



# The Shepherd's Staff

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
106 May Street  
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February 2025

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## From The Pastor : *Pastor Judy*

“Hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us”. Romans 5:5

The agenda of our world - the issues that take over our media - is an agenda of fear and power. It’s amazing how the media’s agenda can seep into us until they become our agenda. Let us step back, breathe deeply and focus on that which casts out fear - love, the love of Jesus the Christ that renews the world with hope.

Below was taken from Prayer Without Borders and written by Missionary Sisters of St Charles Borromeo (Honduras) :

To have hope  
Is to believe that history continues open  
To the dream of God to human creativity

To have hope  
Is to continue affirming  
That it is possible to dream a different world,  
Without hunger, without injustice  
Without discrimination.

To have hope  
Is to be a courier of God  
And courier of men and women of good will,  
Tearing down walls, destroying borders,  
Building bridges.

To have hope is to believe in the revolutionary  
potential of faith,

Is to leave the door open so that  
The Spirit can enter and make all things anew.

To have hope  
Is to believe that life wins over death.

To have hope  
Is to begin again as many times as necessary.

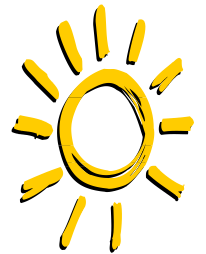
To have hope  
Is to believe that hope is not  
The last thing that dies.

To have hope is to believe that hope cannot die,  
That hope no longer dies.

To have hope is to live.

## Sunshine News :

**Choir** will return on **Sunday, February 9, 2025**, at 10:00 am. We will be looking at music for Lent and Easter. Now is a good time to join us on Sunday mornings!



**The Super Bowl is Sunday, February 9, 2025.** That is also the day for the **Souper Bowl of Caring.** Donations of non-perishable food items and monetary donations given that day will support our food pantry.

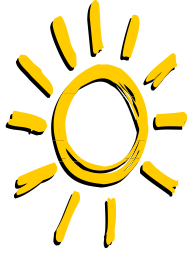


Our next **Wednesdays Together** will be Wednesday, February 12, at 6:00 pm. The meal will be provided. We will have a hymn sing for our program. When you sign up for the meal, please list a favorite hymn.

**Thank you to everyone** who came out in support of the Red Cross blood drive held Monday, January 13. A total of 34 units were collected. The next blood drive will be held on Monday, March 10, 2025, from 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Contact the Red Cross for an appointment.

## Sunshine News : (Continued)

The Loose and Special 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.



The Good Shepherd Women are sponsoring a **spaghetti dinner fundraiser** to support various outreach projects of the women on Saturday, February 22, 2025.



This event is **dine-in or carryout** 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. There may also be a limited number of tickets available at the door.

The **Good Shepherd Women** will be hosting a **Chari-TEA for SCLRC** on Saturday, March 1, 2025, from 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm. There will be a time for fellowship and learning, as well as tea to drink and plenty of delicious food. Invite friends and/or family to attend. Please let **Amy Rusnak** know if you plan to attend. A love offering will be collected to help support the ministries of our Lutheran retreat centers here in South Carolina.

The **sanctuary candles for the month of February** are given by Rob and Amy Rusnak.

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

## DESIGNATED GIFTS

*Donations are given to the Glory of God :*

### Lommen Love Fund

Given by:  
Kathie Whetsell

In Memory of:  
Tim Krohn  
(Patty Delaney's brother)

### Social Ministry

Given by:  
Doug & Ellen Brinson  
Doug & Ellen Brinson

In Memory of:  
Georgia Boehlke's Dad  
Tim Krohn  
(Patty Delaney's brother)

Given by:  
David & Arden Curry

In Honor of:  
Diane Wicker  
(Merry Christmas)

### Food Pantry

Given by:  
John & Linda Gilgen

In Memory of:  
Tim Krohn  
(Patty Delaney's brother)

Kevin & Diane Wicker

Tim Krohn  
(Patty Delaney's brother)

Given by:  
Bethel Presbyterian

In Honor of:  
Good Shepherd Ministries

### Social Ministry

The Social Ministry program at Good Shepherd was once again a huge success in 2024. The Social Ministry program includes the Food Pantry as well as assistance for utility bills, prescription medication, etc. In 2024, approximately 1,900 bags of food were distributed at a cost of \$15,500. Also in 2024, we distributed 3,800 pounds of pet food which was supplied at no cost by the Friends of the Colleton County Animal Shelter. In addition to the members and friends of Good Shepherd, our 2024 Social Ministry program was supported by Church of the Cross in Bluffton, Bethel Presbyterian Church in Walterboro, Wittenberg Lutheran Church in Leesville, the SC Synod, the Elks, the Eastern Star, and the Good Shepherd Lutheran Women and Men.

A huge "**Thank You**" to Doug Lindstrom for directing and organizing the Food Pantry throughout the year, and for all the volunteers who make the Social Ministry program possible at Good Shepherd.



## January Council Meeting Notes: 1-19-2025

The meeting was opened with devotions by Pr. Judy.

- Council welcomed the new members for 2025, Jon Carpenter and Matt Ferris.
- Members approved the minutes from the November and December meeting as presented by Natalie, and then heard reports from Pastor Judy, Financial, Property, Christian Education, Lutheran Men, Lutheran Women, Worship and Music, and Social Ministry.
- Council approved the increase of mileage reimbursement, per the IRS standard, from 67 cents to 70 cents per mile. This will apply to our supply pastors.
- Members also approved the increase of college scholarships and summer camp scholarships to \$500 per applicant. These funds are available through the Doscher/Fellers Scholarship Fund.
- In other business, Council discussed a “Gideon Sunday” in August, the 2024 Communion record as presented, the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, and the Good Shepherd “Wish List” which will be presented in March.
- Kevin discussed the Communion Report for 2024. During the year communion was given 683 times to 57 members and friends and 46 times to guests.
- The Congregational officers for 2025 were elected. They are Amy Rusnak, Chair; Doug Lindstrom, Vice Chair; Natalie Gamble, Secretary; Jon Carpenter, Recording Financial Secretary; and Kevin Wicker, Treasurer.

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

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

## Financial Corner

At the congregational meeting on January 19 following worship, the members of Good Shepherd passed the **2025 Spending Plan for Ministry**. And with that we’re off to another great year of ministry at Good Shepherd!

Just to recap, we completed 2024 about 5% under our Spending Plan for 2024, while at the same time replacing the two HVAC units in the Fellowship Hall in February. We also recovered nicely during the Summer when our previous property insurance company dropped our coverage due to no fault of our own.

Thanks to Doug Brinson, Charles and Faye Rister, Kathie Whetsell, and Diane Wicker for their **Thrivent Choice Dollars** in 2024! Thrivent members can designate their Choice Dollars to any non-profit they choose, so we are thankful when our members and friends choose Good Shepherd.

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	\$ 8,924
Social Ministry/Food Pantry	\$ 1,126
Candles	\$ 25
Flowers	\$ 140
Special Gathering	\$ 680
Lommen Love Fund	\$ 530
Lutheran Disaster Response Carolinas	\$ 485
Wallace Fund (Sound System)	\$ 2,570
Poinsettias	\$ 100
Scholarship Fund	\$ 10

## Fund Accounts

Maintenance Fund	\$ 4,102
Memorial Fund	\$ 1,215
Scholarship Endowment	\$ 13,371
Lommen Love Fund	\$ 7,200
Wallace Estate Fund	\$ 70,469
Social Ministry/Food Pantry	\$ 12,556
Service Committee	\$ 477
Welcoming Wednesday	\$ 847

## **Good Shepherd Women:**

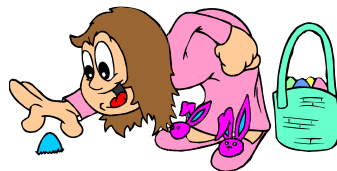
The next meeting of the Good Shepherd Women will be Monday, February 3, at 6:00 pm. Patty Delaney will be the hostess and Amy Rusnak will have the devotions. We will be finalizing plans for the spaghetti dinner fundraiser to be held on Saturday, February 22, 2025, and for the Chari-TEA for SC Lutheran Retreat Centers to be held on Saturday, March 1, 2025.

## **Lutheran Men in Mission :**

Eleven men met for food and fellowship on Sunday Jan 12th. The breakfast was supplied by Mr. Bob and Mr. Charles. Jon did an interesting program discussing the Lord's prayer petition by petition. New officers were elected for 2025: President Donnie Clayton, Vice President Bob Ferris, Treasurer Kevin Wicker, and Secretary Rob Rusnak. Mark your calendars: The men will be cooking pancakes and sausages as part of Good Shepherd's Shrove Tuesday celebration on March 4th! A "bon temps" is sure to be had by all! Our next meeting is Sunday February 9th and 9 AM in the church social hall. Donnie has the program and Sal (Mrs. Marylyn) and Kevin (Mrs. Diane) will have the breakfast. All men are welcome to attend!

## **Christian Education:**

The next meeting of the Christian Education committee will be Saturday, February 8, at 10:00 am at the church. We will be discussing plans for Lent and for the egg hunt on Saturday, April 12.



## **Worship and Music:**

The Worship & Music committee will meet on Tuesday, January 28 (after the newsletter deadline). On the agenda is a discussion of plans for Lent and Easter. The choir will return to practice beginning Sunday, February 9, at 10:00 am.

## **LOVE AND PRAYERS GO OUT FOR :**

### **Good Shepherd Family**

Pat Ostendorf, the Vendricks, Roberta McCullough, Jim & Ilona Strickland, Frances Barton, Ted & Sara Avant, Margaret Juttner, Gail & Carl Lindstrom, Donna Murphy, Winfield & Merri Simons, Cheryl Clayton, Pastor Craig & Georgia Boehlke, John Gilgen

### **Friends and Family**

Gary Bunch, Carolyn Rahn, Laura Spivey, (Janet Szymanski), Jean Strickland, Katrina Fryar, (Ray and Theresa Strickland), Don Rivers, Chuck Hackman (Kevin Wicker), Dee, Cecile, Mike, Dave (Sal & Marylyn Praga), Betty Weaver, Brenda Mc Bride, Barbara Slater (Natalie Gamble), Lauren Long, Jeff and Irene Jowers (Kathie Whetsell), Joanne Perrin

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).

## **Altar Flowers for February :**

February 2	Linda Gilgen
February 9	Bob and Gloria Ferris
February 16	The Lommen family
February 23	Rob and Amy Rusnak

*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."*

**LENTEN MID-WEEK STUDIES:** There are a number of adults who wish to have a confirmation class and there are others who say, "Did that, done that"! It's for that reason, I will not call the Mid-week Lenten study a "Confirmation class" because I intent to go beyond the Small Catechism. For example, the Small Catechism contains the Ten Commandments, but how do those compare to the Sermon on the Mount? Yes, it will be an Adult "Confirmation" Class, but I prefer to call it a Bible Study for all. Come, discuss and be challenged.

## Serving In February :

<b>Lay Reader</b>	Natalie Gamble
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Natalie Gamble
<b>Ushers</b>	Doug Brinson / Jon Carpenter
<b>Offering Tabulators</b>	Doug Brinson / Jon Carpenter
<b>Alter Guild</b>	Pam Turza / Faye Rister
<b>Audio / Visual</b>	Kevin Wicker / Cheryl Clayton
<b>Grounds Care</b>	Sal Praga
<b>Council Devotions</b>	Kevin Wicker
<b>LMM Breakfast / Program</b>	Sal Praga & Doug Lindstrom / Donnie Clayton

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.



**HOME COMMUNION MINISTRY:** As we begin a new year, the needs of the Home Bound are my focus. Although I'm technically a "Stated Supply" pastor that position has evolved into a **part-time** pastor covering three churches with members living from Bamberg to the furthest parts of Walterboro. The challenge has become - how to provide Holy Communion to the home bound in addition to - preparing mid-week studies, sermons - and let us not forget - the many meetings! Very many parishes, including my former churches, have teams of trained laity who visit the home bound and distribute communion. I would like to have such a ministry in our parish. There will be a time of training in order that the team be equipped with everything needed to carry out this ministry. **If you are interested in being part of this ministry, please contact the pastor.**

# FEBRUARY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1  <u>Anniversary :</u> Natalie & Patrick Gamble
2 <b>Groundhog Day!</b> 11:00 AM <b>Worship with Communion</b> 4:00 PM <b>Parish Team Meet</b> <u>Birthday :</u> John Gilgen	3 6:00 PM <b>Good Shepherd Women Meet</b>	4 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM <b>Food Pantry</b> <u>Birthday :</u> Walter Fralix	5	6	7  <u>Birthday :</u> Pat Ostendorf	8 10:00 AM <b>Christian Ed. Committee Meets</b>
9 9:00 AM <b>LMM Breakfast Meet</b> 10:00 AM <b>Choir Rehearsal</b> 11:00 AM <b>Souper Bowl of Caring with Communion Followed by Church Council Meeting</b> <u>Birthdays :</u> Riley Guess Ray Strickland	10  <u>Birthday :</u> Marylyn Praga	11	12 6:00 PM <b>Wednesdays Together</b>	13  <u>Birthday :</u> Chris Carter	14  <b>Valentine's Day!</b>	15
16 10:00 AM <b>Choir Rehearsal</b> 11:00 AM <b>Worship with Communion</b>	17  <b>Presidents Day!</b>	18 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM <b>Food Pantry</b> <u>Birthday :</u> Cashwell Weihemuller	19  <u>Birthday :</u> Grace Connelly	20	21	22 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM <b>WELCA Spaghetti Dinner</b> 10: 00 PM <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> <u>Birthdays :</u> Doug Brinson Mary Jo Smith
23 10:00 AM <b>Choir Rehearsal</b> 11:00 AM <b>Worship with Communion</b> <u>Birthdays :</u> Ned Vendrick Natalie Gamble Jennifer Carter Stone	24  <u>Birthday :</u> Parker Wertz	25	26	27  <u>Birthday :</u> Cheryl Clayton	28  <u>Birthday :</u> Jeff Lord	1 3:00 PM <b>Chari-TEA for SCLRC</b>