



December 2022

The Shepherd's Staff

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

From Your Interim Pastor :

This year Thanksgiving came as early as it possibly can and we will have four full weeks of Advent, with Christmas Day falling on a Sunday as well. That may mean things such as if you have a live Christmas tree, you may want to wait a week or so before you put it up. In these warm South Carolina winters those trees dry out pretty rapidly anyway. Georgia and I face a different dilemma because we are traveling to South Africa on December 28th. Our community requires that all external decorations be down shortly after New Year's so we're probably going to be a bit minimalist for our yard this year. We may, however, set a record for the dustiest Christmas tree as I don't think we'll want to take it down the day or two after Christmas.

Years ago, before we had children I remember hopping in the car after church on Christmas Eve to make the 12-hour drive to see our families in Ohio. Our neighbors thought we were really weird taking down our live tree on Christmas Eve. I know many of you still make all kinds of adjustments to gather together with family. For those of you who get to host family and friends, know that all are welcome at the various services and events at Good Shepherd.

Advent is always a special time of anticipation, but this year we have a special reason to be hopeful. Beginning on the first Sunday of Advent, Bishop Aebischer is coming to Good Shepherd in the afternoon to meet with the church councils from Good Shepherd and the Ehrhardt congregations to explore a possible partnership arrangement that would lead to sharing a full-time pastor. There are always challenges in trying to make this kind of partnership. Each church has been accustomed to having their own pastor with all the conveniences that provides. But we also know

that the economics of this time makes it unrealistic for any of these churches to maintain a pastor on their own. Partnerships are a fairly new thing in South Carolina, but in the Dakotas and Minnesota where I served 36 years, such arrangements were very common and usually worked well. Each partner church needs to be flexible and understand that compromises are essential. We're just at the start of exploring if this can work to serve all the parties well, but I encourage your prayers for this process as we explore this new venture.

Finally, in this season of giving I'd like to thank all of the members and friends of Good Shepherd for your kindness, generosity, and support over this past year. None of us thought back in November of 2019 that we would be together in this interim time for this long. While we've settled into a routine, we want to remember that God has a new chapter of mission for Good Shepherd that will happen in God's good time. Advent is a time to dream and anticipate.

Pastor Craig

Property Committee update

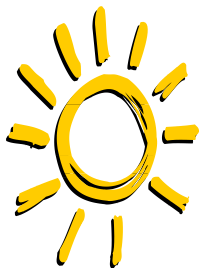
At their November meeting, Council approved replacing the carpet in the back bedroom of the **parsonage** with wood plank flooring. We have volunteers who have agreed to do this job, so it will only cost the congregation the price of the material. Thus far the old carpet has been removed. Thanks to **Amy Rusnak** for making new curtains for the three doors in the parsonage. To date, expensed, committed and estimated cost of the parsonage project is \$13,963.



We are continuing to pursue options and pricing for installing an **audio/video system** in the sanctuary for streaming our worship services and for amplification of the worship participants. We have had one vendor look at the sanctuary and are awaiting a proposal.

Sunshine News :

The LMM/ WELCA Annual Christmas Dinner will be on Saturday, December 3, 2022, 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.



We will be taking orders for **poinsettias for Christmas Eve**. Order forms are in the narthex. The deadline for ordering is **Sunday, December 4, 2022**. Please make all checks payable to Good Shepherd and note “poinsettias” on the memo line.

The Wonderful Wednesday Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 11, at 6:00 pm. All members of the congregation are invited to attend. The theme of the program is “Songs of Christmas: The Stories Behind Some of Our Favorite Christmas Hymns.” 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.

Our **Christmas Eve Candlelight service** will be Saturday, December 24, 2022, at 7:00 pm. The Christmas Eve offering will support Special Gathering Ministries. All are welcome to join us for this service!



Our loose and special designated offerings 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.

The sanctuary candles for the month of December are given to the glory of God by Frank and Marie Wilson in memory of Carolyn Wilson.

Sunshine News : (Continued)

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.



SERVING IN DECEMBER :

Lay Reader
Communion Assistant
Acolyte
Ushers

Rob Rusnak
Faye Rister
Riley Guess
Bob Ferris /
Jon Carpenter
Kevin Wicker
Kathie Whetsell

Grounds Care
Council Devotions

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.

LMM:

Eight men met on Sunday morning Nov 13. Doug Lindstrom and Doug Brinson provided breakfast. Honorary member Marylyn provided a delicious coffee cake in honor of Sal’s birthday. She said next year was going to be a big “milestone” birthday for Sal, so we are assuming Sal is 39 this year.

The Fish Fry was a big success! We ended up serving around 180 meals and actually ran out of fish and chicken at the end. Proceeds from the fish fry will be donated to the church’s Social Ministry/Food Pantry fund. Thanks to everyone who participated (as worker and/or customer)!

Doug Lindstrom closed the meeting with a devotional covering the Book of Judges and that period in Hebrew history.

The December meeting will be the joint LMM/WELCA Christmas dinner at church on December 3rd.

LOVE AND PRAYERS GO OUT FOR :

Good Shepherd Family

Pat Ostendorf, the Vendricks, Roberta McCullough, Jim Strickland, Frances Barton, Ted & Sara Avant, Elizabeth Miller, Frank & Marie Wilson, Margaret Juttner, Gail & Carl Lindstrom, Gene Whetsell, Gloria Ferris, Janet Szymanski

Friends and Family

The family of Evans Simons (Good Shepherd family), Gary Bunch, Lavern Smoak, Bill Walters, Carolyn Rahn (Janet Szymanski), Jean Strickland (Ray and Theresa Strickland), Jimmy Dawkins, Robert Dorroh, Jr., Sonya Boyd, Gloria Williams (the Wickers), Debbie Szymanski (Ronald Szymanski), Ted Rusnak (Rob and Amy Rusnak), Louise Stokes (Georgia Boehlke), Mike Cribb (Dean and Charlotte Brinson), Marion Rudd (Natalie Gamble), Marion Sauls (Kathie Whetsell), Judy Simmons (Alice Vendrick)

Alter Flowers for December

December 4 :	Maria Rodriguez
December 11 :	Maria Rodriguez
December 18 :	Jon Carpenter
December 24/25 :	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."



Good Shepherd Women:

The Good Shepherd Women met on Monday, November 7, 2022. Marie Wilson was the hostess for the evening. Plans for December and January were discussed. A group of women will meet on Saturday, December 10, at 9:00 am at Walmart to shop for First Steps. The women are currently having a coin drive for the ELCA Good Gifts program in support of the Backpack Buddies program. The women were reminded to bring their coin banks to the January meeting. On Saturday, February 4, 2023, the women will have their spaghetti dinner fundraiser. Tickets will be available after their January meeting. Further information will be in the January newsletter. The next meeting of the Good Shepherd Women will be Monday, January 2, 2023, at 6:00 pm at the church. Marylyn Praga will be the hostess for the evening.

Worship and Music

The committee will meet on Thursday, December 8, 2022, at 10:00 am at the church. The current COVID guidelines for worship will be reviewed, as well as the plans for the Christmas season.

Christian Education:

The Christian Education committee met on Saturday, November 19, 2022, at the church. Plans for December were discussed. The Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 11, 2022, at 6:00 pm, in the sanctuary with refreshments to follow. Decorating the Chrismon tree and the sanctuary will be on Wednesday, December 14, 2022, during Wonderful Wednesday. Wonderful Wednesday will then take a break until Wednesday, January 11, 2023. Coin banks were turned in on Wednesday, November 9, 2022, in support of God's Global Barnyard. The total amount collected was \$495.77. The children will decide before Christmas on the number of animals to purchase. The next meeting of the Christian Education will be Saturday, January 14, 2023, at 10:00 am at the church.



Financial Corner

As you read this article, we will have completed November and are beginning the last month of the calendar year. The financial information below is for the month of October and for our current standings as of the end of October. Everyone has done a good job of operating within our Spending Plan for Ministry during the year and we're looking forward to a strong financial close of 2022.

Our **Social Ministry and Food Pantry** program got a financial "shot in the arm" during October and November with gifts from Bethel Presbyterian, the Good Shepherd Women and the Good Shepherd Lutheran Men totaling approximately \$4,700. During our two November Food Banks we provided groceries for 70 and 77 families.

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	\$ 9,283
Social Ministry/Food Pantry	\$ 757
Wonderful Wednesday	\$ 199
Candles	\$ 25
Flowers	\$ 325
NovusWay	\$ 317
Lutheran Disaster Relief	\$ 278
Parsonage Repair	\$ 25
Maintenance	\$ 165

Savings Accounts

Maintenance Fund	\$ 3,545
Memorial Fund	\$ 900
Scholarship Endowment	\$ 6,435
Lommen Love Fund	\$ 8,114
Wallace Estate Fund	\$ 69,780

Social Ministry/Food Pantry \$ 5,677

November Council meeting notes: 11-13-2022

The meeting was opened with devotions by Kevin followed by the review of the financial report for October.

- Pastor Craig reported on a meeting with Bishop Aebischer and the interim Pastor at Ehrhardt Memorial and Mt. Pleasant, Ehrhardt. Bishop Ginny would like to meet with the Council members of all three churches to discuss the possibility of a partnership between our churches when calling our next pastor.
- The Council then heard reports from the Property Committee, The Christian Education Committee, the Lutheran Men, and the Women of Good Shepherd.
- In the Social Ministry report, the Council learned that the Women of Good Shepherd and the Lutheran Men have made donations from their fundraising efforts to the Social Ministry program, which includes our Food Pantry. Council was also informed that Shannon is going to pursue another grant in 2023 to help fund the Food Pantry.
- The Worship and Music report included a recommendation of changes to our flower program when our current florist retires. There will be more information available regarding this topic in the coming months.
- Council has gratefully accepted an offer from Ms. Maria Rodriguez to continue our cleaning and janitorial program for the fellowship hall and church following the death of Mr. Glen Williams.
- Council approved the ballot for the 2023-2025 Council election and plans to begin that process on Sunday, November 20, and continue into December.

There being no further business, Amy closed the meeting with prayer.

Your Council members are Amy Rusnak, Dean Brinson, Jon Carpenter, Kathie Whetsell, Shannon Guess, Marie Wilson, Natalie Gamble, Bob Ferris and Kevin Wicker.

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the **Lutheran Men's Fish Fry** such a success this year. Well done!

Thank you to everyone who came out in support of the **American Red Cross blood drives** held this past year at Good Shepherd. Blood drives for 2023 will be held on the following dates:
Monday, January 16, 2023 Monday, March 13, 2023
Monday, May 8, 2023 Monday, July 10, 2023
Monday, September 11, 2023 Monday, November 20, 2023

Thanks to the church for putting all of the confirmation Sundays together. It was a wonderful experience and a forever memory!

Love,
Riley ♡ ♡ ♡ ♡ !!!!

I want to extend my thanks and appreciation for all the prayers and well wishes I received during my recuperation. I hope to see you all soon, when the Dr. releases me to drive. May the good Lord Bless and Keep all of you.

Love you all,
Janet



DESIGNATED GIFTS

Donations given to the Glory of God to:

Food Pantry

Given by:

Bethel Presbyterian Church

In Honor of:

Good Shepherd Ministries

Maintenance Fund

Given by:

Gene and Kathie Whetsell

In Memory of:

Evans Simons

DECEMBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	1	2	3 6:00 PM WELCA/LMM Christmas Dinner
4 10:00 AM - Worship with Communion Deadline for Ordering Poinsettias	5 <u>Birthday :</u> Gail Lindstrom	6 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM Food Pantry 6: 00 PM Choir Rehearsal <u>Birthday :</u> Anna Carpenter	7 Pearl Harbor Day 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Wonderful Wednesday <u>Birthdays :</u> Mike Alberts Connor Smyly	8 10:00 AM Worship and Music Committee	9 <u>Birthday :</u> Margaret Juttner	10 9:00 AM WELCA Meets at Walmart
11 10:00 AM Worship Service followed by Church Council 6:00 PM Christmas Program <u>Birthday :</u> Sandra Roberts	12 <u>Birthday :</u> Marion Glover	13 6: 00 PM Choir Rehearsal <u>Birthday :</u> James Casella	14 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Wonderful Wednesday	15	16 <u>Birthday :</u> Austin Smith	17 <u>Birthday :</u> Jimmy Strickland
18 10:00 AM Worship Service	19 <u>Birthdays :</u> Zachary Knapp Isabelle Knapp	20 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM Food Pantry 6: 00 PM Choir Rehearsal <u>Birthdays :</u> Andrea Singletary Holger Obenaus	21 No Wonderful Wednesday 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 10:00 AM Service of Lessons and Carols <u>Birthday :</u> Jesus Christ	26 <u>Birthday :</u> Linda Hayes	27 No Choir Rehearsal	28 No Wonderful Wednesday <u>Anniversary :</u> Jeff & Lisa Lord	29	30	31 New Year's Eve