



January 2023

The Shepherd's Staff

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

From Your Interim Pastor :

The start of a new year always begins with it hope and promise. For Good Shepherd this may finally be the year when a new partnership is formed with the churches in Ehrhardt and a regular pastor is called to serve. That's exciting stuff, but first the hard work of forming that partnership begins. It remains to be seen how long that work will take, but once the task force has completed its recommendations, all the church councils and congregations have to vote to ratify the partnership. We can expect that there will be a few challenges along the way as in all things. Hopefully the excitement of a new future will carry us through in a timely manner.

Georgia and I begin the new year with a "bucket list" adventure to South Africa, including a safari, wineries, and a cruise around the coast of Africa. We'll be back in the states January 19th. I know President Amy Rusnak has supply preachers lined up and Kevin Wicker will keep the details in check. Here's wishing us all a marvelous 2023.



Once again, I want to thank you for all your cards, remembrances, and well wishes in the holiday season. St. John's in Beaufort was kind enough to also grant me extra time to be at Good Shepherd for 7 Sundays in a row during November and December. They'll collect on that as I do a bit more for them this winter while their regular pastor is finishing his sabbatical. There should be minimal impact on Good Shepherd.

Over the last couple of years, we've had a number of regular attendees who have not been members of the church. My hope is to invite those to join with Good Shepherd early in 2023. It would be wonderful to have everyone available to participate in approving a partnership and voting on a new pastor. While formally being a member isn't a requirement and we gladly welcome all, we'll happily add to our ranks through a transfer from another congregation or by affirmation of faith.

Before you know it Lent will be here as Easter comes early in April. Watch for details in next month's newsletter. We'll be planning special Lenten meals and a brief study on Thursday evenings. Dig out those great soup recipes and start practicing!

Pastor Craig

Thank You!

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

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you so much for the beautiful engraved hymnal you gave me for Confirmation and the beautiful cross. I really thank the congregation for all the support they gave me. It was a great day for Addison and myself.

Thanks again.

Bob

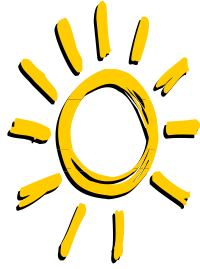
To Good Shepherd,

Thank you so much for the hymnal and my cross. I appreciate it very much.

Addison Crosby

Sunshine News :

We will start a **new prayer list in January**. If you would like to add someone to the prayer list or continue to have someone on the prayer list, please fill out one of the forms found in the narthex and place it in the offering plate or give it to Diane Wicker. You can also email your prayer requests: thewickers@lowcountry.com



Altar Flowers: Beginning with January 1, 2023, we will have a new florist providing flowers for our worship each Sunday. The previous florist retired at the end of 2022. Blooming Innovations on Washington Street, next door to The Golden Daffodil, will be our new florist. They will be providing us with one arrangement each week, with the cost remaining **\$45** each week. If you have any questions, please see any member of Worship & Music- Linda Gilgen, Faye Rister, Diane Wicker, or Kevin Wicker.



Sign-up sheets are in the narthex with various volunteer opportunities for 2023. Please check it out and sign up!

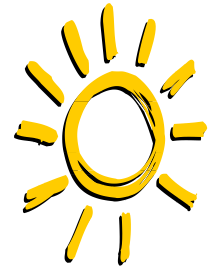
We have stumbled across a surprising addition to our Food Pantry; **books!** Maria Rodriguez had someone give her boxes and boxes of books, and she placed some on a table each time we had Food Pantry. Children's books, adult books, fiction, non-fiction, religious, puzzles, arts and crafts, home improvement; you name it. And, over the last several months they were all taken with great interest and excitement by the folks coming by for food. So, if you have books you'd like to donate to the Food Pantry, just bring them by the church and place them on the pew outside the Food Pantry room.



The sanctuary candles for the month of January are given to the glory of God by Janet Szymanski and in memory of the Szymanski and Fischer families.

Sunshine News : (Continued)

Our loose and special designated offerings 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.



SERVING IN JANUARY :

Lay Reader	Shannon Guess
Communion Assistant	Doug Brinson
Acolyte	Riley Guess
Ushers	Natalie Gamble / Marie Wilson
Alter Guild	Diane Wicker
Grounds Care	Doug Brinson
Council Devotions	Natalie Gamble

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.

Alter Flowers for January

January 1 :	Maria Rodriguez
January 8 :	Charles & Faye Rister
January 15 :	Janet Szymanski
January 22 :	Open
January 29 :	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."*

Financial Corner

We experienced a “slump” in gifts to our **General Fund** in November like we haven’t seen all year. While it’s interesting, it’s not alarming, and we’re looking forward to a strong December to finish 2022 on a positive note.

Last month I mentioned that 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. You’ll see some of those gifts reflected in the “Offerings and Gifts” table below.



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	\$ 5,361
Social Ministry/Food Pantry	\$ 4,144
Wonderful Wednesday	\$ 61
Candles	\$ 10
Flowers	\$ 90
Lutheran World Hunger	\$ 160
Lutheran Disaster Relief	\$ 200
Poinsettias	\$ 195
Parsonage Project	\$ 150
Maintenance	\$ 45

Savings Accounts

Maintenance Fund	\$ 3,755
Memorial Fund	\$ 900
Scholarship Endowment	\$ 6,435
Lommen Love Fund	\$ 8,114
Wallace Estate Fund	\$ 69,780

<u>Social Ministry/Food Pantry</u>	\$ 5,735
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LOVE AND PRAYERS GO OUT FOR :

Good Shepherd Family

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

Friends and Family

Gary Bunch, Lavern Smoak, Bill Walters, Carolyn Rahn, Laura Spivey (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), the family of Mike Cribb, the family of Clio Benton (Dean and Charlotte Brinson), Marion Rudd (Natalie Gamble), Marion Sauls (Kathie Whetsell), Judy Simmons (Alice Vendrick), the family of Danny Hood (Lisa Mezel), Parks Mangum (the Risters)

Property Committee update

Our work in the **parsonage** continues to move along nicely. We are currently laying an oak plank floor in the back bedroom to replace the soiled carpet. Volunteers are doing this work to keep the cost of the project down. You’ll be interested to know that once the parsonage project is completed, Council plans to have an “open house” for the congregation following worship one Sunday in the future. To date, expensed, committed and estimated cost of the parsonage project is \$14,006.

In our pursuit of options and pricing for installing an **audio/video system** in the sanctuary for streaming our worship services and for amplification of the worship service, we have received an estimate of \$10,000 to \$17,000. At their November meeting, Council approved Kevin to continue getting more details about these systems so they may determine what is best for the needs of our congregation. Regardless of the decisions of Council, this item will have to be brought before the congregation for a vote because it is greater than 3% of our annual Mission Support plan. So, stay tuned.

Good Shepherd Women:

The Good Shepherd Women will have their first meeting of the new year on Monday, January 2, 2023. Marylyn Praga is the hostess for the evening. We will be finalizing plans for our spaghetti dinner fundraiser on Saturday, February 4. We will also bring our coin banks for ELCA Good Gifts. All women of the congregation are invited to attend.

Worship and Music

The committee met on Thursday, December 8, 2022, at 10:00 am at the church. The current COVID guidelines for worship were reviewed, with some recommendations made for council approval. The committee also discussed the florist situation. The current florist, Gladys Murray, retires at the end of December. The committee recommended to council that the congregation use Blooming Innovations on Washington Street as our new florist beginning January 1, 2023, and that we have only one altar vase each Sunday, with the cost remaining \$45 per week. The committee also had some preliminary discussions about Lent 2023. Further planning will take place at the next meeting, which will be Tuesday, January 24, 2023, at 10:00 am at the church.



Christian Education:

Thank you to everyone who came out on Sunday, December 11, for the Wonderful Wednesday Christmas program. The children met on Wednesday, December 14, for a time of service and fellowship. They ended the evening in the sanctuary decorating the Chrismon tree. Wonderful Wednesday is on a holiday break, but will return on Wednesday, January 11. Lutheroad Day Camp will be coming up this summer the week of June 26-30, 2023. The Christian Education committee will be discussing plans for the spring and for Lutheroad at their next meeting. The next meeting of the Christian Education committee will be Saturday, January 14, 2023, at 10:00 am at the church.

Happy New Year!

1. The first ever New Year celebrations took place back in 2000 BC, which is ages ago. The Mesopotamians started this tradition of celebrating New Year.
2. Another interesting fun fact about New Year is that, there is this tradition called Estonian practice where people eat 7, 9 or 12 meals on the New Year eve. The belief behind the tradition is that the meals they eat will give them the strength of that many people in the coming year.
3. Dutch people follow this custom of burning Christmas tree and putting on fireworks on the New Year eve. They belief behind this tradition is that, burning Christmas tree denote removing the old and putting on fireworks means welcoming the new.

<https://www.newyearwiki.com/interesting-facts-about-new-year>

Martin Luther King, Jr.



1. King's birth name was Michael, not Martin. King was born Michael King Jr. on January 15, 1929. In 1934, however, his father, a pastor at Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church, traveled to Germany and became inspired by the Protestant Reformation leader Martin Luther. As a result, King Sr. changed his own name as well as that of his five-year-old son.
2. King entered college at the age of 15. King was such a gifted student that he skipped grades nine and 12 before enrolling in 1944 at Morehouse College, the alma mater of his father and maternal grandfather. Although he was the son, grandson and great-grandson of Baptist ministers, King did not intend to follow the family vocation until Morehouse president Benjamin E. Mays, a noted theologian, convinced him otherwise. King was ordained before graduating college with a degree in sociology.

[https://www.history.com/news/10 Things You May Not Know About Martin Luther King Jr. - HISTORY](https://www.history.com/news/10-Things-You-May-Not-Know-About-Martin-Luther-King-Jr.-HISTORY)

DESIGNATED GIFTS

Donations given to the Glory of God to:

General Fund

Given by:

Olin Fralick
Cynthia Lyons
Carl and Gail Lindstrom
Maria Patterson
Charles and Faye Rister

In Memory of:

Beverly Fralick
Frank Wilson
Frank Wilson
Frank Wilson
Frank Wilson

Lutheroad

Given by:

Emmett Wicker
Edwina Wicker
Berlie E. Wicker
Lee and Anna Sease

In Honor of:

Diane Wicker
Diane Wicker
Diane Wicker
Diane Wicker

Social Ministry

Given by:

Janet Szymanski
Shannon Guess

In Memory of:

Harry Szymanski
Frank Wilson

Parsonage Fund

Given by:

Doug and Ellen Brinson
Doug and Ellen Brinson
Kevin and Diane Wicker

In Memory of:

Don and Wilma Brinson
Frank Wilson
Frank Wilson

Food Pantry

Given by:

Emmett Wicker
Edwina Wicker
Berlie E. Wicker
Lee and Anna Sease

In Honor of:

Kevin Wicker
Kevin Wicker
Kevin Wicker
Kevin Wicker

Given by:

Janet Szymanski
Gene and Kathie Whetsell

In Memory of:

Hazel Brabham
Frank Wilson

Lommen Love Fund

Given by:

Dean and Charlotte Brinson

In Memory of:

Frank Wilson

Memorial Fund

Given by:

Bob and Gloria Ferris

In Memory of:

Frank Wilson

December Council meeting notes : 12-11-2022

The meeting was opened with devotions by Bob.

- The financial report for November was presented by Kevin, in addition to Pastor Craig's report. The minutes from the regular November meeting and the special meeting with the church Councils of Ehrhardt Memorial Lutheran and Mt. Pleasant Lutheran were presented by Jon and approved.
- Council regrettably accepted the resignation of Kathie from Council and thanked her for her year of service to our ministry. An additional member of Council will be selected during the Council election to fill Kathie's unexpired term.
- Amy reported that the Executive Committee had completed Pastor Craig's annual review and would cover that review with him following the meeting.
- After hearing a report from Property and Grounds, Council approved moving forward with getting more information on a sound system and live streaming system for the sanctuary. Kevin reported that the estimated cost of a system to meet the needs of the congregation will be between \$10,000 and \$17,000. Kevin will get more details and report at a later meeting.
- After hearing a report from the Christian Education Committee, Council approved a contract with NovusWay Ministries for Lutheroad Day Camp next summer on the week of June 26.
- Council approved a recommendation from the Worship and Music committee to modify our Covid Policy and to begin business with a new florist in January, Blooming Innovations 2, as our current florist at Gladys Murray is retiring.

- In a report from Social Ministry, members discussed the cost of operating our Food Pantry on two Tuesdays each month. Shannon Guess is taking a class in “grant writing” in January and will pursue writing a grant for our Food Pantry in 2023. The cost to operate the Pantry is currently approximately \$1,000 per month and we are serving 65 to 75 families each Tuesday we open the Food Pantry.
- Acting upon a recommendation from the Worship and Music Committee, Council approved the recommendations related to our COVID guidelines - opening of the water fountain and opening all pews. Also, Council concluded that the Council members will still be assigned usher responsibilities each month, but a sign-up sheet will be provided for one additional usher each month to allow others in the congregation to serve as ushers during the year.
- Regarding the Call Process, the Council approved a motion that Good Shepherd Lutheran will proceed with forming a partnership with Ehrhardt Memorial Lutheran and Mt. Pleasant Lutheran churches, both in Ehrhardt, to call a full time Pastor for our congregations. A “transition team” will be formed to work through the logistics of sharing a pastor with our sisters and brothers in Ehrhardt. The transition plan will be approved by the church Councils at all three churches before being presented to each congregation for a vote at a called congregational meeting. The transition team will begin their work in January or February. Our representatives on the transition team will be Amy Rusnak, Dean Brinson, Diane Wicker and Doug Lindstrom.

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

LMM:

A wonderful time was had by all at **the LMM/WELCA Christmas party** in December. The Lutheran Men will be meeting for the first time in the New Year on Sunday Jan 8th at 8:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. All men are welcome to attend for breakfast and fellowship!

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Sanctuary Indoor Worship Guidelines during Covid-19 (revised 12-11-2022)

This guideline was developed based on the Covid-19 risk level in our area. If the risk level changes, the guideline will be reassessed.

1. Masks are optional in the sanctuary.
2. If you do not feel well, please do not come to church.
3. Anyone who attends worship, and thereafter tests positive within a week, should notify Council Chair Amy Rusnak 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. 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, and to take care of any needs of the congregation.
6. The water fountain is now operational, but bottled water is available for those who wish to use it.
7. Ushers will pass out bulletins to those entering the sanctuary and collect offering during the service.
8. Interior doors will be left open to eliminate the need to touch doors and door handles.
9. Each worshipper is responsible to use the spray sanitizer provided in the restroom after each use.
10. Every effort will be made to keep the length of the service to less than an hour.

Notes: The ushers will need to arrive 20 minutes before worship to check temperatures and hand out bulletins to those in attendance as they arrive and direct them to their seats.

Prayer List

January - March, 2023

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 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day 10:00 AM - Worship with Communion <u>Birthday :</u> Madison Strickland <u>Anniversaries :</u> John & Cindy Corley	2 6:00 PM Good Shepherd Women Meet <u>Birthday :</u> Jesse Carter	3 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM Food Pantry	4 No Wonderful Wednesday <u>Anniversary :</u> Charles & Faye Rister	5	6	7
8 8:00 AM LMM Breakfast Meeting 10:00 AM Worship Service followed by Church Council	9 <u>Birthday :</u> Addison Crosby	10 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	11 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Wonderful Wednesday	12	13	14 10:00 AM Christian Education Committee <u>Anniversary :</u> Mike & Sandy Alberts
15 10:00 AM - Worship Service	16 Martin Luther King Jr. 1:00 PM – 7:00 PM Red Cross Blood Drive	17 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM Food Pantry 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	18 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Wonderful Wednesday <u>Birthdays :</u> Janet Szymanski Scarlett Austyn Fralix	19 <u>Birthday :</u> Donna Eason Burns <u>Anniversary :</u> Rusty & Lisa Mezel	20 <u>Birthdays :</u> Gail Glover Wyatt Williams	21
22 10:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 PM Newsletter Deadline <u>Birthday :</u> Chapin Jacobs	23	24 10:00 AM Worship and Music Committee 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	25 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Wonderful Wednesday	26 <u>Birthdays :</u> Owen Crosby Olin Bishop	27	28
29 10:00 AM Worship Service	30	31 No Choir Rehearsal <u>Birthdays :</u> Mimi Wertz Danielle Fraser	1	2	3	4