

Shepherd's *Voice*

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

Rev. Dr. R. Lee Hagan

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."

Colossians 3:16

"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise" is not just an Epiphany hymn, but also the joyful response of the saints to God for His abundant blessings. Regardless of the time of year or the season of life, Christians praise and thank God for the gift of His Son, Jesus, and the hope of eternal life. Thankfulness is not a day on the calendar or a specific box that we check, but a way of life. The physical and spiritual blessings move our hearts to thanksgiving to God.

Every day is an opportunity to receive such blessings. Every day is also an opportunity to give thanks to God for all those blessings. Like the grateful Samaritan leper, each day we return to the Lord Jesus to thank and praise Him for all that He has done for us.

Our prayers are not just full of petitions where we make requests to God, but also expressions of thanks for all the requests that He has granted. God hears our prayers - for healing loved ones, for new jobs, for faithful spouses to our children, for steadfast faith within our family. Our heavenly Father invites such prayers and promises to hear them. When God graciously provides for us and grants our petitions, our lives become songs of thankfulness and praise to Him.

Prayer – Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we give thanks to you that You give us all that we need to support this body and life. May Your gifts move our hearts to be thankful to You each day; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

Fraternally in Christ,



President Lee Hagan

Monthly Newsletter of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church - LCMS December 2024

December Church Events

- 12.03 Elders Meeting 7 pm
- 12.04 Midweek Advent Dinner 6 pm
- 12.04 Midweek Advent Service 7 pm
- 12.04 ZOOM Prayer Group 8 pm
- 12.08 Children's Christmas Program during Worship 10 am
- 12.08 Women's Guild Turkey Dinner following Worship
- 12.11 Midweek Advent Dinner 6 pm
- 12.11 Midweek Advent Service 7 pm with Pastor Pierce
- 12.11 ZOOM Prayer Group 8 pm
- 12.12 Heritage Hall 2 pm
- 12.18 Worship Committee Meeting 4 pm
- 12.18 Midweek Advent Dinner 6 pm
- 12.18 Midweek Advent Service 7 pm
- 12.18 ZOOM Prayer Group
- 12.24 Nativity of our Lord Service 7 pm

Sunday Events

Adult Bible Study: 9:00 a.m. led by Pastor Lanning
Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Children's Church is offered on non-Communion Sundays, during the Sermon for children age 4 through 4th grade.

PET PROJECT

Pick up will be arranged by calling when we have items ready. At this time, they will no longer be accepting pill bottles. Please bring in your clean empty cans and clean dry plastic milk jugs or other plastic jugs that have handles.

Please make sure your jugs are clean and dry inside.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES AT GOOD SHEPHERD

Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri "Season of Hope Tree"

Lutheran Family and Children's Services is proud to be working with your congregation once again. Our mission at LFCS is to empower children and families to overcome challenges today so they can build a better tomorrow. With the donations that we receive, we are able to continue the vision where generations of families across Missouri are safer and stronger together. Last year, in 2023, we were able to serve 1,211 families! Over half of our clients improved stress management skills and 94% improved parenting skills.

We know that not every child has a safe warm place to spend their Christmas. We want children to feel the sanctuary of a parent's love and the security of a place to call home, especially as we remember the story of the birth of our Savior. Your support of LFCS allows the children and families in our community the opportunity to have safe and stable homes, offers essential items for families, and helps families obtain the things they need.

We have put up a "Season of Hope Tree" with tags representing items we need to help our families. If you would like to contribute to helping LFCS families, feel free to take a tag(s), add the items to your shopping list, and place them under the tree—WE GREATLY THANK YOU! If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please place your donation in an envelope marked with LFCS on the front and place it in the offering.

We thank you in advance for joining our mission, and making a difference in the lives of families in need. Please do not hesitate to reach out to learn more about our organization at lfcsmo.org or call 866-326-LFCS (5327).

With love and blessings to you,

Donna J Weber – LFCS Office Coordinator – 916 Bernadette Drive Columbia MO

ANGEL TREE

SPONSORED BY SENIOR YOUTH

This will help a local family in Centralia, provided through the Chamber of Commerce

Take a tag from the tree, purchase the item, return item with tag securely taped to front and place under the tree.

****DO NOT WRAP THE GIFT.****

ADVENT SPECIAL OFFERINGS

The offerings for Thanksgiving Eve, all Advent services, and Christmas Eve will go to: **LCMS Disaster Response to aid victims of Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton. The current areas being served are Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina.**

Other ways to give include: lcms.org/givenow/disaster Text LCMSDISASTERS to 41444

To give by credit/debit card Call 888-930-4438 (LCMS Donor Care Line)

Donate by Check: Make your check payable to LCMS, or The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. On the memo line write "Disaster Response –Strategic Use (TR9206)." Or contact Mission Advancement for other options by calling 888-930-4438 or by email to mission.advancement@lcms.org Mail your gift to: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod PO Box 66861 St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES AT GOOD SHEPHERD

The nominating committee is seeking volunteers to run for office on the church council for next year. There are five open positions that need to be filled; Elder, President, Trustee, Financial secretary, Recording secretary. Please see one of the committee members, Curt Nadler, Alane Gronefeld, or Russell Stelzer to find out more information.

Operation Christmas Child



Creative stacking of part of the 147 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes packed on November 16. Many thanks to Jacki and Hannah for overseeing this mission project. Thank you to Vickie and Pastor Lanning for the delicious breakfast. Thank you to the volunteers who showed up to help set up, pack boxes, and deliver boxes for shipping.



The Sunday School Choir making a “joyful noise” on Sunday, November 24th when they performed “I Am Thankful” by Angie Killian. Soloists for the song were Wiley Rojas, Colton Rainey, Jacob Cochran, and Abby Rainey.



2024 Activities and Events at Good Shepherd (a partial review of 2024)



Wait Staff for the annual Sweetheart Dinner held in February. Dancing followed dinner. Members of Campus Quarterlife assisted and participated in this event.

The second annual Nerf and Nachos was held in early March with members from the community, Campus, and Good Shepherd attending. This has proven to be an extremely popular event with young and young-at-heart participants.



April saw several Good Shepherd families work together for the LCMS “Shine” event to help a local community member with reclaiming his yard from overgrown shrubbery and trees. This is the FIRST time Good Shepherd has participated in “Shine.” We also had a member join by Rite of Baptism in April.

In May, Good Shepherd hosted a Women’s Retreat – “Lord, Teach Us to Pray . . .” with members from central Missouri churches both LCMS and non-Lutheran attending and learning from Carla Kramer.



Another annual event, this one in June, is the making, selling and eating homemade ice cream. The ice cream is sold at the Centralia 4-H Fair. The Senior Youth sponsors this event with the proceeds going towards the LCMS National Youth Gathering trip. The homemade peanut butter ice cream so good!!!

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Worship w/Holy Communion	2	3 Elders Meeting 7 pm	4 Advent Dinner 6 pm Advent Service 7 pm ZOOM Prayer Group 8 pm	5	6	7
8 9 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Worship w/Children's Christmas Program Women's Guild Turkey Dinner following service	9	10	11 Advent Dinner 6 pm Advent Service 7 pm ZOOM Prayer Group 8 pm	12 2:00pm Heritage Hall	13	14
15 9 am Adult Bible Study 10 a.m. Worship Service w/Holy Communion	16	17	18 Worship Comm 4 pm Advent Dinner 6 pm Advent Service 7 pm ZOOM Prayer Group 8 pm	19	20	21
22 9 am Adult Bible Study 10 a.m. Worship	23	24 Nativity of Our Lord Service 7 pm	25 	26	27	28
29 9 am Adult Bible Study 10 a.m. Worship Service	30	31	1	2	3	4



December Birthdays

Brittany Gorczyca	12.1
Martha Sydow	12.3
Barbara Fischer	12.5
Jane St. John	12.9
Cheryl Steffan	12.11
Henry Rainey	12.12
Matthew Rojas	12.18
Katherine Lanning	12.19
Starr Nadler	12.20
Cindi Manola	12.20
Liliana Rojas	12.21
Palmyra Dubbert	12.28

December Anniversaries

James & Hannah Lanning	12.21
Ken & Cindi Manola	12.23
Amanda & Andy Morgan	12.23





**LUTHERAN HOUR
MINISTRIES**
www.lhm.org

December 1

"Will Everything Sad Come Untrue?"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

A mother and her young son trade a life of privilege for one of poverty, a story that is borderline unbelievable, yet nonetheless true. (Jeremiah 33:16)

December 8

"Completely Ordinary Human"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Everyone has a story to tell and yours can be one through which Jesus is working to make the world new again. (Malachi 3:7)

December 15

"Sorrow Welcomed Here"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

The church welcomes people, but does it also welcome their problems? Dr. Michael Zeigler says the church should be a place that makes room for both joy and sorrow. (Zephaniah 3:14-20)

December 22

"Does It Matter If Jesus Is God?"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Jesus sets a good example, but good examples can't help dead people. Only God's Son can make us alive again. (Luke 2:10-11)

December 29

"No Getting Better Than This"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Chad Lakies

The Good Life--what is it? Pastor Chad Lakies says life is truly good when it's life the way God meant it to be. (Colossians 3:12-17)

Broadcasting

Columbia, MO

K265FD 100.9 FM Sunday Mornings at 8:00 am

KMCV 89.9 FM Sunday Mornings at 8:00 am

Moberly, MO

KWIX 92.5 FM Sunday Afternoons at 1:30pm

December 1: First Sunday in Advent

Text: Matthew 21:1-9

December 8: Second Sunday in Advent

Text: Luke 21:25-36

December 15: Third Sunday in Advent

Text: Matthew 11:2-11

December 22: Fourth Sunday in Advent

Text: John 1:19-28 OR Luke 1:39-56

December 29: First Sunday after Christmas

Text: Matthew 1:18-25

Serving The Lord

Officiant: Pastor James Lanning

Board of Elders

Board of Elders

Curt Nadler (573) 682-4541

Jeff Jaeger (573) 682-0902

Gary Seider (573) 489-6629

Board of Trustees

Henry Rainey (573) 823-9777

Brenda Moss (573) 682-7117

John Briggs (573) 424-2257

**Church Fellowship Hall and Church
ballfield scheduling & maintenance**

Catherine Simmons 573-819-1272

Email: office@goodshepherdcentralia.org

Be sure to check "Church Updates" for the latest church news and prayer requests, as well as serving and giving opportunities at Good Shepherd. Sign up and register at www.churchupdates.org



Shepherd Supply

Offering free household supplies to those in need.
Open Monday – Thursday 9-12 OR by appointment
Contact 573-682-3941

FINANCIAL & ATTENDANCE

October 27

Attendance

Current	\$ 906.00
Building	\$ 390.00

Total \$ 1,296.00

November 3

Attendance 38

Current	\$ 3,110.00
Building	\$ 180.00

Total \$3,290.00

November 10

Attendance 46

Current	\$ 1,415.00
Building	\$ 200.00

Total \$ 1,615.00

November 17

Attendance 49

Current	\$ 2,008.00
Building	\$260.00

Total \$ 2,268.00

November 24

Attendance 45

Current	\$ 1,540.00
Building	\$ 360.00

Total \$ 1,900.00

Current

10% of our current offerings are sent to Missouri District for missions. The remaining 90% is used for GSLC budget expenses.

Building

100% of money designated for building stays in our congregation for budget expenses.

Other October/November Deposits

10.27 Senior Youth (Youth Gathering)	\$ 300.00
10.27 Operation Christmas Child shipping	\$ 75.00
10.27 Sunday School	\$ 7.75
11.03 Trivia Night	\$ 816.00
11.03 Christmas Treats	\$ 24.00
11.03 Shared Ministry Support (Campus)	\$ 1,250.00
11.17 Partnership Grant	\$ 500.00
11.17 Christmas Treat Bags	\$ 90.00
11.17 Sunday School	\$ 10.00
11.17 OCC Shipping	\$ 392.00
11.17 Fellowship Hall Rental for 12/7/24	\$ 200.00
11.17 Hymn Board Numbers, Desk Mat	\$ 52.00
11.17 Bible Study Book (Book of Esther)	\$ 10.50
11.24 Advent (Thanksgiving Envelope)	\$ 50.00
11.24 Christmas Treat Bags	\$ 40.00
11.24 OCC Shipping	\$ 400.00

Offering envelopes - please use your envelopes for your church giving as much as possible. It makes things much easier for our financial secretary when counting and recording member information. If you need envelopes just let Tracy know and she can get you some. Thank you.

Meet Me At The Manger

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**Campus Lutheran Church located at 304 S. College Ave.**

An indoor display of over 600 unique nativities from around the world and from Grandma's basement with story cards that tell the background of each nativity

**Owned by members of Campus Lutheran Church and not for sale**

The display is open to senior living facilities, those with mobility issues or prefer less crowded space, 9:30 am- 3:00 pm, Friday, December 6

Open to the public:

- o **5:00-8:00 pm, Friday, December 6**
- o **9:30 am-5:00 pm, Saturday, December 7**

Special Kid's Zone with touchable nativities and other craft activities

Fellowship with cookies and hot beverages in Community Life Center—

Sit-a-bit, discuss with friends/family and go back for a second look

Free-will offering for short-term mission trips to Alaska and Central America



## MIDWEEK ADVENT DINNERS

December 04 – Lanning's – tacos

December 11 – Hoek's – lasagna

December 18 – Seider's – chili dogs

**The weekly host family will be in charge of asking members for additional help with the main dish.**

Members attending are asked to bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share. Thank you.

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

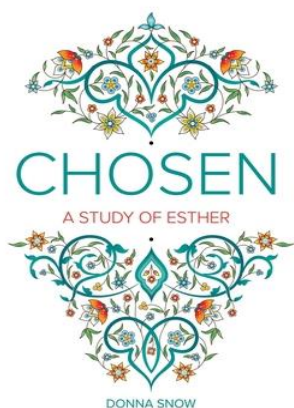
**Chritina DeJesus** (Jane St. John's daughter) – health issues; **Savannah and Taylor** – as they watch their daughter recover from her CDH repair; **Reagan Louise** – newborn recovering from surgery for repair of Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia; **Brenda Belt** (Henry Rainey's sister) – Stage IV Cancer; **Grace** – health issues (friend of Hannah Lanning); **Steve Buckert** – cancer treatments; **Jenni Murray**–Margaret Parker's daughter-injured in motorcycle accident; **Ron Borgman**; **Ryan James**–cousin of Betsy Cochran–health issues; **Dick St. John**–Brenda Moss's father–health issues; **Sherry Morse**–health issues; **Kim & Terry Decker**–health issues; **Craig**–suffering with spinal stenosis–friend of Randy Simmons; **Verda Adkisson**; **Mark Blanton**–Betsy Cochran's cousin–waiting for liver transplant; **Ed & Ernestine Ramsey**; **Bill & Judy Mahieu**; **Kyle Lutz**–recovering from kidney/pancreas transplant; **Bonnie Berthelsen**; **Mark Ramsey**; **Calvin Stemme**–treatment for cancer; **Julia Rainey**; **Jane St. John**; **Dennis & Jackie Nadler**; **Susan Harris**; **Wayne Nolan**–stepfather of Jeff Jaeger; **Michelle Smith**–daughter of Jane St John; **Arla Benskin**–daughter of Mary Brechler.

**Missionaries** - **Pastor Tim Schulte** and wife **Erin**

**Community Prayers:** **Father Mike Coleman**; **Evie Ross**–infant needs heart transplant; **Dylan Dick**–health issues; **David**–health issues; **Fran Schnarre**–health issues.

**ARMED FORCES:** **Christopher Thompson**, U. S. Navy – cousin of Hannah Lanning; **Brandon Lowery**, U.S. Navy–brother of Rachel Rojas; **Donevin Leonard**, U.S. Marine Corps–grandson of Russell & Jacki Stelzer; **Chris Chism**, U.S. Navy–son of Vickie & Eric Chism; grandson of Barbara Fischer; **Brittany Macklin**–great-niece of Ernestine Ramsey; **Zachary Warden**–grandson of Betty Warden; Community: **Ray Finlay**, U.S. Army

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



New Wednesday morning Bible study beginning in January 2025. Pastor Lanning will lead us in a study of Esther based on the book **Chosen** by Donna Snow. Please let Catherine know if you plan to join the study and need her to order a book for you. Or you are welcome to order the book on your own. (I found them on Amazon for \$10.50).



**Pastor James Lanning**

(512) 968-4587, Email: [pastorlanning@goodshepherdcentralia.org](mailto:pastorlanning@goodshepherdcentralia.org)

**Church Office- Catherine Simmons** 8am-12:30 M-Th; 8-10 F  
(573) 682-3941

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