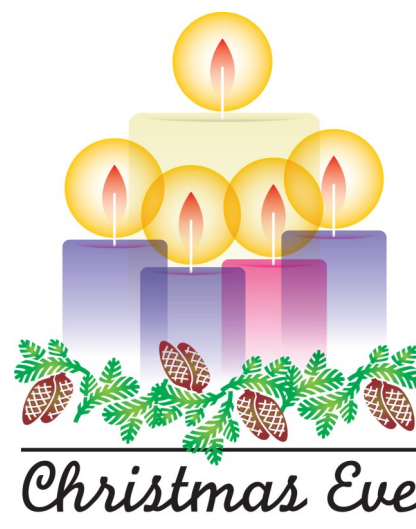


Good Shepherd News & Notes

Advent IV: Dec. 24, 2023

3825 Wildbriar Ln., Lincoln, NE 68516
Church Office: (402) 423-7639
E-mail: info@goodshepherdlincoln.org
Website: www.goodshepherdlincoln.org

KNNA radio: 95.7FM or www.thecross957.org
Services broadcast live Sundays at 8 am & 10:30 am
and Wednesdays at 6:30 pm



GAUDETE SUNDAY: BREAKING THE RULES *by Rev. Roberto Rojas Jr*

Gaudete Sunday breaks all the rules. Though part of Advent, it stands out from it. It departs from everything you expect in a typical Advent Sunday. As you already know, Advent is a time to repent and hear of the coming of the Lord. Though repentance is usually thought of as a sad, mournful attitude, which it is, there is something joyful about it as well. Gaudete Sunday gives us another perspective and a glimpse of the joy that awaits us.

Breaking it down

There are three main ways that Gaudete breaks all the rules. First, Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent, comes from the Latin word that means "be glad" or "rejoice." It's taken from the first line of the day's Introit, which doesn't come from the Old Testament: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say: Rejoice!" (Phil. 4: 4).

Next, as a result of this, the colors of the vestments (the liturgical garments worn by the pastors) and the paraments (the ornamental hangings that adorn altars, pulpits and the like) "lighten up" from violet to rose. The only other time this happens is during Laetare Sunday in Lent. Furthermore, the rose candle on the Advent wreath is lit. The organ and all the instruments burst forth with joy!

Finally, we are called to rejoice while hearing the Gospel text, Matt. 11: 2-10, which appears to be one of the least joyful events in the New Testament!

You can start to see how Gaudete is slightly different from the rest of Advent, yet it fits right in. The overarching theme is on the coming of Christ in three ways: His first, His present and His final advent. Gaudete focuses on the first of these: Christ's first advent in the flesh. On this Sunday, which also tells us of John's imprisonment, the Church reflects upon the Lord who has come as long promised. We are called to repent, rest and rejoice in our Lord always.

Easy Rejoicing

It's easy to rejoice in the Lord when things go well or when life goes our way. It's simple to be joyful in the Lord when we have a faithful spouse, obedient children and money in our bank accounts. But we are called to rejoice always. That means that we rejoice even when we lack these things. Nothing can teach us this truth better than Matthew 11.

John is in jail because of Jesus. John faithfully and unabashedly preached God's Word: "Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand!" (Matt. 3: 2). He didn't bend to the teachings of the culture like a reed blowing in the wind. He didn't attract people with his trendy, hipster appearance and diet. (*see page 2*)

All he had was the Word of God. He showed no partiality. John stood up tall, and with great love, he called Herod to repentance, even though he could have lost his life for doing so.

Scripture says, "For Herod has seized John and bound him and put him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because John had been saying to him, 'It is not lawful for you to have her.' And though he wanted to put him to death, he feared the people, because they held him to be a prophet" (Matt. 14: 3-5). Herod didn't like John or his sermons, so he sought to shut him up. Instead of repenting, King Herod rejected God's Word, lounged around in soft clothes in his comfy home and threw John in prison to die. Why? All because John broke the culture's unwritten rule: "Don't offend anyone with the Word of God."

That's the context. John had only done what God told him to do. But now the ministry that God gave him was coming to an end. The world scoffed and mocked this reckless failure of a life. The disciples of John, and even John himself, were wondering if it was all worth it. John sat alone in prison, waiting to die, beginning to doubt whether Jesus was the Christ. He threw down the gauntlet and sent his disciples to ask, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?"

(to be continued)

The Lutheran Witness (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, MO) Dec. 2015, pg. 13-14.

ADVENT MEAL & CHRISTMAS VESPERS

Our last Advent meal for the year is on Wed., Dec. 20th from 5 pm -6 pm in the fellowship hall. The Higgins family will be serving BBQ pulled pork. A free-will offering will be designated for the Lincoln Crisis Pregnancy Center.

The children of Good Shepherd (ages 3-14) will be leading the congregation in singing Advent and Christmas hymns at the Christmas vespers service on Wed., Dec. 20th at 6:30 pm. We thank all the children who are participating and the adults (Elizabeth Moline, Jerika Perrin and Marlyse Goodroad) who have organized and directed the practices. We also thank the children who will be presenting pre-service music, music during the offering, and post-service music.



GOOD SHEPHERD PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

If you have not already had your photo taken for Good Shepherd's new pictorial directory, come on Sunday, December 24 to room 106 and have your photo taken between services.

LUTHERAN FOOD PANTRY

We continue to collect toiletry items for the Lutheran Food Pantry. The following items are on the list of preferred items:

- Family size toothpaste
- Family size shampoo
- Family size soap
- Toothbrushes (no battery or electric, please)

You may also bring travel sizes of these items for the collection box. The box is located by the south balcony stairs on the round table. Thank you for your help in filling this need.



PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK

If you have a prayer request, please contact the church office at (402) 423-7639. Your request will appear for 6 weeks. If you would like to keep it on the prayer list, you may

call during the 6th week to renew it.

- **Barb Poppe**, with short-term memory issues (2)
- **Pastor Luke Russert**, for a successful adjustment of his medication (6)
- **Sister of Darla Posner**, having pain issues (6)
- **Sharon Burke**, dealing with Parkinson's disease (5)
- **Jeremy Janssen**, friend of Rich Lichtenfeld, recovering from a stroke (5)
- **Joannie Michel**, recovering at home (5)
- **Georgeson family**, dealing with the stress of family issues (5)
- **Leena Mackey**, grand-daughter of Linda Clark, with continued medical issues (4)
- **Linda Clark**, undergoing medical tests (4)
- **Tom Vontz**, brother-in-law of Dee Indgjer, recovering from a kidney transplant on Nov. 15th (5)
- **Glenn**, friend of Karen Kammann, diagnosed with untreatable cancer, Pray for peace and comfort (3)
- **Norma Pagels**, mother of Barb Poppe, having health issues (4)
- **Taylor**, grand-daughter of Holly Herrod, for continued healing (2)
- **John Reigle**, for successful back surgery and recovery (1)
- **Robert Zook**, moved to The Waterford (5)
- **Lynn Oshner**, friend of Marilyn Meyer, recovering from heart surgery (2)
- **Don Wiese**, moved to hospice care (4)
- **Terry Meier**, friend of Terry Fitzgerald, undergoing medical testing (3)
- **Shari**, sister of Tish Loomis, having a medical procedure (3)

- **Gail Stachura**, for recovery from neck surgery and successful healing (1)
- **The son of Jordan**, friend of Michael Jensen, who is having seizures (1)
- **Ellie Anderson**, friend of Grace Marshall, dealing with worsening pain that is incapacitating her (4)
- **Gary Chura**, brother-in-law of Maureen Marshall, in hospice care with pancreatic cancer. (4)
- **Kelli Stott**, daughter of Bob & Elaine Van Valkenburg, recovering from a knee replacement (2)
- **Elaine Egner**, having medical issues (4)
- **Chris**, son of Elaine Egner, in rehab at Brookside (4)
- **Tish Loomis**, having a medical procedure on Dec. 19th (4)
- **Elaine Van Valkenburg**, recovering from pneumonia (1)
- **Bennett & Corbin**, friends of Karen Kammann, dealing with severe health issues (3)
- **The Goodrich family**, neighbors of the Knauses, on the disappearance of their son, Tyler (3)
- **Hudson Dewey**, 2 yr. old great-grandson of Sandie Trvz, thanksgiving for recovery from Covid (1)
- **Thanksgiving for the birth of Lucy Marie Kranz**, daughter of Rev. Mark & Bethany Kranz, brother-in-law and sister of Jeana Wood (1)

SOUP COOKOFF

Reserve the date to participate! Good Shepherd will be having a soup cookoff on Sunday, January 21st following the 10:30 am service. The soup makers will be vying for your vote and to earn the coveted golden ladle trophy. More details to follow.

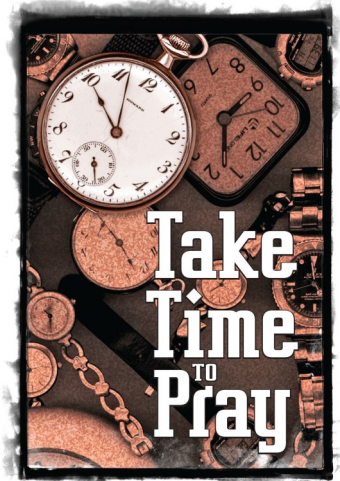
OWLS

Good Shepherd's OWLS (Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors) will be meeting for games and fun on the first Friday of each month. The next gathering will be on Friday, Jan. 5th at 2 pm in the fellowship hall.

Good Shepherd News & Notes

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT— Philippians 4: 6 **“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every-** **thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiv-** **ing let your requests be made known to God.”**

Paul puts two things in opposition to each other: anxiety and prayer. So, trade your worries for prayers! You have a Father who loves you and desires to hear your prayers and bless you.



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES **(Dec. 24 thru Dec. 31)**

People celebrating birthdays are:

Gayleen Potter	Nick Bauer
Macsen Alexander	Jim Carr
Marilyn Carr	Rhet Bauer
Sara Nispel	Terry Princ
Raiya von Rentzell	Jimmy Stepp

Couples celebrating anniversaries are:

John & Linda Reigle (55 years)
Jim & Peggy Cather (64 years)

LIFE MOMENT

This time of the year always fills us with cheer
But the reason we celebrate is not always clear
The cookies, the lights, the presents, the tree
The carols, the decorations, the family parties
But all of the delight and all of the fun
Does not mean a thing if we don't know God's
Son

The tiny baby that was born to die
Can sometimes cause us to stop and ask why
Do we really deserve the sacrifice He made?
Are we worth the offering and the price that
was paid?

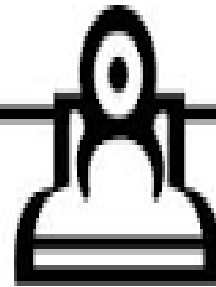
In His eyes, we are, because He made us His
own

And on the cross, the ultimate love was shown
So take joy in the season and spread His true
love

But always remember the gift from above!

RED CROSS BLOOD DRAW

Register online to be a donor on **Friday, December 22nd**. The blood draw will be at Good Shepherd in the fellowship hall **from 8 am—2 pm**. Schedule your appointment to donate at **RedCrossBlood.org** and enter **Good Shepherd Lutheran**.



FINANCIAL INFORMATION **DECEMBER 17, 2023**

WEEKLY BUDGET NEED:
\$ 11,184.00

ATTENDANCE:
WED., DEC 13 : 118
MATINS: DEC 14: 28
SUN., DEC. 17: 216

GENERAL FUND OFFERING:
\$ 12,465.40

OUR OUTSTANDING MORT-
GAGE: \$ 1,665,667.46

Our goal is to pay off the mort-
gage by 2030. We need \$2,300
per week donated in principal
only payments to accomplish this.

Between Oct. 1 and Dec. 17, 2023
We have received
\$ 9,813.50
in principal only gifts.

Principle Only Gifts from
October 2022– Oct. 1, 2023
\$ 197,307.69

Vicarage Fund 12/17: \$ 4,353.81

SERVING AT GOOD SHEPHERD THIS WEEK:

DOORKEEPERS: (Sun., Dec. 24): 8 am: Loraine Harnett
10:30 am: Loraine Harnett
(Mon., Dec. 25): 9 am: Terry Fitzgerald

ELDER TODAY: (Sun., Dec. 24): Dale Meyer
(Christmas Eve) 4 pm: Mark Reinke
7 pm: Joel Kaldahl
(Mon., Dec. 25): Chad Renter
(Wed., Dec. 27): Dale Meyer

USHERS: (Sun., Dec. 24): 8 am: Indgjers, Sidlo, Brodbeck
10:30 am: Klutzes, Novaks
(Christmas Eve) 4 pm: A & A Von Busch, Sidlo, Stehlik
7 pm: Brodbeck, Perrin, Kaldahl
(Christmas Day) 9 am: Sidlo, Kaldahl
(Wed., Dec. 27): Kaldahl, Schmidt, D & R Von Busch

ACOLYTES: (Sun., Dec. 24): 8 am: Zach Von Busch
10:30 am: Anthony Pflanz
(Christmas Eve) 4 pm: Job Ehrich
7 pm: Gabe Moline
(Christmas Day): R. J. Huff
(Wed., Dec. 27): Zach Von Busch

ALTAR GUILD ASSISTANT: (Sun., Dec. 24): Claire Moline
(Christmas Eve): Chloe Lichtenfeld
(Wed., Dec. 27): Ingrid Ehrich

COMMUNION SET-UP: (Sun., Dec. 24): Dee Crisler/Marilyn Meyer
(Christmas Eve): Marilyn Meyer
(Christmas Day): Ella Moline
(Wed., Dec. 27): Sue Stolcpart

COMMUNION CLEAN-UP: (Sun., Dec. 24): Sheila Turek
(Christmas Eve): Marilyn Meyer
(Christmas Day): Linda Reigle
(Wed., Dec. 27): Sue Stolcpart

COFFEE SERVERS: (Sun., Dec. 24): Don & Peg Olson

MISSION PROJECT FOR DECEMBER

Luther Classical College in Casper, WY is Good Shepherd's mission project for the month of December. Luther Classical College will open in the fall of 2025. It will provide a conservative, classical Lutheran education to Lutheran students. Students will learn Latin, history, theology, literature, logic, rhetoric, music, geometry, biology and mathematics within a purposefully Christian and Lutheran framework.

GOOD SHEPHERD SHUT-IN MEMBERS:

Several of our shut-in members have requested to be listed in the News & Notes in order that members might pray for them.

Ron Amack (at home)
Betty Bluhm (at The Grand Lodge)
Joe & Sharon Burke (at home)
Jim & Peggy Cather (at home)
Elaine Egner (at home)
Shirley Kalina (Pemberly Place)
Janet Kniep (at home)
Tish Loomis (at home)
Dorian Merritt (at home)
Cindi Olson (Country House)
Dean Posner (Holmes Lake Rehab)
Alice Urbach (at home)

Anita Armitstead (at home)
Irma Brandt (Yankee Hill Village)
Jim & Marilyn Carr (at home)
Georgene Duer (at home)
Verneda Gerdes (at home)
Arlyss Ketelsen (at home)
Jerry Kohl (The Woodlands)
Lynda Mahloch (Legacy Estates)

Francine Poppe (Azria Health, Central City)
Marvin & Joyce Thompson (The Landing)
Don Wiese (Southlake Village)

On the tall table next to the pro-life display is a way for you to send birthday and anniversary greetings to our shut-in members. There are cards to sign or you may write a short note to those having birthdays and anniversaries in the current month. **There are currently no birthdays or anniversaries to celebrate among our shut-in members.** Thank you to everyone who has taken advantage of these opportunities to stay in touch with our shut-in members.



KIESER FAMILY

Check at the Information Center on the hanging clipboard for photos of Nathan & Cosette Kieser and their twin boys, Arthur and William. Nathan was a Concordia University student who attended services at Good Shepherd. He is now a student at Concordia Seminary in Ft. Wayne, IN.

KNNA-LP 95.7 FM

The Cross is always looking for volunteers to help, but currently we have a very specific need. We would like to update our radio station website or perhaps completely rebuild it. We have hundreds of hours of programming that needs to be properly archived for easier access. If you have computer/website experience and can help with this project, please contact Curt Christiansen or Pastor Moline. Thank you.

CHANGE OF INFO CARDS

There are yellow cards on the information center to fill out if you have recently changed address or email address or phone contact number. The church office staff would appreciate it if everyone would assist us in keeping our information current.

DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Lutheran Bible Translators has produced a daily Bible reading plan which covers the New Testament minus Revelations and portions of the Old Testament including Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Isaiah, Nehemiah and Esther. If you would like to follow this plan for 2024 and journey through most of the Bible, you can pick up a copy from the clipboard at the Information Center.