



March 2023

The Shepherd's Staff

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

From Your Interim Pastor :

Two significant things are happening this March. The first, of course, is that we are into the Lenten season. Each Sunday we experience Jesus as he engages with various people from very different life journeys. In each case, our Lord offers a word of hope and opens new doors. May this season do the same for you. On Thursdays we'll be gathering for those delicious soup suppers followed by brief reflections on the theme "Worship Matters" along with parts of Holden Evening Prayer. We'll explore why we worship, how we encounter God's word, the role of sacraments in our life, the meaning of the worship space, and the connection of prayer with our everyday life. I hope you'll learn something, but also be inspired to appreciate worship more deeply.

The second big thing happening is our transition team is actively involved with the Ehrhardt parish in working out a partnership agreement for the sharing of a pastor. I was particularly encouraged at the first meeting on February 19th. All eight of the representatives (4 from Good Shepherd and 4 representing Mt. Pleasant and Memorial) seemed committed to trying to make this work. While it would be possible to feel sad that neither community can afford a full time pastor, we are choosing to see this as an opportunity for a positive future. Both communities have struggled for years with affording a pastor. But we all have wonderful churches with a core of deeply committed members. I know that Good Shepherd will benefit from a pastor who lives in this community and is able to become involved with the local activities in ways that I have not in my limited role.

How fast this all comes together remains to be seen. Once the transition team has its set of recommendations, each of the

councils and congregations will need to approve the partnership agreement. Only then will a call committee commence its work. So, it looks like I will be with you for a while longer. At Synod Assembly this June I will be celebrating my 50th anniversary of my ordination. It doesn't seem possible that I graduated from seminary and was called to serve in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1973! There aren't a whole lot of us these days that make that longevity, and even fewer that are still active in ministry. I hope we'll be able to celebrate here at Good Shepherd as well. Until then, its full speed ahead as we worship and serve in Jesus' name.

Pastor Craig

Receiving New Members :

During the month of March Pastor will be contacting those who have been attending about becoming voting members of Good Shepherd. In recent years we've become much less concerned about formal membership. There's also been hesitancy for some about making a commitment to being a member. Church membership is not a requirement to worship and participate in the activities of the church. But membership does grant the right and privilege to vote, to serve on the leadership council, and to be formally recognized as a supporting participant of the congregation. In the past few years we've had a number of folks begin attending after moving to the area. Our plan is to formally recognize new members in church on Palm Sunday, April 2nd with a reception following worship.

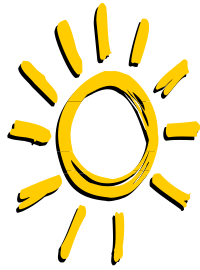
Lutheran Men in Mission:

Seven men met for food and fellowship on Feb 12th. Doug L. and Sal provided the breakfast and Jon gave a program on how to be appreciative of what we are and what we have. Our next meeting will be Sunday Mar 12th at 8 AM in the church social hall. All men are welcome to attend!



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.



On Thursday evenings during Lent, beginning March 2, we will gather in the parish hall for a soup supper at 6:00 pm followed by worship. All are invited and encouraged to attend. The theme for our Lenten services is "Worship Matters". For the soup suppers, there will be sign-up sheets for each week. We will need 4 soups, 2 breads, and 2 gallons of tea (one sweet, one unsweet) each week. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex.



The Red Cross Blood Drive will be at Good Shepherd on Monday, March 13, 2023, from 1:00 pm until 7:00 pm. Contact the Red Cross for an appointment, and give the gift of life!

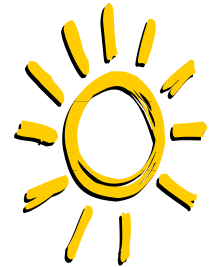
Applications for camp scholarships are now available, along with the guidelines for the application. These scholarships are for children attending one of the Novus Way Camps this summer: Lutheridge, Lutherock, Lutheranch, or Luther Springs. Please see Diane Wicker for applications. The deadline for receiving applications is May 1.

The Designated offering for March will support our Lutheroad Day Camp at Good Shepherd this summer. Lutheroad is a day camp led by counselors from Lutheridge that will be held June 26 through 30. 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 \$3,000 cost of Day Camp by placing loose offering in the offering plate, or by designating your gift for "Lutheroad" on your offering envelope.

Sunshine News : (Continued)

The sanctuary candles for the month of March are given to the glory of God by Natalie Gamble in honor of Hannah's and Haleigh's birthday.

The cost of sanctuary candles is \$25 per month.



Financial Corner

On February 19, the congregation approved the 2023 Spending Plan for Ministry, which reflects a 1% increase over our 2022 plan. Thank you all for your generous gifts as we begin another year of ministry at Good Shepherd.

This month, I have refreshed a description of our various "funds" at Good Shepherd and Doug has graciously included them in this newsletter. I appreciate Janet asking for these to be published again (it's been three years since the last printing) and I hope you find this information informative.

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

January Offering and Gifts:

General Fund	\$ 8,579
Social Ministry/Food Pantry	\$ 424
Wonderful Wednesday	\$ 223
Candles	\$ 25
Flowers	\$ 265
Lutheran Homes	\$ 220
Parsonage Project	\$ 50
Service Committee	\$ 105
Lutheroad	\$ 100

Happy St. Patrick's Day !

Alter Flowers for March

There are **no altar flowers** for the month of March because it is Lent.

SERVING IN MARCH :

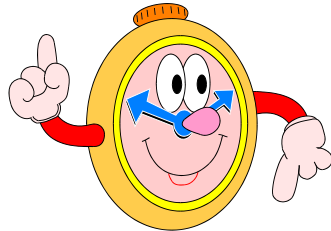
Lay Reader	Doug Brinson
Communion Assistant	Doug Brinson
Acolyte	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Ushers	Amy Rusnak / Doug Lindstrom
Alter Guild	Natalie Gamble
Grounds Care	Doug Brinson
Council Devotions	Dean Brinson

Special Thanks to Everyone Who Served In **February** !!!

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

Daylight Saving Time Begins (March 12, 2023)

Daylight Saving Time was first introduced in the United States in 1918 under the Standard Time Act as a measure to save on fuel costs during the First World War by adding an extra hour of sunlight to the day, according to the Library of Congress.



DESIGNATED GIFTS

Donations given to the Glory of God to:

Food Pantry

Given by:

Margaret Juttner
Margaret Juttner
Kevin and Diane Wicker

In Memory of:

Gene Whetsell
Frank Wilson
Marion Rudd (Natalie's Dad)

Good Shepherd Women:

The Good Shepherd Women will be meeting on Monday, March 6, 2023, at 6:00 pm at the church. Faye Rister will be the hostess for the evening and will have the devotions. In addition to our usual business, we will be putting together Easter baskets for our shut-ins. All women of the congregation are welcome to attend.

Worship and Music

The Worship and Music Committee will meet Thursday, March 9, at 2:00 pm at the church. The committee will discuss plans for Holy Week as well as review the current worship guidelines.

Christian Education:

The Christian Education committee will be meeting on Saturday, March 4, 2023, at 10:00 am at the church. We will be discussing plans for the **Easter egg hunt** that will be held on Saturday, April 1, 2023, at 10:00 am at the church. Volunteers will be needed to help with the day's activities and with food preparation. Watch the bulletin for further information about the egg hunt. We will also be discussing plans for Lutherod Day Camp, which will be the week of June 26-30.

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, the family of Gene Whetsell, Charles Rister

Friends and Family

Gary Bunch, Lavern Smoak, Bill Walters, Carolyn Rahn, Laura Spivey, Vernon Mandale, Grace LaRouche (Janet Szymanski), Jean Strickland (Ray and Theresa Strickland), Ted Rusnak (Rob and Amy Rusnak), the family of Marion Rudd (Natalie Gamble), Parks Mangum (the Risters), Tim Walters (Margaret Juttner), John Babcock, Louise Stokes (the Boehlkes)

February Council meeting notes: 2-12-2023

Kevin opened the meeting with prayer.

- The minutes from the January meeting were presented by Jon. Jon also presented a report from Pastor Craig.
- Kevin presented the financial report for January as well as the proposed 2023 Spending Plan for Ministry. Following discussion, and some changes, Council approved the Spending Plan to be presented to the Congregation.
- Having accepted Marie Wilson's resignation from Council, members approved leaving that position open for the remainder of the year when it will be filled during the election of the 2024-2026 Council members.
- Council heard reports from Property and Grounds, Christian Education, Lutheran Men and Social Ministry. In the report from Worship and Music, Jon notified Council of a problem with the organ and Diane's plans to have the service technician on site to correct the problem.
- Jon reported that the Transition Team will be meeting with members from Ehrhardt Memorial and Mt. Pleasant on Sunday afternoon, February 19, to work on the transition plan for our partnership. Pastor Craig will also be at that meeting representing Good Shepherd. Once a transition plan is developed, it will go before the Council of all three congregations for approval and then will go before all three congregations for approval.

Your church Council members for 2023 are Jon Carpenter, Doug Lindstrom, Natalie Gamble, Amy Rusnak, Cheryl Clayton, Dean Brinson, Bob Ferris, and Kevin Wicker.

1st Day of Spring!

March 20, 2023!

Thank You!

Dear Members of Good Shepherd,

Thank you so much for coming together to support our mom, Kathie Whetsell, during the loss of Papa Gene. Your kindness to our entire family means more than you can imagine and pulling together that amazing lunch for us the day of the funeral was a Godsend! Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ and for loving us so well!

Sincerely,

The children of Kathie Whetsell (David, Carmen, Deryl, Terri and Walter and their families)

Dear Linda and all the "Helpers"!

Thank you all so very much for the wonderful dinner you prepared for Kathie and the whole family! We loved every dish and know the love that was put into every bite! Thank you for the service and attention to us in need of your support, love and care.

I'm sure she will rely on each of you in the coming weeks and months. I have no doubt that you will be there willing and able to support her.

My association to Good Shepherd Lutheran goes back 70 years. It's the first church I remember. All the memories are fond ones! Thanks again!

Love,

Mary Bosen (Kathie's sister)

Thank you to everyone who made a donation to the **Souper Bowl**. A total of \$305 and over 40 food items were collected for Good Shepherd's food pantry.

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, calls, visits and food during my recent knee surgery. I am blessed to have such a caring church family.

Charles Rister

Good Shepherd Lutheran Financial Funds

The **General Fund** is used to pay for the Operating expenses of our ministry and the routine maintenance of our facilities. The General Fund is most often associated with our Spending Plan for Ministry for the year. The balance in the General Fund is the checking account balance, less any designated item held in the checking account. The current balance is reported each month in the newsletter as “Available in Checking”. That value is currently \$30,000.

The **Doscher/Feller Scholarship Fund**, formerly known as the **Doscher and Fellers Education and Outdoor Ministry Fund**, was established by Mr. Ralph Doscher and Mr. Stanley Fellers for the purpose of supporting the spiritual and educational growth of the Good Shepherd members and associate members through institutions of higher education and Lutheran outdoor ministries. These funds are used for financial assistance of young people attending summer camp (Lutheridge, Lutherock, etc.) and to provide financial assistance for members attending institutions of higher education after high school. The balance in the Scholarship Fund is now \$6,438.

The **Maintenance Fund** is used for the routine annual maintenance of our property. Any money in the annual Spending Plan for Ministry that is not used for maintenance during the year is placed in the Maintenance Fund Savings Account for future use. The current balance in the Maintenance Fund is \$3,757.

The **Memorial Fund** is money set aside to purchase those items that are used in our worship setting. The current balance in the Memorial Fund is \$1,150.

The **Service Committee Fund** may be used to provide meals to bereaved families after the death of a loved one or hospitalized members when they return home. The current balance in the Service Committee Fund is \$477.

The **Sign Fund** was established at the request of the family of Sonny Roberts following his death. The fund is to be used to

purchase a new sign for the church along Jeffries Boulevard. The current balance in the fund is \$955.

The **Social Ministry** fund is used to help those in need in our community with food, utility bills, prescription medication, etc. The Social Ministry program includes the **Food Pantry program**. Approximately \$12,000 of assistance is managed through the Social Ministry Fund each year with support coming from members of Good Shepherd and throughout our community. The Social Ministry policy is available upon request. The current balance in the Social Ministry Fund is \$3,984.

The **Lommen Love Fund** was established in 2021 with a gift from the children of Arden and Mary Lommen in loving memory of their parents. The fund is used to aid and assist members and friends of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in time of need. The children of Arden and Mary Lommen are not opposed to the funds being used other areas that would honor the memory of Arden and Mary. The Lommen Love Fund policy is available upon request. The current balance in the Lommen Love Fund is \$7,980.

The **Wallace Fund** was established using a gift from the estate of Mrs. Margaret Wallace following her death. Mrs. Wallace left this gift as an unrestricted fund for use at the discretion of the Council. Although we have used the fund in past years to shore up the General Fund, the general consensus has been to use this fund for capital improvements of the facilities. Over the past five years, donor gifts have reestablished the original corpus of the Wallace Fund. The current balance in the Wallace Fund is now \$69,806.

MARCH 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	1 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Wonderful Wednesday <u>Birthday :</u> Mason Alberts	2 6:00 PM Lenten Supper / Service <u>Birthday :</u> Tyler Westbury	3 <u>Birthday :</u> Donnie Eason	4 10:00 AM Christian Education Committee
5 10:00 AM Worship with Communion 2:00 PM Transition Task Force Meeting <u>Birthday :</u> Garrett Brinson	6 6:00 PM Good Shepherd Women Meet	7 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM Food Pantry 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	8 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Wonderful Wednesday	9 2:00 PM Warship & Music Committee 6:00 PM Lenten Supper / Service	10 <u>Birthdays :</u> Haleigh Gamble Hannah Gamble	11
12 Daylight Saving Time Begins 8:00 AM LMM Breakfast Meeting 10:00 AM Worship Service followed by Church Council	13 1:00 PM - 7:00 PM Red Cross Blood Drive <u>Birthday :</u> Maria Rodriguez	14 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal <u>Birthday :</u> Winfield Simons	15 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Wonderful Wednesday <u>Birthdays :</u> Frances Barton Charlotte Brinson Jeremiah Johnston	16 6:00 PM Lenten Supper / Service	17 St. Patrick's Day	18
19 10:00 AM Worship Service	20 1st Day of Spring <u>Birthday :</u> Barrett Lord	21 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM Food Pantry <u>Birthday :</u> Charles Rister	22 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Wonderful Wednesday 10:00 PM Newsletter Deadline	23 6:00 PM Lenten Supper / Service	24	25 <u>Anniversary :</u> Kevin & Angela Crosby
26 10:00 AM Worship Service	27	28 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	29 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Wonderful Wednesday <u>Birthday :</u> Candace Fralix	30 6:00 PM Lenten Supper / Service	31	1 10:00 AM Easter Egg Hunt