



The Shepherd's Call



December 2016

Vintage: Casting the Ancient Anew — What's Your Call Sign?

It may not be on your radar, but in just a few short weeks, there is a little Science Fiction movie coming out called *Rogue One*. From the trailers, we have learned that the title of the film comes from an imperial request for a call sign from the small band of rebels who are trying to steal the plans to the Death Star. Spoiler Alert — they succeed! But I bring all of this up because as we approach this particular Christmas Season, I think we are maybe beginning to doubt our ability to be rebels in a growing age of empire.

Politics aside, the writing of the TV series *The West Wing* is some of the most quotable around, at least by us pastor types. Here is what came to mind for me from Season 4: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful and committed people can change the world. Do you know why? —Because it's the only thing that ever has.”

At Christmas time, we are reminded that the news of the coming of our savior didn't come to the people in church, it came to the pagan astrologers and the shepherds in the fields. We're reminded that God doesn't use the big and glossy, God uses the small band of thoughtful and committed rebels to turn the world around.

We have the opportunity now, today, this Advent and Christmas Season to be the next cast of *Rogue One*. We have the chance to show the world what a small band of thoughtful and committed followers of Jesus can do amidst a vast broken and hurting world.

I invite you in this season of Christ's presence with us to see yourself and our band of rebels as God sees us — with love and hope. Who's with me?

Blessings,

Paster Johan Dodge



Upcoming Events...



Potluck & Carol Singing

Let's start the holiday season off right with a Potluck Supper and Carol Singing on **Sunday, December 4th**, at **5:00 P.M.** This is for all for those people who always say that they are disappointed that we don't sing more of their favorite Christmas carols during the season.

If you are bringing a family and/or guests, bring enough food to feed all the guests you bring (main dish, salad, and/or dessert). This is the time to share some of your favorite holiday recipes with your church family.

After supper, we will have a carol songfest in the sanctuary, so there will be room for you to invite your extended family, neighbors and friends. Mark your calendar and join us for a fun evening to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

- 6th—Griffin Somsak
- 9th—Beverly Dietrich
- 13th—Preslee Richelieu
- 20th—Louise Fairweathre-Baxter
- 22nd—Jenna Niemczyk
- 22nd—Becky Somsak
- 24th—Whitey Cohenour
- 25th—Cheryl Knight
- 27th—Kayla Niemczyk



Good Shepherd United Methodist Church

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For more info, visit our websites:
www.gswumc.com
www.vngoodshepherdumc.com
www.preschool.gswumc.com

FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY



Please don't forget that the first Sunday of the month is Food Pantry Sunday!

That will be **December 4th**.

Hunger doesn't take a holiday, so high protein food is needed even in the Christmas season. Either bring your donation Sunday morning or bring it to the potluck at **5:00 P.M.**

Christmas Outreach Project



The Church Council has voted to make the new Homeless Veteran's Housing Project, that is being built just a few blocks away from us, as our Christmas Outreach Project. We have been asked to provide linens for the 16 apartments. That includes full-size sheets, standard size pillow cases, bath towels, wash cloths, hand towels and dish towels. Items must be new, in their package (if they come in a package) with the tags still on them. The apartments will be finished in late January, so we have up to December 25th to collect these items.

This is an opportunity to take your children or grandchildren shopping for someone else to teach them about giving instead of getting at Christmas. There will be a box at the narthex for your donations.



What's Happening in Our Garden?



As the Christmas spirit is around the corner, let us use the church's garden to be the place that will remind us about the real Christmas story. Come and plant your seed in the garden—a seed of faith and love to others. Many seeds have been planted, God will come to harvest us all AMEN!!!

Giving, helping others, praying, praising and why not watering and pulling weeds...all of this can happen in our garden!!!



This holiday season, I feel so grateful for our volunteers: Victoria, Morgan, Von, Liz and Tyler. Donations are always welcome. May each one of you have a

Merry Christmas

Sincerely,
Scott Pulver

From Good Shepherd School



December
2016

As Christmas draws near the children at Good Shepherd School, they are starting to feel curious and excited as we tell them about the real story of what God did on Christmas. They also feel excited when we start practicing the Christmas songs that we will be singing at church. Most of the time, the story about baby Jesus is new for the children because Christmas to them is about Santa Claus and gifts.

During this Christmas Season, let the children teach us to stay focused and make Jesus the real meaning of our Christmas. Watch for those moments when God will speak to your heart as a child sings "Joy to the World" or recites John 3:16 at the top of their lungs and really mean it.

Now and always, Good Shepherd School feels the love from each one of you, and especially the love of God. We also feel blessed and thank the Lord and all of you have helped to make possible of all these blessings.

Please continue to keep us in your prayers and help us whenever you have the opportunity.

Hmmm...how can you help? **See's Candies Fundraiser!**

DUE NOV. 30TH

Chocolates will be here December 5th. Boxes will be wrapped with Christmas wrapping. All the proceeds will help us to put more sand in our sandboxes, new mulch and hopefully some new bikes.

You can also help by...

Donating:

Recyclables

Empty ink cartridges

Used but in good shape toys
and children clothes

Volunteering to read bible stories
to our children and/or sing

Liking us on Facebook, rating us on Yelp, or
by sharing the information about our school
with your family and friends.

*Merry Christmas from all the children,
staff, and parents of Good Shepherd School.*





December 2016

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1 7pm Viet. Prayer & Bible Study 7:30pm AA Meeting	2 6:30pm Zumba	3 7am Zumba 9am Viet. Comp. Class 2:30pm Viet. Praise Band Practice
4 8am Viet. Serv. 10:30am Eng. Ser. 5pm Potluck & Carol Singing	5 7:30pm Bible Study	6 9am Shep. Hands 6:30pm Zumba 7:30pm Praise Band Practice	7 6:30pm Zumba	8 7pm Viet. Prayer & Bible Study 7:30pm AA Meeting	9 6:30pm Zumba	10 7am Zumba 9am Viet. Comp. Class 2:30pm Viet. Praise Band Practice
11 8am Viet. Serv. 10:30am Eng. Ser.	12 7:30pm Bible Study	13 9am Shep. Hands 6:30pm Zumba 7:30pm Praise Band Practice	14 6:30pm Zumba	15 7pm Viet. Prayer & Bible Study 7:30pm AA Meeting	16 6:30pm Zumba	17 7am Zumba 9am Viet. Comp. Class 2:30pm Viet. Praise Band Practice
18 8am Viet. Serv. 10:30am Eng. Ser.	19 7:30pm Bible Study	20 9am Shep. Hands 6pm Preschool Board Meeting 7:30pm Praise Band Practice	21 6:30pm Zumba	22 7pm Viet. Prayer & Bible Study 7:30pm AA Meeting	23 6:30pm Zumba	24 7pm Viet. Christmas Service
25 8am Viet. Serv. 10:30am Eng. Ser.	26 7:30pm Bible Study	27 9am Shep. Hands 6:30pm Zumba 7:30pm Praise Band Practice	28 6:30pm Zumba	29 7pm Viet. Prayer & Bible Study 7:30pm AA Meeting	30 6:30pm Zumba	31 7am Zumba 9am Viet. Comp. Class 2:30pm Viet. Praise Band Practice

Vietnamese Congregation Upcoming Events:

- Dec. 18th, 8am** – Christmas Sunday Worship & Bible Contest
- Dec. 24th, 7pm** – Christmas Service & Santa Gives Presents to Children
- Dec. 25th, 8am** – Christmas Sunday Worship & Christmas Luncheon

