



# GOOD SHEPHERD STAFF

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Newsletter  
January 2025

XLIX, ISSUE I

<i>Epiphany Celebration</i>	1
<i>H.U.G.S. This Year</i>	1
<i>A Word from our Pastor</i>	2-3
<i>75th Anniversary Save the Dates</i>	3
<i>Uncle Don</i>	4-5
<i>Congregational Retreat</i>	5
<i>75th Anniversary T-Shirts</i>	5
<i>2025 Church Council</i>	6
<i>Sign Up for 2025 Altar Flowers</i>	6
<i>2025 Council Officers &amp; Chairs</i>	7
<i>GSLC Celebrates Two Staff Anniversaries</i>	7
<i>Calendar</i>	8-9
<i>Trip to Little Pigs for POGS</i>	10
<i>January Learning Opportunities</i>	10
<i>WELCA</i>	10
<i>Food Pantry Update</i>	11
<i>Social Ministry Monthly Emphasis</i>	11
<i>November Monthly Emphasis Update</i>	11
<i>Worship Volunteers</i>	12
<i>Thank You</i>	12-13
<i>January Meetings</i>	13
<i>Birthdays</i>	13
<i>Lectionary</i>	14
<i>Prayer Lists</i>	15
<i>Calendar: Upcoming Events</i>	16



## EPIPHANY CELEBRATION CHILI AND CORNBREAD COOK-OFF DINNER AND DEVOTIONAL JANUARY 5, 2025

Join us on Sunday evening, January 5, as we celebrate the visit of the Magi to the manger. The celebration starts at 5:30 p.m. in the FAB with a Chili and Cornbread Cook-Off Dinner. After the meal, there will be a short Epiphany devotional with the singing of *We Three Kings*.

There is a sheet in the Narthex to sign up to bring chili or cornbread for judging or a dessert to share.

***Donations to H.U.G.S. will also be collected that night.***



## DORCAS CIRCLE SPONSORING H.U.G.S. THIS YEAR

We will be collecting clothing like Hats, Underwear, Gloves, and Socks, as well as other warm clothing for the men's and women's shelters in Columbia.

Place your donations in the box outside the Church Office near the Chapel. Volunteers will pack the items and deliver them to the shelters in January.



## A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR



Dear Good Shepherd family,

As we enter a new calendar year together, I pause to reflect on how far we've come together. Five years ago, I was writing my first January newsletter article to you all. Four years ago, we were in the throes of the Covid-19 pandemic and endured many chilly morning worship services in our parking lot together. For the past three Januarys, we've been back indoors together and spent the month of January preparing for our congregational retreats—a feat that seemed impossible in January of 2021!

Of course, there have been many other events and milestones in our time together as pastor and people so far. My first January with you all was a time of excitement as we got to know each other. It was a time of learning for us all and it was a time filled with hope of possibilities—a hope that seemed to be dashed just a couple of months later when we were fated to endure Covid restrictions. The next few years were a time of rebuilding and maintaining a sense of normalcy and stability. We should give thanks for the ways that we have been able to be together and do ministry during this time. The blessing of sharing life, worship, and ministry together should never be taken for granted again.

All that being said, I believe we are at a crossroads as a congregation. We are keenly aware that we are not the same congregation we were five years ago; we are certainly not the same congregation we were fifteen or twenty years ago, and yet we continue in many ways to operate as if we were. Further, we are all aware of changes not only to our church, but to our culture at large—changes that were well underway in the years leading up to the pandemic, but changes which the pandemic accelerated. This includes things like a decrease in church affiliation and attendance, a higher reliance on technology, lessening social and personal connections, and changing priorities. In short, our congregation (like many congregations across many denominations) has continued to try to engage culture the same way we did twenty years ago and have observed diminishing returns on our investments. If good worship, engaging programs, and abundant activities were still sufficient to grow a congregation, we would be seeing the results. Instead, we've seen a decades-long gradual decline in growth. We are not unique in this regard. Other churches and indeed other civic organizations have experienced these shifts, as well.

We are at a crossroads. We can choose to stay on the same path and hope that the path we've been on will lead us where we hope to go despite all signs pointing to the contrary, or we can choose to make some changes. At our January council retreat, I will be addressing this topic with our new council. Together with our staff, the council and I will be working to blaze a new path forward for the congregation. We are blessed to have found some stability post-Covid. That is better than many congregations can say, but it is no longer sufficient. If we are content with standing still, we will fade into irrelevance.

What will this new path look like? It could mean some changes need to be made. We may have to let go of

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some things that no longer bear fruit. The good news is we've already done some of this by choice or because Covid forced our hand, so we're not strangers to this sort of adaptive change. We may also have some exciting new opportunities—again, this has been the case already in our life together and I expect that to continue.

I will lead the council and congregation as we evaluate ways to be more intentional about our life and ministry together. I don't have all the answers, but some markers along such a path toward growth and renewal may look like a greater commitment to individual discipleship—following Jesus' ways and really practicing what we preach: they will know we are Christians because we actually follow and imitate Jesus. Such a new path may look like a greater sense of engagement with our neighbors: they will know we are Christians because we walk together with others hand-in-hand, knowing that we need others as much as they need us. It may look like growing even deeper in relationships not only with Christ and our neighbors, but with one another: they will know we are Christians by our love for one another.

Some of this may be “getting back to the basics” of our faith and life together—the church of yesteryear that many of us knew and loved thrived during a time when it enjoyed a place of priority and privilege in culture and in people's lives. Life and culture have changed and we no longer have those advantages that served the church of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century so well. Yet we do have one thing we've never lost: The presence and power of Christ in our midst. We are going to learn together what it means to follow Christ into new and abundant life this year and beyond. I ask for your prayers, your ideas and dreams, and your support as we take this journey together. I ask you to follow me as your leader during this exciting, but uncertain time. When you called me as pastor, you all sent a clear message: We're ready to move forward. When Covid struck, you sent a clear message: We need to hold together what we can. Now, by how you live and love, send a clear message: We're ready to move forward again.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Andrew



## SAVE THE DATES CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF MINISTRY

**January 31 – February 2, 2025** – Congregational Retreat – Lutheridge.

**February 9, 2025** – 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Charter Signing. Worship at 9:30 a.m. with light refreshments following.

**April 27, 2025** – 4:00 p.m. Spring Festival with music concert.

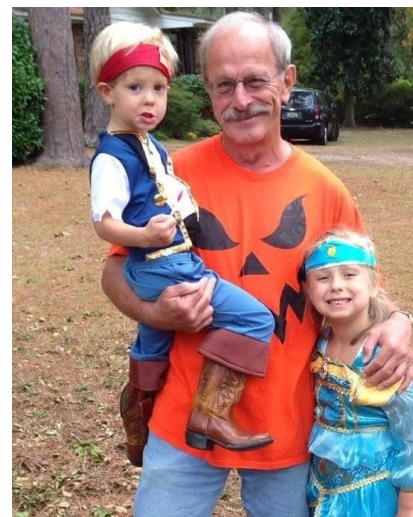
**September 14, 2025** – Homecoming Worship Service at 9:30 a.m. with catered dinner afterwards. Pastor Ron Feltman will be guest preacher.

## UNCLE DON

By: Savannah and Blake Gross

If you've ever been in church to hear a booming voice reading a lesson from the pulpit, you are familiar with someone who is a loyal, dedicated member of Good Shepherd and a faithful man of Christ, Don Caughman.

Don began his journey at Good Shepherd on December 8, 1974, recently celebrating his 50th anniversary at our church. Don grew up going to church, but as many people do, he drifted away when he reached college. When he was in his late 20's, a friend of his had their baby baptized at Good Shepherd, and Don was asked to be their sponsor. He decided to come back for another visit a couple of weeks later, and Pastor Clark contacted him later asking if he would be interested in transferring his membership to Good Shepherd. Don did so, but was not terribly involved in the church at the beginning. Soon after he joined, Carol Mayfield, a devoted member of Good Shepherd, invited Don to Sunday School, which started a snowball effect that led to more and more involvement for him in the Good Shepherd congregation.



During the 1980s Don helped start a Clown Ministry. When Don first heard about Clown Ministry, he found it odd and questioned its efficacy. Upon further examination, he found that dressing up and miming stories and parables was a creative and effective way to spread the word of God. He, along with Nancy Hyatt and other members of the congregation, started the Clown Ministry at Good Shepherd, traveling to other churches to tell stories and teach others about the Bible. Don recalls having an especially fun time recreating the story of the Good Samaritan at a deaf church, saying "It was the most positive response that we had ever gotten."

Behind the scenes, many may not know all that Don has contributed through the years. The fresh coffee that's ready for everyone to enjoy on their stroll to Sunday School? Don takes care of that, and he also cleans the carafe each week. Many youth members of Good Shepherd through the years have enthusiastically checked their mailboxes at every holiday for cards from "Uncle Don," who has served as a Splash sponsor for many children upon their baptisms and continues leading them through their faith journeys for years beyond. Don has worked as a Sunday School teacher and youth leader for many years as well. Our mother, Stacy (Sox) Gross has fond memories of her time in Don's Sunday School classes, saying, "I remember as a teenager being so excited when it was time for Don to teach our classes. He always seemed to be able to relate to us and had a gift for making Scripture relatable to our lives."

Don believes that he has always been called to work with the youth, stating, "I do think that was a calling. I don't know why, and when you get called to things, when you think it's God calling, that's where you should be headed in your life." He says that he has always felt comfortable spending time with the youth, even when people thought he was crazy for volunteering to oversee 7th and 8th graders.

When asked about the changes in the church over time, Don talks about how people have become less

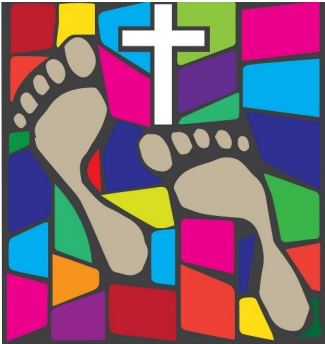
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involved as time has passed, whether their calendars are filled with other obligations or they have simply drifted away. However, he hopes that some of these members will find their way back to Good Shepherd and make it more of a focal point in their lives.

Don's presence and support has led many people through their faith journeys, and he has touched many hearts with his unwavering faith. Since we were babies, "Uncle Don" has been there to guide us through our faith journeys. He has been a constant source of support and encouragement for us in our lives in and outside church. How lucky is the Good Shepherd congregation to have a steadfast, faithful member to lead





## Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 75 Years Walking in the Spirit Congregational Retreat

January 31 – February 2, 2025  
Lutheridge in Arden, NC

Join in our yearlong Anniversary Celebration with fun and fellowship!

Program Presenter: Pastor Drew Yoos

WALKING IN THE SPIRIT

## Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary T-Shirts

Order your Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary t-shirt for \$15.

Order forms are located on the table under the bulletin board in the Narthex.

**Deadline to order t-shirts is January 6.**





## WELCOME 2025 CHURCH COUNCIL

Congratulations to the following members who were elected to serve on Church Council and will begin their two-year term on January 1, 2025: Kate Ferlauto, Sid Havird, Mary Margaret Hoy, and Deb Whitlow. Thank them for their commitment and service.



**Kate Ferlauto** (Gifts Committee Chair) has been a member of Good Shepherd since 1986.

**Sid Havird** (Evangelism Committee Chair) has been a member of Good Shepherd for his entire life. He has been active in the church and served on the church council in the past on various committees. Sid is currently a principal at ARM Environmental Services. He is looking forward to being on the church council and serving as the Evangelism Committee Chair.



**Mary Margaret Hoy** (Social Ministry Committee Chair) has been a member of Good Shepherd for about 15 years when she joined the church with her mother, Judith Hoy, and sister and niece, Barbara and Eden Rowell, because Eden loved the playground. Mary Margaret is active with the choir and tabulating and enjoys the opportunity to play her flute at church sometimes. She retired from Richland District One about 18 months ago but still works part-time for both Richland school districts doing data analysis. She looks forward to working with the Social Ministry Committee in the upcoming year.

**Deborah Whitlow** (Parish Life Committee Chair) has been a member of Good Shepherd, alongside her family, since 2010. While a member of GSLC Deborah has been active in many capacities. She has taught the high school Sunday school class, actively planned and organized a multitude of youth events, co-planned and led the YOGS on their trip to the National Youth Gathering in Houston, TX. She is currently the Student Data Coordinator at Catawba Trail Elementary, where she has been since 2011. She is excited to be involved in the Parish Life Committee and to serve the congregation as a council representative!



## SIGN UP FOR 2025 FLOWERS



The Flower Calendar for 2025 is available to sign up for the dates to offer either Altar Flowers, Narthex Flowers, or the Altar Rose for 2025.

The cost of flowers is as follows: Altar flowers \$85, Narthex Flowers \$55, and the Altar Rose is \$10.

Please call the church office or sign up in the Narthex on the 2025 Flower Chart posted on the **BULLETIN BOARD** if you want to offer flowers for a certain date next year.

**If you do not plan to take the flowers, please let Don Caughman or the office know. Flowers not picked up by mid-day Monday will be taken to shut-ins.**

## 2025 COUNCIL OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS NAMED

At the December 2024 Council meeting, the following were elected Council officers and Committee chairs for 2025.

President	Becky Shealy
Vice President	David Lucas
Secretary	Anna-Marie Plyler
Treasurer	Jan Haigler

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>TERM ENDS</u>
Deb Bodie	Communication	2025
Sid Havird	Evangelism	2026
David Lucas	Finance	2026
Kate Ferlauto	Gifts	2026
Barbara Nagy	Learning	2025
Deb Whitlow	Parish Life	2026
Richard Inman	Property	2025
Mary Margaret Hoy	Social Ministry	2026
Becky Shealy	Worship Life	2026
Chris Herrmann	Youth & Children	2025

An installation service will be held on Sunday, January 5 at the Sunday Worship Service for the new members of the 2025 Council. And a special word of thanks is extended to those whose terms expired at the end of 2024 – Jason Fowler, Carole Sox, and Ed Woodward.

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### GSLC CELEBRATES TWO STAFF ANNIVERSARIES



This month Good Shepherd celebrates the anniversary of Joey Allison as he begins his 32<sup>nd</sup> year of service as Sexton. Deborah Mitchell begins her 7<sup>th</sup> year as Parish Administrator and continues to serve as bookkeeper.

We acknowledge and give thanks for both of these staff members who are dedicated to their commitment to GSLC. They both have used their talents for the good of our congregation. Please take time to acknowledge and thank them for their outstanding service at Good Shepherd.



**SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

- 9:30 am Worship Service (Sanctuary) & Live-Stream
- 10:45 - 11:45 am Adult Sunday School (CL 1, 2, & Parlor)
- 10:45 - 11:45 am Youth Sunday School (Youth Room)
- 10:45 - 11:45 am Confirmation Class (E-112)
- 10:45 - 11:25 am Children's Sunday School (E-111 & E-113)
- 11:25 - 11:45 am Children's Music (E-115)

January 2025



<b>Sun</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tue</b>
<p><b>5 SUNDAY SCHEDULE TIMES ABOVE</b></p> <p><i>5:30 pm Epiphany Celebration Chili &amp; Cornbread Cook-Off Dinner and Devotional (FAB)</i></p>	<b>6</b>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p><i>11:30 am Bible Study (Conf Rm)</i></p> <p><i>4:30 pm 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Task Force meeting (CL 2)</i></p>
<p><b>12 SUNDAY SCHEDULE TIMES ABOVE</b></p>	<b>13</b>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p><i>11:30 am Bible Study (Conf Rm)</i></p> <p><i>3:00 pm Executive Committee meeting (Conf Rm)</i></p> <p><i>6:00 pm [private event] Beta Sigma Phi meeting (Conf Rm)</i></p>
<p><b>19 SUNDAY SCHEDULE TIMES ABOVE</b></p> <p><b>Food Pantry Sunday</b></p> <p><i>6:30 pm Council Meeting (Conf Rm)</i></p>	<b>20</b>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p><i>11:30 am Bible Study (Conf Rm)</i></p>
<p><b>26 SUNDAY SCHEDULE TIMES ABOVE</b></p>	<b>27</b>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p><i>11:30 am Bible Study (Conf Rm)</i></p> <p><i>5:30 pm [private event] Quinine Hill HOA meeting (FAB)</i></p>



Please see an updated church calendar  
and the calendar for other months at  
<http://www.gslc.com/>.

Click "See the Current Calendar" at the  
bottom of the page.

<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
<b>1</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b> <i>No Zoom Bible Study</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>8</b> <i>8:00 am Zoom Bible Study</i>  <i>7:00 pm Choir Practice</i>	<b>9</b> <i>10:00 a.m. Mary Group meeting (FAB)</i>  <i>12:00 pm POGS meet at Little Pigs Barbeque</i>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <i>9:30 am Council Retreat &amp; Orientation (FAB)</i>
<b>15</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> <i>8:00 am Zoom Bible Study</i>  <i>7:00 pm Choir Practice</i>	<b>16</b>  <i>5:30 pm Dorcas meeting (FAB)</i>  <i>6:30 pm Tamar Group (off site)</i>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>22</b> <i>8:00 am Zoom Bible Study</i>  <i>7:00 pm Choir Practice</i>	<b>23</b>  <i>6:00 pm Learning Committee meeting (Conference Room)</i>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>29</b> <i>8:00 am Zoom Bible Study</i>  <i>7:00 pm Choir Practice</i>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <b>GSLC Congregational Retreat (Lutheridge)</b>	<b>Feb 1</b> <b>GSLC Congregational Retreat (Lutheridge)</b>

## TRIP TO LITTLE PIGS FOR POGS

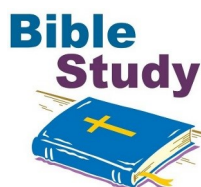
**PATHFINDERS OF GOOD SHEPHERD (POGS)** is sponsoring a trip on Thursday, January 9, 2025, to Little Pigs Barbeque on Alpine Road for lunch. Cost: Buffet meal Dutch treat. Everyone will be meeting at Little Pigs at 12 noon.



## LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

### Sunday School Classes

- 10:45 - 11:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School Classes  
*Around the Corner (Parlor), Come and See (CL 1), and Fellowship (CL 2)*  
 10:45 - 11:45 a.m. Youth Sunday School (Youth Room)  
 10:45 - 11:45 a.m. Confirmation Class (E-112)  
 10:45 - 11:25 a.m. Children's Sunday School (E-111 & E-113)  
 11:25 - 11:45 a.m. Children's Music (E-115)



## WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Meet in the Conference Room on Tuesday mornings at 11:30 a.m. for a Bible Study.

Zoom Bible Study will be led by Pastor Andrew each Wednesday at **8:00 a.m.** A reminder with a meeting link will be sent by email each week.



## WELCA NEWS



- \* Believe it or not we are already working on the 2025 WELCA Yearbook.
- \* It's time to sign up for committees and officers for your Circle for next year!
- \* Please let your Circle leaders know of any changes needed to your information in the yearbook.
- \* We also need Unit Level Committee Chairs and Officers. Let your Circle leaders know if you are interested in any of these.



## FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

The Good Shepherd Food Pantry provided food in November for 42 families serving 143 individuals.

The Good Shepherd Food Pantry provided food in December for 27 families serving 92 individuals.

## SOCIAL MINISTRY MONTHLY EMPHASIS

The Woodyard Fund is the Social Ministry emphasis for January at Good Shepherd. A joint project of The State newspaper and The Salvation Army, the Woodyard Fund helps residents in crisis in Richland, Lexington, Newberry and Fairfield counties pay utilities bills. Applicants are vetted and must meet certain criteria to receive aid. Eligible households get vouchers redeemable at businesses that provide heating services. The Salvation Army reimburses the businesses for the voucher amounts. The fund dates to 1816, when the Ladies Benevolent Society provided firewood and coal to families in need in Columbia. In 1930, The State newspaper began publicizing the fund each winter. Good Shepherd has supported the fund for many years. For the last 2 years, we have donated over \$2,400 to the fund. If you'd like to support this effort, you may contribute any time during January by putting your donation in the offering plate on Sunday mornings, or by sending it to the church office. Checks should be made payable to Good Shepherd and designated for The Woodyard Fund.

## NOVEMBER MONTHLY EMPHASIS UPDATE

The "Monthly Emphasis" for November was the Angel Food Pantry at the VA Dorn Medical Center. A generous donation of \$790 was received to help support the Food Pantry. Cathy Milejczak shopped for the food items to be donated with the help of JP, the grocery manager at Publix at Trenholm Plaza. The items were delivered to the VA's volunteer center and received by Shannon Stone, Voluntary Service Specialist with Veterans Health Administration. The donated items will serve veterans coming to the Dorn Center and the homeless veterans in the area. Shannon was very excited about the items we delivered as it included many of the favorites items the veterans like!



## WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR JANUARY

**COUNCIL PERSON OF THE MONTH: DEB WHITLOW**

DATE	1/5/25	1/12/25	1/19/25	1/26/25	2/2/25
<b>USHERS</b>	Wade Wingard, Rod Kent, Mike Weaver, Rebecca Richardson, Ben Haigh	Wade Wingard, Rod Kent, Mike Weaver, Rebecca Richardson	Wade Wingard, Mike Weaver, Rebecca Richardson, Mary Aitchison, Ben Haigh	Wade Wingard, Mike Weaver, Rebecca Richardson, Mary Aitchison	Mary Stallings, Pat Quattebaum, Alice Buckner, Marion Eargle, Marcia Woodward, Chris Herrmann, Dick Sturkie, Sid Havird, Matthew Herrmann
<b>WORSHIP ASSISTANTS</b>	Lector: Alice Buckner Communion Assistant: Gaye Tucker	Lector & Communion Assistant: Suzanne Sanders	Lector & Communion Assistant: Stacy Gross	Lector & Communion Assistant: Charlene Fink	Lector & Communion Assistant: TBD
<b>ACOLYTE &amp; CRUCIFER</b>	A: Adam Ortiz C: Evelyn Ortiz	A: Natalie Ferlauto C: Lucas Ferlauto	A: Madelyn Snodgrass C: Amanda Snodgrass	A: Callen Gilbert C: Mike Sanchez	A: Blake Gross C: Savannah Gross
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Janet Lockhart, Elaine Zornow	Janet Lockhart, Elaine Zornow	Janet Lockhart, Elaine Zornow	Janet Lockhart, Elaine Zornow	Becky Shealy, Pat Quattlebaum
<b>TABULATORS</b>	Rebecca Richardson, Donna Foster	David Lucas, Mike Sanchez	Mary Margaret Hoy, Mary Stallings	Karen Lucas, Jim Tucker	Steve Steck, Lavina Chandler

## THANK YOU

WELCA Food Group,

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the two delicious meals you provided to my family at Margaret and David's funerals. Your thoughtfulness meant a lot to my family during these sad times. It brought a smile to our hearts.

Thank you,  
Jack Reynolds & Family  
The family of Margaret and David Hill

I want to thank Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and Pastor Andrew for all the spoken and unspoken prayers and support during my surgery and hospital stay at Palmetto Richland. I am truly grateful.

Sincerely,  
Peter Zornow

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the extra special gifts this year. Your belief in us is a gift. The gift cards are always a wonderful and exciting gift for our ladies. Hope for a Merry Christmas & Joyful New Year!

Our gratitude,  
The Women's Shelter

*(Continued on page 13)*

(Continued from page 12)

## THANK YOU

Dear Good Shepherd Lutheran Church:

I am writing on behalf of Camp Cole to thank you for your kind support and your donation of \$517.10 in support of our organization. Thanks to your support, we are able to continue our mission of serving as Columbia's first overnight camp and retreat center for children and adults with disabilities, illnesses, and other life challenges. We know that our efforts are only possible because of the contributions we receive from generous donors like you, and we thank you again for believing in and supporting our mission.

To Shining a Light for Others,  
Camp Cole

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Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your kind donation of \$3,335.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response Carolinas. We are beyond grateful for your generous spirit. Your donation will go to support those within both Carolinas who have been affected by Hurricane Helene.

With thanks and blessings,  
Rev. Emily Lemoine  
LDR Carolinas

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Dear Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,

I extend my sincere gratitude for your generous donation of \$1,320.00 to Senior Resources, Inc. on Tuesday, November 19. Your commitment is instrumental in enhancing the lives of our senior neighbors, enabling them to age gracefully in the comfort of their own homes.

Thank you for all that you do for our senior neighbors!

Sincerely,  
Andrew Boozer, Executive Director  
Senior Resources

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS (ACCORDING TO CHURCH RECORDS)

- 1 Donna Haigh
- 1 Rachel Richardson
- 2 Susan Weaver
- 4 Chandler Ford
- 5 Eden Rowell
- 6 Pat Quattlebaum
- 7 John Allen
- 7 Penny Pedersen
- 7 Shane Porter
- 11 Joey Allison
- 11 Larry Robinson
- 12 Greg Sox
- 16 Ansley Seay
- 18 Adams Smith
- 18 Kitty Howard
- 18 Michael Stallings
- 18 Rosemary Nance
- 19 Alycia Fortner
- 19 Maddie Boozer
- 20 John Van Duys
- 20 Preston Haigh
- 22 Brooke Grosh
- 23 Jamie Sanders
- 23 Phyllis Nilson
- 24 Matthew Herrmann
- 24 Silas Holmes
- 26 Stacy Gross
- 27 Kathie Aller
- 30 Rosemary Shuping
- 31 Bobbie Storey

### JANUARY 2025 MEETINGS

***Since some of the committee chairs were rotating off council, committee meetings were not carried over to the new year. Please call the church office to reserve a room for any upcoming meetings.***

- January 2 Mary Group (10:00 a.m.)
- January 11 Council Retreat & Orientation (9:30 a.m.)
- January 14 Executive Committee (3:00 p.m.)
- January 16 Dorcus Group (5:30 p.m.)
- January 16 Tamar Group (6:30 p.m.)
- January 19 Council (6:30 p.m.)
- January 23 Learning Committee (6:00 p.m.)



## LECTIONARY FOR JANUARY 2025

### January 5 – Second Sunday of Christmas

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

#### **First Reading – Jeremiah 31:7-14**

*God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gift of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.*

#### **Psalm – Psalm 147:12-20**

*Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion. (Ps. 147:12)*

#### **Second Reading – Ephesians 1:3-14**

*In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made know as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.*

#### **Gospel – John 1:1-18**

*John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.*

### January 12 – Baptism of Our Lord

Today's festival rejoices in God's blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire." On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God's Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.

#### **First Reading – Isaiah 43:1-7**

*Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring the people home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.*

#### **Psalm – Psalm 23**

*The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. (Ps. 29:3)*

#### **Second Reading – Acts 8:14-17**

*Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.*

#### **Gospel – Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

*The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.*

### January 19 – Second Sunday after Epiphany

The Sundays after Epiphany continue to celebrate the revelation of God's glory to us as it was made known to the magi and to those on Jordan's banks at Jesus' baptism—today using wedding imagery. Our God rejoices over God's people as those being married rejoice over one another. By the power of the Spirit there are gifts galore for everyone. In Christ Jesus the best wine is saved for last. Taste and see.

#### **First Reading – Isaiah 62:1-5**

*The people's return to Judah after the exile was marred by economic and political troubles. Nevertheless, the prophet declares, Jerusalem and Judah will be restored. God will rejoice over Jerusalem as a bridegroom rejoices over the bride, and the people are called to the celebration.*

#### **Psalm – Psalm 36:5-10**

*We feast upon the abundance of your house, O Lord. (Ps. 36:8)*

#### **Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 12:1-11**

*The congregation at Corinth experienced division as people were comparing their spiritual gifts, thinking some to be superior to others. Paul invites this fractured community to trust that God's Holy Spirit has gifted them all perfectly for their mission together.*

#### **Gospel – John 2:1-11**

*Turning water to wine at the wedding at Cana is described as the first of Jesus' signs. Through many such epiphanies, Jesus reveals that he bears God's creative power and joyful presence into the world.*

### January 26 – Third Sunday after Epiphany

God's glory is revealed in the reading of scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of God's glory. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory of God.

#### **First Reading – Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10**

*The exiles have returned and rebuilt Jerusalem. Now Ezra, the priest, reads the law of Moses to them in the public square. When they hear it, they weep for their sins and for the long years in exile, but Ezra reminds them that "the joy of the LORD is your strength."*

#### **Psalm – Psalm 19**

*The teaching of the LORD revives the soul. (Ps. 19:7)*

#### **Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a**

*The apostle and pastor Paul uses the metaphor of the human body to describe how intimately connected we are in the church. For this struggling congregation in Corinth, Paul delivers a vital message of unity that is a mark of the church today.*

#### **Gospel – Luke 4:14-21**

*Near the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, he visits his hometown of Nazareth. In the words of Isaiah, he states and claims his identity, purpose, and mission.*

## WITH PRAYER

<i>Carolyn Adams</i>	<i>Lavina Chandler</i>	<i>Trisha Holman</i>	<i>Michele Morrison</i>
<i>Joey Allison</i>	<i>Cheryl Christian</i>	<i>Kitty Howard</i>	<i>Joann Nagy</i>
<i>Gwen Barnes</i>	<i>Dot Correll</i>	<i>Judy Hoy</i>	<i>Gloria Oakes</i>
<i>Trisha Benson</i>	<i>Sylvia Anne Derrick</i>	<i>Sara Hydrick</i>	<i>Justine Parker</i>
<i>Grace Boozer</i>	<i>Marianne De Werdt</i>	<i>Jeannine Jameson</i>	<i>Frances Plyler</i>
<i>Steve Bowden</i>	<i>Lena Duncan</i>	<i>Billie Jones</i>	<i>Verna Sawyer</i>
<i>Victoria Brown</i>	<i>Larry Evans</i>	<i>Lisa Lehman</i>	<i>Barbara Sutton</i>
<i>Rosemarie Brown</i>	<i>Violet Fetner</i>	<i>Sara Loyd</i>	<i>Bubba Willis</i>
<i>Alice Buckner</i>	<i>Bob Fortner</i>	<i>Mary Clare McAbee</i>	<i>Elaine Zornow</i>
<i>Charles Buckner</i>	<i>Bonnie Hammond</i>	<i>Evelyn McGuage</i>	<i>Peter Zornow</i>

### PLEASE UPDATE THE PRAYER LIST

Those who have requested friends and loved ones to be included on the prayer list, please contact Deborah Mitchell in the church office at parishadmin@gslc.com or (803) 787-4413 **to renew your request or add prayer concerns by the newsletter deadline of each month.**

**You may call or email anytime to remove a name.**

**Please do not assume that we know the name should be renewed or removed.**



## RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

<i>Beckham Family—friends of Lawson-Nabors family</i>	<i>Barbara Reese—friend of Justine Parker &amp; Joyce Moble</i>
<i>Robin Boggs—daughter of Anne Rush</i>	<i>Henry Richardson—father of Amanda Snodgrass</i>
<i>Ross Boheler—father of Ty Boheler</i>	<i>Dick Sanders—father-in-law of Suzanne Sanders</i>
<i>Cameron Browder—grandson of Frances Plyler's friend</i>	<i>Sharon Schulze—friend of Sandy Gundlach</i>
<i>Allie Clark—friend of Betty Cox</i>	<i>Joanne Schweitzer—sister of Mary Clare McAbee</i>
<i>Betty Cox—former member</i>	<i>Martha Sigmon</i>
<i>Landon Derrick—friend of Amanda Snodgrass</i>	<i>Smith Family—friends of the Lawson-Nabors Family</i>
<i>Sally Elliott—mother of Lee Elliott (loss of husband)</i>	<i>Harry Swindler—father of Penny Sox and grandpa of Stacy Gross</i>
<i>Idona Erwin—friend of member</i>	<i>Phyllis Tollison—mother of Phil Tollison</i>
<i>Torin Otto Fessler—grandson of Susan Uehling</i>	<i>Joey Turner—college friend of Trisha Benson</i>
<i>John Flitter—friend of Leigh Tondini</i>	<i>Richard Wall—neighbor of Barbara Nagy</i>
<i>Sarah Harmon—friend of Anna Lawson</i>	<i>Gayle Watts—friend of Leigh Tondini</i>
<i>Forrest Hinebaugh—father of Elaine Zornow</i>	<i>Danny and Joey Wheeler—cousins of Jason Fowler</i>
<i>David Hinshaw—Deb Embrey's nephew</i>	<i>Tom White—friend of Frances Plyler</i>
<i>Frank Hinshaw—Deb Embrey's nephew</i>	<i>Shirley Zornow—mother of Peter Zornow</i>
<i>Steve Johnson—friend of Wade Wingard</i>	
<i>Tiffany Kent—daughter of Rod Kent</i>	
<i>Kathy Killian—sister of Bobbie Storey</i>	
<i>Sylvia Livingston—mother of Cheryl Beaman</i>	
<i>Chris Powell—husband of Debi Powell</i>	

**Office Information**

http://www.gslc.com

**Hours:** Mon–Thurs. 9 AM-4:30 PM;

Fri. 9 AM-2:00 PM

**Phone:** (803) 787-4413

**Pastor**

Reverend Andrew Isenhower

**Parish Administrator**

Deborah Mitchell

**Director of Music**

Jim Johnson

**Organist/Music Associate**

Susan Sturkie

**Sexton**

Joey Allison

**Financial Secretary**

Deb Embrey

**Council President**

Becky Shealy

**Council Vice-President**

David Lucas

**Secretary**

Anna-Marie Plyler

**Treasurer**

Jan Haigler

**Committee/Council Member**

Communication/**Deb Bodie**

Evangelism/**Sid Havird**

Finance/**David Lucas**

Gifts/**Kate Ferlauto**

Learning/**Barbara Nagy**

Parish Life/**Deb Whitlow**

Property/**Richard Inman**

Social Ministry/**Mary Margaret Hoy**

Worship Life/**Becky Shealy**

Youth & Children/**Chris Herrmann**

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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**DELIVERY REQUESTED BY**  
**January 2, 2025**  
**DATED INFORMATION ENCLOSED**



**Sunday Schedule**

- 9:30 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School (CL 1, 2, & Parlor)
- 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. Youth Sunday School (Youth Room)
- 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. Confirmation Class (E-112)
- 10:45 – 11:25 a.m. Children’s Sunday School (E-111 & E-113)
- 11:25 – 11:45 a.m. Children’s Music (E-115)

- January 5 **Sunday Schedule Listed Above**  
**5:30 p.m. Epiphany Celebration**  
**Chili & Cornbread Cook-Off (FAB)**
- January 8 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice
- January 9 12:00 noon POGS meet at Little Pigs Barbeque
- January 12 **Sunday Schedule Listed Above**
- January 15 **February Newsletter Deadline**  
7:00 p.m. Choir Practice
- January 19 **Food Pantry Sunday**  
**Sunday Schedule Listed Above**
- January 22 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice
- January 26 **Sunday Schedule Listed Above**
- January 29 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice
- Jan 31-Feb 2 Congregational Retreat (Lutheridge)