

SHEPHERD OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER

“Whoever despises the word brings destruction on himself, but he who reveres the commandment will be rewarded.” –Proverbs 13:1



If you've been paying attention, you probably have seen a decided shift in themes recently. While

some advertisements will take one last stab at late gift-giving, most of the focus will very soon have moved on. Themes like “Shape Up”, “Get Fit”, or “Get Organized” will overtake various media. The music in retail stores will also have changed. Not only will the festive carols be gone; but so, too, the stimulating, up-tempo melodies. No longer packed with shoppers, retailers may try to slow the pace with relaxing tunes that subliminally encourage you to slow down, take it easy and look around. Seasons change. People change.

In the retail example above, merchants know that the greeting “Many happy returns” has taken on a whole new meaning in the days following Christmas. Many shoppers will come bearing gifts to be exchanged. This creates the potential to point out things they need in an effort to turn sales and keep those dollars in the store. Seasons change, people change as the saying goes.

“The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.” -- Isaiah 40:8

Unlike ads on television, billboards, or your smart phone, God’s messages to us are reliably consistent. Whereas every other medium sending us messages has a self-serving purpose, God always sends His Word to us for our benefit.

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LITTLE LAMBS



I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas! Thank you to those who

donated gifts to Little Lambs, it was/is greatly appreciated! Our Christmas concert went great again this year. It was a great turn out, again. Thank you, Pastor

Ben for helping with the concert this year. The children also received a visit from Santa Claus on the 21st. Their faces lit up when they saw him! After his visit we opened presents and played Christmas Bingo. It was so much fun!!!

203 Port Neal Rd
Sergeant Bluff, IA 51054

Rev. Benjamin D. Perkins
Pastor

Pastor:

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Church Office:

Phone: 712-943-4502
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Preschool:

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Church Website:

www.shepherdofpeacechurch.com

Worship with Us

Sunday Morning

Worship Service 9:00am
Sunday School 10:15am
Adult Bible Study 10:30am

Wednesday Evening

Worship Event 7:00pm

Shepherd of Peace Mission Statement

We the members of the Body of Christ here at Shepherd of Peace, responding to God’s love and selfless concern, dedicate ourselves and our congregation to: THE CONTINUAL GROWTH OF THE BODY OF CHRIST by unceasing efforts in the following areas: EDUCATION, WORSHIP, OUTREACH, AND SPIRITUAL CARE

Pastor Perkins continued...

In the same way that His motivation is always the same, His message is also is unchanging. It is also something that we once again desperately need to hear.

Psalms 97:1 The Lord reigns. Let the earth rejoice.

Matthew 1:23 They shall call his name Immanuel, which means "God with us".

Luke 1:32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Whatever you've done, however you're lost, wherever you are, Jesus came for you.

If you are ashamed, if you are guilty, if you are morose, Jesus died for you.

If you feel lonely, if you feel sad, if you feel hopeless, Jesus lives for you.

Year by year, season by season, His message of hope and forgiveness is one we need to hear.

And we need to hear it again and again.

As you seek to recover, clean up, and transition from holiday mode, please prayerfully consider

organizing, sprucing up, or fine tuning your spiritual life with any or all of these **daily** strategies in mind:

Heed God's command to love your neighbor by finding ways to express that love, especially in your home.

Counter the negative images that flood our vision by spending regular time in God's Word; Reinforce your faith and that of your children by praying Luther's Morning Prayer, The Lord's Prayer, The Apostles' Creed.

Having your days ordered properly, other opportunities present themselves for your enrichment:

Attend weekly worship on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings to fellowship with the Lord and with His people.

Take an active role in strengthening your marriage by participating in a couples' enrichment exercise.

The church is here to help with all of these important ingredients of a healthy life. God created us for fellowship with Himself and others. He created us for relationships. God grant us the grace and the strength to steward our relationships responsibly.

The Peace of Christ be yours.

Pastor Ben



*Kyle Hoogendoorn aka
"The Wheeled Worshipper"*

Christmas Christians

Over the holidays, it is possible to see many different people, even people that you have never met before. This can be said of Christmas parties, meals and other activities. It can also be said of church services held during the holidays. Perhaps this person came with family and has not been in church for a while. Or perhaps this person thought that going to church on a special day like Christmas was the right thing to do since everyone else was doing it. It may even be that this person thought they were missing something in the holiday season and turned to church to find that missing piece.

We could call these people "Christmas Christians". They may attend one or two services over the holidays but then they seem to forget about the church. Why is that? There could be hundreds of reasons from attitude of the person to life circumstances that they can't overcome. Hopefully, we would be able to understand and help with these persons' reasons once we get to know them better. Then hopefully, with

God's help, we can begin to share with them what Christianity is all about.

How do we get to that point? Do we bombard them with questions and force feed them answers? Do we force a Bible in their hands the second they walk in the door? While these tactics may have good intentions behind them, they may not have the intended effect. Instead of welcoming them, it may be a deterrent. It may not seem like the right move, but perhaps a simpler approach is needed.

All it may take is a simple greeting. It may be the same way that you would want to be greeted, not wanting someone jumping all over you with questions, but instead welcoming you in the love of Christ. Then allow them to experience church: the worship service, the community, and God being right there with us. After church, our work is not done. Always be ready for the Holy Spirit to use you as a sounding board. It is a good possibility and probable that for those who have never entered church or haven't been there in a while may have questions. Don't feel afraid to not have all the answers. You're not alone. Allow your church family or community to also come along and provide input.

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We all know that there will be people that we do not recognize in our church services over the holidays. May we be gifted with the help of the Holy Spirit and be presented the opportunity to be a "light" that stands out in a church or building full of them. May God give us all the wisdom to recognize these people who made need a bit of guidance as they come to Christ for the first time or as they revisit him and his promises that they held onto long ago. I pray that these people may not be strangers for long, but rather within the next week or next year, or in the years to come, perhaps they may be considered new and lifelong friends and partners of the gospel. May we with God's help be able to welcome "Christmas Christians" into wonderful men, women, and children of God.

-The Wheeled Worshipper-



Thank you to the families that helped with Christmas decorating at the church and at Embassy in December! They turned out beautiful!

There will be a Youth Activity on Sunday, January 20th from 2p - 5p. All 3rd - 12th graders are welcome. Tawnya will send a follow up email to all parents with further details.

NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING FOR LCMS is in Minneapolis from **July 11-15**. We have 13 youth and 6 adults attending. The theme is **REAL.PRESENT.GOD**. They will be diving into the **Psalms**. Generations of God's people have known the **Psalms** the way you know your favorite

songs and hymns. The **Psalms** were the worship songs and prayers of the Old Testament people, and they continue to play a significant role in the worship life of God's people today. Their lyrics can be as memorable and as powerful as some of your favorite songs. You can think of the **Psalms** as a playlist for God's people. We will be continuing to raise funds to get our group to this event in July.

Youth for Hire!!!

The youth and their families are available to help with tasks around the yard or house. Please go to www.shepherdofpeacechurch.com, click on the Youth Groups link, then on the Service Request link. This will open a form to complete. The youth board will coordinate a date and time that works for you. Paper forms are also available at the church. Please fill out the form and give to a youth board member. Examples of service requests could be raking leaves, picking up sticks, etc....

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FAMILY NIGHT

The students in confirmation class and their families are invited to eat **AT CHURCH EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT** before classes begin. Dinner will be served from 5:00pm to 5:45pm. We hope that everyone will use this as a time of fellowship and education. Please accept this invitation and take this opportunity to visit with the other Christians.



Thousand, Thousand Thanks Shall Be!

From the very early part of 2018 when I arrived, to later months as I was joined by my family, to the holiday season and the end of our first year at Shepherd of Peace, God's people have been amazing. Never has a family been made to feel so welcome in a new place. Time and again Shepherd of Peace has exceeded anything for which we could have expected or hoped. Thanks to all who took the extra initiative to reach out to us during Christmas. It was an unexpected surprise and we really appreciate it. This is a wonderful place to do ministry, filled with warm and caring Christians. We look forward to 2019 and all God will do in this place.

The Peace of Christ bless and be with you.

Pastor Perkins and family.

Birthdays

Mary Ruble	January 3
<i>Dane' Zarbano</i>	January 4
<i>Bunny Ericksen</i>	January 5
<i>Dortha Hefner</i>	January 9
<i>Sharon Russell</i>	January 9
<i>Levi Zarbano</i>	January 10
<i>Ryan McCoy</i>	January 12
<i>Greg Book</i>	January 17
<i>Ashley Erickson</i>	January 17
<i>Ruth Grohs</i>	January 17
<i>David Van Roekel</i>	January 21
<i>Gina Colvert</i>	January 31
<i>Benjamin Perkins</i>	January 31

Baptisms

Mykaylan Burner	January 1
Raymond Horner	January 6
Bradley Borkowski	January 8
Steven Petersen	January 9
Sharon Russell	January 11
Brooke Huntley	January 13
Stacey Umbrell	January 18
Ashley Erickson	January 19
Tyler Hickson	January 24
Blake Russell	January 24
Ryan McCoy	January 25
Levi Zarbano	January 25
Katelyn Roel	January 27

Board of Lay Ministry

The nature of the duties of this Board requires that only men noted for their Christian knowledge, zeal and experience in the spiritual work of the Kingdom of Christ shall be elected to membership. The Board shall consist of at least (five) 5 members, including the elected Director of the Board.

The basic objectives of this Board are the spiritual welfare of the Pastor and congregation members, individually and corporately, and the supervision of everything pertaining to congregational worship.

- Tom Tainter (712) 251-4576
ttainter@outlook.com
- Michael Aguirre (712) 943-3614
maguirre@1fbusa.com
- Bob Lee (712) 490-7016
robert.lee@royalcanin.com
- Dan Umbrell (651)-434-8223
dan.umbrell@crowniron.com
- Mickey Haider (619) 392-0544
mmmrbc7@yahoo.com

Do You Have A Prayer Request? Please contact Lannie in the church office at 712-943-4502, or email Lannie Knapp sopoffice@longlines.com and Michael Aguirre maguirre@cableone.net and they will get the prayer requests sent and to Pastor Perkins.

Bulletin & Newsletter Deadlines: All information for the weekly *bulletins* should be turned into the church office by **12 noon on Wednesdays**. All information for the *newsletter* should be turned into the church office by **end on the third Wednesday of each month**.

Office Contact: Phone 712-943-4502, Fax 712-943-4506, Email sopoffice@longlines.com

Church Website:
www.shepherdofpeacechurch.com

January 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 	2	3 <i>Mary Ruble</i>	4 <i>Dane' Zarbano</i>	5 <i>Bunny Ericksen</i>
6 Epiphany 9:00am Worship W/HC 10:15am Sunday School 10:30am Adult Bible Study	7 7:00pm Stephen Ministry	8 8:30am Circuit Meeting 8:30am Quilter's Group 2:00pm Stephen Leaders 2:30pm Leadership Meeting 4:30pm Prayer Group 6:00pm Church Council 6:30pm Mom's Group	9 5:00pm Confirmation Dinner 5:45pm Confirmation Class 7:00pm Worship Service <i>Dortha Hefner Sharon Russell</i>	10 <i>Levi Zarbano</i>	11	12 <i>Ryan McCoy</i>
13 1st Sunday a. the Epiphany 9:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 10:30am Adult Bible Study	14	15 8:30am Quilter's Group 2:00pm Stephen Leaders 2:30pm Leadership Meeting 4:30pm Prayer Group 6:00pm Elders Meeting 6:30pm Mom's Group	16 5:00pm Confirmation Dinner 5:45pm Confirmation class 7:00pm Worship Service	17 6:00pm Evangelism Meeting <i>Greg Book Ashley Erickson Ruth Grohs</i>	18 January 18-25 <i>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity</i> 	19 9:00am Church & Clergy Finance/Treasurer Workshop
20 2nd Sunday a. the Epiphany 9:00am Carole White LCEF 9:00am Worship W/HC 10:15am Sunday School 10:30am Adult Bible Study 2:00pm Youth Activity	21 2:00pm Bible Study at Embassy  <i>David Van Roekel</i>	22 8:30am Quilter's Group 2:00pm Stephen Leaders 2:30pm Leadership Meeting 4:30pm Prayer Group 6:30pm Mom's Group	23 5:00pm Confirmation Dinner 5:45pm Confirmation class 7:00pm Worship Service	24 1:00pm LWML Meeting	25	26
27 3rd Sunday a. the Epiphany 9:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 10:30am Adult Bible Study	28 7:00pm Stephen Ministry	29 8:30am Quilter's Group 2:00pm Stephen Leaders 2:30pm Leadership Meeting 4:30pm Prayer Group 6:30pm Mom's Group	30 5:00pm Confirmation Dinner 5:45pm Confirmation class 7:00pm Worship Service	31 <i>Gina Colvert Benjamin Perkins</i>		