



November/December 2017

651.451.6225

### In Search of Our Kneeling Places

By Ann Weems

*In each heart lies a Bethlehem,  
an inn where we must ultimately answer  
whether there is room or not.*

*When we are Bethlehem-bound  
we experience our own advent in his.*

*When we are Bethlehem-bound  
we can no longer look the other way  
conveniently not seeing stars  
not hearing angel voices.*

*We can no longer excuse ourselves by busily  
tending our sheep or our kingdoms.*



### **This Advent let's go to Bethlehem**

*And see this thing that the Lord has made known to us.  
In the midst of shopping sprees*

**let's ponder** in our hearts the Gift of Gifts.

*Through the tinsel*

**let's look** for the gold of the Christmas Star.

*In the excitement and confusion, in the merry chaos,*

**let's listen** for the brush of angels' wings.

*This Advent, let's go to Bethlehem and find our kneeling places.*

I am all for celebrating Christmas before Christmas.

I love playing Christmas tunes while decorating, making cookies and shopping.

I love opening gifts before December 25.

I love attending Christmas concerts and plays and singing "Joy to the World."

I am, however, extremely grateful the Church provides a place and a time to step away to allow me the chance to wonder about this thing the Lord is making known to me and to you. The Church calls this time of 'waiting' and 'anticipation' and 'stepping away' – Advent. **During the season of Advent, the Church provides a place and a time for us to ponder, look and listen.**

Please consider joining us either Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. or Sunday evenings at 5:30 p.m. for **Special Worship Services** prepared for you to take a moment to wonder before our grand celebration on December 24. (See the worship page for a listing of special worship services and soup supper offerings.)

Peace, Pastor Leesa

# Other News

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## Church Building & Office Hours

The church **building** is open during the following times:  
Monday - Friday from 8:00am to 4:00pm (office hours)  
Sunday, Tuesday & Thursday evenings from 4:00pm to 9:00pm. If you or a community guest needs to reserve room space or needs access to the building at other times, please contact the church office during office hours to make arrangements.

## Staff Emails

Pastor Leesa      pastorleesa@goodshepherdigh.com  
Pastor Jerry      pastorjerry@goodshepherdigh.com  
Andrea Swainey      admin@goodshepherdigh.com  
Jacob Niewinski      youth@goodshepherdigh.com  
Karen Davis      children@goodshepherdigh.com  
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Lisa Langton      music@goodshepherdigh.com

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## Prayer, Care & Support Corner

The Care and Prayer Ministry would like to invite all who maybe experiencing a loss in their life and therefore struggling with feelings of loneliness and sadness to our upcoming 'Service of Hope'. During this worship we encourage you to feel God's compassionate love by claiming these feelings while being surrounded by our inter-generational students and their prayer pals.  
Please join us on November 29 @ 6:30 or December 3 @ 5:30.

*Psalm 147:3 He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds*

## Christmas Poinsettias

It's time to order your Christmas Poinsettia! Plants are \$25.00. the sign-up sheet is located at the Welcome Center. Plants may be picked up starting December 26.



## Baptism Classes

Baptisms are a declaration of God's grace and we want you to discuss this extraordinary gift with your child for years to come! If you're planning to have your child baptized at Good Shepherd and it's your first child baptized with us, you should consider attending our baptism class, which is offered on December 3 or January 7 from 11:15-12:15 in Meeting Room 2. If you are planning to attend a class, please email the church office at [admin@goodshepherdigh.com](mailto:admin@goodshepherdigh.com)

## Baptisms

Gavin Leonard Jung 10.1.17  
*Child of Terry & Nicole Jung*

Edward Elijah  
Koehler-Killeen 10.8.17  
*Child of James & Amy  
Koehler-Killeen*

Charlotte Christine Tellez 10.22.17  
*Child of Ally Krohn & Mark Tellez*

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## Marriages

Lisa Pilot & Bob Rowan  
10.14.17

# Service to Others

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## Walk to End Hunger at MOA Thanksgiving Morning



Join Pastor Leesa and Eliana on their 10th year walking with 40,000 others to stomp out hunger at a family-friendly 5K fun walk. Pastor Leesa and Eliana will be at the Starbucks, lower level, at the MOA at 7:00 a.m. to begin their walk at 7:30 a.m. This is a great way to start your holiday off right – giving back before you give thanks! 100% of the net proceeds are donated to various organizations. This year, Pastor Leesa encourages you to choose Neighbors Inc. Registration fee is \$25.00. Register on-line as an individual Hunger Fighter at [www.walktoendhunger.org](http://www.walktoendhunger.org).

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## Help a Teen, Child or Adult Stay Warm

We are planning to have a mitten, scarf and beanie tree this year! Please consider placing these winter items under our tree that will be given to Lutheran Social Services to help people stay warm this winter.

**Neighbor's Inc needs your help!** Two things that they are short on this year are water resistant gloves and hoodies of all sizes. These can also be placed under the tree in the Narthex. If you would like to donate other items, please take them directly to Neighbors.

## Lutheran Disaster Relief Efforts

The past two months, Good Shepherd has collected and sent \$1,500 to Lutheran Disaster Relief, which 100% of funds will help recent hurricane and wildfire victims. Thank you for reaching out graciously to others who are in need of help!

## Thank You!! Operation Christmas Child

We would like to thank the many people who filled an "Operation Christmas Child shoe box. This is a wonderful program that made the lives of over 7 million children throughout the world a little happier last year. A special thanks to Thrivent Financial for the \$250 Action Grant. The Grant helped us to fill 15 extra shoe boxes, buy 100 more boxes and purchase many bars of soap, wash cloths and pens.



**THE POWER  
of a  
SIMPLE  
GIFT**

## Thrivent Funds

If you have a worthwhile project you need funds for, perhaps Thrivent can help. Please contact the church office and we will walk you through the process.

# Worship

## Wednesday Evening Advent Soup Suppers

Served from 5:30-6:30

Suggested donation of \$3.00

Nov 29 Chicken Wild Rice Soup

Dec 5 Chicken Alfredo Soup

Dec 13 Chicken Noodle Soup

Dec 20 Veggie Beef Noodle Soup

Bread, beverages and a cookie dessert will also be served. A Gluten free option is available each evening. Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwiches will be available for our non-soup lovers.

## Christmas Eve Worship

**9:15, 2:00, 3:00**

**4:00, 5:00, 10:00**

### Christmas Eve: Lessons & Carols

**9:15 a.m., 2:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.**

The long-standing tradition of the Festival of Lessons and Carols tells the story of God's plan for salvation as revealed in His Word. The message of Christ's coming is heard in scripture and carols. (There is a candle lighting ceremony included at the 10:00 service.)

### A Holy Night with a Holy Family

**3:00, 4:00 & 5:00 p.m.**

We will celebrate a holy night of "Emmanuel, God with Us" with a short message, special music, carol singing, candle lighting, Holy Communion and the Holy Family arriving to the manger.

## Advent Worship Offerings

### Hanging of the Greens

**November 26 @ 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30**

As we bring out the symbols of Advent and Christmas in preparation for the season, this service will not only allow you to participate in the placement of décor but will teach you the reason we have the symbol specially placed in our worship space. *Sunday School children will be singing during worship. During fellowship time, craft supplies will be provided for people of all ages to make Christmas ornaments for a tree in the Commons.*



### Service of Hope

**November 29 @ 6:30 or December 3 @ 5:30**

As we begin a season that shouts, "Joy!" We acknowledge that for many people the Christmas season is a time of loneliness, sorrow, alienation and sadness. This service offers a way for all of us to claim those feelings and still feel surrounded by the compassionate love and hope of God.

### The Shepherd Singers Choir Cantata: A Child of Hope

**December 6 @ 6:30 or December 10 @ 5:30**

"Child of Hope" presents the beautiful gifts of Comfort, Encouragement and Peace that are given to us through the Advent and Birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, through the powerful blend of familiar Carols and powerful new music, and meaningful narration.

### InterGen Christmas Play: The Power of the King

**December 13 @ 6:30 or December 17 @ 5:30**

"The Power of the King" is a cleverly themed musical comedy about a radio station staff and a children's choir getting trapped at the station during a blizzard when the main power goes out and together they deliver a "live" Christmas message to all listeners.

### Holy Family Advent: A Time of Anticipation

**December 20 @ 6:30**

A holy scene it will be when we reclaim Elizabeth and Zechariah's story and the birth of their son John, the amazing moments of Gabriel's visit to Mary, and Mary's visit to Elizabeth all in preparation for the birth of Jesus.

# Adult Ministry

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## Women's Christmas Brunch

**Saturday, December 9 @ 11:00am**

Join us for music, food and fellowship. The menu includes: croissant sandwiches, fruit salad, veggie tray and an assortment of Christmas cookies. If you would like to participate in a gift exchange, please bring a \$5.00 gift. Each guest will receive a beautiful party favor and a chance to win a holiday centerpiece. We will also be collecting paper products and toiletries for Neighbors, Inc. Please sign up at the Welcome Center.

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## Game Night!

Due to Thanksgiving, the Adult Ministry Card & Game Night will be held on Thursday, November 30 at 6:30pm. Please join us as we enjoy playing Phase 10, 500 and Yahtzee. If you have other games you would like to play and are willing to teach others, please bring them and join us! Please bring a dish to share for a light supper before we begin the games.



## Bible Study with Pastor Leesa



Choose either Tuesday evening (6:30-7:30 p.m.) or Thursday morning (10:00-11:00 a.m.) *Choose one or more session! You do not need to attend the entire series.* will begin our adventure into the earliest of the four Gospels, Mark.

- January 9 or 11 – What kind of beginning is this? (Mark 1:1-15)
  - January 16 or 18 – Who's in? Who's out? (Mark 7:14-30)
  - January 23 or 25 – Who do you say Jesus is? (Mark 8:27-9:1)
  - January 30 or Feb 1 – What does the glory of God look like? (Mark 9:2-13)
  - February 6 or 8 – Who is the greatest? (Mark 9:33-37; 10:13-16)
  - February 13 or 15 – When is the ending beginning? (Mark 13:1-37)
  - February 20 or 22 – Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (Mark 15:22-39)
  - February 27 or March 1 – Can the end be just a beginning? (Mark 16:1-8)
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## Book Club with Pastor Leesa

Please join Pastor Leesa the second Monday evening during January – May from 6:30-7:30 to explore together some astonishing books that will lend themselves to exploration about God and our response to God's call to love others with compassion. Our January book is entitled "The Hiding Place: The Triumphant True Story of Corrie Ten Boom" by Corrie Ten Boom. *"Corrie ten Boom" was a Dutch watchmaker who became a heroine of the Resistance and a survivor of Hitler's concentration camps. In WWII she and her family risked their lives to help Jews and underground workers escape from the Nazis, and for their work they were tested in the infamous Nazi death camps. The book is a riveting account of how Corrie learned 'there is no pit so deep that God's love is not deeper still.'*

We will have our first book discussion on Monday, January 8, as well as receive a list of other possible masterful books to choose from to read and discuss for rest of the year.



# Inter†Gen

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## Prayer Pals in Advent

One of the greatest traditions of the church throughout time has been to share our personal stories with one another. Whether we call that our story, or our spiritual journey, we tell each other about how we have (and at times have not) seen God at work in our lives.

This Advent, we invite Prayer Pals to share their stories with each other as we experience one of the greatest stories of time; the miraculous birth of a child who would change the world forever.

As part of this year's Prayer Pal ministry, we want Prayer Pals to commit to worshipping together at FOUR of the special Advent worship services. Together, Prayer Pals will experience Advent in worship along with time to talk with a guided Advent Journal. Journals will be available at the Thanksgiving Eve worship service.

Please take a look at the special Advent dates below and talk with your Prayer Pal about which four you can commit to.

(Special Advent worship services take place either on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM or Sundays at 5:30 PM):

- ~ Thanksgiving Eve - November 22
- ~ Service of Hope - November 29 or December 3
- ~ Choir Cantata: A Child of Hope - December 6 or December 10
- ~ Inter†Gen Christmas Play: The Power of a King - December 13 or December 17
- ~ Holy Family Advent: A Time of Waiting - December 20

**A soup supper will be available Wednesday evenings at 5:30 PM** beginning November 29. Come and spend time with your Prayer Pal before worship begins! We look forward to seeing you and your Prayer Pal together this Advent season!

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## Thank you Trunk or Treat Participants!

Thank you to all who participated or volunteered in October's 'Trunk or Treat' making it another fantastic Inter†Gen event enjoyed by all.

**Congratulations to the winners of the best-decorated trunks**

**contest:** Child Friendly Theme - The Killeen-Koehler Family (Real Pumpkins) Biblical Theme - The Blied and Holt Families (Daniel in the Lion's Den) Movie, Book or TV Theme - The Thone & Gibson Families (Gotham City) Most Original Theme - The Pistulka Family (We're in Deep Sheep)

## Advent Candle Volunteers Needed

A few more Advent Candle lighter volunteers are needed for the following Sundays: November 26, December 3, 10 and 17 at 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30am plus December 24 Christmas Eve Services at 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00 and 10:00pm. We are looking for volunteers of individuals, couples, families and even extended families to light the candles on the Advent wreath.



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## Live Nativity Participants are Needed

Wednesday, December 20 at the 6:30pm Holy Family Live Nativity Worship Service we are looking for volunteers to be characters in the history of the Nativity story. We have parts for adults, youth and children.

# Children & Youth

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**First Communion Celebrations** will be held during worship services on Thanksgiving Eve, November 22 @ 6:30pm and Sunday, December 3 @ 8:00, 9:15 or 10:30am. Congratulation to all participants that completed their Communion instruction! All participants will receive a certificate of completion; those who attend worship on Thanksgiving Eve will also receive a white carnation to wear.

## **"Twisted Thanksgiving" for Grades 3, 4 & 5 Sunday, November 19 ~ 11:30-1:30pm**

Children are asked to bring a food to share that starts with the first letter of their last name for the feast. We will learn about the history of Thanksgiving before we play fun games and make a group project of what we are thankful for. Several parents and youth are needed to help with this unique event.



## **"Gingerbread Houses" Event**

**Grades K, 1 & 2 Sunday, November 26  
11:30-1:30pm**

Children and helpers will enjoy a holiday lunch and then decorate cute gingerbread houses to display & snack on throughout the holiday season. There will be a \$5 charge for attending this event. Several parents and youth are needed to help with the fun.



## **Sunday, December 3 at the 9:15 Worship Service is "Grade 4 Sunday!"**

This year each elementary grade along with their parents will get the opportunity to be special guests at a 9:15 worship service instead of attending 9:15 Sunday†School education class. On December 3, all 4th graders are asked to attend the worship service with their parents and/or grandparents or other special adults. A special section of pews will be reserved so Grade 4 families can sit together during worship and receive Holy Communion at the same time. A special fellowship table will be set up in the commons so families can enjoy treats together after worship.

## **Nursery Care in Advent**

Nursery Care will be available during Wednesday evening Advent worship services as well as Sunday mornings. The Nursery Team provides a loving, caring, safe and fun environment for children 6 weeks - 4 years of age while parents participate in worship or education classes. Hours are Sundays during the 9:15 and 10:30 services; Advent services on Wednesdays @ 6:30 and Sundays @ 5:30.

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## **"The Power of the King"**

Inter†Gen Christmas Program performances of "The Power of the King" are on Wednesday, December @ 6:30pm and Sunday, December 17 @ 5:30pm. This is a musical comedy about how radio station staff and a stranded children's choir scramble together to save a Christmas broadcast during a Minnesota blizzard. We can always use additional adult, youth and children for singers. Rehearsals for cast and additional singers will be: Sunday, December 3 from 12:00-2:00 Thursday, December 7 from 5:30-6:30 Sunday, December 10 from 2:00-3:30

# Children & Youth

## World's Finest Chocolate Fundraiser

The Senior High Youth are traveling to the Flathead Valley in Montana for the 2018 summer mission experience. This great opportunity allows youth to serve the community through work projects and building relationships with local organizations.

In an effort to raise funds for this summer's experience, the senior high youth will be selling boxes of the World's Finest Chocolates in the Commons beginning November 29. Please help support our youth this summer by purchasing a box (or two!). 50% of all profits go directly towards the trip.

On Friday, December 22 from 6:30-9:30 PM, help us announce Jesus' birth and share the joy of the holiday season with Mariokart & Caroling, a collaborative event for 6-12th graders.



We will meet at All Saints Lutheran Church in Cottage Grove, and go to sing Christmas carols and share treats at Norris Square senior living community, just down the road. Afterward, we will return to All Saints for a Mariokart tournament and other games. Please register online on the Senior High page by 12/17 so that we are prepared to accommodate everyone.

## Confirm†Faith Winter Retreat

The annual winter retreat is the weekend of January 5-7 at Camp Wapo in Amery, WI. Celebrate the new year by joining us for a weekend where you will have the chance to fly down the sledding hill, hit the ice for broom ball, drink hot chocolate by a warm fire and have an overall good time hanging out with friends! We will also take some time to learn about the ACTS of prayer and how we can live in moments of prayer. Let us know that you can be there by registering online on the Middle School webpage. There is no cost for the retreat as it is included in the Confirm†Faith registration fee. Adults chaperones are always needed for this weekend. If you are interested in serving as an adult chaperone, please contact Jacob Niewinski.

## Youth Reflections from Benton Harbor

One of my favorite memories from this year's trip was of the school. A woman from the community named Jessica started a school in Benton Harbor called River of Life. This school was technically a private school, but they purposely made their tuition drastically cheaper than the other private schools in the area. This option gave the local kids a good education at a cheap price. Personally, all we did was paint the classrooms in a new building the school just bought and moved into, but quickly the project turned into more than just refreshing the building. What really stood out to me was the fact that the school gave needy kids a place to come and better themselves, as well as strengthen their faith. Jessica said that she would often mention when she was dealing with kids in trouble if they thought God would approve of what they did and that they should pray for forgiveness. Growing up, I never had that and I wish I did. Benton Harbor really was a learning experience and I'm very, very glad I was able to go. ~ Angie Sell