



February 2023

The Shepherd's Staff

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

From Your Interim Pastor :

After the trip of a lifetime, it's good to be back and into the routine. Getting away is always fun, and our South African adventure was fabulous in many ways, but I couldn't live like that all the time and we did miss friends, family, and church members. Unlike 2022, we have far less travel planned for this year so we hope to see you much more often as Good Shepherd works on a new partnership with the Ehrhardt parish.

Of course, February means that Lent is coming. This year the Worship Committee has chosen the theme of "Worship Matters". Each Thursday we'll be gathering for a delicious soup supper and looking at various elements of what we do in worship and why. There will only be two Thursdays before we change to daylight savings, so those of you who don't like driving after dark will get that reprieve. If you would like a ride to church for Ash Wednesday or those first two Thursdays, be sure to let us know and we'll arrange that for you.

Walterboro is bracing for a large influx of visitors as the prominent murder trial kicks off at the Colleton County courthouse. For many of us there will be minimal impact, but some of you may have your business and routine impacted. It's possible that we may have visitors come to worship who are in town for the trial. Let's all do our best to show gracious hospitality and not be annoyed by the impact on traffic or other inconveniences.

The first meeting of the joint partnership task force between Good Shepherd and the Ehrhardt parish will be taking place February 19. It's way too early to know how long this process will take, but we'll have a better idea after that first meeting. Please

keep this group in your prayers as we move ahead with this promising venture. We'll update you after this first meeting and as soon as we have some idea of a timetable.

Finally, I'd like to highlight one of the all-time greatest Old Testament passages: "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" Micah 6:8 There are some scriptures that summarize so well our calling as people of faith. To walk with God is to worship and be in prayer. God wants to be in relationship with us---not to be feared. But then we are also called to be people of action----to do justice and to love kindness. These are words to live by----to guide us every day in our journey of life. It's a tall order, but a noble calling to try to do these things each and every day.

Pastor Craig

Thank You!

I would like to thank our church family for the care shown to us during this very difficult time of my life! The prayers, calls, texts, food and especially the wonderful dinner that was provided for our very large family were such a blessing to us. I truly don't know how anyone would get through this time without God by their side. I have Peace in my heart for which I am very thankful. We have been truly blessed with having such wonderful friends to care for us. With a thankful heart....

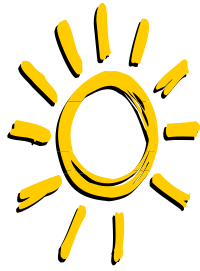
Kathie Whetsell and Family

Thank you to everyone who came out in support of the blood drive held this past Monday, January 16. A total of **50 units** was collected. The next blood drive will be Monday, March 13, 2023, from 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Contact the Red Cross for an appointment.



Sunshine News :

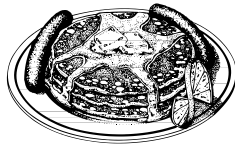
Mark your calendars for **Saturday, February 4, 2023!** The Good Shepherd Women are sponsoring a **spaghetti dinner fundraiser** to support various outreach projects of the women. This event is **carryout only** from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm. Tickets are \$10 per plate and the meal includes spaghetti, salad, bread, and a dessert. Tickets may be purchased in advance from one of the women. Tickets will also be available at the door.



Sunday, February 12, is Super Bowl Sunday for the NFL, and it's time for the **Souper Bowl of Caring** at thousands of locations across the country, including Good Shepherd. All food items and monetary gifts collected at Good Shepherd on Souper Bowl Sunday will help support our food pantry. Suggested food items: grits, rice, dry beans, canned meat, canned vegetables, canned fruit, spaghetti and sauce, Ramen noodles, peanut butter.

There will be a **congregational meeting** after worship on **Sunday, February 19, 2023.** The purpose of the meeting is to approve a spending plan for 2023.

Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, February 21, 2023!** Plans are being made for **Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper.** We will gather at 6:00 pm for a pancake supper, a brief devotional and a Mardi Gras celebration. There is no cost for the meal, but a plate will be out to receive donations to cover the cost of supplies.

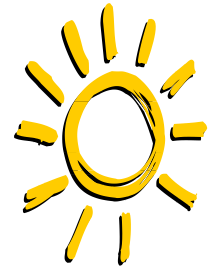


Our annual **Ash Wednesday service** will be Wednesday, February 22, at 7:00 pm. This service will be a communion service with the imposition of ashes, which marks the beginning of the season of Lent.

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 in the parish hall. All are invited and encouraged to attend. Further information will be available soon, so watch the bulletin and the March newsletter.

Sunshine News : (Continued)

The **Designated offering for February** will support our **Lutheran Retreat Centers in South Carolina**, which consists of **Camp Kinard** (Batesburg-Leesville, SC) and **Coastal Retreat** (Isle of Palms, SC). The mission of SCLRC is to provide places of hospitality where congregations, communities and individuals can experience a Christian environment to renew faith, foster fellowship, build memories and encounter the glory of God's creation! This is not a budgeted item, but you can help support the South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers by placing loose offering in the offering plate, or by designating your gift for "**Retreat Centers**" on your offering envelope.



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.

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.

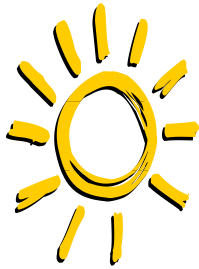
The sanctuary candles for the month of February are given to the glory of God by Charles and Faye Rister in honor of their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

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



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.



Please thank our new officers for their willingness to serve. They are as follows:

President -	Jon Carpenter
Vice- President -	Doug Lindstorm
Secretary -	Natalie Gamble
Financial Secretary -	Doug Brinson
Treasurer -	Kevin Wicker

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

We have numerous opportunities to serve in the ministry of Good Shepherd this year. If you would like to serve, you may respond by e-mail to thewickers@lowcountry.com, or sign up in the narthex of the sanctuary.

If you have not served before as Communion Assistant, Acolyte, Altar Guild, or Usher you will receive instructions and receive assistance for as long as you need to be comfortable.

Communion Assistant : June, October, December and January (2024)

Acolyte : February, March, May, June, July, September, November and January (2024)

Altar Guild : July, August, September and January (2024)

Ushers : for everyone each month of the year except for June and December.

Flowers : on May 21, July 23, August 27, September 10, October 8, November 5, November 12, January 14, 2024 and January 28, 2024. (Flowers are \$45 each Sunday.)

Please prayerfully consider serving our ministry in one or more of these ways.

Financial Corner

We completed 2022 with a strong month of giving, not only to our general fund to support our ministry at Good Shepherd, but also with our Christmas Eve offering for Special Gathering. And, although we exceeded some line items of our 2022 Spending Plan, the results at the end of the year were well within the plan. Many heartfelt “thanks” to all of you who contributed throughout the year so that our ministry here at Good Shepherd can continue to flourish.

At their February 12 meeting, Council will consider the **2023 Spending Plan for our Ministry** at Good Shepherd. And, on February 19, we will have our **annual Congregational meeting** following worship to vote on the Spending Plan. I hope you will all make plans to attend.

I enjoyed serving as your Treasurer in 2022 and I’m looking forward to another blessed year in 2023. 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

December Offering and Gifts:

General Fund	\$ 8,629
Social Ministry/Food Pantry	\$ 557
Wonderful Wednesday	\$ 91
Candles	\$ 15
Flowers	\$ 180
Memorial Fund	\$ 25
Special Gathering	\$ 406
Poinsettias	\$ 124
Lommen Love Fund	\$ 50
Parsonage Project	\$ 295
Service Committee	\$ 20
Lutheroad	\$ 125

Fund Accounts

Maintenance Fund	\$ 3,757
Memorial Fund	\$ 900
Scholarship Endowment	\$ 6,438
Lommen Love Fund	\$ 8,118
Wallace Estate Fund	\$ 69,806
Service Committee	\$ 542

Social Ministry/Food Pantry \$ 4,860

SERVING IN FEBRUARY :

Lay Reader	Amy Rusnak
Communion Assistant	Marie Wilson
Acolyte	Volunteer Needed
Ushers	Dean Brinson / Cheryl Clayton
Alter Guild	Marie Wilson
Grounds Care	Doug Lindstrom
Council Devotions	Kevin Wicker

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

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

Alter Flowers for February

February 5 :	Haleigh Gamble
February 12 :	The Lommen Family
February 19 :	Janet Szymanski
February 26 :	<i>LENT</i>

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."

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, Gloria Ferris, Janet Szymanski

Friends and Family

Gary Bunch, Lavern Smoak, Bill Walters, Carolyn Rahn, Laura Spivey, Vernon Mandale (Janet Szymanski), Jean Strickland (Ray and Theresa Strickland), Ted Rusnak (Rob and Amy Rusnak), the family of Mike Cribb, the family of Clio Benton (Dean and Charlotte Brinson), Marion Rudd (Natalie Gamble), Parks Mangum (the Risters), Dolores (the Pragas)

Good Shepherd Women:

The Good Shepherd Women's spaghetti dinner fundraiser will be Saturday, February 4, from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm. This event is carryout only. See one of the women for tickets at \$10 each. Tickets will also be available at the door. The February meeting of the Good Shepherd Women will be Monday, February 6, at 6:00 pm. Marie Wilson is the hostess for the evening. In addition to discussing business, we will also be working on pocket crosses.



Worship and Music

The Worship and Music Committee met Tuesday, January 24, at the church. They discussed plans for Lent and Holy Week as well as review the current COVID guidelines for worship. Since the meeting was after the newsletter deadline, please watch the bulletin and next month's newsletter for further information.

Christian Education:

The committee met Saturday, January 14, at the church. Wonderful Wednesday started back on Wednesday, January 11. The children continue their studies with the Sparkhouse curriculum from Augsburg. During Lent, the children will be focusing on the events of Holy Week. The older children will start a new study this spring on "Papa Luther."

The committee discussed having an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 1. Further details will follow. The committee also discussed some preliminary plans for Lutheroad Day Camp, which will be at Good Shepherd the week of June 26-30. Finally, the committee made a recommendation to council to offer camp scholarships and school scholarships to members of the congregation at \$300 each. Applications for the camp scholarships will be available beginning March 1. The funds for these scholarships are provided by the Doscher/ Fellers Fund.



January Council meeting notes : 1-15-2023

Natalie opened the meeting with devotions and prayer. Amy welcomed our two new Council members; Cheryl Clayton and Doug Lindstrom.

- The minutes from the January meeting were presented by Jon, and Kevin presented the financial report for December. The **2023 Spending Plan for Ministry** will be addressed at the February meeting and a **Congregational meeting** will be held on Sunday, February 19, following worship, to vote on the plan.
- Reports were received from Property and Grounds, Christian Education, Social Ministry, WELCA and Lutheran Men.
- Council approved the dates and cost for our **Lutheroad Day Camp** this summer. They also approved the amount available for scholarships for **Educational and Camp scholarships** this year.
- Amy reported that the **Call Process Transition Team** would be having their first meeting soon to work on the transition plan for partnering with Ehrhardt Memorial and Mt. Pleasant to call a pastor. The Transition team consists of Amy Rusnak, Doug Lindstrom, Dean Brinson and Diane Wicker.
- Council approved observing **Souper Bowl Sunday** this year by placing the soup pot in the narthex and using the funds for our Food Pantry.
- Council also approved adding **Neighbors Together** as one of our monthly emphasis offerings this year.
- The following members were elected to Good Shepherd **leadership positions for 2023**: Jon Carpenter, Chair; Doug Lindstrom, Vice Chair; Natalie Gamble, Secretary; Doug Brinson, Recording Secretary; and Kevin Wicker, Treasurer.

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

Lutheran Men in Mission:

Seven men met for food and fellowship on Jan 15th. Doug L. and Mr. Bob provided the breakfast and Mr. Kevin gave a program on the life and legacy of MLK Jr. New officers were elected: Chair: Doug Brinson; Vice Chair: Jon Carpenter; Treasurer: Kevin Wicker; Secretary: Rob Rusnak. Our next meeting will be Sunday Feb 12th at 8 AM in the church social hall. All men are welcome to attend!

Happy Valentine's Day !

Property and Grounds Update

With the record cold temperatures and the Christmas festivities, not much was accomplished on the **parsonage project** over the past month. As one of my friends used to say, “When you need an excuse, any one will do.”

To date, expensed, committed and estimated cost of the parsonage project is \$14,081 and our outstanding balance that we have used from the General Fund for the project is \$11,565. If you would like to make a gift to the project, simply mark your offering envelope “Parsonage.”

How did Groundhog Day get its start?

Groundhog Day has its roots in the ancient Christian tradition of Candlemas, when clergy would bless and distribute candles needed for winter. The candles represented how long and cold the winter would be. Germans expanded on this concept by selecting an animal—the hedgehog—as a means of predicting weather.

When German immigrants settled Pennsylvania in the 18th and 19th centuries, they brought the custom with them, choosing the native groundhog as the annual forecaster. The first official Groundhog Day celebration took place on February 2, 1887, in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania.



www.history.com/this-day-in-history/first-groundhog-day

DESIGNATED GIFTS

Donations given to the Glory of God to:

General Fund

Given by:

Marilyn Zielke
Marilyn Zielke

In Memory of:

Frank Wilson
Gene Whetsell

Social Ministry

Given by:

Janet Szymanski
Shannon Guess
Doug Lindstrom

In Memory of:

Frank Wilson
Gene Whetsell
Frank Wilson

Parsonage Fund

Given by:

Doug Lindstrom

In Memory of:

Gene Whetsell

Food Pantry

Given by:

Doug and Ellen Brinson
Carl and Gail Lindstrom
Kevin and Diane Wicker

In Memory of:

Gene Whetsell
Gene Whetsell
Gene Whetsell

Given by:

Bethel Presbyterian Church

In Honor of:

Good Shepherd Ministries

Service Committee

Given by:

Janet Szymanski
Bob and Gloria Ferris

In Memory of:

Gene Whetsell
Gene Whetsell

Memorial Fund

Given by:

John and Linda Gilgen
John and Linda Gilgen
Mr. and Mrs. Perry Buckner
Ned and Anne Oswald

In Memory of:

Frank Wilson
Gene Whetsell
Gene Whetsell
Gene Whetsell

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.

FEBRUARY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Wonderful Wednesday <u>Anniversary :</u> Natalie & Patrick Gamble	2 Groundhog Day <u>Birthday :</u> John Gilgen	3	4 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM WELCA Spaghetti Dinner <u>Birthday :</u> Walter Fralix
5 10:00 AM - Worship with Communion	6 6:00 PM Good Shepherd Women Meet	7 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM Food Pantry 6: 00 PM Choir Rehearsal <u>Birthday :</u> Pat Ostendorf	8 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Wonderful Wednesday	9 <u>Birthdays :</u> Riley Guess Ray Strickland	10	11
12 8:00 AM LMM Breakfast Meeting 10:00 AM Souper Bowl Sunday followed by Church Council	13 <u>Birthday :</u> Chris Carter	14 Valentine's Day 6: 00 PM Choir Rehearsal	15 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Wonderful Wednesday	16	17	18 <u>Birthday :</u> Cashwell Weihemuller
19 10:00 AM Transfiguration Sunday followed by Congregational Meeting <u>Birthday :</u> Grace Connelly	20 Presidents' Day	21 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM Food Pantry Choir Rehearsal (TBD) 6: 00 PM Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	22 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service 10: 00 PM Newsletter Deadline <u>Birthdays :</u> Doug Brinson Mary Jo Smith	23 <u>Birthdays :</u> Ned Vendrick Natalie Gamble Jennifer Carter Stone	24 <u>Birthday :</u> Parker Wertz	25
26 10:00 AM Worship Service	27 <u>Birthday :</u> Cheryl Clayton	28 6: 00 PM Choir Rehearsal <u>Birthday :</u> Jeff Lord	1 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Wonderful Wednesday	2	3	4