



# THE SHEP NEWS



Weekend E-Newsletter • December 13, 2009 • 3rd Sunday in Advent Worship: 9AM- ELW Service; 10 AM-Sunday School/Fellowship; 11 AM -Sing 'N Rejoice

## OUR MISSION

- To invite all people to know the unconditional love of Christ;
- To share Christ's love through words and deeds;
- To empower people to serve Christ in the world.

[www.goodshepherdmd.org](http://www.goodshepherdmd.org)  
[www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)



God's Work  
Our Hands



Luke 3:7-18

## Sermon on the Amount December 6, 2009

Needed weekly \$6703  
Debt Reduction 560

**TOTAL RECEIVED \$9590**  
Needed for Budget **\$6703**  
Worship Attendance 213  
Sunday School 69  
To Make Budget **\$14903**  
Owed Reserve Fund 13,500  
Your help with weekly expenses is appreciated



50th Anniversary

[www.mar-lu-ridge.org](http://www.mar-lu-ridge.org)

## Your own personal Christmas tree

In its "trim-a-tree" section, a department store displays several rows of brightly decorated "holiday" trees (in the interest of inoffensive marketing, the word Christmas is avoided). Each tree has a "theme": One tree is decorated with old fashioned Victorian ornaments; another is decorated with traditional tinsel and brightly colored orbs. But another tree has a sports theme, decorated with pro-team logos and balls and equipment. Another tree is decorated with figures of animals — separate trees celebrate dogs and cats. There are trees with musical themes, cooking themes, outdoor themes — there is even a Star Wars' tree and a NASCAR tree.



Today's "holiday" trees aren't really about Christmas but the ultimate expression of its owner's personality. For some of us, our decorations are centered in family treasures handed down over generations — while for some, our Christmas trees are filled with all of our favorite things: The ultimate may be the self-described "caffeine addict" who decorates her tree with Dunkin' Donuts and Starbucks decorations. What does that have to do with Christmas?"

"Easy", she says: "Coffee makes me happy, and Christmas makes me happy, so I combine the two."

[From "Ornament overload" by Christopher Muther, The Boston Globe, December 11, 2008.]

While much of what makes Christmas special has been surrendered to popular culture, the Baptizer John proclaims every Advent the true meaning of Christmas: the dawning of the reign of God, filled with new possibilities to create a more just, a more joyful, a more hope-filled world. Christmas calls us to follow a star outside our own happy orbit, to make our way to a poor stable far beyond our own door, to a peace that embraces more than just our own happiness.

Let us reclaim the meaning of Christmas in every dimension of our holiday celebrations: let our lights proclaim the dawning of the Prince of Peace; let our cards proclaim the good news of the angels that God is in our midst; let our gift-giving reflect the compassion and generosity of the God who loves us enough to become one of us; let our hospitality mirror God's embrace of all his children.

Pastor Ron

## Senior Lunch Bunch, Wed., Dec. 16th

will enjoy a visit from Sarah Lefler, the new Director of Operations at Mar-u-Ridge. Join us for some Christmas cheer. Bring a dish to share and friends and neighbors are always welcome. We begin with lunch at 12 Noon in the Community Room

## Shepherd's Brew, December 18th

All-Christmas Open Mic and Karaoke. Bring the kids! Dress like Elves and Reindeer! Sing-along. And most importantly, Celebrate Jesus' Birthday! Mike & Robin Schaeffer [schaeffz@netzero.net](mailto:schaeffz@netzero.net).

## Christmas Eve at Good Shepherd

5PM - Contemporary Service (suitable for families with small children) Puppets

6:30PM- Organ Medley of Christmas Music

7PM - Traditional Candlelight and Carol Service with Special Music and Puppets for Children

9:30PM - Shepherd Brass

10PM - Traditional Candlelight and Carol Service with Special Music



## Christmas Love Tree

The Christmas Tree in the Gathering area serves as the annual Mitten Tree. Place children's mittens and hats on the tree. They will be distributed to local schools and will help keep kids warm this winter.

**Annual Meeting** Two items were moved, seconded and passed on Sunday, December 6th at 10AM: 1. The passing of a zero-balanced budget for 2010 and 2. The election of four new Council Members: John Martin, Brad Reaves, Dan Steffen and Kent Treichler -all for three year terms on Council.

**Prayer Concerns:** Peggy Beers, Gary Stone, diagnosed with esophageal cancer; Gene Schoonover, back surgery, now at home, Patrick Covert, son of Loretta and Norm Covert, recovering from emergency surgery, New York; John Day, brother of Janet Fisher-Day, York Hospital; Andrea Reaves at the death of her grandmother; Paul

Miller and Greg Miller, brothers of Evie Timberlake, Bobi Alleman (Sister of Loretta Covert); Molly, cousin of Bobbie Donaldson, Ron Knerr, Bill Shuff, Bernie Abrecht; Lee Brown; Lucas Phelan; Sandy Kessler, Kathleen Shook; Phyllis Culler, Dale Lutz, Carolyn Hellman; Prayer requests, phone: Peggy Beers (301) 663-9741/Marilyn Ayres (301) 663-1997; or E-mail Evie Timberlake [2timbers@verizon.net](mailto:2timbers@verizon.net).

**Adult I Sunday School** meets Sundays at 10AM in the Community Room. They have begun a new study/DVD series on THE TEN COMMANDMENTS. This Sunday, the 3rd Commandment is reviewed.

**Adult II Sunday School** meets in the Fireplace Room, 10:15 AM - open discussion of contemporary issues from NPR's "Speaking of Faith". All are welcome

**Homebound:** Orpha Zimmerman; Becky Molesworth; Polly Carmack; Charles Thompson; Mary Nelson; Alice Willoughby; Agnes Gamer; JoEllen Gluscevic; Jo Adams; Belva Bell; Marjorie Deater; Kathleen Shook, Citizen's Nursing Home, Rosemont Ave., Frederick; Barbara Adams, Rena Hall, now at Tranquility Care, Jefferson Pike, Frederick.

### Remember Our Military Members:

Jason Feser, Jeffrey Feser, Eric Feser. Prayers for Jeff Feser deployed to Iraq Wed., November 18th. His address is **1st Lt. Jeffrey Feser, HHC 1st BDE 1AD/Bravo 6-1 CAV (RSTA0 FOB Warrior, Iraq APO AE 09338.**

Lord, please hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them even as they protect us. Bless them and their families during the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. Amen.'

**Passion Play August 2010** seats still available for Pastor Ron's 2010 trip to the Passion Play in Oberammergau in Bavaria, Germany, August 4-14 that includes visits to Prague, Budapest and Vienna- with continuing visits to Oberammergau and Munich. Reservations still open for the trip. Brochures are available in the Gathering Area. Pastor Ron [ronrv@comcast.net](mailto:ronrv@comcast.net) or [www.travron.com](http://www.travron.com).

### From the Financial Secretary

Third quarter 2009 Giving Statements are being sent out. Please check your pledges. If you need to catch up or if you would like to make additional Gifts, please do so by **Sunday Dec. 27th**. Any Gifts received after Sunday Dec. 27th will be recorded in tax year 2010. Questions, please call Bill Thelemann 301-620-1535 or [thelemann@comcast.net](mailto:thelemann@comcast.net).

### Coffee and Chocolate Still

**Available** Thanks for your support of the Fair Trade Fair and purchasing leftover chocolate and coffee. We still have items left for sale -- they make great tuck-in gifts! See Pat Schoonover or Diane DeMarco, [ddemarco2@comcast.net](mailto:ddemarco2@comcast.net) or cal 301-696-8886. We cannot return them. All profits go to Lutheran World Relief.

### Gifts Due on December 13th

If you took a tag to purchase a gift for a member of a needy family, please remember all gifts are due on Sun. Dec. 13. If you forgot to bring your gift, please contact Pat Schoonover, , 301-473-8736

### Food Donations Welcome

Not everyone can help with the Soup Kitchen, but please keep in mind the great needs of the community as we move into winter. Pick up just one additional non-perishable food item and bring it with you on Sundays to put in the food collection box in the Narthex. Let's keep that box full. Thanks to Nicholas Brie of the Social Ministry team for taking the donations to the food bank each week.

### Spinning A Good Yarn

Good Shepherd has received a donation of yarn, knitting needles, and other craft supplies and unfinished projects. The donor would like us to use as much as possible to make blankets, hats, and anything else we can for others who may have a need. If you would like to use some of these supplies to make blankets for children who are hospitalized, lap blankets for nursing homes or hospitalized patients, or donate new stuffed toys, please let Pat Schoonover (301-473-8736 - [sewinglady@xecu.net](mailto:sewinglady@xecu.net)) or Loretta Covert (301-663-3344 or [goodshep14@aol.com](mailto:goodshep14@aol.com)) know. Or you can place them around the "Gift of Love" tree in the gathering area.

Hopefully, *Spinning A Good Yarn* will be a year-round ministry sponsored by the Social Ministry Team to supply comfort items to babies and children at Frederick Memorial Hospital, nursing homes and the homebound.

Blankets for babies and children can be crocheted, knitted, quilted or fleece, newborn size 30"x30", infants, 36"x48", toddlers/preschoolers 40"x54", and children 50"x64". Also needed/appreciated would be toys or stuffed animals (new), children's clothing (especially socks, underwear & infant clothes), shampoo & conditioner, sippy cups (child uses it & takes it home) and infant feeding spoons (also takes home).



**Christmas Blanket** During the holiday season, the 7th Grade Confirmation class will be holding a raffle for a Christmas blanket put together by the class. We will be collecting food for the Frederick Food Bank for the raffle. Each time you drop off a non-perishable item, write your name and phone number on the paper provided and place it in the container, located near the Education Bulletin Board. Winner will be chosen at the 11AM service on Sun. December 20th.

### Books for Our Troops Operation

**Paperback** collects gently used books and sends them to American troops deployed overseas. Since 1999, they have shipped over 950,000 books to locations around the globe. If you have paperback books to donate, leave them on top of the cupboards behind the coat-rack marked Operation Paperback, and the Social Ministry team will get them to a drop-off site. Operation Paperback is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.



**Poinsettia Orders** due Sunday, December 20. \$8.00 per poinsettia. Make payable to 'Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.' Please indicate either 1) In Memory of '\_\_\_' or 'In Honor of \_\_\_' or 'To the Glory of God by \_\_\_.' Poinsettias may be picked up following the 10AM Christmas Eve service or on Sunday, December 27th.

**Christmas Caroling** The North-Frederick/Thurmont NeighborTalk group will be caroling among Seniors at Homewood at Cruiland Farm **Sat., December 19th, 2:30PM**. We'll sit among our friends there and encourage each other to sing the old familiar carols as well as sharing our favorite Christmas stories. The congregation is welcome to join in. Call Janet at 301-304-0374 or [jdrippeon1@aol.com](mailto:jdrippeon1@aol.com) for questions.

**Simply Giving®** is a program of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans that lets people give their church offering by using electronic funds transfers, like many already use for other commitments, enabling us to support the Church's mission consistently throughout the year. See the note on the Stewardship/Faith Response information board in the Gathering Area.

### Congregation Council Officers 2009

Pres: Janet Rippeon Fisher [jdrippeon1@aol.com](mailto:jdrippeon1@aol.com) 301-304-0374  
Secretary, Sandy Hagen, [Sandra.Hagen@gmail.com](mailto:Sandra.Hagen@gmail.com)  
Treasurer : Jean Van Tassel [jvantassel@aol.com](mailto:jvantassel@aol.com)  
Financial Sec'y: Bill Thelemann [thelemann@comcast.net](mailto:thelemann@comcast.net)