

**January 2017 Newsletter**  
**Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church**  
2903 State Hwy. 155  
Sayner, WI 54560-9698



**Please consider accepting an email link to this newsletter in place of a hard copy!**  
**Contact [bacashman@gmail.com](mailto:bacashman@gmail.com) with your email address.**

### **Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church**

A member congregation of the Northern Great Lakes Synod  
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America  
Sunday Worship Service: 9:00 AM  
June thru August, Saturday Service: 5:30 PM  
Fellowship/Coffee: 10:15 AM  
Weekday Church School (preschool-grade 5): Wednesdays 4 PM  
(Weekday Church School runs from Labor Day to Memorial Day)

*EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT AND ROOTED IN THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST, WE ARE A  
LOVING COMMUNITY THAT FOLLOWS JESUS, AND SEEKS TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD  
AND DO IT IN OUR DAILY LIVES.*



Ministers: The People of the Parish  
Pastor: Rev Dean Marin, Interim 715-356-9453, Cell 715-892-3315  
Council President: Jon Erpenbach 715-542-2448  
Church Telephone: 715-542-3701

On the World Wide Web:  
[www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org](http://www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org)  
[www.nglsynod.org](http://www.nglsynod.org)

# Shepherd of the Lakes

## Lutheran Church

2903 State Hwy. 155  
Sayner, Wisconsin 54560  
(715) 542-3701

Dear Shepherd Families,

We wish you a blessed Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

May the miracle of His birth light your way through the coming year.

Shepherd of the Lakes  
Church Council

*John Paulson*  
*Joel W. Schul*  
*Way T. ...*  
*David Bilke*  
*Karen Carter*  
*Larry Stephenson*  
*Jan Mairis*

*Peter Dean C. Main*  
*Betsy ...*  
*Barb Cashman*  
*Mike Pockat*



# **STANDING ROCK STATEMENT**

## **Statement from ELCA Presiding Bishop Eaton on Standing Rock**

When we come together for worship, we often begin with confession and forgiveness using these words: "We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves." Lutherans acknowledge that this is a broken world and, as part of it, even our best wisdom and efforts fall short. Very often we face issues of extraordinary complexity in which all sides make reasoned arguments for their reality. The current situation at Standing Rock in North Dakota is just such a case.

The route of the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) runs through contested land, which the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe sees as their homeland and sacred places, including burial grounds. Proponents of the DAPL sees it as a combination of public and private property. The pipeline will run under Lake Oahe, the primary water source for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. What we see is the tension between two peoples trying to share one land. We can also see the tension between our dependence on fossil fuels and the commitment this church has made to care for creation.

This past August, the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly passed a resolution repudiating the doctrine of discovery. In it we pledged "to practice accompaniment with Native peoples." The doctrine declared that indigenous land was "unoccupied" as long as Christians were not present. Land deemed "unoccupied" was, therefore, "discovered," as if it had been previously unknown to humankind. This doctrine was used as justification for European monarchies, and later the U.S. government, to take land from Native people. Many of us in this church who are immigrants have benefited from the injustices done to the original inhabitants of this land where we now live and worship. Our church also includes American Indian and Alaskan Native people, who have been on the receiving end of the injustices done. When we repudiated the doctrine of discovery, we Lutherans pledged to do better together in the future than we have in the past.

Acknowledging the complexity of this issue and the limitations sin places on human decisions, I believe that we are called as a church to support the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe: to stand with the Tribe as they seek justice, to encourage our congregations to pray for them and to offer material support, and to examine the racism inherent in our system that contributes to the current crisis. As promised in our resolution repudiating the doctrine of discovery, we will listen to tribal leaders and respect their wisdom.

We will lend our presence when invited, our advocacy when requested, the resources of our people when asked, and our prayers, friendship and repentance at all times.

Your sister in Christ,

Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

# **PASTOR'S MESSAGE**

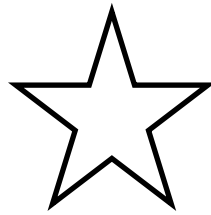
## **CHRISTMAS**

Dear Shepherd Family:

On December 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, people from near and far, children and adults, family and friends, will gather in our worship room to celebrate the birthday of our Lord and Savior. We will sing Christmas songs of faith, hear familiar Christmas lessons, join in prayer together, and receive the love of Christ in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. We are together as Brothers and Sisters, Children of God. We hope you will join us. By your presence, all are blessed as we give glory to God.

God's Blessings!

Pastor Dean C. Marin, Interim Pastor



IT  
CAME TO PASS  
IN THOSE DAYS  
THAT THERE WENT  
OUT A DECREE FROM  
CAESAR AUGUSTUS, THAT  
ALL THE WORLD SHOULD BE  
TAXED, AND THIS TAXING WAS  
FIRST MADE WHEN CYRENIUS WAS  
GOVERNOR OF SYRIA, AND ALL WENT  
TO BE TAXED, EVERY ONE INTO  
HIS OWN CITY. AND JOSEPH ALSO WENT UP  
FROM GALILEE, OUT OF THE CITY OF NAZARETH,  
INTO JUDEA, UNTO THE CITY OF  
DAVID, WHICH IS CALLED BETHLEHEM;  
BECAUSE HE WAS OF THE HOUSE AND LINEAGE  
OF DAVID, TO BE TAXED WITH MARY HIS ESPOUSED  
WIFE, BEING GREAT WITH CHILD.  
AND SO IT WAS, THAT WHILE THEY WERE  
THERE, THE DAYS WERE ACCOMPLISHED THAT SHE  
SHOULD BE DELIVERED. AND SHE BROUGHT FORTH HER  
FIRST-BORN SON, AND WRAPPED HIM IN SWADDLING CLOTHES, AND  
LAID HIM IN A MANGER, BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR THEM  
IN  
THE  
INN.

*Luke 2:1-7*

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

As I write my last letter as your Council President, I have been reflecting on the past eight months since I stepped into the position. I am impressed with the cooperation and willingness of the Shepherd of the Lakes congregation to address the issues we encountered. Shepherd is filled with wonderful folks who work very hard to keep the church family together and move forward on a new path. I am confident that all of you will continue to make Shepherd a healthy and loving place to worship together.

I want to thank all of the current Council members for their dedication and commitment to our church family and a "Big Thank You" to Dave Bilke for all his years of service on the Council. New Council members were elected last week and will be installed January 29, 2017.

Pastor Dean Marin was a godsend to Shepherd as interim pastor, and his ministry has helped us heal, reflect, and move forward. We've been blessed to include him in our church family and extend all our appreciation for his hard work.

I also want to thank Bishop Tom Skrenes for recommending Bill Wendorf to become a licensed lay minister for Shepherd of the Lakes. In addition, Bishop Skrenes has nominated Bill to the Synod Candidacy Committee that begins a path to ordination. One thing that will be fun is for the congregation to check up on Bill's report cards! Kidding aside, I urge the congregation to fully support Bill as he begins his studies on a path to ordination.

### **Dates to remember:**

January 8, 2017	Pastor Marin's last day in pulpit
January 15, 2017	Bill Wendorf's first day in pulpit
January 22, 2017	Bill preaches 9 a.m. service, followed by a 2 p.m. Installation Service conducted by Bishop Tom Skrenes

I wish Doug Tarkowski the best as incoming Council President and also welcome Tom Pierce, who will be working as Treasurer, along with Betsy. It was an honor and privilege to serve as your Council President during this time of transition.

Have a joyful Holiday Season and a blessed and healthy 2017.

Peace,  
Jon Erpenbach

## **OFFERING ENVELOPES**

There will be new offering/giving envelopes in the narthex as of Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Please note that the number on your envelope does NOT need to be the same each year. However, when you take a box of envelopes, please make a note on the clipboard list of your name and what number you took. Please remember to write your name on the envelope each time you use one!

# CHANGING LIVES TOGETHER

**LSS** Lutheran Social Services  
of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, Inc.

News, information and resources for our church partners

## A World of Adoption Opportunities

Any day is a wonderful day to adopt a child, but November 19, 2016, is an especially good day to form a forever family. It's National Adoption Day, a national effort to raise awareness of the children waiting to find permanent, loving homes. It's also the centerpiece of National Adoption Awareness Month.

Lutheran Social Services has a whole world of opportunities for families who want to grow through adoption. Programs include:

### Domestic Adoption

This program recognizes and serves the needs of all the members of the adoption triad – birth parents, child and adoptive family – and the unique circumstances of each individual adoption. LSS has provided domestic adoption services for more than 100 years, and has created hundreds of forever families. The program encourages open adoptions, in which birth parents and adoptive families create healthy, continuing relationships as the child grows.

LSS also provides services for special needs adoptions that place children from the foster care system who can't return to their biological families into loving homes, as well as adoptions by step-parents and relatives.

### International Adoption

LSS has accredited programs that unite adoptable children from several countries – including Bulgaria, China, Haiti, Kyrgyzstan, and the Philippines – with loving forever families in the U.S. International adoption has many steps, and the LSS staff guides adoptive families through each one. LSS also works with in-country guides who welcome and accompany families who travel to meet their son or daughter in their home countries.



The LSS adoption program for Kyrgyzstan recently expanded the family of Angie and Nathan Schlesner of Cashton, Wisconsin. A photo of a darling little girl named Sofia touched their hearts, and soon Angie and Nathan were on the first of three trips to Kyrgyzstan to meet Sofia and arrange an adoption. Sofia, who has Down syndrome, has been welcomed by her new siblings – Emma, 13, Jack, 10 and Addie, 4 – and the entire Cashton community. "We couldn't be more blessed," said Angie.

### More About National Adoption Day and Adoptable Children

- ♥ National Adoption Day takes place the Saturday before Thanksgiving. This year, it's November 19.
- ♥ More than 100,000 children in the U.S. are in foster care and waiting for an adoptive family
- ♥ Children in foster care who are waiting for adoptive families have an average wait time of three years
- ♥ More than 23,000 children age out of the foster care system each year without a family or permanent home
- ♥ As a result of National Adoption Day in 2015, 4,000 children were adopted by their forever families
- ♥ By some estimates, there are more than 150 million children worldwide who don't have parents

## Medical-Dental Mission Trip To Tanzania



Are you a physician, PA, NP, nurse, dentist, dental hygienist or other medical/dental professional?

*Summer  
2017*

*The Medical Board of the Eastern and Coastal Diocese in Tanzania is specifically looking for dentists and clinicians in obstetrics, geriatrics, palliative care, and rehab, though all specialists are encouraged to consider.*

Do you want an experience of a lifetime? We are planning another dental/medical mission clinic.

Join Bishop Tom and Luanne Skrenes on their next trip to Tanzania!

**Cost –about \$3000-4000  
which includes travel,  
lodging, and a safari**



INTERESTED? CONTACT  
LUANNE SKRENES FOR  
MORE INFO  
[TLISKRENES@AOL.COM](mailto:TLISKRENES@AOL.COM)

# **ANNUAL MEETING**

As announced in last month's newsletter, the annual Congregational Meeting for Shepherd of the Lakes will be held following the worship service on Sunday, January 29, 2017. A preliminary annual report will be distributed one week prior to the meeting, on Sunday, January 22, 2017.

All ministries should be submitting an annual report for their ministry which can then be printed in the SOTL Annual Report which is distributed to everyone. If you lead a ministry, or if you are involved in a ministry which may not have a leader or which has lost a leader, please consider writing a short report for that ministry for the church's annual report. Your ministry report can be very short, but should include the major accomplishments of the ministry during the past year. Please email your ministry report to Barb Cashman. All reports that are received by Thursday, January 19 will be included in the preliminary annual report that is distributed on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Reports received after that date and before Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup> will be distributed at the annual meeting as an Addendum. It is important to note that there should be as few Addendums as possible and most ministry reports should be included in the preliminary annual report.

If you have any questions regarding this, please contact Barb Cashman. Thank you.

# **BIRTHDAY CARD MINISTRY**

Because we believe everyone is special, we are starting a birthday card ministry. We would like everyone to let us know the month and day of their birth (no YEAR necessary). This will help us recognize the truly unique person you are. If you prefer that your name not be published in the month of your birthday, that request will be honored.

Please fill out the form below and deposit in the box provided in the narthex. The box will be sealed so only the persons responsible for the cards will have access. We hope you will help us with this so we can celebrate the very special person you are. Thank you for your help.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Day: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ You may publish my birthdate.

\_\_\_\_\_ I do not want my birthdate published.



# **PRAYER CONCERNS**

*Do you or someone you know need prayers? The very first thing you need to do is obtain permission to put the name on our prayer list. Then call Jan Lundin 715-891-2280, 715-337-0458 or email [jlbjlundin@gmail.com](mailto:jlbjlundin@gmail.com). (NOTE: January-late April, please use only the 715-891-2280 number or the email address, not the 337 number. Prayers can also be requested thru Pastor, Barb Cashman or Barb Maines.) We don't need a lot of details but if you provide details to Jan, be assured that they remain confidential. She will pass on the request for prayers without details and all on the prayer chain will pray for that person. The request will also appear in the weekly Sunday bulletin at church.*

- **Prayers requested since the last newsletter:** Lynne Olson, Arthur Lacharite, Sue & family, Ed Reigle, Nola Herzberg, Jean Meissner, Darrell Smith, Corey Soberg, Elaine Johnson, Orville Green.
- **Prayers for those who have passed into eternal life:** Darrell Nell, well known resident of St Germain, who has been on our Shepherd prayer list for quite some time.
- **Ongoing health issues:** Joan Kirschner, Katie Fingerson, Diane Muri, David Riesch, Larry & Joan Stephenson, Bob Bernhardt, Ramona Schaeffel, Jackie Larsen, Lisa Scheel, William DeWitt, John Neuman, Betty Abraham, Linda Anderson, Rich Kysiak, Vern Wiggenhauser, Darlene Mursett, Tom & Carol Miles, Corey Soberg, Alice Grosskreuz.
- **Prayers of strength & comfort for the homebound or those in nursing homes:** Mark Brentlinger, Lu Heeler, Ginny and Lovell Morris, Marilyn Sheldon, Pat Last, Jackie Larsen.
- **Prayers of comfort and hope for those in prisons and those struggling with addictions:** Larry (friend of the Brentlingers), Jamie Goodrum, Jim Erickson.
- **Prayers for those who serve in our armed forces:** Jeff Hammer, Jeremy Vail, Brian Krieck, Adam & Brittany Recob, Brooks Maines, Will Schmidt, Lance Kangas, Jason Henke, Alex Bauer, Jared Mann, Mark Wolf, Chase Moad.

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Your church family would like the opportunity to pray for you, make arrangements for you to receive Holy Communion, or support you by other means. Please contact us:

- ...if you or someone in your family are ill at home or hospitalized.
- ...if you are anticipating surgery or another medical procedure.
- ...if you have a birth or death in your family.
- ...if you want to request prayers for someone else, ask their permission first.
- ...if you have any other significant event in your family.
- ...if you would like to schedule a visit from the Pastor or another church member.

Never forget that each of you are valued, loved, and cared for by your church family. Please notify Jan Lundin at 715-891-2280, 715-337-0458 or email [jlbjlundin@gmail.com](mailto:jlbjlundin@gmail.com) if you need prayers for any reason. (NOTE: January-late April, please use only the 715-891-2280 number or the email address, not the 337 number. Prayers can also be requested thru Pastor, Barb Cashman or Barb Maines. )

We have a telephone calling tree with the prayer chain so those without a computer can participate in this ministry. If you would like to be included, your name will be added. Please let me know by calling 715-891-2280. An updated list will be mailed to you with a further explanation of how this works.

Jan Lundin

## **THANK YOU'S**

**From Vilas Food Pantry Inc:** The Vilas Food Pantry thanks you for your generous donation of food. The Board of Directors, volunteers, and recipients want you to know that your kind gesture has changed lives. Sincerely, Carolyn Tesch, Volunteer.

**From NATH:** Thank you so much for your continued partnership with NATH. Tammy Modic, NATH Executive Director.

**From Caritas:** Thank you for your recent donation of \$50.

**From Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp:** Thank you for your gift to support the mission of Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp of \$40.

## **TREASURER NOTES**

*This is being run a second time in the newsletter just to make sure that everyone has a chance to see it.*

### **ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ENDOWMENT FUND**

On Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, I attended the “Synod Renewal” classes that were held at First Lutheran Church in Gladstone, Michigan. Two classes were offered concerning Endowment Funds and I attended both.

An Endowment Fund is a permanent and perpetual fund that a church can establish to accept gifts and *distribute the investment earnings* for mission outreach, sponsorship of missionaries, seminary scholarships, Christian education ministries or even major building repairs and renovations. Once Shepherd has established an Endowment Fund, individuals (members, associate members and friends), can make a special gift during their lifetime or gift a portion of their estate to the Fund upon their death. Such gifts could include: Cash, annuities, securities (stocks & bonds), life insurance proceeds, real estate, IRA’s, etc. Often individuals will specify that 10% of the value of their estate is to be directed to the church’s endowment fund.

Plan rules must be written for how an Endowment Fund is to operate (what gifts will be acceptable, what amount is allowed to be distributed for use by the church, what the distributions are to be used and what firm is to administer the Fund (such as Thrivent or a brokerage firm). Shepherd’s Finance and Insurance Committee will tackle this project by writing a draft of the Plan that will be reviewed by the ELCA Gift Planner, Timothy Knutson, revised and then presented to you to accept or revise at the Annual Meeting.

### **FUNDING OF THE ENDOWMENT FUND:**

Timothy Knutson has been hired by the ELCA to assist individual congregations with the establishment of an Endowment Plan. Having worked for Thrivent in the past, he is also very capable of assisting you with a review of your estate and the items or percentage that you might like to have directed to our Endowment Fund. Tim is willing to come to Shepherd on a designated date to meet with anyone who is interested in having him review their estate planning. ***This is a free service to our member’s since he is an employee of the ELCA.*** Unlike his position with Thrivent, Tim sells nothing whatsoever; he’s simply there to assist you with your planning that will benefit the individual ELCA congregations and the ELCA at large if you choose to leave their Endowment fund a small portion of your gift. After he completes his review of your plan and your wishes, he will provide you a list of what needs to be done and your personal attorney can



I remember my home growing up. It was on the west side of Cleveland... I still dream about it. It was a place where I felt safe, where my family was and it was full of wonderful Christmas memories. My senior year of college, my parents moved to the shores of Lake Erie. It's every west sider's dream in Cleveland to get to the lake, and they finally made it. But my home was gone. In fact, I had to find directions to my parents' home for Christmas break.

I still dream about the home where I grew up. I still miss it and can still remember every feature of it. And I realize that all of us have a deep longing for home. At Christmastime, I think it's especially poignant and deep for people. Many of our Christmas carols talk about being home for Christmas and how hard it is when we're not.

Then I remembered that Mary and Joseph were not home for Christmas that first year. They were far from their home, far from their people. They were way down in Bethlehem, far from Nazareth. How disorienting that must have been for them.

But the truth is, Mary and Joseph were exactly at home for Christmas because with them was the Christ child. Jesus is our true home. That's our hope at Christmastime and our hope the year round. We are never far from home because Christ is as near to us as our own breath or our own pulse. So, wherever you find yourself this year, dear church, remember that Jesus is with you, and you are home for Christmas.

*Merry Christmas!*


*Elizabeth A. Eaton*

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

If you have an event, meeting, or anything that you would like on our calendar, please contact Barb Cashman with the date, name of the event, and any other information that might be important. Thank you.

<b>SHEPHERD OF THE LAKES LUTHERAN CHURCH – January 2017</b>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1  8 AM Choir Rehearsal 9 AM Worship Service	2  9 AM Quilting Group	3	4  9 AM Text Study 3:45 PM Church School and Confirmation Class	5	6  10 AM Worship Service @ Avanti	7
8  8 AM Choir Rehearsal 9 AM Worship Service <b>Fellowship Brunch with Farewell to Pastor Marin</b>	9	10  9 AM Men's Fellowship Breakfast	11  9 AM Text Study 3:45 PM Church School and Confirmation Class	12  <b>NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE</b>  6 PM WELCA Bible Study	13	14
15  8 AM Choir Rehearsal 9 AM Worship Service <b>Bill Wendorf's first day back in the pulpit!</b>	16	17	18  9 AM Text Study 3:45 PM Church School and Confirmation Class	19  6 PM Council Meeting	20  10 AM Bingo @ Avanti	21
22  8 AM Choir Rehearsal 9 AM Worship Service <b>2 PM Installation Service for Bill Wendorf</b>	23	24	25  9 AM Text Study 3:45 PM Church School and Confirmation Class	26	27	28
29  8 AM Choir Rehearsal 9 AM Worship Service  <b>ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING</b>	30	31	 <p><b>Food pantry</b> items needed for the month of January: Storage items including Ziploc bags, wax paper, aluminum foil, kitchen size plastic garbage bags, disposable kitchen storage containers. Please place items in the appropriate bins in the coat room.</p>			

# SHEPHERD OF THE LAKES LUTHERAN CHURCH – February 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9 AM Text Study 3:45 PM Church School and Confirmation Class	2	3 10 AM Worship Service @ Avanti	4
5 8 AM Choir Rehearsal 9 AM Worship Service	6 9 AM Quilting Group	7	8 9 AM Text Study 3:45 PM Church School and Confirmation Class	9 <b>NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE</b>	10	11
12 8 AM Choir Rehearsal 9 AM Worship Service Fellowship Brunch	13	14 9 AM Men's Fellowship Breakfast	15 9 AM Text Study 3:45 PM Church School and Confirmation Class	16 6 PM WELCA Bible Study	17 10 AM Bingo @ Avanti	18
19 8 AM Choir Rehearsal 9 AM Worship Service	20	21	22 9 AM Text Study 3:45 PM Church School and Confirmation Class	23	24	25
26 8 AM Choir Rehearsal 9 AM Worship Service	27	28	 <b>Pantry Needs</b> <i>Food pantry</i> items needed for the month of February: Cereal (hot or cold), powdered milk, canned fruit, peanut butter, jelly.			

**Important dates in the future:**

1. February 24-25: Council Leadership Retreat at Fortune Lake.
2. May 21-23: Synod Assembly.

## Next scheduled printings of this newsletter below!

<b>Month</b>	<b>Date Articles are Due (Thursday)</b>	<b>Printing Date (Saturday)</b>
January 2017	12 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>
February 2017	9 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>
March 2017	9 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>
April 2017	6 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>
May 2017	11 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>
June 2017	8 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>
July 2017	13 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>
August 2017	10 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>
September 2017	14 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>
October 2017	12 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>
November 2017	9 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>
December 2017	14 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>

Email articles to Barb Cashman at [bacashman@gmail.com](mailto:bacashman@gmail.com). Thank you.