



December 2020

The Shepherd's Staff

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

From Your Interim Pastor :

The primary theme for the Advent season is anticipation. This year we've had plenty of anxiety---and now we begin to hope for these vaccines that seem to be near approval. It's a ray of hope in what has otherwise been a pretty dismal year. Surrounded by continual bad news about illness and death, we've also endured horrendous fires and a record hurricane season. I know that the folks on the Louisiana coast and those on either side are totally worn out. I grieve for the people of Nicaragua. Having spent time teaching and visiting rural parishes there, I know how fragile and vulnerable their existence is even in the best of times. And close to home, communities near us are still putting back the pieces from that tornado months ago.

Advent calls us to live with hope even in the worst of times. And difficult as this year has been---for most of us this has not been any where near as bad as it could have been. People in Old Testament Israel clung to the promises of a messiah even as they saw their promised land overrun by foreign armies. They had been slaves in Egypt and again had become exiles and slaves in Babylon. Generations had lived with only the hope that God would again someday deliver them. And when Jesus came, it was into a world ruled by the Roman Empire. They were experts at maintaining control so that no one dared hope for a different future.

When Jesus came into the world, it was in a way that few recognized or understood. The Jewish vision for a mighty king like David was not the way that God would choose to intervene in the world this time. This has to make us wonder what to expect when Christ comes again. The scriptures say we won't know the

day or the hour. It suggests that it will be a total surprise for most-----frightening for the lost-----and amazing for those who call upon the Lord.

So, Advent calls us to remember the promises---to cultivate hope even in desperate times---and to anticipate that the day of the Lord is at hand. As my sermons last month talked about judgment, it is not anything we are to fear as people of faith. Stay focused. Put first things first. Keep the faith.

On the more immediate front, Good Shepherd will be looking more in earnest for your next pastor in the coming year. As we return to life after Covid (or at least, with the virus becoming contained), we hope to return to some semblance of normalcy. Activities and relationships can be renewed. We'll begin to feel at ease and eager for our future. As a congregation we can talk about what we hope for. So, as Advent is a time of hope and anticipation, we have much to look for in the future. May God's light shine in the darkness, and bring renewed hope to all the world.

Pastor Craig

Merry Christmas!



Good Shepherd Women:

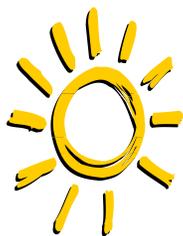
The **Good Shepherd Women** met Monday, November 2, at 6:30 pm at the church. Plans were discussed for shopping for First Steps "Fill-the-Stocking" program. A group will be meeting at Walmart on Saturday, December 5, at 10:00 am to shop for six children in the community.

The women also made the decision to cancel the LMM/WELCA Christmas dinner this year because of COVID-19 concerns.

The next meeting will be Monday, January 4, 2021, at 6:30 pm at the church.

Sunshine News :

The **wreaths** on the church doors are given to the glory of God by Janet Szymanski in memory of Mary and Arden Lommen and in memory of Lisa O'Quinn.



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 on the table, and drop it in the offering plate or give it to Diane Wicker. The prayer list is updated every three months. You may also email your prayer requests to thewickers@lowcountry.com.

Our loose and special designated offering for December will support our **Social Ministry Fund**. At Good Shepherd, the Social Ministry program includes the Food Pantry as well as assistance for utility bills, prescription medication, etc. This is not a budgeted item, but you can help by placing loose offering in the offering plate, or by designating your gift for “**Social Ministry**” on your offering envelope.

**** Note:** Our Christmas Eve offering is designated for **Special Gathering Ministries**.

The Sanctuary Candles for the month of December are given to the glory of God by Janet Szymanski.

**** 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**”.

Altar flowers for December

December 6:	Bob and Gloria Ferris
December 13:	Kevin and Diane Wicker
December 20:	<i>Open</i>
December 24:	Marie Wilson
December 27:	Janet Szymanski

Please complete a “Flowers for Sunday” form, located in the narthex, at least one week prior to your designated week. Cost of flowers is \$45 each week. Place a check in the offering plate to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church designated “flowers.”

Thank You!

The family and friends of Good Shepherd would like to thank the **Walterboro Elks Lodge** for the truck load of food items that they donated for the food pantry.

Thanks also to all of the **Action Team Project leaders** this year – see the list below. If you know of an outreach need in the community, contact Charles or Faye Rister. I am sure there are some members who would be willing to do an Action Team Event to help.

Rob Rusnak
Faye Rister
Charles Rister
Doug Brinson
Diane Wicker
Charles Rister

Faye Rister

Kathie Whetsell

Good Shepherd Food Pantry
Good Shepherd Food Pantry
Nixville tornado relief
Nixville tornado relief
First Steps Christmas for Kids
Veterans Day Dinner at the
Walterboro Elks Lodge
Special Gathering Christmas gifts
at the Walterboro Elks Lodge
St. Anthony's Thanksgiving
Day Dinner

Happy New Year!



Worship and Music

The **Worship and Music Committee** will meet after worship on Sunday, December 6, 2020. We will be discussing plans for the Christmas Eve service and plans for the service on the Sunday after Christmas, December 27.

We are taking orders for **poinsettias for Christmas Eve**. Order forms can be found in the narthex. The deadline for ordering is **Sunday, December 6, 2020**. Please make all checks payable to Good Shepherd and note “poinsettias” on the memo line.

Christian Education:

Five children and three adults came out on Saturday, November 14, to decorate suncatchers and Thanksgiving cards for some members of the congregation. A light lunch was served. On **Saturday, December 19**, beginning at 10:00 am, the children, and some adults, will gather again to decorate the Chrismon tree in the sanctuary, and to make Christmas decorations to take home. A light lunch will be served at this event.

The next meeting of the Christian Education committee will be Saturday, January 9, at 10:00 am via Zoom. Part of the discussion will be about starting back the Wonderful Wednesday program, possibly in February.

Reason for the Season | Luke 2:11

Today, we wanted to share a Bible verse with you from Luke 2:11 to remind everyone the reason for the season. This verse says, “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is

Christ the Lord.” As Christmas is rapidly approaching, we hope that you will take time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.



Christmas is a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. He came to this earth to die willing for our sins on the cross. That is right! He loved us that much! So amid the presents, cookie decorating, and Christmas parties remember that Jesus is the reason for the season!

*Taken from <https://www.saintmaryadoption.com> Saint Mary International Adoptions is a Christian Adoption Agency wishing you a very Merry Christmas!!!

November Council meeting notes: 11-8-2020

Pastor Craig opened the meeting with prayer.

1. Council members decided to begin the 2021-2023 Council election process on Sunday, November 22 and to mail ballots to members not in attendance at church due to concerns of Covid-19.
2. In a report from the Good Shepherd Women of the ELCA, Council acknowledged that the LMM/WELCA Christmas dinner will be canceled this year due to concerns of Covid-19.
3. At the recommendation of the Worship and Music Committee, the Council approved the purchase of a new Chrismon tree for the sanctuary in memory of Arden and Mary Lommen.
4. Also at the request of the Worship and Music Committee, the Council discussed alternate times for the Christmas Eve candlelight service. There being no particular feelings about the worship time, Council sent that decision back to Worship and Music for consideration.
5. Council members discussed in detail the Congregational Sustainability Assessment that had been completed by a sub-committee of the Council since the last meeting. This assessment is part of the Call Process and will be forwarded to Bishop Aebischer for review and discussion.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed with prayer by Pastor Craig.

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

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.

Financial Corner:

Some would say that finances are boring, and as a “recovering engineer” I have thought that as well in the past. However, as we enter the season of Advent, and prepare for Christmas, I find the financial support of our ministries exciting. We continue to meet our Spending Plan for Ministry goals, continue to pay back the Wallace fund for the parsonage heating and air conditioning unit and the water damage repair in the sanctuary, and continue to build our reserves in anticipation of the expense of making necessary repairs and upgrades to the parsonage.

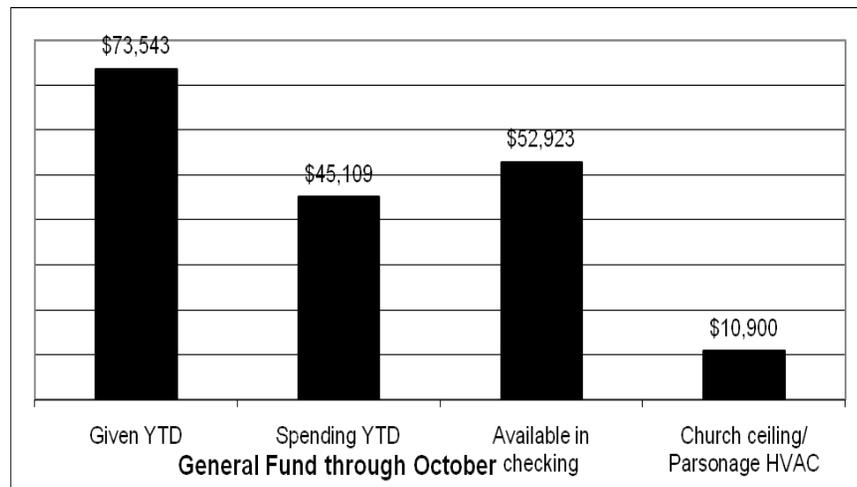
Thank you all so much for your continuing support of the ministry of Good Shepherd. As always, if you have questions concerning the finances of Good Shepherd, please give me a call.

Until next month: peace, joy and good health. And, I hope to see you in person or on-line for church.

Kevin

October Offering and Gifts

General Fund	\$ 6,877
Wallace Fund	410
Social Ministry/Food Pantry	50
NovusWay Ministries	105
Non-contact Thermometers	120



SERVING IN DECEMBER

Lay Reader

Jon Carpenter

Communion Assistant

Volunteer Needed

Acolyte

Volunteer Needed

Grounds Care

Doug Lindstrom

Council Devotions

Angela Crosby

Ushers

Ushers will be selected by Council for return to indoor worship services

Special Thanks to Everyone Who Served In November !!!

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

LOVE AND PRAYERS GO OUT FOR :

Good Shepherd Family

Pat Ostendorf, the Vendricks, Roberta McCullough, Jim Strickland, Joyce Carter, Frances Barton, Ted and Sara Avant, Elizabeth Miller, the family of Mary Lommen, Frank Wilson, Margaret Juttner, Gloria Ferris, Gail and Carl Lindstrom, Ron Szymanski, Eleanore Gloeckler

Friends and Family

Evans Simons (Winfield Simons), Gary Bunch, Lavern Smoak, Bill Walters, the family of Lisa O’Quinn, Grace LaRoach, Michelle Rousch (Janet Szymanski), Jean Strickland (Ray and Theresa Strickland), Diann Tuthill (Lisa Mezell), DeeDee Eason Burns, Tammy Long, the family of Clyde Frazier, William Cummings, Ashlyn Johnk (Kathie Whetsell), Kim Hutson (Tara Brinson)

We offer our prayers and sympathy to the family and friends of **Mr. Buddy Carter**, who passed away on Tuesday, November 24, 2020. Mr. Buddy and his family were long time members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, contributing much toward the building of the old Sanctuary that use to sit where the current Sanctuary is now. May God grant him eternal rest and ease the suffering of his family and friends.

DESIGNATED GIFTS

Donations given to the Glory of God to:

Wallace Fund

Given by:

Charles & Faye Rister
Janet Szymanski
Charles & Faye Rister

In Memory of:

Mary Lommen
Mary Lommen
Margie Wannamaker

Social Ministry Fund

Given by:

Janet Szymanski

In Memory of:

Joanne Ferguson

General Fund

Given by:

Carl & Gail Lindstrom
Rob and Amy Rusnak
Patricia Williamson
Carl & Gail Lindstrom

In Memory of:

Mary Lommen
Mary Lommen
Mary Lommen
Joanne Ferguson

Food Pantry

Given by:

John & Linda Gilgen
Gene and Kathie Whestsell

In Memory of:

Joanne Ferguson
Helen Infinger

Food Pantry

Continuing through the month of December we will have a **food drive to help support our food pantry** here at Good Shepherd. Our food pantry distributes food to those in need in our community. Currently donations of goods are needed instead of cash donations because of the inability to make bulk purchases at this time. We are asking for contributions of nonperishable food items such as cans of fruit cocktail, whole kernel corn, and cut green beans, boxes of saltines, bags of rice, spaghetti noodles, pasta sauce, ramen noodles, and peanut butter.



DECEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1 10:00-12:00 Food Pantry	2 <u>Birthday :</u> Margaret Juttner	3	4 <u>Birthday :</u> Eleanore Gloeckler	5 10:00 AM WELCA shopping for First Steps <u>Birthday :</u> Gail Lindstrom
6 10:00 AM Worship with Communion followed by Worship and Music Committee <u>Birthday :</u> Anna Carpenter	7 Pearl Harbor Day <u>Birthdays :</u> Mike Alberts Connor Smyly	8	9	10	11 Chanukah <u>Birthday :</u> Sandra Roberts	12 <u>Birthday :</u> Marion Glover
13 10:00 AM Worship Service followed by Confirmation class. 5:00 PM Council (Zoom) <u>Birthday :</u> James Casella	14	15 10:00-12:00 Food Pantry	16 <u>Birthday :</u> Austin Smith	17 <u>Birthdays :</u> Jimmy Strickland Sarah Hitchens	18	19 10:00 AM Decorate the Chrismon Tree <u>Birthdays :</u> Zachary Knapp Isabelle Knapp
20 10:00 AM Worship Service <u>Birthdays :</u> Andrea Singletary Holger Obenaus	21 First Day of Winter	22 10: 00 PM Newsletter Deadline	23	24 7: 00 PM Christmas Eve Service <u>Anniversary :</u> Gaby & Gerald Thomas	25 Christmas Day! <u>Birthday :</u> Jesus Christ	26 <u>Birthday :</u> Linda Hayes
27 10:00 AM Worship Service	28 <u>Anniversary :</u> Jeff & Lisa Lord	29	30	31 New Years Eve	1 New Years Day!	2

Sanctuary Indoor Worship Guidelines during Covid-19

1. All participants will be required to wear masks, which cover mouth and nose, to be admitted to the sanctuary and for the duration of the service.
 2. If you do not feel well that morning, please do not come to church.
 3. If anyone who attends worship, and thereafter tests positive within a week, they should notify Council Chair Jon Carpenter or Pastor Craig.
 4. An usher will be present to do a temperature check of each person at the door and to offer hand sanitizer before entering the sanctuary.
 5. Members and friends will be asked to stay outside until admitted to the sanctuary by the usher.
 6. The ushers will constantly monitor the narthex and the sanctuary during the service to greet people who may enter during the service, check their temperature, offer hand sanitizer, take them to a suitable socially distanced seat, and to take care of any needs of the congregation.
 7. Social distancing will be observed with seating in designated pews with assistance from an usher. (Pew cushions will be removed and selected pews will be marked off.)
 8. There will be a table in the narthex where bulletins will be available for pick-up and an offering plate for the placement of offerings.
 9. The water fountain will be closed, but water bottles will be available.
 10. Interior doors will be left open to eliminate the need to touch doors and door handles.
 11. Each worshipper is responsible to use the spray sanitizer provided in the restroom after each use.
 12. Outside doors will be left open, as weather permits, for better air circulation.
 13. There will be no singing during the service while in the sanctuary. “Humming” will be encouraged.
 14. Every effort will be made to keep the length of the service to 40 minutes or less.
 15. Worshipers will be asked to turn off their smartphones WiFi feature or place them in “airplane” mode so as to not use the limited WiFi that we’ll be using for Zoom.
 16. The sanctuary will be closed for 48 hours following each service.
- Note:** The ushers will need to arrive 20 minutes before worship to check those in attendance as they arrive and direct them to their seats.