



The Shepherd's Staff

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
106 May Street
Walterboro, SC 29488

(843) 549-5353

December 2024
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From the Pastor :

“Look around. They all gather together; they come to you.”
Isaiah 60:4

We are entering the time between the closing of a church year and the birth of a savior. Advent is this bridge in between. It's a time when our culture speeds up into a chaotic frenzy trying to get all the gifts bought and wrapped, all the cookies and holiday specials made. And yet . . . Advent is the season of expectant hope of the arrival of a special birth - the birth of our Lord. It's a hopeful expectation of a new beginning. But living at frenetic speed makes it nearly impossible to calm our hearts and souls. Instead, take the advice of one of my favorite authors and retreat leaders, Jan Richardson. She advises:

“Stay. Sit. Linger. Tarry. Ponder, Wait, Behold. Wonder
There will be time enough for running. For rushing. For
worrying. For pushing.
For now, stay. Wait.
Something is on the horizon.” *From Night Visions*

To offer a time-out to everyone this season, a midweek study is being offered at both Mt. Pleasant in Ehrhardt on Tuesdays at 6:00 and at Good Shepherd in Walterboro on Wednesdays. The Walterboro Wednesdays will begin with supper. Come, sit, and join us in our discussions:

The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem

Join us on the first three Wednesdays in December as we walk with Adam Hamilton from the peasant village of Nazareth to the little town of Bethlehem. We'll talk together about the major

“players” of the nativity story - trying to understand the significance of the child whose birth brought them all together. The hope is that you come to see this familiar story with fresh eyes and its message might change your life as it has changed countless others since that night so long ago.

Pastor Judy

Good Shepherd Women:

The next meeting of the Good Shepherd Women will be Monday, January 6, 2025, at 6:00 pm. Faye Rister will be the hostess and Kathie Whetsell will have the devotions. We will be discussing plans for the spaghetti dinner fundraiser to be held on Saturday, February 22, 2025, and for the Chari-TEA for SC Lutheran Retreat Centers to be held on Saturday, March 1, 2025.



Christian Education:

The next meeting of the Christian Education committee will be Saturday, January 11, 2025, at 10:00 am at the church.

Worship and Music:

The next meeting of the Worship and Music committee will be Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 10:00 am at the church.

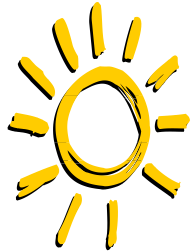
Lutheran Men in Mission :

Seven men met for food and fellowship on Nov 17th. The Two Dougs had the breakfast and Doug L. had the program. This year's Fish Fry was a big success! We will be able to donate around 2,000 dollars to the Social Ministry/Food Bank. Thanks to everyone for your support!

Our next meeting will be the WELCA/LMM Christmas dinner on Saturday December 7th.

Sunshine News :

For December, the Christian Education committee has planned for another **Wednesdays Together** series focused on Advent. We plan to gather on the following Wednesdays: December 4, 11, and 18. We will begin with a soup supper at 6:00 pm followed by the program. We are asking participants to help in providing the meal. See the sign-up sheet in the narthex.



The **LMM/ WELCA Annual Christmas Dinner** will be on Saturday, December 7, 2024, at 6:30 pm at the church. The meat for the meal will be provided. Those in attendance are asked to bring either side dishes or desserts. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex so we will know how many plan to attend

Christmas Caroling to our shut-ins will take place on Sunday, December 8. We will meet at the church by 4:00 pm to leave shortly after. After caroling, there will be a light meal, followed by decorating the sanctuary for Christmas. There will be a sign-up sheet at the church so we will know how many plan to be present for the meal and for caroling.



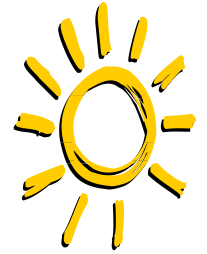
Please note that on **Sunday, December 15, our worship service will be at 9:00 am.** This will allow the Ehrhardt Parish to celebrate with a service of Lessons & Carols at 11:00 am that day. Choir rehearsal will be after the service that morning.

Our **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** will be on Tuesday, December 24, 2024, at **5:00 pm.** The Christmas Eve offering is designated for Special Gathering, Walterboro.

On **Sunday, December 29, 2024,** we will have our traditional service of **Lessons & Carols.** This service will be a time to reflect on the Christmas story and sing some of our favorite Christmas hymns. Worship will be at 11:00 am.

Sunshine News : (Continued)

Sign-up sheets for 2025 are now available in the narthex. There are many volunteer opportunities, so please check it out!



The Loose and Special Designated Offering for December will support **Lutheran Disaster Response Carolinas.** Lutheran Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. Grounded in faith, **LDRC** is focused on helping individuals and congregations prepare for a disaster and on building a network of resources across North and South Carolina to respond when disasters occur.

This is not a budgeted item, but you can help by placing loose offering in the offering plate, or by designating your gift for "**LDR**" on your offering envelope.

Thank you to everyone who came out in support of the Red Cross Blood Drive held at Good Shepherd on Monday, November 11. A total of 44 units were collected. The next blood drive will be Monday, January 13, 2025. Contact the Red Cross for an appointment.

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.

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

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

December 21, 2024



LOVE AND PRAYERS GO OUT FOR :

Good Shepherd Family

Pat Ostendorf, the Vendricks, Roberta McCullough, Jim & Ilona Strickland, Frances Barton, Ted & Sara Avant, Elizabeth Miller, Margaret Juttner, Gail & Carl Lindstrom, Donna Murphy, Sal Praga, Winfield and Merri Simons, Cheryl Clayton

Friends and Family

Gary Bunch, Lavern Smoak, Carolyn Rahn, Laura Spivey, Grace LaRouche, the mother of Dorn Cammon (Janet Szymanski), Jean Strickland, Katrina Fryar, (Ray and Theresa Strickland), Ray Strickland (Theresa Strickland), Don Rivers, Chuck Hackman (Kevin Wicker), Pete Sudds, Jack & Dee, Cecile, Mike (Sal & Marylyn Praga), Joy Shuler (Gloria Ferris), Betty Weaver (Natalie Gamble), Amanda Elkins (Marilyn Peters), Parks Mangum (Charles Rister), Nell Worden (Amy Rusnak), Scott Frazier, Kim Fitts and family (Cheryl Clayton), John B. (The Boehlkes), Echo Poirier, Angela Piaseczny, Patricia Hickman (Donna Murphy), Lauren Long, Carmen Johnson (Kathie Whetsell), the Pulis-Wolf family (Angela Crosby)

Serving In December :

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Lay Reader | Rob Rusnak |
| Communion Assistant | Amy Rusnak |
| Ushers | Bob Ferris / Amy Rusnak |
| Offering Tabulators | Bob Ferris / Amy Rusnak |
| Alter Guild | Diane Wicker |
| Audio / Visual | Kevin Wicker / Cheryl Clayton |
| Grounds Care | Doug Lindstrom / Bob Ferris / Charles Rister |
| Council Devotions | Rusty Mezel |
| LMM Breakfast / Program | <i>No Meeting</i> |

Special Thanks to Everyone Who Served In November !!!

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

November Council Meeting Notes: 11-10-2024

Doug Lindstrom called the meeting to order and Amy opened the meeting with devotions. Then Council members heard the financial report for October, Pastor Judy's report, and the October meeting minutes presented by Natalie.

- Members then heard updates on the Council ballot process, the church "wish list" for Christmas, and our support of Lutheran Disaster Response Carolina following Hurricane Helene. During October, Good Shepherd collected \$1,195 for LDRC. Council approved LDRC as our designated offering for the month of December.
- In preparation for the 85th anniversary celebration next fall, Council approved pressure washing and painting the sanctuary and hedge trimming on the property.
- Members then heard reports from Christian Education, Lutheran Women, Lutheran Men, Social Ministry, and Worship and Music. On a recommendation from Worship and Music, Council approved the purchase of a dehumidifier for the piano in the sanctuary to control the moisture inside the instrument.
- From the Executive Board, Kevin reported that they had approved a project per the church Lommen Love Fund policy.
- Council completed the meeting with a discussion of the 2025 Spending Plan for Ministry. At their December meeting they will approve a final draft of the Spending Plan that will then be presented to the congregation at the annual congregational meeting in January.



With no further business, the meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer, and then Council members set up the Fellowship Hall for the American Red Cross Blood Drive the following day.

Your Council members are Doug Lindstrom (Chair), Bob Ferris (Vice Chair), Natalie Gamble (Secretary), Doug Brinson, Amy Rusnak, Cheryl Clayton, Marylyn Praga, Rusty Mezel, and Kevin Wicker.

How YOU Can Help Grow Good Shepherd's Social Media Presence?

It's a good time to remember what you can do on Facebook to help spread the word about what's happening at Good Shepherd!

- 1.) **LIKE AND FOLLOW.** Make sure you have "liked" and are "following" Good Shepherd on Facebook! Even if you think you are already good on this step, go check! You might be surprised. By "liking" the page, you are showing support of Good Shepherd, and by "following" the page, you should be getting updates from Good Shepherd in your news feed.
- 2.) **REACT AND COMMENT.** When you see posts from Good Shepherd, "like" them and comment on them! Facebook's algorithm prioritizes posts that generate higher levels of interaction, so the more reactions and comments a post gets, the more the post is likely to show up in people's news feeds (and the higher up in them too). The number of reactions and comments on the church's posts also can be looked at as reflecting how engaged (or not) we are in what's happening at Good Shepherd.
- 3.) **SHARE!** When we want to tell people about Jesus, what do we say we should do? Share the good news! So, if you want to tell people about Good Shepherd, what can you do? Share Good Shepherd's Facebook posts! A post promoting an upcoming worship service or event? Share it to invite your friends! A post with pictures from a church gathering or activity? Share it to show your friends the good time you had at Good Shepherd or what we're doing for the community! The more shares our posts get, the more people they can reach, and the more our social media presence grows.



Financial Corner

Happy Fall from the Financial Corner. This year surely is coming to a close quickly. Where does time go?

I just realized that it's been a year since we purchased and installed the **audio/streaming system** in the sanctuary. You will recall that to purchase that system we borrowed \$19,000 from the Wallace Fund. We have received many compliments on the audio during worship and on the Facebook streaming broadcast we do each Sunday. And, over the course of a year we have returned all but \$2,600 to the Wallace Fund. If you would like to help close out this project you can simply give a gift and designate it "Wallace Fund." With that money replenished, we can use it for other worthwhile projects of Good Shepherd.

At their December meeting, your Council will finalize the **2025 Spending Plan for Ministry** which will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting on **Sunday, January 19**, following worship.

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

October Offering and Gifts:

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| General Fund | \$ 7,573 |
| Social Ministry/Food Pantry | \$ 1,070 |
| Candles | \$ 25 |
| Flowers | \$ 145 |
| NovusWay Ministries | \$ 170 |
| Wallace Fund (Sound System) | \$ 50 |
| Lutheran Disaster Response | \$ 1,195 |
| Wednesdays Together | \$ 228 |

Fund Accounts

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Maintenance Fund | \$ 4,098 |
| Memorial Fund | \$ 1,139 |
| Scholarship Endowment | \$ 13,352 |
| Lommen Love Fund | \$ 7,194 |
| Wallace Estate Fund | \$ 67,810 |
| Social Ministry/Food Pantry | \$ 11,349 |
| Service Committee | \$ 477 |
| Welcoming Wednesday | \$ 1,077 |

DESIGNATED GIFTS

Donations are given to the Glory of God :

Food Pantry

Given by:

Kathie Whetsell

Given by:

Janet Szymanski

In Memory of:

Georgia Boehlke's Dad

In Memory of:

Georgia Boehlke's Dad

Social Ministry

Given by:

Kevin & Diane Wicker

In Memory of:

Georgia Boehlke's Dad

Memorial Fund

Given by:

John & Linda Gilgen

In Memory of:

Georgia Boehlke's Dad

General Fund

Given by:

Charles & Faye Rister

Given by:

Charles & Faye Rister

In Memory of:

Georgia Boehlke's Dad

In Memory of:

Rhett Bickley

Altar Flowers for December :

| | |
|-------------|------------------------|
| December 1 | Jon Carpenter |
| December 8 | Maria Rodriguez |
| December 15 | Janet Szymanski |
| December 22 | Kevin and Diane Wicker |
| December 29 | Janet Szymanski |



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."

DECEMBER 2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|---|---|---|--|
| 1 11:00 AM 1st Sunday of Advent with Communion | 2 <u>Birthday :</u> Margaret Juttner | 3 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM Food Pantry | 4 6:00 PM Wednesdays Together | 5 <u>Birthday :</u> Gail Lindstrom | 6 <u>Birthday :</u> Anna Carpenter | 7 Pearl Harbor Day! 6:30 PM LMM / WELCA Christmas Dinner <u>Birthdays :</u> Mike Alberts Connor Smyly |
| 8 10:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM 2nd Sunday of Advent with Communion /Church Council 4:00 PM Caroling | 9 | 10 | 11 6:00 PM Wednesdays Together <u>Birthday :</u> Sandra Roberts | 12 <u>Birthday :</u> Marion Glover | 13 <u>Birthday :</u> James Casella | 14 |
| 15 11:00 AM 3rd Sunday of Advent with Communion /Choir Rehearsal | 16 <u>Birthday :</u> Austin Smith | 17 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM Food Pantry <u>Birthday :</u> Jimmy Strickland | 18 6:00 PM Wednesdays Together | 19 <u>Birthdays :</u> Zachary Knapp Isabelle Knapp | 20 <u>Birthdays :</u> Pr. Judy McGuire Andrea Singletary Holger Obenaus | 21 First Day of Winter! |
| 22 10:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM 4th Sunday of Advent with Communion 10:00 PM Newsletter Deadline | 23 | 24 Christmas Eve! 5:00 PM Worship with Communion <u>Anniversary :</u> Gary & Gerald Thomas | 25 Christmas Day! <u>Birthday :</u> Jesus Christ | 26 <u>Birthday :</u> Linda Hayes | 27 | 28 <u>Anniversary :</u> Jeff & Lisa Lord |
| 29 11:00 AM Service of Lessons and Carols | 30 | 31 New Year's Eve! | 1 New Year's Day! | 2 | 3 | 4 |