



# The Voice

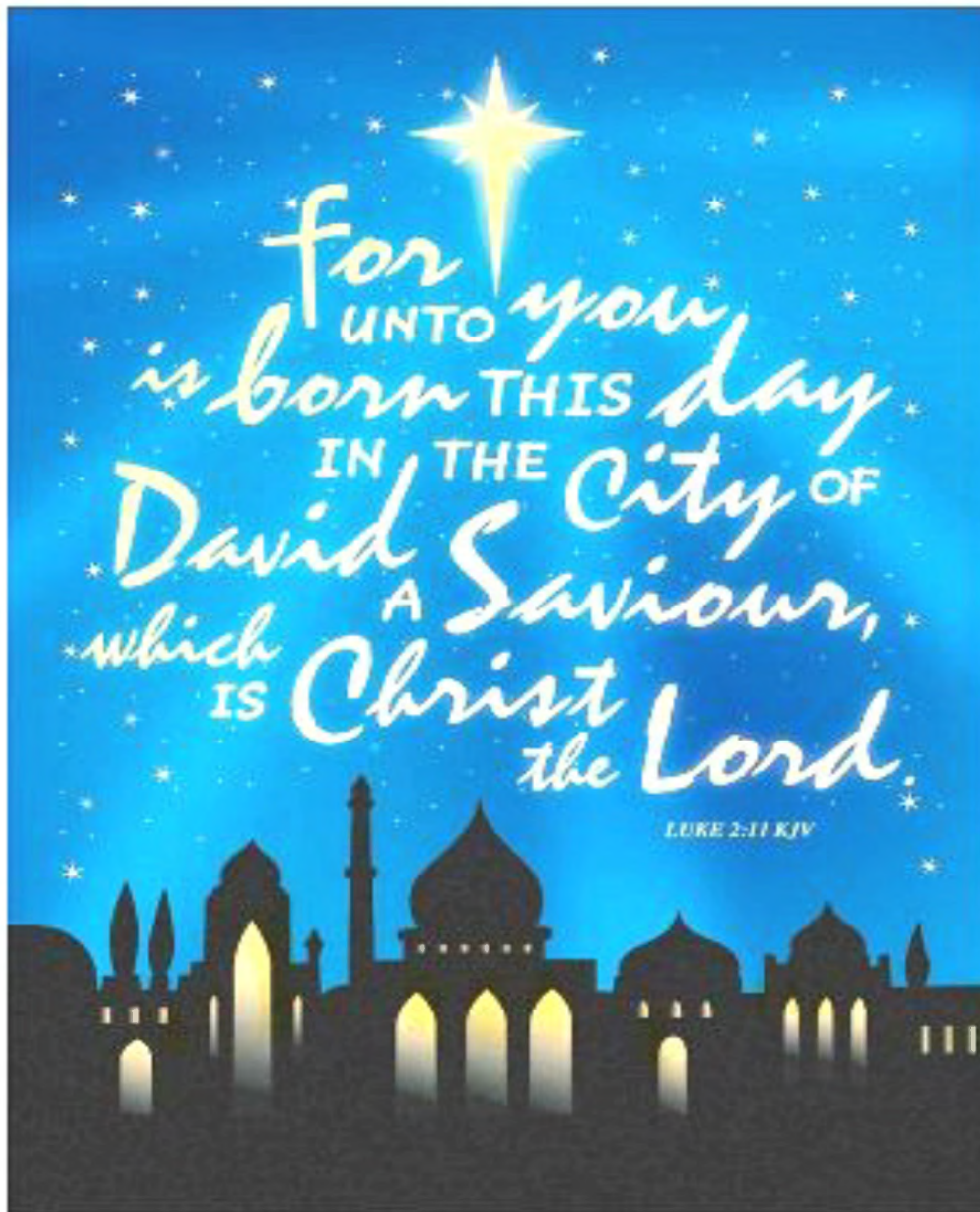


2020

The Newsletter of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

*"INVITING, GROWING AND SERVING THROUGH CHRISTIAN RELATIONSHIPS"*

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\*\*\*SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES AT 9:00am\*\*\*





The year is almost complete, and I am sure no one will be sorry to see this one go! It has been a tumultuous one to say the least.

It is disappointing to see the numbers of positive COVID tests skyrocketing (at least they were in mid-November.) It is troubling that friends and family members are falling ill. We wonder if, or more likely, when it will be our turn. Will we shut down again? Will schools and churches again be meeting strictly online?

When I found this picture it summed up how I am feeling. 2020 has been a difficult year physically, emotionally, and spiritually. The whole year has been “winter”—a few signs of life here and there, but mostly we are waiting for life to return; we are waiting for spring. Waiting for things to get better. Waiting for the pandemic to finally end. (And it will end as

all other pandemics have.) Waiting for a lot of things.

And there is light up ahead. The road is not closed; there is not a cliff to fall off of; there is a bend. We cannot see what is ahead, but the road has been maintained and is clear. There is hope ahead even though it is still twilight, even though it is still cold and everything is still and nothing is growing. This is also a peaceful picture and one of great promise about what lies ahead, at least for me. You might have a totally different idea about what it projects or would choose another photo altogether to sum up your feelings about this year and your waiting.

Yet in spite of the past crummy 9 months, we are in the business of hope. Not pie-in-the-sky-everything-is-coming-up-roses, but hope that knows that there is resurrection. We know that no matter how reality looks, there is something more ahead. Around that bend there is renewed life. No matter what, we belong to Christ, the Light of the world. Advent is a time of waiting and preparing for the birth and the return of the Savior. This waiting is not just sitting around watching the clock or calendar, but active waiting. Active waiting is *being* Christ in the world now. Being Christ in the world for those we love and those we do not know. Abundant life is here now even in the “winter” of pandemic and unrest because of the power of resurrection.

And now a shameless plug: If you are having trouble finding hope, if you are in need of a time of lament (venting anger and disappointment at God,) a time of rest, and an indication that there is indeed reason to hope, you are invited to worship on the “Longest Night” Monday, December 21 at 7:00 p.m. Pandemic willing, we will meet in person, but will also have live-streaming so that we can lament and heal together even if we are apart. As always, you can contact me as well and I can listen and lament with you.

*Advent Blessings! Pastor Chris (Easter is coming!)*



Dec. 1	Aven McCall
Dec. 1	Ed Norden
Dec. 1	Alexis Burkart
Dec. 1	Jim Doughty
Dec. 2	Ron Sutton
Dec. 3	Laura Minton
Dec. 5	William Basham
Dec. 5	Evelyn Basham
Dec. 5	Kevin Rivard
Dec. 7	Karen Rogers
Dec. 10	Christian Baker
Dec. 12	Keli'I ROGERS
Dec. 15	Jean Hovland
Dec. 16	Susan Sandoval
Dec. 16	Sean Kelley
Dec. 17	Norma Jean Lemons
Dec. 18	Brad Knotek
Dec. 22	Hannah Scudella
Dec. 27	Robin Rivard
Dec. 27	Amy Axworthy
Dec. 27	Caroline Bernhardt
Dec. 28	Kevin Simon
Dec. 30	Phil Beckerich III
Dec. 30	Harry Stanley
Dec. 31	Ernie Adolf
Dec. 31	Jan Norden

## NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION



**We received a "Thank You," from the Harrison School.**

"Dear Marty and Mission Team:  
I would like to thank you for the kind donation of \$476.58 you provided to our school for December. With your donation, we were able to pay \$162.35 in lunch charges, and this year we were able to provide scholarships in various amounts for Chromebooks to 14 students.

Your donation has been a blessing for many of our students whose families could not afford to pay otherwise. Thank you for supporting students in our community!

Sincerely  
Marne L. Autobee  
Principal



Dear Shepherd of the Hills. I would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers for my son Rick Kramer, during his long 22 month battle with cancer. My son lost his battle on Tuesday, November 2nd.

Thank you for all your loving concern, cards, calls and sweet messages.  
Shirley Kramer

### **A VERY BIG, HUGE, COLOSSAL, EPIC, GIGANTIC, MONUMENTAL, THANK YOU !!**

To anyone and everyone who helped, advised, discussed, aided, built,.....in any way to keep our congregation intact through all of these months of trying to keep up with the ever-changing rules and decisions being made for us. To anyone and everyone who made it possible for us to have a LIVE video of the Services, workers, participators, contributors, connectors, teckies, you made it happen!! Blessings to those who attend the Services, who speak, who preach, who play music, who sing, who print, who take care of the altar and communion. Blessings to **Pastor Chris** and **Sheila** who keep things running as smoothly as possible, to **Caroline** who keeps the grounds looking great, to **Theresa** who keeps the inside clean and sanitized, to those working behind the scene, fixing things, to the Sunday School Teachers, Good Job Everyone!! Good Job...This could not happen without YOU!! **BLAINE PUTZER**....Thank You for leading the service on the 15th, at the last minute!!! You did an excellent job!!! **Again, Thank You All So Very Much !!!!!**





## MISSION NEWS

“We make a living by what we get;  
We make a life by what we give.”  
Winston Churchill

### God equips us for ‘new things’

*“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”—Isaiah 43:19*

Advent and Christmas are all about celebrating that most amazing “new thing” God brought about for our sake – incarnating God’s divine essence in the human form of Jesus, our Savior and Lord. We prayerfully ask at the beginning of every church year, “To what ‘new things’ is God calling us?” But this Advent the question holds special significance.

With its racial unrest, political divisiveness, riots, wildfires, hurricanes and COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 will be remembered as one of the most troubled years in recent history. And everybody is bracing for a “new normal” that is still unknown.

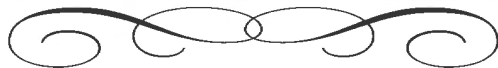
The pandemic has caused us to cancel many of our cherished Advent and Christmas observances. We pray the Holy Spirit will give us the creativity and wisdom to find new ways faithfully to steward the mystery of the incarnation and tell God’s story. More broadly, we also pray for guidance to steward our lives that we may be, as Jesus directed, the salt of the earth and light to a world that needs us more than ever.

As we listen for God’s direction, preparing us for “new things,” the four traditional Advent themes may offer a path. We cultivate these themes in our hearts and congregations and share them with the world:

- **Hope** as an antidote to the culture of despair.
- **Peace** in our hearts to bring to an angry world.
- **Love** for our friends and enemies alike.
- **Joy** in Christ, who makes all things new.

God, who promises to make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert, will prepare us and equip us to do “new things” to steward our lives and congregations to meet the challenges ahead.

*Copyright © 2020, Rev. Robert Blezard. Pastor Blezard serves as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD, and works as content editor for [www.stewardshipoflife.org](http://www.stewardshipoflife.org). He blogs at [www.thestewardshipguy.com](http://www.thestewardshipguy.com).*



**Ruth Circle** meets Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, at 10 a.m. **Gather** magazine’s 2020 Advent devotional, written by the Rev. Jordan Miller-Stubbendick, focuses on the story of Mary’s journey as she follows God’s call into motherhood. While exploring Mary’s story, we think about the liminal days in her life, and how she might have traveled spiritually and emotionally during her own uncertainty. As we embark on our own emotional and spiritual journeys this Advent, we’ll explore four practices that can help to ground and steady us: gratitude, movement, song and honest conversation. Come enjoy fellowship and learning. We continue to collect cereal for Mercy Today Ministries.

### **Colorado Gives Day is December 8th**

It's the 11th anniversary of Colorado Gives Day. Join thousands of Coloradans to support our State's non-profits on **Tuesday, December 8, 2020**. This annual statewide movement celebrates and increases philanthropy in Colorado through online giving. The \$1.5 Million Incentive Fund made possible by Community First Foundation, FirstBank and other community members boosts the value of every donation. Go to <https://www.coloradogives.org> to make your secure online donations. **You can even schedule your donations ahead of time to post on 12/8.** More than 2300 Colorado nonprofits, **including our own Rainbow Trail Camp**, are registered on that website.

**Living Nativity** – This year is the 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the most important community outreach of SOTH. It takes place on **Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, from 5 to 7:30 p.m.** Please check the signup sheet in the Narthex to see where help is still needed before, during and after the event. Be sure to tell your friends and neighbors about this event.

**Thank you** to everyone who contributed nonperishable food during September and October (Hunger Action Months), including the **"Peace in Motion"** group that meets at SOTH every Monday and Friday. Thanks to your generosity **146 pounds of food was delivered to Loaves and Fishes Ministries** for their food pantry.

**Reminder** – Since the popular **"Giving Tree"** project will not take place this year (mainly due to the issues with COVID-19), please consider making a donation to a **local** non-profit of your choice, or consider giving an extra offering to our Church.



### **SOTH LIVING NATIVITY !!! DECEMBER 12-2020-5:00-7:30pm**

This year is the 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the most important community outreach of SOTH.  
Tell your friends and neighbors!!  
**DON'T MISS IT!!**

# “NAVIGATING THE COVID WATERS Structuring a New Path Forward!”

**Living Nativity will be December 12.** Although volunteers have signed up, more are needed. Health Department has been contacted and the guidelines will be followed. The committee has plans to safely provide the refreshments. Please call the office or stop by and sign up. Our community can surely use this gift. A Nativity scene has been ordered and received to display after the Living Nativity.

After our series of Web of Grace temple talks for Mercy Today Ministries, St. Paul Lutheran Church in Lake Charles Louisiana, and Jesus de Los Milagros in Guatemala, the appeal intent cards were mailed with a return envelope. If you have not returned your card, please indicate your intent, sign it and return it. This will be an exciting year as we reach out in generosity to those around us monetarily and in prayer.

The usual Celebration of Blessings Breakfast is cancelled, but I am sure our Faith Community continues to celebrate the many blessings we receive from God as we respond generously in reaching out to others.

January is our semi-annual congregational meeting for budget. Since the May meeting for election of council members was cancelled due to COVID, council election will also be held at this time. Stay tuned to see how we will manage during these pandemic times.

Welcome to **Gerry and Leslie Willis** as they bless our service in the positions of musicians and choir director (when choir resumes.)

Anyone interested in becoming a partner in the live streaming of the service may contact **Andrew Fisher** for a training session. Although we all yearn to meet in person again and get those hugs, handshakes, and cushioned chairs, SOTH is blessed to have the technology to continue to participate in worship—although from afar.

A shout out to our youth and young adults who recently received First Communion and participated in Affirmation of Baptism. Welcome to the Lord's Table and to adult membership. I know the SOTH community eagerly anticipates your continued active participation in all activities.

Peace, Charlene, Council President

# Why “Merry Christmas” ?

The origin of the use of the seasonal salutation “Merry Christmas” can be traced back to at least 1565, when it appeared in *The Hereford Municipal Manuscript*.

“And thus I comytt you to God,  
who send you a  
mery Christmas & many.”

An English admiral is known to have used the phrase in an informal letter in 1699, but the greeting grew in popularity after it appeared in Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol* in 1843.

“A merry Christmas, Bob!” said Scrooge, with an earnestness that could not be mistaken, as he clapped him on the back.

“A merrier Christmas, Bob, my good fellow, than I have given you for many a year!”

Then, also in 1843, the inscription “ A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You” appeared prominently on the front of the very first commercially available Christmas card in England, commissioned by Sir Henry Cole with art by John Calcott Horsley.

The term “Merry Christmas” was coined during a time when many other “merry” phrases were in common use, e.g., “make merry,” “merry England” and “the merry month of May.” Over time the term “merry” shifted from meaning “pleasant, peaceful, blessed and agreeable” to the more frivolous definition of “jovial and outgoing.” Apparently, Queen Elizabeth II did not like the change in tone and started wishing her subjects a “happy” Christmas in her annual Christmas broadcasts. To this day, the term “Happy Christmas” is used primarily by residents of Ireland and the United Kingdom.

According to Hallmark Cards, the most popular sentiment on a Christmas card remains to this day.

“A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you!”



"The most wonderful time of the year" is not always wonderful for all of us. We are grieving, we have disappointments, we are overwhelmed we are suffering in many different ways. Or maybe just a bit of a break from the Christmas and holiday festivities and unrealistic expectations would lift your spirit.

**Please join us for the Longest Night Community Worship on Monday,  
December 21 at 7 p.m. at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church,  
801 North Sheridan Avenue.**

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

## Team Calls

Because the pandemic has created isolation in some way for each of us, we have a team of 8 who will be calling on members and other "regulars" once a month just to check in, and pray with and for you. If you do not receive a call by the end of December please let Pastor Chris or Sheila know. We tried to get everyone on the list, but you may have been unintentionally missed, or we do not have a current phone number for you. We are excited about this new ministry and pray it is a blessing for us all! If you would like to be a member of the calling team, please let Pastor know. Talk to you soon!

Blessings,  
Pastor Chris



### DECEMBER HAPPENINGS!!!! MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!

DEC. 6—2nd Sunday in ADVENT—Noisy Offering

DEC. 12—LIVING NATIVITY —5:00—7:30pm

DEC. 13 —3rd Sunday in ADVENT—CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PRORAM

DEC. 20-4th Sunday in ADVENT—Regular 9am Worship Service

DEC. 24-CHRISTMAS EVE—

4 pm SERVICE

5:30pm SERVICE

7 pm SERVICE

DEC. 25th—CHRISTMAS DAY





# So.....What Do You Know?

**-about Christmas 2020-December 13 Children will lead the 9 am worship.** "Twas the Night Before Christmas" is the title of the service and its message is that Jesus is the reason for the season. We plan to have practice the Sunday before, December 6th. We need all the children who want to participate to join in this annual gift to Jesus from the kids of the congregation.

**-about the Living Nativity-**Children are invited and encouraged to be a part of the angels and shepherd bands. This will be December 12. Please sign up kids and parents for this remarkable family and community event. Live animals are scheduled too.

**-about Noisy Offering-**During COVID season, the method of collecting the change is as follows: the cans are placed around the sanctuary and we will announce the recipients when we collect it. Noisy Offering in September went to the audio/visual upgrade for the church, October to the Colorado Fire victims and November to support local homeless shelters.

**-about December/Advent Sunday Classes-** The new Whirl Curriculum starts on November 29th. The Whirl Sunday School teachers continue to teach the Whirl lessons, as well as teaching about the church calendar year when we gather. Starting in October the Christian Ed team decided to **include children in worship** on certain Sundays - so they can **experience corporate worship** with their elders. Including the children in the Worship service where Blaine, Atalia and Ryan shared their faith stories and affirmed their baptisms, was too important to have separate Sunday school classes. On **November 22, Christ the King Sunday**, the students remained in worship to learn about the liturgical year. Children need to feel a part of the larger church and our congregation is so good about welcoming and encouraging our kids to participate and lead in worship. Bobbie will mail kids' bulletins to families. As expected, the number of students attending in person Sunday school has been low so we appreciate that parents can share the lesson that is sent to the home.

**-about Catechism - December 6 and 13 we will have virtual meetings, meeting times to be decided later. NO classes on December 20 or 27.** Pastor Chris, Becky Romano, Ali Kelley, Lois Goodman and Dena Richter facilitate the discussions about the Life of Jesus. **Parents**, thank you for making this Catechism time a **priority** for your son/daughter and for providing snacks.

**-about RTLK Camp-**Sign up began November 1 for the summer of 2021 get your registration in ASAP. Please let Bobbie and/or Becky know if/when you have signed up so you also fill out a church scholarship form and we know the number of our kids seeking scholarships.

**-about December meetings-**Christian Education will meet at 6pm on December 3rd. This may be a work session (preparing for the program).

Dena

# NEWS! NEWS!! NEWS!!



Celebrating their **First Communion** are: (From Left) **Dylan Bendt, Casey Varner, Sawyer Corkill, Dena (Sunday School Superintendent, ) Etta Corkill, Audrey Kammerdiener, and Austin Kammerdiener.** The children are proudly holding the communion chalices that they made themselves.

**Congratulations!!!**



**Savanna Kemper** (middle) brought gifts for **Etta Corkill** (left) and **Colton Roberts** (right) after they broke the long standing pull-up records at Penrose Elementary School.

This year, **Colton** broke the record for 5th grade boys pull-ups which was set 29 years ago by Kyle Murray with 18 pull-ups, and **Etta** got 12 and broke the record for 6th grade girls pull-ups set 21 years ago by **Savanna Kemper**, now with the US Army stationed at Fort Carson.

When Savanna saw a post on Facebook stating that her record had been broken, she knew she wanted to honor the girl who had finally broken it, so she came to the school dressed in her Army attire to deliver special gifts for **Etta** and **Colton**.

**Etta is the daughter of Nathan and Jennifer Corkill.**

(article is from the Florence Citizen-November 12, 2020)



# S.O.T.H. GENERAL Information Page

## Shepherd of the Hills Staff

Pastor: Rev. Christine Hjelmstad  
Office Administrator: Sheila Foley  
Newsletter/Office Assistant: Shirley Kramer  
Financial Secretary: Barb Knicely  
Sunday School Superintendent: Dena Richter  
Secretary of Youth Ministry: Bobbie Anderson

Organists/Accompanists: Gerry Willis  
Choir Director: Gerry Willis  
Choir Accompanist: Cheri Chiaro  
Grounds Keeper: Caroline Bernhardt  
Custodian: Teresa Burdick

## Officers of the Congregation

President: Charlene Coulson  
Secretary: Jerry Putzer

Vice President: Linda Freed  
Treasurer: Lois Petersen-Kelley

### OUR SOCIAL MINISTRIES:

**LOAVES AND FISHES** need help with the following: **HOUSEHOLD USED FURNITURE!** Any and all Baby Items, **CLOTHING** of all kinds, They can always use **DISH SOAP AND CANNED TUNA (or in pouches)** **CANNED TOMATOES, CANNED BEANS, CANNED VEGETABLES, CANNED FRUIT, CANNED SOUP, CANNED PASTA WITH MEAT, PEANUT BUTTER, TOILET PAPER, MAC & CHEESE, CEREAL.** Please bring any frozen foods directly to Loaves & Fishes. They can always use any non-perishable food, monetary donations, or household items. Paper goods are always appreciated, paper towels, napkins, toilet paper, etc. The first Sunday of the month is designated as "Loaves & Fishes Sunday," however you may donate your items at any time in the box provided in the coat room.

**VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED!!!!**

**Pull Tabs from Aluminum Cans** : Goes to benefit Ronald McDonald House in Colorado Springs.

**Also: Paper/Cardboard:** Please remove or shred personal information and put papers in a box or plastic bag before putting in the blue recycling bin, located at the end of our driveway entrance.

**Aluminum Cans:** Please consider donating your aluminum cans to the Humane Society.

**Plastic Bags:** Manna House could use those plastic shopping bags with handles. ( Loaves n' Fishes also uses them, but their need varies. Please call them first.)

**Cancelled Stamps:** There is a basket on the table in the coat room for your cancelled stamps. Benefits TUBFRIM in Norway.

**Box Tops:** Please save your box tops which are given to the Mountain View Core Knowledge School, for their greatest needs. There is a container on the table in the coat room for your box tops.

### YOUR COUNCIL MEMBERS

President—Charlene Coulson  
Vice President— Linda Freed  
Secretary— Jerry Putzer

Brad Putzer                      Cindy Giles-Thomas  
Jon Runa                         Ron Sutton  
Dianne Bush

Also...Lois Petersen-Kelley  
Church Treasurer



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**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS**

*Return Service Requested*

PLEASE.....IF YOU NO LONGER WISH TO RECEIVE THE CHURCH NEWSLETTER,  
PLEASE INFORM THE CHURCH OFFICE—Phone—719-275-6797  
email—sothoffices@gmail.com



**DECEMBER**

