

ROD and STAFF

“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want . . . your rod and your staff — they comfort me.”

**Parish Newsletter of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
Volume 46, No. 12 ❁ December 2012**



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CHM Opps



Thanks to everyone for their generous donations of boxed stuffing for the Thanksgiving food baskets and the cans of frosting for the Christmas baskets.

The deadline for the “Giving Tree” gifts is Sunday, Dec. 2. Please leave your unwrapped gift under the tree in the fellowship hall. Donations of wrapping paper, and batteries, as well as cash donations or gift cards are also greatly appreciated.

If you would like to help out in the toy room with sorting, wrapping or distributing, please call CHM at 314-770-2216 or see Linda Ritter or John Meyer for more information.



Prepare Your Hearts for Christ

Advent begins on Sunday, December 2, as we make preparations in our hearts and lives to receive Jesus anew.

Christmas decorating will be done on Sunday, Dec. 2, following fellowship time. The children will be discussing the Christmas Program during Sunday School.

Plan to join us for the Christmas Eve Worship Service at 8:00 p.m. This family-friendly candle-light service will include crèche building, carols, and Holy Communion, and will be followed by holiday foods and fellowship.

“A Mouse’s Tale”

You are invited to the 2012 Children’s Holiday Pageant, *The Mouse’s Tale*, which will be presented by the children on Sunday, Dec. 16 during the 9:00 a.m. service. *Invite your friends and neighbors!*



There will be practices during Sunday School on Dec. 2 & 9, as well as two Saturday practices on Dec. 8 & 15 at 9:30 a.m. Refreshments will be provided. See Sharon Elder or Genny Jordan for more info.

Special Christmas Opportunities



On Monday, Dec. 10 from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. there will be a free choral concert at the Maryland Heights Centre, 2344 McKelvey Road. Imagine the sounds of winter as you listen to favorites like “White Christmas”, “Home for the Holidays” and more. The concert will conclude with refreshments and a meet & greet. Several members of the Shepherd of the Hills choir are also involved in this event.

Great way to kick off the holiday season and spend a little time with family and friends. Call 314-738-2599 for more info.

Whether you sing in the choir or just like to sing Christmas carols, join the choir as they carol at Mark Twain Manor on Friday, Dec. 14 beginning at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to join in this holiday tradition.

Choir members will meet back at the church afterwards for their annual party. See Jim or Lois Urnes for more information.

GATHER Joyfully + GROW Deeply + GO Faithfully



*Exspectetur sicut pluvia eloquium Domini:
et descendet super nos sicut ros Deus noster.*

“We wait for the word of the Lord as we wait for the rains:
and our God shall come down upon us like gentle dew.”*

The season of Advent is upon us; the season of waiting. In the wilderness of winter we have begun to prepare the way of the Lord. The land lies fallow and perhaps our hearts do as well.

During the weeks of Advent the days grow increasingly darker while our Advent wreath grows continually brighter. We wait for the time with the Light will come.

May this Advent season be a fertile time for growing anticipation and hope.

*Rorate caeli desuper, et nubes pluant justum.
Aperiat terra, et germinet Salvatorem.*

“Rain down your dew you heavens,
and you clouds, rain down the Just One.
Earth be opened, and give birth to the Savior.”*

* taken from monastic liturgy / Photo by David Kelly

- God Bless, *Pastor Kristen*

Christmas Poinsettias



It's that time again! Time to order poinsettias to enhance our altar area for Christmas. **Orders must be in by Dec. 9**, look for the sign up poster in the fellowship area. Make your checks out to “SOTH” with “flowers” in the memo line, place them in the offering plate or give them to Evelyn Pursley.

6” pots are \$7.50; 8” tubs are \$11.75-these come in red, pink or white with gold foil pots. 4” pixies (speckled) are also available for \$3.25.

Confirmation

The Wednesday night Confirmation meetings for December will be on Dec. 5 & 19 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. We will be watching a movie, “The Nativity” on Dec. 19. Parents are welcome to join us.

There will be no Sunday School classes on Dec. 23 & 30. Sunday School will begin again for the new year on Sunday, Jan. 6.

Regular attendance for both of the classes is highly recommended. It is very important in the confirmation journey. Showing up when you are the scheduled acolyte is also greatly appreciated as there are only five students in this class. Thank you!

Holy Baptism and Holy Communion are at the heart and core of living as God's people in this world. They are not just habits or rituals, but a daily source of meaning, identity, purpose, and new beginnings.

Cancer Companions

The Cancer Companions support group will meet here at SOTH on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. This is open to anyone whose life has been touched by cancer in any way. Please see Lisa Hogbin or Sydney Meyer for more information. Or go to the website: www.cancer-companions.org.



Healing Circle

The “Healing Circle” is offered each Sunday. Healing ministers Joan

Carnaghi, Dave Elder, George Marvin and Tom Ritter respond to individual requests for physical, emotional and spiritual healing, raised to God through prayer and the laying-on of hands. Sign up on the podium.

DECEMBER



Barb Daab	5
Suah Tokpa	7
Kathy Sieker.....	7
Ann Smith	7
Cheryl Meyers.....	10
Stein Hunter	12
Paul Urnes	12
Lady Kasperski	14
Dale Travis.....	14
Paige (Travis) Bialik .	16
Jessica Hogbin.....	22
Gary Johnson.....	25
Darwumah Tokpa.....	30



Anniversaries

Tony & Tina Chumbley .	4
Jim & Ann Sanderson...	17
Fred & Jean Meyer	24



Your Photos are Needed

Do you have any recent or past photos of church activities? Your photos are needed for use on the church website. Digital photos are preferred but we will be happy to scan photo prints as well. Please copy photo files to a CD or a USB. Please enclose prints and USB drives in an envelope with your name on it and they will be returned to you. Any notes that you can provide to give context to the photos would also be greatly appreciated. Photos can also be sent electronically to contribute@sothstl.org. Please see Mike Toohey if you have any questions.

NewsBytes...



- ✦ Our prayers go out to **Carolyn Schamel** and her family as her mother goes into hospice care.
- ✦ Our condolences go out to the family of **Katina Wells**, a regular guest, on her passing on Nov. 16. A memorial service was held on Sat., Nov. 24 here at SOTH. Special thanks to Pastor Kristen, Lauri Anderson, Nancy Ambacher, Sydney Meyer, Linda Pearson and Lois Urnes for offering their services and assistance.
- ✦ Special thanks to **Mara Berry** for her extra help in organizing the church office and storage closets.
- ✦ We offer prayers of healing and relief for **Joan Keith, Linda Ritter, and Helen Griffin** . *May God grant them healing and peace.*
- ✦ **Safe travels** to all who are visiting with family and friends during the holiday season. And a very blessed New Year to all!

Thanks for keeping us up-to-date with Newsbytes! Email them to soth@sothstl.org.



NOVEMBER

Church Council Highlights


- Council members took some time and introduced themselves to Pastor Kristen by telling her a few of their interests.
- Bill Johnson is looking into having the Church Council Meeting minutes posted on the church website.
- There was much discussion on budget items due to a shortfall between income and expenses. A number of cuts/adjustments were suggested.
- Jim Sanderson is to make a plea for pledges where commitments haven't been made. Julia Tousignant will take on the responsibilities of Treasurer when Jim retires.
- Men's Group reported that the Chili Cook-off was a real success, suggestions were made to make it an annual event.
- The next Church Council meeting is Tuesday, January 11 at 7:00 p.m. All committee reports should be emailed by December 20.



Shepherd of the Hills

Lutheran Church (ELCA)

December 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 1st Sunday of Advent - 9:00 am G: Sydney M. & Linda P. AM: Stein Hunter A: Gabi Anderson LR: Ann Sanderson R: Krull & Pursley N: Abbi Telander & Lauri A. T: Joan Carnaghi	3	4	5 Cancer Comp. 6:30-8:30 pm Confirmation 6 pm Choir 7:30 pm	6	7	1 8 Men's Group 9 am
9 Baptism 2nd Sunday of Advent —9:00 am G: Carl & Kathy Jordan AM: Tom Ritter A: Carlie Hunter LR: Lisa Hogbin R: ? N: Sharon Elder & Gabi A. T: Devin Travis	10	11 Care & Evang. 6:00 pm Church Council 7:00 pm	12 Cancer Comp. 6:30-8:30 pm Confirmation 6 pm Choir 7:30 pm	13	14 Caroling at Mark Twain 6:30 p.m.	15
16 Christmas Pageant 3rd Sunday of Advent —9:00 am G: Tom & Linda Ritter AM: Abbi Telander A: Kristen Schmur LR: Lois Urnes R: Sanderson & Lauri N: NO STAFF T: Joe Nalepa	17	18	19 Cancer Companions 6:30-8:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	20 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> January Newsletter Deadline </div>	21	22
23 4th Sunday of Advent —9:00 am G: B & G Sarros AM: Martha Johnson A: Deidra Adams LR: Kim Surratt R: ? N: Lauri Anderson & Jenna T: Gabi Anderson	24 Christmas Eve Service 8:00 pm	25  Christmas Day	26 Cancer Comp. 6:30-8:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	27	28	29
30 —9:00 am G: Dot K. & John Meyer AM: Jim Berry A: Jenna Hutson LR: Denise Meyer R: ? N: Julie Hutson & Aubrey T: Carl Jordan	31 New Year's Eve		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> Ushers: TBA Counters: Gary Johnson & Ann Sanderson Altar Guild: TBA CAs: Tom & Linda Ritter, Kathy Sieker <i>Please find a substitute if you are unable to serve!</i> </div>			

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church • Worship 9:00 am • Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
 4161 Cypress Road • St. Ann, Missouri 63074 • 314-739-3222
 Pastor Kristen Koch • 314-571-9205 • prkristen@sothstl.org
 Lauri Anderson, Church Secretary • **New Office Hours:** 8:30 am to 1:30 pm Tuesday & Thursday
 Church Office e-mail: soth@sothstl.org



Where Are They Now...

Here is an update on our college students and their contact information:

- † **Cynthia Darker**—3574 DeHart #10, St. Ann, MO 63074
- † **Sydia Darker**—5115 Oak Street, Oak Residence Hall 3063B, Kansas City, MO 64110
- † **Tyler Elder**—1164 University Drive, Edwardsville, IL 62025
- † **Zach Hogbin**—311 S. Franklin, Kirksville, MO 63501
- † **Laura Hunter**—2709 Westminster Drive, St. Charles, MO 63301
- † **Hannah Johnson**—1617 South Black Avenue, Bozeman, MT 59715
- † **Sam Johnson**—701 Greenbriar, Rolla, MO 65401
- † **Brendan Sieker**—1366 Kyle Drive, St. Charles, MO 63304
- † **Devin Travis**—11805 Smoke Rise Court, Maryland Heights, MO 63043
- † **Jackie Vick**—92 Graham Road, Murray, KY 42071

Education Committee

We will be highlighting committees and groups in the upcoming months, letting you know what they do and what their needs are. This information will also be put into a booklet to be included in new member packets.

Education Committee—Co-chairs: Sharon & Bridget Elder, Genny Jordan
The Education and Youth Ministry Committee is responsible for the Christian Education ministries of the congregation. They offer Sunday School for preschool age through 12th grade, and our Sunday School year ends in May with a picnic for the congregation.

Shepherd of the Hills offers a two-year Confirmation program for 7th and 8th graders and Holy Communion instruction for children. Vacation Bible School is held in the summer and we have a Children's Christmas program every year.

We also have speakers and video series to spark lively conversations at our Adult Forum Sunday classes, which are held after worship services.



To my SOTH church family,

Thank you so very much for all your thoughts, prayers, cards and gifts in honor of my 90th birthday. You are all very special to me. The money I received will go towards Altar Enhancements. I hope and pray that you will all have a blessed Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

Blessings to all,

Evelyn Pursley

Dear SOTH Family,

Thank you so much for all of your gracious support during the transition and call process. Everyone was so wonderful in the way that they pitched in without question or hesitation whenever the need arose for extra help or assistance with unexpected projects. I feel very blessed and privileged to be a part of this awesome church family.

Thanks to all who have gone above and beyond to make Pastor Kristen and her family feel welcome in their new home here at SOTH. I hope we will all continue to grow together in the years to come.

Your sister in Christ,

Lauri Anderson

Church Secretary & Custodian





Prepared especially for:

—Address Correction Requested—

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Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
4161 Cypress Road · St. Ann, MO 63074
Phone: (314) 739-3222 · e-mail: soth@sothstl.org
web site: <http://www.sothstl.org>
Sunday Worship at 9:00 a.m.



Our Ministers: All the People of God at Shepherd of the Hills / Our Faithful Church Council Members:

Bill Johnson, *president & tech team*
Linda Pearson, *vp & care/evangelism*
Jim Berry, *facilities*

Jim Urnes, Sr., *worship*
Rhonda Bird, *social concerns*
Megan Nalepa, *youth rep & sec.*

Suah Tokpa, *stewardship*
John Daab, *finance*
Genny Jordan, *education*

OUR VISION . . .

GATHER Joyfully

GROW Deeply

GO Faithfully

All people into God's grace † Disciples of Jesus Christ † In Witness and Service

Don't Miss These Opportunities!



- ↪ **Payne-Gentry House Candlelight Tour:** A nostalgic glimpse at a Victorian Christmas on Sat., Dec. 1 and Sun., Dec. 2 from 4-8 p.m. Refreshments will be provided. Cost is \$3 for adults, \$2 for seniors and \$1 for children ages 4-15. Call 314-739-5599 for more information.
- ↪ **Breakfast with Santa:** Bridgeton Community Center, Sat., Dec. 8 from 9:30-11:00 a.m. Residents are \$6 per person, non-residents are \$8 per person. Call 314-739-5599 to register. Space is limited.
- ↪ **Christmas at Ulysses S. Grant Historic site-White Haven:** Sat., Dec. 15. Children of all ages can experience a 19th century Christmas. There will be two sessions: 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. The event is free. Call 314-842-1867 x 230 for more information or see Abbi Telander.
- ↪ **Save the Date:** Trivia Night to benefit Lutheran Campus Ministry on Sat., Feb. 2 at Bethel Lutheran, 7001 Forsyth Blvd. Doors open at 6 p.m., trivia starts at 6:30 p.m. \$20 per person, tables of eight. Call 314-863-8140 for info.