

The Voice of the Good Shepherd

January 2016

(our website good-shepherd.us)

Open Minds ... Open Hearts ... Open Hands

Message from the Pastor

We have just come through the Christmas season and I hope it was a happy and even joyous time for all of you. I know that this time of year can bring both joy as well as sadness to people. For some, it conjures up thoughts of sorrow and grief and even depression that can make us feel out of step with the rest of the world. But I trust that this post Christmas period finds you at peace in your heart.

That idea 'peace' always seems an illusive subject to me. At Christmas there is a lot of talk and song about "peace on earth" and that is certainly a nice sentiment and goal. However, it so often seems like a pipe dream more than a possibility. We have conflicts raging all over the earth, and, we have no real sense of peace even in our homeland. Besides the fear of terror threats or just some deranged person intent on killing, we have conflict in our political dialogue, in our race relations and, as always, in many of our personal relationships.

Jesus spoke of peace and was recognized as an advocate and bringer of 'peace' but he also said "*Do not think I have come to bring peace to the world*". Sometimes, as even Jesus says, peace is not immediately attainable. Martin Luther King Jr. said "*without justice there can be no peace*".

So, in any situation, sometimes conflict must be resolved and carried to its conclusion of some sort of justice before peace can be achieved. But the key in all this seems to me to be to avoid being in a constant state of anger because anger only gets in way of thinking and finding methods that can help us achieve peace.

The bible counsels "*Do not let the sun go down on your anger*" and that is good advice. Good for world leaders and our own national aspiring leaders as well as for us in everyday life. Maybe if we temper our anger we can all move a little closer to peace in our hearts and help bring about a little more peace on earth.

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GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNUAL PRESENTATION

by Gil Vatter

The Good Shepherd Church Sunday School presented its annual Christmas program at the beginning of the communion service on Sunday December 20 at 10:00 AM. School Superintendent, Karen Rajala, introduced the children who retold the familiar story of the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem. The story was presented with the aid of figures from a small creche through which the children illustrated each phase of the events that holy night.

Participating in the nativity scene were members of the Sunday School :

*Lorenzo Gracia
Natalia Gracia
Katey Howard
Kolby Howard
Summer Howard
Bela Miller
Morgan Summey
Logan Wilgus*

Assisting Karen Rajala were parents of the students as well as *Kurt Mathisen and Dick Alberti*. The program ended with the singing of the traditional Christmas carol, "Silent Night" in both English and German, by the children.

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MINUTES from Council Meeting, 7PM, Dec 14, 2015

Council members present: John Crump, John Dall, Stephanie Dall, Nancy Fitch, Andy Mathisen, Pastor Pete, Marion Schloemer, Steve Miller, Garry Westerweller.

Lou Medici was absent (closing on a house in North Carolina)

Steve Miller opened

The Agenda was approved

Pastor Peter led devotions, and discussed Carl Sandberg's "Happiness" poem on meaning of life.

The Nov 9 Minutes were approved after correction of a spelling error

The Nov 30 Treas report was approved (see comments by Clem Hergenhan & Stephanie Dall)

The Council thanked Garry Westerweller for organizing and hosting the fun Christmas party on December 13. Council requested the \$50 free-will balance, after final expenses, be contributed to the COG EAF (Energy Assistance Fund).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Pastor's report - Pastor Pete discussed 8 activities during the last month.
- Nancy Fitch reported Creation Care Committee will repeat a Styrene recycling drive during January
- Nancy reported the Narthex tree decoration raised \$1000 to be donated to the Calico Cat Food Pantry and Cupboard.
- John Dall (Property Committee) reported signing a \$10K contract (the lowest bidder) to upgrade the church fire alarm system. Work should begin in several weeks.
- The church roundly thanks Clem and his Grandson for their annual cleaning of leaves from the gutters. STEVE ACTION: write a short Voice article which thanks Clem and his Grandson.
- Christian Education - Andy Mathisen (Report on Dec 7 chime concert)
- Evangelism - Marion Schloemer (cards for the sick)
- Finance - Stephanie Dall reported the finance committee (Stephanie, John Crump, Clem, Dick Alberti) will meet the 1st week of January, to prepare a 2016 budget for Council review Jan 10. The approved budget will be presented for approval at the Jan 24 Congregation Meeting
- Garry Westerweller reported that Worship & Music is training 3 new acolytes.

OLD BUSINESS

- Council Nomination Status (updated 12/14/2015) (3 additional candidates are still needed). PASTOR PETE ACTION: at 12/20 service: announce the opportunity/need for volunteers
- The Council approve the "Revised Constitution", and will present the Revised Constitution for approval and ratification at the January 24 Congregation Meeting. (Changes are described here) STEVE ACTION: have Pat Dunn announce via email the January 24 Congregational Meeting. Attach the Revised Constitution (PDF format to prevent changes).
- Pastor created a 2-sided Christmas greeting handout for visitors
- Steve created a Facebook page to attract a younger population. This site is deliberately left open for public to post comments/photos/video. Congregation members are encouraged to visit, "like", and populate with relevant stories, photos and video.

NEW BUSINESS

- Council officers signed Pastor Pete's contract and Pat Dunn mailed to Synod for final approval
- Plan Lent services: In January, 2016, Pastor Pete will determine interest in Ashes & Soup (possibly a sign-up list - especially Feb 10 Ash Wed)
- Plans for Congregation Meeting (Jan 24 with a Jan 31 Snow Date). Tentative Agenda

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: Jan 11, 2016

MEETING ADJOURNED with Lords Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Steve Miller, Council Secretary

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GOOD SHEPHERD ANNUAL PARTY CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS

by Gil Vatter

The congregation of Good Shepherd Church continued the annual practice of beginning the celebration of the Christmas season with a gala dinner party on Sunday December 13 at 5:00 PM in a crowded Frank Hall. The evening began with a time of fellowship along with wine and hors d'oeuvres. Our genial host, Garry Westerweller offered words of greeting and welcomed everyone to an evening of fun, food and festivity. Maestro Dick Alberti took his place at the piano as Garry led the group in traditional Christmas songs and carols such as "Winter Wonderland, "O Little Town of Bethlehem", "Silent Night", "We wish You a Merry Christmas" and many others.

The festivities began with a presentation of "The Newly Wed Game", which included four married couples: Nancy and Clem Hergenhan, Debby and Pastor Pete Hutchinson, Diane and Andy Mathisen and Ellen and Tom Tehve. The format followed the pattern of the old TV game show and involved asking one member of each pair to write down the answer to a question and later ask the same question to the other member of the duo and compare the answers. The top score was achieved by Debby and Pastor Pete, who were awarded a gift card for dinner at the Outback Restaurant.

Garry continued his welcoming remarks and added one of his original, unique poems, which encompassed the Good Shepherd spirit and set the tone for the evening. Pastor Pete Hutchinson offered prayer and dinner was served, buffet style on long tables loaded with chicken, pork, beef stew, pasta, string beans, salad and many other goodies.

Following the meal, the children in attendance played "unwrap the box", which challenged them to open ever smaller packages until one child found the big prize of the evening. Of course, all the other children also received prizes. The highlight of the party, the dreaded "Christmas Quiz", prepared and offered by Garry, challenged everyone with little known facts about the Christmas holiday. The event began with the assignment of each person to a "team". One team member was given a copy of the Quiz and the teams were given 15 minutes to answer about 45 questions, such as:

"What part of the house in "It's a Wonderful Life" was broken? (Answer - the banister to the second floor)

The team made up of Maureen Bartlett, Brian Dunn, Kelsey Kazmac, Diane Mathisen, Bud McKnight, Pat Miller and Kim Wehri were declared the winners with a score of 28 correct answers. Each team member was awarded a Dunkin' Donuts gift card emblazoned with the Good Shepherd logo, including the motto, OPEN MIND, OPEN HANDS, OPEN HEARTS.

The final event of the night was the awarding of the coveted service awards to members of the congregation. This years winners included:

DICK ALBERTI - Good Shepherd's "Back 9" Award - In recognition and with our sincere gratitude for all of your hard work over the years as treasurer and keeper of the accounts here at Good Shepherd. Your hard work and dedication is much appreciated.

NANCY HERGENHAN - Good Shepherd's "Helping Hands" Award - For your hard work and dedication on the Altar Guild and for all the "behind the scenes" things that you do to keep Good Shepherd going. Our sincere thanks and appreciation.

STEPHANIE DALL - Good Shepherd's "Helping Hands Award" - For your hard work and dedication on the Altar Guild and for all the "behind the scenes" things that you do to keep Good Shepherd going. Our thanks and appreciation.

ELLEN TEHVE - Good Shepherd's "Choir Recruitment" Award - In recognition of your relentless pursuit of anyone who can carry a tune to join the choir. Your dedication and enthusiasm to the "cause" is greatly appreciated.

JOHN DALL - Good Shepherd's "Tool Time" Award - In recognition of all your hard work and your extraordinary ability to keep things running here at Good Shepherd. The wizardry you displayed in overhauling the church copy machine was truly remarkable!

LOU MEDICI - Good Shepherd's "Lifetime Achievement" Award - In recognition of your hard work and dedication that you have shown through your many years here at Good Shepherd. On behalf of a grateful congregation...Thanks for everything.

With thanks to emcee Garry Westerweller for an evening of fun and good food, the congregation ended the evening by exchanging good wishes for a Merry Christmas. We thank all who helped to make the 2015 Good Shepherd Christmas party such a success.

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AROUND THE PARISH

by Gil Vatter

GOOD SHEPHERD - THE FRIENDLY CHURCH

We'll take a cup of kindness yet, for auld lang syne.

1. Happy birthday to *Pam Brown, Pat Dunn, Dorothy Groh, Bob Horlacher, Andy mathisen, Pat Miller, Fred Oberkehr, Ellen Tehve, Bill Theune, Kim Wehrli* and last (but not least) *Bill Wehrli*.

2. Happy Wedding Anniversary to *Karen and Andy Lichter, Pam and Al Brown and George and Lois Frank*.

3. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd turban to those members of the congregation who brought over 300 cans of food for the Bayshore Lunch Program in December and about 2,000 in 2015.

Ole - "Should I cut this apple pie into six or eight pieces?"
Lena - "Six, I'm on a diet."

4. Is your family a BLP Sponsor? Please sign up today. Your help is needed.

5. *Kathy Dagiau and John McCord* took a hot air balloon ride over the Napa Valley during their trip to California recently. John also got his fill of auto races during the trip.

6. **The Ladies Luncheon Group** celebrated Christmas at Huddy's Restaurant in Colt's Neck on Friday December 11. All the women of the parish are invited to meet and eat on the third Friday of each month.

I'll remember 2015 like it was last week.

7. *Pastor Pete's* children's sermon on Sunday December 6 was "The Present of God's Love". Hope you didn't miss it.

8. *Bob Fulmer* had his dental problem fixed before having Christmas dinner at his son's house in Allentown.

9. Sunday December 6 marked the debut of Miae Park's new Children's Bell Choir playing "Oh, Come Oh, Come Emmanuel". Members of the choir are: *Morgan Summy, Natalia Gracia, Lorenzo Gracia and Logan Wilgus*. Assisting the children are Diane and Andy Mathisen.

I've learned that as long as you keep music in your life, you'll never need a psychiatrist. (Bill Wehrli)

10. The congregation welcomed *Sharon Oberkehr* who worshiped with us on Sunday December 6.

11. It was very good to see *Vivian and Bob Sislian* on Sunday December 6.

12. *Trudy and Charlie Miller* motored to Connecticut on Sunday December 6 to hear their granddaughter sing a Christmas concert with the Guilford, Connecticut 400 voice High School chorus and 80 piece orchestra.

Is it true that cannibals never eat clowns because they taste funny?

13. *Diane and Andy Mathisen* visited Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church in Manhattan on Sunday December 27. Daughter Rachel was a member of this congregation when she lived in New York.

14. **The German School of Monmouth County**, based at Good Shepherd, held their annual St. Nikolas celebration at the church on Sunday December 6 with entertainment by the children of the school.

15. Former member *Bill Theune*, now living in Altoona, Pennsylvania send his best wishes to all his old friends at Good Shepherd.

A fine is a tax for doing wrong.

A tax is a fine for doing well.

16. Former member *Pam (Everett) Baglieri* sends greetings to all her friends at Good Shepherd.

17. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd bowler to everyone who contributed poinsettias to enhance the Christmas altar. As always, they were beautiful.

18. *Kurt Mathisen* returned to Germany on December 24 to enroll in Heidelberg University. A farewell was offered to Kurt at the December 20 service.

It's easy to spot people who can't count to ten.
They're always in front of you in the supermarket "Express Lane".

19. *Pastor Pete's* sermon on Sunday December 13 was, "Don't use the Bible as a window--Use it as a mirror - Don't look at others- examine yourself".

20 *Dick Alberti* had cataracts removed in December. Says he can see better than ever.

21. The COG Christmas tree in the narthex raised over \$1,000 this year.

If you can't be a good example, then you'll just have to serve as a horrible warning.

22. *Debbie and Pastor Pete* left for Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania after the Christmas Eve service to visit their son's family (and their only grandchild).

23. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd derby to *Bela Miller* who sang "Love Came Down at Christmas" on Sunday December 20 and again at the early Christmas Eve service.

24. *Amanda Westerweller*, a recent Monmouth University graduate, will be teaching Biology at Middletown South High School beginning January 20.

Ole was very overweight, so Dr. Swenson put him on a strict diet.
"I want you to eat regularly for two days, then skip a day and repeat this procedure for two weeks.
The next time I see you, you'll have lost five pounds", the doctor assured him.
When Ole returned, he shocked Dr. Swenson by having lost almost twenty pounds.
"Why, this is amazing", the doctor said. "You certainly must have followed my instructions."
Ole nodded, "I'll tell you what though. I thought I was going to drop dead on the third day".
"Why, from hunger?", asked doctor Swenson.
"No, from all that skipping", said Ole.

25. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd stetson to *David Kim* for his beautiful cello music at the December 27 service

26. *Pastor Pete's* sermon topic on Sunday December 20 was, "*Looking For God*".

27. For your January "Mitzvah" - send a card to Marian Williamson.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

SEE YOU IN CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY.

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PARISH CONTINUES SUPPORT OF FOOD KITCHEN AT BLP

by Gil Vatter

The members of Good Shepherd Church have continued to provide support for the Bayshore Lunch Program. A continuation of the former Saint Mark's Food Kitchen, the BLP is located at the Community Church in Keyport, New Jersey, adjacent to the Keyport Ministerium food-pantry. Good Shepherd has been involved with the food kitchen since 1998, when a group from the congregation began serving a hot meal on the first Tuesday of every month.

Now, some 17 years later, Good Shepherd provides a monthly delivery of canned food and other needed items for the kitchen. In 2015, deliveries to BLP will reach the 2000 level and the additional food, tea, coffee, rice, pasta, pasta sauce, baby food, etc. is at its highest level ever.

BLP has come to depend on Good Shepherd to provide much of the canned vegetables used by the food kitchen, which provides a hot meal for 50 to 75 persons every day, Monday to Friday, every week of the year. In many cases, the hot lunch from BLP is the only hot meal of the day for needy families in northern Monmouth County.

In addition to the food deliveries, Good Shepherd also sends almost \$3,000 in cash each year to allow the food kitchen to purchase items needed to augment the meals they serve. This money is provided by the Good Shepherd "Sponsors Project", through which a parish family can send a check to BLP on an assigned month, once a year, for at least \$75. The "Sponsors Project" has been in operation since 1988 and seems to grow larger each year. In addition the church has sponsored several special fund raising events for BLP, such as Miae Park's annual musical.

All in all, the Bayshore Lunch Program is one of Good Shepherd's more important and effective outreach programs, a program in which the church has made an impact on a vital community need. The Social Ministry Committee thanks everyone who has participated in the BLP effort. We look forward to an even bigger response in 2016.

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COG REPORT (Nancy Fitch)

I attended the fourth quarter COG Board meeting on Dec 9th as Good Shepherd's representative to the Community Outreach Group's (COG) Board.

Calico Cat Thrift Shoppe is located at 100 Kings Hwy, Middletown. The thrift shop is organized and run by members of various churches in the area and is a faith-based organization, but does not proselytize to the patrons. All the proceeds from the thrift shop go back into the Calico Cat Food Pantry and the community. The COG board has a biannual disbursement of funds. This Dec. \$14,000 of Calico Gift Shop profits were distributed to other non-profit organizations serving our community as follows –

- Asian Youth Ministries – \$1000
- Family Promise of Monmouth Country - \$5000
- Bayshore Lunch Program (Keyport) - \$2000
- Keyport Minsterium Food Pantry - \$1000
- St Ann's Day Care - \$1000
- Monmouth Day Care Center - \$1000
- CALTR (Churches Long Term Recovery) - \$1000
- Emergency Assistance Fund (EAF) - \$2000

Janice Liebenow, coordinator of **The Calico Cat Cupboard and Pantry**, reported that

- donations from churches and individuals provided \$5,075 for the Aug. and Sept. Back to School drive. These funds were used to assist 130 children. Good Shepherd's congregational contribution of \$550 to this cause was much appreciated.
- this past Dec, Good Shepherd supported COG's Christmas Program by contributing \$1050 to COG to provide food and gift certificates for COG clients and families at Christmas.
- the monthly Sat. morning pantry will continue to provide cleaning and personal care items to support their working low income clients in 2016. Good Shepherd has been asked to donate these items in June.
- **current pantry needs are cookies, sugar, flour, crackers and juice (grape/apple)**
- **current cupboard needs are winter children's clothes, blankets, comforters/twin, queen sheets. Donations should be marked for "cupboard"**
- a grant of \$4000 was received for a commercial refrigerator. This will help maintain fresh produce, eggs and milk.

Jane Chou the EAF (Emergency Assistance Fund Coordinator) reported that

- in Sept. – Nov. of 2015 \$13,095 was paid to 53 family units. Emergency needs include gas, oil, electric, rent, water and sewer.

- A grant was received to continue supporting assistance to clients for car repairs.

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THOSE WERE THE DAYS
by Gil Vatter

April 27, 1967 - Organization meeting held at Thompson Middle School in Middletown - A church council was elected, a constitution adopted and title to the parsonage at 62 Nedshire Drive, Middletown accepted. The congregation officially adopted the name, "The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd".

1975 - The church sponsored three young Vietnamese men who were refugees from the war in Southeast Asia.

March 1978 - A committee was formed to study the feasibility of expanding the church's education facilities. The Council voted to introduce the new Lutheran Book of Worship and the choir was selected to be the demonstration choir for this area.

1985 - A Parish Life and Ministry Committee was organized to examine and report on every aspect of parish activity and to make recommendations to the Council.

1995 - Pastor George Frank resigned effective October 31 and Pastor Jean Vargo was appointed by the Bishop to serve as Interim Pastor.

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A FEW NOTES FROM THE CHOIR
by Gil Vatter

Lord use our voices - Lord use our hands - Lord use our lives - We are an offering

The choir wishes every member of the congregation a very happy and blessed New Year

Choir Anthems

- December 6 - "Emmanuel is Coming" - Don Besig
- December 13 - "My Hope is in You" - Ruth Schram
Joyce Lee - Violin accompaniment
- December 20 - "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" - Earlene Rentz
- December 24 - "Gloria" - Antonio Vivaldi

Organ Postludes

- December 6 - "And the Glory of the Lord" - George F. Handel
- December 13 - "Allegre from Concerto in D Major" - Josef Haydn
Joyce Lee, violin - Miae Park, piano
- December 20 - "Nun komm' der Heiden Heiland" - J. S. Bach
- December 24 - "Hallelujah" - George F. Handel
- December 27 - "Now the Green Blade Rises"
David Kim, cello - Miae Park, Piano

- The choir thanks Kurt Mathisen for singing with us during the fall months before his return to Germany..
- The choir thanks Joyce Lee for her violin accompaniment of our anthem on Sunday December 13.
- The choir, augmented by Garry Westeweller, sang a musical invitation to the annual Christmas party before the service on Sunday December 13 to the tune of "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen".
- The choir thanks Minister of Music Miae Park for her work with us throughout 2015. .

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Contributions Update by Clem Hergenhan

Here's some info from the monthly Treasurer's Report given to Council at their meetings. The General Contributions are used for our yearly budgeted items.

	Nov 2015	YTD 2015	YTD Budget	YTD 2014
General Contributions	9,031	93,010	105,417	105,041

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Good Shepherd's Annual Christmas Party

Sunday December 13th 5:00 PM

Twas but 12 days till Christmas
I see you all got the call
To gather this day
For some fun in Frank Hall

So let's not waste a moment
Or one minute of time
For the seventh year running
Let's get right to the rhyme

Let me start with a welcome
To those who are new
We're all glad you're a part
Of our Good Shepherd crew

And speaking of welcomes
Let's all give a cheer
For Pastor Pete and wife Debbie
Who joined us this year

So fasten your seat belts
And prepare for the flight
As I outline for you
The events of the night.

To get it all started
Dick will play us some songs
It's the time of the night
Where we all sing along

You'd think just the fellowship
Would get us all in the mood
But considering we're Lutherans
It all starts with the food

So many food choices
From which you can choose
Each dish just gets better
You really can't lose.

There'll be Chicken and pasta
and good cheer will be felt
So at the end of the night
We'll have to loosen our belts

And when dinner has ended
There'll be no time to rest
For the 8th year and counting
We'll take a new Christmas test!

It's just a few simple questions
Where a winner will rise
Where one table, together
Will claim this year's Christmas Prize

And to add to the fun
I'll call out the kid's names
So they too can have fun
With some cool Christmas Games

And now for all of you here
Who've heard most of my rhymes
I bet you're all wondering
Who I'll pick on this time?

But this year I thought
For a nice Christmas twist
I'd look back through the years
At a past Christmas list

Keeping Good Shepherd going
Getting everything done
Are some really great people
Who are second to none

Through the years we've acknowledged
Not all, but a few
Not enough Thanks can be given
For all that you do.

In 2009 we thanked
Maureen, Debbie, and Grace
For all of the work
They put into this place

Marion and Nancy
Gil, Clem and Dick
Were the people in 2010
We said helped the place tick

Steve Miller and Andy
Sharon and Pat Dunn
Were the 2011 group
Who got the job done

In 2012 we chose Mike
Gil, and Clem
As the year we acknowledged
The work of these men

In the year 2013
These four gave us their all
As Nancy, Barbara, Tom and Karl
Stepped up to answer the call

And finally last year
We said thanks to these five
Mack, Mike, Miae, Patty, and Pat
Helped Good Shepherd thrive

Now these just are a few
But there is really no doubt
That there are many more members
Who deserve a shout out

To all the good people
Who volunteer through the year
Without all of your efforts
This place wouldn't be here

For your dedication
Stepping up from the ranks.
Please know from our hearts
You have our sincerest thanks

So if I've forgotten your name
Through the years in my rhyme
Let me Thank you right now
For volunteering your time

Now for one piece of wisdom
That I'd like to disperse
The true meaning of Christmas
In the following verse

Christmas is a special time
To give, to serve, to love
It isn't just about yourself
But others you think of

The presents, trees, and Christmas lites
Are fun but have no part
In what the meaning of Christmas is
That if you look, is in your heart.

For what we must remember
Can't be bought in any store
The lesson that we all must learn
Is Christmas is so much more

So let's remember Jesus
What he means to you and me
For without his birth, let's all reflect
Just where we all would be.

Merry Christmas to all
Now let's all do our part
To love one another
And keep God in our heart!

January 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3 9- Sunday School 10 - Service	4	5	6	7 7:30 - Choir Practice	8	9
10 9- Sunday School 10 - Service	11 7-Council Meeting	12	13	14 7:30 - Choir Practice	15 12:30-Ladies Luncheon Group	16
17 9- Sunday School 10 - Service	18	19 7:30- Compassionate Friends	20	21 7:30 - Choir Practice	22	23
24 9- Sunday School 10 - Service Congregational Mtg following service	25	26	27	28 7:30 - Choir Practice	29	30
31 9- Sunday School 10 - Service	1	NOTES				