



The Shepherd's Staff

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
106 May Street
Walterboro, SC 29488

(843) 549-5353

January 2026

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FROM THE PASTOR:

EPIPHANY!!

Everyone has heard the song several times these past weeks - maybe you've even sung it yourself "The Twelve Days of Christmas". It's not just a song - there *are* twelve days of Christmas. So how many of you have all of your decorations packed away for another year? Maybe they even were taken down Dec. 26th!

Oh how we've morphed Christmas and the wise men all into one holiday and in our culture, it all took place on December 25th!! But let's be reminded that the 12th day of Christmas is January 5th!

The day of Epiphany is January 6th - that's when the church says the wise men appeared. *Now* . . . you can pack away your Christmas decorations!

Epiphany means "manifestation", "revelation", "insight". People had been waiting generations for a star to appear in the sky. It was written in the Old Testament book of Numbers:

"I see him but not now. I perceive him but not near.

A star will come from Jacob and a scepter will arise from Israel."
Numbers 24:17

The magi saw the long awaited star in the sky, much brighter than any other, and followed. When they finally arrived to the place where the star shone, they were overwhelmed with joy and fell to their knees. It was their "Aha!" Moment. It was the revelation in time when they new a king had been born - the one they had waited for so long.

Epiphanies don't happen once and for all. They continue to happen but we have no control when they will come to us. It's a

revelation from God that can come to show us the way ahead into an unknown. We are to pay attention. God shows up in our lives over and over again, but how often we miss it because we're not paying attention.

Madelein L'Engle sums it up in her book A Ring of Endless Light

*"This is my charge to you
You are to be a light bearer.
You are to choose the light"*

Let us arise, shine and be light to others as we enter a new year.

Pastor Judy



Serving In January:

Lay Reader

Doug Brinson

Communion Assistant

Doug Brinson

Ushers

Natalie Gamble /
Rusty Mezel

Offering Tabulators

Natalie Gamble /
Rusty Mezel

Alter Guild

Marylyn Praga

Audio / Visual

Rob Rusnak /
Matt Ferris

Grounds Care

Doug Brinson

Council Devotions

Jon Carpenter

LMM Breakfast / Program

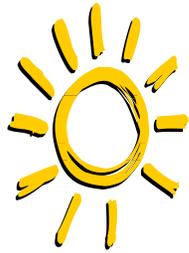
Bob Ferris & Charles Rister /
Jon Carpenter

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 :

Wednesdays Together will return on Wednesday, January 7, beginning at 6:00 PM. We will start with a light meal, followed by gathering in the sanctuary to take down and put away the Christmas decorations. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex so we will know how many plan to be present.



Congratulations to our new council members elected for the 2026-2028 term: Doug Lindstrom, Rob Rusnak and Pam Turza. Also, thanks to Patty, Cheryl and Donnie for agreeing to be on the ballot. And last but not least, thanks to all of you who took time to participate by casting your ballots in our election process. Council installation will be on Sunday, January 11, 2026, during worship.

The **American Red Cross** will be at Good Shepherd for a blood drive on Monday, January 12, from 1:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Come out and give the gift of life! Contact the Red Cross for an appointment.



Once again it's time to prepare for our **2026 Church Directory**. Please take time to complete the enclosed form as you would like the information listed in the Directory and return it to the church. Thank you.

There will be a **congregational meeting** after worship on Sunday, January 18. The purpose of the meeting is to adopt a spending plan for 2026.

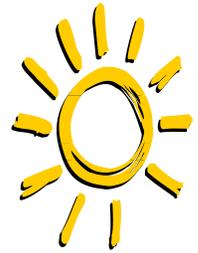
Sign-up sheets for 2026 are available in the narthex. There are many volunteer opportunities, so please check it out!

The Sanctuary Candles for the month of January are given by Maria Rodriguez.

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

Sunshine News : (Continued)

Our Loose and Special Designated Offerings 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.



Good Shepherd Women:

The next meeting of the Good Shepherd women will be Monday, January 5, 2026, at 6:00 PM at the church. The hostess will be Marilyn Peters. Kathie Whetsell will have devotions. We will be discussing plans for the spaghetti dinner fundraiser that will be held in February. All women of the congregation are invited to attend.

Christian Education:

The next meeting of the Christian Education committee will be Saturday, January 10, 2026, at 10:00 AM. We will discuss plans for Lent and Easter.

Worship and Music:

The next meeting of the Worship and Music committee will be Tuesday, January 13, at 10:00 AM at the church. We will be discussing plans for Lent and Easter.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day!

January



19, 2026

Altar Flowers for January :

January 4:	Maria Rodriguez
January 11:	Charles and Faye Rister
January 18:	Janet Szymanski
January 25:	Open

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 are given to the Glory of God :

Memorial Fund

<u>Given by:</u>	<u>In Memory of:</u>
Anonymous	Margaret Hilliard
Anonymous	Margaret Juttner

General Fund

<u>Given by:</u>	<u>In Memory of:</u>
The Lommen Family	Margaret Juttner

Food Pantry

<u>Given by:</u>	<u>In Memory of:</u>
Sal & Marylyn Praga	Margaret Juttner

Wallace Fund

<u>Given by:</u>	<u>In Memory of:</u>
Doug & Ellen Brinson	Margaret Juttner

<u>Given by:</u>	<u>In Honor of:</u>
Edwina Wicker	Kevin & Diane Wicker
Emmett Wicker	Kevin & Diane Wicker

ELCA Good Gifts

<u>Given by:</u>	<u>In Honor of:</u>
Kevin Wicker	Diane Wicker (for Christmas)

LOVE AND PRAYERS GO OUT FOR :

Good Shepherd Family

Pat Ostendorf, the Vendricks, Roberta McCullough, Jim & Ilona Strickland, Frances Barton, Ted Avant, the family of Margaret Juttner, Gail & Carl Lindstrom, Donna Murphy, Winfield & Merri Simons, Maria Rodriguez, Pastor Craig & Georgia Boehlke, Bill Turza, Doug Brinson

Friends and Family

Gary Bunch, Carolyn Rahn, Laura Spivey, (Janet Szymanski), Jean Strickland, Katrina Fryar, (Ray and Theresa Strickland), Don Rivers, Chuck Hackman, the family of Charlie Alberts, David Blocker (Kevin Wicker), Karen Akers, Carol Smith (Rusty & Lisa Mezel), Lauren Long, Autumn, (Kathie Whetsell), the family of Larry Kennigott (Donna Murphy), Amanda Elkins (Marilyn Peters), Stephanie Morris (Matt Ferris), Gloria Kay (Faye Rister), Tina Vickers & family, Lucille Chamberlain (Cheryl Clayton), Dee, Cecil and Mike (Sal & Marylyn Praga), Alex (Maria Rodriguez's granddaughter), Joanne Perrin, Bishop Ginny Aebischer

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

Lutheran Men in Mission :

Everyone had a great time at the WELCA/LMM Christmas party in December. Our first meeting for the new year will be Sunday January 11th at 9 AM in the church fellowship hall. Mr. Bob and Mr. Charles will have the breakfast and Jon will have the program. All men are welcome to attend!



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

Wish List - January

Many thanks to Pam and Bill Turza for donating new potholders and dish towels for our kitchen

Current Wish List Items with an update

- Hose Reel for the Side of the Parsonage: \$60.00
- Kitchen Items: We are seeking replacements for our worn and well-loved utensils, and other miscellaneous needs. Contributions of any denomination are welcome.
- 2” Faux wood cordless blinds for Parlor (need 1) \$81.00
- Handicap Parking Signs – to replace faded ones (need 2) \$12.00 for the pair.
- Batteries for the Sound System and Smoke Detectors:
- AA alkaline batteries (16 count): 3 packages at \$19.00 per pack
- 9V alkaline batteries (4 count): 2 packages at \$18.00 per pack

Stamp Donations Needed

There is a continual need for postage stamps to support our church’s ongoing activities. You can help by donating actual stamps or making a monetary contribution to assist with their purchase.

- Roll (100 stamps): \$78.00
- Half Roll (50 stamps): \$39.00
- Book (20 stamps): \$15.60

If you are interested in sponsoring any of our current wish list items or would like more information, please contact:

- Marylyn Praga
- Phone: 518-768-8207
- Email: Mip8207@aol.com

Thank you for your support!

Your Church Council

Financial Corner

Happy New Year from the Financial Corner! Many “**Thank you!**” for your gifts to Good Shepherd in 2025. Without **every** gift we could not continue to do 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 Waltherboro and Colleton County.

Your Council members have approved the **2026 Spending Plan for Ministry** which will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting on **Sunday, January 18**, following worship. If you are a member of Good Shepherd, please plan to join us for this important meeting in the life of the congregation.

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

November Offering and Gifts:

General Fund	\$ 7,891
Social Ministry/Food Pantry	\$ 7,267
Flowers	\$ 375
Candles	\$ 25
Wallace Fund	\$ 50
Memorial Fund	\$ 1,455
World Hunger	\$ 299
Poinsettias	\$ 220
Lommen Love Fund	\$ 50

Fund Accounts:

Maintenance Fund	\$ 9,451
Memorial Fund	\$ 2,755
Scholarship Endowment	\$ 12,849
Lommen Love Fund	\$ 7,038
Wallace Estate Fund	\$ 69,390
Social Ministry/Food Pantry	\$ 18,802
Service Committee	\$ 443
Wednesdays Together	\$ 472

December Council Meeting Notes: 12-14-2025

Amy called the meeting to order and Rusty lead the group in devotions.

- Council then heard reports from Pr. Judy, Finance, Property and Grounds and Good Shepherd WELCA.
- Members approved the minutes from last meeting presented by Natalie, and accepted the financial reports presented by Kevin as information.
- Council moved to purchase a VISA gift card with the money collected for Bishop Ginny and send it to her for whatever she needs during her cancer treatments.
- Kevin told Council that \$299 had been collected for **ELCA World Hunger** during November and that was sent to ELCA World Hunger during a 2-to-1 matching opportunity.
- Also, Kevin told Council that on “Giving Tuesday” in December, he had sent in \$200 for a 2-to-1 match for **ELCA Good Gifts**. The congregation’s donations to Good Gifts in December will be more than the \$200 sent in to take advantage of the matching funds.
- Council approved Christmas gifts for Diane Wicker, Linda Gilgen and Jennifer Crosby.
- After a presentation by Kevin, and discussion and modifications, Council approved the **2026 Spending Plan for Ministry**. This will be presented to the congregation on January 18 following worship for a vote.
- Council approved the **Monthly Designated Offerings for 2026** with the addition of ELCA Global Refuge for August.

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

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

**Dear Members and Friends of Good Shepherd,
Please complete the information below as you would like for it to appear in the church yearbook. Thank you.**

Names and birthdays of family members

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Wedding anniversary date _____

Mailing address _____

Phone numbers (home, cell, office, anywhere else)

e-mail address(s) _____

Additional information _____

Prayer List

January - March, 2026

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 2026

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