



The Shepherd's Staff

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
106 May Street
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October 2026

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Who Was Christopher Columbus?

Christopher Columbus was an Italian explorer and navigator from the Republic of Genoa who completed four Spanish transatlantic voyages in the name of the Catholic Monarchs, opening the way for the widespread European exploration and colonisation of the Americas.

He was a deeply devout Roman Catholic who believed that God personally chose him to cross the ocean and spread the Christian faith to new lands.

He viewed his 1492 voyage through a deeply religious lens, believing the Holy Spirit guided him to fulfil biblical prophecies.

Columbus and His Study of Scripture

- **The Book of Prophecies (Libro de las Profecías):** Toward the end of his life, Columbus compiled a book of biblical passages with the help of a Carthusian monk.
- **The Meaning of His Name:** Columbus believed his first name, Christopher (from Greek Christophoros), meant "Christ-bearer," and he felt a personal calling to carry the Christian gospel across the ocean.
- **Scriptural Inspiration:** He frequently cited verses from the Old and New Testaments—such as Isaiah 59 and passages in Psalms and Isaiah regarding "islands" and distant lands—to argue that his explorations were foretold in Scripture.

Biblical Motivations for His Voyage

- **Spreading the Gospel:** Columbus wrote in his journals that a primary motivation was bringing Christianity to unreached peoples before the end of the age.

- **Recapturing Jerusalem:** He hoped to amass enough gold and wealth from his discoveries to finance a new military crusade to retake Jerusalem and the Holy Sepulchre.
- **Eschatology (End Times):** Influenced by medieval theologians like Pierre d'Ailly, Columbus calculated that the world had only a limited time left before the Second Coming of Christ, and he believed the conversion of distant lands was a necessary prerequisite.

Historical Complexity

- **Actions vs. Intentions:** While Columbus expressed pious motives in his writings, his governance and actions in the Americas involved severe exploitation, violence, and the subjugation of Indigenous populations, which critics note starkly contradicted Christian teachings of love and mercy.
- **Modern Debate:** Today, the legacy of Columbus Day prompts ongoing discussion among Christians and historians alike, balancing his self-described spiritual mission against the devastating human cost borne by the Indigenous Taino and other native groups.

*** Google Search of "Christopher Columbus and the Bible" ***



October 12, 2026

Sunshine News :

Wednesdays Together returns! For three **Wednesdays in October**, we will gather in the parish hall for a potluck meal followed by a Bible study. The main meat dish will be provided; everyone else is asked to bring side dishes and/or desserts. The meal will begin at 6:00 PM followed by the Bible study. The topic for the Bible study will be Simon Peter. The dates are October 14, 21 and 28. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex so that we will know how many plan to attend.



The Christian Education committee is offering scholarships to Lutheridge this fall/spring to anyone interested in attending one of their weekend retreats. This offer is open to anyone - youth and adults. For further information, please see Diane Wicker.

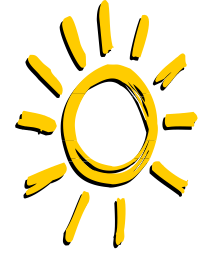
There are **new devotional booklets** in the narthex for the months of October, November and December.

We will start a **new prayer list** in October. 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 and 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

The Loose and Special Designated Offerings for October will support NovusWay. Located across the southeastern United States, these retreat centers offer programmed retreats and camps for all ages, and also provide event and meeting spaces for you to plan your own retreat. The combination of quality staff, the excellent facilities, the unique 1,900 acres of land, and your participation with NovusWay will lead you to **“Get Inspired”**. The sites are located in Asheville, North Carolina (Lutheridge); near Boone, North Carolina (Lutherock); and near Gainseville, Florida (Luthersprings). This is not a budgeted item, but you can help by placing loose offering in the offering plate, or by designating your gift for **“NovusWay”** on your offering envelope.

Sunshine News : (Continued)

Thank you to everyone who came out in support of the blood drive held Monday, September 14. A total of 43 units were collected. The next blood drive at Good Shepherd will be Monday, November 9, 2026, from 1:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Contact the Red Cross for an appointment.



For the months of October and November, the **Good Shepherd Women** will be collecting toiletries and personal care items for



Lutheran Services Carolinas Youth Program. Items include the following: toothbrushes, travel-size toothpaste, soap, lotion, chapstick, brushes, combs, gel and styling products, hair ties. Donations may be placed in the collection box that will be in the narthex. Monetary donations will please note "WELCA Project" on your check or

Save the Date! Mt. Pleasant Lutheran Church in Ehrhardt will be celebrating their Homecoming on **Sunday, October 25, 2026**. The service will be at 11:00 AM, followed by a congregational dinner. Since Mt. Pleasant's service will be at 11:00 AM that day, there will be **no worship service at Good Shepherd**. Everyone is invited to join in the celebration at Mt. Pleasant.

Trunk-Or-Treat will be held at Good Shepherd on Saturday, October 31, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the back parking lot. All are encouraged to come out! A light supper will be provided.



The Sanctuary Candles for the month of October are given by Janet Szymanski.

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

Thank You!

To my Family and Friends at Good Shepherd, Mt. Pleasant, and Ehrhardt Memorial,

I want to thank you for your prayers and kind words of encouragement that y'all have sent me over these past several weeks. The surgery was successful and my recovery complete. I have a bit less movement in my neck but not so much as to impede my daily doings or independence.

My road often took me on paths foreign to you and sometimes difficult, but know that your love and care traveled with me: Mostly in the passenger seat; sometimes in the trunk, but always with me. I will continue to carry each of you - present and passed - with me as I continue to trudge this happy road to Destiny, and I take solace in the Fact that we are bonded together eternally through God's love and grace.

Until our paths cross again and with much love and appreciation,

Waller

P.S. This note was not edited or massaged by A.I. (LOL)



October 31, 2026

Good Shepherd Women:

The next meeting of the **Good Shepherd Women** will be **Monday, October 5, at 6:00 PM** at the church. Diane Wicker will be the hostess and have devotions. We will be discussing plans for the upcoming months.

Christian Education:

The next meeting of the **Christian Education committee** will be **Saturday, October 3, at 10:00 AM** at the church. Plans for Advent/Christmas will be discussed.

Worship and Music:

The next meeting of the **Worship and Music committee** will be **Tuesday, September 29, 2026, at 10:00 AM** at the church. We will be discussing plans for the fall and the Advent/Christmas seasons. (This meeting was held after the newsletter deadline. Watch the bulletin and November newsletter for further information.)

LMM Update

Eleven men met for food and fellowship on Sunday September 13th. Rusty and Doug L. had the meal and Doug B. had the program. Doug B. picked up on Sal's earlier discussion about why bad things happen to good people and discussed the Book of Job and how, even with all his suffering still manages to praise God and still relies on God's goodness.

Mark your calendars: the Men's Fish Fry will be held on Saturday Nov 7th. There will be an option of Fried Catfish or grilled chicken. All meals will come with Mr. Bob's Shrimp Fried Rice, green beans, coleslaw, sweet potatoes and our World Famous Lutheran Banana Pudding.

Our next meeting will be on Sunday October 11th at 9 AM in the Church Social Hall. Sal and Kevin will have the meal and Bill will have the program. All men are welcome to attend!

Financial Corner

This month we're looking at our **August financials** as we move into the Fall months, the "ber" months. Our giving was down a bit in August, a little below our needs for our **Spending Plan for Ministry**. All of our expenses were planned except an emergency air conditioning repair on the parsonage HVAC unit.

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

August Offering and Gifts:

General Fund	\$ 8,536
Social Ministry/Food Pantry	\$ 320
Flowers	\$ 95
Candles	\$ 50
Lommen Love Fund	\$ 209
ELCA Global Mission	\$ 1,390
Lutheran Services Carolinas	\$ 50

Fund Accounts:

Maintenance Fund	\$ 14,447
Memorial Fund	\$ 2,065
Scholarship Fund	\$ 12,690
Lommen Love Fund	\$ 6,855
Wallace Estate Fund	\$ 73,470
Social Ministry/Food Pantry	\$ 14,472
Service Committee	\$ 355
Wednesdays Together	\$ 340

DESIGNATED GIFTS

Donations are given to the Glory of God :

Food Pantry

Given by:

Kathie Whetsell
Janet Szymanski
Kevin & Diane Wicker

In Memory of:

Frances Enfinger
Frances Enfinger
Frances Enfinger

Altar Flowers for October :

October 4:	Cheryl Clayton
October 11:	Doug Lindstrom
October 18:	Kathie Whetsell
October 25:	Homecoming at Mt. Pleasant, Ehrhardt

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."

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

Wish List - October

Wish List Update :

The church wish list is currently undergoing revisions, with one exception, and the updated version will be featured in an upcoming newsletter.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Serpas for their generous contribution towards the purchase of postage stamps.

We still have sufficient supplies of batteries.

We are currently in need of stamps:

- Half Roll (50 stamps): \$41.00
- Book (20 stamps): \$16.40

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!

Sincerely,

Your Church Council

Serving In October :

Lay Reader	Rob Rusnak
Communion Assistant	Amy Rusnak
Ushers	Doug Brinson / Jon Carpenter
Offering Tabulators	Doug Brinson / Jon Carpenter
Alter Guild	Marylyn Praga
Audio / Visual	Kevin Wicker / Cheryl Clayton
Grounds Care	Doug Lindstrom, Bob and Matt Ferris
Council Devotions	Patty Delaney
LMM Breakfast / Program	Sal Praga & Kevin Wicker / Bill Turza

Special Thanks to Everyone Who Served in September !!!

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

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, Donnie Clayton, Pam Turza, Tammy Salisbury, Sue Nussman

Friends and Family

Gary Bunch, Carolyn Rahn, Laura Spivey, Dorn Cammon, Michelle Rousch (Janet Szymanski), Jean Strickland, Katrina Fryar, (Ray and Theresa Strickland), David and Rita Blocker (Kevin Wicker), Lauren and Jonathan Porter, Autumn, Kathy Lyons (Kathie Whetsell), Dee, Cecil and Mike, Benny, Skip, Dave & Maryanne, Pete (Sal & Marylyn Praga), Joe Ranly (Bill & Pam Turza), John Delaney (Patty Delaney), Brooks Bannister, Geary & Bonnie Serpas, Abby Serpas, Tyler Cunningham (Scott & Kimi Serpas), Donald Rizer (the Risters), Joanne Perrin, Bishop Ginny

Aebischer, Walter Fralix, the family of Tommy Oliver (Pastor Nancy Oliver's son), the family of Frances Enfinger (Thomas Elliott's grandmother)

September Council Meeting Notes: 9-13-2026

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

- Kevin Wicker provided the financial report.
- Doug Lindstrom covered the Red Cross Blood Drive dates for 2026. These will be available in the newsletter as they occur.
- Kevin Wicker provided a Property and Grounds Report. Many thanks to Sal for fixing a leaky faucet in the parsonage.
- Christian Education -There will be a three-part Bible study on Simon Peter this month. In addition to youth scholarships, adults will now be eligible to apply for scholarships to attend Lutheridge weekend retreats. Funds will come from the Doscher/Fellers Scholarship Fund and will cover 75% of the cost of the retreat.
- Lutheran Men in Mission - Fish Fry will be on Saturday November 7th.
- Social Ministry - Doug L. reported that they are reassessing what we will be including in our food baskets and leaning towards a focus on dry goods.
- Wishlist - New baking trays have been purchased for the kitchen. Donations of stamps are always welcome.

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.

Prayer List

October- December, 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.