
January 3rd 2016 at 9:30 am Epiphany of Our Lord **Sunday**
GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

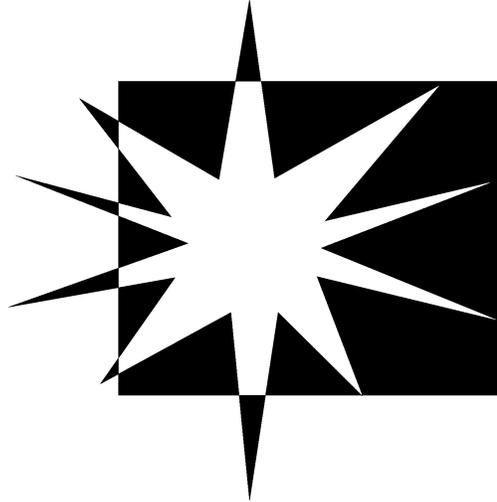
118 E. Mason, Lena, Il 61048

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Facebook: "GSLCLenaIL"



*Welcome to worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
If you are visiting with us today, we want you to feel welcome
and to know that we are delighted to have you here*

WELCOME! We want you to be at ease - we won't ask you to stand up and be recognized, but we'd love it if you would introduce yourself. Welcome to Good Shepherd!

We would like everyone to fill out the Friendship Pad at the end of the pews and pass it along for all to fill out. Please also mark the names of all in the family who are receiving Communion.

If you are visiting, please include your address and phone number.

Nursery Children are always welcome at our worship services; however, if you desire, please feel free to use the nursery located out the north entrance of the sanctuary.

<u>Interim Pastor:</u>	Pastor Art Stees	<u>Custodian:</u>	Taylor Bastian
<u>Secretary:</u>	Darlene Barr	<u>Pianists:</u>	Tena Rackow, Sarah Baker
<u>Organist:</u>	Karen Niemeier	<u>Missionaries to Tanzania:</u>	Randy&Carol Stubbs Family
<u>Choir Dir. /accomp:</u>	Janis Kurth / Marion Fahr	<u>Lector</u>	Michelle Andrews
<u>Acolyte:</u>	Krista Keene	<u>Assisting Minister</u>	Sheila Keene
<u>Worship Assistant:</u>	Wayne Kurth	<u>Communion Usher</u>	Eugene and Vivian Hesselbacher
<u>Welcome Visitor:</u>	Jean Wenzel	<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Sheridan and Marybeth Brinker
<u>Communion Asst:</u>	Troy and Cindy Doubler		
<u>Elevator Operator</u>	Donna Gullickson		
<u>Sound System:</u>	Troy Doubler, Taylor Bastian		
<u>Greeters:</u>	Bill and Jean Engel, Curt and Sue Diddens, Jean Wenzel		
<u>Ushers:</u>	Eugene and Vivian Hesselbacher, Jerry and Beth Martin		

~ 2 ~
– *ORDER OF WORSHIP* –
ELW SETTING 3

PRELUDE

(A time for prayer and reflection)

Karen Niemeier

Announcements & Community Concerns

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *(Please stand)*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the Maker of heaven and earth, the Word made flesh,
the Lord and giver of life.

C: Amen.

P: Let us come into the light of Christ,
confessing our need for God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God of peace,

C: 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.**

P: 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.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN:

The First Noel

ELW#300

1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . . .

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered

they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and

Refrain
 night that was so deep.
 tin - ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

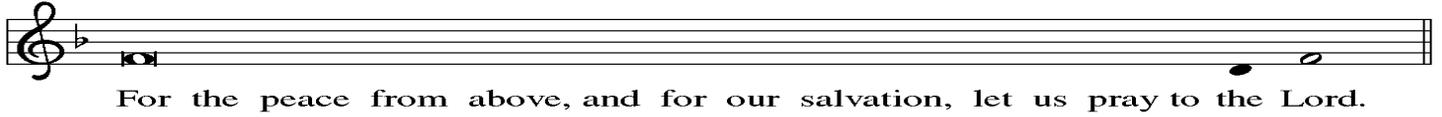
GREETING:

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. C: And also with you.

KYRIE *Please stand as you are able.* (Assisting Minister: regular print, **C: bold print**)



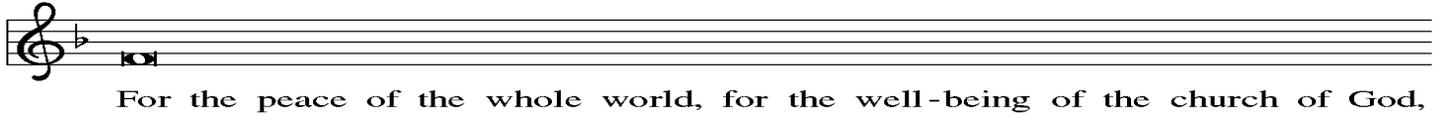
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



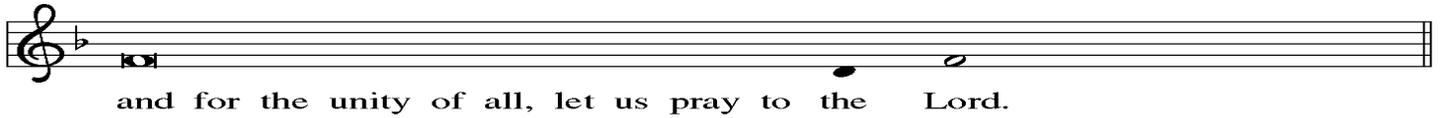
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



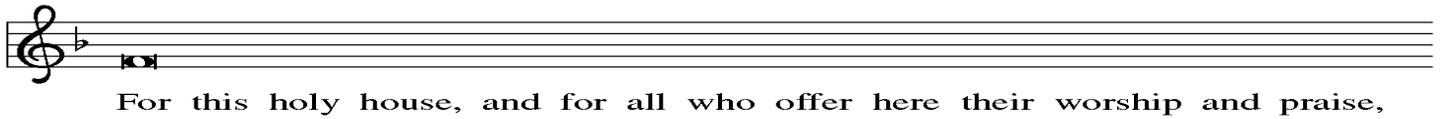
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



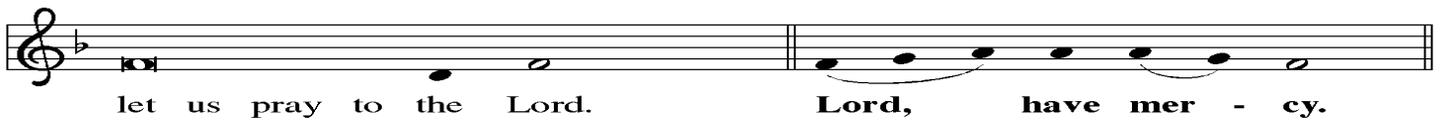
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



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.**

HYMN of PRAISE

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

ELW#275

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A: Let us pray C: 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.

(Please be seated.)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE! Meet Mr. Furr

L: The 1st READING is from Isaiah 60:1-6

Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her, because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.

¹Arise, 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. L: The word of the Lord! C: **Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 (*Please join the Assisting Minister in reading the psalm responsively*) **ELW#72**

¹Give the king your justice, 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 among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

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 water 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.**

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 lowly and poor, and preserves the lives of the needy.

¹⁴**From oppression and violence he redeems their lives, and precious is their blood in his sight.**

L: The 2nd READING is from Ephesians 3:1-12

What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.

¹This 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. L: The word of the Lord! C: **Thanks be to God!**

Gospel Acclamation *Stand*

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.

P: THE HOLY GOSPEL according to Matthew 2:1-12 **C: Glory to you, O Lord!**

God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.

¹In 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: ⁶"And 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.

P: The gospel of the Lord! **C: Praise to you, O Christ!** *Please be seated*

SERMON

Pastor Art Stees

HYMN OF THE DAY

As with Gladness Men of Old

ELW#302

1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;
 2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,
 3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
 4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;
 5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;

as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;
 there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;
 so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
 and when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last
 thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;

so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.
 so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.
 all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n - ly king.
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.
 there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.

APOSTLES' CREED *Please Stand*

A: God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

After each petition: WA: Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Rejoicing with all the faithful, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.
brief silence.

WA: Let us pray for the church throughout the world; for those who proclaim the gospel; for those seeking faith and those looking for hope; for congregations in communities large and small, near and far. Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

WA: For the ministry of Pastor Miranda, her joy and enthusiasm, as she served among us.
C: hear our prayer.

WA: For wise leaders and tireless peacemakers; for those whose lives are threatened by violence; and for those who leave their homelands in search of safety or to provide for their families. Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer**

WA: For those who face prejudice, abuse, or neglect; for those who experience depression; for those yearning for light within dark spaces in their lives; for those who grieve; and for all who are sick especially *Lee Wenzel, Bob Lyvers, Ellen Kyles, Donna Euler, Katy Lartz, Chris Harbach, Maryann Liebenstein, Jon Forsythe and Kelly Huneke.* Strengthen and encourage *Verl Price, Steve Fahr.* Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer**

WA: For this assembly; for those who offer their gifts to your service; for those who lead us in worship; for all who reach out to welcome those who are seeking; and for those who guide us in faith. Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer**

WA: With thanksgiving, we remember all who have died and those whose lives have inspired us to follow you with joy and hope. Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Pondering the mystery of your love, we offer our prayers in the name of Christ, the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

Congregation may greet one another using these or similar words: Peace be with you.

Please be seated.

OFFERING

Choir Anthem

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church locally and throughout the world, including those in need. We also offer up prayers to God as we offer ourselves (time, talents, gifts, and interests) to the Lord's service and dedicate our lives to God's work in the world. During this time, the table is set. After the table is set, the offering is gathered & the anthem concludes, the acolyte walks out to the edge of the chancel steps to receive the offering from the ushers.

OFFERING PRAYER (congregation stands)

A: Let Us Pray. **C: Good and loving God, 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 blessing 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.**

DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise

WORDS OF INSTITUTION/LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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

We practice open Communion here — you don't have to be a member to participate. All who share our belief that Jesus is present in his holy meal are welcome to receive the bread and cup. Children and adults who do not commune are invited to come forward to receive a special blessing. Holy Communion will be celebrated today using intinction (you will dip the wafer into the chalice of wine). The gold chalices have wine; the chrome chalices have grape juice.

You will be ushered down the center aisle and return to your pew by way of the side aisles. If you wish to commune and are unable to come forward or need other assistance, please let an usher know so that we can serve you.



COMMUNION SONG

Lamb of God

ELW#154

Musical notation for the Communion Song "Lamb of God" (ELW#154). The score is written on four staves in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "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." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence on the word "peace".

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray, We give you thanks, O God, that in this bread and cup of Christ's very life, you give us food for our journey. As you led the magi by a star, as you brought the holy family home again, guide us on the way unfolding before us. Wherever we go, may our lives proclaim good news of great joy in Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

BENEDICTION P: Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **C: Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

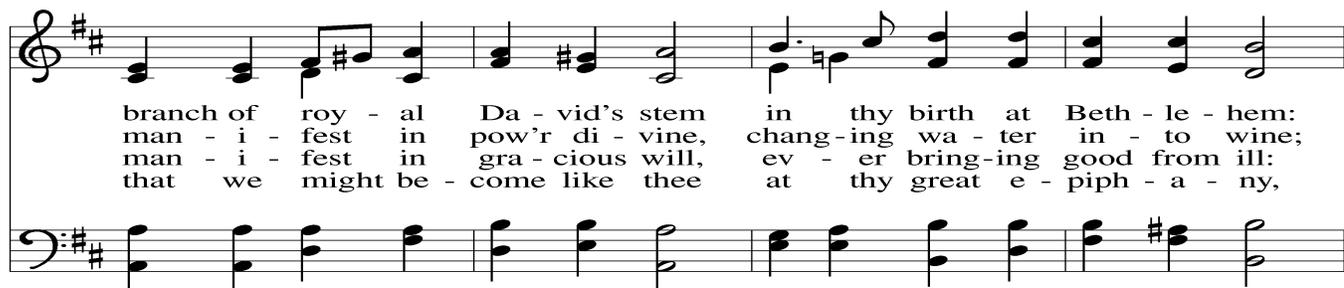
ELW#310



1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;
 2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, proph-et, priest, and king su - preme;
 3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole weak-ened bod - y, faint-ing soul;
 4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word;



man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,
 and at Ca - na wed - ding guest in thy God-head man - i - fest;
 man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell-ing all the dev - il's might;
 grace to im - i - tate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;



branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem;
 man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, chang-ing wa - ter in - to wine;
 man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring-ing good from ill:
 that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny,



an - thems be to thee ad - dressed,
 an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.
 an - thems be to thee ad - dressed,
 and may praise thee, ev - er blest,

DISMISSAL (from back)

A: Go in peace. Christ is with you! **C: Thanks be to God**

POSTLUDE

Karen Niemeier

THIS WEEK AT GOOD SHEPHERD

January 3rd thru January 10th 2016

Today	Worship Service with Holy Communion	9:30 am
	Sunday School	10:45 am
	Choir Practice	11:00 am
	Chime Choir Practice	5:00 pm
Tuesday	Faith Circle at Lena Living Center	1:00 pm
Wednesday	"Piece Corps" Quilting Group	8:00 am-11:30 am
	After School Program at The Hangout	3:30-5:00 pm
	Confirmation	6:30 pm-8:00 pm
Thursday	Hannah Circle at Good Shepherd	9:00 am
Next Sunday	Worship Service with Holy Communion	9:30 am
	Fellowship	10:30 am
	Sunday School	10:45 am
	Choir Practice	11:00 am
	Chime Choir Practice	5:00 pm

Attendance December 24th 5:00 Service was 87- December 24th 7:30 Service was 81
Attendance December 27, 2015 was 103

Prayer Requests

We pray for all of those who are lonely, injured, sick, needing healing, or in need in any way. This week we especially pray for, *Lee Wenzel, Bob Lyvers, Ellen Kyles, Donna Euler, Katy Lartz, Chris Harbach, Maryann Liebenstein, Jon Forsythe and Kelly Huneke and homebound members Verl Price and Steve Fahr.*

Please join Paul and Marilyn Hardel

as they celebrate their 65th Wedding Anniversary and Paul's 90th birthday, Sunday, January 17, 10:30am to 1pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Annual Congregational Meeting January 31st, 2016 at 10:45 am

Capital Campaign Resolutions, Electing new Church Council members, Feedback on proposed revisions to Endowment Policy, Information on Safe Child Policy, Celebrating 2015 and planning for a new year of mission and ministry in 2016, Possible nominations for a Call Committee

The 2016 ANNUAL REPORT will be available for you to pick up at church Sunday January 24th. It will also be available at the annual meeting on January 31st. However, if you would like a copy mailed to you please call the church office at 815-369-5552.

Annual Reports are Due January 4th, 2016

Annual reports are required for each committee and organization of the congregation. These reports are assembled and made available to the congregation members prior to the meeting. The reports are the responsibility of the chairperson or offices. We will be sending out the reports from last year for you to update your reports and turn them into the office by Monday, January 4, 2016. If possible, please type up the report and email it to either GoodShepherdLena@outlook.com or gslc@goodshepherdlena.org in Word format.

Capital Campaign Information Meeting Sunday January 24th at 10:45 am

With information on Project Scope and resolutions for the Annual Meeting

Worship Volunteers

We are setting up the Worship Volunteer schedule for the new year starting February 2016. If you are interested in assisting in any capacity with the services, please contact the office or put a note in with your offering. New volunteers are welcome! If you have been signed up to do something in the past, you will stay on the list unless you request to be taken off. We are looking for people to do all tasks, such as: Lector, Assisting Minister, Worship Assistant, Communion Ushers, Communion Set-up and Clean-up, Communion Assistants, Greeters, Ushers, Special Music, Sound System, Video Camera Operators, and Power Point Operators. We would like to thank all the volunteers who have helped in the past You make this church work and we really appreciate it!