



January 2022

The Shepherd's Staff

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

From the Pastor :

As another challenging year has come to a close, the good people of this congregation have got to be wondering when we're going to catch a break. 2019 saw a difficult pastoral transition. 2020 had barely begun when Covid hit. We canceled services for a while, gradually went online, met for several months outdoors, and finally in November went indoors with all kinds of precautions in place. 2021 held out promise as vaccines rolled out and we seemed to inch our way toward a more normal congregational life. Yet Covid has persisted, and as we enter 2022, it's with a dark cloud of yet another mutation of the virus threatening.

This is not unlike what people have experienced in previous generations. We know from history that previous plagues wiped out masses of people in Europe in the middle ages. An ancient Israelites, God's chosen people lived through some glory years, but also centuries of war, conquest, and even exile. More recently our parents and grandparents survived two world wars and a devastating depression. Our history is full of times of challenge and years when darkness seemed far more prevalent than light.

The story of our faith is the story of hope. For long years the people waited for a Messiah. With the coming of Jesus many thought our years of struggle were over. But the last 2000 years has us continuing to wonder when----when will God complete what was begun in Christ's redemption of the world.

I often tell people that I'm in sales, not management. We are not privy to what God is up to. What I do know is that just as God came into the world in a small back alley in Bethlehem, God continues to come to us in hidden and surprising ways. I don't

our community today. What I do know is that we are being invited to live in faith, just as Mary and Joseph trusted God's word eons ago. The scriptures tell us in Hebrews 11: "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." The passage goes on to talk about the faith of many past leaders. Hebrews was written to the first generations of Christians that expected Christ's return any day. It was encouragement to stay steadfast in their faith.

And the same could be said to us today. Lots of folks smarter than me are speculating when Covid will end----or at least become endemic. The divisiveness of our political climate seems to still have a pretty strong head of steam, so I'm not particularly hopeful there. For Good Shepherd, our bishop is looking for that next pastor to call, but she's challenged to find any candidates for part time ministry right now. So, like in many past times, we could focus on the darkness----the reasons to despair. But we walk by faith. And I invite you to keep lighting that one candle rather than cursing the darkness. Together we will be light to each other and to our world, in Jesus' name.

Pastor Craig

Good Shepherd Women:

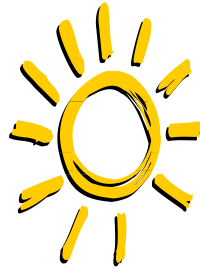
The Good Shepherd Women will meet on Monday, January 3, 2022, at 6:00 pm at the church. The hostess for the evening will be Maria Rodriguez. The women will be discussing their plans for the spaghetti dinner fundraiser to be held on Saturday, February 12, 2022. Watch the bulletin for further details.

The Lutheran Men in Mission of Good Shepherd

There was no regular Sunday morning meeting of the men in December. Instead the group gathered for the annual LMM/WELCA Christmas dinner in the church fellowship hall on December 4. Our next meeting will be on Sunday morning, January 9, at 8:00 a.m. All men of the congregation are welcomed to attend for breakfast and a brief program.

Sunshine News :

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 Diane Wicker. The prayer list is updated every three months. You may also email your prayer requests to thewickers@lowcountry.com.



The first **Red Cross Blood Drive** of 2022 will be at Good Shepherd on Monday, January 10, 2022, from 1:00 pm until 7:00 pm. Contact the Red Cross for an appointment, and give the gift of life!

There will be a **congregational meeting** after worship on Sunday, January 30, 2022. The purpose of the meeting is to approve a spending plan for 2022.

Our loose and special designated offering for January will support **Lutheran Homes of South Carolina**. After more than a century, Lutheran Homes of South Carolina's ministry continues to evolve and set standards for a comprehensive continuum of care and services for older adults. Lutheran Homes is also the managing agency for **Lutheran Hospice**. This is not a budgeted item, but you can help LHSC by placing loose offering in the offering plate, or by designating your gift for "**Lutheran Homes of SC**" on your offering envelope.

The **Sanctuary Candles** for the month of January are given to the glory of God by Shannon Guess.

Alter Flowers for January

January 2:	Charles & Faye Rister
January 9:	Open
January 16:	Janet Szymanski
January 23:	Open
January 30:	Open

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! (From the Good Shepherd Family and Friends)

Thanks to **John and Linda Gilgen** for providing the Fire Blankets for the church and fellowship hall. Each of the three blankets is located near one of the three fire extinguishers. A fire blanket can be used along with a fire extinguisher to manage a small fire. Remember, in case of a fire of any size, **call 911 first**.

Thanks to **Garrett Brinson** for funding the replacement of the Good Shepherd directional sign on highway 17A south of Walterboro. That particular sign had been destroyed by grass mowers. All four of the signs at the City approved locations have been cleaned and are now in good order.

We give thanks to **Mrs. Margaret Wallace**, who in 2011 bequeathed to Good Shepherd money that in 2012 was used to establish the Wallace Fund. Over the past nine years these funds have truly been a life blood to our church to cover operating expenses and pay for capital improvements. The Wallace Fund has now been "repaid" in full, and Mrs. Wallace's generous gift will be available to help our church for many years to come.

Special thanks to **Bob Ferris, Natalie Gamble and Kathie Whetsell** for accepting to serve on Church Council for the 2022-2024 term. Your support and dedication to this vital function of the church is truly appreciated.

SERVING IN JANUARY :

Lay Reader	Kathie Whetsell
Communion Assistant	Kathie Whetsell
Acolyte	Volunteer Needed
Ushers	Amy Rusnak / Kevin Wicker
Grounds Care	Doug Brinson
Council Devotions	Amy Rusnak

Special Thanks to Everyone Who Served In December !!!

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

Worship and Music

The Worship & Music committee will meet on Tuesday, January 18, at 10:00 am to discuss the upcoming Lenten and Easter seasons.

Christian Education:

The Christian Education committee will be meeting on Saturday, January 8, 2022, at 10:00 am at the church, with a Zoom option. The committee will be discussing plans for the spring for Wonderful Wednesday. They will also be discussing preliminary plans for Lutherod Day Camp 2022 to be held the week of July 18- 22, 2022. Wonderful Wednesday is currently on holiday break but will return on Wednesday, January 12, 2022.

LOVE AND PRAYERS GO OUT FOR :

Good Shepherd Family

Pat Ostendorf, the Vendricks, Roberta McCullough, Jim Strickland, the family of 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), Angie Heape (Rusty and Lisa Mezel), the family of Dalbert (DJ) Reser, Jr.

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.)

DESIGNATED GIFTS

Donations given to the Glory of God to:

Wallace Fund

Given by:

Kevin & Diane Wicker

Kevin & Diane Wicker

Given by:

Rob & Kelly Markiewitz

In Memory of:

Joyce Carter

Dalbert Reser

In Honor of:

Charles & Faye Rister

Parsonage Repair

Given by:

Doug & Ellen Brinson

In Memory of:

Joyce Carter

General Fund

Given by:

Olin Fralick, Jr.

Given by:

Lee & Anna Sease

In Memory of:

Beverly Fralick

In Honor of:

Kevin & Diane Wicker

Special Gathering

Given by:

Berlie E. "Edd" Wicker

Emmett Wicker

Edwina Wicker

In Honor of:

Kevin Wicker

Kevin Wicker

Kevin Wicker

Wonderful Wednesday

Given by:

Berlie E. "Edd" Wicker

Emmett Wicker

Edwina Wicker

In Honor of:

Diane Wicker

Diane Wicker

Diane Wicker

Lutherod

Given by:

Kevin Wicker

In Honor of:

Diane Wicker

Memorial Fund

Given by:

John & Linda Gilgen

In Memory of:

Joyce Carter

December Council meeting notes : 12-12-2021

Doug Lindstrom opened with devotions. Following devotions, Amy expressed our thanks to Doug for serving the past six years on Council.

- ❖ After review of the financial report, Council approved transferring money from the Checking Account to the Wallace Fund to completely “repay” the fund of all money borrowed for past operating expenses and projects at the church.
- ❖ At their January meeting, Council will approve the 2022 Spending Plan for Ministry to be taken to the congregation for consideration at our annual Congregational Meeting on January 30 following worship.
- ❖ Council members heard Pastor Craig’s report as well as reports from Worship and Music, WELCA, Christian Education from Amy. Amy also notified members of the date of the Executive Board meeting to prepare Pastor Craig’s annual review.
- ❖ Doug Lindstrom reported that the last Food Pantry for 2021 will be on Tuesday, December 21, and we plan to spend the complete grant from Community Foundation of the Lowcountry by the end of 2021.
- ❖ Amy reported that the church directional signs have been purchased and the damaged sign replaced. She expressed thanks to Garrett Brinson for providing the funds for those signs.
- ❖ Kevin showed the Council members the fire blankets that have been gifted to the church by John and Linda Gilgen. These blankets will be placed at the locations of the three fire extinguishers in the sanctuary and fellowship hall to be used in conjunction with the extinguishers in case of a small fire.
- ❖ Council approved Mrs. Faye Rister to post an ad in the local paper for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.
- ❖ Council approved the “soup pot” be placed in the narthex for those who would like to donate to Lutheran Disaster Response for tornado relief in Kentucky.

Financial Corner

Although we won’t see the year-end numbers until next month, we have completed 2021 within our Spending Plan for Ministry, gave an additional gift to the SC Synod for Mission Support, and we’ve begun planning for 2022.

At their December meeting, the Council approved \$12,746 to be transferred from the Checking Account to the **Wallace Fund** to completely “repay” money to the Wallace Fund that has been used for operating expenses and capital projects since its inception in 2012. This means that the Wallace Fund has been fully restored and is available for use as needed in the future. This is only possible through your generous donations over the past two years.

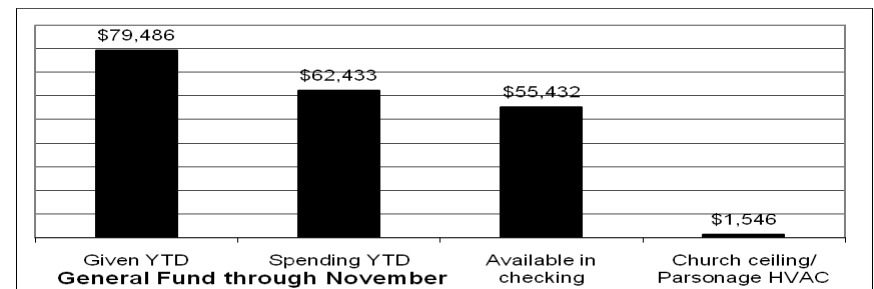
At their January meeting, Council will discuss how to fund the **Maintenance Fund** so that it can be used to pay for needed repairs to the parsonage. Stand by for news on that after the January Council meeting.

Meanwhile, 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

November Offering and Gifts :

General Fund	\$ 5,959
Wallace Fund	\$ 260
Wonderful Wednesday	\$ 173
Candles	\$ 20
Social Ministry/Food Pantry	\$ 15
Flowers	\$ 230
Lutheran World Hunger	\$ 160
Parsonage Repair	\$ 20
Poinsettias	\$ 295
Maintenance Fund	\$ 40



Prayer List January - March, 2022

Each week, Good Shepherd publishes a prayer list in the bulletin.

If you would like to place someone on the prayer list for longer than one Sunday, please fill out this form and drop it in the offering plate or give it to Diane Wicker. If you prefer, you can email your request to thewickers@lowcountry.com

To be prayed for:

Requested by:

Condition:

Please remove:

A **new** prayer list will be started every three months.

JANUARY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 New Year's Day <u>Birthday :</u> Madison Strickland <u>Anniversary :</u> Peter & Jessica Lommen John & Cindy Corley
2 10:00 AM Worship with Communion. <u>Birthday :</u> Jesse Carter	3 6:00 PM Good Shepherd Women Meet	4 10:00 AM - Noon Food Pantry <u>Anniversary :</u> Charles & Faye Rister	5	6 Epiphany	7	8 10:00 AM Christian Education
9 8:00 AM LMM Meet 10:00 AM Worship/Council Installation followed by Church Council Meeting <u>Birthday :</u> Addison Crosby	10 1:00 PM - 7:00 PM Red Cross Blood Drive	11	12 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Wonderful Wednesday	13 6:00 PM Choir Practice <u>Birthday :</u> Robyn Lightsey	14 <u>Anniversary :</u> Mike & Sandy Alberts	15
16 10:00 AM Worship Service	17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	18 10:00 - Noon Food Pantry 10:00 AM Worship & Music Committee <u>Birthdays :</u> Janet Szymanski Scarlett Austyn Fralix Cody Williams	19 <u>Birthday :</u> Donna Eason Burns <u>Anniversary :</u> Rusty & Lisa Mezel	20 6:00 PM Choir Practice <u>Birthdays :</u> Gail Glover Wyatt Williams	21	22 10:00 PM Newsletter Deadline.
23 10:00 AM Worship Service	24	25	26 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Wonderful Wednesday <u>Birthdays :</u> Owen Crosby Olin Bishop	27 6:00 PM Choir Practice	28	29
30 10:00 AM Worship Service followed by Congregational Meeting	31 <u>Birthdays :</u> Mimi Wertz Danielle Fraser	1	2	3	4	5