

# *Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church*

## **January 2014 Updates**

The **Annual Meeting** is Sunday, Jan. 26, 2014, immediately following worship. Childcare will be provided. Annual reports are due to Lauri by January 8, 2014.

**January 12 – Godparenting Sunday** – we will celebrate the godparent-godchild relationship. Feel free to invite your godparent/godchild to worship that Sunday. If you would like to share a leadership role\* in worship with your godparent/child, please contact Pastor Kristen as soon as possible. If you have photos from your baptism or your godchild's baptism, bring them along or scan them and send them to [prkristen@sothstl.org](mailto:prkristen@sothstl.org). Postcards will be available to send to godparents and godchildren who are not present, and handouts available: "10 Ways to Godparent an Adult Godchild" and "Ways to Celebrate Your Godchild's Baptismal Anniversary" and "Godparenting 101".

\* reading, leading prayers, offering music, acolyting, ushering, serving communion...you get the idea.

The **Be Like Jesus 24 Hour Servant Event** is an opportunity for 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade youth to be a servant like Jesus. Youth will participate in a variety of service projects will benefit the participating congregations, community and global organizations. The event will also include great music, fun activities, a chance to meet new friends, and an opportunity to grow closer in faith to God.

Also, high school and college aged students are asked to consider being a small group leader for the event. Teen small group leaders will need to be available from 5 p.m. on Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup> until 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. We hope to have enough teen leaders to have two leaders for every group.

Contact Pastor Kristen by January 19 if your 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grader would like to register.

A **Baby Shower for Kristen & Pete Hiltner** will be held on January 25 at 10:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. If you would like to help out in any way, please contact Linda Ritter.

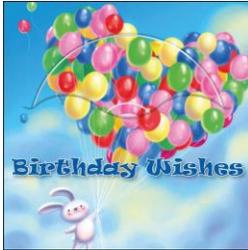
**Lutheran Campus Ministry-St Louis Annual Trivia Night!** January 25, 2014 @ Bethel Lutheran, University City. 7001 Forsyth. Doors open @ 6 pm, PLAY begins @ 6:30 PM. \$20 person/tables of 8. RSVP to [lcm-stl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lcm-stl@sbcglobal.net) OR 314.863.8140. Proceeds benefit ministry with college students and our Spring service trip to help build 3 homes in Guatemala.

A **Summer Mission Trip** is being coordinated among the **St. Louis area ELCA churches**. A group, led by Debbie Grupe at Atonement Lutheran in Florissant, is gathering names of folks interested in traveling to southwestern Virginia to help with home repairs in Appalachia. The dates for the trip are **June 8-15**. All ages welcome: youth through adult. Those under age 13 will be asked to attend with an adult who know them well. Direct your questions to Debbie Grupe, [grupeyouth@gmail.com](mailto:grupeyouth@gmail.com).

**Calling all Crafty People!** Pastor Kristen is looking for a group of folks who are interested in being on an "on-call craft team". This group would be available to put together various craft items for Sunday School events, milestone celebrations and other events. A willingness to attend to a project on short notice is particularly appreciated. Email your interest to [prkristen@sothstl.org](mailto:prkristen@sothstl.org) or leave a note in her mail slot at church.

## **Gratitude abounds at Shepherd of the Hills**

Daryn, Sophia, Joshua and I would like to thank everyone for their thoughtful, creative, and often delicious gifts this Christmas. The greatest gift, however, was being able to spend time with my family after the holiday knowing that I had your support and prayers – and that you would take care of each other! Thank you so much, *Pastor Kristen*



### **January Birthdays & Anniversaries**

#### **Birthdays**

Eric Heil	1
Julia Tousignant	1
Judy Conoyer	2
Jim Berry	9
Tina Chumbley	10
Marie Hinkle	10
Reed Deatherage	12
Jesse Keyes	14
Hannah Sieker	16
Aubrey Hunter	24
Kristen Hiltner	25
Dixi Smith	27

#### **JANUARY - Anniversaries**

Bill & Martha Johnson	3
Daniel & Jessica Hogbin	17

## **A Letter from the President...**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I was paging through the newly redesigned January issue of *The Lutheran* this weekend. One thing that stood out to me was the quote from Pastor Rick Warren, referencing what he had written in a *Time* magazine article on gratitude. I hadn't seen the article so I got online to read it. He talked about how this had been the worst year of his life – how his youngest son who suffered from mental illness had committed suicide. He wondered how he was supposed to be grateful at Thanksgiving when he was in such pain.

He went on to say that the Bible tells us to “Give thanks IN ALL circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus”; it shows maturity. We’re not expected to be thankful FOR all circumstances. Even in grief there are good things to be grateful for - God can bring good out of the tough things in life.

In Peter Marty’s article, “Challenging Conversations on God’s Plan” (in the same issue of *The Lutheran*) he said that “God’s will in this world is about much grander things than simply pulling different strings to create personal misery or blessing for you.” He disputes God’s causing certain events or even allowing them to happen and that Jesus never spoke of suffering as God’s will. He talks of a God who is all-loving.

That’s the God I see, one that has brought me to Shepherd of the Hills where we receive the support and love from each other as we as individuals struggle with difficulties in our daily lives. This is something for which to be thankful.

Yours in Christ,  
*Linda Pearson*