



The Shepherd's Staff

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
106 May Street
Walterboro, SC 29488
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January 2024

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From Your Pastor :

The beginning of a new year is often a time to both look back and recall the events of times past. But we also look forward with hope and anticipation to what the future holds. I'm not one for making resolutions each new year. Those things usually don't even make it out of January. But I do think it's good to take stock of where we are and what the future holds.

2023 was filled with optimism as we began to feel like our new normal had settled in. All churches had felt the negative impact of the pandemic----but we also learned to be resilient, creative, and used technology to reach out beyond our walls. Last summer we upgraded our sound and video equipment as we switched to Facebook as our streaming platform. On Easter we voted to form a partnership with the Ehrhardt churches which would enable us to share a full-time pastor. The parsonage refurbishment was completed so that all is ready for that next chapter.

Most of you will remember we hosted a seminary student in August for his first sermon. Jace Martinez put a face on the future of ministry for us and the congregation responded by generously supporting his studies. One challenge I would leave with you is to continue to remember and support our next generation of professional leaders.

Behind the scenes our joint call committee has been searching for that next pastor. We had a "near miss" when a candidate withdrew earlier in the fall. As we begin 2024, we have at least one more interview scheduled. You know this will happen in God's good time. A frequent message of the scripture is "fear

not". We're all eager for this next chapter so prayer and patience is required.

As we look ahead to the new year, this is my last newsletter article with you. Much as I wanted to serve you until your regular pastor arrived, four years and 3 months as your interim has been long enough. Actually, this short break will be good for you to anticipate the future. I have been here as long as many of your called pastors and the transition would have been difficult without some intervening time. I want you to know that Georgia and I will always have a special love for you all. It's been an honor and privilege to serve you. We wish you nothing but the best as we ride off into a more retired life!



Pastor Craig

SERVING IN JANUARY :

Lay Reader

Communion Assistant

Acolyte

Ushers

Alter Guild

Grounds Care

Audio / Visual

Council Devotions

LMM Breakfast / Program

Natalie Gamble

Doug Brinson

Volunteer Needed

Natalie Gamble /

Kevin Wicker

Diane Wicker

Doug Brinson

Rob Rusnak /

Matt Ferris

Cheryl Clayton

Bob Ferris & Charles Rister /

Kevin Wicker

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.

Sunshine News :

Sign-up sheets for 2024 are available in the narthex. There are many volunteer opportunities, so please check it out!

Offering envelopes for 2024 are available in the narthex. Please pick yours up today.



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 in this newsletter) and place it in the offering plate or give it to Diane Wicker. You can also email your prayer requests: thewickers@lowcountry.com

The congregation is invited to a dinner after the worship service on **Sunday, January 7, 2024**, in honor of Charles and Faye Rister's 65th wedding anniversary. No gifts, please. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Please sign up if you can come.

Our next **Welcoming Wednesday** will be **Wednesday, January 10**, with the meal being served at 6:00 pm. We will be having pizza, and we ask everyone to bring snack food and a prize for White Elephant Bingo. All are welcome!

There will be a **congregational dinner** after worship on Sunday, January 28, in honor of Pastor Craig and Georgia. Watch for further details in the bulletin and on the website.

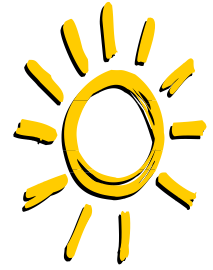
Worship note: Beginning **Sunday, February 4, 2024**, our worship service will begin at 11:00 am. Since we will probably be sharing an interim with the Ehrhardt Parish once Pastor Craig leaves, we will need to move our worship time, per the Parish Agreement. The Ehrhardt Parish worships at 9:00 am.

The sanctuary candles for the month of December are given to the glory of God by Janet Szymanski.

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

Sunshine News : (Continued)

The Loose and Special Designated offering 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.



LOVE AND PRAYERS GO OUT FOR :

Good Shepherd Family

Pat Ostendorf, the Vendricks, Roberta McCullough, Jim Strickland, Frances Barton, Ted & Sara Avant, Elizabeth Miller, Margaret Juttner, Gail & Carl Lindstrom, Donna Murphy

Friends and Family

Gary Bunch, Lavern Smoak, Carolyn Rahn, Laura Spivey, Grace LaRouche, Michelle Rausch (Janet Szymanski), Jean Strickland, Willie Strickland and family, Katrina Fryar, Nettia Aiken (Ray and Theresa Strickland), Parks Mangum, Marilyn Peters, Bonnie Thomas (the Risters), Don Rivers, Terry Matlosz, the family of Dr. Mike Beggs (Kevin Wicker), Nita Eason (Marion Glover), Bill Crissman, the family of Sarah Cole Hardy (Cheryl Clayton), Ann Raucon (Sue Nussman), the family of Edd Wicker, the family of Rev. Norton Rosebrock



Alter Flowers for January:

January 7	Charles & Faye Rister
January 14	Kathie Whetsell
January 21	Janet Szymanski
January 28	Pastor Craig & Georgia Boehlke

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."

DESIGNATED GIFTS

Donations given to the Glory of God to:

Food Pantry

Given by:

Janet Szymanski
Rob & Amy Rusnak
John & Linda Gilgen

In Memory of:

Mary Calcutt
Edd Wicker
Pastor Norton Rosebrock

General Fund

Given by:

Edwina Wicker
Emmett Wicker
Lee & Anna Sease

In Honor of:

Kevin & Diane Wicker
Kevin & Diane Wicker
Kevin & Diane Wicker

Christina Rossetti, 'Old and New Year Ditties'.

New Year met me somewhat sad:
Old Year leaves me tired,
Stripped of favourite things I had
Balked of much desired:
Yet farther on my road to-day
God willing, farther on my way.

New Year coming on apace
What have you to give me?
Bring you scathe, or bring you grace,
Face me with an honest face;
You shall not deceive me:
Be it good or ill, be it what you will,
It needs shall help me on my road,
My rugged way to heaven, please God...

Lutheran Men in Mission:

The men met with the women of Good Shepherd in the Social Hall for the annual Christmas dinner that was enjoyed by all. The next LMM meeting is scheduled for 8:00 AM on January 14, 2024.

Good Shepherd Women:

Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 24! On Saturday, February 24, the women will be holding their spaghetti dinner fundraiser. More information will be available in the bulletins and the February newsletter. The next meeting for the women will be on Monday, January 8, at 6:00 pm at the church. Maria Rodriguez will be the hostess, and Diane Wicker will have devotions. We will be discussing plans for the spaghetti dinner and for the upcoming year. All women are encouraged to attend.



Christian Education:

The next Christian Education committee meeting will be Saturday, January 13, at 10:00 am. We will be discussing plans for the upcoming year. Join us on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 6:00 pm for pizza and white elephant Bingo. Everyone is asked to bring a prize to contribute.

Worship and Music:

At the December meeting, at the request of council, the



Worship and Music committee decided that worship time at Good Shepherd will be moved to 11:00 am, beginning with **Sunday, February 4, 2024**. The next meeting for the Worship and Music Committee will be on Tuesday, January 23, at 10:00 am. We will be discussing plans for Lent and Easter.

December Council meeting notes: 12-10-2023

The meeting was opened with devotions and prayer by Dean.

- Council approved the minutes from the November meeting.
- Members then heard reports from Finance, Pastor Craig, Property and Grounds, Christian Education, WELCA, and Social Ministry.
- Council voted to give an extra financial gift to the South Carolina Synod for Mission Support in December although our commitment for 2023 is complete.
- Kevin reported that the restoration of the church sign is going well. Structural repairs are complete and the sign is set up in the parsonage garage for painting. Meanwhile, the Christmas Eve worship service sign is posted at the circle drive.
- Doug L reported on the status of the Food Pantry funding recognizing the grant from Church of the Cross and gifts from the Elks, Thrivent, Bethel Presbyterian, and Good Shepherd friends. He also noted the donation of MREs (Meals Ready to Eat) from Dominion Energy by way of Rusty Mezel.
- Amy reported that the WELCA toy shopping trip for local children was a great success.
- Council will recommend to the Worship and Music committee that one of the ushers for each month in 2024 be a council member with the other usher being a volunteer from the congregation. Two council members will continue to tabulate the offering following worship each week.
- Kevin reported that the Pictorial Directory is complete and posted in color on the church website. Black and white copies are available to anyone upon request.
- Council expressed appreciation to Jon Carpenter and Dean Brinson for serving the past six years on council.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Your Council members are Jon Carpenter (Chair), Doug Lindstrom (Vice Chair), Natalie Gamble (Secretary), Amy Rusnak, Cheryl Clayton, Bob Ferris, Dean Brinson, and Kevin Wicker.

Financial Corner

Merry Christmas from the Financial Corner.

November was a strong month of giving. It followed the weak month of October and hopefully aligns us for a strong ending of 2023.

The \$7,500 grant from **Church of the Cross** in Bluffton for our **Food Pantry** is reflected in the giving numbers for November. We have also received a gift of \$500 from the Elks which will be reflected in the December numbers.

I can't say "**Thank you!**" enough for your gifts to Good Shepherd in 2023. Without every gift we could not continue the ministry we do throughout the year, and your gifts to the General Fund allow us to pay those mundane, boring, routine, monthly bills which are necessary to continue being "church" here in Walterboro and Colleton County.

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. Blessed New Year!

Kevin

November Offering and Gifts:

General Fund	\$ 9,256
Social Ministry/Food Pantry	\$ 7,888
Poinsettias	\$ 250
Candles	\$ 25
Flowers	\$ 140
Sound System	\$ 50
Welcoming Wednesday	\$ 135
ELCA World Hunger	\$ 320

Fund Accounts

Maintenance Fund	\$ 3,974
Memorial Fund	\$ 1,138
Scholarship Endowment	\$ 6,774
Lommen Love Fund	\$ 8,688
Wallace Estate Fund	\$ 50,913
Social Ministry/Food Pantry	\$ 9,204
Service Committee	\$ 477
Welcoming Wednesday	\$ 757

Did You Know :

Some of you know that a couple of months ago I assumed the responsibility for placing the Red Cross Blood Drive signs around town before each blood drive at Good Shepherd. I assumed the duties from Mr. Brian Cassidy who had assumed them from our own Arden Lommen. Due to the age, weight, and condition of the "Arden Lommen Original" signs, I used a Thrivent Action Team grant and had some new signs made. Today, I placed 15 of the 18 signs around town. Maybe you've already seen some of them. Maybe not.

These are the locations:

Quail and Academy (1)
Wichman and Jefferies (1)
Eddie Chastain and Jefferies (1)
Memorial and Washington (1)
Memorial and Wichman @ IGA (1)
Robertson and Jefferies @ CVS (1)
Robertson and Bells @ Consignment Envy (1)
Bells @ ACE Hardware (1)
Robertson across from exit of trash collection site (2)
Hampton and Howell east of USC-S campus (1)
Jefferies and Hampton south end of the Discovery Center property (1)
Church (1 tent sign + 2 wire signs)

Monday morning locations :

Jefferies and May (1 wire sign + 1 tent sign in median)
Heading South on Jefferies from the North side of town (1)

I would like to ask for any number of people to "adopt" a sign, or as many as 18 signs, to place at these locations on Saturday or Sunday, six times a year, before each blood drive, and to recover those signs on Monday night after 7:00 p.m. or Tuesday. If you have a suitable place, you could store your sign(s) until the next blood drive and then put them out, again. It's possible that next year we could secure additional funding and acquire more signs to place, but these are the ones we have for now.

Please note on Sunday or Monday where the signs are located and let me know if you would like to adopt any of these. If so, I'll let you recover your sign(s) on Tuesday and keep it for the next drive in January. Our current blood drive dates for 2024 are January 15, March 11, May 13, July 8, September 9, and November 11.

Thanks in advance for your help.

Kevin

Prayer List January - March, 2024

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 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1 Happy New Year! <u>Birthday :</u> Madison Strickland <u>Anniversary :</u> John & Cindy Corley	2 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM Food Pantry <u>Birthday :</u> Jesse Carter	3	4	5 <u>Anniversary :</u> Charles & Faye Rister	6
7 10:00 AM Worship with Communion followed by Rister Anniversary Dinner	8 6:00 PM Good Shepherd Women	9 <u>Birthday :</u> Addison Crosby	10 6:00 PM Welcoming Wednesday	11	12	13 10:00 AM Christian Education Committee
14 8:00 AM LMM Breakfast 10:00 AM Worship Service followed by Church Council <u>Anniversary :</u> Mike & Sandy Alberts	15 MLK Jr. Day 1:00 PM – 7:00 PM Red Cross Blood Drive	16 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM Food Pantry	17	18 <u>Birthdays :</u> Janet Szymanski Scarlett Austyn Fralix	19 <u>Birthday :</u> Donna Eason Burns <u>Anniversary :</u> Rusty & Lisa Mezel	20 <u>Birthday :</u> Gail Glover
21 10:00 AM Worship with Communion	22 10:00 PM Newsletter Deadline <u>Birthday :</u> Chapin Jacobs	23 10:00 AM Worship and Music Committee	24	25	26 <u>Birthdays :</u> Owen Crosby Olin Bishop	27
28 10:00 AM Worship Service followed by Congregational Dinner	29	30	31 <u>Birthdays :</u> Mimi Wertz Danielle Fraser	1	2	3