

# THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

## DECEMBER 2024

Volume 27 Number 12

### GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

1717 Hampton Hall Road  
Post Office Box 576  
Callao, Virginia 22435  
[www.goodshepherdcallao.org](http://www.goodshepherdcallao.org)  
[www.facebook.com/goodshepherdcallao](https://www.facebook.com/goodshepherdcallao)  
[www.instagram.com/gslc.callao/](https://www.instagram.com/gslc.callao/)

Robert C. Hull, Pastor  
(704)787-4999  
[roberthull1687@yahoo.com](mailto:roberthull1687@yahoo.com)

**WELCOME!**  
**EACH SUNDAY**  
JOIN US –  
WORSHIP at 9 am  
COFFEE following and  
SUNDAY SCHOOL &  
BIBLECLASS  
at 10:30 am

*"Therefore the Lord himself  
will give you a sign. Behold,  
the virgin shall conceive and  
bear a son, and shall call his  
name Immanuel."*

*~ Isaiah 7:14*

**WELCOME!**  
**COUNT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY  
IN WITH THE GOOD SHEPHERD FAMILY!**

### SPECIAL HOLIDAY SERVICES

ADVENT SERVICES

WED DEC 4, 11 & 18 4:00 pm

SOUP SUPPERS TF

CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

TUE DEC 24 4:00 pm

Welcome! Join in!



### SIGN UP FOR POINSETTIAS

Sign up on the bulletin board in the Beasley Wing Hallway for chancel Christmas poinsettias by DEC 1. They are \$26.50 each. If you will not be at the service DEC 1, contact Barbara Schenkel at 240/506-3750 or [bfschenkel@gmail.com](mailto:bfschenkel@gmail.com) if you would like to purchase one.

They will be an important part of the Sanctuary decorations.

### SOUP SUPPERS TF MID-WEEK ADVENT WORSHIP

Advent services will be held WED evenings at 4:00 pm DEC 4, 11 & 18. Join us for worship and then all are welcome to join in a soup supper following the service. Sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin board to sign up to bring a soup, bread or dessert. Bring a friend or neighbor. Join the fellowship!

**WOGS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**  
**TUES, DEC 10, 2024 12:00 NOON**  
**@ Cygnets in Lottsburg**

### COOKIE WALK

WOGS will be hosting a Cookie Walk DEC 15 after church service in the Fellowship Hall. The Cookie Walk will help support WOGS Community Outreach Projects with a free will offering. Come and enjoy some homemade goodies and fellowship. Any questions please speak with Cathy Kohli.



### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Cyril Kendrick  
Youth Members – Jasiah Joseph  
Kendrick & Jalani Rubie  
Kendrick  
November 10, 2024  
May the Lord Richly Bless them  
in the midst of  
the Good Shepherd Family!



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY! CELEBRATING IN DECEMBER

- 2 Karen Henderson
- 9 Melissa Martin
- 9 John Schenkel
- 15 Walter Brodtman
- 16 Gene Behrens
- 24 Bob Kramer
- 24 Mary Schmidt
- 25 Celebrating JESUS!
- 27 Kathey Brodtman
- 28 Paula Looney
- 29 Carl Wigginton
- 31 Herta Wigginton



## TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

The last  
Tuesday Bible

Study for the year was  
November 26. We will resume  
on Tuesday, January 7, 2025  
with the study of 1 Kings.  
Start the New Year with  
insightful discussions and  
further study of the Bible.  
Bring a lunch and meet at Noon  
in the Beasley Room. Come  
and join in the fellowship!

## COATS FOR NC RESIDENTS AFFECTED BY HURRICANE HELENE

As usual, GSLC rose to the  
occasion. We received a  
tremendous number of coats for  
the hurricane victims in NC. A  
big thank you to all who  
participated. Your generosity is  
greatly appreciated.

## DAILY DEVOTIONS FROM LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

### “My True Love Gave To Me”

*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that  
whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.  
John 3:16*

By tomorrow, the Christmas carols will no longer be playing on  
the radio.

I, for one, will be sorry to see them go -- with the possible  
exception of one song I have never learned to appreciate: "The  
Twelve Days of Christmas."

Yes, I've heard of the religious background behind the many  
verses, but the tune seems to go on and on and on and on. I get  
tired of hearing about five partridges leaping, sixteen lords a-  
milking, five swans a-fishing, and all the other things which my  
true love is supposed to have given to me.

Thankfully, Pam is more practical in her gift giving.

I can honestly say, however, she has not become so practical as to  
give me a tooth cleaning at the dentist. That's right: "a tooth  
cleaning." Earlier this month, *Newsweek* said some people were  
putting these in the stockings of their true loves. The article said  
people were giving their true loves the "gift of health." Other  
healthy-type gift suggestions were a paid doctor's visit, organic  
fruits and vegetables, yoga classes, and a bathroom scale.

In truth, I am thankful that my 'true love' hasn't given me any of  
those things.

Still, that doesn't mean I'm against all gifts of health. For example,  
John 3:16 says: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His  
only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have  
eternal life."

So that I might be spiritually healthy and whole, forgiven and free,  
God sent His Son. Here, the baby of Bethlehem, the Christ of the  
cross, the Savior of the empty tomb, dedicated His entire life so I  
might be able to live forever.

From His first breath until His victory cry upon the cross, Jesus  
did all that was necessary to cure me of sin's disease.

That's why I think a rewrite of that song might be in order. How  
about this: "On every day of Christmas, my true Love gave to me:  
His own life to set my soul free."

The song wouldn't have many verses, but when it's sung that way,  
it doesn't need them. The first verse says it all.

**THE PRAYER:** Dear Lord Jesus, You lived, died, and rose so I  
might have spiritual health. May I always sing "Glory in the  
highest" for Your great gift. In Your Name. Amen.

In Christ I remain His servant and yours,

*Ken R. Klaus*



Pastor Ken Klaus  
Speaker emeritus of The Lutheran Hour<sup>®</sup>  
Lutheran Hour Ministries  
December 25, 2008



### **SICK & SHUT-IN TELL PASTOR**

If you, a member of your family, or a member of GS

becomes sick, hospitalized, or shut-in, notify Pastor Hull right away! Messages may be left @ (704)787-4999.

### **BUILDING SECURITY**

When you leave the church facilities, ensure that **all appliances used** are off (fire safety); **all interior doors** closed (fire suppression); **all lights** are off (utility conservation); that **thermostats** have been set for the winter 60 degrees heat (expense reductions) and that the **external doors used** are re-locked and **then RATTLED** (facility security) to make certain the doors are completely latched.

*Where there is faith,  
there is love;  
Where there is love,  
there is peace;  
Where there is peace,  
there is God;  
And where there is God,  
there is no need.*

## **WORDS TO PONDER**

### **WHO IS YOUR RABBI?**

My Dear Friends in Christ:

Good morning and I pray for you, a blessed day today and many to follow. As I write this, I'm still recovering from terrible pain in my knee and hip. Until now I have not felt up to writing to you, but truly believe it is your faithfulness in prayer and love for God that has given me the strength to reach out to Him for words that will benefit us all.

I read something recently that reminded me of our recent trip to Israel and the Wailing Wall in the holy city of Jerusalem. In my eyes, the Wailing Wall was a drab looking construction of gray slabs of stone, looking almost like cinderblock, enshrouded below with ugly dark wire fence, forming two enclosures; one for men and one for women. The two enclosures were bustling with Jews, Christians and tourists. An unwritten rule that was strictly enforced was to have our heads respectfully covered when inside the enclosures. Even though it was not a place of beauty, you could feel the holiness connected there with prayers being said; some silent, some spoken and watching some place slips of paper with written prayers into the cracks and openings in the wall.



The article I read spoke of this very place and described several young male Jewish students following their Orthodox rabbi, doing the same things he was doing. Dave and I saw several men of the Orthodox order, doing what I think the article was trying to describe. It was strange to watch this practice. Some were dressed in black hats and black suits, some with black yamikas and black suits, and some in off-white embroidered robes with tasseled shawls over their heads. They all had long braided sideburns and long black beards. The really strange practice was what they all did, not what they wore. They stood before the Wailing Wall, heads bowed with Holy Scriptures in their hands. As they stood reverently before the Wall, they bent at the waist as if bowing, never letting go of the Scripture, then immediately rising to a standing position. They did this up and down, up and down, over and

over, all the while with lips moving, reading Scripture quietly and maybe praying as well; their devotion to God on public display. I imagined what we saw is what the "article" was trying to describe.

I wonder if this is what went on with the "Rabbi" of all mankind and His Apostles as they travelled over hill and dale. They "followed" Jesus. We know that Jesus was their teacher, their Rabbi just as He is ours as well. He taught them devotion to God. Anyone who believed in Jesus and His Divinity, were His students and followed Him. Have you ever thought of yourself as being one of Jesus' disciples? As a disciple of Christ, I have found it so important to read Scripture and learn. Sometimes I am a very slow learner, but repetition in Bible Study is o.k and important. Scripture even tells us that God wants us to read it "day and night". We don't have to follow the "strange practice" I was

## WOGS NEWS

speaking of, but only to follow the Jesus of the Bible. Are you hungry to know Jesus better? God has blessed us in this country and given us the freedom to worship Him and to have the written Word at our disposal. We should never forget that. If you haven't read the Bible all the way through, it's not too late. It helped me to start with the New Testament and then the Old Testament. Set aside a time each day, just for Bible reading; 15 or 20 minutes is enough at first. Sometimes, you won't understand what you're reading, but just keep going. The Holy Spirit will help you understand when you're ready. "Seek and you will find. Knock and the door will be opened unto you". You might be surprised. Sometimes it is hard to put the Scriptures down. Try it, you'll be blessed and you'll never be sorry.

Jesus said, "**Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.**" *Matthew 4:19*

**FOLLOW JESUS AND LET THE WORLD KNOW HE IS YOUR RABBI** (*Unknown*)

Dianne Bertsch  
(Reprinted from the December 2014 Shepherd's Staff)

### 2025 CALENDAR SWAP

If you receive 2025 calendars that you can't use, place them in the Calendar Swap, located on the table in the Fellowship Hall. You might find another one you can use! Sharing is good!

**CHRISTMAS BEGAN IN THE HEART OF GOD. IT IS COMPLETE ONLY WHEN IT REACHES THE HEART OF MAN.**



### THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who supported the WOGS Love Offering Breakfast on November 3. The donations received will go toward WOGS Community Projects.



If you have taken an angel off of the Angel Tree to purchase a Christmas gift and someone other than yourself will be delivering the gift, please have your gift wrapped and under the Angel Tree by **DEC 8**. Contact Paula Looney with any questions.

Thank you to all who participated in this ministry!

WOGS will be having their **Christmas Luncheon at Cygnets in Lottsburg on TUES, DEC 10, 2024 at 12 Noon**. Bring a Secret Santa \$20 wrapped gift (disguise the gift if you can so you can't tell what it is), new gifts only-no regifts, if you would like to participate. **Please RSVP to Paula Looney by WED, DEC 4, to let her know if you will be coming at [paula.looney@gmail.com](mailto:paula.looney@gmail.com)** All ladies are welcome! Come and join in the fellowship!

## Going NUTS for Ministry!

WOGS are again doing their **Annual Holiday Terri Lynn Nut and Candy Fundraiser**. All profits support WOGS Community Outreach programs. The webstore is open for orders 24/7. Feel free to send this info to family and friends. The link to WOGS' Webstore to place an order: <https://wogs.terrilynn.com>. Questions contact **Cathy Kohli** at [kohli.cathy@gmail.com](mailto:kohli.cathy@gmail.com) or 419-303-1310. Thank you for your continued support.



*Rada Cutlery is well known for quality Made in the USA products. Every purchase you make using our unique shopping link **helps support the Women of Good Shepherd. All profits go to support a variety of local community outreach projects.*** <https://radafundraising.com?rfsn=5419958.7bedf6>

**JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT MEETING JAN 14 – 2PM**

| SUNDAY  | MONDAY                | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY | SATURDAY                     |
|---|-----------------------|--|--|--|--------|------------------------------|
| 43rd Ann Sun<br>9a Advent 1<br>Comm<br>TF Pancake<br>Breakfast/<br>SS & BC<br>1 |                       |  | 9a Elders<br>Meeting<br>4p Advent<br>Service<br>TF Soup<br>Supper<br>3 | <b>Pastor Robert C. Hull</b><br>Good Shepherd Lutheran Church<br>Callao, VA<br>704-787-4999<br><a href="mailto:roberthull1687@yahoo.com">roberthull1687@yahoo.com</a><br>7 |        |                              |
| 9a Advent 2<br>Comm<br>10:30a<br>SS & BC<br>8                                   | 7p CG Aux<br>Mtg<br>9 | Noon<br>WOGS<br>Christmas<br>Luncheon @<br>Cygnets<br>10 | 4p Advent<br>Service<br>TF Soup<br>Supper<br>11                        | 12   | 13     | 14                           |
| 9a Advent 3<br>Comm<br>TF WOGS<br>Cookie Walk<br>SS & BC<br>15                  | 16                    | 17   | 4p Advent<br>Service<br>TF Soup<br>Supper<br>18                        | 19   | 20     | First Day of<br>Winter<br>21 |
| 9a Advent 4<br>Comm<br>10:30a<br>SS & BC<br>22                                  | 23                    | 4p<br>Christmas<br>Eve<br>Candlelite<br>Service<br>24    | Christmas<br>Day<br>25   | <br><b>For<br/>unto us a<br/>CHILD<br/>is born</b>  |        |                              |
| 9a Comm<br>10:30a<br>SS & BC<br>30  |                       | New<br>Year's<br>Eve<br>31                               |  |   |        |                              |

# DECEMBER

**2024**

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|    | 1  | 2  |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |
| 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |

NOVEMBER 2024

JANUARY 2025

## NOTES:

### IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER

- 1 – Advent Begins/GS 43rd Anniv Sunday  
TF Pancake Breakfast
- 4 – Elders Mtg/Advent Service/Soup Sup
- 10 – WOGS Christmas Luncheon
- 11 – Advent Service/Soup Sup
- 15 – WOGS Cookie Walk
- 18 – Advent Service/Soup Sup
- 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelite Service
- 25 – Celebrate Jesus' Birthday!
- 31 – New Year's Eve



Please keep the following individuals in your prayers:

**Karen Henderson** - shut-in.

**Kathy Brodtman** – shut-in.

**Melissa Martin & family** – prayers for guidance, courage, and strength as she goes through breast cancer resolution for the second time (different location).

**Marilyn & Myles Dempsey's son Shane** – prayers for strength and healing as he recovers from ulcerative colitis.

**Susan Hall** – prayers for strength and healing as she recovers from having a kidney removed that was transplanted into an individual in need. Prayers also for the person that received the kidney that all is going well with the transplant.

**Marilyn Dempsey's sister Shauna** – prayers for strength and healing as she undergoes chemotherapy, radiation and surgery for a large sarcoma on her quadricep.

**Lou Kress' granddaughter Ashley** – prayers for strength and healing of injuries sustained in a car accident.

**Pastor Bruce Alkire** – prayers for strength and healing as he recovers from pancreatitis.

**Lou Kress** – prayers for continued strength and healing from Lyme Disease.

**Bonnie Hughes** – prayers for strength and healing of ongoing health issues.

**Bev Horn** – prayers for strength and relief from pain.

**Dianne Bertsch** – prayers for strength and healing of broken wrist.

**Larry Krug** – prayers of hope for helpful treatment as he sees new doctors in regards to his health issues.

**Terry & Ruth Cooper** – prayers for continued strength.

**Tootie Cornwell** – prayers for continued strength and healing of broken hip.

**Betty Cornwell** - prayers for continued strength and healing from fall.

**Diane Alkire** – prayers for continued strength and healing.

**Charles Bertsch, Dave and Dianne's son** – continued prayers for Charles that he will remain strong in his faith and stay physically, mentally and spiritually healthy in his current situation.

*An Advent Prayer*  
*Lord Jesus,*  
*as we enter this Advent season,*  
*help us cling to the hope You bring.*  
*In a world that feels heavy with need,*  
*remind us of Your promise to come again*  
*and make all things new.*  
*Let our hearts be filled with the light of Your presence,*  
*leading us closer to You each day.*  
*Amen.*



## What Is the Meaning and Significance of the Manger?

Annette Griffin, Contributing Writer

Updated: Nov 5, 2024

We get one detail in the Christmas story about Jesus' birth: he was placed in a manger. What is significant about this manger, so important that we remember it to this day?

The Gospel of Luke gives us a play-by-play of the moments leading up to our Savior's birth. Although that divine narrative explains Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and the circumstances surrounding the blessed event, Scripture gives us only one detail about where our Savior spent His first moments on earth. He was laid in a manger.

### What Is a Manger?

If Luke had been a typical author, he might have added nuance to Jesus's birth story to make the setting come alive for the reader. Or he may have embellished the plot to increase tension

so that the reader would want to turn the page. But because we know God inspires all Scripture, we can be sure that the Holy Spirit had a purpose for every detail conveyed.

When Jesus was born, Luke tells us that Mary laid him in something called a manger (Luke 2:7). The word used for manger is the Latin word *munducare*, which means "to eat." When our Savior left the



comfort of Heaven and his earthly mother's womb, his first resting place on earth doubled as a feeding trough for livestock. Back then, farmers kept their mangers overflowing with fodder so their beasts of burden would never go hungry.

### Was Jesus Born in a Stable?

The Biblical symbols we use in our Christmas celebrations are centuries old. The beloved nativity scene, a tradition first initiated by Francis of Assisi in 1223, is still revered by Christians as one of the most important symbols of the season. In our attempt to commemorate Jesus's birth, we typically use every means possible to recreate the scenes of that Holy night in our hearts, churches, and homes—so that we can feel closer to Christ as we rejoice.

The problem is some Christians rely on modern Nativity scenes, Christmas plays, classic hymns, and feature films to fill in the gaps where Scripture is silent, then adopt those renditions as truth.

It might surprise some Believers to realize that the entire account of Christ's birth event—that exact moment and place He was born—can only be found in one short verse of Luke's Gospel:

*"And she [Mary] brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn"* (Luke 2:7, KJV).

The reason this is an important factor when considering the question of whether Jesus was born in a stable or not is the same reason I quoted the Scripture from the KJV version of the Bible. It all boils down to the three-letter word at the end of the passage—the word "inn."

Christian tradition has historically referred to the "inn" in this verse as a commercial boarding house for travelers. Assuming that interpretation is accurate, if there were "no room for them in the inn," Mary and Joseph would have retreated to the first private place they could find to deliver their baby. A stable seems the most likely locale for that purpose since Scripture reveals that Mary laid Jesus in a feeding trough after He was born.

The original language of the verse uses the Greek word *kataluma* for the word "inn." This word can be translated to mean a type of boarding house, but more often, the word was used to describe a "guest chamber." Although many scholars believe boarding houses existed in Bethlehem at the time of Jesus's birth, the Greek word used for a commercial boarding establishment was *pandocheion*.

If Mary and Joseph were turned away from a guest chamber instead of a boarding house, that would suggest that they had tried to find lodging at a relative's home, which seems plausible based on the day's customs. In that case, the most likely scenario would have been that their relatives, already overcrowded with guests arriving for the census, were forced to make room for the young couple in an area usually reserved for family livestock—an indoor shelter adjoined to the home.

Another theory about Jesus's birthplace suggests that He was born in a part of Bethlehem called Migdol Eder. Beneath the watchtower located at Migdol Eder, there was an area where shepherds could house and protect their newborn lambs. That spot would later become the burial place of Rachel and the designated spot for temple sacrifices.

Some scholars believe Jesus came into the world at Migdol Eder because the prophet Micah mentions the place when prophesying about the coming Messiah. "As for you, watchtower of the flock [*Migdol Eder*, original Hebrew], stronghold of Daughter Zion, the former dominion will be restored to you; kingship will come to Daughter Jerusalem" (Micah 4:8).

The truth is Scripture never reveals the exact location where Mary gave birth. Any answer we come up with is based solely on conjecture. The Biblical Nativity story only provides one detail about Jesus's first earthly abode: He was laid in a manger.

## What Can We Learn from Jesus' Manger?

Maybe there's a reason God chose to omit the details of His birth and the specific location of His birthplace from Scripture. Perhaps knowing our human tendency to sensationalize the sacred and memorialize the mundane, He wanted humanity to focus on the bigger picture. Here are a few things Jesus's manger reveals about that bigger picture:

**The manger was a sign**—When the angel appeared to the shepherds in the field to invite them to visit the newborn King, he told them to look for a baby in a manger. The manger wasn't just a sign for the shepherds; it's a sign to all of us that Jesus is accessible to everyone who seeks Him. The shepherds would not have had access to a baby born in a royal palace, and as strangers, they probably wouldn't even have had access to a baby born in the confines of a family home. But a manger was accessible to all—and still is.

**The manger was a symbol**—Only a roughhewn, splintery, smelly feeding trough could have adequately illustrated the shocking condescension that the God of the universe displayed through Christ's birth.

"God became man and took on flesh. The Creator became a creature; the One who hung the stars lay helpless in a manger. The One who we teach our children is so big, so strong, and so mighty became so tiny, so weak, and so powerless. The King of the angels was made a little lower than the angels. The Creator of time entered time. The One whose everlasting arms are underneath His people lay vulnerable in his mother's arms." – "The Condescending God," by Paul Levy

**The manger facilitated a metaphor**—Newborn Jesus, the Bread of Life, lay in a feeding trough in the little town of Bethlehem, which means "the house of bread" in Hebrew. No other food has the power to give us everlasting life (John 6:51). No other nourishment can yield lasting joy (Jeremiah 15:16). Those who feast on this bread will never be hungry again (John 6:35).

Today, Jesus still beckons us to come to the trough, into His presence, and feed on Him. Rebecca Barlow Jordan beautifully describes this continuous invitation like this:

"My child, I sense your hunger to grow. No one who seeks My presence leaves empty. I will feed you, body, soul, and spirit. Come, sit at My feet daily, and we will share together. I've baked an abundance of delicious bread you've never even tasted. My manna is not of this world, but once you eat it, you will never be hungry again. I will fill you up with Myself." – Bread of Life - Daily in Your Presence

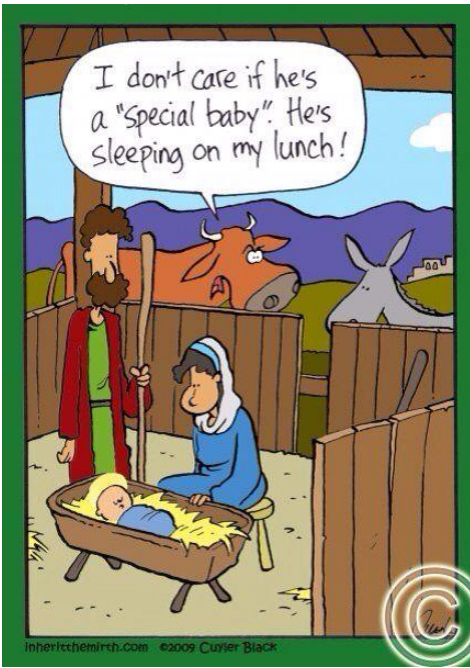
**Annette Marie Griffin** is an award-winning author and speaker who has managed and directed children's and youth programs for more than 20 years. Her debut children's book, *What Is A Family?* released through Familius Publishing in 2020. Annette has also written curriculum for character growth and development of elementary-age children and has developed parent training seminars to benefit the community. Her passion is to help wanderers find home. She and her husband have five children—three who have already flown the coop and two adopted teens still roosting at home—plus two adorable grands who add immeasurable joy and laughter to the whole flock.

<https://www.christianity.com/wiki/holidays/meaning-and-significance-of-the-manger.html>



# FOR A CHUCKLE

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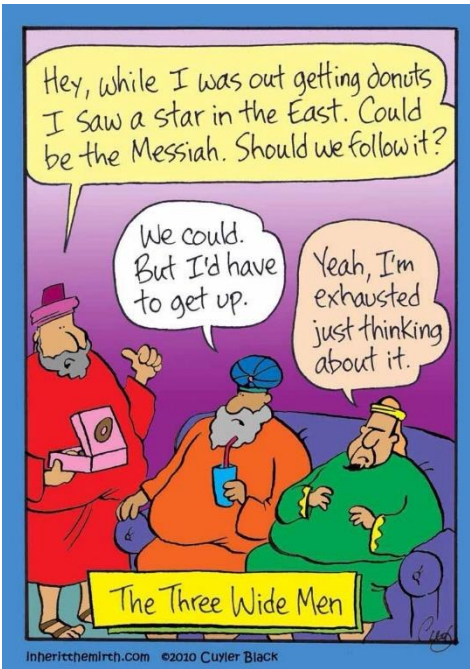


Thanks to Wilma Melendez (See Luke 2:1-16)

12-24-2010

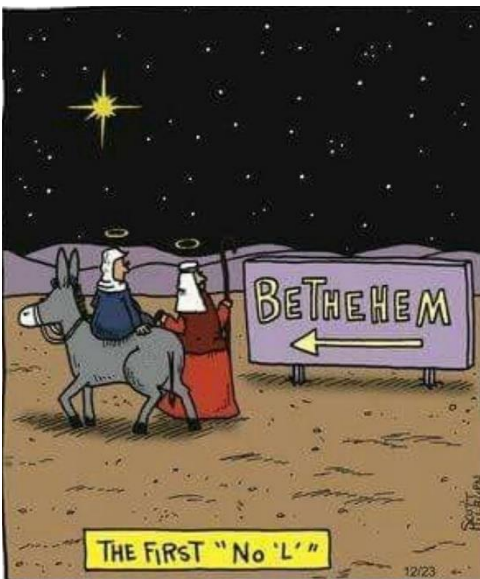
THIS IS LIKE TOTALLY THE COOLEST THING THAT HAS EVEN HAPPENED IN THIS STABLE!

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12-14-2012

I THINK YOUR LIGHTS MIGHT BE TOO BRIGHT THIS YEAR





**GOOD SHEPHERD  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**  
PO Box 576  
Callao, Virginia 22435

**GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH, CALLAO, VA  
INVITES YOU AND YOURS!**  
*1717 Hampton Hall Road (2 miles West of Callao on VSH 202)*



**ADVENT SERVICES**

Special Worship to Prepare for Christmas

WED DEC 4 4:00 pm

WED DEC 11 4:00 pm

WED DEC 18 4:00 pm

**CHRISTMAS WORSHIP**

Christmas Eve Candlelight

Communion Service

**TUE DEC 24 4:00 pm**

**The Lutheran Witness in the Central  
Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula of Virginia**