

## Beginning with Love

*The love that we have always known, our constant joy and endless light,  
Now to the loveless world be shown, now break upon its deathly night.  
Into one song compress the love that rules our universe above;  
Sing love, sing love, sing God is love, sing love, sing God is love!*

From “Before the Marvel of This Night” by Jaroslav Vajda

Grace and Peace to you!

I am writing this piece during the week between Christmas and the New Year. This week is always an odd time, we eat gingerbread for breakfast and make room for new things and sometimes—as is the case with my family—we navigate some post-Christmas illness. Many of us spend this week in our pj’s, and time seems to stand still. I know for me this has been a difficult week to navigate because we were not able to gather for our usual Christmas worship services, all in all it has been a bit of a subdued Christmas.

It is during this subdued season that this song by Jaroslav Vajda comes to my mind; it is a reminder that the light of Christ is not confined to one night a year, and it is not dimmed by things like snowstorms; no, the light of Christ shines beyond Christmas and brightens our lives if we just open ourselves to it.

As we begin a new year I know that many of us are feeling anxious—both in our personal lives and anxious about the direction and future of Good Shepherd—at these times when we feel uncertain and anxious, our instinct is to close ourselves off, we want to stay close to what is familiar and avoid the unknown and yet this very season of Christmas leading into Epiphany we are called to do the opposite of shutting ourselves in—we are called to open ourselves up and venture out.

Out into the fields where we may happen upon an angel chorus. Out into the city where we may see a star or encounter learned scholars on their way to visit a baby. We are called out of fear and into the light of a new day, a new way of living!

The light of the world came into the world for such a time as this to break into our deathly night and to place into our hearts a song of love not fear.

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## PASTOR'S PAGE CONTINUED

My friends I encourage you this season to take heart in that light. Breathe deeply of the promise that God made in Christ, that God would be present with us in our world and that God would take our sins upon God's-self. Take heart in the hope that is Christ Jesus and take that hope in deeply so that we may know that there is nothing to fear. Let us be open to the light and live that openness in the way that we treat our neighbors and the stranger.

It is my prayer this season and going into this new year that we be filled with light and that we are able to lift our voices in songs of love that drown out fear.

Amen, Alleluia.

Pastor Jess

## LADIES CHRISTMAS GATHERING

The ladies of GSLC enjoyed an evening of food, crafts and singing



## QUILTING NEWS

### Quilters Group

Meetings resume:  
January 10, 2023  
10:30 am



## CHOIR NEWS

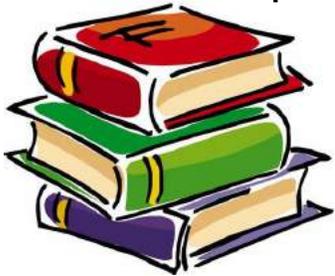


### Choir Practice

Monday	January 2:	No Choir
Monday	January 9:	Choir Practice - 6:30 pm
Monday	January 16:	No Choir
Monday	January 23:	Choir Practice - 6:30 pm
Monday	January 30:	Choir Practice - 6:30 pm

## BOOK GROUP

### Book Group



#### January Selection:

*The Book Woman's Daughter* by Kim Michele Richardson

Our January 18 discussion will be about ***The Book Woman's Daughter*** by Kim Michele Richardson.

Will Honey follow in her mother's footsteps? Honey Mary Angeline Lovett is the daughter of the beloved Troublesome book woman, a famed blue-skinned packhorse librarian. Honey realizes she must fight for her own independence with the help of the women who guide her and the books that set her free. In the ruggedness of the beautiful Kentucky mountains, Honey Lovett has always known that the old ways can make a hard life harder.

Pick up a book at the welcome center in the commons. If you have questions contact Vicki Russell.

## FROM MISSION & OUTREACH

### Samaritas - Our Nov./Dec. Noisy Offering Recipient

We are humbled and grateful for the outpouring of support the congregation has shown for our Samaritas collections. The congregational support truly exceeded expectations. Kayla Park from Samaritas visited on December 18 and shared how meaningful our contributions are.



#### Christmas Gift Cards

We collected 28 gift cards for a total of \$700 to go toward Christmas foster gifts. WOW! Families entering Samaritas just before Christmas sometimes miss out on gift programs. Kayla was contacted regarding one very large family plus two additional foster children, and she was able to assure them that Good Shepherd's gift cards were on the way. We made an immediate impact for these children. These gifts are a source of hope and joy for families and children experiencing a traumatic time.



#### New Americans Household Starter Kits

We had an impressive collection to support our Household Starter Kit drive! Kayla shared that these refugees frequently arrive in America from Afghanistan, Ukraine, Syria, and other war-torn countries with a bag on each arm containing all of their possessions. With these household donations they will have supplies for their new home, knowing that someone here has helped them start their new life.



Both of these collections were a smashing success! Thank you to the entire congregation for your enthusiastic support!

#### Grand Ravine Senior Living Christmas Party

Unfortunately we had to postpone the Christmas party with Grand Ravine due to some COVID cases. We hope to be able to reschedule soon for "Christmas in January" with Bingo, cookie decorating, and singing. Due to the size of their common area we are limited to 15 volunteers. If you are interested contact an MOC team member.

Thank you again for making this a very merry Christmas for our Samaritas families!

Mission and Outreach Committee

# BREEZE - WHAT IS IT?

## **Breeze? What it is and how it can help you.**

Breeze is the web based software management program Good Shepherd uses that includes, members and their information, church activities, contributions and allows church tasks to be accomplished more quickly and accurately.

You, as a member or regular attender, of Good Shepherd can have access to some of it's features.

- If you want to contact another person you can look up their email, address or phone number.
- If you want to contribute online you can.
- If you need to know what time an event is you can look at the calendar.
- If you need to update your recurring giving for the new year, you can.
- If you are new to Good Shepherd and you want access to Breeze, we can arrange that.

Not sure how to do all of that? **There will be a demonstration and Q and A in the sanctuary after worship on January 8.** Grab a cup of coffee or snack and give us a few minutes to set up the computer and projector and join us back in the sanctuary about 15 minutes after worship.



Our Breeze web address is:

<https://gslchollandmi.breezechms.com/>

You can also download the Breeze app on your phone or tablet: Breeze ChMS. It's the one with the white letter b on a blue background or a picture of a sailboat.

See Vicki or Elliott if you need help before that date.

## **BREEZE DEMONSTRATION AND Q & A SESSION**

**Come Join Us!**

**Breeze demonstration with a Q & A Session  
January 8, 2023, 11:15 am.**

**There will be a demonstration and Q & A in the sanctuary after worship on January 8.** Grab a cup of coffee or snack and give us a few minutes to set up the computer and projector and join us back in the sanctuary about 15 minutes after worship.

## NOISY OFFERING

January and February Noisy Offering:



### Community Action Agency Walk for Warmth

Ottawa County Community Action Agency provides assistance for heat, water, electric and deliverable fuel to prevent loss of service or to have service restored. Michigan winters can be brutal, especially for those who struggle to cover the higher costs of utilities. The “Walk for Warmth” is the major fundraiser that provides funding for this assistance. All money raised stays within Ottawa County.

This year the Walk for Warmth will be held on March 4 with a starting point in Holland at EV Construction, East 6th Street at 9:30 am. Our hearty 5 walkers last year, February 2022, trudged through the snowy streets of Zeeland to show our support. Can we get more walkers this year? The walk starts in Holland and, who knows, may take advantage of the heated sidewalks. Watch for a sign up sheet.

In 2022 Good Shepherd was named a SILVER LEVEL sponsor on the CAA website for the Walk for Warmth, contributing \$1934.93. We will again this year collect our noisy offering for 2 months to contribute to help keep Ottawa County houses warm, and supplied with running water and electricity.

Our 2022 Walkers: L - R, Carolyn Willaman, Pastor Jess, Mike Russell, Vicki Russell, Dennis Willaman



## GIVING STATEMENTS - 2023

### *Giving Statement News*



Beginning in 2023 the first three quarterly giving statements, which are prepared in April, July, and October, will be emailed to the email address on file in Breeze. These statements contain no bank information, only your name(s), address and the amount you have contributed to Good Shepherd. This will save time and expense (printing and postage). It would be a good time to check your Breeze account to be sure your email address is correct. For those few without email, quarterly statements will still be printed and mailed. The final, end of the year, statements, which are prepared in January, will be printed, available for pickup or mailed. If you have any questions please see a council member. If you have questions specific to Breeze see Elliott Eisaman or Vicki Russell.

## SUNDAY SERVANTS – JANUARY

### Sunday Servants Needed for January

Please help us fill the spaces. Volunteer to be a Sunday Servant  
 Use the form in the Commons or contact Deb in the office.  
 616.772.4075 or [gslc.office@icloud.com](mailto:gslc.office@icloud.com)

Date	Worship Leader/ Communion Assistant	Reader	Usher	Communion Set- Up/Clean-Up	Counters
<b>Jan. 1</b> Name of Jesus	WL - CA-	Tom Ludwig		Deb Ludwig	1. 2.
<b>Jan. 8</b> Baptism of Our Lord	WL - CA-			Terry Grossman	1. 2.
<b>Jan. 15</b> 2nd Sunday of Epiphany	WL - CA -				1. 2.
<b>Jan. 22</b> 3rd Sunday of Epiphany	WL - CA -				1. 2.
<b>Jan. 29</b> 4th Sunday of Epiphany	WL - CA -				1. 2.

## CLEANING SUPPLY DONATIONS

### *Cleaning Supplies & Paper Products Needed!*



With no building committee, cleaning supplies and paper products are becoming difficult to keep in stock.

After the 1st of the year, we will be placing a sign-up sheet in the Commons with a list of cleaning supplies and paper product needs. Pick an item on the list and put your name next to that item. Purchase your chosen item. Bring the item to the church and place it on the shelf above the coat rack in the hall next to the office or on the floor below. The list will be updated on a regular basis.

Thanks to a generous donor, feminine supplies for the women's restroom have already come in.

# CHURCH CLEANING SCHEDULE

## New Cleaning Schedule

The new cleaning schedule for January 8 - March 4 is below.  
Please take a turn and sign up to clean.

Dates	Name(s)
Weeks of Jan. 8 - 14 Jan. 15 - 21	
Weeks of Jan. 22 - 28 Jan. 29 - Feb. 3	
Weeks of Feb. 5 - 11 Feb. 12 - 18	
Weeks of Feb. 19 - 25 Feb. 25 - Mar. 4	

Sign-up is for a 2-week period and includes cleaning all areas of the church building:  
sanctuary, sacristy, entrance, hallway, bathrooms,  
kitchen, conference room,

To sign-up:

Use the Cleaning Schedule form in the Commons  
or Contact Deb in the office:  
[gslc.office@icloud.com](mailto:gslc.office@icloud.com)  
616.772.4075



## ONLINE ACTIVITIES

### Online Devotions

Join us for a weekly online devotional video that you can find on our YouTube page\* and our Facebook page\* Each week Pastor posts a short devotion where she invites you to “hold space” for a scripture passage, question, topic or ‘wondering’.

\*Find us on YouTube: GSLC Holland, MI

\*Find us on Facebook: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church-ELCA-Holland, MI

<https://www.facebook.com/GoodShepherdLutheranChurchHollandMI>

# FELLOWSHIP — JANUARY 2023

## Fellowship Sign-up.



Treats and Set Up & Clean Up	
January 1, 2023	
January 8, 2023	
January 15, 2023	
January 22, 2023	
January 29, 2023	

## OUR THANKS AND PRAISE

### ***The Measure of our Love***

Computers connected via internet = Families

Total Sunday Attendance: 108

Families: 10

Average Sunday Attendance: 36 — reflects only 3 services. No attendance for Dec. 25 due to blizzard.



Dear Good Shepherd Lutheran,

Thank you so much for your generosity during this giving season!

Our Best to You,  
M. Kenat

BestPals Animal Rescue

rec'd December 19, 2022



Dear Board Members and Congregation,

Thank you very much for the Christmas gift card. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Deb P-G

rec'd December 14, 2022

# January

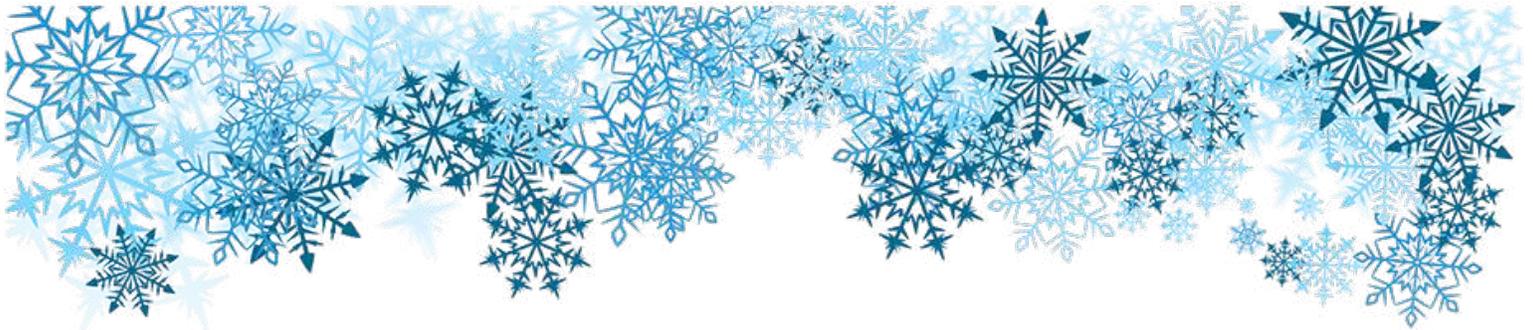
## Birthdays

Dan Gutknecht 1  
Dennis Willaman 2  
Laurie Schuldt 2  
Jessica Bacon 5  
Lois Robinson 10  
Andy Rohrer 21  
Annika Pearson 22  
Brian Hurt 23  
Lisa Pearson 27  
James Walker 30



## Anniversaries

Dennis & Carolyn Willaman 13



## SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Sunday Services and Activities are also on-line.

Sunday Services, 10:00 -11:00 am, also available via YouTube 10:00 am

Choir Rehearsals, Mondays at 6:30 pm

Quilter's Meet, Tuesdays, 10:30 am on site. No Quilting in December.

Women's Bible Study, Wednesdays, 10:15 am

Book Group, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 4:30 pm. No December Book Group

## PASTOR JESS' SCHEDULE

Pastor Jessica is available Monday - Friday

via phone, text, email and Facebook messenger.

Phone: (616) 403-4660

Email: [pj.gslc@gmail.com](mailto:pj.gslc@gmail.com)



To view Pastor's weekly in-office hours, look on the Breeze calendar on our website at [goodshepherdhollandmi.com](http://goodshepherdhollandmi.com)

## COUNCIL MEMBERS

### Church Council Members:

Jessica Bacon, Secretary	(920) 889-8706,	<a href="mailto:jessica.lois.bacon@gmail.com">jessica.lois.bacon@gmail.com</a>
Steve Johnson	(616) 212-6833,	<a href="mailto:sgjcfp@gamil.com">sgjcfp@gamil.com</a>
Rob Parrott, President	(616) 836-0172,	<a href="mailto:parrott@chartermi.net">parrott@chartermi.net</a>
Vicki Russell	(616) 796-8606,	<a href="mailto:vicki0528@gmail.com">vicki0528@gmail.com</a>
Julie Wolff, Vice President	(616) 566-6251,	<a href="mailto:wolffwife@gmail.com">wolffwife@gmail.com</a>

## IN OUR DECEMBER PRAYERS

### *In Our December Prayers...*

- ***In Sympathy:*** Tom Ludwig's oldest sister, Eunice had a stroke Wed. Dec. 14, died peacefully Sat. Dec. 17.
- ***In Thanksgiving:*** Merissa DelaGarza, (Deb P-G's daughter), had final surgery for her shattered ankle. She now has complete mobility.
- ***Healing Peace:*** Jamie Andrus, (the Andrus girls father), health issues, Lucas Barton, diagnosed with Dushanes Muscular Dystrophy (son of friends of Julie Wolff), Zach Bergland (Beckers' nephew), Ellie Buggeln, has a broken pelvis. Selena Casillas, 8 yrs old-diagnosed with cancer (friend of Ellen Lichtman), Dale Cramer, Bret D'Agostino, Kody De Haan, Merissa DelaGarza (Deb P-G's daughter), recovery from ankle surgery, Diane (close friend of Kris Novell) at Mayo clinic for treatment for inoperable cancer, Elliana Dickinson, 5 mos. has RSV (relative of Russells), Carol Essig (Bret D'Agostino's aunt), Jessie George (Deb P-G's daughter), Grand Ravine Senior Living, they have a Covid outbreak, Carol Grossman (Steve's mother), diagnosed with cancer, Larry Heckel, Gigi Howard, shoulder surgery; Cathy Kelly, Tiffany Letourneau, diagnosed with breast cancer, Isaac, (Ludwig's 5yr old grandson), underwent open heart surgery Dec. 5, Iris Mears, (PJ's godmother), Trudy & Dale Medendorp, (close friends of Vicki R.), Dale diagnosed with stage 4 cancer, Molly (friend of Deb P-G) diagnosed with uterine cancer, Diane Oberlin (former attendee), has cancer, Lance Pearson, (Perry's brother), recovering from heart surgery, Dan Ponstein (son of Sally P.) health issues, Rita Ponstein, (Sally's sister-in-law), Howard Reister diagnosed with cancer (Sally & Ellen's brother), Roland Rivera, Casey Rostos (friend of Norvells), Katherine Slee (friend of Beckers), Russ & Rita Taylor (Julie Wolff's parents), Shelby Visser (Norvells granddaughter) suffered a miscarriage, Justin Walker (Pastor's husband), Jon Wiening.
- ***Healthy Pregnancy:*** Jessica Palys (friend of Russells).
- ***Assisted Living/Nursing Home/Homebound:*** Christopher St. John (Son of Bonita Zielke), Bonita Zielke,
- ***Serving Our Country:*** John Bounthapanya (Som's nephew), Ryan Felgenhauer, William Felgenhauer, and Evan Felgenhauer (great-nephews of Kerry Johnson), Cortney and Konstantin Ivanov (Gigi Howard's daughter and son-in-law), Andrew Wagner (Patricia Bradfield's grandson), Zachery Wiener (Gigi Howard's son-in-law).
- ***Prayer Partners:*** Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Rev. Paul Busekist, Traverse City; Augusta Lutheran Church, Rev. Sharon Van Dam, Supply, Tustin; St. Peter Lutheran Church, Rev. Jeffrey Bonn, Unionville; Grace

