We are a Publicly Engaged Church

We are a publicly engaged church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work. We do God’s work in the world, the work of restoring and reconciling communities. We pursue justice and seek peace no matter how long the journey or wide the chasm. Because we are grounded in God’s love and forgiveness, we are well equipped to live and serve here and now, in the world, with all its complexities, tensions and ambiguities.

There is no aspect of life in which God is not active, no place where God is not present. And this is exactly where we are called to participate in God’s work, in the thick of life, embracing individuals, families and communities that are hungry for hope and healing, justice and peace, advocates and partners.

Our faith and our call to boldly serve and love our neighbor take us into some interesting and challenging aspects of life: advocacy, corporate social responsibility, racial justice, science and ethics, peacemaking, justice for women, social issues, and community organizing. We are drawn into every corner of life, society and its institutions to bring the good news of Jesus Christ and to work for lasting, positive change that upholds human dignity. You have a place in the ELCA and an important role in God’s work in the world — find ways here to get connected to a community of faith and the work of our publicly engaged church.¹

¹ https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church
Shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. — Isaiah 60:1

For three months the Amsterdam Light Festival will draw thousands of visitors from all over the world to take in over 20 light-based artworks by various architects, artists, and designers. As human beings we have a history of being drawn towards the light. This stretches all the way back to our first cave dwelling ancestors, and reaches us today through our fixation on the light from our screens.

According to Matthew in the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “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.” They saw a light and it moved them, it drew them to God made flesh in a little child. Do our lights today draw us towards God and one another?

Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. — Isaiah 60:3

Artists Tom Biddulph and Barbara Ryan created NIGHT VISION for the Amsterdam Light Festival. For the rest of this month visitors can travel by boat along the canal and journey through an eye they created on the bridge. Tom and Barbara write; “Human sight has been evolving over the course of thousands of years and today we’re seeing more than ever before. You could say that an oral tradition has made way for an image culture, and our eyes now play a more important role than our ears in our communication. This has changed our society in a drastic way: even though we exchange information much faster through images, we often receive them in a much more passive and less critical way."

Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; — Isaiah 60:4

As we celebrate Epiphany my hope is that we think critically about the lights we are drawn to and whether or not they guide us closer to God and each other. God’s light physically moves us to follow Jesus Christ just as it did the wise men from the east. It is a dangerous journey that puts us in contact with many different people. Tom and Barbara write that, “the boats pass underneath the bridge and symbolize beams of light entering the eye. As visitors we’re not just looking at the city- but in a way, the city is looking right back at us.” We follow a God that gathers us, not only so that we might gaze at God in worship and adoration, but so that our God might gaze back at us through infant eyes.

Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall be thrilled and rejoice, — Isaiah

May you never lose your night vision as we follow the light of life together,

— Jason Fisher
Broomball Tournament
Sunday, January 6, 5:30-7pm
U of I Ice Arena

Middle & High School youth will meet for our Lutheran vs. Methodist broomball event. We will also provide time for ice skating for the less competitive among us. Contact Jason if interested.

Youth Group at the Chamley’s
Sunday, January 13, 6-8pm

High School youth are invited to our first Youth Group night of the new year over at the Chamley’s house (3304 Pinegrove Pl., Champaign). We will have dinner, games, and lots of hot drinks.

Illini Hockey Game
Saturday, January 19, 7pm

Youth and Families of all ages can come cheer on the Illini as they battle Lindenwood. Cost is $5/person with kids 5 and under being free.

Ice Skating
Sunday, January 13
1:30-4pm
U of I Ice Arena

K-5th Grade families can meet Jason at 1:30pm for some ice skating. Skates and admission are covered by Good Shepherd.

Ice Skating
Sunday, January 20, 1-4pm

Did you miss out on the ice skating? No worries, kids and families of all ages can roll on over to Skateland in Savoy for some rink time. Good Shepherd will cover the cost of kids admission and skates. See if you can beat Jason at shoot the duck!

National Pie day at the New Sweet Indulgence (1121 Windsor Rd., Champaign). If there is snow on the ground we will go sledding across the street at Morrisey Park hill till 7pm.

National Appreciate a Dragon Day
Wednesday, January 16

Middle School Youth can meet at the church for some Dragon games and Dragon Fire Pizza, while we watch “How to Train Your Dragon 2.”

Middle School Youth can join Jason for National Pie day at the New Sweet Indulgence (1121 Windsor Rd., Champaign). If there is snow on the ground we will go sledding across the street at Morrisey Park hill till 7pm.

Parents Night Out
Friday, January 25, 5-8pm

Love your kids but need some alone time? Been dying to check out that new restaurant in town that isn’t exactly kid friendly? We are here for you. Kids 5 months – 5th grade can enjoy dinner and games in the fellowship hall at Good Shepherd. Simply contact Jason to reserve your spot today.
More Youth Announcements

Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day
Sunday, January 27, 6-8pm

High School Youth Group at Jason’s house will involve an assortment of bubble wrap-related games and prizes. Dinner will be provided.

Walk in Their Shoes
Friday, February 1, 6-9pm

High School youth are invited to walk with Jason downtown to hear about issues affecting the homeless in our community. There will be multiple speakers, a tour of various services provided, and some snacks throughout the evening.

New Youth Game Room!

It was a Merry Christmas for the youth and adults of Good Shepherd who recently got a classroom makeover during break. Fresh coat of paint, new carpet, and some fun games were donated to make the old classroom space more inviting. We are looking forward to using this space not only with our own youth, but those in the community as well.

If you would like to make a donation to offset the cost of this brand new space feel free to write a check to Good Shepherd and put Game Room in the memo line. Thanks again for all the ways you continue to support the youth and families of Good Shepherd.

Community Game Night
January 10 5-8pm
Fellowship Hall

Bring your own dinner and we will provide the games and snacks. We will have ten tables set up with a variety of board games and card games to play. Folks will be there to teach new games or play old classics. Friends and family are welcome to come and bring their favorite card game or board game as well we just ask that all game themes be appropriate for all ages. Contact Jason with any questions.

STORYBOOK PROJECT

The EastCentral Illinois Storybook Project team has finished out 2018 with strong numbers. We visited Danville Correctional Center twice in the last five weeks of the year with seven volunteers going on November 28 and six on December 12. On both dates we assisted 42 inmates to record books for their children. On November 28 we expect a record-breaking number of children – 89 -- will hear one father’s recording. This astounding number is the result of the recording being heard at a day care center where the inmate’s child attends.

As always, your prayers and gifts of new and gently-used books and cash donations to pay for shipping costs and materials are greatly appreciated. Please be assured that these gifts are received joyfully.

—Nancy Schneider

February 15-17
St. Louis, MO

Middle & High School Retreat featuring Danielle Tietjen and The Junker Georges band. We will stay at the Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel. Early bird registrations due Sun., January 13; cost is $95 and covers food & hotel! Contact Jason to see how much your child has in their account because they may be able to attend for free! Scholarships are available through Quake as well.
The Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone who helped with this year’s Nativity Walk! There were people walking through the doors early and due to all of the help we had getting ready, we were prepared! Our thanks goes out to the men who built the stable, those who made and/or bought goodies for the Fellowship Cafe, the volunteers who dressed to stand out in the cold, everyone who brought one or twenty nativity scenes to share with the community, and those who generously donated to pay for the animals. The musicians who provided beautiful music in both the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall, we appreciate you sharing your talents with us. To the ladies who kept the Fellowship Cafe supplied with wonderful trays of goodies and beverages, thank you for staying in the hot kitchen!

The success of our annual Nativity Walk could not happen without each and every one who gave their time and talent to this event.

Lastly, we would like to thank those who came and walked through. You are a huge part of this annual event when you, friends, family, or neighbors come to remember the true reason we celebrate Christmas!

MINUTE with Marilyn

Over the past few weeks, I have heard several guests (friends, relatives and visitors) comment about what a friendly church we are. It’s a compliment to all of you for your welcoming manners. As I mentioned in my first note to you, welcoming visitors is everyone’s business; so thanks to all of you. Did you know that it only takes 3 minutes after the service for a guest to exit the church? Let’s make sure those guests are welcomed promptly. You will still have time to catch up with your friends and to get your cup of coffee. Let’s make it our good intention during the New Year to continue our friendly manners.

Blessings and Joy for the New Year, — Marilyn

Cheryl and Jerry Oswald have been attending Good Shepherd for some time, so their faces may be familiar to you. After 35 years living in Bloomington where they attended St. John’s Lutheran Church, they retired from State Farm Insurance and have moved to Savoy to be near their daughter Megan O’Connell. They love being near Megan, Tim, and their children. Cheryl and Jerry also have 2 sons; the oldest son lives in Granville, OH, and has 2 children, while their youngest lives in Vancouver, Canada, and is being married in February. They were blessed to have all the children together for Christmas. Cheryl hails from Nebraska and Jerry from Missouri. Cheryl and Jerry love to travel, read, and have started to play some pickleball. And, of course, they enjoy being near their grandchildren.
Adult Forum Discussion 10:15-11:15am
in the Choir Room

Adult Forum explores a variety of topics such as Bible studies, Lutheran theology, and social issues. High school students are welcome and encouraged to attend!

January Adult Forum Schedule: 1/6, 1/13, 1/20, 1/27

Susan Barreto will lead a 4-week discussion on economic life and poverty. The ELCA teaches that “economic activity is a means through which God’s will is served for the thriving and well-being of humankind and the care of the earth. It recognizes that even though sin distorts human activity, we are called to practice economic activity justly and with special concern for those who live in poverty” (https://elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements/Economic-Life).

January 10 at 9:30am, in the Choir Room

January book: Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate.
This book is based on one of America’s most notorious real-life scandals which took place in a Memphis-based adoption organization that kidnapped and sold poor children to wealthy families all over the country. The author tells a wrenching, and ultimately uplifting story that reminds us how the heart never forgets where we belong even though the paths we take can lead to many places.

A sneak peek at February: Educated by Tara Westover.

Contact: Jan Nuss at jannuss3@sbcglobal.net or 356-1298. Have a friend who’d like to join the book cub? Please invite them!

Baptisms

Eli Stewart LaPlant
Born on September 29, 2018, to Brianna and Ryan LaPlant, Eli was baptized December 2, 2018.
Serving as sponsors for Eli are Stewart and Crystal Garett.

Aurelia Grace Tobin
Born on March 7, 2018, to Emily and Daniel Tobin, Aurelia was baptized December 23, 2018.
Serving as sponsors for Eli are Kirsten Ytterbo-Smith and Rosie Ytterbo-Smith.
WELCA is Giving Thanks!!

We were able to send $615.93 to the Women of the ELCA through the collections from our mite boxes. This is an age-old practice of bringing our small gifts together in thanksgiving for our many blessings. Thankofferings support the ongoing ministries of the church wide women’s organization of WELCA.

In addition to collecting our annual Thankoffering we also organized a “No-Bake Bake Sale”. This allowed us to continue our support of local ministries. Through your generous support, we were able to send $250 to the Eastern Illinois Food Bank, $250 to Austin’s Place (an emergency shelter for homeless women), and $250 to Courage Connection (shelter for abused women and children).

WELCA Circle groups joined together once again to share Christmas cookies with all of the senior members of Good Shepherd. Thank you to all who baked and delivered Christmas goodies to these very loved and valued members of our congregation.

Fellowship

Our annual WELCA Christmas Brunch was held on Saturday, December 1st. 35 women gathered in fellowship to kick-off the Christmas season. This event would not have been possible without the help of Don Block, who prepared the meal for us and other fellow members who came to serve and clean up. Thank you for sharing your time to allow us to enjoy this time together.

WELCA Purpose Statement

As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.
Taking Medications and Prescriptions

POINTS TO CONSIDER

Notes from the GSLC Parish Nurses

1. Be especially careful with medication used to treat pain, anxiety, insomnia, or depression. (Higher risk of falling and accidents)

2. When you receive a new prescription understand what it is used for, side effects, and is there a generic equivalent if cost is an issue?

3. Use a single pharmacy. Get to know your pharmacist.

4. Share all your medications (prescription, over-the-counter, herbal) at your clinic visits.

5. Keep all your medications in one place. Throw away if old!

7. When taking several medications, use a pillbox and refill weekly or monthly. (These are available at no cost in the GSLC parish nurse office)

8. Older people experience adverse reactions to medications 3 times the rate of younger. This accounts for over 50% of the deaths and 40% of hospitalizations of older adults due to these reactions.

9. Be an active participant in your healthcare with your physician. 90% of any diagnosis is what you tell them. Come to your clinic visit with any concerns and symptoms- write them down. Circle the most important!!

Community Parish Nurse Program:

REACHING OUT TO RN’S

Registration for the Winter course to participate as a Parish Nurse for GSLC is now open. Dates are Feb 8 & 9 and March 1 & 2, which are Fridays from 5:30 to 9:30pm and Saturdays from 9am to 4pm. For more information or to register call 217-326-2583. Questions? Call Sandy Reifsteck-Rueter at 217-417-4489 or Pastor Tom at the church office.

DAILY BREAD YOGA

Chairish Yoga for Caregivers: Monthly, FREE class starts Jan. 17, 6:30-7:30pm @ Arbor Rose Memory Care Home, Tolono.

Saturday Morning Retreat: Jan. 19, 9am-noon @ Philo Presbyterian Church, $30

Annual MLD Day Yoga Love Raiser: Jan. 21, 9-10:15am (floor-based) and 10:45-11:30am (chairish) @ Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Yoga & Your Spine with My Chiropractors: Jan. 31, 6:30-8pm

Questions? Contact Rachel at rachel@dailybreadyoga.life
Everyday Expressions Borrowed From the Bible, Part I

by Paul Anthony Jones

The numerous English translations and editions of the Bible produced over the centuries have likewise given us countless proverbs, sayings, and expressions, many of which have dropped into everyday use. Some are quite clearly religious—like *O ye of little faith, a fall from grace, and love thy neighbor*—but the Biblical origins of others are a little more surprising.

**AT THE ELEVENTH HOUR**
Do something at the eleventh hour, and you do it at the very last minute. It’s possible that this phrase might have appeared in the language without any Biblical intervention, but the OED nevertheless credits it to the Parable of the Laborers in the Gospel of St Matthew (20:1-16), which metaphorically advises that no matter what time you start work the reward will always be the same.

**AT YOUR WIT’S END**
The earliest reference to *being at your wit’s end* in English dates back to the late 14th century. The phrase comes from Psalm 107, in which “they that go down to the sea in ships,” namely sailors and seafarers, are described as being thrown around by a storm at sea so that, “they reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wit’s end” (107: 23-27).

**THE BLIND LEADING THE BLIND**
The Roman poet Horace used his own version of *the blind leading the blind* in the 1st century BC, suggesting that it was already a fairly well known saying by the time it appeared in the New Testament: “Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch” (Matthew 15:14). Nevertheless, its inclusion in early editions of the Bible no doubt popularized its use in everyday language—and even inspired a famous painting by Pieter Brueghel literally interpreting the original quote.

**BY THE SKIN OF YOUR TEETH**
The Old Testament Book of Job records how Job is put through a series of trials, but eventually escapes “with the skin of my teeth” (19:20). Although precisely what Job meant these words to mean is debatable (and not helped by the fact that teeth don’t have skin), the usual interpretation is the one we use today—namely, that he escaped only by the narrowest of margins.

**TO CAST PEARLS BEFORE SWINE**
Meaning “to offer something of value to someone unable to appreciate it,” *to cast pearls before swine* comes from the New Testament: “Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet” (Matthew, 7:6).

**EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY**
This popular sentiment is outlined several times in the Bible (*Luke 12:19, 1 Corinthians 15:32*), but appears first in the Book of Ecclesiastes: “man hath no better thing under the sun, than to eat, and to drink, and to be merry” (8:15).

**TO FALL BY THE WAYSIDE**
If something *falls by the wayside* (i.e. by the side of the road), then it fails to be seen through to completion or is side-lined in favor of some other project or endeavor. The earliest use of this phrase in English comes from William Tyndale’s translation of the Bible in 1526, and in particular his version of the Parable of the Sower, who “went out to sow his seeds, and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it” (Luke 8:5).

**A FLY IN THE OINTMENT**
“Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savor,” advises the Book of Ecclesiastes (10:1). The modern wording, *a fly in the ointment*, first appeared in the language in the early 1700s.

*(Part II of the Expressions from the Bible will be published in the February Scroll.)*
Church Staff
Pastor.................................................. Thomas Hillertz
Pastor Emeritus................................. Edward D. Schneider
Youth & Family Minister............... Jason Fisher
Office Manager................................. Yvona Vlach
Parish Worker................................. Marilyn Dudley
Parish Media Intern......................... Mary Corkery
Treasurer........................................... Dana VanDeever-Jones
Organist............................................. Linda Pein
Choir Director.................................... Emilie Williams
Parish Nurses................................. Sandy Rueter
                                            Elizabeth Kakoma
                                            Celeste Coverdill

Office Hours
Mon-Thu: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
(lunch hour: noon—12:30 pm)
Fridays: 8:00 am to Noon

Scroll Deadline
The deadline for the February Scroll is Friday, January 18.

Bulletin/Announcements Deadline
Wednesday at noon, each week.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
2101 S Prospect Ave
Champaign, IL 61820
www.gslc-cu.org

Come Worship the Lord!
Weekly Morning Service:
Sundays at 9 am
(with Holy Communion)
Next Evening Service (Evensong):
Sunday, January 13
5:30-6:30 pm  Potluck supper
6:30-7 pm  Evensong Service

Mark Your Calendar!
➢ Church Office Closings
  Tue., January 1, New Year’s Day
  Mon., January 21, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
➢ Blood Pressure Screening for All Ages
  Sunday, January 13, following worship

LET US KNOW
If you, anyone in your family, or another member or friend of GSLC is hospitalized or moves to a care facility, please let the church office or Pastor know! Hospitals and Nursing Homes are no longer allowed to disclose any information to anyone outside of the immediate family so we no longer get calls from them. We can’t visit, bring you communion, or even pray for you, if we don’t know.

➢ Potluck & Evensong Worship
  January 13 — 5:30pm potluck, 6:30pm worship