

Shepherd's Staff

December 2018

We gather to worship, we go to serve our Lord.

"You will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth!"

Parkersburg Christian Reformed Church

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m. ~ Church School 10:45 a.m. ~ Life Plus Wed., 6:30 p.m.

Re-gifting

Maybe we have become more particular in what we choose to wear or do that has made re-gifting a more common practice. The Christmas gift in a style or even a size that we find less than desirable but not wanting to return it, so we pass it on. We try to be extra careful in the next recipient of this gift as it would not be wise to return it to the giver, even though they thought it was nice enough to give.

While re-gifting has made some traction in our time it should not be considered a new or novel idea. You see that as Christians we are commanded to re-gift. No, not the sweater that your aunt gave you that does not flatter your figure or that went out of style when you were a child! Not even the handmade, one-of-a-kind special gift is what we are to use a biblical reason for re-gifting.

The idea of re-gifting is to give away what we are to reassure so much that we want to share it with as many as we can. The gift that was given that allows us to give and yet retain more than we need is the love that God gives us in His Son, Jesus. This love brings with it a host of other much needed and appreciated gifts as well. Salvation and a new name that shows our adoption into the family of God come with this re-gifted gift. The amazing part of giving this gift is that it not only costs us nothing to give, but we do not diminish our ability to keep it for ourselves in any way.

We often rack our brains to think of just the right gift to give to our friends and co-workers. We spend time and money on things that will "pass away" that may not even be appreciated. So this year why not give the gift that will keep on giving? The gift of hope, peace and love! The need of such gifts is so evident in the world today that we should be asking ourselves, what do we have to lose?

Oddly enough, this is the one gift that when given away is actually more valuable! Think of how the Holy Spirit could start a powerful movement if all who believe would re-gift the precious gift of Jesus this year! Love would start to replace hatred, caring for others would replace envy and greed. Giving the gift that can change the world is not only what we are commanded to do but should bring hope to the givers as well. What more could we ask for in the gift we give that also gives back so much.

Pastor Rus

Christmas Cookies

Yield: about 4 dozen 2-1/2-inch cookies

- 2/3 cup butter
- 2/3 cup shortening
- 1-1/2 cups sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 3-1/2 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons baking powder



Cream the butter and shortening with the sugar, then beat in eggs and vanilla.

Combine flour, salt, and baking powder, then stir them into the creamed mixture to make a soft dough. Chill *thoroughly*.

Work with only a small amount of the cold dough at a time. Use lots of flour to roll dough. (May use a combination of flour and confectioners' sugar instead of plain flour. This gives the cookies a sweeter taste, and they do not taste like flour.) Roll about 1/8 inch thick, cut out cookie shapes, and use a metal spatula to transfer them to a lightly greased baking sheet. Bake at 375 degrees F for 7 to 10 minutes, or until lightly browned.

These cookies can be decorated a variety of ways. Can frost them after they are cool. Or use colored sugar sprinkled on them before baking. Can use a mixture of egg yolks, a little water, and some food coloring and "paint" them before baking, too.

Recipe from The Old Farmer's Almanac



A Christmas Prayer

by Robert Louis Stevenson

Loving Father,
Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing
which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning
make us happy to be thy children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds
with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven,
for Jesus' sake.

Amen.



December Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy Birthday

12/6 Darlene Bruns
 12/7 Delbert Cordes
 12/7 Joel Reints
 12/12 Angie Meester
 12/13 John DeBerg
 12/14 Clayton Groeneveld
 12/20 Duane Anderson
 12/20 Betty Mulder
 12/27 Austin Shepard
 12/31 John Oltman

Happy Anniversary

12/10 Ken & Jan Johnson
 12/10 John & Karen Oltman
 12/17 Mark & Lanae Kramer
 12/26 Paul & Ruth Haan
 12/27 Irv & Amy Haan



Reminder: If you have anything you'd like included in the Shepherd's Staff, please try to have it to Wendy Armstrong by the 20th of the month.

	<i>Greeters</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Sunday School Teachers[#]</i>	<i>Coffee*</i>
12/2	Mike Ascher Family (N) Dave & Betty (S)	Luke E.	Teachers: Kayla & Shelly Lesson: A Light & A Hope	Clarence & June
12/9	Mike Stirling Family (N) Marlyn & Marcia (S)	Rollyn D.	Teachers: Kay & Amy Lesson: God's Long-Ago Promise	Steve & Charlene
12/16	Dennis & Lois (N) Kevin & Shelly (S)	Gerald	Teachers: Deb & JoLynne Lesson: God With Us	Don & Annie
12/23	Dale & Angie (N) Pat & Deb (S)	Delbert		John & Karen
12/30	Larry & Mary (N) Mark & Lanae (S)	Mike Stirling		Pat & Deb

*If you are unable to serve coffee on your Sunday as listed, please find your replacement. Thank you.

#The teacher schedule will be in the bulletin. You can always check the website as well- the bulletin is always on there (even before Sunday!!) www.parkersburg-crc.org If you need to change a Sunday, please call one of the teachers.

Christmas



Christ	Child	Baby	Born	Wisemen
Shepherds	Angels	Sing	Hallelujah	Savior
King	Prince	Peace	Love	Joy
Manger	Hay	Swaddling	Mary	Joseph