

You Are the Gift

The Gospel lessons in the season of Epiphany portray the dawning understanding that Jesus is not just another guy, that he is instead the Messiah, the Christ, the Son of God. In Epiphany, we begin to see the Holy Spirit at work in Christ, awakening new and wondrous gifts. That same Spirit is alive in each of us, awakening those same gifts - and an understanding of how sharing those gifts can give our lives purpose and meaning. We'll be working with you all throughout Epiphany, exploring those gifts and God's purpose in giving us those gifts.

On **Sunday, January 29**, we'll introduce a four week worship emphasis, *You are the Gift*, with sermons and temple talks about discerning and sharing your time and talents with God through Good Shepherd. On **Sunday, February 12**, we'll hold a **Mission Marketplace** in the commons, immediately following the service, where committees, organizations and work groups staff displays for worshippers to tour, representing all the work that occurs in this congregation. Our time and talent focus will culminate the following **Sunday, February 19**, with a worship service celebrating God's gifts, providing an opportunity for us all to complete time and talent forms, laying them on the altar as an offering to God and a commitment to share just a portion of those gifts to build up God's kingdom. Committee and work group chairs will be asked to follow up by contacting those who have expressed an interest in their ministries - and you'll be invited to share a Spaghetti Dinner Fund Raiser in the commons, to support the Youth Mission Trip next summer.

Our hope is that though this effort we can:

1. display the multitude of Good Shepherd's ministries in one setting
2. put a face to each ministry
3. give members and friends a way to ask questions about those ministries and learn more about them
4. provide an entry point into our ministries
5. deepen your relationship with Christ, by increasing participation in ministry

I hope you'll join us in Epiphany, my friends, to learn something new about God's purpose for your life, and why we believe so strongly that the *best* gift to share is *you*.

Pastor Jim

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. 1 Peter 4:10

Online Editions

Prefer to receive only the online edition of the *Shepherd's Song*? To request an electronic-only version of your favorite church newsletter, email to nancy.gslc@sbcglobal.net.

In Our Prayers

- **Comfort** for the family of John Meyer, on his death; the family of Denny Barber, on his death; John Servinski and family on the death of John's wife, Myrna (Gary Wickens' sister).
- **Thanksgiving** for the birth of a boy, Samuel, to Meghan & Michael Schotenboer.
- **Patience and discernment** for Pastors Mark Rich, Cynthia Holder-Rich, their family, and Peace Lutheran Church.
- **Comfort, strength & healing:** Ray & Ruth Bergan.
- **Seeking employment:** Kathy Balder, Jessie Brockmeyer, Mike Pearson, Casey Shumaker
- **Serving our country:** Richard Glumm, Ryan Kimball, Torrey Ollermann, Linsey Thomas, Brianna Thompson, Colleen Smith.
- **Healing:** Janelle Armstrong, Karin Atherton, Denny Barber, David Baumgartner, Ray Bergan, Dale Bergland, Derick Brack, Calhoun Family, Doris Captain, Norma Andrews Cooley, Julie Davis, Deb Fink, Dave Drake, Fred Gahr, Peter Gijsselaers, Don Glumm, Sandy Glumm, Nancy Grigsby-Bers, George Hall, Deb Hamlink, Melinda Hamstra, Pam Heckel, Deb Hoksbergen, Peggy Hydorn, Karen Jahnke, Kerry Johnson, Wayne Kamphuis, Eleanor Longstreet, Pat Losey, Larry & Lynne Makimaa, Carol Marvin, Ruth Meyer, Barth Middleton, James Moore, Jimmie Moore, Susan Moore, Mark Morningstar, Kristen Murphy, Andrew Pawlak, Greg Phillips, Helen Prusak, Joe Puente, Cassie Rademaker, Howard Reister, Chris Rice, Barb Robbert, Gwen Roberts, Rev. Walter Roberts, Jerry Robinson, Marion Robinson, Carol Ruggles, Rod Ryder, Myrna Servinski, Casey Shumaker, Mardee Sytsma, Linda VanRhee, Lindy VerBeek, Joseph Wilson, Dutch Wolff, Bonita Zielke.
- **In assisted living/nursing home care:** Jessie McCormack, Kevin Middleton, Doris Moore, Charlotte Ott, John Staley, Betty Wilcox.
- **For healthy pregnancies:** Haley (Parrott) Cawley, Amanda Pitts, Annie Simonson, Samantha Wolff.
- **Prayer Partners:** Our Savior, Resurrection, St. John and Zion Lutheran Churches, Saginaw

To request prayer during Sunday worship, call the church office by noon Thursday or the Worship Leader scheduled to serve Sunday. **To request confidential prayer through the Prayer Chain** or become a member of it, contact Lois Robinson at 399-4909 or Jerrold@chartermi.net.

Smoking on the Campus

Do remember that Good Shepherd is a smoke-free environment, according to both new Michigan law and congregational policy. The new law prohibits smoking in public places, food service establishments and places of employment, all three categories into which Good Shepherd falls. Our non-smoking policy was established before the law's enactment, recognizing smoking as both a safety risk and proven health hazard, especially to children, those who are pregnant and those with respiratory illnesses. Parishioners and visitors are asked to not smoke in the church building or grounds, including the parking lot and porch.

Game Night

3rd Saturday of the Month, 6:30 pm

Once the holidays are over and winter really starts to settle in, many of us feel like hibernating. We start sleeping and eating more and we avoid social contact which, studies have shown, can lead to depression. At Good Shepherd we'll be doing our best to beat the blues this year with monthly Game Nights! They'll provide you with a reason to stay awake and allow for plenty of social interaction. As far as keeping you from eating more --well, we're Lutherans -- we might not be able to help you with that. But one thing is certain. We will have fun! So grab your new 2012 calendar and put a star on the 3rd Saturday of the winter months, starting with January 21. We'll meet in the church commons for some games & laughs beginning at 6:30 pm. Bring your beverage of choice, a snack to share and any games you may have. Be there or be square!

Lenten Devotional Sign Ups

Lent begins Ash Wednesday, February 22 - so it's time to start working on our next *Lenten Devotional*. One way to prepare for Easter is to share your faith by writing devotions for use during the forty days of Lent, from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday. Reflections are based on a series of Bible passages from the book of Isaiah, Psalm 22, and the Gospel according to Mark, describing the final days of Jesus' life. It's a wonderful resource to use as a family during dinner time or alone during your quiet time, an opportunity to share the faith of people you might like to know better, or a touching gift to offer a friend.

Readings are available at the Activities Table. To contribute, choose a reading, then write your name on the sign-up sheet next to the corresponding number. Each devotion should include a reflection on the text and a brief prayer; samples from previous devotionals are on the back of each sheet. Submissions can be emailed to the church office at nancy.gslc@sbcglobal.net; the deadline is Sunday, February 5. If you have questions call Nancy Morrison at the office, 772-4075 or nancy.gslc@sbcglobal.net.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Lend your voice to the next Annual Meeting of the Congregation, Sunday, February 26, immediately following worship. During the meeting and potluck, we'll celebrate last year's achievements, establish goals and a budget for 2012, address any proposed amendments to the church constitution and by laws, and elect members to serve on Church Council and the Synod Assembly.

Three Church Council positions will be filled, as well as two positions for the Synod Assembly in Lansing, Thursday-Saturday, May 17-19. These are the only volunteer positions at Good Shepherd that require membership in the congregation; Good Shepherd pays all expenses for the synod assembly. Church Council is the congregation's governing body, meeting the fourth Monday of the month; positions are nonrenewable, three year terms. Synod Assembly meets three days each year, to establish policy and budget for the NorthWest Lower Michigan Synod, the "district" to which Good Shepherd belongs as a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. If you feel called to serve in either capacity, contact Council President Troy Brondyke at tjbrondyke@gmail.com.

Hope College Sacred Dance

On Sunday, January 29, the Sacred Dance community of Hope College will present during both Sunday School and the worship service. As a ministry sponsored by Hope, Sacred Dance seeks to glorify God through movement, seeking to unite dance and worship, by bringing their ministry to local churches and Christian events. The dancers are blessed to have brought this ministry to many area churches, and hope you share their delight with how God communicates through them and to them.

A Good and Faithful Response

Larry Heckel, Financial Secretary

Celebrating God's Abundance, Good Shepherd's annual formal stewardship process, is complete. We are still collecting and tabulating pledge responses, but there is enough data to project our financial situation into 2012. If you haven't submitted your 2012 pledge, please respond so that we can better prepare the 2012 budget prior to the annual meeting.

The Good News:

- Compared to last year, the number of pledge increases doubled and three new first time pledges were received.
- There were no significant reductions of pledged amounts, with most members pledging to maintain at least their 2011 giving.

Concerns:

- If all pledges come in as promised, we project income of \$170,000.
- Both the 2011 budget and expenses are in excess of \$180,000

Conclusions: The greatest impact to 2012 funding is the recent loss of certain members for various reasons relating to changing life circumstances. By coincidence, these members tended to be toward the higher end of the giving range. So now it is up to us.

Next Steps:

- Reject fear - embrace faith - pray.
- Prepare and plan for a difficult year.
- Ask the congregation to consider giving beyond pledges.
- Promote gifts in kind
- Promote electronic giving and provide a website donation feature.
- Develop an effective time and talent process (currently being planned)
- Seek new members
- Worship with joy, embrace with love, equip for witness and service.

Bold Women Day

"When you turn to the right or when you turn to the left your ears shall hear a word behind you saying, 'There is the way; walk in it.' Isaiah 30:21

Save the Date! February 25, 2012: BOLD WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION LUNCHEON. 9:30 - Noon. Want to help? Contact Chris Martinson (616-298-2441) or Ellie Buggeln (616-399-0591).

EPIPHANIES AT GOOD SHEPHERD

Treasure Hunting

We've created a new form of neighborhood outreach at Good Shepherd - by establishing a geocache site on the church grounds. Foot traffic is an essential part of teaching our neighbors the church is an accessible, essential, welcoming member of the neighborhood. Like our new playground or our annual neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt, geocaching offers active individuals and families a simple, non-threatening way to become a little better acquainted with the us.

Geocaching is a real-world, outdoor treasure hunting game using GPS-enabled devices. Participants navigate to a specific set of GPS coordinates and then attempt to find the geocache (container) hidden at that location. Geocaches can be found all over the world. It is common for geocachers to hide caches in locations that are important to them, reflecting a special interest or skill of the cache owner. These locations can be quite diverse. They may be at a local park, at the end of a long hike, underwater or on the side of a city street.

The rules of the game are simple:

1. If you take something from the geocache (or "cache"), leave something of equal or greater value.
2. Write about your find in the cache logbook.
3. Log your experience at www.geocaching.com.

All you need to geocache are a GPS device or a GPS-enabled mobile phone so that you can navigate to the cache, and a free, basic [Geocaching.com Membership](http://www.geocaching.com). For more information on this interesting pursuit, visit the website at <http://www.geocaching.com>. To get the coordinates for our geocache, go to the same website, put in your zip code and it brings up all the ones in your area.

THANK GOD FOR YOU!

To the community of Good Shepherd

My family and I thank you for being available to us in a time of great need. We are grateful for the use of your facilities, the care of your pastor and the meal after the services for John. It was so good for us to have a place for our family and friends to be together for a time.

Please convey our heartfelt appreciation for all those who had a part in caring for us. We will never forget your love and support.

Sincerely, Susan Meyer

I am writing on behalf of Waukazoo Elementary to thank you for your generosity! Your gift of box tops is extremely appreciated during these fiscally trying times. Children at Waukazoo Elementary benefit greatly from the funds raised by collecting box tops and your contribution helps tremendously.

I want to share with you some of the activities and events which our box tops funds support. All of the money raised by gathering box tops allows our children access to assemblies, field trips, special events like "Waukaboo" and Tulip Time, as well as supports teachers with classroom supplies.

Again, thank you for your generosity and giving hearts!

We appreciate your kindness!

Warmly,

Ami L. Taylor, Principal, Waukazoo Elementary

Dear Pastor Jim & Sandy

Just wanted to wish the both of you & too everyone else, Nancy, Larry & Pam (Go Buckeyes), Eric, Vicki, Tom, Tessa, Sheila, Rita, Terry, Dennis, Jim, Elizabeth, Matt & Laura, Sharon, Donna, Laurie, Carolyn, Marilyn, Joan, David, Chris, Carol, Ron, Troy, Perry, Steve, Molly, Barb, Deb, Paulette, Violet, Tracy, Bob, Patricia, Kerry, & to Sauer family, Hartwell family & to everyone that I could not think of off the top of my head. Hope that you all have a very Merry Christmas!!

Dale Bally, Jr.

P.S. Please tell Tim to keep on rockin'!

Friends, here are some quick facts about the Giving Tree:

- *This is the third year for our Giving Tree.*
- *All of the "names" were taken the first day.*
- *Twenty seniors and forty foster children received gifts.*
- *When I took the senior gifts to Rest Haven one resident said, "Who is she?" When she was told I brought Christmas presents her eyes lit up and she smiled.*
- *All the children who received gifts were new to the foster care system and could use a reason to smile this Christmas.*
- *You are a generous people. You should feel good about what you have done.*

Thank You!

Vicki Russell, Jenanne Voss

Good Shepherd Youth Group,

It was wonderful to be a part of the lock-in with you. Thank you for involving us and joining with us in that fellowship! Looking forward to seeing everyone again soon!

Pastor Mark Rich, Peace Lutheran Council & Youth

Dear friends in Christ,

I want you to know how much I appreciate the tool box for my new truck. Not only did it give me a place to store my tools, it gave me an incentive to make up my mind and buy that new truck!!

I'm humbled that you would sacrifice for a gift for me, humbled by your generosity, humbled by your presence in my life.

Pastor Jim

*We thank God too, for the hands of Christ at work: Chris Manzo, Tessa Zielke, Tim Oonk, Pastor Jim & Sandy Foster, **Children's Christmas Pageant**; Nancy Lutz, **Carpet Cleaning**; Bill Nicholas, Nancy Lutz, **Kitchen Floor Stripping & Waxing**; LuAnn Captain, Sandy Foster, Terry Grossman, Sharon Wendt, **Women's Christmas Dinner**; LuAnn Captain, **Christmas Eve Poinsettia Sales**; Jessica Underhill, **Christmas Eve Luminaries**; Nancy Lutz, **Christmas Eve Nursery**.*

Children's Sunday School and Confirmation

Sundays following the worship service

Here's our schedule for the remainder of the school year:

- **Sunday School & Confirmation Resume:** Sunday, January 1
- **Sunday School Break: Annual Meeting,** Sunday, February 19
- **Bittersweet Ski Retreat,** Friday-Saturday, February 10-11
- **Spaghetti Dinner Mission Trip Fundraiser,** Sunday, February 19
- **Confirmation Class Retreat,** Friday-Saturday, March 9-10
- **Rite of Confirmation,** Sunday, May 20
- **Youth Mission Trip,** Sunday-Friday, June 17-22

Middle School Ski Trip

Our next joint effort with Peace and Bread of Life Lutheran Churches will be an overnight Ski Trip to Bittersweet Ski Resort in Otsego, Friday-Saturday, February 10-11. We'll be spending the night at Peace Lutheran Church in Plainwell, all day Saturday at Bittersweet, with supper Saturday evening at Foster's Riverhouse next door. Watch for more information in the Sunday Yellow Pages and your email, on costs and needs for chaperones.

Book Group

2nd Monday of the Month, 5:30 pm

"Most of the world has heard of the Gaza Strip," as Isseldin Abuelaish says, "but few know what it's like to live here, blockaded, impoverished, year after year, decade after decade." Abuelaish, a Harvard-trained Palestinian doctor, portrays everyday life in Gaza and tells the remarkable story of how he came to be the first Palestinian doctor to be on staff at an Israeli hospital. Abuelaish has been crossing the lines in the sand that divide Israelis and Palestinians for most of his life. Born in a refugee camp in the Gaza strip in 1955, Abuelaish suffers a catastrophic loss when three of his daughters are killed in their home by Israeli fire in 2009. Inspiring, heart-breaking, hopeful and horrifying, *I Shall Not Hate* is Abuelaish's account of an extraordinary life.

Join us once, join us often, whenever your time or interest allows. We discuss the book of the month, how faith and spirituality play a role in that book and how that relates to our lives. Meeting the second Monday of the month at 5:30, the group changes from month to month and new faces/voices are always welcome. For more information contact Vicki Russell at 994-7100, or vicki0528@gmail.com.

January 9 *I Shall Not Hate* by Izzeldin Abuelaish
February 13 *Moonflower Vine* by Jetta Carleton

Women's Midweek Bible Study

Wednesdays at 9:30 am

We'll start the new year reading through *Why Faith Matters* by David J. Wolpe. According to one reviewer this book is "thoughtful, insightful, challenging and charming ...a philosophical look at how your belief system will change your experience of life - and why that matters." Discussions begin at 9:30 am with a song, coffee, snacks and fellowship, and often follow with lunch after the Bible study. All are welcome. Come check it out!

Up North Bible Study

The Up North Bible Study *will resume meetings at the home of Julie and Jerry Wolff, Tuesday, January 17, at 6:30 pm.* Please do join us the third Tuesday every month throughout the school year. For directions or more information, contact Julie or Jerry Wolff at 616-846-7953.

Pastor's Midweek Bible Study

Tuesdays at 9:00 am

Join us for coffee and lively discussions as we delve into the upcoming Sunday's Old Testament lesson from the book of Joshua and the Gospel according to Matthew. It's for both men and women, no previous Bible study required!

Al Anon

Thursdays at 6:00 pm

Al-Anon is a mutual support group. Everyone at the meeting shares as an equal. No one is in a position to give advice or direction to anyone else. Everyone at the meeting has experienced a problem with someone else's drinking. You're free to ask questions or to talk about your situation at your first meeting. If you'd rather just listen, you can say "I pass," or explain that you'd just like to listen. Every meeting is different.

Al-Anon is not a religious program. Even when the meeting is held in a religious center, the local Al-Anon group pays rent to that center and is not affiliated in any way with any religious group. Your religious beliefs—or lack of them—are not a subject for discussion at Al-Anon meetings, which focus solely on coping with the effects of someone's drinking.

Meetings usually begin with a reading of the Twelve Steps of Al-Anon. It will take some time to fully understand how the Twelve Steps can be a helpful tool in recovering from the effects of someone's drinking - but Al-Anon gives you the opportunity to grow at your own pace.

Training for Small Group Leadership

Would you like to learn a contemplative approach to small group facilitation, adaptable for use with any kind of group and will enhance and deepen a group's experience? Are there one or two people you would recommend we send to this formation program? *Facilitating Contemplative Groups: Training for Small Group Leadership*, will be offered January – May, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 9844 SW Greenville Road, Greenville, MI 48838. Cost is \$115 per person for eight 3 hour sessions, held from 1:00-4:00 pm on 1/16, 2/6 and 2/27, 3/19, 4/23, 5/7, 5/21. For two participants from the same church, cost is \$175 total (participants can share the cost with the church). The leader is Nancy Brousseau, OP, Center for Mission and Ministry Facilitator. To register, contact Nancy at nancybrousseau@mittensynod.org.

BEYOND OUR WALLS

Foster Care Needs Increase

Katherine Wert, MSW, Foster Home Recruitment and Support, Lutheran Social Services of Michigan

Lutheran Social Services of Michigan has served people as an expression of the love of Christ for nearly 80 years. In addition to providing services to older adults and persons with disabilities, LSSM also offers programs for children and families. We are Michigan's largest private foster care agency, serving more than 800 children every day across the Lower Peninsula. We could not do our job without the hard work and commitment our foster parents provide on an ongoing basis. These individuals come forth with a genuine desire to love and care for our children, opening up their hearts and home to a child in need of a safe and stable environment.

The Children We Serve

Child abuse and neglect is a social problem that leaves no community untouched. In 2009, 32,315 children were identified as victims of abuse or neglect in the state of Michigan; 30% of these children were under the age of 3. In 2008-2009, 18,131 Michigan children entered foster care. Whatever the reason for their removal from their birth parent home, it is never the child's fault! As a result of past trauma and loss, children in foster care may display emotional distress and negative or inappropriate behaviors. Children often experience difficulties in school and require special education services, and at greater risk of medical concerns or disabilities.

Our Statement of Need

There is a shortage of foster homes in Michigan. This lack of homes results in children being placed in residential facilities and split from their siblings. We need families to provide a home environment that encourages children to fulfill their potential and are open to rebuilding relationships with birth parents and siblings. Whether the child remains with a family for short or long-term their positive influence become part of the experience that always endures with the child. Foster parents are needed for children ages 0-17 but there is a critical need for foster homes for sibling groups, teenagers, and children with medical and special needs.

We Give Thanks to Good Shepherd

LSSM personally thanks your congregation for the generous Christmas gifts that Good Shepherd Lutheran has donated for three years and counting. Many of the presents were given to children residing with relative caregivers. Additional gifts were given to families whose homes reside close to your community. Your charitable acts have truly brightened our children's holidays! We look forward to continuing our partnership with your church to better serve our families and the children in their care.

Contact Us

To learn how you can help a foster child, contact LSSM at 616.356.1934, kwert@lssm.org, or visit our website at www.LutheranFosterCare.org.

BEYOND OUR WALLS - ELCA GLOBAL LINKS

Madagascar: Standing on the success of past missionaries

Barbara Hinderlie recently completed service in Madagascar to begin service in Tanzania. She reflects on her missionary service and how previous generations of missionaries have walked alongside the church there as it prepares for a new era of ministry. Read the entire story at www.elca.org/handinhand; click either the copy-ready bulletin insert or the Fall 2011 issue of Hand in Hand newsletter.

Russia: A new era of service

Bradn Burkle and his spouse, Natasha, served parishes of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States and its Novosaratovka Seminary in St. Petersburg from 2002-2011. He now begins a joint appointment between the ELCA and the Hermannsburg Mission (Germany) to serve in Siberia. Watch a short video at <http://blogs.elca.org/handinhand>.

Sponsors needed for missionaries in Palestine

You can be a sponsor for Julie Rossate and Jeff VonWald, newly called missionaries to Palestine, where they mentor young adults serving ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. Sponsors from the New England Synod of the ELCA and the Iowa area are especially welcomed to minimize their travel time and maximize their effectiveness while on home assignment. For more information, write missionarysponsorship@elca.org or call 800-638-3522, ext. 2657.

Seeking agricultural volunteers

Various volunteer opportunities from two months to one year in duration are available with the Asian Rural Institute in Japan. Visit www.elca.org/globalserve/search and do a keyword search for "Japan" for more information.

Christian Music: A Global History

This new book from Fortress Press travels beneath the plurality of forms and styles to pose questions about the meaning of diverse traditions, combining insights from specialists for a truly global history of Christianity's musical culture. Read [more](#).

Register your priorities for advocacy

Take a survey sponsored by the ELCA Washington Office to express your priorities for future advocacy efforts in international affairs, as well as domestic matters. See <http://archive.elca.org/cgi-bin/rws/rws5.pl?FORM=nap2011>.

JANUARY 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Epiphany of Our Lord 1 New Year's Day 10:00 am Worship w/Holy Communion 11:30 am Coffee; Sunday School	2 <i>Office Closed</i>	3 9:00 am Pastor's Bible Study No Quilting today	4 9:30 am Women's Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir	5 6:00 pm Al-Anon Meeting	6 <i>Office Closed</i>	7
Baptism of Our Lord 8 10:00 am Worship w/Holy Communion 11:30 am Coffee; Sunday School	9 5:30 pm Book Group	10 9:00 am Pastor's Bible Study 10:30 am Quilting	11 9:30 am Women's Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir	12 6:00 pm Al-Anon Meeting	13 <i>Office Closed</i>	14
Second Sunday after the Epiphany 15 10:00 am Worship w/Holy Communion 11:30 am Coffee; Sunday School	16 6:30 pm Church Council	17 9:00 am Pastor's Bible Study 10:30 am Quilting 6:30 pm "Up North" Bible Study @ Wolffs'	18 9:30 am Women's Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir	19 6:00 pm Al-Anon Meeting	20 <i>Office Closed</i>	21 6:30 pm Game Night
Third Sunday after the Epiphany 22 10:00 am Worship w/Holy Communion 11:30 am Coffee; Sunday School	23	24 No Bible Study 10:30 am Quilting 11:00 am Community Kitchen at Western Seminary	25 9:30 am Women's Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir	26 6:00 pm Al-Anon Meeting	27 <i>Office Closed</i>	28
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany 29 10:00 am Worship w/Holy Communion 11:30 am Coffee; Sunday School	30 5:15 pm Stewardship Meeting	31 9:00 am Pastor's Bible Study 10:30 am Quilting				

January Birthdays

Erlene Haskin	Jan 1
Dennis Willaman	Jan 2
Laurie Schuldt	Jan 2
Lois Robinson	Jan 10
Tracy Lovell	Jan 14
Sandy Foster	Jan 18
Lauren Gough	Jan 18
Landon Gough	Jan 18
Samuel Gough	Jan 18
Nancy Morrison	Jan 19
Andy Rohrer	Jan 21
Annika Pearson	Jan 22
Lisa Pearson	Jan 27
Jennifer Shafer	Jan 27
Paul Hazekamp	Jan 28
Elena Haskin	Jan 29

January Anniversaries

Dennis & Carolyn Willaman	Jan 13
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The Measure of Our Love

Operating Fund Contributions through November	\$156,323.00
Operating Fund Expenses through November	\$157,056.29
Building Fund Total through November	\$63,033.21

Restricted Fund Gifts in November:	
Noisy Offering (Wings of Mercy)	\$245.98
Building Fund Gifts	\$3,589.00
World Hunger	\$400.00

Average November Sunday Worship Attendance	95
Average November Sunday School Attendance	20

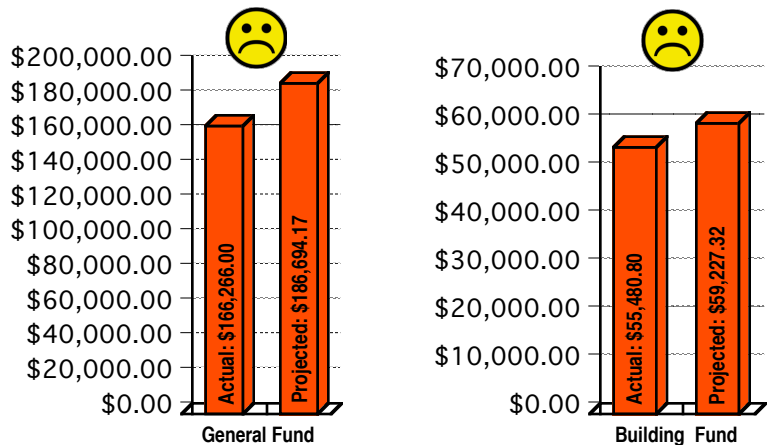
The Noisy Offering for January is designated for a West Michigan family who lost their house and a family member to a fire.

Church Council

Troy Brondyke, Pres.	616.994.9757 or tjbrondyke@gmail.com
Tessa Zielke, Vice Pres.	616.856.9266 or silvershinePA@yahoo.com
Perry Pearson, Sec.	616.796.8347 or perrypearson@live.com
Steve Johnson, Treas.	616.994.9663 or ariganacres@yahoo.com
Laura Kinne	616.392.2654 or syrsteel@yahoo.com
Nancy Lutz	616.399.5841 or nancyL@zfsinc.com
Sheila Nicholas	616.786.2839 or sheilanicholas@hotmail.com
Gary Wickens	616.394.9592 or mg2wick@att.net
Pastor Jim	616.395.3199; 566.6341; pastorjim.gslc@sbcglobal.net

Contributions to Date

The stewardship committee has been recording 2011 contributions to the General Operating Fund and the Building Fund, and comparing actual donations to the amount of money pledged to each fund on Consecration Sunday last year. The giving chart reflects only those gifts that maintain the congregation's monthly mortgage payments, and does not include a recent, generous gift of \$15,000 toward the mortgage principal. Here are the results of your giving through December 18.



SERVANTS OF THE DAY: LEADERS AND HELPERS FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP

Date	January 1	January 8	January 15	January 22	January 29
Worship Folder	12 Days of Christmas	Feast & Celebration	Sundays of Epiphany	Sundays of Epiphany	Sundays of Epiphany
Worship Leader	Tom Ludwig	Carolyn Willaman	Sheila Nicholas	Dennis Willaman	Sandy Foster
Bread Server	Matt Schleede	Rita Carleski	Bill Nicholas	Laura Schleede	Rita Carleski
Wine Servers	Mike & Vicki Russell	Dave & Sharon Wendt	Jurgen & Corinne Becker	Rita C. & Patricia B.	Rob & Lynda Parrott
Reader(s)	Sharon Wendt	Chris Manzo	Tessa Zielke	Confirmation Class	Autumn Manzo
Communion Set-up	Carol Ollermann	Merle Malmquist	Violet Kyllonen	Donna Preisler	Bob Pantano
Communion Clean-up	Deb Ludwig	Merle Malmquist	Donna Preisler	Donna Preisler	Bob Pantano
Bread Baker	none	Chris Manzo	none	Bob Pantano	none