



# The Shepherd's Staff

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

March 2024

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From The Pastor : (Farewell - the last sermon from Pastor Craig)

Are you possessed? Do you sometimes wonder if some of the folks you see on the news might be possessed? The whole of the New Testament has lots of references to demon possession and evil spirits. We modern folks are far less likely to think about such things---though we occasionally hear about exorcisms, and certainly movies seem rather fascinated with the mystical world and occult. I'm not sure we know exactly what these "demons" (or in some cases what the Bible refers to as Unclean Spirits) ----and yet scripture may have a clearer way of describing these phenomena than we do.

We've heard and seen people who have acted crazy! I attribute much of the verbal and physical violence perpetrated these days in society to the pervasive forces of evil in the world. It's more than just mental illness----some of it seems to be desperation, hopelessness, and probably some psychic maladies beyond our current capacity to understand. That doesn't make it any less frightening.

Notice, that in today's scripture, the demon exists in a man right within the synagogue. Evil isn't just out there somewhere----it lives within each one of us. If we're honest with ourselves, we know that we're in a continual battle to know and do the right thing. To quote that great comic strip theologian, Pogo, "We have met the enemy, and he is us!"

In Mark's gospel, one of the dominant themes is the continual tension between God's presence in Jesus and the various powers of evil. Jesus doesn't just wave a magic wand and eradicate all the disease and demons of the world. Certainly, God would have the power to do so if that were God's way. Yet we are left to fight the good fight---with the wickedness we see around us---and also within.

Notice in today's text that the demon knows who this Jesus is---far better than the gathered crowd. Here it is, very early in Mark's gospel

and almost immediately Jesus is confronted with the presence of evil--- --and the demon seems like he's trying to negotiate-----"what have you to do with us?"-----in other words, why don't you leave us be and go do your holy stuff! But Jesus from the git go wants full command----- evil is to be defeated, and it starts with this one poor possessed soul.

And it's like that for us also. Jesus wants full possession of our lives---he wants us to be possessed-----but it has to come with our cooperation-----our desire and our openness to God's Spirit taking control in our lives. If there's one thing imbedded in my preaching these past four years with you----it's that God is persistently pursuing us so that we might live in faith and be people of love, goodness, and mercy. It's not easy-----like the presence of the unclean spirit in this man at the synagogue in today's gospel-----there are lots of demons both within and around us. And often the choices for us are not between good and pure evil---but the seemingly innocent temptations that lure us into passivity. One of my favorite quotes is: All that is necessary for the forces of evil to win the world is for enough good people to do nothing.

Faith is intentional---it is motivated----and it is consistent. These next months for Good Shepherd will pose a challenge as you have at least a short period of time with only Sunday supply pastors. But consider it an opportunity to pull together and prepare for what is to come. Consider your loyalty and commitment to one another and to your Lord and you will be fine.

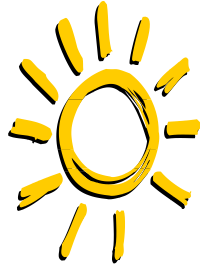
This past week in the office I was filling out the official parish record book. One of my tasks is to have that up to date, and I've never served a congregation where I had to do that task. There were always church staff that took care of that task! I was really surprised at how much has happened in these past 4+ years. We've taken in a significant number of new members, had 7 confirmations, 5 first communions and a blessed small number of funerals. You have been remarkably flexible and resilient in the face of some serious challenges and a once-in-a-century pandemic.

When faced with lemons----you've made lemonade! And it's been wonderful. I close my ministry here with deep gratitude for how good you have been to Georgia and me----it's been an honor and privilege to serve you. I really regret that it's time for me to slow down----but I know it's time and I am confident for your future in God's hands. Amen.

*Pastor Craig Boehlke*

## Sunshine News :

On Wednesday evenings during Lent, 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 “Luther and the Reformation.” 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 will be in the narthex.



The Choir is meeting on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am for the month of March. If you have any questions, please see Diane Wicker. All are welcome!

It is time now to order Easter lilies! If you are interested in placing an Easter lily in the church for Easter Sunday, please fill out an order form, found in the narthex, and return it, along with your payment, to the church. **Deadline to order is Sunday, March 3.**

St. Nicholas Lutheran Church in Fairfax invites us to join them in their **World Day of Prayer** service, to be held Friday, March 1, 2024, at 6:30 pm. Food and fellowship will follow the service. St. Nicholas is located at 235 St. Nicholas Church Road, Fairfax, SC. More information can be found in the narthex.

The American Red Cross will be at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on **Monday, March 11, 2024**, for a blood drive. The drive will be from 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Come out and give the gift of life. Contact the Red Cross for an appointment.

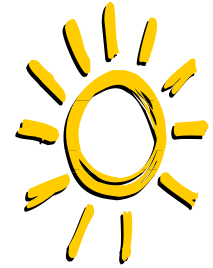
The Easter egg hunt will be held on Saturday, March 23, 2024, at 10:00 am at the church. Volunteers will be needed to help with the day’s activities and with food preparation. Watch the bulletin for further information about the egg hunt.

The sanctuary candles for the month of March are given to the glory of God by Charles and Faye Rister in honor of the Rister family.

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

## Sunshine News : (Continued)

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.**

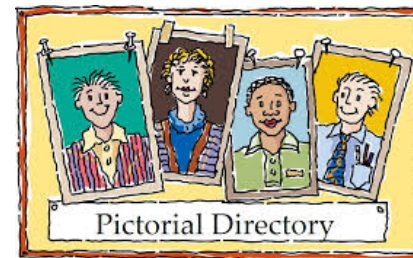


If you would like to place someone on the prayer list that is printed in the bulletin, please fill out a prayer request form, found in the narthex, and drop it in the offering plate or give it to Diane Wicker. The prayer list is updated every three months. You may also email your prayer requests to [thewickers@lowcountry.com](mailto:thewickers@lowcountry.com).

The Loose and Special Designated offering for March will support **In His Name – Colleton**. In His Name-Colleton is an inter-denominational Christian-based 501c3 charitable organization established in 2013 to address the spiritual and physical needs of the homeless, displaced individuals and families, and those suffering from lack of food, clothing, shelter, and unemployment in Colleton and surrounding areas.

This is not a budgeted item, but you can help support **In His Name** by placing loose offering in the offering plate, or by designating your gift for “**In His Name**” on your offering envelope.

The **Good Shepherd Pictorial Directory** is now available online on the church website [www.walterborolutherans.com](http://www.walterborolutherans.com).

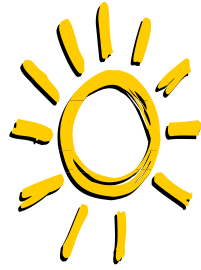


If you would like a black and white hardcopy of the pictorial directory, contact Kevin Wicker.

Thank you to everyone who made a donation to the **Souper Bowl**. A total of \$194 was collected for Good Shepherd’s food pantry.

## Sunshine News : (Continued)

**Tithe sheets were mailed out last month.** This is a record of your Tithes and Donations given to Good Shepherd in 2023. Please check them carefully. If you find any errors or have a question about your Tithe Sheet, please contact Doug Brinson at (843)538-8219.



## DESIGNATED GIFTS

*Donations given to the Glory of God to:*

### Food Pantry

#### Given by:

Kevin & Diane Wicker

#### In Memory of:

Fritz Gilgen

## Luke 24 - Jesus Has Risen!

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. <sup>2</sup> They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup> but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup> While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. <sup>5</sup> In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? <sup>6</sup> He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: <sup>7</sup> ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’ ” <sup>8</sup> Then they remembered his words. <sup>9</sup> When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. <sup>10</sup> It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. <sup>11</sup> But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. <sup>12</sup> Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

## Property Report :

First, “Thanks” to **Dean** for replacing all the trim work around the sanctuary windows, and to **Sal** for painting the trim, the old steeple cross, and the Fellowship Hall entrance and handrails!

The **Fellowship Hall heating and air conditioning** units have been installed and are fully functional. And, the preventive maintenance has been completed on the sanctuary and parsonage units before the summer months.

We are still awaiting word from our claims agent from Church Mutual regarding the wind damage to the sanctuary roof during the storm on January 9.

We now have a device, provided by our insurance company Church Mutual, which will summon law enforcement to the church in case we have an active shooter incident. It’s terrible that we have to be concerned about this, but we have to be prepared for such an event. Each Sunday, the device will be in the possession of the Audio/Streaming team or one of the ushers.



## 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

### 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, the family of Netta Adkins (Ray and Theresa Strickland), Don Rivers, (Kevin Wicker), the family of Bill Crissman, the family of Sarah Cole Hardy (Cheryl Clayton), Jim (Sal & Marylyn Praga), Karen Akers, Michael Alexander (Rusty and Lisa Mezel)

## Good Shepherd Women:

The Good Shepherd women will meet on Monday, March 4, 2024, at 6:00 pm at the church. Marylyn Praga is the hostess, and Diane Wicker has the devotions. All women are welcome!

## Christian Education:

The Christian Education committee will meet on Saturday, March 2, 2024, at 10:00 am at the church. We will be discussing plans for the Easter egg hunt to be held on Saturday, March 23, 2024. Anyone who is interested in helping with the egg hunt is welcome to attend.



## Food pantry report (2-19 – 24)

This being the 3rd Tuesday of the month Maria, Kevin and I put on our winter coats and set up for the pantry.

The first car pulled in about 9:25 thus starting the endless line for the next hour and ten minutes when we handed out the last of the 80 bags we had packed. Without your generous support we could not help these families supplement their food supply.

We had one person pick up their bag of food and drop off 5 bundles of adult diapers. Within 20 minutes all were given out to several needy people. I guess you never know what people need.

If you can donate any non perishable items please drop them off at the church or contact me, Doug L at 860-707-5791 and we will try to pick them up.

Thank you again for all of your support!!!

## Lutheran Men in Mission:

Ten men met for food and fellowship on Sunday Feb 11th at the new time of 9 AM.

Doug L. and Sal provided the breakfast and Jon gave a program about trusting in God, standing firm in our faith and knowing what we believe and why we believe it.

The Men will be switching things up this year for their spring fundraiser. This year we will serve grilled chicken and chicken perloo with all the fixins' and our World famous Banana Pudding for dessert. The tentative date will be April 20th.



Our next meeting will be on Mar 10th at 9 AM (note that is also the first day of daylight savings time) in the church fellowship hall. Bob will have the program and Carl and Kevin will have the breakfast. All men are welcome to attend!

## Worship and Music:

Worship and Music will be meeting on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at 10:00 am at the church. Plans for Holy Week and Easter will be discussed at the meeting.

## Alter Flowers for March:

March 3	<i>No Flowers (Lent)</i>
March 10	<i>No Flowers (Lent)</i>
March 17	<i>No Flowers (Lent)</i>
March 24	Palm Sunday
March 31	Bob and Gloria Ferris

*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."*

## Financial Corner

We ended January in a good financial position and off to a good start for 2024. We have paid for the new HVAC units in the Fellowship Hall, continue to replace the money from the Wallace Fund for the sound/streaming system, and we're operating on the 2024 Spending Plan for Ministry approved by the congregation at our annual meeting.

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.

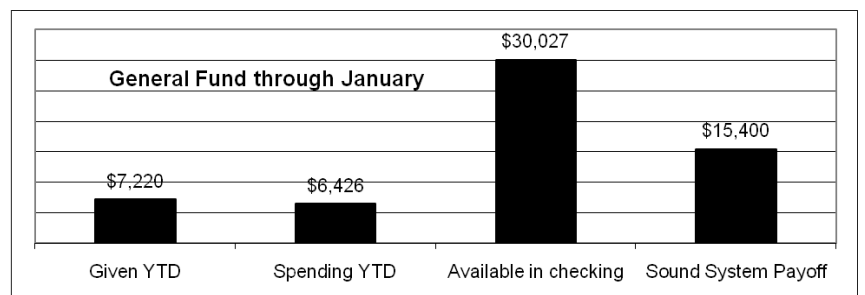
Kevin

### January Offering and Gifts:

General Fund	\$ 7,220
Social Ministry/Food Pantry	\$ 575
Lutheran Homes	\$ 215
Candles	\$ 25
Flowers	\$ 180
Sound System	\$ 315
Scholarship Fund	\$ 25
Lilies	\$ 20

### Fund Accounts

Maintenance Fund	\$ 4,015
Memorial Fund	\$ 1,138
Scholarship Endowment	\$ 6,802
Lommen Love Fund	\$ 8,691
Wallace Estate Fund	\$ 54,988
Social Ministry/Food Pantry	\$ 7,715
Service Committee	\$ 477
Welcoming Wednesday	\$ 812



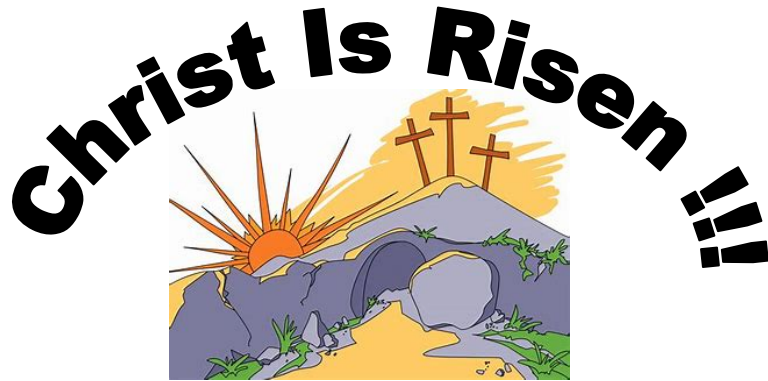
## January Council meeting notes : 01-14-2024

Cheryl opened the meeting with devotions and prayer.

- The Council members then welcomed our new members Marylyn, Rusty and Doug B.
- The following members were elected to positions of leadership for 2024; Doug Lindstrom (Chair), Bob Ferris (Vice Chair), Natalie Gamble (Secretary), Jon Carpenter (Financial Secretary) and Kevin Wicker (Treasurer). And, Cheryl Clayton was appointed by Council to send notes acknowledging financial gifts to the church, a responsibility that Shannon Guess has generously done since the passing of Mrs. Eleanore Gloeckler.
- Members reviewed the 2023 financial spreadsheet and then approved the 2024 Spending Plan for Ministry which will be presented to the congregation for vote on Sunday, February 4, following worship. Council also approved the replacement of both of the Heating and Air Conditioning units in the Fellowship Hall. This will also be taken to the congregation for vote on February 4.
- While discussing financial matters, members approved a portion of the 2023 General Fund offering be moved to the Wallace Fund to pay back some of the cost of the new Sound System. They also approved a donation to a non-profit organization as a gift for Pastor Craig upon his retirement. Council then approved the new rate of reimbursement for our supply pastors as recommended by the SC Synod.
- Council approved increasing the scholarships for higher education students to \$400 per year and for young people attending summer camp at Lutheridge, Lutherock, Luthersprings, or Luther Ranch to \$500. These funds are available from the Doscher-Fellers Scholarship Fund.
- In a discussion regarding usher responsibilities, Council approved that one of the ushers will act as the second communion assistant if an acolyte is not available on communion Sundays.
- In a final matter of business, members decided they will continue to meet following worship on the second Sunday

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

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



## Serving In March :

<b>Lay Reader</b>	Cheryl Clayton
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Amy Rusnak
<b>Ushers</b>	Doug Lindstrom / Marylyn Praga
<b>Offering Tabulators</b>	Doug Lindstrom / Marylyn Praga
<b>Alter Guild</b>	Diane Wicker
<b>Grounds Care</b>	Doug Lindstrom / Bob Ferris / Charles Rister
<b>Audio / Visual</b>	Rob Rusnak / Matt Ferris
<b>Council Devotions</b>	Doug Brinson
<b>LMM Breakfast / Program</b>	Carl Lindstrom & Kevin Wicker / Bob Ferris

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.

# MARCH 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	1  6:30 PM <b>World Day of Prayer Service</b>  <u>Birthday :</u> Mason Alberts	2  10:00 AM <b>Christian Education Committee</b>  <u>Birthday :</u> Tyler Westbury
3  10:00 AM <b>Chior</b> 11:00 AM <b>Worship with Communion and Deadline to Order Easter Lilies</b> <u>Birthday :</u> Donnie Eason	4  6:00 PM <b>Good Shepherd Women Meet</b>	5  9:30 AM – 11:30 AM <b>Food Pantry</b> 10:00 AM <b>Worship &amp; Music Meet</b>  <u>Birthday :</u> Garrett Brinson	6  6:00 PM <b>Midweek Lenten Supper &amp;Service</b>	7	8	9
10  <b>DS Time Begins!</b> 9:00 AM LMM Breakfast 10:00 AM <b>Chior</b> 11:00 AM <b>Worship / Council</b> <u>Birthdays :</u> Haleigh Gamble Hannah Gamble	11  1:00 PM – 7:00 PM <b>Red Cross Blood Drive</b>	12	13  6:00 PM <b>Midweek Lenten Supper &amp;Service</b>  <u>Birthday :</u> Maria Rodriguez	14  <u>Birthday :</u> Winfield Simons	15  <u>Birthdays :</u> Frances Barton Charlotte Brinson Jeremiah Johnston	16
17  <b>St. Patrick's Day!</b>  10:00 AM <b>Chior</b> 11:00 AM <b>Worship with Communion</b>	18	19  <b>First Day of Spring!</b>  9:30 AM – 11:30 AM <b>Food Pantry</b>	20  6:00 PM <b>Last Midweek Lenten Supper &amp;Service</b>  <u>Birthday :</u> Barrett Lord	21  <u>Birthday :</u> Charles Rister	22  10: 00 PM <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	23  10: 00 PM <b>Easter Egg Hunt</b>
24  <b>Palm/Passion Sunday!</b>  10:00 AM <b>Chior</b> 11:00 AM <b>Worship</b>	25  <u>Anniversary :</u> Kevin & Angela Crosby	26	27	28  7:00 PM <b>Maundy Thursday Service (Ehrhardt)</b>	29  7:00 PM <b>Good Friday Service</b>  <u>Birthday :</u> Candace Fralix	30
31  <b>Easter Sunday Service with Communion</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6