



The Shepherd's Staff

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
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The Untold Story of Father's Day and the Woman Who Created It

By Rebecca Norris of CountryLiving

Father's Day is celebrated on the third Sunday in June, year after year, and without question. As accustomed as we are to the annual holiday, many are less aware of the history behind it. This year, global family history platform MyHeritage set out to remedy that by tracking down the last direct descendant of the woman (yup!) who created the holiday. While gearing up for a festive Father's Day weekend full of backyard barbecues, baseball games, and plenty of relaxation, take a moment to read up on the history of Father's Day.

When was the first Father's Day?

The first Father's Day was held in Spokane, Washington, in 1910—two years after the first Mother's Day sermon, which occurred on May 10, 1908—thanks to the efforts of Sonora Smart Dodd, a Civil War–veteran's daughter who wanted to honor her father and the sacrifices he made.

According to MyHeritage.com, William Jackson Smart single-handedly raised Sonora and her five younger brothers after their mother's death in 1898. After listening to a Mother's Day sermon in 1909, Sonora set out to establish a Father's Day celebration. For a year, she worked tirelessly with local clergy and civic groups to spread the word, and in June 1910, with help from Spokane's ministerial alliance and the YWCA, the first Father's Day took place.

Eventually, The Whole Country Caught On

Sonora hoped it would become a nationwide celebration by 1911, but it wasn't until 1972 that Father's Day truly caught on. It

was then, when Sonora was 90 years old, that President Richard Nixon declared the third Sunday in June would henceforth be known as Father's Day, a national holiday.

While Sonora passed away in 1978, her great-granddaughter, Betsy Roddy, lives on with her family's history in tow.

"Betsy Roddy is now the last direct descendant of the woman who created Father's Day," a MyHeritage spokesperson reveals. "Only child of an only child, recently widowed and without children of her own, she admits that as a child she 'took Father's Day largely for granted,' believing the holiday's traditions were simply her family's practice. Today, however, she's ready to embrace her great-grandmother's legacy."

LOVE AND PRAYERS GO OUT FOR :

Good Shepherd Family

Pat Ostendorf, the Vendricks, Roberta McCullough, the family of Jimmy Strickland, Ted Avant, Gail & Carl Lindstrom, Donna Murphy and family, Winfield & Merri Simons, Maria Rodriguez, Pastor Craig & Georgia Boehlke, Doug Brinson, Pam & Bill Turza

Friends and Family

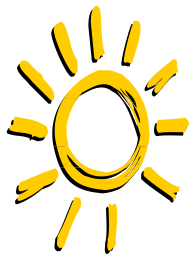
Gary Bunch, Carolyn Rahn, Laura Spivey, (Janet Szymanski), Jean Strickland, Katrina Fryar, (Ray and Theresa Strickland), Don Rivers, Chuck Hackman, Terry Matlosz (Kevin Wicker), Lauren and Jonathan Porter, Autumn, (Kathie Whetsell), Dee, Cecil and Mike, Benny, Skip, Dave, Pete (Sal & Marylyn Praga), Alex Green (Maria Rodriguez's granddaughter), the family of Patrick Clayton, Sandi Detrick (Cheryl Clayton), Wess Pye (Charles and Faye Rister), Amanda, Dean, Michael, and Savanna Elkins, Carolyn Lewis (Marilyn Peters), the Valentino family (Lisa Mezel), Marc Ferris (Bob and Gloria Ferris), Carol, "Bobbi", Lommen, (the Lommen family), Joanne Perrin, Bishop Ginny Aebischer

Worship and Music:

The next meeting of the Worship and Music committee will be Tuesday, August 11, 2026, at 10:00 AM at the church. We will be discussing plans for the fall and the Advent/Christmas seasons.

Sunshine News :

There will be a **Parish Picnic** on Saturday, June 6, at 1:00 PM, at Good Shepherd. This is a joint event with the Ehrhardt churches. The hotdogs and hamburgers will be provided. Everyone is asked to bring either a side dish or a dessert. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex if you plan to attend.



Thank you to everyone who came out in support of the Red Cross Blood Drive held on Monday, May 11. A total of 46 units were collected. The next blood drive will be Monday, July 13, 2026, from 1:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Contact the Red Cross for an appointment.

Applications for school scholarships are now available, along with the guidelines for the application. These scholarships are for those students in our congregation who are pursuing either an associate degree or a bachelor degree. Please see Diane Wicker for applications. The deadline for receiving applications is **July 1**.

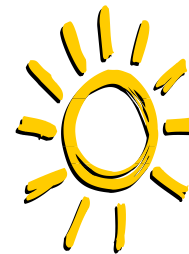
Our Loose and Special Designated Offerings for June will support the **South Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission New Mission Start Program**. The purpose of this fund is to help pay the salary of the Mission Developing Pastor for new ELCA mission churches in **South Carolina**. Since 1996, all new ELCA mission congregations in South Carolina have been supported by SCLMM. In 2026, the New Mission Start Program is supporting four new mission starts in the SC Synod. **In 2025, Jon, Rob, Sal, Charles, Donnie, Cheryl, Diane and Kevin participated in this initiative through the SCLMM Committee of 100 program**. This is not a budgeted item, but you can help by placing loose offering in the offering plate, or by designating your gift for “SCLMM NMSP” on your offering envelope. Or, if you’d like to participate in the SCLMM Committee of 100 program, contact Kevin.

The Sanctuary Candles for the month of June are given by Doug and Ellen Brinson in honor of their anniversary.

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

Sunshine News : (Continued)

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.



During the **month of July**, the Christian Education is planning for a three-part Wednesdays Together of speakers. We will gather at 6:00 PM for a meal followed by a speaker. Watch the bulletin in the coming weeks for further information and plan to join us!

Good Shepherd Women:

The next meeting of the Good Shepherd women will be Monday, June 1, at 6:00 PM at the church. The hostess will be Amy Rusnak. Faye Rister will have devotions. For the months of July and August, the women will take a summer break.

Christian Education:

The Christian Education committee met on Saturday, May 16, at 10:00 AM at the church. Plans were finalized for the **Parish Picnic** with the Ehrhardt Parish to be held on Saturday, June 6, at 1:00 PM at Good Shepherd.

Preliminary plans were discussed for a 3-week **Wednesdays Together** in July.

The next meeting of the Christian Education Committee will be Saturday, June 27, 2026, at 10:00 AM.

Altar Flowers for June :

June 7:	Janet Szymanski
June 14:	Amy Rusnak
June 21:	Marilyn Peters
June 28:	The Lommen family

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.”

Thank You!

Thanks to Mr. Cassidy Lane and crew, the water box and drain pipe have been installed in the front yard of the church. We'll be watching to see if we need to do anything else to control the erosion problem. That project was funded by those who direct their Thrivent Choice Dollars to Good Shepherd. Thank you all!

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of those we serve at the ministries of **Lutheran Homes of South Carolina**, which include Franke as Seaside, the Heritage at Lowman, Rice Estate, RoseCrest, Trinity on Laurens, Lutheran Hospice and BeWell Home Services. Your partnership is vital to achieving our mission of enhancing the well-being of older adults.

Sincerely,

Ernest Beck

President and CEO - (*Lutheran Home of SC was our designated offering during the month of January.*)

Serving In June :

Lay Reader

Bill Turza

Communion Assistant

Amy Rusnak

Ushers

Doug Brinson /
Jon Carpenter

Offering Tabulators

Doug Brinson /
Jon Carpenter

Alter Guild

Amy Rusnak

Audio / Visual

Kevin Wicker /
Cheryl Clayton

Grounds Care

Kevin Wicker

Council Devotions

Doug Lindstrom

LMM Breakfast / Program

No Meeting

Special Thanks to Everyone Who Served in May !!!

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

May Council Meeting Notes: 5-17-2026

Doug Lindstrom called the meeting to order and Marilyn opened with a devotion and prayer. Council heard reports from Finance, Property and Grounds, Christian Education, WELCA, Lutheran Men, Social Ministry, and Card Ministry

- Kevin Wicker provided the financial report.
- Christian Education – Picnic with Ehrhardt will be on Saturday June 6th at 1 PM at Good Shepherd. Working on guest speakers for Wednesdays in July series.
- Synod Assembly in Columbia will be June 11-13. Pr. Judy and Kevin Wicker will be representing Good Shepherd. ELCA Project will be on Sept 13 - looking for a project to benefit the local community. ELCA Project will be on Sept 13 - looking for a project to benefit the local community.
- Kevin Wicker gave a Property and Grounds Report. The project to alleviate front yard erosion has been completed.
- WELCA - We have no graduates this year, so there will be no Pentecost lunch this year.
- Lutheran Men in Mission – The Boston Butt Fundraiser was a great success. A donation from the funds was made to Social Ministry. A Fish Fry is tentatively scheduled for early November.
- Social Ministry - Received a grant from Wittenberg Lutheran Church in Leesville again this year. Mt. Pleasant designated their Lenten offerings to the Food Pantry and Bethel Presbyterian sent a contribution to the Food Pantry.
- Wishlist: Suggestion to purchase electric mixer and electric can opener.

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

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

Flag Day

June 14, 2026



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

Wish List - June

Wish List Update :

The church wish list is currently undergoing revisions, and the updated version will be featured in an upcoming newsletter. Thanks to the continued generosity of our congregation, we now have sufficient supplies of stamps and batteries.

If you have any recommendations for future wish list items or require further information, please contact:

Marylyn Praga

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

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Your Church Council

Lutheran Men in Mission :

Ten men met for food and fellowship on Sunday May 17th. Bill and Doug B. had the meal and Mr. Sal the program. Sal discussed some excerpts from the book When Bad Things Happen to Good People and how difficult it is to not try to find some explanation for why bad things happen. He also discussed how some people have the faith to endure tragedies while for others they prove to be a great test of faith.

The Smoked Boston Butt fundraiser was a great success! The men were able to donate \$1,100 to the Social Ministry/Food Pantry fund. Many thanks to all who participated!

Our next meeting will be July 12th (there is no June meeting) at 9 AM in the church fellowship hall. Rob will have the program and Bob and Charles will have the meal. All men are welcomed to attend!



Financial Corner

The calendar says Spring, but it sure feels like Summer. But let's take a quick look at our financials for April. April was a strong month of giving, and a month of above average expenses. The first quarter tax withholdings, preventive maintenance on our five HVAC units, supply pastors, and postage lead the way. The good news is that all of these were planned and budgeted expenses. For the month we only spent \$86 more than we collected in gifts.

Thanks to Katie Whetsell for directing her **Thrivent Choice Dollars** to Good Shepherd during April.

April was a strong month for our **Social Ministry** program, which includes our Food Pantry ministry. In addition to gifts from members and friends of Good Shepherd, we also received gifts from Mt. Pleasant, Ehrhardt, and from Bethel Presbyterian, Walterboro.

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 Facebook for church.

Kevin

April Offering and Gifts:

General Fund	\$ 7,510
Social Ministry/Food Pantry	\$ 1,838
Lenten Offering	\$ 447
Candles	\$ 25
Lommen Love Fund	\$ 50
Water Mission	\$ 375
Maintenance Fund	\$ 50
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$ 25

Fund Accounts:

Maintenance Fund	\$ 12,086
Memorial Fund	\$ 2,063
Scholarship Fund	\$ 12,849
Lommen Love Fund	\$ 6,193
Wallace Estate Fund	\$ 72,089
Social Ministry/Food Pantry	\$ 15,386
Service Committee	\$ 377
Wednesdays Together	\$ 440

DESIGNATED GIFTS

Donations are given to the Glory of God :

Food Pantry

Given by:

Janet Szymanski
Linda Gilgen
Anonymous

In Memory of:

Jimmy Strickland
Jimmy Strickland
Patrick Clayton

Wallace Fund

Given by:

Linda Gilgen

In Memory of:

Patrick Clayton

Lommen Love Fund

Given by:

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

In Memory of:

Gail Glover
Patrick Clayton
Jimmy Strickland

WELCA

Given by:

Shannon Guess

In Memory of:

Aunt Ann Childers Rauton

Given by:

Shannon Guess

In Honor of:

Uncle Larry Childers

Memorial Fund

Given by:

Linda Gilgen

In Memory of:

Gail Glover

Service Committee

Given by:

Linda Gilgen

In Memory of:

Margaret Juttner

Maintenance Fund

Given by:

Doug & Ellen Brinson

In Memory of:

Jimmy Strickland

Good Shepherd Ministries

Given by:

Molly Watkins
Charles & Faye Rister
Jimmy Bilka
Casey & Debbie Strickland
Ann Hooker
Lynn Murdaugh

In Memory of:

Jimmy Strickland
Jimmy Strickland
Jimmy Strickland
Jimmy Strickland
Jimmy Strickland
Jimmy Strickland

Good Shepherd Lutheran Financial Funds

The **General Fund** is used to pay for the Operating expenses of our ministry and the routine maintenance of our facilities. The General Fund is most often associated with our **Spending Plan for Ministry** for the year. The balance in the General Fund is the checking account balance, less any designated items held in the checking account. The current balance is reported each month in the newsletter as "Available in Checking". That value is currently \$31,193.

The **Doscher/Fellers Scholarship Fund**, formerly known as the **Doscher and Fellers Education and Outdoor Ministry Fund**, was established by Mr. Ralph Doscher and Mr. Stanley Fellers for the purpose of supporting the spiritual and educational growth of the Good Shepherd members and associate members through institutions of higher education and Lutheran outdoor ministries. These funds are used for financial assistance of members attending summer camp (Lutheridge, Lutherock, Luther Springs) and to provide financial assistance for members attending institutions of higher education after high school. The balance in the Scholarship Fund is now \$12,849.

The **Maintenance Fund** is used for the routine annual maintenance of our property. Any money in the annual Spending Plan for Ministry that is not used for maintenance during the year is placed in the Maintenance Fund Savings Account for future use. The current balance in the Maintenance Fund is \$12,086.

The **Memorial Fund** is money set aside to purchase those items that are used in our worship setting. The current balance in the Memorial Fund is \$2,063.

The **Service Committee Fund** may be used to provide meals to bereaved families after the death of a loved one or hospitalized members when they return home. The current balance in the Service Committee Fund is \$377.

The **Sign Fund** was established at the request of the family of Sonny Roberts following his death. The fund is to be used to purchase a new sign for the church along Jeffries Boulevard. The current balance in the fund is \$955.

The **Social Ministry** fund is used to help those in need in our community with food, utility bills, prescription medication, etc. The Social Ministry program includes the **Food Pantry program**. Approximately \$16,000 of assistance is managed through the Social Ministry Fund each year with support coming from members of Good Shepherd and throughout our community. The Social Ministry policy is available upon request. The current balance in the Social Ministry Fund is \$15,386.

The **Lommen Love Fund** was established in 2021 with a gift from the children of Arden and Mary Lommen in loving memory of their parents. The fund is used to aid and assist members and friends of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in time of need. The children of Arden and Mary Lommen are not opposed to the funds being used other areas that would honor the memory of Arden and Mary. The Lommen Love Fund policy is available upon request. The current balance in the Lommen Love Fund is \$6,193.

The **Wallace Fund** was established using a gift from the estate of Mrs. Margaret Wallace following her death. Mrs. Wallace left this gift as an unrestricted fund for use at the discretion of the Council. Although we have used the fund in past years to shore up the General Fund, the general consensus has been to use this fund for capital improvements of the facilities. Over the past five years, donor gifts have reestablished the original corpus of the Wallace Fund. The current balance in the Wallace Fund is now \$72,089.

The **Thrivent Choice Dollars Fund** contains money from Thrivent Financial members who designate their Thrivent Choice Dollars to Good Shepherd Lutheran. This money is used at the discretion of the church council. The current balance is now \$1,060.