

GOOD SHEPHERD STAFF

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Newsletter February 2026

2026, ISSUE 2

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SOUPER BOWL OF CARING FEBRUARY 8

The Souper Bowl of Caring collection is Sunday, February 8. Monetary donations will be collected after the Worship Service. Monies will go to our GSLC Food Pantry.



SHROVE TUESDAY

JOIN US FOR SHROVE TUESDAY! FEBRUARY 17 5:30 P.M.

Hold onto your spatulas folks, because it's almost time for our Annual Shrove Tuesday celebration!

Shrove Tuesday is the traditional feast day before the penitential season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. Historically, it was a time to use up rich foods like butter, eggs, and milk in preparation for fasting, making it the perfect excuse for a pancake supper! Join us for a festive night of food, fun, and community as we gather to reflect on all that Christ has done and prepare our hearts for Lent.

Event Details

Date: Tuesday, February 17

Time: 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Location: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church FAB

Cost: This is a free event, but a freewill donation is welcome.

What to Expect

Delicious Food: Enjoy an all-you-can-eat pancake bar with a variety of rich toppings, savory sausages, and other sides!

Fellowship: A wonderful opportunity to connect with friends, family, and fellow members of our congregation.

Bingo: We'll have fun playing BINGO with prizes for the winners!

Please contact Ben Haigh if you would like to volunteer or donate prizes. If you don't see him, you can contact him at benjamin.haigh@yahoo.com or 803-528-5350, thanks!



A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Good Shepherd Family,

I encourage you all to embrace the practices of Lent, which begins on **Ash Wednesday, February 18**. The practices of Lent—**prayer, fasting, and almsgiving**—are intended to create a time in which we can deepen our faith. By being more intentional about prayer, abstaining from excess, and giving sacrificially, we mirror the life of Christ.

Jesus' own life sets the pattern for us. Just as he spent 40 days in the wilderness prior to his ministry, our Lenten season is 40 days long (excluding Sundays). This season prepares us for the celebration of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday. We begin with a posture of solemn penitence and self-abasement, wearing ashes to remind ourselves of our mortality. Yet, those ashes are marked in the shape of a cross to remind us that God sees us, loves us, and calls us to new and abundant life.

While we will have many opportunities to reflect on Lent over the coming weeks, I want us to take a moment to think about the time leading up to Lent. Have you ever wondered why Ash Wednesday is preceded by a day called Shrove Tuesday?

The word “shrove” is the past tense of the verb “to shrive,” which means to forgive or absolve someone’s sins. Historically, Christians would spend the week leading up to Lent focused on confession and ridding their homes of foods that were off-limits during the fast—specifically rich items like eggs, dairy, and fat.

To avoid waste, families would use up these perishable goods by making pancakes. Over time, this became a beloved global tradition. While we may now buy extra ingredients specifically for our celebration, the original intent remains a beautiful lesson: to cleanse the home as well as the heart, removing the “excess and fluff” that distracts us from our spiritual discipline.

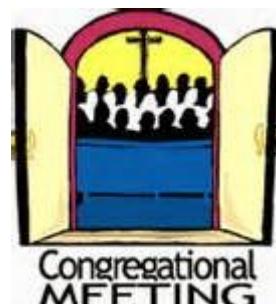
Please join us this **Shrove Tuesday, February 17**, to share in this tradition. Let us prepare our hearts, minds, and bodies for the coming fast, so that on Easter morning, we may come to the feast with joy and thanksgiving.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Andrew



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 22

The 2026 Annual Congregational Meeting to conduct the church’s business will be held on Sunday, February 22, 2026, at the 9:30 a.m. Worship Service. We will vote on the 2025 Annual Report for Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.





Music Notes

**SAVE THE DATE
MUSIC FESTIVAL
SUNDAY, APRIL 19
4:00 P.M. IN THE SANCTUARY**

On the Sunday after Easter last spring the 75th anniversary committee sponsored a Music Festival featuring the performing talents of members of Good Shepherd. We had 11 performers and between 60 and 70 in attendance and it was both great fun and a great way to celebrate the 75th anniversary year. After many requests to repeat this event, we have decided to have another Music Festival this coming April 19, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. Whether you are a potential performer or an audience member please put this in your calendar now. Music Director, Jim Johnson, will be in contact with those who performed last year and potential new performers early in the new year. We have a lot of very talented musicians at Good Shepherd. We look forward to another musical celebration in April.



**GOOD SHEPHERD
CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT**

Walking in the Spirit—Pass it on!

Lutheridge Spring 2026

April 24-26, 2026

Registration forms are in the Narthex.

Mark your calendars!

A deposit of 1/2 will hold your spot and then you may divide your payments. You may pay online or put the form and money in the offering plate. If you pay online, you will still need to turn in a registration form.





Ash Wednesday Services

Wednesday, February 18
12 noon and 7:00 p.m.

LENTEN SERVICES
12 noon and 6:30 p.m.
February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25



LENTEN/HOLY WEEK/EASTER WORSHIP

The theme this year is: ***The Fold and the Field: Finding Rest, Seeking the Weary***. We will focus on receiving and sharing the love and care of Jesus, our Good Shepherd.. Please note that noon and 6:30 p.m. services will be in the FAB. There will be a meal served following the noon services and at 5:30 p.m. prior to the evening services. The meal after the noon Lenten Service for the March 10 lunch will be hosted by POGS. You will need to make a reservation for the POGS luncheon by completing the bulletin insert no later than Sunday, March 8.

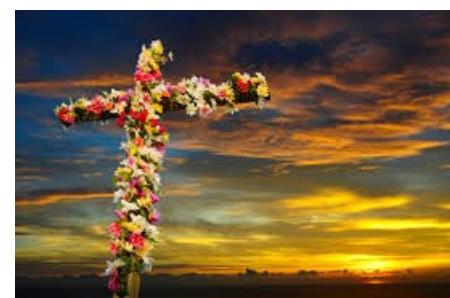


HOLY WEEK

HOLY WEEK SERVICES
Maundy Thursday, April 2
at 7:00 p.m.
First communion for eligible children.
Contact Pastor Andrew if you are interested.
Good Friday, April 3
at 7:00 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES, APRIL 5

Sunrise Service at 7:00 a.m.
8:15 – 9:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast in FAB
Service at 9:30 a.m.



LENTEN SELF-DENIAL OFFERING

The recipients of this year's Lenten Self-Denial Offerings will be three local organizations that help individuals get back on their feet and become self-sufficient: Homeless No More, The Providence Home, and The Women's Shelter.

MY LENTEN SELF-DENIAL OFFERING

Our Lenten theme this year is "Extraordinary Grace." Please use this daily calendar to help you practice encountering Christ and denying yourself by making a daily offering during our Lenten season.

Our Self-Denial Lenten Offering this year will go to **Homeless No More, The Providence Home for Men, and The Women's Shelter**. These envelopes may be placed in the baskets in the narthex during any of our Holy Week services, just as the offering plate is mailed or brought to the church office.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			Mar 5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	April 1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19



Holy Week

Name: _____ Amount: _____ Envelope #: _____

Homeless No More offers a spectrum of care – from emergency services to transitional and affordable housing – to keep families together and meet their needs at the right time with the right services. By providing the support to move each family toward a permanent, self-sufficient solution, they work to eradicate family homelessness and help parents and their children achieve lasting independence.

The Providence Home for Men is a Christ-based "place of new beginnings" for men. It offers a temporary home for men in life transitions or recovery. Providence's programs help men renew mind, spirit and body; seek reconciliation with family, friends and neighbors; and reintegrate fully into the community.

The Women's Shelter has been an integral part of the Columbia Community for over 30 years. As a part of the Providence Home Organization from 1976 until 1991, the shelter served homeless men, women, and children in the community. In 1991, The Women's Shelter formed a separate, private nonprofit organization from the Providence Home, in order to carry out a comprehensive ministry specific to homeless women. The changing needs of homeless women have required The Women's Shelter to adapt its programs over the years. They strive to offer more than a bed and something to eat as a means to provide lasting change in the lives of their residents. The Women's Shelter offers a variety of educational and support programs to women and families in need.

Traditionally during Lent we give up material things to focus our attention on God's spiritual gifts and to provide aid to the poor. You will be receiving a special offering envelope in the mail so you can make daily offerings throughout the Lenten season. You are invited to return your offering envelope during Holy Week. Our Lenten Offerings go to local charities that assist homeless individuals and families: Homeless No More, Providence Home for Men, and The Women's Shelter.

JUST FOR ME KITS!

The Tamar Group here at Good Shepherd is collecting hygiene and comfort care items for elementary, middle and high school aged children who are entering foster care with [Lutheran Services Carolinas](#).

We need regular/full size, new and unopened:

3 in 1 Body Wash, Shampoo and Conditioner

Facial cleanser



Deodorant

Hand sanitizer

Lotion



Menstrual hygiene items

Combs, brushes and hair picks



Colored pencils & age-appropriate coloring books

Stuffed animals



Personal throw blankets

Fidget toys & small games

Please bring donations to the Narthex through February 15.

Questions?

Contact Leigh Ann Tollison 803-546-0257

SAVE THE DATE

WELCA RETREAT / PRAYER BREAKFAST

Location: Camp Kinard
Batesburg-Leesville SC

Check In: Friday, August 28 at 4 p.m.
Check Out: Sunday, August 30 at 11 a.m.



WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES

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

WEDNESDAY VIRTUAL BIBLE STUDY

Join us virtually on Wednesdays at 8:15 a.m.
for a Microsoft Teams meeting.
A link is sent in a weekly email on Tuesdays.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

HELP WANTED — INVEST IN THE FUTURE!

Do you ever wonder what the Church will look like many years from now? You can get a glimpse into the future by volunteering as a Children's Sunday School Helper! No preparation is needed--just come spend time in the class and lend a hand as needed. If you are willing to come help one or more Sundays, please contact Lisa Sanchez by email (mikelisasanchez@gmail.com), phone **803-736-2070** (leave a message if no answer) or text **803-463-5754**. A small amount of your time will make a BIG difference.



Sunday School Classes

10:45 - 11:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School Classes
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)
11:05 - 11:20 a.m. Preschool Children's Music (E-115)
11:25 - 11:45 a.m. Children's Music (E-115)

COME & SEE SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS COURSE

On January 25, 2026, the Come & See Sunday School class is beginning an 18-week study based on the *Driving Thru History with David Stotts – the Gospels* series. Dave shares the story of Jesus from over 50 ancient sites recorded in the Gospels to deliver the Gospel message in a fresh, compelling way.

These 18 action-packed episodes delve into the history, archeology, geography, and art surrounding the birth, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Each episode is scripturally grounded as Dave uncovers empirical evidence for the truth of scripture.

Each episode of about 30 minutes will be followed by discussion of the key events. Please join us on this journey that follows the footsteps of Jesus.

The Come & See class meets in Classroom 1 underneath the Sanctuary.

FROM THE YOUTH & CHILDREN COMMITTEE

Happy New Year! We are thrilled to see what 2026 has in store for our congregation. As we grow, we are looking for passionate individuals to join our committee and help shape our upcoming programs. If you feel called to serve, please reach out to **Ben Haigh** at 803-528-5350 or benjamin.haigh@yahoo.com. We look forward to welcoming new voices to the team!

SOCIAL MINISTRY MONTHLY EMPHASIS

The Woodyard Fund is the GSLC Social Ministry emphasis for February (extended from last month) because the Social Ministry committee wants to continue to emphasize the needs in our community for utilities and housing services. Historically, the Woodyard Fund has been managed by The Salvation Army and has helped residents in crisis in Richland, Lexington, Newberry, Kershaw, and Fairfield counties pay utilities bills. The fund dates to 1816 when the Ladies Benevolent Society provided firewood and coal to families in need in Columbia. Currently, The Salvation Army is revitalizing this historic fund with the community's support, expanding from utility assistance to a holistic approach that provides family stability. Each household is carefully screened, and eligible families receive vouchers for housing services, ensuring immediate, practical help when it's needed most. To assist with this effort that Good Shepherd has supported for many years, you may contribute any time during February 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.



FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

The Good Shepherd Food Pantry provided food in December for 61 families serving 195 individuals.

SOCIAL MINISTRY GIVING UPDATE

Thanks so much to all who participated in the December social ministry opportunities for Good Shepherd! GSLC provided bell ringers on Saturday, December 13 at Lowes Foods on Forest Drive to help raise money for The Salvation Army. The congregation provided monetary donations and purchased gift cards for our GSLC Angel Tree to provided \$25 gift cards to 73 men and women at the Providence Home and Women's Shelter for a total of \$1,800.00. Your giving of time and funds is always appreciated and shows just how much we care for our neighbors around us!



Fun Fridays



Friday, February 13, 2026
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
In the FAB
(Fellowship Activities Building)

All are welcome to HELP at Fun Fridays,
a recreational outing for adults
who are developmentally handicapped.

Serve Food & Clean-up Kitchen (minimal).

Help with Crafts (Cut & Paste, Color, Easy).

Help with Games (Easy) & Bingo (Pictures).

Sing Songs.

Talk with our guests.

Have Fun Yourself.

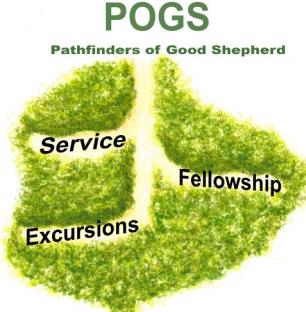
Contact Susan Sturkie at sloopystur@aol.com
or (803) 788-6807
for more information and to sign up.

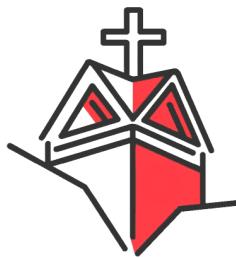
PATHFINDERS OF GOOD SHEPHERD (POGS)

FEBRUARY 11

12:00 NOON IN THE FAB

Karen Lucas and Barbara Nagy will be hosting.
Details to follow.
Come for lunch and fellowship with us.





February 2026

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday Lenten SERVICES

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- 9:30 am Worship Service (Sanctuary) & Live-Stream
- 10:45 - 11:45 am Adult Sunday School (CL 1 & 2)
- 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)
- 11:05 - 11:20 am Preschool Music (E-115)
- 11:25 - 11:45 am Children's Music (E-115)

Sun	Mon	Tue
1 SUNDAY SCHEDULE TIMES ABOVE	2	3 11:30 am Bible Study (Conf Rm)
8 SUNDAY SCHEDULE TIMES ABOVE 	9 5:00 pm Parish Life Committee meeting (CL 2) 5:30 pm [private event] Beta Sigma Phi meeting (Conf Rm)	10 11:30 am Bible Study (Conf Rm) 5:00 pm Finance Committee meeting (CL 2) 5:00 pm Congregational Retreat planning meeting (Conf Rm)
15 SUNDAY SCHEDULE TIMES ABOVE Food Pantry Sunday Newsletter Deadline	16	17 11:30 am Bible Study (Conf Rm) 3:00 pm Executive Committee meeting (Conf Rm) 5:30 pm Shrove Tuesday (FAB)
22 SUNDAY SCHEDULE TIMES ABOVE Congregational Meeting 6:30 pm Council Meeting (Conf Rm)	23	24 11:30 am Bible Study (Conf Rm)



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.

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 8:15 am Virtual Bible Study 5:30 pm Communication Committee meeting 7:00 pm Choir Practice	5 Mary Group meeting (off-site)	6	7
11 8:15 am Virtual Bible Study 12:00 pm Pathfinders of Good Shepherd (POGS) lunch & meeting (FAB) 3:00 pm Worship Life Committee meeting (CL 2) 5:30 pm WELCA Board mtg (Parlor) 7:00 pm Choir Practice	12 Set up for Fun Fridays (FAB)	13 6:00-9:00 pm Fun Fridays (FAB)	14
18 Ash Wednesday 8:15 am Virtual Bible Study 12:00 noon Ash Wednesday Service (Sanctuary) 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service (Sanctuary)	19 11:30 am Dorcas Group meeting (FAB) 5:30 pm Tamar Group meeting (FAB)	20	21
25 8:15 am Virtual Bible Study 12:00 noon Lenten Service (FAB) 12:45 pm Lenten meal following service (FAB) 5:30 pm Lenten meal (FAB) 6:30 pm Lenten Service (FAB) 7:15 pm Choir Practice	26	27	



Epiphany

Celebration

Chili and Cornbread



Dinner & Devotional



H.U.G.S Collection

January 11, 2026



*Thank you to our Magi: Ben Haigh,
Mark "Smitty" Smith, Richard Inman.*



Foundation Thank Yous

Dear Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Foundation,

Thank you for your gifts to Newberry College for our Pipe Organ Restoration Fund and Campus Ministry food pantry. Your generous support provides immediate, meaningful impacts on our students. You are the reason Newberry College is consistently, regionally ranked for value and social mobility.

Sincerely,

Bill Nash

Newberry College

Institutional Advancement

Dear Friends at Good Shepherd Foundation,

Thank you so very much for this incredible grant to help us provide our services to families that need us most. I have enjoyed getting to know your congregation and am so appreciative of your love and support. Please come to visit us sometime!

Dawn Darby

The Therapy Place

Thank you for your unwavering support and for standing with us as we serve families in our community. Your kindness brings hope throughout the year.

Elizabeth Padget

Family Promise

Dear Members of the Good Shepherd,

Thank you for your continued support of Family Promise. Your monetary assistance and exceptional volunteers have made such an important difference in the life of many families. Although the model for this meaningful effort has changed dramatically over the years, the mission remains strong.

The current Family Promise model has established Eastminster Presbyterian, Ebenezer Lutheran, and Good Shepherd Lutheran as a servant team for the month of February 2026. Your generous contribution will allow us to provide special activities and food for the families being served by Family Promise during that time. Your funding will also allow us to make direct contributions for housing and other needs throughout the year.

Thank you again for your gracious willingness to support the mission of Family Promise of the Midlands which is “to help families experiencing homelessness in their quest to achieve sustainable independence.” Through our continued partnership families are continuing to achieve both financial and life goals.

Blessings in His name,

Elizabeth Padget

Co-coordinator Family Promise

Ebenezer Lutheran Church

Foundation Thank Yous

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$3,000.00 to the Palm & Pine Annual Fund, received on 12/8/2025. Because of your kindness, Camp Kinard and Coastal Retreat continue to serve as holy spaces where people of all ages can find rest, renewal, and deeper faith amid God's glorious creation.

Your support helps individuals -young and old- discover grounding at camp, seek fresh purpose along the seashore, and experience the warmth of community and prayerful reflection at both of our centers. We are grateful for your belief in our ministry, ensuring that the South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers remain havens of hope, fellowship, and growth.

Thank you again for your generous support!

With gratitude,

Deacon Dallas, J. Shealy

Dear Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,

I will be honest, 13 years ago when I left Oliver Gospel Mission and launched this unproven outreach effort, I was terrified. It was truly my "first rodeo." But after just one night of intense prayer and contemplation, I knew what I needed to do. I knew I needed to serve those most desperately in need: The shelterLESS homeless who have not as much as a temporary roof over their head. And I needed to do WITHOUT REGARD to their religious affiliation or lack thereof, gender, social status, sexual orientation, etc. In other words, reach those on the true FRINGE of society. In my humble estimation I felt this focus was more along the lines of the apostolic Christian church in the first century. And it was a Huge need in the Midlands.

None of this...NONE...would have been possible, nor could continue the success of this homeless outreach mission without your generosity.

Please let this letter serve as an unconditional statement of my gratitude to you on my behalf, and on the behalf of those truly representing "the least of these."

Gratefully,

James "Bubba" Cromer

Candyman Homeless Outreach

Dear Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Foundation,

Thank you so much for your generous donation to Camp Cole! 2025 has been nothing short of magical where we were able to service over 600 campers facing 118 different illnesses, disabilities and life challenges. We are so proud of what we have accomplished this year and because of you, we can continue serving more campers and partner organizations throughout 2026. We appreciate you supporting our mission and being a difference-maker in the lives of these children and teens.

Shine on!

The Camp Cole Team

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR FEBRUARY

COUNCIL PERSON OF THE MONTH: SID HAVIRD

DATE	2/1	2/8	2/15	2/22	3/1
GREETER	Debi Powell	Karen Lucas	Nancy Hyatt	Frances Plyler	Bud DePriest
USHERS	Chris Herrmann, Dick Sturkie, Sid Havird, Marcia Woodward	Chris Herrmann, Sid Havird, Marcia Woodward, Pat Quattlebaum	Sid Havird, Alice Buckner, Marion Eargle, Pat Quattlebaum	Chris Herrmann, Dick Sturkie, Alice Buckner, Marion Eargle	Sox Team
WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	Lector & Communion Assistant: Barbara Rowell	Lector: Cindy Cummings Communion Assistant: Joey Allison	Lector: Barbara Nagy Communion Assistant: Gaye Tucker	Lector & Communion Assistant: Jan Haigler	Lector: Gloria Oakes Communion Assistant: Suzanne Sanders
ACOLYTE & CRUCIFER	A: Jackson Nabors C: Blake Gross	A: William Snodgrass C: Amanda Snodgrass	A: Anna-Marie Plyler C: Mike Sanchez	A: Callen Gilbert C: Stacy Gross	A: Jackson Nabors C: Adam Ortiz
ALTAR GUILD	Verna Sawyer, Sue O'Cain	Verna Sawyer, Sue O'Cain	Verna Sawyer, Sue O'Cain	Verna Sawyer, Sue O'Cain	Nancy & Don Hyatt, Bobbie & Rick Storey
TABULATORS	Lavina Chandler, Becky Shealy	Karen Lucas, Jim Tucker	Kate Ferlauto, Becky Shealy	Becky Shealy, Rick Storey	Lavina Chandler, David Lucas



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES FEBRUARY 18

12 noon

Lector: Alice Buckner
Communion Assistant: Becky Shealy

7:00 p.m.

Lector: Jim Johnson
Communion Assistant: Jim Johnson

FEBRUARY 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.

February 4	Communication Committee (5:30 p.m.)
February 5	Mary Group (off-site)
February 9	Parish Life Committee (5:30 p.m.)
February 10	Congregational Retreat Planning (5:00 p.m.) Finance Committee (5:00 p.m.)
February 11	Worship Life Committee (3:00 p.m.)
February 17	Executive Committee (3:00 p.m.)
February 19	Dorcas Group (11:30 a.m.) Tamar Group (5:30 p.m.)
February 22	Council (6:30 p.m.)



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS (ACCORDING TO CHURCH RECORDS)



1	Ephraim Ulmer	9	Micki Morris	19	Adam Ortiz
1	Sandra Lybrand	9	Leigh Tondini	19	Ed Woodward
1	Kaitlyn McFarland	12	Trisha Benson	21	Chris Dionne
1	Bob Fortner	12	Al Kahrs	21	Trace Cannon
3	Phill Netzel	12	Sara Burrows	22	Evan Stallings
3	Therese Elliott	12	Deb Embrey	23	Melissa Ellington
5	Corley Frierson	13	Lillian Ford	24	Becky Shealy
6	Gus Inabinet	14	Harrison Seay	26	Joann Nagy
6	Terri Tokaz	14	Steve Bowden	26	Jason Michael Ortiz
8	Jade Shelton	15	John Ballentine	26	Jim Johnson
8	Connie Donovan	16	Judy Hoy	28	Violet Fetner
8	Marcia Woodward	18	Katie Green		

LECTIONARY FOR FEBRUARY 2026

FEBRUARY 1 – FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

FIRST READING – Micah 6:1-8

With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has “wearyed” Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God’s service.

PSALM – Psalm 15

LORD, who may abide upon your holy hill? (Ps. 15:1)

SECOND READING – 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

According to the world’s standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.

GOSPEL – Matthew 5:1-12

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

FEBRUARY 8 – FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

FIRST READING – Isaiah 58:1-12

Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.

PSALM – Psalm 112:1-10

Light shines in the darkness for the upright. (Ps. 112:4)

SECOND READING – 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God’s hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God’s revelation in the cross.

GOSPEL – Matthew 5:13-20

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God’s commandments.

FEBRUARY 15 – TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

Today’s festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God’s beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today’s liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.

FIRST READING – Exodus 24:12-18

At Mount Sinai, Moses experienced the presence of God for forty days and forty nights. The “glory of the LORD” settled on the mountain, and on the seventh day God called out to Moses. On the mountain God gave Moses the stone tablets inscribed with the ten commandments.

PSALM – Psalm 2

You are my son; this day have I begotten you. (Ps. 2:7)

SECOND READING – 2 Peter 1:16-21

At the transfiguration, God’s voice was heard, declaring Jesus to be the beloved Son. By the activity of the Holy Spirit, God’s voice continues to be heard through the word of scripture.

GOSPEL – Matthew 17:1-9

Shortly before he enters Jerusalem, where he will be crucified, Jesus is revealed to Peter, James, and John in a mountaintop experience of divine glory called the transfiguration.

FEBRUARY 22 – FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Today’s gospel tells of Jesus’ temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God’s mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

FIRST READING – Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent’s promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.

PSALM – Psalm 32

Mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD. (Ps. 32:10)

SECOND READING – Romans 5:12-19

Through Adam’s disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ’s obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.

GOSPEL – Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.

WITH PRAYER

Joey Allison	Dot Correll	Judy Hoy	Gloria Oakes
Gwen Barnes	Sylvia Anne Derrick	Sara Hydrick	Justine Parker
Trisha Benson	Marianne De Werd	Neal Inman	Frances Plyler
Grace Boozer	Lena Duncan	Billie Jones	Barbara Sutton
Steve Bowden	Larry Evans	Lisa Lehman	Terri Tokaz
Victoria Brown	Violet Fetner	Sara Loyd	Linda Van Duy
Alice Buckner	Bob Fortner	Mary Clare McAbee	Peter & Elaine Zornow
Charles Buckner	Bonnie Hammond	Joyce Mobley	
Lavina Chandler	Trisha Holman	Joann Nagy	
Cheryl Christian	Kitty Howard	Harry Oakes	



PLEASE UPDATE THE PRAYER LIST

Those who have requested friends and loved ones to be included on the prayer list, please contact 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

Shawna Ashton—friend of Bryson Palmer, Verna Sawyer's great grandson
 Beckham Family—friends of Lawson-Nabors family
 Robin Boggs—daughter of Anne Rush
 Ross Boheler—father of Ty Boheler
 Cameron Browder—grandson of Frances Plyler's friend
 Betty Cox—former member
 Landon Derrick—friend of Amanda Snodgrass
 Burke Drew—cousin of Ben Haigh
 Idona Erwin—friend of member
 Susan Fisher—cousin of Penny Sox
 John Flitter—friend of Leigh Tondini
 Maxine Floyd—niece of Kappy Steck
 Harmon Family—friends of Anna Lawson
 Forrest Hinebaugh—father of Elaine Zornow
 David Hinshaw—Deb Embrey's nephew
 Melodie Jerrell—friend of Pat Quattlebaum
 Steve Johnson—friend of Wade Wingard
 Shea Kautz—Amy Kemp's sister-in-law
 Sylvia Kelly—niece of Gaye Tucker
 Dawn Kingsley—friend of Shepherd's Visitors
 Naomi Lambert—sister of Laura Leigh Smith
 Sylvia Livingston—mother of Cheryl Beaman
 Chris Powell—husband of Debi Powell

Barbara Reese—friend of Justine Parker and Joyce Mobley
 Helen Kleiber Rich—friend of Terri Tokaz
 Joe Roche – brother of Ronnie Roche
 Dick Sanders—father-in-law of Suzanne Sanders
 Sharon Schulze—friend of Sandy Gundlach
 Joanne Schweitzer—sister of Mary Clare McAbee
 Caroline Crow Seymour – friend
 Smith Family—friends of the Lawson-Nabors Family
 Linda Stearns—friend of Frances Plyler
 Haidee Stith—friend of Terri Tokaz
 Ann Summer—sister of Verna Sawyer
 Vicki Tippins—friend of Marcia Woodward
 Joey Turner—college friend of Trisha Benson
 Tim Walker – friend of Frances Plyler
 Gayle Watts—friend of Leigh Tondini
 Catherine Wheeler—family of Jason Fowler
 Zelma Winbourne—mother of Deb Whitlow
 Shirley Zornow—mother of Peter Zornow

SYMPATHY

Nancy Kitchings—sister of Diane Smith
 Troy Fickling—son of Bonnie Hammond
 Xenia Cintron—mother of Loren Alton and grandmother of Andrew Alton

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

David Lucas

Council Vice-President

Becky Shealy

Secretary

Karen Lucas

Treasurer

Jan Haigler

Committee/Council Member

Communication/**Kate Ferlauto**

Evangelism/**Gaye Tucker**

Finance/**David Lucas**

Gifts/**Sid Havird**

Learning/**Lisa Sanchez**

Parish Life/**Deb Whitlow**

Property/**Mike Weaver**

Social Ministry/**Mary Margaret Hoy**

& Alice Buckner

Worship Life/**Becky Shealy**

Youth & Children/**Ben Haigh**

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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Columbia, SC 29204

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February 1, 2026

DATED INFORMATION ENCLOSED

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

**Sunday Schedule**

- 9:30 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School (CL 1 & 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)
- 11:05 – 11:20 a.m. Preschool Children's Music (E-115)
- 11:25 – 11:45 a.m. Children's Music (E-115)

February 1

Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

Sunday Schedule above

February 4

Fifth Sunday of Epiphany

Sunday Schedule above

February 8

Transfiguration Sunday

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

February 11

6:00-9:00 p.m. Fun Fridays

February 13

Food Pantry Sunday

Sunday Schedule above

February 15

February Newsletter Deadline

February 17

5:30 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Celebration

February 18

12 noon Ash Wednesday Service

February 22

7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

February 25

First Sunday in Lent

Sunday Schedule above

12 noon Lenten Service (FAB)

Meal in FAB following Lenten Service

5:30 p.m. Meal in FAB

6:30 p.m. Lenten Service (FAB)

7:15 p.m. Choir Practice