

Sharon Lutheran Church

is a community that strives to be:

Faith-filled

Rooted in God's Word

Loving

Connected to the community and world

Adaptive



DECEMBER 2015

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

4:30 pm, 7:00 pm

9:30 pm

All Services will
have Holy Communion
and a Candle-lighting
Ceremony

Sunday, December 27

Lessons and Carols

with Holy Communion

9:00 am worship

First Sunday of the Month

"Holy Grounds" Cookie Exchange and Holiday Breakfast

December 6 beginning at 9am

Bring your favorite cookie to eat and the recipe to share! This will be a congregation-led event.

Sign up on the narthex bulletin board to volunteer your time to help set up or clean up.

The youth are serving breakfast in conjunction with Holy Grounds from 9am to 10:30am to offer an opportunity, during this busy time of year, for people to stop, eat, relax and enjoy each other's company. The menu includes pancakes made by our in-house chef, eggs, bacon and all the other accoutrements. The students have also planned decorations, music and an activity table for making cards for our shut-in's. Donations are optional. Whatever is collected will go to buy needs for Mostly Mutts. Contact Robin Kunkel if you would like to assist.

Pastor's Christmas Greeting

And Mary pondered these things in her heart.

It might be a short statement, but it is filled with meaning. So much had happened. So many conversations had been shared. There were well wishes and talk of blessedness; there were announcements from shepherds about angels and messages of promises made; there were visions; there were travel glitches and unanticipated lodging; there was chaos and peace and unknown futures. Mary pondered the words of the shepherds, the words of the angel, the words of Elizabeth and tried to let all of it rest and sort out inside her. What was God doing in all of this?

Mary's pondering—her dwelling on what does this all mean—might be our posture for Advent and Christmas this year. With all that has gone on around the world, with the demands of our own lives, and with the push of the season for celebrating and gifting, we might desire some moments to ponder and consider all that we hear and see. You might ask yourself these questions: How is my faith growing or waning? Where do I see God's hand at work? What would be most helpful for my spirit and my spiritual journey? How can the community of faith encourage me, stretch me, or help me re-center? Have I taken a moment to pause and to simply share with God what is going on in my own life?

Ponder these things in your heart. Ponder this amazing gift of the Christ child born for you. Ponder this amazing news of a God who is not far off, but nearby and dwelling with us.

May the peace of God bring you wonder and joy.

Peace, Pastor Doll

Sunday School Happenings



The younger Sunday School students are such a delight to be with. They were so creative in their sessions on Psalm 23. They learned some music, created some amazing projects and shared in a variety of activities. Each Sunday they have taken time to post their individual prayer requests on their prayer wall, too. We begin

Advent on Nov. 29 and will be exploring the stories of Jesus' birth through stories, Bible skill games, and music. We will work our way through Christmas and into a celebration of the Epiphany in January. The teachers and helpers have been great. Keep up the fantastic work with this ministry.

Parents:

I am still looking for anyone who would like to take part in worship on Christmas Eve at 4:30 or at 7 pm. Some of the students have played music and shared that during worship. I am inviting a few of the youth and children to also serve as special readers and pray-ers for worship as well. There is still time for kids to volunteer to take part in Christmas Eve worship. Please see Pastor Doll about volunteering.

During Advent, if there are any families who would like to light the Advent wreath during worship, I would welcome that help as well.

Please Note: There will be no Sunday School on Dec. 27 since we are meeting for only one service that day at 9 am—Christmas Lessons and Carols.

As we begin the church year again with this season of Advent and move toward Christmas, may the peace of Christ rest in your homes and hearts.

MOSTLY MUTTS COLLECTION FOR DECEMBER

The Senior High Youth are planning a service project for December. They are collecting leashes, collars, toys, blankets and other needs for Mostly Mutts. You can drop your donation in box placed in the lobby or contact Elise Keeney for more information. The last day for donations is **December 20**. Thank you!



Annual Christmas Candlelight Service

Tuesday, December 8, 2015 Weber Chapel Auditorium at 7:30 pm



The Chaplain's Office will be sponsoring a "Meals for Seals" food drive at the Christmas Candlelight Service. Please bring a "KID FRIENDLY", easy to open item(s) that does not require a can opener, scissors or refrigeration and place your item(s) under the tree in either the Main Lobby or Horn Lobby of Weber Chapel.

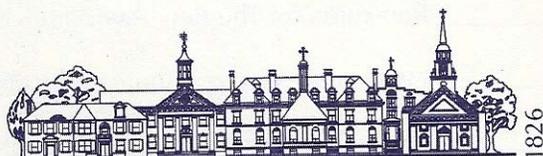
FOOD ITEMS THAT ARE NEEDED:

Instant oatmeal, Small boxes of cereal, Granola bars, Beef sticks, Easy mac and cheese, Mini bottled water, Juice boxes, Canned beef ravioli, tuna, chicken or franks and beans. Single serving items: applesauce, pudding, fruit cup, peanut butter, soup. Grocery gift cards or monetary donations will also be accepted.



We would like to reorganize the Hand Chime Choir at Sharon Lutheran Church. We have some names from the previous choir and will be contacting those people but we'd love to have some new members ranging from 8th grade and older. How many times have some of you said, "I'd love to be in the choir but I don't sing well."? Here is YOUR big chance! You don't need to be able to sing or even

read music to be part of this choir. All you need to be able to do is count. Contact Judd Williams at judd.williams7@mail.com or 570-847-2021 or talk with me at church. Once we have enough volunteers, we will meet and schedule a rehearsal time (weekly). If you call, please leave a voicemail message if I am unable to answer and I will return your call. Please strongly consider this opportunity to serve in the music ministry. Thank you!



Lutheran Theological Seminary
at Gettysburg

Advent Vespers at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg kick off Sunday, November 29 at 7:30 pm in the Seminary Chapel at 147 Seminary Ridge. It's free to the public and features fascinating liturgies, Psalms, early motets, a special Magnificat rendition and much more. It's a Music Gettysburg Festival Choral event so one knows there will be "lighting up the darkness," just as promised. Think about it. One

can check it out as well as other Seminary info on ltsj.edu on your favorite Internet browser.

Blessings. C. Black

*We Remember in
Prayer*

Douglas App, Rose Aucker,
Betty Aungst, Pam Aungst,
Dr. Nelson Bailey, Tom
Beachell, Sara Beard,
Barbara Black, Amy Bush,
Prendyn Clinger, Jim and
Dawn Diemer, Eleanor
Dinius, Becky Edmunds,
Charles Engelbrecht, Betty
Ettinger, Irene Fladmark,
Jim Gautsch Jr., Linda
Gautsch, Ilene Gilson,
David Holmes, Jr., Valerie
Holmes, Pat Hower,
Martha Hummel, Mary
Hummel, Brenda
Hunsicker, Eugene Keister,
George Keller, Betty
Kerstetter, Harvey
Kreamer, Jr., Keith Landis,
Ron Laniewski, Lowell
Leitzel, Lorrie Littlefield,
Miriam Logan, Marci
MacIntyre, Mary Maneval,
Roger Marks, Marianne
McDonnell, Susan Mull,
Phillip Murphy, Kay
Musser, Cartie Naugle,
Grace Nolder, Mark
Nolder, Maryanne Pinand,
Ryan Riethmiller, Leon
Scholl, Miles Schrader, Bill
Starr, Jim Stetler, Robert
Stetler, Paul and Emily
Twitchell family, Bob
Walter, David Weimer,
Jeremy Wolfe, Gary Wydell

Deployed in Military

Service: Billy Bohm, Josh
George, Kimber Kreamer,
Ryan Kuster, David
Spurling, Jake Tomko

Bernhisel, Deborah	12/2
Freed, Paul	12/2
Ries, Rodney	12/2
Aucker, Rita	12/3
Kuster, Norah	12/3
Messner, Edna	12/5
Weirick, Madison	12/6
Wise, Phillip	12/6
Nickler, Kevin	12/12
Berger, Teresa	12/13
Marziale, Lauren	12/14
Berger, Tim	12/15
Bilger, Janet	12/17
Terrio, Allison	12/17
Kramer, Gregory	12/18
Marziale, Harper	12/18
Scholl, Eric	12/20
Kemberling, Dana	12/21
Freed, Harley	12/22
Matrey, Megan	12/22
Spigelmyer, Jack	12/22
Sands, Christopher	12/23
Gilson, Ilene	12/25
Schreffler, Jennie	12/25
Aucker, Gary	12/27
Wagner, Clara	12/28
Reiland, Casey	12/29
Anderson, Dorothy	12/30
Bottiger, Donald	12/30

Happy
Birthday





Whose will it be? Legacy Workshop

God asks this question of us (Luke 12:20) Whether it is .25 in a checking account or \$250,000 in an IRA, should you die today, whose would you want it to be? You have passions. You have faith. You have family. God's work in the world has spoken to your heart, but where to you begin?

Begin by attending a "Whose will it be?" Legacy Workshop hosted by Sharon's MEF team and Pastor Liz Polanzke, Gift Planner from the ELCA Foundation on December 13th at 9am. This workshop will start you on the process of answering four basic questions:

Which ministry do I want to help?

How much should I give?

Which resources should I use?

When should I make the gift?

The role of the Gift Planner is to assess your passions and work with you to provide all you need to make informed decisions, while always considering you and your family's current and future needs. The services of the gift planner are offered without obligation through the ELCA Foundation and the agencies and institution partners.

Contact the church office to sign up for this event.

From the Congregation Council

President—Jeff Whitman; Vice President—Eric Rowe; Secretary—Carolyn Sands; Treasurer—Buzz Savidge; Susie Weller; Janet Bilger, Karen Bowen; Carol Harrison; Teresa Berger; Lowell Leitzel

Action Items

Approved a motion to authorize Paul Grimes to contact two additional contractors to obtain bids within two weeks for roof truss repairs. If we receive bids from the additional contractors call a special meeting to consider the proposals. If we don't receive those bids contact Zartman Construction regarding their bid to complete the project.

Approved a motion to maintain two summer worship services with the times being 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. and continue to offer one worship service at 9:00 a.m. on the Sundays of Independence Day and Labor Day 2016.

Approved a motion to hold a single worship service on Sunday December 27, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. with a format of lessons and carols with Holy Communion.

Approved a motion to recommend to the congregation Nancy Martin and Scott Lyttle as new council members for 2016. *Additionally, Karen Bowen agreed to serve a second three year term and Theresa Kuster was nominated at the congregation meeting on November 22.*

stephen
MINISTRY®



What is the Stephen Series?

Sharon Lutheran, through a gift in memory of Pastor Ted Lindquist, recently enrolled in the Stephen Series. The Stephen Series is a system for training laypeople to do caring ministry. Those training for Stephen Ministry will learn skills and develop their talents for bringing Christ's healing love to people who are grieving, depressed, or experiencing other stresses in life.

Why Lay Ministry?

The Stephen Series is designed to train laypeople for caring ministry. Don Housley, Laura Aungst, and Pastor Doll will be leading this training together beginning in January. Loving others in Jesus' name is a challenge and an opportunity for all who are God's children. Likewise, the joy of helping others is the privilege of all Christians, for the Holy Spirit has given gifts to each Christian to use in service to others and to build up the church. (1 Corinthians 12:7-11). Stephen Ministry will rely on the gifts that the Holy Spirit has given to our lay members so that as more people are equipped to care, Christ's love for us will be able to go out from us in a greater and more effective way.

Why the Stephen Series?

The Stephen Series trains people in the basic skills necessary for helping others. Through lecture, discussion, and experiential learning, people learn everything from how to be an effective listener to specific techniques for ministering to grieving people. Our congregation will reap many, many blessings through our involvement in this ministry of care.

Who will benefit from the Stephen Series?

The Stephen Series, for which Sharon will soon begin training, benefits many others besides those who receive the care of their Stephen Ministers. The Stephen Ministers grow greatly as they learn about helping others. They learn about themselves. As the hurting members of our congregation grow stronger through this caring ministry, the whole church is built up and made stronger. And, of course, we all can have the confident knowledge that when the pains of life come our way, someone will always be there, ready to care for us, to bring God's love to us in a special personal way. You can be involved with us in this caring ministry, especially through your prayers for the leaders, for the new Stephen Ministers, and for all who will receive care.

Give a gift
that isn't
easy to
wrap.

Shop ELCA Good Gifts
for 50 different gifts
that grow the church,
fight hunger and
transform lives.
ELCA.org/goodgifts



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Thinking about Christmas gifts? How about giving a gift that will "grow the church, fight hunger and transform lives"!

During this season of Advent be sure to check out the Advent Good Gifts Tree in the lobby. Select an ornament representing an ELCA Good Gift - a goat, fruit trees or school supplies for example - then make a donation in the amount stated on the ornament. Directions on how to give are by the tree.

December Worship Volunteers

	Greeters	Acolytes	Readers	Ushers	Cantor/CA	Altar Guild
Dec 6	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM
	Jim and Carole App	Vance Metzger	April Metzger	Bill and Barbara Remaley	Theresa Kuster	Jackie Winey (B)
	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM
	Bob and Carol Bradford	Madison Snyder, Hannah Doll	Harvey Murray	Bob and Romane Dagle	Judd Williams, Dave Deckard, Don Housley	Karen Bowen Grace Housley
Dec 13	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM
	Donna and Donovan Goundie	Sean Dagle	Diane Pauling	Buzz Savidge, Terry Kissinger	Carol Black	Roseann Stetler (B)
	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM
	Bob and Vi Soper	Sarah Pennay, Raechel Councill	Deb Bernhisel	Harley Freed, Fritz Frost	Sue Pennay, Alex Pennay, Curtis Pennay	Carol Harrison Nancy Martin
Dec 20	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM
	Brian Pauling, Dawn Dunkelberger	Courtney Kemberling	Fred Hooper	John and Roseann Stetler	Lowell Leitzel	Dawn Dunkelberger (B)
	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM
	Mike and Janet Bilger	Emma and Anna Kalcich	George Pence	Bill and Pat Pinkowski	Jeff Whitman, Eva Kalcich, Tina Kalcich	Shirley Walter Jenny Ruth Partica
Dec 27	9:00 AM	9:00 AM	9:00 AM	9:00 AM	9:00 AM	9:00 AM
	Harvey and Nancy Murray	Jessica Beaver, Madison Snyder	Lowell Leitzel, Phil Riggs	Art and Karen Bowen	Judd Williams, Eric Rowe, Doug Hassinger	Barb Remaley (B) Vi Soper Shirley Rowe

We are currently still working on volunteers for the Christmas Eve Worship Services. If you are planning to attend, please contact Lowell Leitzel to volunteer. Thank you for your continued service to Sharon's ministries!