



Shepherd's Voice

A Weekly Publication of
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

2650 NW Highland Drive, Corvallis, OR 97330
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Rev. Joseph Hughes, Pastor

Date: December 18, 2016

Weekly Schedule

Recurring Events

SUNDAYS

- 9:00am Holy Communion
- 10:15am Fellowship
- 10:30am Multi-Generational Sunday School
- 3:00pm Bethel Growth Group (2nd & 4th Sun.)
- 7:00pm Damascus Growth Group (2nd & 4th Sun.)
- 6:30pm Nazareth Growth Group (per group)

Monday

- 10:00am Fellowship Text Study
- 3:15pm to 5:15pm Violin Lessons
- 6pm Car Club Meeting (4th Monday)

Tuesday

- 11:30am Senior Potluck (2nd Tuesday)
- 6:30pm 4-H Garden Gnome Meeting (2nd Tues.)
- 3:00pm to 5:45pm Violin Lessons
- 6:00pm Deacon Meeting (1st Tues.)
- 7:00pm MTL & Elder Meeting (1st Tues.)

Wednesday

- 10:00am Women on Wednesday (1st & 3rd Wed.)
- 2:00pm to 6:15pm Violin Lessons

Thursday

- 9:30am Emmaus Growth Group (1st & 3rd Thurs.)
- 10:30am Park Place Devotions
- 2:15pm to 5:15pm Violin Lessons
- 6:00pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting (1st & 3rd Thurs.)

Friday

- Office Closed
- 12:45pm to 4:15pm Violin Lessons
- 6:30pm DIGG Growth Group (1st & 3rd Fri.)

Saturday

- Office Closed

SPECIAL SERVICES AND EVENTS

December 14th

- ❖ 6:00pm Soup Supper
- ❖ 6:45pm Time for Prayer
- ❖ 7:00pm Advent Service

December 21st

- ❖ 6:00pm Soup Supper
- ❖ 6:45pm Time for Prayer
- ❖ 7:00pm Advent Service

December 24th

- ❖ 7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 25th

- ❖ **10:00am Christmas Day Service**
- ❖ NO MULTI-GEN SUNDAY SCHOOL



PASTOR'S POST: Does God Have a Mother?

4th Sunday in Advent, December 18, 2016



As I write this edition of the Pastor's Post for the *Shepherd's Voice* on Wednesday evening, there is about 3 inches of snow on the ground. I hope everyone got the word that it was decided it would be safer to cancel our usual Advent Wednesday evening activities on December 14. For Oregonians three inches of snow is a big deal, and for those of our members on the hill north of the church, it certainly would make driving a bit dicey. But the snow is for me a beautiful reminder of the righteousness of Christ which covers our sins like a blanket of beautiful fresh white snow covers the rough and barren ground.

Today's snow also reminds us that we are getting ever closer to the celebration of our Lord's Nativity (birth) on Christmas. This year our Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion service is Saturday, December 24 at 7:00 PM. And the Christmas Day Communion Service is Sunday December 25 at 10:00 AM (note special time).

This Sunday, December 18, is the 4th Sunday in Advent and we turn our attention to Mary the Mother of our Lord, and "The Annunciation," a text that gives rise to the question: **what should we say about Mary?**

A few years ago I had the opportunity to officiate at the marriage of a Lutheran and a Roman Catholic in a church I was serving in Illinois. The bride was catholic and the groom was Lutheran. Normally weddings take place in the church of the bride. But in this case the bride and her family were only nominally Roman Catholic (i.e. they didn't go to church) but the groom and his family had long been an involved and committed part of the Lutheran congregation I was serving. They were the proverbial "pillars of the church." Without going into all the complications it made sense for me to officiate at the wedding at our church.

As we were wrapping up our discussion of the wedding service the bride asked at what point in the wedding she would go and put flowers and light a candle before the statue of the Virgin Mary. She wasn't happy to find out there was no statue of Mary in our church. Placing a bouquet before the statue of the Virgin Mary was an important part of the wedding service for her. As it turned out she really did see Mary the mother of Jesus and wife of Joseph as an ideal wife and mother. Sometimes I think we Lutherans fall short in lift up ideals and models to emulate.



This Sunday our Gospel is the annunciation narrative in Luke 1:26-38 and the focal point is Mary and the Word of God announced to her by the angel. It is called the "annunciation" because the angel Gabriel, who had appeared to Zechariah in the temple a few verses before, and announced to the old man that his aging wife would have a son (John the Baptist) though she was well past her child bearing years, now makes a second appearance. This time Gabriel appears to a young woman named Mary who is a virgin, greets her, and announces (hence "The Annunciation") that she is going to have a son whose name will be Jesus. When Mary inquires, "How will this be?" The angel explains that this will happen because the Holy Spirit will "come upon her," which I think

means that the Holy Spirit would miraculously cause her to conceive. Without going into the gynecological details this is why, technically speaking, we orthodox Christians confess the virginal conception not the virgin birth.

Since the one to be conceived in her is the second person of the Holy Trinity, the Son of God, it can be said that God does indeed have a mother, at least in so far as the second person of the Trinity, God the Son, became incarnate of the Virgin Mary and was made man, as we confess often in the Nicene Creed, "...by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the Virgin Mary and was made man..."

Christians have always had differing understandings of Mary. We Lutherans restrict our understanding of Mary to what the canonical scriptures have to say (*sola scriptura principle*). Roman Catholic Christians assert some things about Mary that are not in the Bible. Nevertheless I think Roman Catholics today would agree with most other Christians that God alone deserves our highest worship. The saints like Mary are inspirations and can be revered for encouragement for our own faith journey.

What can clearly be said about Mary from the Bible is that she was ready to be the servant of God. And in many ways she is a model for the life of the believer. We will be exploring that theme together this Sunday in our worship and in the Multi-Gen Sunday School session to follow we're calling "There's Some Thing about Mary." What is the something about Mary that could be an encouragement and inspiration for your life of faith?

Speaking of mothers and fathers this Sunday we have the privilege of celebrating the baptism of Abigail Jane Watrud, granddaughter of our own Lidia Watrud. What a joy it will be to welcome this child into the family of God this Sunday. Baptism is one way we "prepare the way of the Lord" in the lives of our children.

Blessings,

Pastor Joe Hughes

Voice & text: 217-898-9063

Email: j_w_hughes@hotmail.com





LECTIONARY BIBLE READINGS FOR WORSHIP: 2016

YOU CAN HELP SHAPE SUNDAY'S MESSAGE!

Everyone is welcome to participate in Monday **Fellowship Bible Studies, 10:00-11:30**. We read, learn about, and discuss the Bible readings for the coming Sunday. These important discussions help to shape pastor's message on the following Sundays, as well as provide a variety of ways you can get more out of your worship experience by sharing insights and questions raised during class. Want more information? Contact Pastor Joe (217-898-9063). Bring a friend! Everyone is welcome.

December 18	Fourth Sunday in Advent	First Reading Psalm Epistle Gospel	Isaiah 7:10-17 24 Romans 1:1-7 Luke 1:26-38
December 24	The Nativity of our Lord (<i>Christmas Eve</i>)	First Reading Psalm Epistle Gospel	Isaiah 9:2-7 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)
December 25	The Nativity of Our Lord (<i>Christmas Day – 10am worship</i>)	First Reading Psalm Epistle Gospel	Isaiah 7:10-14 110:1-4 1 John 4:7-16(7-12) Matthew 1:18-25
January 1, 2017	First Sunday after Christmas	First Reading Psalm Epistle Gospel	Isaiah 52:7-10 8 Hebrews 1:1-12 John 1:1-14
January 8, 2017	The epiphany of Our Lord	First Reading Psalm Epistle Gospel	Isaiah 60:1-6 72:1-11(12-15) Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12
January 15, 2017	The Baptism of Our Lord	First Reading Psalm Epistle Gospel	Isaiah 42:1-9 29 Romans 6:1-11 Matthew 3:13-17

So many seasonal events and learning opportunities

ANNOUNCING MULTI-GEN SUNDAY SCHOOL TOPICS *December/January*

- 12/18/16** The Families of Christmas 3 – The Holy Family – Mary, Joseph, & Jesus.
- 12/25/16** Merry Christmas – Holy Communion @ 10:00am
NO CLASS
- 1/1/17** Happy New Year – Guest Pastor – NO CLASS.
- 1/8/17** The Lord's Supper and the Priesthood of All Believers – An Open Conversation about Lutheran Theology & Practice – Session 1 (These three sessions will be facilitated by elder Peter Klammer.)
- 1/15/17** Session 2
- 1/22/17** Session 3
- 1/29/17** Quarterly Voters Meeting



Staff & Lay Leaders	
Pastor	Joseph Hughes
Office Manager	Callie Santora
Musician	Lisa Boylan
President	Bill Chambers
Secretary	Gail Millimaki
Treasurer	Debi Anderson
Property Chair	OPEN
PR Coordinator	Sandy Bell
Elders	Peter Klammer Jeff Hintzman (elect) Dennis Anderson (elect)
Ministry Team Leaders	Lisa Boylan, <i>Worship & Prayer</i> Jennifer Klammer, <i>Community Building & Care</i> Ray Hart, <i>Missional Outreach</i> Jay McDougal, <i>Biblical Equipping</i>
Deaconesses	Donna Durbin Sandy Nash OPEN

IF YOU ARE PLANNING AHEAD

please note that through November and December we have multiple people who have booked our space for parties and events on Fridays or Saturdays. If you are one who likes to have Fellowship set up the night before this may be something to consider.

SPECIAL FOCUS ON PRAYER

Each Wednesday evening of Advent (**12/14, 12/21**) the sanctuary will be open (and the door closed) from 6:45 to 6:55 p.m. for a special quiet time of personal prayer and meditation around the Call Process. During this time, Lisa Boylan will play Advent-themed background music. A "prayer sheet" will be available on the narthex cabinet to help guide your prayers. At 6:55 p.m., the sanctuary doors will be opened for worshippers to enter. Please consider joining in this special focus on prayer.



THE WORD IS OUT! The easy accessibility and convenient location of our church facility has been talked of in the community. We are having more parties, gatherings and meetings take place at all times during the week. As owners of this building it is important for us to clean up **OUR** events the way we would like to see outside groups clean up after their events. **PLEASE** be sure that all electronic equipment gets put away in the AV room. Make sure the garbage is taken out, and the dishes done and put away.

It is only fair that we are doing exactly as we ask others to do. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

It has been a tradition that each year we collect donations to give a Christmas blessing to our Pastor and staff.

If you are able to donate to the Christmas gift this year please see Peter Klammer.

All donations need to be in to Peter
NO LATER THAN

December 21st
so they may be presented
Christmas Eve.

Thank you in advance!





December Birthdays: Mike Kutsch 12/11, Rich Millimaki 12/12, Colleen Fisher 12/17, Lidia Watrud 12/19, Mary Nunery 12/22, Cynthia Dort 12/26, Ray Hart 12/26, Sharyn Heller 12/26, Ellie Hintzman 12/28

December Anniversaries: August & Dorothy 12/20, Tom & Priscilla 12/27, Bill & Sharyn 12/31

Lay Ministry December 18th

Greeter:

Tom & Priscilla Stratton

Acolyte:

Caroline Hintzman

Reader:

Glen Schmidt

Sound & Tech:

Jay McDougal

Ushers:

Fernando Henriques, Katy Trautman, Richard Hlavinka, Bruce Havranek

Communion:

Peter Klammer

Refreshments:

Debi Anderson & Alison Hintzman

Musician:

Lisa Boylan

Lay Ministry December 25th

Greeter:

Rich & Gail Millimaki

Acolyte:

Kari Dort

Reader:

Katy Trautman

Sound ONLY (no slides):

Peter Klammer

Ushers:

Fernando Henriques, Katy Trautman, Richard Hlavinka, Bruce Havranek

Communion:

Peter Klammer

Refreshments:

Anyone who wants to!!

Musician:

Lisa Boylan

ADVENT Season...

Advent Midweek Soup Suppers and Services continue on Wednesday evenings in Advent beginning November 30 and continuing December 7, 14, and 21. Soup supper at 6:00 PM Evening Prayer for Advent at 7:00 PM. Christmas Eve Candle light communion is Saturday, December 24, 7:00 PM. Christmas Day Holy Communion is Sunday, December 25, **10:00 AM** (note one hour later than usual on Sundays).

You are cordially invited

ORGAN CONCERTS IN DECEMBER

by our own
Lisa Boylan & Company.

December 18th @ 4:00pm w/ Erik McKirdy
Albany First United Methodist Church
Organ Duets and Solo Pieces.



Centerpiece Workshop

Saturday,

December 17, 1:00-3:00 pm

*Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
2650 NW Highland Drive
In the Fellowship Hall*

We have a big variety of greens, some
berries and floral foam.

Bring a container 4-6" (I have a few on
hand), gloves and clippers if you have
them.

Everyone is invited! Bring a friend!

For more information contact
Jennifer Klammer,
jennifer.klammer@comcast.net,
541-754-2623



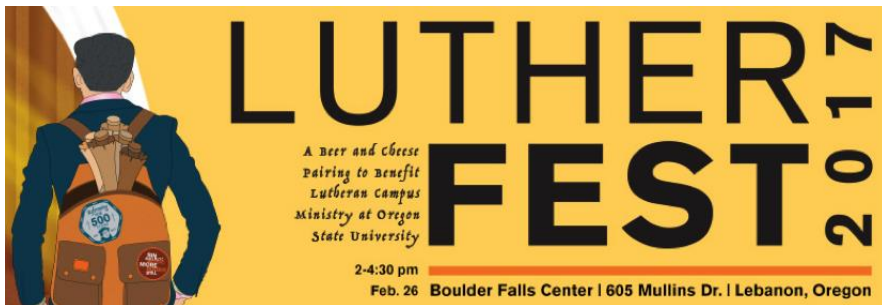
CHECK IT OUT!!

Bulletin Board on East side of the office hallway.

- ❖ Update on our seminary student
- ❖ Update from the Olivers

Entry way Bulletin Board

- Community shows
- Family activities
- Christmas Cards to all!



TICKET SALES NOW OPEN

The 5th annual Lutherfest Beer and Cheese Pairing event to support the ministry of Luther House is Sunday, February 26, 2017 (2-4:30 pm), at the Boulder Falls Event Center in Lebanon. Doors open at 1:30. Individual tickets are \$50 and Tables of 8 sell for \$350 (a \$50 savings). Since ticket sales opened December 1, they've been going quickly. If you haven't yet purchased yours, don't delay or you might miss six local craft beers paired with six Oregon artisan cheeses, hearty appetizers, entertainment, student testimonials, a chance to win special gift baskets, and the option to purchase select products from some of our vendors. Like last year, free commemorative photos will be taken as you arrive. For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit lutherfest.luther-house.org. Thanks to generous sponsorship by the Grace (Corvallis) Foundation, St. Mark (Salem) Endowment, Atonement (Newport) Lutheran, Faith (Albany) Lutheran, and Ron and Virginia Mohr of Thrivent Financial, every ticket sold directly supports student programming at Luther House in 2017. The congregation bringing the most guests to the party wins the Lutherfest Traveling Trophy, a brand new feature this year! We look forward to seeing you at the party.