



May 2020

The Shepherd's Staff

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
106 May Street
Walterboro, SC 29488
(843) 549-5353

From Your Interim Pastor :

I keep hearing people ask, "When will we return to normal?" The real question might be what is normal? Good Shepherd hasn't had anything near "normal" for months now. And I don't think that will change any time soon. I do expect us to be able to re-open the church in the near future. But, much of that will depend on how we are willing to move forward with appropriate precautions. While the number of virus cases may be starting to decline and has never been dramatic numbers in the Walterboro area, we still have no known treatment and inadequate testing in place. Until those things are in commonly available, we will have to proceed with social distancing practices and very careful thought to whatever ways we gather.

Since I also pastor at St. John's in Beaufort, I have experienced death due to Covid-19 and the disruption of members needing to quarantine. None of us want to see any of our members and good friends face those circumstances. And let's be honest----a significant number in our community fall in that high-risk profile. At the same time, we all yearn for the opportunity to be back together face to face. We know that our Food Bank recipients need us. We know that we are stronger and better together in our fellowship. And who doesn't want to be able to feast on Spaghetti, BBQ, or those other luscious goodies our women and men cook up?

Your Executive Committee has determined that we need to continue what we are currently doing at least until mid-May. We're watching for the 2 factors cited by the White House team----a reduction in reported cases for 14 consecutive days and significantly increased testing. In the meantime, we'll continue to offer what we

have been doing along with continued contacting to be sure everyone is okay. Let's hope the time passes quickly and we all remain safe and healthy.

Even with the limitations in place, spring in the low country is a favorite time of year for me. The whole of creation comes alive, giving testimony to the resurrection all around us. It seems like something is blooming all the time. The temperatures are magnificent this time of year. Remember, I spent 36 years in Minnesota where spring lasted 2-3 weeks! Yes, it will get hot again----but I plan on never again going outside to a minus 30 temp. It seems to me that we can either consider our present situation as a problem or an opportunity. I prefer to think of the later. My wife and I have had wonderful quality time together and we've also allowed one another to have our own time. We've also had long talks with loved ones, more frequent than normal, which has been lovely. When we're back together I hope many of you will have some lovely show-and-tell things to share.

In the meantime, give thanks for each day----pray for all those who need our support----and continue to bless one another with your well wishes and graceful living.

Pastor Craig

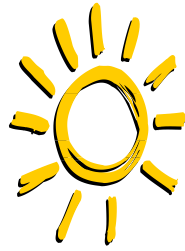
Christian Education Committee

Lutheroad registration forms are now available. If your child attended Lutheroad last year and is eligible to attend this year, a form was mailed to your child. Registration forms will also be available on the church's website soon. The dates for Lutheroad day camp are July 20-24, 2020 (Monday- Friday). If you have any questions, please contact Diane Wicker.

Applications for school scholarships are now available, along with the guidelines for the application. These scholarships are for those students in our congregation who are pursuing either an associate degree or a bachelor degree. Please contact Diane Wicker for applications. The deadline for receiving applications is **July 1.**

Sunshine News :

The Good Shepherd Women and the Lutheran Men in Mission will not be meeting in the month of May. We hope that both groups will be able to meet in June.



If you would like to place someone on the prayer list that is printed in the bulletin, please fill out a prayer request form, found in the narthex, and drop it in the offering plate or give it to an usher. The prayer list is updated every three months. You may also email your prayer requests to thewickers@lowcountry.com.

The Sanctuary Candles for the month of May are given to the glory of God by Shannon and Billy Guess in honor of their twenty-sixth wedding anniversary.

**** Note:** The cost of Sanctuary Candles is \$20 per month. Please place a check in the offering plate to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church designated “Sanctuary Candles”.

The loose and special designated offerings for May will support the **Cristo Rey Mission Congregation “An Abundance of Grace”** appeal. Please take time to read the letter below from Bishop Herman.

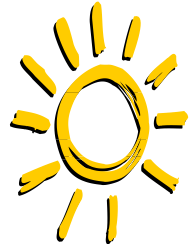
Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Imagine your hands helping to lift three framed, heavy wooden walls for the new Cristo Rey sanctuary, along with 35 Latino brothers and sisters in Christ. I was there on November 24th when together we lifted the first three walls that were framed by the ELCA Mission Builders and volunteers. Seeing the excitement and joy on their faces is something I will never forget.

The joy continued for me that next Sunday when I helped Pastor Jorge confirm 22 young people. Again, I wish you could have seen in their faces and faces of their parents how important this service reaffirming their baptism meant to each one. Clearly God is moving hearts and lives through the good news of Jesus Christ that we share together through our partnership with Cristo Rey and the South Carolina Synod.

Sunshine News : (Continued)

I am inviting you to join into what God is doing in our midst by praying and making a financial commitment to help finish building this sanctuary and to provide funds for future Latino ministry outreach across the state.

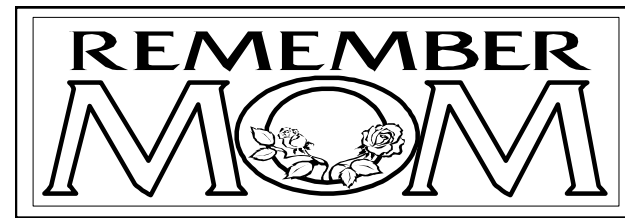


In John 10:10, Jesus said, “I have come that you may have life and have it more abundantly.” What Jesus is referring to here is the abundance of God’s grace that we all receive and the abundance of loving relationships through the body of Christ and with our neighbors around us. In a few weeks your congregation will join with other congregations in gathering a special, one-time love offering. Of each \$1.10 given, \$.80 will be used to finish the sanctuary of Cristo Rey, \$.20 will be used for new and ongoing Latino ministry (especially in the upstate) and \$.10 will be used to establish an endowment for Cristo Rey to help with future maintenance issues. Any and every size gift is appreciated.

Thank you for all the ways you share Christ’s abundance with others.

Bishop Herman Yoos

(This is not a budgeted item, but you can help Cristo Rey by placing loose offering in the offering plate, or by designating your gift for “Cristo Rey” on your offering envelope.)



May 10, 2020



Financial Report For April 19, 2020

General Fund Weekly Offering Goal	\$ 1,580.00
General Fund Offering received last week	\$ 2,160.00
General Fund Offering received, year to date	\$ 28,534.00
Ministry Spending Plan in 2020; week # 16	\$ 25,285.00
ELCA Clean Water, month-to-date	\$ 50.00
Nixville Relief Effort, to date	\$ 1,000.00

April Council meeting notes : 04-05-2020

- The meeting was held using the Zoom on-line meeting program and was attended by all members of Council.
- The majority of the meeting centered on topics associated with the Corona virus, including Holy Week and Easter mailings and on-line services at St. John's in Beaufort.
- The Food Pantry will be open on the first Tuesday of April, but will probably be closed until the threat of the virus subsides and bulk grocery purchases are available.
- The members also discussed the "Council Contacts" list that each had received with names of members of the congregation that they would be in contact with during this time of "social distancing."

Your Council members are Angela Crosby, Dean Brinson, Jon Carpenter, Doug Lindstrom, Garrett Brinson, Kathie Whetsell, Amy Rusnak, Shannon Guess and Kevin Wicker. Pastor Craig was also in attendance.

April Executive Committee meeting notes : 04-21-2020

- The officers of church Council met, along with Pastor Craig, using the Zoom on-line meeting program to discuss plans for Good Shepherd for the month of May. The committee decided to continue not meeting face-to-face at the church and to re-evaluate the situation at the next Council meeting scheduled for Sunday, May 17. That will be a Zoom meeting.
- Jon notified the committee that the SC Synod assembly has been rescheduled for Saturday, July 25, at St. Stephen's Lutheran in Lexington. This year's assembly will be at a one-day business meeting from 10:00 a.m. until 8:30 p.m.
- Kevin let the committee know that Diane will be sending out Lutheroad registration information to families of young people who are eligible to attend camp this year. If NovusWay cancels the camp due to the Corona virus, the registration money will be reimbursed to the families. Lutheroad is scheduled for the week of July 20 at Good Shepherd.

Your Council members are Jon Carpenter, Angela Crosby, Shannon Guess and Kevin Wicker.

Financial Corner:

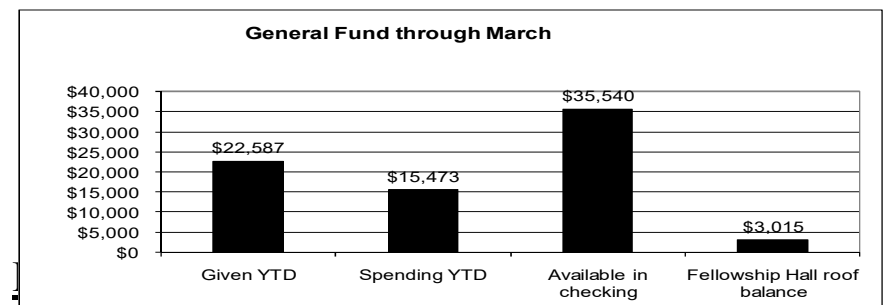
Well, to say that 2020 has been a most unusual year thus far would be a major understatement. With Covid-19 and the tornado and storm damage from this month, everything certainly seems inside out and upside down. When we ceased having worship at the church, naturally our offerings went down because we all thought this would be short lived and we'd be back in a few weeks and could catch up on our offerings then. However, the virus has been persistent and we have continued to worship apart. In this month, we began receiving offerings through the mail, dropped off at the church, and through the online giving program Tithely. Although there are actually some cost savings from not having our worship and other activities at our facilities (electricity, copy paper, supply pastors when Pastor Craig is away, etc.), there are also cost increases (postage, Zoom on-line meeting program, etc.) and other costs that are pretty constant (property insurance, utilities, salaries, State and Federal tax withholdings, maintenance, etc.) So, your offerings are very much appreciated and continue to be vital as we carry on the ministry of Good Shepherd through these difficult times.

Until next month, I really do hope to see you in church.

Kevin

March Offering and Gifts

General Fund	\$ 7,571
Wallace Fund	\$ 375
Social Ministry/Food Pantry	\$ 675
Wonderful Wednesday	\$ 121
Lenten Offering	\$ 455
Candles	\$ 30
Lutheroad	\$ 296
Easter Lilies	\$ 175



SERVING IN MAY

Grounds Care : Kevin Wicker
Council Devotions Kevin Wicker

Special Thanks to Everyone Who Served In April !!!

****Note:** *If you are unable to serve during your month, please be responsible and ask someone to substitute for you.*

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Sunday, May 10	All Day	Mother's Day
Monday May 11	1-7 PM	Red Cross Blood Drive
Sunday, May 17	TBA	Church Council Meets (via ZOOM)
Friday May 22	10:00 PM	Newsletter Deadline
Monday, May 25	All Day	Memorial Day

****Note :** *All other in-person events at Good Shepherd have been cancelled until at least May 17 when the council meets and will evaluate our situation. Everyone will be notified by email, phone calls and/or the website.*

LOVE AND PRAYERS GO OUT FOR :

Good Shepherd Family

Pat Ostendorf, the Vendricks, Roberta McCullough, Jim Strickland, Buddy and Joyce Carter, Frances Barton, Ted Avant, Elizabeth Miller, Mary Lommen, Frank Wilson, Margaret Juttner, Gloria Ferris, Gail and Carl Lindstrom

Friends and Family

Margaret Hoff (Amy Rusnak), Roxanne Lane, Mary Wicker, Ben Wicker (Kevin and Diane Wicker), DeeDee Eason Burns, Rita Banks, Gene Whetsell, Tammy Long (Kathie Whetsell), Evans Simons (Winfield Simons), Lori Nolte, Caroline Wertz, Kathy Janney (the Risters), Mr. & Mrs. M. Nettles, Mr. & Mrs. G.W. Bunch, the family of Gladys Mosandel, Lavern Smoak, Bill Walters, Laura Spivey, Maria Rodriguez (Janet Szymanski), Jean Strickland (Theresa and Ray Strickland), Bob Michel (Eleanore Gloeckler), Kathryn Peer (Nancy Peer), the Nixville community (Ellen Brinson)

Nixville Tornado Recovery Support

We now have a fund to support the tornado victims and cleanup efforts in Nixville, where five members of the community died in the tornado on April 13. Three of these dear people are family of our own Ellen Brinson. If you would like to donate for the relief efforts, you can send your offering to our church, drop off your gift at the church, or donate through Tithely on our website. A category for **Nixville Relief** has been added to the **Tithely** site on our website <http://www.walterborolutherans.com>

If you would like to designate your **Thrivent Choice Dollars** to Nixville, just designate it to Good Shepherd and let Kevin Wicker know that you want it to go to the Nixville effort. Or, you can mail your gift directly to **Nixville Baptist Church** and mark it for tornado relief. (Nixville Baptist Church, 3915 Two Sisters Ferry Rd, Estill, SC 29918)

We will continue to route this money to Nixville Baptist for as long as gifts continue to arrive, no matter how many weeks or months that might be. Please prayerfully consider this effort and continue to pray for our sisters and brothers in Nixville.

In addition to monetary support, Dean and Charlotte took all of the remainder of the food in our Food Pantry to Nixville on the day following the storm. The Food Pantry is not in operation until the threat of the virus subsides.

Memorial Day!



May 25, 2020

DESIGNATED GIFTS

Donations given to the Glory of God to:

General Fund

Given by:

Mr. Edd Wicker
Mr. Emmett Wicker
Ms. Edwina Wicker

In Honor of:

Diane Wicker (for her birthday)
Diane Wicker (for her birthday)
Diane Wicker (for her birthday)

May Birthdays :

May 1	Rebecca Wicker Samantha Bell
May 3	Ava Smyly Morgan Dandridge
May 6	Luke Shaw
May 7	Jared Fralix
May 8	Frank Wilson
May 10	Ethan Alberts
May 13	Samantha Crawford
May 16	Anne Marie Flanders
May 18	Alisha Casella
May 21	Matt Zielke
May 25	Mary Eason Cindy Corley
May 26	Sarah Rosebrock
May 27	Hope Brinson Smyly



May Anniversaries :

May 5	Dean & Charlotte Brinson
May 15	Rob & Amy Rusnak
May 21	Shannon & Billy Guess
May 28	Charles & Sandra Roberts
May 29	Bob & Gloria Ferris



The Shepherd's Staff is published by Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 106 May Street, Walterboro, SC 29488. Phone : (843)549-5353. Any Sunshine News or other information that you would like to include into the newsletter should be mailed to the church or given to Doug Brinson. Doug can be contacted at 538-8219, DJBrinson@Yahoo.com or by leaving it in his box in the robing room. This information needs to be received no later than the **22nd** of the month so that it can be included in the monthly publication and sent out on time.