



### HAPPENING NOW

- Two-Can Sunday, February 5
- Yarn Angels, 10:30 a.m. –12:30 p.m., February 5
- First Communion, 10:45 a.m., Sunday, February 5
- FX3 and Confirmation, 12:30 p.m., February 5
- Executive Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., February 9
- Needlework Friends, 11 a.m., February 11
- Chili Cook Off, Noon, February 12
- New Member Orientation, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m., February 12
- Empty Nester Planning Meeting, 4 p.m., February 12
- Church Council Meeting, 7 p.m., February 14
- Staff Meeting, 10:30 a.m., February 15
- FX3 and Confirmation, 12:30 p.m., February 19
- New Member Sunday, February 26

# News You Can “Ewes”

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2017

## We Need to Be Current!!

Gas leaks and snow days and church closings—Oh My! In light of recent events, or rather, non-events that you need to know about immediately, we need to know how to get in touch with you. We send “SheepBuz” emails and Remind 101 text messages. We are on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and we are also reinstating our “Calling Post” service. We need to have the BEST information with which to contact you! Please take a minute to complete this form and return to the church office. Thanks for your help!

PLEASE PRINT!!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  I do not have a home phone

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I use:  Twitter  Facebook  Instagram  Remind

First Preferred Method of Contact:

Home Phone  Cell Phone  Email

Second Preferred Method of Contact:

Home Phone  Cell Phone  Email



**Save the Date!**

**Sunday March 12  
12:00 – 2:30 p.m.**

*The Outreach and Reformation Committees present an afternoon of Reformation frivolity. Come have lunch, play games, and learn everything you need to know about Martin Luther as we celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> year of the reformation and learn how Good Shepherd plans to put God's Grace in Action in 2017!*



## Ongoing Reformation...

500 years in the making and moving forward

In the last 500 years, since the Lutheran denomination evolved as a separation from the

Roman Catholic church, both Lutheran and Catholic liturgical reforms (the *95 Theses* during the Reformation, *Vatican II Reforms* in the 1960s, and *Declaration of the Way*) are in fact more similar than different—a reason to celebrate our oneness in baptism, even as we long for greater unity at the Lord's table. The following list of some of the liturgical reforms adopted in the last 500 years exemplify common worship practices:

- L/C Mass (word and sacrament) in common language of the people
- L/C Communion in both bread and wine
- L/C Emphasis on congregational singing
- L/C Emphasis on preaching gospel
- L Two sacraments (baptism and eucharist) Catholics observe seven sacraments (baptism, eucharist, marriage, confirmation, reconciliation, anointing of the sick, holy orders)
- L Removal of eucharistic prayer
- L/C Text in the hands of worshipers
- L Presence of Christ in eucharist "in, with, and under", rather than transubstantiation or mere symbolic
- L/C Worship as nourishment
- L/C Laity take on expanded roles in the liturgy
- L/C Weekly eucharist
- L/C Lent as a season for baptismal preparation and renewal
- L/C Free standing table/altar
- L/C Ecumenical three-year lectionary
- L/C Fuller use of sacramental signs (generous use of water, real bread for communion)
- C Anointing with oil (baptism, healing)
- C Expanded use of processions (gospel and offertory processions)
- L/C Greeting of peace shared by congregation
- L/C Kneeling, use of ashes common in many Lutheran and Catholic churches today

L = Lutheran reforms      C = Catholic reforms

### Quotes for thought in moving forward:

"To gather with God's people in united adoration of the Father is as necessary to the Christian life as prayer"  
— Martin Luther

"The key to unity lies in prayer and trying to follow more closely the teaching of Jesus"  
— Pope Francis, January 2016

### Questions for thought in moving forward:

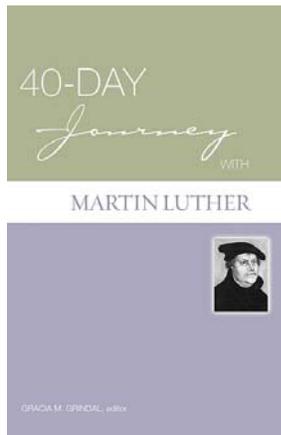
- When you visit churches of other denominations (Roman Catholic and Protestant), what similarities and differences do you notice with Lutheran worship?
- What does it mean that Lutherans are catholic?

### Further in-depth reading on Lutheran-Catholic commonalities:

- [http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/ecumenical-and-interreligious/ecumenical/lutheran/upload/Declaration\\_on\\_the\\_Way-for-Website.pdf](http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/ecumenical-and-interreligious/ecumenical/lutheran/upload/Declaration_on_the_Way-for-Website.pdf)
- <http://www.elca.org/Declaration-on-the-Way>

Wishing you God's peace! — Noel Rackie (member of Reformation Task Group)

# 40-Day Journey with Martin Luther



Drawing from the vast collection of Luther's sermons and other works, *40-Day Journey with Martin Luther* is a selection of 40 inspiring passages that raise profound truths about faith and life.

This book includes a short introduction to Luther's life and tips on using the book, including hints on keeping a journal. Each of the 40 readings includes a quote by Martin Luther, short selections from scripture, questions to ponder, journal-writing exercises, and daily prayers. The readings focus on topics from Luther's Small Catechism: the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, and the Lord's Prayer.

The book is meant to serve as a resource for personal meditation or for small group discussion. It can be employed during a 40-day period (such as the Lenten season) or over any other period of time.

Good Shepherd will be placing a group order for this book. Each book will cost \$15, which includes shipping. Order forms, as well as a sample of the book, can be found on the table under the TV screen in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like a copy, please fill out an order form and submit it, along with cash or check made payable to GSLC, to Kathy Gunn in the church office. Please place your order **NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 19**.

Good Shepherd's "Faith Stories" adult Sunday school class will be using the book beginning in March, planning to cover one or two readings each week. If you would like to join this group, contact Mary Tucker at [marric1@yahoo.com](mailto:marric1@yahoo.com) or 404-996-3795.

## What's the Big Deal?

We live in an era when fame is highly desired. Whether it's getting hits on social media, getting invited to desirable gatherings, or making it big in Hollywood, people want to be known, to be memorable—often for the wrong reasons. It's noteworthy, then, that in 2017 the Lutheran church—and the world—marks a big anniversary involving one of our own (our founder, actually). Martin Luther didn't intend to become famous, and yet he changed the world, helping to usher in the modern era.

Martin Luther was born in 1483 in what is now central Germany but then was a separate principality called Saxony. His parents tried to give him a good education and hoped he would become a lawyer. Instead, when he was 21 he became a Catholic monk. He wanted to earn God's love but was tormented by the sense that he could never be good enough. He punished himself mercilessly until finally a wise mentor sent him to study and teach at the then new University of Wittenberg. Soon after arriving, he became incensed by the church saying, in effect, that if people bought a certain document—an indulgence—it would provide God's forgiveness for their sins. As a university professor, he wrote a list of 95 sentences to debate about the topic. That list, the Ninety-Five Theses, stirred up a hornet's nest in the church and began the Reformation. He made them public on October 31, 1517—almost 500 years ago.

For challenging the church and refusing to back down, Luther was called before the Holy Roman emperor, Charles V, at a meeting in the imperial city of Worms. Asked to take back what he had written, he refused and was declared an outlaw. Anyone could have captured him and killed him or turned him in to authorities, in which case his death was likely. Fortunately, his own prince protected him, hiding him in a castle where he began translating the Bible into German. In the process, he helped create the standard German language.

Luther wrote many influential books, most of which are still valued today. He created the Small Catechism to guide ordinary people in learning about God. He wrote hymns such as "A Mighty Fortress is Our God." He was a passionate, sometimes crudely mannered man, and in later life he wrote terrible things about the Jewish people, statements for which the Lutheran church has apologized.

Luther was a remarkable man, helping to create the modern notion of what it means to be an individual, not just an atom in a sea of molecules, and, of course, reviving and reforming the church. He is a man worth celebrating!

## Sunday Servant Training

The Worship & Music Committee hosts training sessions for Assisting Minister and Lay Reader Sunday servants **January 29** during the 9:30 a.m. Education Hour in the sanctuary. If you are new or just want a refresher course please join us. Greeter, Usher, and Communion Assistant training will take place on **Sunday, February 5**. Questions? Contact Beth Ebert or Paul Christensen.

## Join us—literally!

New Member Orientation takes place on **Sunday, February 12**, from 1:30—3:30 p.m. in the library. Prospective new members will explore Lutheran doctrine, theology and organization; membership and stewardship; GSLC's Children and Youth Protection policy; and opportunities for participating at GSLC. Presenting information will be Barb Blanke, Council President; Janice Swinford, Inreach and Sunday School Coordinator; Kristin Brenneman, Outreach Coordinator; and Pastor Paul.

If you decide to proceed with membership, we will receive new members at both of our worship services on **Sunday, February 26**.

## Council Update, January 2016

### Discussions

- Financial Secretary, Jaime Escamilla, reported that December giving was \$66,545. To date, we are \$56,421 behind budget. Pledge status and Simply Giving remained strong through the end of the year.
- Appointed Treasurer, Mary McCoy reported that year end expenses were approximately \$79,000 favorable to budget, largely due to the vacant Associate Pastor position. Reserves have increased and we ended the year above recommended levels.
- The Youth Ministry job description created by the Personnel Committee has been approved and will be posted in the hopes of filling this position as soon as possible.
- Council members will be participating in the annual Leadership Workshop to focus on planning for 2017 and beyond on Saturday, January 14.

### Accolades

- All of the talented volunteers who served, acted, and musically performed in the Christmas Eve services.
- Everyone who assisted with the Advent Soup and Salad Suppers by providing food and by helping with set up and clean up
- All who served as committee co-chairs or committee members in 2016
- Janice Swinford for her swift and able handling of the gas leak on January 1, and those who helped open and close windows in the building.
- Bill Alderfer, who worked for two days with contractors to get the gas leak fixed. And the Facilities and Maintenance Committee for their swift attention to resolving the issue.

## Caretakers of Community

Thank you to all of you who donated pots and pans or towels to our Caretakers of our Community in the last few weeks. A large carload of these donations was delivered to Forever Fed to be distributed to the multiple “tent cities” and residents of the extended stay facilities in our area that are serviced by Forever Fed.

**God's work.  
Our hands.**

For the months of January/February GSLC is collecting **NEW** socks and underwear for all genders and all ages benefitting MUST Ministries. MUST has recently put out a call for these items as inventory is currently low in their clothes pantry and these are items which they always need!

## Hungry to Help GSLC? Enroll in Kroger Rewards!

Having funds, manpower and proper resources are the lifeline to our Outreach program. With the beginning of a new year I thought this would be a great time to remind you of one of the many ways you can help Outreach at Good Shepherd fund it's endeavors. One of the easiest ways for you to support our program is by shopping at your local Kroger store. You get great prices and great food at Kroger and Good Shepherd gets a percentage of the food you buy when you link your Kroger Plus card to Good Shepherd.

The process is simple and only requires a few minutes of your time. If you don't already have one, obtain a Kroger Plus Card from the Customer Service counter at any local Kroger. Once you have a Kroger Plus Card you will need to link your card to our organization by registering online at [www.kroger.com/communityrewards](http://www.kroger.com/communityrewards) and following these simple instructions:

If you are a new online customer click on **Create an Account** and follow the instructions to create an online account.

New account creators:

- Sign up for a Kroger Rewards Account by entering your email address and creating a password then entering your zip code, clicking on your favorite store, and agreeing to the terms and conditions
- Follow the instructions given and once the account setup is complete return to [www.kroger.com/communityrewards](http://www.kroger.com/communityrewards) and use your email and password to sign in.
- Click on Enroll
- Update or confirm your personal information
- **Good Shepherd's NPO # is 84490** - Enter NPO number or name of organization, select organization from list and click on confirm.
- To verify you are enrolled correctly, you will see your organization's name on the bottom of the page under community rewards

Once your card is registered, simply swipe your Kroger Plus card or use the phone number that is related to your registered Kroger Plus card every time you shop. Money earned through the Kroger Plus program is sent to Good Shepherd once a quarter. It's really that easy!

Happy Shopping, *Kristin Brenneman, Outreach Coordinator*



## God's Grace in Action with Offerings – News from the Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee is wrapping up the **God's Grace in Action with Offerings** pledge campaign this month. Offering pledges will support the Good Shepherd fiscal year 2018 budget which begins July 1, 2017 and runs through June 30, 2018.

The pledge you make will be for **one** amount and will include **your annual pledge, PLUS your Youth Ministry pledge**, and any increase you may wish to make. Offerings pledge cards were handed out this month during services. If you were not at one of those services, pledge cards were also mailed to your home. We hope that you take time to consider what level of financial commitment you make to **your** church home for this upcoming year.

The Finance Committee will begin meeting in February to develop the budget for FY 2018. It is extremely important to return your offerings pledge card by **Consecration Sunday – January 29**, so the Finance Committee has a complete offerings projection with which to develop an accurate and balanced budget. The God's Grace in Action box is located on the altar, or you can drop it in the mail, or slip it into the mail slot outside the church office. If you have already returned your pledge – Thank You!

This year please consider signing up for Simply Giving, the automated way to submit your offerings. With Simply Giving, the church can count on a consistent level of offerings which makes planning and paying our expenses much easier. (Like when services are cancelled for gas leaks or snow – two Sundays in a row!) If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Gunn in the church office. If you are already using Simply Giving – thank you! - but we still want to hear from you to let us know whether you are continuing or increasing your pledge!

As always thank you for supporting **OUR** church home, Good Shepherd.

*“A Christian is a servant, completely attentive to the needs of all” – Martin Luther*

### Empty Nester Planning Meeting

To get the year started off, the Empty Nesters host a planning meeting on **Sunday, February 12** at 4 p.m. at GSLC. Bring an appetizer or snack to share with the group. Tea, water and coffee are provided.

Mark and Karen Yerkes and Tammy and Steve Frink have agreed to be co-chair's for the Empty Nesters this year!!! Thanks to all four of them for stepping up and volunteering. Be sure to bring your ideas for activities for the Empty Nesters in 2017. See you there!



## Handchimes

hopes to meet on Wednesday evenings. See Thomas Eisnor for details.

## Celebration Ringers

A new hand chime choir is forming for beginners, grades 3 and up. At least five ringers are needed and the group

## Under 18...

Confirmation and FX3 meet at 12:30 p.m. on **February 5** and **February 19**.

## Enter the Heartburn Chili Cook Off!



The 7th Annual Heartburn Chili Cook Off takes place **Sunday, February 12** following the 10:45 a.m. service. There will be two prizes awarded that day: Best Tasting Chili, as determined by our impressive panel of judges, and Best Name, selected by popular vote from tickets purchased by the congregation. Entry forms are in the entryway. We hope to see you there to support the youth mission trips with your free-will offerings for the lunch. Please see Karen Epstein or Janice Swinford if you have any questions.



## Saints and Sinners Needs YOU!

The high schoolers and adult leaders meet every Wednesday night at 6:30 for fun and fellowship.

We are always in need of a second adult. Whether you are the parent of a high schooler or interested in our youth ministry, please consider volunteering. You don't necessarily have to participate in the youth's fun and games during the evening but it is always welcome. Please reach out to Janice Swinford, Tony Endozo, Mike McCoy, or Scarlett Hovda if interested. As Pr. Paul mentioned in his recent sermon, there are many ways to influence the future leaders of our church.

*Left— The Saints & Sinners high school youth group enjoying frozen yogurt and playing board games at Menchies.*

## Join us!!

**Yarn Angels** meets  
**Sunday, February 5** from  
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in  
Room 120.

**Needlework Friends**  
meets on **Saturday,**  
**February 11** from 11 a.m.  
to 1 p.m. at the home of  
Joan Davis (153 Johnston  
Farm Lane, Woodstock) for  
needlework and fellowship.  
Bring your projects, learn  
something new, teach or  
help another friend. Light  
refreshments provided.  
Contact Joan at 404-702-  
5562 or email at  
wilkesware2@yahoo.com.

**Ladies Night Out**  
meets at Keegan's Irish Pub  
in Woodstock at 7 p.m. on  
**Tuesday, February 21.**  
Sign up at Sign-Up Central!



## Two-Can Sunday!

Don't forget the first  
Sunday of every month  
is designated as Two-  
Can Sunday. Bring  
your Two-Cans on  
**February 5!**

## GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

1208 ROSE CREEK DRIVE  
WOODSTOCK, GA 30189  
770-924-7286  
GSLUTHERAN.ORG

AN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (ELCA) CONGREGATION  
SERVING NORTH COBB AND CHEROKEE COUNTY COMMUNITIES. JOIN US!

8:30 A.M. TRADITIONAL  
9:30 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL  
10:45 A.M. PRAISE

Facebook:  
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@gslutheran

"WELCOME ONE ANOTHER, THEREFORE,  
AS CHRIST HAS WELCOMED YOU."

ROMANS 15:7

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH WARMLY WELCOMES PEOPLE OF ANY AGE,  
RACE, NATIONALITY, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, LIFE CIRCUMSTANCE,  
AND PHYSICAL OR MENTAL CAPABILITY.

## WOW, It's Word on Wednesday

**Word on Wednesday (WOW)** study group began the new book *The Greatest Prayer* in January, but there's still time to join them! This group meets in the church library on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. See Lori Peters for details. All are welcome!

February 1 - Chapter 1: *Pray Then in this Way*

February 8—Chapter 2: *Our Father in Heaven*

February 15—Chapter 3: *Hallowed Be Your Name*

February 22—Chapter 4: *Your Kingdom Come*

March 1 - Chapter 5: *Your Will Be Done on Earth*

March 8 - Chapter 6: *Give Us Our Daily Bread*

March 15 - Chapter 7: *Forgive Us Our Debts*



GOOD SHEPHERD  
LUTHERAN CHURCH