

# Spotlights

## *Winter 2016*

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF  
SHEPHERD OF THE LAKES CHURCH

## Looking Ahead

Great events are planned for everyone in the family.  
For more information go to: [www.shepherdofthelakes.com](http://www.shepherdofthelakes.com)

### **Dec. 11**

Worship: *Christmas Edition*  
8:30am & 10:15am  
Christmas Cookie Fellowship  
9:30am-10:00am

### **Dec. 13**

Kids Hope Christmas Celebration  
6pm-7:30pm

### **Dec. 24**

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services  
4:00, 5:30 and 7:00pm

### **Dec. 25**

Merry Christmas! Worship  
Service with Holy Communion  
10am

### **Dec. 26**

Church Offices closed

### **Dec. 30**

Secret Friends' Reveal Party  
6-8pm

### **Jan. 1**

Food Pantry Dollar Sunday

### **Jan. 2**

Church Offices closed

### **Jan. 8**

Infant Baptism Sunday

### **Jan. 9**

Church Council Meeting  
6:30pm

### **Jan. 12**

Alpha Marriage Course Begins  
6:30-8pm

### **Jan. 21**

5-Fold Ministry/Spiritual  
Superpowers Class  
9-11:30am

### **Jan. 23**

G.L.A.M. Winter Wowza  
6:30-8:30pm

### **Jan. 27**

Post-Christmas Party  
6-9pm

### **Feb. 4**

Youth Pizza Build  
8am-3pm

### **Feb. 5**

Food Pantry Dollar Sunday

### **Feb. 5**

Pizza Distribution  
8:15-11:30am

### **Feb. 6-7**

Ministry Staff Retreat Offsite

### **Feb. 10**

Valentine Fun-Raiser  
6-8pm

### **Feb. 11**

Purity Seminar  
9am-2pm

### **Feb. 12**

All Family Worship  
10:15am  
Purity Ceremony  
10:15am

### **Feb. 13**

Council Meeting  
6:30pm

### **Feb. 19**

Adult Baptism  
10:15am

# Thoughts from Pastor Dean

## Merry Christmas God's Gift of Grace

I enjoy Christmas time. I like the lights, the decorations, different foods, time with family and friends, extra parties and of course I enjoy gifts!

Christmas is a time of gift giving. We remember and imitate the Three Wise Men who brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the infant born in a stable among the animals. They gave their gifts to honor and show appreciation for the Messiah (Christ) child who had come into the world.

*The Wise Men entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Jesus. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.* Matthew 2:11 (NLT)

The Wise Men's worship and gifts were in response to the greatest gift ever given.

*"For God so loved the world that he **gave** his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."* John 3:16-17 (NIV)

The gift of Jesus to this broken, sin sick world is the turning point of history and the hinge of the universe. The birth of the God Man Jesus is the point at which we set our calendars and track our time before and after Christ. Our Father, who so graciously gave His Son to us while we were yet his enemies, reveals His outrageous love and faithfulness toward us.

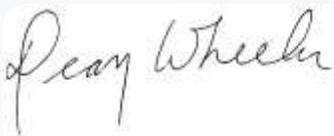
This gift of Jesus is the grace of forgiveness from our sin; the grace of freedom from the burden of perfectionism; the grace of strength when we find ourselves tempted, tired or troubled. The grace given at Christmas is saving grace, rescuing us from the grip of Satan and his kingdom of darkness and delivering us in the Kingdom of Light. This grace is the power of healing both from physical illness and emotional oppression as Jesus' incarnation reconciles humanity with divinity.

*"God has given us the very great and precious gifts he promised, so that by means of these gifts you may escape from the destructive lust that is in the world, and may come to share the divine nature."* 2 Peter 1:4 (TEV)

God's Gift of Grace this Christmas exposes our identity as the beloved family of God. Therefore, as we gather to worship this Christmas let us consider what gift we will bring to the crib of the King. The Wise Men brought their tangible and sacrificial gifts to Christ the Messiah. What tangible gifts are you bringing in response to His outrageous, unconditional love toward you?

I love you and am grateful for the privilege that I have of serving Jesus with you.

Merry Christmas,



Pastor Dean

# Musings by Mary...

In the last newsletter, I promised (maybe the better word here is 'warned'?) that I would be sharing just a few salient quotes from some of the books I read while on sabbatical in Italy.

Pastor Gregory Boyd\* wrote *The Myth of a Christian Nation*, to "challenge the assumption that finding the right political path has anything to do with advancing the kingdom of God." He then (2004) proceeded to preach a series entitled, *The Cross and The Sword*, at his church of then some 6,000 attenders. When the series ended and the dust cleared, the good pastor saw approximately 20% (roughly 1,000 folks) of his regular church attendees leave in disgust and disagreement.

In the immediate aftermath of what, in 2016, has been a highly contentious presidential campaign leaving Christians on both sides of the aisle – some elated, some deflated, consider the following observations from this book:

"For many in America and around the world, the American flag has smothered the glory of the cross, and the ugliness of our American version of Caesar has squelched the radiant love of Christ."

"The hope of the world lies in a kingdom that is not of this world...It is the kingdom established by Jesus Christ and a kingdom that is expanded by people committed to following him. It is the kingdom of God."

"The kingdom of God advances by people lovingly placing themselves under others, in service to others, at cost to themselves."

"Love, not religiosity, is the defining mark of the kingdom of God."

"What if instead of trying to defend our religious rights, Christians concerned themselves with siding with others whose rights are routinely trampled? What if instead of trying to make life more difficult for gays, we worried only about how we could affirm their unsurpassable worth in service to them?"

"We are to see a need and meet it- no questions asked. We are to love even our enemies with an unconditional, nonjudgmental love, and, thereby, offer everlasting life to all who are thirsty. To do this means we must refrain from doing what Jesus never did: namely positioning ourselves as wiser, morally superior guardians and 'fixers' of others. Moral guardianship is what the Pharisees did- not Jesus."

Several of you have indicated that you have read, and enjoyed, the previous book of Pr. Boyd's (*Repenting of Religion- Turning from Judgment to the Love of God*) that I recommended after also reading it on my sabbatical. If you choose to read *The Myth of a Christian Nation*, just be forewarned- there may be a lot you find challenging, if not disagreeable. That being said, I highly recommend it as a reminder that we are not citizens of an earthly kingdom but citizens of heaven and of the kingdom of God. And on that, Christians on either side of the political aisle, most certainly can and must agree.

In Christ's Outrageous Love,



Pastor Mary

\* Greg Boyd is an internationally recognized theologian, preacher, teacher, apologist and author. He received his Ph.D. from Princeton Theological Seminary (*summa cum laude* 1988), his M.Div. from Yale Divinity School (*cum laude* 1982), and his B.A. in Philosophy from the University of Minnesota (1979). Greg is the co-founder of Woodland Hills Church in St. Paul, Minnesota where he serves as Senior Pastor.

# WORSHIP WAYS

Hello Church!

As we draw closer to December (and cold weather), we also draw closer to the celebration of the birth of our wonderful Savior. In the next couple of weeks the worship team will be gearing up to incorporate Christmas songs into our weekly worship.

It is possible that we may have our new sound system up and working before the Christmas Eve services as well!

As most of you have noticed, we are having more kids and young adults show interest in participating in worship on AFW Sundays. I am very excited to see how God continues shape and grow our AFW worship team!

On a final note, we are starting to have monthly worship team parties. It is great way to not only get to know one another on a personal level but to really build into each others lives. God has blessed me and this church with a real genuine and loving team of individuals who are willing to serve with their time and talents.

I am in awe of how God's hand continually shapes and blesses this place we worship in, our church home.

Matt Vassar  
Worship Leader

Shout to the LORD, all  
the earth; break out in  
praise and sing for joy!

Psalm 98:4 (NLT)



# Alpha

Thanks for stepping out in faith to extend an invitation to your friends and family during the Alpha Illuminate Challenge! Because of your action and prayer, 45 people attended Alpha this fall! 32 people came to the Alpha Celebration dinner, including 9 guests! A huge thank you to all the small group leaders, worship team members, childcare helpers and kitchen volunteers that help make Alpha a reality!

## KIDS HOPE USA

Thank you for your enthusiastic generosity in support of the Kids Hope USA Christmas Event! Without your help and donations, mentors would not have this special opportunity to connect with Kids Hope families and share the gospel!

Watch for pictures from the event coming in the next newsletter!

Did you know? **WE NEED MORE MENTORS!** There are middle school children WAITING for a mentor right here in Waupaca. These kids need YOU! With only one hour each week, you can make a tremendous impact in the life of a child. Come chat with me or give me a call, I'm happy to answer your questions!



Cassie Rollins—KHUSA Director

Email: [c\\_rollins@outlook.com](mailto:c_rollins@outlook.com)

Phone: 715-570-9111

C assie R ollins





# PROJECT BACKPACK

*Our Mission: To stamp out hunger in area schools one student at a time.*



Office Outfitters generously chose to bless Project Backpack with a portion of their monthly sales.  
Thank you and bless you Office Outfitters!

# PROJECT BACKPACK HAS A NEW HOME!!

On November 6<sup>th</sup>, we had a great crew of volunteers come to help us clean and prep our new space at 724 Churchill Street. November 10<sup>th</sup> was moving day, and we couldn't have asked for better helpers to get us settled in. The new space is working out great - come check it out!!!



# THANKSGIVING PIE SOCIAL



Waupaca High School Madrigal Singers  
November 2016  
Christmas Carols...  
...time with friends  
...PIE, PIE, PIE!!!  
What could possibly be better!?

# Christmas Services

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service  
4:00pm, 5:30pm & 7:00pm

Christmas Day Service with the  
**Lord's Supper**  
10:00am

## The Warming Center Needs HELP!

Did you hear? Foundations for Living started a Warming Center to help the homeless and displaced folks in the Waupaca area!

### Help is needed in the following areas:

- > Hospitality Host:  
Hours are nightly from 8:30pm - 10:30pm.
- > Overnight Host:  
Hours are nightly from 8:30pm - 8:00am.
- > Intake Worker: Mon - Fri. 2pm– 4pm.
- > Laundry Worker: Daily - Flexible hrs.



For more information go to: [www.foundationsforlivingwaupaca.com](http://www.foundationsforlivingwaupaca.com)

Call for more information: 715-942-2725

Foundations For Living, Inc.

Laying Foundations Today For a Brighter Tomorrow

# G.L.A.M.

G.L.A.M. (God's Ladies Are Magnificent) is our women's ministry here at Shepherd of the Lakes. The mission of G.L.A.M. is "To Help Women Grow Closer to God and to One Another". Be sure to join us for the following exciting classes and events...

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## G.L.A.M. WINTER WOWZA! Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> 6:30-8:30PM FREE- Just Bring a Dish to Share

This year you will have the opportunity to DESIGN AND DECORATE a TABLE with the theme of your choice! Seating will be limited to 60 as we will have 12 tables set up (5 ladies per table) available for decorating. The theme is completely up to the table leader and friends. Maybe you want to go with a Sports Theme or perhaps a Seasonal Theme- the sky's the limit. Let's get creative and see the FH come alive with color and imagination!

Sign-up today in the church lobby!  
Rest assured you definitely don't want to miss this year's SPECIAL SPEAKER!  
Be sure to invite a friend for this night of fun, food and fellowship.

# G.L.A.M. Class Offerings

Sign up in the lobby today!

## *Are You a Christian Atheist?*

By Craig Groeschel

Facilitated by Pr. Mary

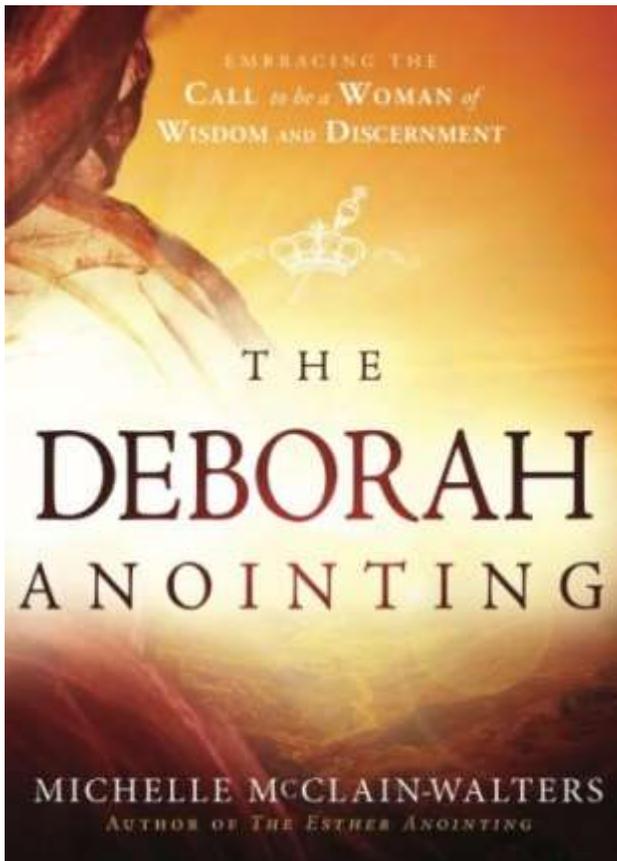
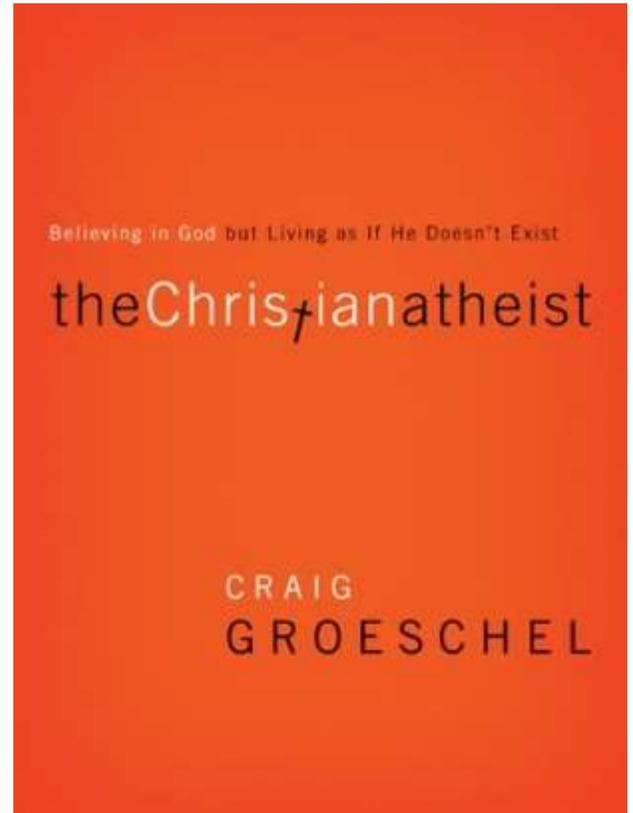
Cost of Materials-\$9

Thursday Mornings, 10-11:30AM

February 9<sup>th</sup> - March 23<sup>rd</sup>

This class is back after rave reviews by those who took it this past fall. One person wrote: “The class was excellent. I enjoyed it very much. It really helped me take a closer look at my walk with God and my faith and the sharing of my faith”. Another said, “The messages, the book and Craig Groeschel were great.”

Join us on a journey as we work toward living authentic, God-honoring lives and learn how to surrender to God more completely, living every day dependent upon the Holy Spirit.



## *The Deborah Anointing: Embracing the Call to be a Woman of Wisdom and Discernment*

Written by Michelle McClain-Walters

Facilitated by Rev. Lisa Stafford

**Wednesday Evenings, 6:30-8:00pm**

February 8<sup>th</sup>—March 22<sup>nd</sup>

*Lisa's home: 426 S. Main Street, Waupaca*

The bible describes Deborah as a mighty combination of judge, intercessor, prophetess, mother of Israel, and military strategist. Deborah broke outside of her culture: not out of rebellion, but in obedience to God to set her people free. God is calling women today to a purpose greater than themselves. “The Deborah Anointing” shows that although you may have been trapped by cultural, traditional or gender prejudices, God desires for you to break through these barriers.

**Coming Soon...**

**January  
21<sup>st</sup>!**



**Discovering Your Spiritual  
Super Power  
(Gift)**

In the Apostle Paul's letter to the Ephesians he writes about the importance of Spiritual Gifts for the unity and maturity of the church (Ephesians 4:7-13).

**Join us for an interactive class on  
Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup> from 9am to 11:30am  
(for ages 13 through 99)**

in the Fellowship Hall of Shepherd of the Lakes. Sign up in the church lobby.

Join Pastors Dean and Mary, William, Aimee and others as you:

- Discover your spiritual super power.
- Realize how your spiritual super power colors your view of the church and our mission in the world.
- Hear testimony from all five gifts on their particular approach to ministry.
- Begin to step toward gaining competencies on how to use your spiritual super power to expand the Kingdom of God.
- Learn how our gifts, and the preferences they form in us, can cause strife in the church when they are misunderstood, under-estimated or unknown.
- Help Shepherd of the Lakes grow in unity and maturity by stepping into your Christ-given gift.



The  
Marriage  
Course

**January 12<sup>th</sup> - March 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Thursday evenings**  
**6:30-8:30 P.M.**

The Marriage Course, from Alpha, is expertly designed to give you and your partner practical support in strengthening your relationship. Weekly video sessions, intimate discussion, and simple homework exercises give you a lifetime of ideas and tools to help keep your relationship vibrant and invest in your future together!

Dessert is served each week at a private, romantic table just for the two of you!

Childcare is available if needed.

Designed for married or cohabiting couples.

Cost is \$20 per couple.

**HURRY!** The course is limited to 12 couples!

Sign-up in the church lobby by January 1<sup>st</sup>.



# LOVE GOES OUT

We had a great time packing the Lutheran World Relief kits together with Namie Anderson and volunteers! What a great opportunity for different generations to work together bringing the Kingdom to the lost and the hurting!



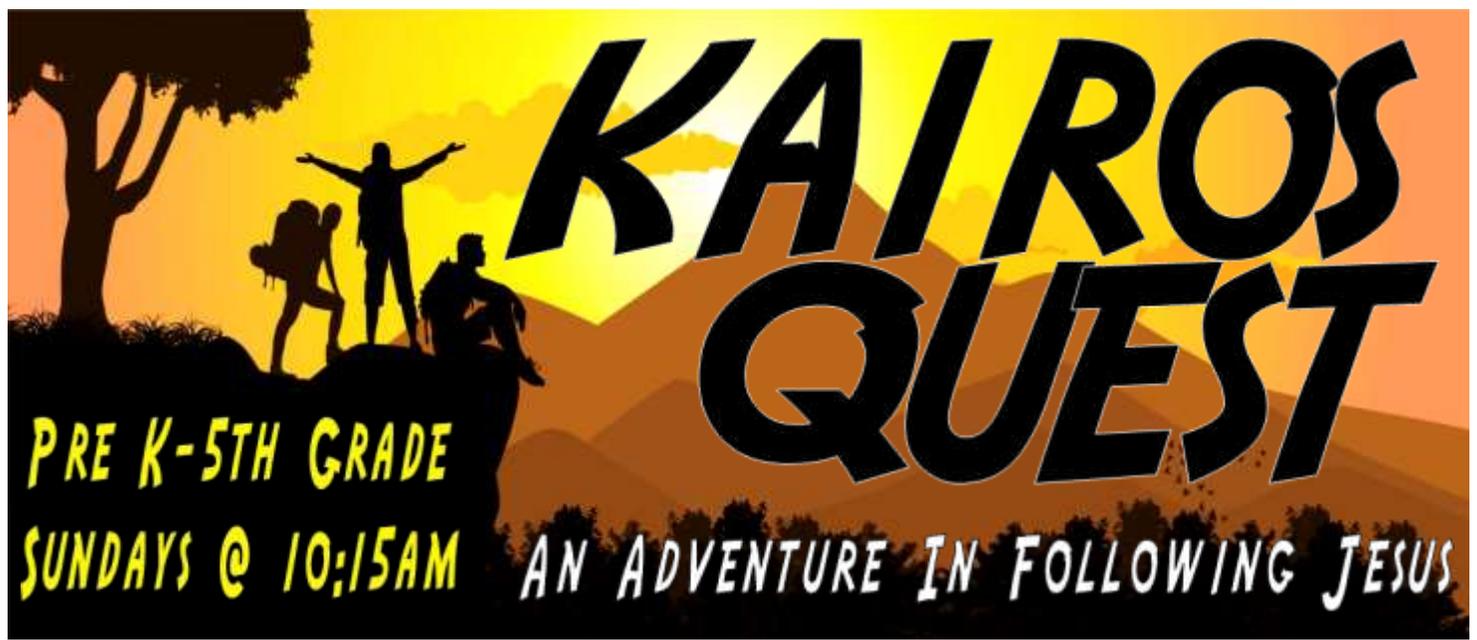


# Sword Ceremony

We had 10 children and their families participate in the Sword Ceremony this year. It is always so cool to hear parents publicly bless their children with the Word of God. Thank you, Congregation for standing with these kids and praying for them as they grow in their knowledge of the Bible.

The children that participated were:

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Zach Montgomery | Antonio Estrada |
| Alex Claussen   | Cameron Brewer  |
| Presley Bartel  | Treyson Graham  |
| Jabin Schulz    | Olivia Petrovs  |
| Charlie Polifka | Megan Siewert   |



# YOUTH POWER GROUPS

## Wednesday's in December

We are headed to the Thuerman's home— 726 Royalton St., Waupaca



The Thuermans are an incredible family who are opening their home to Youth POWER Groups! Paula is our Church Administrator and Mark is a computer programmer. Mark and Paula have 3 kids (Zack, a junior in high school, Alex who is a sophomore in high school, and Ben is in 6th grade in middle school).

**Dec. 7 - Thuerman's Home—726 Royalton St., Waupaca**

**Dec. 14 - OUT Night—Ruby's Pantry, Waupaca**

**Dec. 21 - OUT Night—Random Acts of Kindness (Details to come)**

**Dec. 28 - NO YOUTH MINISTRY**

## Wednesdays in January

**We are headed to the Lewis's home—1226 E. Clarke St., Waupaca**



Scott & Jodie Lewis are longtime members here at Shepherd of the Lakes. Scott is a Sergeant for Waupaca County Sherriff's Department and Jodie runs a daycare in their home. They have three boys (Orry and Kegan are both adults, and Brogen is a Junior at Waupaca High.) They live between the Waupaca County Court House and the Waupaca Middle School.

## Wednesdays in February

**We are headed to the Snyder's home— E1644 Riverwood Dr., Waupaca**



The Snyders are another incredible family from Shepherd of the Lakes. Keith is a vice president at Farmers State Bank and Marla is a graphic design artist! Marla also leads the preschool kids in Sunday school. Keith and Marla have two daughters: Mya who is a Junior in high school, and Ella who is in middle school.

# Recent YPG Teachings

Over the past month or so, we have been focusing on our Covenant relationship to our Father and our Kingdom responsibility to our King. We are seeing students recognizing their identity as a child of God, and the opportunity to bring God's Kingdom to earth by the way they are living their lives. Teens are making commitments to lean into their Father God, and share the overflow of their relationship with God to their friends in school.

If you have had reservations about coming Wednesday nights this year, please reconsider! We would love to welcome you into the family! God is at work here... Just yesterday, I had a student thank me for praying for him. He has Lyme's Disease (which he had found out about just 2 weeks ago) and after praying for him, he has felt much better! Praise God for bringing healing (God's Kingdom) to our teens!!!



# Middle School Ministry

**Wednesday nights at the church: 5:45pm—7:00pm**  
**Dinner is Provided**

Middle school is a place where students are really trying to figure out who they are and who to follow. As we direct our students to listen to who Jesus says we are, and follow him, lives will be changed!

I also know that middle school students love to have fun! So we play games, worship, pray for one another, have a time of teaching and some small group time!

The fast pace of the night, incorporated with great structure, teaching, food, friends, and fun is making for a successful year with our middle school students!

If you haven't joined us yet this year for a night of Middle School Ministry, I'd invite you to come and check us out!



## 8th Grade MILESTONE

**Purity Seminar: Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup> 9am—2pm**

**Purity Ceremony: Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>—10:15am Service.**

I hope to partner with your family in this topic that can be difficult to talk about. We have incredible resources from experts on the topic and who present to thousands of middle school kids each year! This is one of those milestones that students often cringe over the idea of coming to with their mom and/or dad, but I have found over the years that it has been one of the most appreciated by students and parents alike! The teachings will be interactive with media presentations, and small group discussion. **This is a parent and child event**; please make time in your busy schedules to attend the milestone seminar and ceremony. We feel very strongly about the importance of "Purity for Life" and we hope to see you and your child there.

**Please RSVP to me (William Postel) by February 1st.**

# Recent MSM Teachings

We have introduced students into listening to God, because He speaks to us and them! We had some fun nights and also a service night where we helped prepare the Christmas tree you currently see in the church lobby. Recently we talked about how to help friends grow close to God.



Train up a child in the way he should go;  
even when he is old he will not depart from it.  
Proverbs 22:6 (ESV)





# Pizza Fundraiser Starting in January

Once again the youth of Shepherd of the Lakes will be selling and building pizzas to raise funds! All proceeds will be allocated to the Youth Fund and be used accordingly. Ordering will begin in January. Plan to pick up your pizzas for the Big Game on **Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>**!

COME JOIN THE FUN...Join us on **Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>** and help assemble the pizzas!  
More details coming soon.



# OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

## *Child Care Servers (8:30 and 10:15):*

Would you like to help young families grow deeper in their relationship with Jesus? We are looking for adults to oversee the nursery during Sunday morning services. This critical ministry not only shows the love of Jesus to the children, but also allows their parents to plug in to the worship and teaching as well. Contact Rose Swanson at 715-544-2013 to volunteer in the nursery.

## *Sunday Morning Server Coordinator (8:30):*

Do you have the gift of gab? Love to chat with people? Then we have a great opportunity for you! This person is responsible for contacting people to usher or serve communion at the 8:30 services. It's a fun way to get to know other members of your church family, and to help 'usher' them into the joy of serving!

## *Altar Guild Coordinator:*

Do you love the simple, timeless beauty of the altar? Love the Holy Sacraments and what they represent? Then this role is perfect for you! This person is responsible for scheduling servers for the Altar Guild team. Service on the guild is easy – simply come in a little early to set out communion, or stay a few minutes after service to put it away. We are always looking for more members for the team, too!

**We are looking to fill all of these positions immediately.**

If you are willing to help your church family in any of these capacities, please contact Paula Thuerman at: [paula@shepherdofthelakes.com](mailto:paula@shepherdofthelakes.com) or 715-258-8061.

# SHEPHERD OF THE LAKES CORE VALUES



## We Are Passionate About Jesus

We intentionally pursue a personal and intimate relationship with God.



## We Before Me

We are one church family fed by four streams. We honor a diversity of backgrounds.



## We Get Messy

We desire people to be genuine in their relationships with others and Jesus.



## We Get Out Of Our Seats

We serve the church and the world for the glory of God.

## Shepherd of the Lakes Staff

Dean H. Wheeler *Senior Pastor*  
Mary M. Bope *Pastor*  
Paula Thuerman *Church Administrator*  
William Postel *Youth Ministry Coordinator*  
Aimee Postel *Children's Ministry Coordinator*  
Matt Vassar *Worship Leader*  
Jess Gibson *Office Assistant*  
Rose Swanson *Child Care Supervisor*  
Julie Handy *Custodian*

## Your Church Council

*Please feel free to contact any church council member with any question or concern you have.*

Steve Christensen, President (715)412-0180  
Richard Madson (715)572-5621  
Jolene Nollenberg (715)281-9641  
Becky Peterson (715)281-9152  
Gary Prell (715)281-4409  
Lucas Schick (920)862-0064  
Karen Siewert (715)258-6994  
Dennis Stuyenberg (920)867-4067  
Bill Zimmermann (715)258-8059

## Office Hours

Monday–Thursday 8:00am–4:00pm



“Reach the Lost and Help the Hurting”