



December 2021

The Shepherd's Staff

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

From the Pastor :

These days there is so much emphasis on political correctness. We're not supposed to say Merry Christmas, but rather Happy Holidays to be respectful of those who may not be Christian. I find it all a bit over the top. The very word "holiday" derives from the notion of "holy day"! And in our modern culture many people celebrate Christmas as a secular holiday----it's all about the gift giving (or getting) without a thought to the greatest gift the world has received. I don't want to be "grinchy" this season, but I do want to encourage making sure the "holy" is in our holiday celebrations.

At Good Shepherd we have a number of wonderful traditions for the month of December. First, the blue vestments announce the Advent season of hope and expectation. Each of the four weeks of Advent we hear the prayers to "stir up in us" anticipation of the God who has come, continues to come to us, and has promised to come at the end of time. This year we're inviting different folks from the congregation to participate in lighting the Advent wreath each week. We decorate the church with the Lommen tree, wreaths, poinsettias, and even place a tree in the portico to announce the festive season. The children will be doing their annual pageant and a special meal is planned for the congregation. It all culminates with Christmas Eve services at 7pm on December 24th.

But Christmas doesn't end on December 25th. The tradition is the 12 days of Christmas, and while stores may close everything out within a few days, we'll have our traditional carol service on Sunday, December 26th and the second Sunday of Christmas on January 2nd. Certainly some of you will travel over these holidays, but many of you will have family and friends visiting here. We'll be delighted to welcome them into the festivities whenever possible.

One more remembrance during this Advent and Christmas season. Our bishop and staff will have our Ministry Site Profile, praying over our call and looking for the right person to be our next pastor. Keep them in prayer these days. Because our search is for a part time person, that is different than many of the requests they get. Hold them and your church in prayer, so that the right person will emerge in God's time. Having served as your interim pastor for over 2 years now, I know that whoever comes to Good Shepherd will be blessed to receive this call.

Pastor Craig

LOVE AND PRAYERS GO OUT FOR :

Good Shepherd Family

Pat Ostendorf, the Vendricks, Roberta McCullough, Jim Strickland, Joyce Carter, Frances Barton, Ted & Sara Avant, Elizabeth Miller, Frank & Marie Wilson, Margaret Juttner, Gloria Ferris, Gail & Carl Lindstrom, Ron Szymanski, Eleanore Gloeckler, the family of Ernie Gartner, Gene Whetsell, Theresa and Ray Strickland

Friends and Family

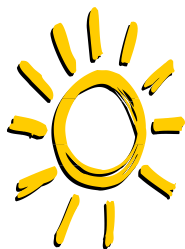
Evans Simons (Winfield Simons), Gary Bunch, Lavern Smoak, Bill Walters, the family of Lisa O'Quinn, the family of Caroline Wertz, Carolyn Rahn (Janet Szymanski), Jean Strickland (Ray and Theresa Strickland), Robert Dorroh, Jr., Mary Wicker (the Wickers), John Green (Maria Rodriguez), Carolyn Bishop, Fran Pye, Debra Walker, Bruce and Jill Bell (the Risters), David, Tammy, and Lauren Long (Kathie Whetsell)

Worship and Music

The Worship & Music committee will meet on Tuesday, November 30, 2021, to finalize plans for Christmas Eve and Sunday, December 26. The Christmas Eve service will be at 7:00 pm. The service on Sunday, December 26, will be a service of Lessons & Carols.

Sunshine News :

The **election process for Church Council** members for the 2022-2024 term has begun. Voting members are receiving their ballots in person at church or by mail. The 3-ballot process will be completed during December.



The **LMM/ WELCA Annual Christmas Dinner** returns this year. It will be on Saturday, December 4, 2021, at 6:00 pm at the church. The meat for the meal will be provided. Those in attendance are asked to bring either side dishes or desserts. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex so we will know how many plan to attend.

The **Children's Christmas Program** will be Sunday, December 12, at 6:00 pm. The program will be followed with light refreshments. Volunteers are needed to provide food for the evening. Please see the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Advent devotionals are available for your use during the upcoming Advent season. Please take one copy per household.

The Good Shepherd Women are collecting **new blankets** for a local hospice organization to distribute at Christmastime. A box is in the narthex for your donations. The deadline for receiving blankets is **Sunday, December 12**. If you have any questions, please see Faye Rister.

Our **loose and special designated offering for December** will support our **2022 Lutheroad Day Camp** at Good Shepherd this summer. **Lutheroad** is a day camp led by counselors from **Lutheridge**. Lutheroad is a fun-filled week for our children who have completed grades Kindergarten through Fifth. This is not a budgeted item, but you can help offset the **\$4,500 cost** of Day Camp by placing loose offering in the offering plate, or by designating your gift for "**Lutheroad**" on your offering envelope.

Our **Christmas Eve offerings** this year will support **Special Gathering** of Walterboro.

The **Sanctuary Candles for the month of December** are given to the glory of God by Doug and Ellen Brinson in loving memory of Don and Wilma Brinson.

Financial Corner

At their November meeting, the Council approved one additional monthly gift to the SC Synod for 2021 in thanksgiving for the staff's help this year in the call process. It is indeed great to be able to share with others from the generous gifts that have been given to Good Shepherd throughout this year. It was also good to be able to send your gifts of \$370 to the ELCA Disaster Relief for Hurricane Ida Relief and \$155 to NovusWay.

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. And, I hope to see you in person or on-line for church.

Kevin

October Offering and Gifts :

General Fund	\$ 8,562
Wallace Fund	\$ 410
Wonderful Wednesday	\$ 22
Candles	\$ 20
Social Ministry/Food Pantry	\$ 620
Flowers	\$ 270
NovusWay	\$ 155
Parsonage Repair	\$ 50
Hurricane Ida Relief	\$ 80
Maintenance Fund	\$ 20

Savings Accounts :

Maintenance Fund	\$ 2,688
Memorial Fund	\$ 1,071
Scholarship Endowment	\$ 6,681
Lommen Love Fund	\$ 8,824
Wallace Estate Fund	\$ 56,038
Social Ministry/Food Pantry	\$ 13,352



October Council meeting notes : 11-14-2021

The November meeting of the church Council was opened with devotions by Kevin.

- ❖ Following the review of the financial reports for October and Year-to-Date, the Council approved sending one additional monthly gift of \$930 to the SC Synod for Ministry Support for 2021 in response to the generous year of giving we have had and in thanks for the help the staff of the SC Synod have given us this year.
- ❖ Amy presented reports from the Christian Education Committee, WELCA and the Worship and Music Committee. She also reported that the Council Executive Committee will be meeting with Pastor Craig following Thanksgiving to conduct his annual review.
- ❖ Doug Lindstrom updated the Council on activities of the Lutheran Men and Social Ministry/Food Pantry. Council approved donating \$300 from the Social Ministry account to St. Anthony's Catholic Church to help with the cost of the Thanksgiving meal they are providing to the needy of the community.
- ❖ Kevin gave a Call Process update to the Council. The Ministry Site Profile has been submitted to Bishop Aebischer and Amy and Kevin have responded to several questions from Bishop Aebischer after she reviewed the MSP.
- ❖ Council approved the purchase of three additional church directional signs. One sign will replace the one on Highway 17A south of town that has been destroyed over time by the grass mowers. The other two will be kept for future replacement needs. We have four signs within the city limits that were approved by the City several years ago. With the replacement of the damaged sign, all four of the approved signs will be intact within the city limits. A generous gift from a member of the congregation will cover the cost of the signs.
- ❖ The Council approved the change in designated offerings for December from Social Ministry to Lutheroad 2022. Because there are currently ample funds available for our Food Pantry and Social Ministry program, the Council approved the emphasis of Lutheroad for the month of December.
- ❖ In final business, the Council decided to utilize the U.S. Mail for distribution of our Council ballots again this year, similar to 2020. The balloting process will begin on Sunday, November 21.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

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

Christian Education:

Christian Education met Saturday, November 6, at 10:00 am at the church. Highlights from the meeting include:

1. Confirmation classes are going. Participants include Addison Crosby, Bob Ferris, Riley Guess, Shannon Guess, Sue Nussman.
2. Wonderful Wednesday is going well. Their last class before Christmas is December 15. Wonderful Wednesday will return on January 12, 2022, meeting on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month through May.
3. Children's Christmas program is scheduled for Sunday, December 12, at 6:00 pm. Light refreshments will be served afterwards.
4. Lutheroad 2022: We are planning to host Lutheroad Day Camp in July 2022. A deposit and a contract have been sent in to reserve a week.

The committee's next meeting is Saturday, January 8, 2022, at 10:00 am at the church with a Zoom option.

SERVING IN DECEMBER:

Lay Reader

Cheryl Clayton

Communion Assistant

Shannon Guess

Acolyte

Riley Guess

Ushers

Jon Carpenter /
Shannon Guess

Grounds Care

Doug Lindstrom

Council Devotions

Kathie Whetsell

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.



Good Shepherd Women:

The women met on Monday, November 1. Highlights from the meeting include:

1. Meeting at Walmart on Saturday, November 13, to shop for the “Fill the Stocking” program coordinated by Colleton County First Steps. A Thrivent Action team card plus funds from the women’s treasury covered the costs of the gifts for seven children in Colleton County.
2. The women are collecting new blankets from the congregation for a local hospice organization. The local hospice will distribute the blankets to their patients as well as residents of local nursing homes. The deadline for receiving blankets is Sunday, December 12.
3. The women are planning for the LMM/WELCA Christmas dinner to be held on Saturday, December 4, at 6:00 pm at the church. A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex.
4. The women are planning to have a spaghetti dinner fundraiser on Saturday, February 12, 2022. Plans will be discussed at the January meeting.

The Lutheran Men in Mission of Good Shepherd

The men met on Sunday, November 7, at 8:00 a.m. with seven in attendance. Breakfast was provided by Bob Ferris and a program on “Religion in Sports” was provided by Charles Rister. The men would like to thank everyone who supported the annual Fish Fry on November 13. Over 100 meals were served and many of you gave generous donations to support our outreach projects during the year. Our next meeting will be the joint WELCA/LMM Christmas dinner on Saturday, December 4, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Red Cross Blood Drives for 2022: The Red Cross will be at Good Shepherd on the following dates:

January 10, 2022	July 11, 2022
March 14, 2022	September 12, 2022
May 9, 2022	November 14, 2022

(All dates are the second Monday of the month.)

Thank You!

Dear Good Shepherd Members and Family,

I want to take a moment out to thank each and everyone a very heart-felt “Praise God” for all your prayers. I know that without the prayers and well wishes things could have been different, but your prayers were heard and God carried me through this valley to the safe other side. As you continue to pray I am getting stronger with every passing day.

Sometimes it takes things like this to help you see that others truly love and care for you. My faith in God has always been strong and I never question why – he is my path and my Savior with unending love for me.

I wanted to give all of you a big hug for all you did while I was in the hospital.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart and God Bless you all.

Lovingly,

Theresa Strickland

Dear Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,

Because of your generous support, even in 2021 we were able to provide holy spaces for God to change lives! Our groups were smaller, and with facemasks covering their smiles, but they arrived with joy and enthusiasm! It was a different year to be sure! But even so, we were able to have youth and adults, men's groups and women's groups, tea parties and bread making, families and friends at both Camp Kinard and Coastal Retreat!

Thank you for your support and for helping make our mission a reality. Whether you volunteered your time, attended a retreat, read our emails, followed us on social media or made a financial gift, during this month of Thanksgiving, please know how grateful we are for you!

With our thanks for all you have done for us,

Deacon Dallas J. Shealy

Executive Director

SC Lutheran Retreat Centers

Thanks to the staff of Amedisys Hospice for their generous collection of food that they brought in for our Food Pantry.

Thank you to everyone who has come out in support of the **Red Cross Blood drives** held here at Good Shepherd during 2021. During the November drive, a total of 59 units were collected. For 2021, a total of 317 units of blood were collected, helping to save hundreds of lives. The next blood drive at Good Shepherd will be Monday, January 10, 2022, from 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Contact the Red Cross for an appointment.

Alter Flowers for December

December 5:	Jon Carpenter
December 12:	Doug and Ellen Brinson
December 19:	Janet Szymanski
December 24/26:	Marie Wilson

*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.”*

Matthew 1:16 -25

And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, Who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon are fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ are fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as His mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with Child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for That which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His Name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the LORD by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with Child, and shall bring forth a Son, and they shall call His Name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God With Us. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the LORD had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn Son: and he called His Name JESUS.

DECEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Wonderful Wednesday	2 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal <u>Birthday :</u> Margaret Juttner	3	4 6:00 PM LMM/WELCA Christmas Dinner <u>Birthday :</u> Eleanore Gloeckler
5 10:00 AM Worship with Communion followed by Confirmation Class <u>Birthday :</u> Gail Lindstrom	6 <u>Birthday :</u> Anna Carpenter	7 Pearl Harbor Day 10:00 AM - Noon Food Pantry <u>Birthdays :</u> Mike Alberts Connor Smyly	8	9 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	10	11 10:00 AM Christmas Program Practice <u>Birthday :</u> Sandra Roberts
12 10:00 AM Worship Service followed by Church Council Meeting 6:00 PM Children's Christmas Program <u>Birthday :</u> Marion Glover	13 <u>Birthday :</u> James Casella	14	15 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Wonderful Wednesday	16 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal <u>Birthday :</u> Austin Smith	17 <u>Birthdays :</u> Jimmy Strickland Sarah Hitchens	18
19 10:00 AM Worship Service <u>Birthdays :</u> Zachary Knapp Isabelle Knapp	20 <u>Birthdays :</u> Andrea Singletary Holger Obenaus	21 First Day of Winter 10:00 AM - Noon Food Pantry	22 10:00 PM Newsletter Deadline	23 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	24 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service <u>Anniversary :</u> Gaby & Gerald Thomas	25 Christmas Day <u>Birthday :</u> Jesus Christ
26 10:00 AM Service of Lessons & Carols <u>Birthday :</u> Linda Hayes	27	28 <u>Anniversary :</u> Jeff & Lisa Lord	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	1 New Year's Day