



SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

CALLED . . .

EMPOWERED . . .

SENT . . .

“Called through the Gospel to be a nurturing, dynamic community, celebrating God’s presence in our lives, and sharing with all God’s abundant grace in Jesus Christ”

DECEMBER 14, 2011
VOLUME 37, No. 25

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP AT SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS



✦ **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24TH, 5:00 AND 7:00 PM**

PRELUDE MUSIC BEGINS AT 4:40 & 6:40 PM

The Christmas Story in Word and Song with special music by the Senior Choir, the Senior Handbell Choir, and Strings. Childcare provided.

✦ **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24TH, 9:00 PM**

Christmas Eve Communion with special music by Soloists and Guitar. No childcare provided.

✦ **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25TH, 10:30 AM**

Christmas Day Communion and Brunch in the Fellowship Hall. No Faith Formation Classes or childcare provided; children are welcome in the sanctuary.

✦ **SUNDAY, JANUARY 1ST, 11:00 AM ONLY**

First Sunday after Christmas . . . “The Lessons and Carols of Christmas” No Faith Formation Classes or childcare provided; children are welcome in the sanctuary.

WHEN YOU COME TO WORSHIP . . .

MORNING WORSHIP - 8:30 & 11:00
YOUTH FAITH FORMATION - 9:45 AM
ADULT FAITH FORMATION - 10:00 AM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT ANGELS’ CANDLE

The Celebration of Holy Communion. The lessons are: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:47-55; Romans 16:25-27; and Luke 1:26-38.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD 10:30 AM, Fellowship Hall

The Celebration of Holy Communion. The lessons will be: Titus 3:4-7 and Luke 2:1-20.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2012 THE NAME OF JESUS

The Celebration of Holy Communion. The lessons will be: Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 8; Galatians 4:4-7; and Luke 2:15-21.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2012 THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

The lessons will be: Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; and Mark 1:4-11.



20's & 30's+ CHRISTMAS GATHERING

If you are in your 20's, 30's, early 40's, single, married, with or without children, you are invited to an adult **Christmas Gathering** at the home of Pastor Heidi & Robert Schwerdtfeger-Jones, THIS Friday, December 16, 7:00 pm. Please bring an appetizer to share and your beverage of choice. Questions or to RSVP, contact Pastor Heidi [327-3370, heidi@shephills.org]. Enjoy an evening of adult fellowship!



POST HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GATHERING TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 7:00 PM

Post High School Youth between the ages of 18 and 22 are invited to share some holiday cheer and catch up with old friends at our **Annual Christmas Party**. We will gather at the home of Blair Flint, Tuesday, December 20th from 7:00-9:00 pm. Join us for a time of fellowship and enjoy some holiday snacks. For more info contact Amber Reber, Director of Youth and Family Ministry [327-3370].

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS MOVIE NIGHT WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 6:30 PM

6th-12th Grade Youth and the entire congregation are invited to **A Christmas Movie Night at Shepherd of the Hills** THIS Wednesday, December 21, 6:30 - 8:30 pm in the Multi-Purpose Room. Join us for *A Texas-Sized Funflicks* screening of "Elf"!! We'll spend the evening together in holiday laughter and cheer as we watch this fun and festive film. Please bring your favorite movie snack to share. . .Something with SUGAR would be great!! Feel free to bring blankets, pillows, or chairs to make for a warm and cozy movie experience. Questions? Contact Amber Reber, Director of Youth and Family Ministry [327-3370].



CARE PACKAGE 'THANK YOU'

TO THE CONGREGATION AND SENIOR HIGH YOUTH

In November, our Senior High Youth prepared **48 Care Packages** that were mailed to Shepherd of the Hill's college students. Here are a few of the many "Thank You's" received in response to their packages.

- ◆ *Thanks for the care package! This is just what I need to help me through finals.*
- ◆ *Thank you guys for the care package! I'll be sure to eat it all during dead week!*
- ◆ *Hey everyone! Thanks so much for the care package, I just picked it up and I can't wait to make some popcorn for my Disney Movie Night tonight :)*
- ◆ *Thanks for the care package SOTH, I was so happy to see BEEF JERKY in a box. I love beef jerky.*
- ◆ *Thanks so much for the care package!! What a lovely pick-me-up! Much love!*
- ◆ *Thank you all for the care package. Popcorn and Butterfingers are gone. . .thank you.*
- ◆ *I just got mine too!! Had to hide it from my roommates.*
- ◆ *Thank you also!!! I miss ya'll so much! Looking forward to Christmas break!!*
- ◆ *Thanks to the youth group for the care package! I've been munching on delicious snacks all day!*

WE LOOK FORWARD TO HAVING THEM BACK HOME
FOR CHRISTMAS BREAK! 



WITHIN THE FOLD

BIRTH

Congratulations to Joseph and Heather Harms upon the birth of their son, **Hugh Benjamin Harms** on December 11.

WEDDING

Congratulations to **Tyler Wear** and **Daniele Gate** upon their upcoming marriage, December 17 in Chattanooga, TN.

DEATH

Our thoughts and prayers surround the family of Charter Member, **Naomi Morgan**, upon her death.

"THANK YOU" FROM BUILDING MANAGER, MARY GIMENEZ

"I would like to take this opportunity to **thank our members and church staff** for their patience, flexibility, and co-operation as we underwent building repairs after the water damage back in February. The repairs are now complete. A special thanks goes to all who helped move furniture, office items, pictures, etc. The help was greatly appreciated. May you all have a very Blessed Christmas." *Mary Gimenez, Building Manager*

2012 CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS

The Church Council, at its December 13th meeting, elected the following people as **Officers of the Congregation** for 2012:

President	- Weldon Allison
Vice-President	- Linda Plummer
Treasurer	- Rob Spillar
Secretary	- Anne McDonald

Please hold these Officers, and all of the Church Council, in your prayers as they guide our ministry in 2012.

CHRISTMAS SHARING

Thank You 

A message from Linda Roesle, our Christmas Family Coordinator: "Once again our Christmas Families Project has been a huge success! A special **Thank You** to all of the wonderful members of Shepherd of the Hills for being so generous **in supporting five great agencies** that had special Christmas needs. Through your generosity, gifts were provided for 30 girls at *New Life Treatment Center* for Abused Girls, 4 AIDS Service families, and 50 Lutheran Social Service foster children; in addition, 30 gifts was donated for Caritas; \$500 donated for the purchase of shoes for Eagle Pass children; and \$375 donated for toys for our Mission Partner children. That is an amazing blessing that you have given to those in need!" *Praise God from whom all blessings flow!*

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



- ★ This year's **Christmas Pageant**, "*Room for a Little One, a Christmas Tale*", will be presented in the Fellowship Hall THIS Sunday, December 18 at 4:00 pm.
- ★ Following the pageant, we will have a **Congregational Christmas Party**. *Please bring a holiday snack or dessert to share.*



DECEMBER YOUTH EVENTS



☺ PRE-K - 5TH GRADE YOUTH

- ★ Saturday, December 17
9:00 -11:00 am full rehearsal for EVERYONE [Fellowship Hall]
- ★ Sunday, December 18
3:00 pm, Entire cast meets to dress in costume [Fellowship Hall]
- ★ Sunday, December 18
4:00 pm, **2011 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT & CONGREGATIONAL PARTY** [Fellowship Hall]



☺ 6TH - 8TH GRADE YOUTH

- ✓ Wednesdays
No confirmation class until January
- ✓ Sunday, December 18
4:00 Attend the youth Christmas Pageant in the Fellowship Hall.
- ✓ Wednesday, December 21
6:30-8:30 **Christmas Movie Night!** Join us in the Multi-Purpose Room for a Texas-Sized *FunFlicks* Screening of "ELF"!! Spend the evening in holiday cheer. Bring your favorite movie snack to share. Something with SUGAR would be great!! Feel free to bring blankets, pillows, or chairs to make for a warm and cozy movie experience. Questions? Contact Amber Reber, Director of Youth and Family Ministry [327-3370].



☺ 9TH - 12TH GRADE YOUTH

- ✓ Sunday, December 18
4:00 Attend the youth Christmas Pageant in the Fellowship Hall.
- ✓ Wednesday, December 21
6:30-8:30 **Christmas Movie Night!** Join us in the Multi-Purpose Room for a Texas-Sized *FunFlicks* Screening of "ELF"!! Spend the evening in holiday cheer. Bring your favorite movie snack to share. Something with SUGAR would be great!! Feel free to bring blankets, pillows, or chairs to make for a warm and cozy movie experience. Questions? Contact Amber Reber, Director of Youth and Family Ministry [327-3370].



UNLEARNING CHURCH BOOK STUDY SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH AND 12TH

Church as we know it is not working. How can you unlearn outdated, bad church habits and learn innovative ways to reach those who have disengaged from church? Mark your calendar for a "highly recommended" Adult Faith Formation class Sunday, February 5th and 12th, 10:00 am in the sanctuary. The Church Council has read the book Unlearning Church and invite you to participate in a **two session class and conversation** facilitated by Council Members, Weldon Allison and Fred Schleede.

If you are interested in participating order the book, Unlearning Church by Michael Slaughter now. We can order the book for you if you contact Pastor Ron [ron@shephills.org, 327-3370] no later than Tuesday, January 3rd to order for you at a cost of \$18.00 or you may order on your own through Amazon.com.

THE LUTHERAN STORY... BEYOND GARRISON KEILLOR



You can learn more about the "Lutheran Story" in America. "More" because it's a safe assumption that the majority of members of Shepherd of the Hills [and almost any Lutheran congregation] have scant knowledge of the Lutheran story in this country. How did we get here? Why are there different Lutheran bodies in America? How do they differ? And much more of the story. More than Garrison Keillor gives us.

On Sunday, January 8, Pastor Merle Franke will be leading a **discussion of the Lutheran Story** after the 11:00 o'clock service. We're calling it "**Sunday Lunch and Learn.**" Lunch will be brought in and we will eat at 12:30 in the Multi-Purpose Room. The "learn" part will start at 1:00 - location to be decided depending upon the attendance. We'll talk about Lutherans until 3:00 - maybe longer. We hope to paint a verbal picture of *who we are* as Lutherans - and how we got here. To participate or for more information contact Pastor Franke [452-0414, merleginna@att.net]. The sign-up sheet [needed to order enough lunch] will be in the narthex starting on December 18.

Childcare will be provided upon request. When you sign up in the narthex to attend the class please indicate you would like childcare. Deadline for request is noon Wednesday, January 4.

FINANCE COMMITTEE YEAR-END REMINDERS

Reminders from the Finance Committee. . .

- ◆ According to IRS regulations, **donations for 2011** must be postmarked no later than Saturday, December 31 or dropped off in the Church Office no later than noon, Friday, December 30.
- ◆ Financial Pledges for 2012 are still being received. Forms are available in the church narthex or online [www.shephills.org].





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SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS STAFF

Ronald Bessert, *Pastor* ❖ Heidi Schwerdtfeger-Jones, *Pastor*
Merle G. Franke, *Pastor* ❖ Rebecca Guengerich, *Christian Growth & Spiritual Director*
Kevin McClure, *Director of Music* ❖ Amy Ruedas, *Director of Child and Family Ministry*
Vernon Moeller, *Organist* ❖ Amber Reber, *Director of Youth and Family Ministry*
Trixi Spinelli, *Financial Officer* ❖ Lisa Schaffer, *Administrative Assistant*
Mary Gimenez, *Building Manager* ❖ Karon Miller Hammond, *Butterfly Preschool Director*

PHONE: [512] 327-3370 ❖ FAX: [512] 327-6021 ❖ WEB SITE: www.shephills.org
E-MAIL: CHURCH - sheep@shephills.org ❖ STAFF - [first name]@shephills.org

Good News FOR DECEMBER 2011



**The people that walked
in darkness have seen
a great light.**

Isaiah 9:2

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