



April 2023

# The Shepherd's Staff

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
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(843) 549-5353

## From Your Interim Pastor :

Most of us don't think a whole lot about death. Certainly, as a younger person I only rarely was confronted with the passing of someone near my age. And other than taking out life insurance policies to protect our family, I gave only occasional thoughts to the end of life-----and I was a pastor from age 25! In Minnesota I served remarkably young congregations so I did way more baptisms and weddings than funerals. There were a few deaths of children and youths over the years, but mostly it was elderly for which we celebrated a life well-lived.

Now in my mid-70's and experiencing occasional health issues, thoughts of death have become more real. I'm pretty certainly in the last quarter of my life and things begin to look differently. For one thing, though my mind thinks I'm still younger, my body just can't do some of the things I used to do! I look at some of those older pictures and wonder who is that guy I used to be.

Lent takes on a different meaning these days. I think more about my own frailty and am more aware of my imperfections. I'm not sure I'd have had the courage to follow Jesus like those first disciples. And If I had, no doubt I'd have made some of the same stupid mistakes and betrayals. At times my alleluias are locked up almost as tightly as that box that sits by the altar.

I say all this to announce that because of all these morbid and negative thoughts, Easter is also taking on new meaning. On April 9<sup>th</sup> we will proclaim that Jesus Christ is Risen! But so are we! We may still be living in the age of sin and death, but as Christ is alive, so is our future-----and if our future is life, then our present takes on new life as well. I may be getting older and even closer to

death-----but I am also closer to life with God. Paul said to live is Christ, but to die is gain. I'm beginning to finally get viscerally what Paul meant. The end of the story is just the beginning. Because of that fact, I can live fully in the present as a child of God.

This Easter Sunday we will also have a brief congregational meeting after church for the purpose of acting on the Proposed Partnership Agreement with the Ehrhardt parish. We usually don't have meetings on Easter Sunday, but this is an act of new life for Good Shepherd and our surrounding community. Seems very appropriate, don't you think? There will be some compromises in sharing a pastor, but also some terrific pluses. I hope you'll plan to join us for the great celebration of Easter and a new chapter for Good Shepherd moving forward.

*Pastor Craig*

## Property and Grounds – April 2023

We continue to wait for the weather and volunteer availability to continue on the parsonage project, but in the meantime we can report that the church organ was repaired a few weeks ago, and we have “jump started” our conversations with a contractor regarding the audio and streaming system for the sanctuary.

## Lutheran Men in Mission:

Seven men met for food and fellowship on Mar 12th. Everything seemed to be occurring an hour earlier for some reason. Doug L. and Mr. Kevin provided the breakfast and Mr. Bob gave a program on how we should not resent when God corrects us because it is for our own good and helps refine us. He also provided some interesting facts on the history of daylight savings time.

Mark your calendars: this year's Men's BBQ will be held on June 3rd. More information to come...Our next meeting will be Sunday April 16th at 8 AM in the church social hall (note this is the Third Sunday due to Easter on April 9). All men are welcome to attend!

## Sunshine News :

Make plans to welcome the New Members of Good Shepherd following the worship service on April 2. During the month of March, Pastor contacted those who have been attending about becoming voting members of Good Shepherd. Church membership is not a requirement 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. Plans have been made to formally recognize these new members in church on Palm Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> with a reception following worship.



There will be a **Congregational meeting** after worship on Sunday, April 9, 2023. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on the Parish Agreement between Good Shepherd and the Ehrhardt Churches (Memorial Lutheran and Mt. Pleasant Lutheran).

A copy of the proposed Parish Agreement is included in your April newsletter. We hope all voting members of Good Shepherd can attend for this very important vote in the life of the congregation.

### **Holy Week Schedule:**

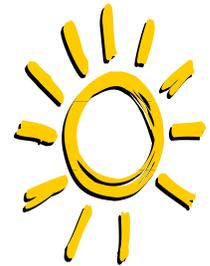
Sunday, April 2	Palm Sunday service with communion at 10:00 a.m.
Thursday, April 6	Maundy Thursday service with communion at 7:00 p.m.
Friday, April 7	Good Friday service at 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 9	Easter Day, Worship service with communion at 10:00 a.m.

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us!

**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**.

## Sunshine News : (Continued)

We will start a **new prayer list** in April. 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 this newsletter or on the table 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](mailto:thewickers@lowcountry.com)



**The Designated offering for April** will support the **Clean Water** initiative to provide sources of clean, safe, drinking water for



our sisters and brothers in our sister Synod in Tanzania. This is not a budgeted item, but you can help provide clean water systems in Tanzania by placing loose offering in the offering plate, or by designating your gift for “**Clean Water**” on your offering envelope.

**The sanctuary candles for the month of April** are given to the glory of God by Kevin and Diane Wicker in honor of Mr. Edd Wicker and in memory of Mrs. Jane Wicker.

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

## SERVING IN APRIL :

**Lay Reader**  
**Communion Assistant**  
**Acolyte**  
**Ushers**

Cheryl Clayton  
Amy Rusnak  
Riley Guess  
Bob Ferris /  
Jon Carpenter  
Diane Wicker  
Bob Ferris /  
Charles Rister  
Cheryl Clayton

**Alter Guild**  
**Grounds Care**

**Council Devotions**

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

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

# Thank You!

Friends of Good Shepherd,

**We so appreciated the wonderful meal** that you provided our family at the death of my dad, Gene Whetsell. Thank you for your hard work and your kindnesses to us, especially on such short notice. The families made sure we went home with plenty of leftovers, which were enjoyed. Thank you for your friendship to Kathie and to our family!!

With thanksgiving,

*Gerry and Deryl Paradis*

Dear Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,

**Thank you so very much** for the food, thoughts, words of comfort, and prayers during our recent loss of my father and Haleigh's poppa. Your kindness at this time was greatly appreciated.

*Natalie and Haleigh*

**Thank you** to everyone who came out in support of the **Red Cross blood drive** held in March at Good Shepherd. A total of **56** units were collected. The next blood drive will be Monday, May 8, from 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

## 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, 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), Bill Walters, Tim Walters (Margaret Juttner), John Babcock, Louise Stokes (the Boehlkes), Mark Siegler (Dean and Charlotte Brinson), Elza Dennis (Bob and Gloria Ferris)

## Partnership Vote following Worship (04/09/23)

The history of Good Shepherd, which you can find on our church website, tells a remarkable story of the sacrifices and hard work of the past 80+ years. On Easter Sunday we'll have a chance to add to that history as we vote on a partnership agreement for cooperation with the Ehrhardt parish. That community has 2 Lutheran churches with a long and rich history. Nowadays Memorial Lutheran and Mt. Pleasant Lutheran worship together, alternating which building they use. Their combined membership is very similar to ours. Neither Good Shepherd nor Ehrhardt could afford (or really need) a full-time pastor now. But together there's an opportunity for sharing a pastor and embarking on a new chapter for each of our churches. It seems appropriate to vote to approve this expression of new life on Easter Sunday.

Of course, sharing a pastor means some compromises on all our parts. Both parishes are currently worshiping at ten o'clock. The partnership proposes that Ehrhardt will worship at 9 and Good Shepherd at 11, once a pastor is called. Actually, the transition team found working out the details to be relatively easy as everyone was committed to making this work. A parish council will be created to continue to address issues of mutual concern. We are not the first to create this kind of arrangement in South Carolina. In many other regions of the church, sharing a pastor is common practice. Assuming all three congregations vote affirmatively on Easter, a joint call committee will begin its work. A copy of the agreement will be distributed on Palm Sunday and by email around April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## DESIGNATED GIFTS

*Donations given to the Glory of God to:*

### Food Pantry

#### Given by:

Cleo Gartner  
Cleo Gartner

#### In Memory of:

Gene Whetsell  
Frank Wilson

#### Given by:

Bethel Presbyterian Church

#### In Honor of:

Good Shepherd Ministries

### Lutheroad

#### Given by:

Kevin and Diane Wicker

#### In Memory of:

Frank Wilson

## Financial Corner

With our **2023 Spending Plan for Ministry** approved by the congregation, we are off to a good start this year. Our finances through the months of January and February indicate we are operating our ministry within the guidelines of the Plan.

You'll be reading a lot in the coming months about the work of the Transition Team as we open a new chapter in the **Call Process for our next Pastor**. Part of that process will be the adoption of a new spending plan which will include our commitment to support the ministry of our new Pastor. Fear not, for under the direction of Pastor Craig, we have positioned ourselves well for the next step of this journey. These are exciting times. Stay tuned.

We're thankful for the **Thrivent Choice Dollars** that have been designated to Good Shepherd this year from Kathie, Diane, Charles, Faye, John and Linda, adding \$400 that can be used at the discretion of the church Council. Many thanks also to **Thrivent** for making these funds available for their members to distribute to organizations they see fit.

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

## February Offering and Gifts:

General Fund	\$ 7,132
Social Ministry/Food Pantry	\$ 355
Wonderful Wednesday	\$ 184
Memorial Fund	\$ 25
Flowers	\$ 90
Lutheran Retreat Centers	\$ 170
Earthquake Relief	\$ 165
Lenten Offering	\$ 259
Lutheroad	\$ 50
Maintenance Fund	\$ 50

## Savings Accounts

Maintenance Fund	\$ 3,807
Memorial Fund	\$ 1,175
Scholarship Endowment	\$ 6,438
Lommen Love Fund	\$ 7,980
Wallace Estate Fund	\$ 69,806
Social Ministry/Food Pantry	\$ 3,129

## Good Shepherd Women:

The Good Shepherd Women met on Monday, March 6. As a part of their program, they put together Easter baskets for the shut-ins. The next meeting will be on Monday, April 3, at 6:00 pm at the church. The hostess for the evening will be Patty Delaney and Amy Rusnak will have devotions. All women are welcome to attend!

## Worship and Music

The Worship and Music Committee met Thursday, March 9, at 2:00 pm at the church. The committee discussed plans for Holy Week. The next meeting for the committee will be Tuesday, May 16, at 10:00 am at the church.

## Christian Education:

The Christian Education committee met on Saturday, March 4, 2023, at 10:00 am at the church. Plans for the Easter egg hunt were discussed. The **Easter egg hunt** will be on **Saturday, April 1, at 10:00 am** at the church. Plans were also discussed for Lutheroad Day Camp coming up in June. **(June 26-30, 2023)**. Registration material for day camp should be available at the end of March / beginning of April. Watch the bulletin for more information. The next meeting for the Christian Education committee will be Saturday, April 22, at 10:00 am at the church.



## Alter Flowers for April

April 2	Greenery
April 9	Bob and Gloria Ferris
April 16	Jon Carpenter
April 23	Maria Rodriguez
April 30	Dean and Charlotte Brinson

*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."*

## **March Council meeting notes : 3-12-2023**

The meeting was opened with devotions and prayer by Dean Brinson.

- Kevin presented the financial report for February and Pastor Craig presented his report.
- From Property and Grounds, Kevin reported that the organ had been repaired by Fox Music and discussions regarding the audio and video system in the sanctuary will proceed this month.
- Amy reported that Christian Ed is making plans for the Easter Egg hunt on April 1 and Lutheroad Day Camp this summer.
- Bob reported that the Lutheran Men's BBQ has been moved to Saturday, June 3, due to scheduling conflicts in May.
- Amy reported that the WELCA ladies have prepared Easter baskets for our shut-ins.
- Doug L reported on Social Ministry and the challenges of funding the food pantry.
- Council discussed proceeding with publishing a Pictorial Directory for Good Shepherd. Haleigh Gamble has agreed to take the photos and Kevin will purchase the software. Pictures may begin as early as Palm Sunday.
- Regarding the Call Process, the Transition Team from Good Shepherd, Ehrhardt Memorial, and Mt. Pleasant are nearing completion of the parish agreement. The parish agreement will be reviewed by all three church councils, and if approved, will be presented to all three congregations for a vote. The Congregational meeting at Good Shepherd is scheduled on Easter, April 9, following worship.
- The 2023 S.C. Synod Assembly will be held in Columbia this summer from June 8 through 10. Pastor Craig, Amy and Rob will represent Good Shepherd.

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

## Prayer List April - June, 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](mailto:thewickers@lowcountry.com)

To be prayed for:

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Requested by:

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Condition:

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Please remove:

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

# APRIL 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1  10:00 AM <b>Easter Egg Hunt</b>  <u>Birthday :</u> Lisa Mezel
2  10:00 AM <b>Palm / Passion Sunday</b> followed by New Member Reception <u>Birthday :</u> Christine Peterson	3  6:00 PM Good Shepherd Women Meet	4  9:30 AM – 11:30 AM <b>Food Pantry</b> 6: 00 PM <b>Choir Rehearsal</b> <u>Birthday :</u> Gloria Ferris <u>Anniversary :</u> Ray & Theresa Strickland	5  5:00 PM - 7:00 PM <b>Wonderful Wednesday</b>  <u>Anniversary :</u> Ned & Alice Vendrick	6  7:00 PM <b>Maundy Service</b> <u>Birthdays :</u> Chastity Patterson Charity Patterson Kathie Whetsell Diane Wicker Ilona Strickland	7  7:00 PM <b>Good Friday Tenebrae Service</b>	8
9  10:00 AM <b>Easter Day Service</b> followed by <b>Congregational Meeting</b>	10	11  <u>Birthday :</u> Mike Herrin	12  <u>Birthday :</u> Corson Wertz <u>Anniversary :</u> Marion & Gail Glover	13	14  <u>Anniversary :</u> Ted & Sara Avant	15
16  8:00 AM <b>LMM Breakfast Meeting</b> 10:00 AM <b>Worship Service</b> followed by <b>Church Council</b>	17	18  9:30 AM – 11:30 AM <b>Food Pantry</b>  <u>Birthday :</u> Madilynn Alberts	19  5:00 PM - 7:00 PM <b>Wonderful Wednesday</b>	20  <u>Birthday :</u> Christa Gilgen Martin	21  <u>Birthday :</u> Hagan Strickland	22  10:00 AM <b>Christian Education</b>  10: 00 PM Newsletter Deadline.
23  10:00 AM <b>Worship Service</b>	24	25	26  5:00 PM - 7:00 PM <b>Wonderful Wednesday</b>	27  <u>Birthday :</u> Bobbie Smith	28	29  <u>Anniversary :</u> Cheryl & Donnie Clayton
30  10:00 AM <b>Worship Service</b>  <u>Birthday :</u> Kirsten Paindiris	1	2	3	4	5	6