bennett know if you're interested in going with us.

As part of the tour, David Scherer, better known as Agape, has been touring full-time as a musician for the last twelve years. His energy is contagious and his stories of faith transcend differences, bringing people of all backgrounds together. Rachel Kurtz's distinctive voice infuses her organic instrumentation to wash over and through the listener, with a style that reveals folk-pop sensibilities and a healthy dose of soul. The music of Lost And Found is not easy to describe, but those who have tried simply label it "speedwood" or "acoustic thrash." George and Michael have been playing together off and on since the age of 14, and do not have any plans to stop.

## Broomball Lock-In

On **December 21**, we'll have our annual "Broomball Lock-in." Once again, we'll start at the church, journey to the Kettering Recreation Center at some point, then return here for more activities. Those activities will include games and Bible studies. We've invited the youth from Peace Lutheran and from Zion Lutheran to join us for the evening. As usual, this event is open to all current and former LYC youth and their "well-behaved" friends. More information will be coming out regarding costs and times.



## Body of Christ Sunday

Then comes the fifth Sunday of December, our "Body of Christ" Sunday, when the youth will be taking over many of duties associated with the worship service. These duties include assisting with communion, serving as usher, lecturing and others. There will be only one service that day, **December 30**, which will be held at 10:00 am.

## January Retreats

In January, there will be two retreats, one for the H2H students and one for the LYC Youth. The first retreat will be the Youth Quake for the H2H students on **January 11-13**. The quake will be at the "Most Friendly Holiday Inn" in the world at the East Gate Mall in Cincinnati.

The main speaker will be Dan Scharnhorst. He has spoken at past Quakes that I've attended and he does an excellent job of connecting with the youth through stories and personal experiences. The musical talent, besides Youth Encounter's Captive Free band, will be Lloyd Garrelts, from the Christian band Echelon. Lloyd is a very talented guitarist and singer and is also great at connecting with youth. He played at on our high school retreats several years ago at Camp Kern. Those attending this retreat will be Matt Pierce, Peter Connelly, Sam Bennett and Don Bennett. We ask for your prayers in advance, and during this retreat.

(continued on page 6)

2012 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church - Kettering OH 5

(continued from page 5)

On **January 25-27**, some of our high schoolers will head off to a SOSLYO retreat at Camp Kern, near Lebanon. SOSLYO stands for Southern Ohio Synod Lutheran Youth Organization. This is always a fun-filled retreat with many opportunities to meet and interact with youth from other churches.

Jenny Brockman, who is the Community Life Leader for Jacob's Porch student ministry at OSU, will be the main speaker and is also the principle author of the Bible studies we'll be using. The Jacob's Porch house band will be leading the music portions of the retreat. Jacob's Porch has been leading this retreat for several years now. It creates a great outreach for them and provides SOSLYO with low-cost leadership. The quality they provide is outstanding. We ask for your prayers for this retreat also.

### Youth Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who supported the H2H Chicken Noodle Dinner fundraiser. We don't have final numbers, but it appears to have been a worthwhile effort.

The LYC has stopped doing the LaRosa fundraisers. This decision was made by LaRosa's and I don't believe it was due to a lack of participation on our part. Thank you to all the people who faithfully ate at LaRosa's each month. We are currently looking at working with a couple of other restaurants in the area to see if we can do similar fundraisers with them.

**Gift Jars** – The LYC is again offering gift jars for sale as Christmas gifts. These decorative jars hold all the dry ingredients necessary to make a batch of cookies, soup, brownies or other recipe. Order forms and descriptions of the available jars will be in the narthex soon. Gift jars will be available for pick-up on **Sunday December 9**.



If you would like to further support this fundraiser, the LYC is taking donations of quart-size canning jars. They can be dropped off in the church office.



**Gift Cards** –Speaking of Christmas gifts, if you're looking for something easy or if you just don't know what to get for someone, might I suggest you take a look at purchasing gift cards. It just so happens that the LYC offers a wide variety of cards for sale.

We've enclosed an order form in the newsletter for you to use or you can pick one up in the narthex or download one from the church website.

Here's another idea for using our gift cards - to help others in need. Recently, Pastor Jamie and I went with Pastor Gary Eichhorn from Church of Our Savior to the Lutheran Social Service warehouse in Caldwell, Ohio. While there, we talked with the director, Mary Woodward. Mary is also the Ohio District Area Coordinator for Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR). She was preparing to send a semi-truck full of household items to a warehouse in the hurricane-hit area of New York and New Jersey. We asked her how we could help and she suggested telling people to donate gift cards to stores like Meijer or Walmart. These could be used by families or relief organizations to purchase the exact items that are needed. Similarly, she also suggested donating pre-paid Visa or MasterCard credit cards so that people can use them at their local stores, where the money spent would stay in their areas.

While the LYC doesn't sell pre-paid credit cards, the gift cards that we sell are for many different department and home improvement stores. If you would like to buy gift cards to donate to Lutheran Disaster Response, please write "LDR" in the address area of the gift card order form and we will provide you with a receipt for tax purposes. We will also donate the profit from the sale of those cards to LDR. We can ship the cards to LDR for you. If you purchase pre-paid credit cards from another source and bring them in to the office, we will be glad to ship those as well. Contact Don Bennett if you have any questions. ☀

### The Challenge to Change

(continued from page 3)

trustees will be meeting in the FSH." The only thing on the list that she understood was a note about the work party on Saturday, because it said, "Bring work gloves, pruning shears, and rakes."



Amanda said that the hymns reminded her of her grandmother's funeral. The preacher invited everyone to stay after the service to chat and drink coffee but never said where to find the room. At sermon time the preacher said, "May the words of my mouth and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable, O Lord," and she wondered if he sometimes made unacceptable comments. Just before communion the preacher said that they were all unworthy to come to the table, but some of the people went forward anyway. Amanda sometimes stood up when she should have been sitting down and vice versa. She didn't know the rules, but she was sure she'd broken some of them.

As Amanda became frustrated, she disconnected from what was going on in worship and sent a text message to a friend. "Where are you?" the friend texted back, and Amanda replied with the embarrassed "emoticon" – a frowning face with red cheeks – that is also the emoticon for shame. The experience was entirely uncomfortable.

Amanda's story and her words "They were suspicious of me" have stayed with me. Without knowing it, this congregation was sending out messages of shame. They were suspicious of Amanda because the possibility of taking a fresh look at their worship and fellowship evoked uncomfortable feelings inside them, too. Perhaps their worship had become rote and boring. Amanda might come along and ask too many questions, learn of a conflict they had not resolved or an incident of sexual misconduct that they were keeping secret. Seeing her painfully reminded older members that their own

children and grandchildren had long ago abandoned the institutional church. They felt shame about this and about not being able to meet Amanda's needs by providing her with a group of peers within the congregation. And the shame passed to her and back again to them. This "shame-tossing" is all too often the present-day congregational landscape.

No matter how wonderful our programs are, no matter how many people we have in worship, no matter how far our outreach stretches into the community, shame blocks our ability to grow and thrive. I recall a painting I noticed on the wall of a cathedral in Italy. It shows two robed priests, one who faded into the background and one in the foreground who drew my attention. He had his back to me, but he was looking over his shoulder at me, too. He was holding a Bible in the crook of his left arm, and his right hand was raised with his index finger pointing over his shoulder right at me as I looked into the scene. I could almost hear him making that clicking sound: "Tut, tut, tut." Or perhaps he was saying, "Shame on you!" Do you know someone who doesn't come to church because this is what they expect to experience?

As our congregations age and we watch our beloved institutions lose their influence in society around us, the more we experience the shame of failure. Only with a transparent review of our mistakes and secrets, an acceptance of our own congregational climates, and clearly defined goals can we create something new



and lively again. Good people make bad decisions. It is perilous to bolster congregational esteem by self-righteous condemnation of others. We need to be open to change and to being challenged to change when "the other" arrives in our midst. ☀

## New Outdoor Electronic Sign

by Linda Newcomer

Over the past year, the Publicity Committee met monthly to determine what projects might best support the growth of the ministry here at Good Shepherd. Its first priority was determined to be the replacement of the current sign at the corner of Stroop and Ackerman. The condition of the present sign is poor, and replacement parts are no longer available. The sign also does not allow for frequent updates and the amount of information that can be displayed is minimal. Therefore it was the decision of the committee to recommend that an electronic digital sign be purchased to replace it. After extensive research and a favorable vote by the congregation, plans to have the sign installed are underway, hopefully in the next few months.

A breakdown of anticipated costs includes the LED sign—including all hardware and software, mounting materials, installation, training, on-going technical support, and electrical updates and permits, which comes to a little more than \$30,000. In the spring, we will complete landscaping around the new sign. Funds used to finance the new sign came from the Procter & Gamble stock, memorial contributions in the name of Floyd Seim, Cy Laughter, and Mary Koerner, as well as surplus funds from the Fellowship Hall renovations.

Once the sign is operational, committee members and other staff will be trained to program the sign with readability in mind, and following all city ordinances. (This may take a little time as we experiment with type of font, size of font, color, etc., and we ask your patience during that process.)

Thank you to all the Publicity Committee for their efforts: Lisa Connelly, Deb DeVilbiss, Bob Dittmar, Rich Kellstrom, Diane Miller, and Scott Strohminger. 🌸

## Lutheran World Relief

by Evelyn Bergstedt

On October 16, the annual assembling and packing of kits took place with the help of Evelyn Bergstedt,



Connie Jones, Diane Miller, Mary Ann Sauer, Kate Steininger, Carol Wade, and Michele Weyhrauch. We sent 25 quilts, 40 school kits, 21 baby care kits, and 16 personal care kits. The items were trucked (at no cost to Good Shepherd)

from Faith Lutheran Church to the LWR warehouse in New Windsor, Maryland.

These, along with thousands of other kits and quilts from churches throughout the United States, will be distributed to areas in need such as Azerbaijan, India, Chad, Niger, Haiti, Serbia, and Thailand.

The Good Shepherd Quilters (Evelyn Bergstedt, Rufena DeVilbiss, Connie Jones, Lova Lilly, Shirley Osburn, Carol Rismiller, Mary Ann Sauer and Carol Wicks)

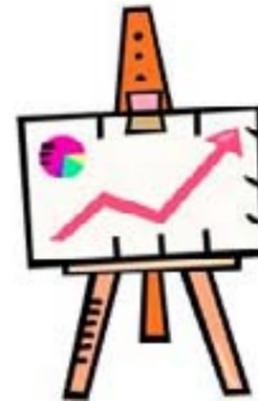


were responsible for making the 25 quilts.

THANK YOU to all who helped with these Parish Projects for LWR. 🌸

## GSLC Full Year Results for 2011/2012

by June Newell



Good Shepherd's fiscal year ended on September 30, 2012. The final reconciliations of bank statements and the balance sheet are not 100% complete at this time. However, the preliminary results show that Good Shepherd will have a net operating loss of \$911. When compared to the budget that we set out to achieve, we were \$27,348 under budget in offerings and \$24,836 under budget in expenses.

Total offerings for the year were \$262,652 which was \$27,348 less than what was budgeted. Offerings include contributions made directly to the Heritage Fund which totaled \$3,894 for the year. The operating income (offerings) exclude the special bequest we received for \$104,663, as we are utilizing this gift for specific purposes. Likewise, we have excluded from operating expenses \$44,700 related to the Fellowship Hall renovation and special benevolence gifts associated with the Bequest. Total operating expenses were \$263,564 which was \$24,836 less than the budget. The two main drivers for the favorable variance on spending are: (1) less spent on pastor search and relocation expenses, and (2) less spent on structural repairs than what was planned.

The full year-end financial results will be published in the Year-End Report. 🌸

## New Leadership

by Pastor Jamie

I'd like to congratulate and welcome Debbie Kempf, Bob Sauer, and Wayne Weyhrauch to the GSLC Church Council. Bob was asked and appointed to fulfill Floyd Seim's term on Council after Floyd's unfortunate and untimely death in August. Debbie was re-elected to another term on Council, and Wayne was elected for a first term. I look forward to all of their insights, opinions, God-given abilities, and love of the Lord, as we move into this new chapter in ministry. They all will be a great addition to the leadership that we already have.

I would also like to thank Becky Cook for her service on Council the last three years. She decided not to run for re-election. Also, thank you to Dave Seltzer for his service as the Worship and Celebration Commissioner. We appreciate their leadership and look forward to other ways they can use their gifts to serve the Lord in the future.

Join me in welcoming Michele Weyhrauch to the leadership of GSLC, as she has accepted the appointment of Worship and Celebration Commissioner. She brings many exciting gifts to the area of celebrating our life in the Church together, and I look forward to working with her.

There will be an installation of all Council members and Commissioners at an upcoming worship service in the near future, but a date and time has not been confirmed at the time of this publication. 🌸



# Annual Benevolence Giving Report October 2011 ~ September 2012

by Roger Bauser



| Project/Recipient                       | 1st Qtr         | 2nd Qtr*        | 3rd Qtr**       | 4th Qtr<br>(estimated) | TOTAL**<br>(estimated) |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Southern Ohio Synod/ELCA                | \$ 1,535        | \$ 3,782        | \$ 1,500        | \$ 2,304               | \$ 9,121               |
| Quarters Hunger Project/Disaster Relief | 198             | 501             | 315             | 55                     | 1,069                  |
| Lutheran Outdoor Ministries             | 485             | 980             | 485             | 636                    | 2,586                  |
| Missionary Support                      | 375             | 885             | 375             | 616                    | 2,251                  |
| Jeremiah's Letter/Project Blessing      | 455             | 885             | 455             | 576                    | 2,371                  |
| We Care Arts                            | 436             | 925             | 395             | 601                    | 2,357                  |
| Global Health Ministries                | 380             | 925             | 375             | 576                    | 2,256                  |
| <b>TOTALS</b>                           | <b>\$ 3,864</b> | <b>\$ 8,883</b> | <b>\$ 3,900</b> | <b>\$ 5,364</b>        | <b>\$ 22,011</b>       |

Smith Bequest gifts totaled an additional \$11,000 to above groups and Food Pantry and First Lutheran SonRise Ministry

\* 2nd Quarter figures include offerings from Lenten Services and soup suppers

\*\* 3rd Quarter and TOTAL do not include one-time donations of \$11,000 from Smith Bequest funds

## Significant gifts have also been made in cash or in kind to:

|                                                                                 |                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Greenmont Food Pantry (monthly food donations)                                  | "Souper Bowl" Project                                                               |
| Compassion International                                                        | Day of Caring Pancake Breakfast (\$660)                                             |
| Christmas Adopt-A-Family (\$175 + individual member donations)                  | Quilters and Knitters/Crocheters Gifts                                              |
| Lutheran World Relief Projects                                                  | WELCA Thankoffering (\$1460)                                                        |
| Support for our Military Gifts                                                  | LYC Giving                                                                          |
| First Lutheran Monthly Breakfast (\$1890 - \$1100 to be reimbursed by Thrivent) |  |



## Upcoming Holiday Happenings & Worship Services

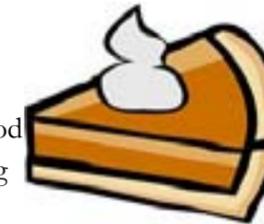
### Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wednesday November 21 at 7:00 pm

Come and join your brothers and sisters of GSLC for a quiet remembrance of all that we have to be thankful for.

### Pumpkin Pie Fellowship

Come and enjoy a piece of pie to begin your Thanksgiving holiday with your friends at Good Shepherd after the Thanksgiving Eve service.



### Advent Mid-week Services

We will have mid-week services for Advent on **Wednesday December 5, 12 and 19**. Check out the *Weekly Staff* for additional information about times.



### Saturday December 22 & Sunday December 23

We will have our regular services at 5:00 pm on Saturday and at 8:30 am and 11:00 am on Sunday.

### Christmas Eve

Services will be held **Monday December 24** at two times. Please plan to celebrate the birth of our Savior together at one of them.

- 7:00 pm (Family Service)
- 10:30 pm (Candlelight Service)

### Christmas Day

There will be NO services on Christmas Day.



### Body of Christ Sunday

Our next Body of Christ Sunday is on **Sunday December 30**, when we will have one service at 10:00 am. The youth will assist with this service. Also, along with Holy Communion, anointing with oil will be available during the service, if you wish. We will have a carry-in Fellowship Dinner immediately following the worship service. Please plan to celebrate this time of year with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

### New Year's Eve

There will be NO services on New Year's Eve.

### Bethany Christmas Service ~ Lessons & Carols

Pastor would like to invite members of GSLC to come together with our members at Bethany Village for a time of worship, to sing carols, and to visit with each other. The time and place at Bethany is yet to be determined, but details will come in early December.

### Cookies & Caroling to our Homebound Members

We will again be baking cookies and goodies for our shut-ins this year. Please plan to make an extra batch of your favorite cookies or sweets to bring to church to include in our "goodie bags." We will go caroling and deliver the goodies close to Christmas. Watch the *Weekly Staff* for dates.

### Adopt-A-Family

Good Shepherd will again adopt several families to make their Christmas brighter. Watch for the tree in the narthex around Thanksgiving. You will take an ornament off the tree and sign your name on one piece and take the other to purchase your gift. Please wrap your gift and return it to church. Be sure to include a gift receipt so that the recipient can exchange it if necessary. Gifts will need to be at the church by **Friday December 21**. 



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
901 E. Stroop Road  
Kettering OH 45429-4688

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Dayton, OH  
Permit No. 884

If you did not receive your newsletter  
by mail and would like to be added to  
the mailing list, contact the church office.

Contact us at 937-298-0136 or [gslchurch@woh.rr.com](mailto:gslchurch@woh.rr.com).

Visit us at [www.goodshepherdkettering.com](http://www.goodshepherdkettering.com).

---

## *Upcoming Events at GSLC*

*See article inside this newsletter outlining all the holiday events going on at GSLC.*



## *Ongoing Opportunities*

**Saturday Morning Breakfast/Bible Study**—Saturday mornings 8:30 am - Lounge

**Men's Bible Study**—Thursday mornings 6:30 am - Bob Evans (Dorothy Lane)

**Women's Bible Study**— Usually third Thursday of month - 12:30 pm afternoons and 7:00 pm evenings - Lounge

**Bethany Communion**—Third Wednesday of month - 2:00 pm

**Knitters/Crocheters Group**—Second Monday of month - 1:15 pm - Lounge

**Quilting Group**—First & third Monday of month - 9:00 am - Lounge

**Council Meetings**—November 15, December 13, January 10 - 7:00 pm - Lounge ☸