

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

Within The Fold



Cecember 2019

Volume 17 Issue 12



The Monthly Newsletter of:
GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor:
Rev. Vincent Barringer

13200 Columbia Way • Downey, CA 90242
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Within the FOLD of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church



CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Vincent Barringer
Eritrean Lay Minister Berhane Elias
Assist. Pastor, Korean John Kim
Church Secretary Patty Heaton
Deacon Bill Greenbecker
Music Director Robert Martin
Custodian/Caretaker Miguel Cabrera

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SPECIAL DATES TO NOTE

Saturdays 5:00 pm Evening Worship
 Sundays 9:00 am Worship, 10:30 Bible Study and Sunday School
 Tuesdays 7:30 am Tuesday Guys
 9:00 am Tuesday Quilters
 Wednesdays 9:00 am Coffee Klatch Parish Hall
 Rummage Sale Work
 Thursdays 9:00 am Crafters
 7:00 pm Choir
 December 1 Advent begins – soup suppers
 December 7 11:30 am Ladies Luncheon
 December 7 1:00 pm Tree Trim & Decorating
 December 10 7:00 pm Election of Officers
 December 17 Quilters' Cookie Exchange (3 doz)
 Feb 7 & 8, 2020 8 am to 2pm Rummage Sale
 (See inside for special holiday services & times)



11/17/19	Budget Needs	Envelopes/Plates	Variance
Weekly Needs	\$ 4,315.38	\$ 2,384.75	- \$ 1,930.65
YTD Contributions	\$86,307.60	\$69,653.32	-\$16,654.28

Make plans to stay for Bible study on Sundays with Pastor Vince beginning at 10:30 a.m. right after coffee hour in the Parish Hall.



If you would like to donate flowers for the altar in memory of a loved one, to celebrate a special occasion, or to thank God for blessings, please **print** your name and occasion on the chart in the narthex.

- 12/1 OPEN
- 12/8 Noreen Berkhof in memory of loved ones
- 12/15 Bob & Gail Weinrich celebrating their 52nd anniversary
- 12/22 Marvin & Shirley Schaus celebrating their 51st wedding anniversary
- 12/24 Lisa Barringer celebrating Pastor's birthday
- 12/29 Peggy Riegert for God's blessings

Please also remember to have the flowers delivered **before 12:00 noon on the Saturday before** so that Miguel can be there to unlock the sanctuary. Also, if you don't want to take the flowers home, please let Patty know in the office and she will find a place for them.

Our Website

www.downeygoodshepherd.org



Like us on Facebook:

[Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Downey CA](https://www.facebook.com/GSLCDowney)
www.facebook.com/GSLCDowney



CAJennings@aol.com
 or contact the office to sign up for an emailed copy or to add any articles or photos.



Beloved in the Lord,

As we prepare ourselves for our Lord's birthday, it is at this time, even more so than at other times of the year, that we need to be reminded of our need for a Savior. Because as we go through this season, we find that the sheer busyness of it all allows us to ignore what God has done for us. Whether it is our family events, our kids and grandkids holiday activities, or any number of activities that we are involved in during this season, it is easy for us to place our need for redemption on the back burner.

In Mark 1:2-8 we read of John the Baptist "*proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.*" We also read that "*people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.*" In verses two and three, Mark quotes the prophet Isaiah as follows: "*See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight'*"

During the season of Advent, which began on December 1st and will end on Christmas Eve, we confess our sins, we listen to the proclamation of a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Like the people of Judea and Jerusalem, we clamor for salvation. We want to be made whole.

Still, during this Advent season, it is tempting to jump ahead to Christmas and totally ignore our brokenness. December becomes all about the Joy of Christmas Day. Big retailers will spend a fortune in advertising to get us to do this. They will attempt to get consumers to forget about their problems, their brokenness, and their need for a Savior by emptying their wallets on the latest toys for children and adults. In the hope of diverting us away from the season of Advent and the need for redemption.

As the Church, however, we proclaim a different message. We proclaim that we are preparing the way of the Lord and making His paths straight. We are reflecting on our lives so that we can present ourselves with real joy on Christmas Day. Christmas, believe it or not, does not begin in August, contrary to what Walmart might like, but rather begins on Christmas Day and lasts for twelve days until Epiphany.

As we awaken on the morning of December 25th, I pray that our hearts will be uplifted with the knowledge that once again we remember the birth of our Lord and Savior and how God split the heavens and broke into our existence in the form of a little baby. I pray that this will be a humbling recollection and bring us to an understanding of the gift for which we are responsible. The gift of life, the gift of our salvation, is too wonderful to hold within our own hearts. It is too wonderful to simply confine to the Christmas tree on Christmas morning. The gift we have been given is meant to be shared with others in the community. That is precisely what worship is all about.

Christianity is all about worshipping as a community. We are not meant to be solitary worshippers. With that in mind, I hope to see all of you at all our Advent services as well as our service of Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve and celebrate Communion on Christmas morning as a family, humbly remembering that little baby born two thousand years ago. Jesus, the Son of God who was born in a lowly manger, who would go on to live a perfect life, and offer Himself as a perfect Sacrifice, so that we can have the gift of Eternal life. Let us, during this season, remember this Gift and give thanks for it and not become immured to it by crass commercialization. Instead let us sing praises to the Lord and remind ourselves of why Christmas is so important to our individual lives and the life of the church.

Blessings, Pastor Vince



or did you realize that Pastor's sermons are recorded and online on our Facebook page? A nice way to receive the Sunday message if you're unable to attend in person.



If you know of a child ages 10 to 14 and is interested in taking Pastor Vince's confirmation class, please have the parent call Pastor at 541-999-4237 or the church office 562-803-4459. Classes are Sunday's at 11:30 am.



Watch the bulletins for upcoming dates.

††† December Servants †††

Greeters

- 12/1 Mary Pabst & Pauline Lentz
12/8 (10:00 am) Carolyn Martin &
Noreen Berkhof
12/15 Linda Mitchell & Carol Lowe
12/22 Arlene & Cora Conley
12/24 (7:00 pm) Open
12/25 (10:00 am) Open
12/29 Nancy & Bernie Gallie
12/31 (7:00 pm) Open

If you would like to be a greeter please contact Linda Mitchell. All it takes is a smile and maybe a welcoming handshake.

Head Ushers

- *12/1 Bob Weinrich
12/4 (7:00 pm) Bob Weinrich
12/8 (10:00 am) Rick Shields
12/11 (7:00 pm) Mark Heaton
*12/15 Bob Weinrich
12/22 (9:00 am) Rick Shields
12/24 (7:00 pm) Scott Engles
*12/25 (10:00 am) Bob Weinrich
12/29 Scott Engles
*12/31 (7:00 pm) Mark Heaton

* indicates communion service

Ushers are always needed. If you would be interested in helping, please call the church office or speak to an usher before or after services.

Lay Readers

- 12/1 Donna Engles
12/8 (choral service)
12/15 Scott Engles
12/22 Nancy Gallie
12/29 Shirley Greenbecker

Please call the church office if you would be interested in helping as a lay reader.

God's Word is daily bread – not cake for special occasions.

Duty Elder: Sundays – Mitch Haack
Wed. Dec. 4 – Mitch Haack
Wed. Dec. 11 – Mitch Haack
Wed. Dec. 18 – Mitch Haack
Sun. Dec. 24 (7:00 pm) – Fred Thies
Sun. Dec. 25 – (10:00am) Fred Thies
Tue. Dec. 31 (7:00pm) Fred Thies

Altar Care: 11/30 & 12/1 Nancy Gallie
12/7 & 8 Donna Engles
12/14 & 15 Noreen Haack
12/21 & 22 Nancy Gallie
12/28 & 29 Donna Engles
12/31 Mary Pabst

Coffee Server: Donna Engles



POINSETTIAS

If you would like to contribute a poinsettia plant for our Christmas array, you may use the flower envelope enclosed in the Sunday bulletin or send a check with “poinsettia” in the memo line. Please indicate whether you want the plant to be in thanksgiving to God for blessings, in memory of a loved one, etc. If you use the envelopes provided on Sundays, please be sure to add your offering envelope # on the outside.



Please make the following changes to your church directory:

Dick & Irene Klein

707 39th Avenue Southeast Apt A506
Puyallup WA 98374 Phone: 253-435-8326

They are both doing well and spending lots of time with family.

Judy Schmidt

449 Mission Grove Parkway North
Riverside CA 92506

She is now living with her daughter.



- 12/4 Robert Mendoza
- 12/8 Noreen Berkhof
- 12/8 Gary Quamme
- 12/17 Arlene Conley
- 12/20 Pastor Vince Barringer
- 12/26 Kathy Earls
- 12/30 Ginie Mains
- 12/30 Marilyn Olof
- 12/31 Peggy Riegert



Please remember these friends in your prayers.

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Merry Jennings | Harlan Uecker |
| Wayne Henry | Al Stouwie |
| Bob Weinrich | Ruth Bartholomay |
| Vern Eberhard | Edythe Heuer |
| Al & Martie Ludtke | Robert Mendoza |
| Jo Miller | Harriette Moomey |
| David Rennegarbe | Patricia Rennegarbe |
| Judy Schmidt | Carla Soliz |
| Joyce Corwin | |

Pray for those away at college:
Elizabeth Barna



- 12/16 Bob & Gail Weinrich
- 12/21 Marvin & Shirley Schaus

Military: Kirsten (Corwin) Bonack, Air Force
Dallas Hodges, Marines
Anah Kotilla, Navy
Blake Bostick, Air Force
David Ottens, Marines
Noah Olof, Marines
Mike Sheehan, Marines
Dom Giocobbe, Marines

We apologize for the error if we've omitted your anniversary or birthday. In that event, please contact the church office so we can update our records.



Need A Ride?

If you would like to attend any of the upcoming services or events but are unable to drive, please call the church office 562-803-4459. There are members that would be happy to give you a ride.



Please keep in your prayers the family of **Fern Clute**. Fern went to go be with her heavenly Father on Nov. 5th after a rather long illness. Fern had been a member of Good Shepherd since 1977. She is survived by her husband Henry, two daughters: Margery & Marilyn, and one granddaughter: Hailey. If you wish to send a card to Henry & the family, you may send them to: 9127 Baysinger, Downey, CA 90241



For the January 2020 issue is Monday, January 6, at 5:00 pm.

This is a little later than usual due to the holidays plus your Editor will be out of town with family. If you are submitting an article, be sure to check with the church office so we don't duplicate information. Thanks for your help.

*"That the Creator himself comes to us and becomes our ransom – this is the reason for our rejoicing."
–Martin Luther*



Lutheran Women's
 Missionary League
 Contributed by Mary Pabst and
 Dorothy Thies



GOT SCRIP?

The holidays are coming and what better time to stop by the Scrip table and see what Darryl (Saturdays after worship) and Gail (Sundays after worship) have on hand. Lots of 'gift cards' for restaurants, gas, movies, department stores, coffee and most everything else that comes to mind.

These are perfect stocking stuffers or maybe a little something added to a card. Or maybe even just your regular marketing. If there's a special business that isn't listed, be sure to ask if they can be added. We thank all who participate in this program. And especially thank Darryl and Gail for their work each week.

Our Ladies Luncheon & Christmas Party will be held on **Saturday, December 7 starting at 11:30 am.** Our hostesses, Lisa Barringer and Bella Thies are providing all the food, so just bring yourself and a friend!

Plan ahead for the next Ladies Luncheon which will be on Saturday, February 1st at 11:30 am. We will be playing "Book Bingo," so all are asked to bring a good used book or two and these will be used as prizes.

Want to be part of the
 email prayer chain?



Just drop a note to Donna Engles at d.engles@sbcglobal.net and she will add you to the list. It's not hard at all. She will send prayer requests to you so you can include these friends in your daily prayers. No problem either if you want to forward the news along to other friends or relatives. Our Father tells us to ask Him in prayer & we are reminded that ALL prayers are answered.



More pictures are needed of church events to post on the website and on the patio bulletin boards. Talk to Robert Martin about how to send them along to him for the website or to Bella Thies for the bulletin boards. (Note: Any pictures of children must have parents' written approval before posting).

www.downeygoodshepherd.org



Thanks, once again, to Marilyn Olof and all the volunteers as Care Group leaders. We hear such nice comments from folks who appreciate a card or maybe a phone call now and then. If you would like to volunteer to take a few names, contact Marilyn.



When you're online, take a minute to check out the website

www.downeygoodshepherd.org

Many thanks to Robert Martin for his work in this effort.

AND, don't forget Facebook. You can check in each Sunday morning under your profile. Tap "What's on your mind?" and the option for 'Check In' will come up. The church should automatically be listed so you can just click it and there you go. Facebook also includes 'live streaming' of Pastor's sermons so you can stay connected even if you can't be there.

Make sure you 'like' us as well: facebook.com/GSLCDowney. Never hurts to have our name ready for anyone looking for a spiritual home.





Although the boutique is over, our group continues to meet each Thursday for any crafting imaginable. Some crochet, some knit, some sew, some paint, some prepare snacks but EVERYONE enjoys themselves and looks forward to the fellowship. You are most welcome to even come by to have a cup of coffee, visit and just hang out. Our group is always welcoming new ideas for crafts or items that we can make and sell at the annual boutique. The proceeds from this year's event are: \$3,325 (after deducting costs). Bake sale \$685, Raffle \$143, Jewelry \$124, Pre-sales \$795, Cash register \$1,359. Huge thank you's to all involved. We hope to see you one of these Thursdays at 9 am.



This month, we are blessed to have two opportunities to hear some additional excellent music in our church:

On Friday, December 6th at 7:30 pm, the Long Beach Chamber Winds, a new and exciting group of professional musicians will present their inaugural concert at Good Shepherd. Formed by friends who met at the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music, the Long Beach Chamber Winds will perform Selections from Carmina Burana by Carl Orff, Wind Sinfonietta by Ruth Gipps, Dvorak's Slavonic Dance No. 2 and Chamber Symphony No. 5 by Darius Milhaud.

On Sunday, December 22nd at 7:00 pm, the Cogitatio Chorale will present a concert of Christmas favorites, spanning the classical genre. Cogitatio is made of former graduate students from CSU Fullerton and Long Beach who come together to sing because of their love of excellent chorale repertoire. Having heard Cogitatio in person, this is a concert I know you would not want to miss.

Both concerts are free and open to the public so spread the word and bring a friend.



from Gary Quamme

Our guys were very busy during the month of November. They placed molding around the inside of the south door of the parish hall and replaced and painted stucco around the outside of the door and window. + The last pew on the south side of the transept of the church was removed in preparation for a new computer desk to be installed for the sound system. + A water valve in the school was replaced. + Phone service was restored to the church office. + The circuit breaker for the lights in the parking lot was reset. + Several lights on the outside north wall of the church were replaced as well as one on the west wall of the patio. + A new thermostat was installed in Miguel's office. + Several batteries were replaced in clocks in the music room and parish hall. + Two trees by the school were trimmed. + The kitchen door was sanded and coated with two coats of sealer. + A bird's nest was removed from the patio leading into the main entrance of the church. + An outside electric socket on the north side of the parish hall was rewired. Whew! If you are ever free on a Tuesday or Thursday morning your help would be appreciated.

Advent Season begins Sunday Dec. 1st. Below is a schedule for the upcoming Advent services:

Wednesdays, Dec. 4, 11, 18

12:00 noon lunch & 1:00 pm Advent service

6:00 pm Soup supper & 7:00 pm Advent service

If you would like to donate lunch, soup, cookies or other fixin's, see Bella Thies or call the church office.



If, at one time, you chose to have a memorial established for a loved one, you might want to consider checking on the amount and clearing up the account by donating the funds toward a worthwhile project. Sometimes it just slips our minds so this is a friendly reminder

CRUISE OPPORTUNITY

Have you ever dreamed of walking in the footsteps of St. Paul? Would you like to see places that many only dream of? Now is your opportunity to take the trip of a lifetime, with a knowledgeable pastor (Pastor Vince and others) to provide interesting biblical and historical facts along the way. Hear about what life was like 2000 years ago as you walk in the same places that the Apostle Paul did. The date is May 2020. For more information, see Pastor Vince or Lisa.



Thanks for taking the time to fill out an 'attendance/ Communion card' (found in the slot next to the pew hymnals) when you come for worship. Please pass them to the center aisle where the ushers will collect them after the offering. These cards help with important statistics needed for church and synodical records and reports.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Dear friends,

There are hardly words enough to say thank you for all of the prayers, cards and encouragement that I have received from so many of you these past months.

I'm home again and I hope this time for sure. Thank you, Pastor, too, for your visits.

Again, thank you all, Millie Herrmann

LOOKING FOR THE LUTHERAN HOUR?

**You will find it on radio station 740AM
on Sundays at 8:00 am
or anytime on the internet at
www.lutheranhour.org.**



It's important that we keep our prayer list current. If you have previously requested to add someone to the list, please update us if that person can be removed. You can either call the church office at 562-803-4459, make a note on your attendance card or send an email to:

goodshepherddowney@yahoo.com



Sunday School for our children meets each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Some classes are held in the music room (the room off the kitchen & the patio) while others meet in the 2 rooms of the church office. We thank our teachers:

- ❖ Mark Heaton & Donna Engles who have the 4-7 age group (church office)
- ❖ Arlene Conley & Patty Heaton who have ages 8-12.
- ❖ Belen Rediet who has 13+



Thank you for your donations that have been made toward the Sound System. The total amount donated as of Nov. 17th, is **\$12,185.00**. Our Goal is \$30,540.73. Please consider giving a little extra to help with this important cause. If you would like to make a donation, please write in the memo part of your check "sound system" or write on your envelope how much you wish to be donated. (The new doors have been completely paid for so no more donations are needed for the door fund.)

Doing anything special on Wednesdays? Then it's time to come on down at 9 am for some great fellowship. Coffee is always ready, hot water for tea or cocoa is on tap and the conversation can be pretty interesting. This is a good way to get acquainted and let others get to know you as well.



And, it's always nice to bring a friend to join in. There may be a sweet snack around too. Plus, if you're feeling especially energetic, you can mosey over to help with the Rummage Sale prep.

Thanksgiving Blankets



As you can see, the beautiful quilts that the *Tuesday Ladies (quilters)* have handmade were on display for everyone to see on the days before Thanksgiving. These are minus the quilts that have already been sold. Take a look at the beautiful work they do all year long. Every quilt is unique in its own way. Thank you, ladies!



See's CANDIES

It's that time of year... Time to order your **Holiday See's Candy** at a discounted price. Order forms are in the Narthex or we can email you a form to be mailed in. Forms & payment are due no later than **Sunday Dec. 1st** and can be given to Lisa or Patty. Cash or check made out to Lisa Barringer will be accepted.



Many thanks to all our volunteers; the quilters, the painters, the choir members and musicians, the gardeners, the office staff and helpers, the cooks and cleaners, the organizers and teachers and many more too numerous to mention. We have been so very blessed to be a member of the Downey community for 65 years as well as Christ's community of believers and stewards. Our special thanks to Pastor and Lisa for their dedication and service. We pray for a blessed Christmas for all and a gentle New Year ahead. Thank you again.



February 7 & 8, 2020
8:00 am to 2:00 pm

We are progressing very well with all the treasures that are coming in for the sale in February. We have met almost every Wednesday and so far have kept up to date with the pricing and sorting. We have a great bunch of people working those days, namely, Shirley Schaus, and sometimes Marvin comes in to supervise us, Gary and Darryl Quamme, Ron Quamme, Miguel Cabrera, Nancy Gallie, Dianna De Shazer, Arlene Conley, Dorothy Thies and myself. I must say a BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OF THESE INDIVIDUALS for taking time out of their daily lives to come and help out on such a big project.

REMEMBER THE LAST DAY TO DONATE ITEMS IS SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2020. It's always tempting to 'bend the rule' and keep taking items but, then, again, it's so very difficult to keep up with the sorting and pricing. Please keep in mind we will not accept large items, such as dressers, couches, chairs, etc. We are getting a little too mature to handle larger items.

Please bring items Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday between the hours of 9:00 am and 1:00 pm so we can assist in unloading your vehicle. THANKS FOR YOUR COOPERATION IN THIS MATTER. Also we want to thank all of you who have donated your treasures already. We are looking forward to a very successful sale in February 2020. On behalf of the Rummage Sale crew, we want to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a safe and blessed New Year.

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When addressing your Christmas cards, please remember to include our shut-in's. There will be a list available in the church office.



Friday, Dec. 6, 7:30 pm Chamber Orchestra Concert

Saturday, Dec. 7, 11:30 am – Ladies Luncheon and Christmas party. All of the food & dessert will be provided by the hostesses. No need to bring anything except yourself.

Saturday, Dec. 7, 1:00 pm – Annual tree trim and church decorating.

CHRISTMAS CHORAL SERVICE

Sunday, December 8, 10:00 am

(Note the special time.)

Bring your favorite recipe to share with your church family for the international potluck fellowship meal which will follow the service. And for all those who have a sweet tooth, there will also be a Bake Sale after the service.

Bakers, we are in need of baked goods to sell at the bake sale. Please bring your items Sat. Dec. 7th or Sun. Dec. 8th. Please have your items packaged, labeled & priced. Thank you!

Dec. 24, 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship

Dec. 25, 10:00 am Christmas Day Worship w/communion

Dec. 31, 7:00 pm New Year's Eve Service w/communion

OTHER CALENDAR ITEMS

Tuesday, Dec. 10, 7:00 pm Election of Officers
Please consider accepting a position on the board. We are especially in need 2 more Trustees and some to serve on the Evangelism Board. We ask that all voting members try your best to be there. Thank you!

Tuesday, Dec. 17. Quilters Cookie Exchange If you would like to participate, please bring 3 doz cookies of your choice to exchange.



5,000 PETAL PUSHERS® NEEDED! With gratitude for folks from all across the country, this is our 70th year of decorating Tournament of Roses Parade floats. The theme of the parade this year is “**The Power of Hope**” and the Lutheran Hour Ministries float is entitled “**Anchored in Jesus**”. Just as an anchor secures a mighty vessel, saving faith in Jesus Christ provides security during all seasons of life - not only for this life on earth, but for eternity. Sign up to be a Petal Pusher by going online to www.petalpushers.org or call the Petal Pushers Chairman @ 949-458-0606 Can't do physical labor? You can donate funds to help pay for this project by mailing a check to: Lutheran Hour Float Committee, P.O. Box 20444, Riverside, CA 92516-0044.



INK CARTRIDGES

Staples takes them and gives us credit for office purchases. Just use the box in the Narthex for your discards.

➡ **PULL TABS FROM SODA CANS**

These are saved and donated to Ronald McDonald House in Orange County. We send a box about every 3 months.

➡ **BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION**

These are printed on various products including cereal, etc. They are collected and given to Trinity Christian School in Norwalk.

➡ **FRONTS OF GREETING CARDS**

These are sent to a school in Nevada where they are recycled and made into new cards. If you have cards and don't have time to tear the fronts off, don't worry. We will take care of that for you.



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Thank You.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

13200 Columbia Way
Downey, CA 90242



DECEMBER

CHURCH STAFF:

Pastor	Vincent Barringer
Assist. Pastor, Korean	John Kim
Church Secretary	Patty Heaton
Deacon	Bill Greenbecker
Custodian/Caretaker	Miguel Cabrera
Music Director	Robert Martin