



GOOD SHEPHERD STAFF

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Newsletter
December 2024

XLVIII, ISSUE XII

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MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICES AND LUNCH AFTER NOON SERVICE

Take a midweek break during this busy time of year for an Advent worship service and light lunch immediately after the service on December 4 and December 18. There will be a POGS Christmas Lunch on December 11 which will require a reservation that needs to be made by December 8.

**Worship begins at noon in the Sanctuary.
Lunch will be in the FAB immediately following the service.
Worship begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.**

DECEMBER 24 WORSHIP SERVICES

5:00 p.m. — Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Holy Communion

10:00 p.m. — Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Holy Communion

If you are unable to attend, you may watch the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service live or any time after the service on our YouTube channel. A link will be found on our website.

* *If you are watching from home and you wish to participate in the candlelighting part of the service, make sure you have candles ready for your use.*

* *As they have for over 35 years, members of the Taylor family, along with friends will be providing string music beginning at 4:45 and 9:45.)*

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR



In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;

make his paths straight.

⁵*Every valley shall be filled,*

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth,

⁶*and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”*

-Luke 3:1-6

One of the remarkable things about Luke’s gospel is that the author goes to great lengths to “write an orderly account” of the story of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. One of the hallmarks of Luke’s gospel is the way he grounds the story in the religious and political happenings of the time.

In fact, it is in large part due to Luke’s “orderly account” that we know the approximate date of Jesus’ ministry. The 15th year of Tiberius’ reign would have been 29 AD. Later in chapter 3, Luke tells us Jesus was “about 30 years old” when he began his ministry. That puts Jesus’ birth around the year 1 BC or 1 AD, give or take a year or two. Obviously, this is why we mark our time with BC (Before Christ) and AD (Anno Domini—in the year of the Lord).

Notice that when Luke introduces John the Baptist, he begins by identifying some important religious and political figures. He mentions Tiberius Caesar, the most powerful and important person in the world at that time. Then he mentions several of Tiberius’ underlings—Pilate, Herod Antipas, Philip, and Lysanias. These powerful men were the unquestioned rulers of the regions in which John and Jesus would do ministry. He then mentions Annas and Caiaphas as high priests. These two figures will, like Herod and Pilate, play an important role in Jesus’ eventual trial and crucifixion. More to the point, however, they were the unquestioned religious authorities in the realm for most of the people to whom John and Jesus would minister.

It is against the backdrop of this political and religious regime that Luke then drops the surprising news: The word of God came and it came not to Herod or Pilate; not to Philip or Lysanias; not to Annas or Caiaphas; not even to Tiberius himself! The word of God came to John. And the word didn’t come in Rome or Jerusalem or Galilee. It came in the wilderness.

This theme of God’s work in unknown and unexpected places is one of the most surprising things about the gospel and it is also something that Luke really plays up and celebrates. Just as Jesus was born in an unexpected town at an unexpected time, so did the word of God come to an unexpected place and

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time and through an unexpected person. God chose John, a relatively unknown figure, to bear the gospel message and prepare the way for Jesus. John came in the wilderness and began to baptize. And most shocking of all, crowds began to descend on the wilderness. People journeyed from miles around to the middle of nowhere beside the muddy Jordan river to hear the word of God through John. He was an unlikely prophet at an unlikely time.

I can't help but think that we are living in a time where folks are again hungry and thirsty for the word of God. They may look to many sources for a fulfilling word. It is easy, living in an election year in a politically tense time, to seek truth and hope from political sources. It is easy during an age of megachurches and televangelists to look for salvation and life among the wealthy and powerful preachers of our day and age. Your neighbors are eager for a word of hope; a word of peace; a word of life. They are desperate for a word from God.

And though they may look for such a word from a President or a President-elect, the truth is that the word of God they need to hear most is going to come from you. You, a relatively unknown person, in the grand scheme of things. You, living in a relatively modest place and situation. The word of God has come to you—that's why you're a part of this congregation and why you're reading this newsletter right now. And now, the word of God is working in and through you to share the gospel with all whom you meet.

Your words matter. Your actions matter. May all you say and do reflect the love of Christ for the world. May others hear and see the gospel through you. And may you, like John before you, be that voice of one crying out in the wilderness to make a way for Jesus in the lives of those whom you know and meet.

When Joe Biden is President and Donald Trump is President-elect; when Henry McMaster is Governor of South Carolina; when folks like Joel Osteen and Franklin Graham seem to be the loudest religious voices in our world, the word of God comes to you and comes through you to others. Prepare the way of the Lord and make his paths straight, that all may see the salvation of our God.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Andrew

A CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

There will be a called congregational meeting held on Sunday, December 15, 2024, to elect new Council Members, Foundation Board Member, and approve the proposed 2025 Budget. Plan to attend this important event in the life of our congregation. A letter will be mailed out soon. If you do not receive the mailing providing budget information, please contact the Church Office at 803-787-4413.



**CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**



“SOUL, FEEL YOUR WORTH”

One of our most beloved Christmas songs is, “O Holy Night” which is most well known as a solo and most appreciated when the soprano sings the high note near the end. The words come from a French poet, Placide Cappeau, and are part of the poem, “Minuit Chrétiens,” which means, “midnight Christians.” It was set to music in 1847 by French composer, Adophe Adam, and translated into English by John Dwight in 1855.

While I have always enjoyed the famous refrain, “Fall on your knees,” and the musical climax that concludes the refrain, what has spoken to my heart are the words of the first verse, “long lay the world in sin and error, pining (yearning) till he appeared and the **soul felt its worth**. A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.” We talk about unwrapping presents every Christmas season and these words go a long way in unwrapping the entire salvation story, which is the greatest present in history. The story of Jesus’ incarnation (becoming human) is a story of God’s love for God’s people, a story of hope and healing and a story that gives worth and value to our entire beings. **Soul, feel your worth!!**

For centuries the fracture of creation from creator, of God’s people from God and of people in all times and places from one another had gone on without resolution or hope. Hundreds of pages in the Bible describe endless wars, destruction of all kinds, famines, idolatry and human behaviors that go against loving God and loving neighbor. In Ezekiel we read, “I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep and I will feed them with justice.” In Jeremiah we read, “I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and write the law on their hearts and I will be their God and they shall be my people.” And from Isaiah we hear, “For unto us a child is born, a son is given. His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace.”

As our Advent preparation leads us to the Christmas story and Jesus’ birth we discover “God with us” in Jesus’ birth, life, death and resurrection. Our hope is restored, our dignity and value are affirmed and we are set free to fully love God and neighbor. Celebrate the season knowing that “when he appeared, **the soul felt its worth**.” A blessed Advent and Christmas season to all!!!

Jim Johnson, Director of Music

CHRISMON TREE DECORATING & CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE

Saturday, December 7, 2024

11:00 a.m.

Good Shepherd Sanctuary

All Youth & Children are invited to bring their holiday spirit and join us as we come together to decorate the Chrismon Tree on **Saturday, December 7 at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.**

Children will gather to learn the meaning of the Chrismon ornaments before they decorate the tree.



Immediately following the Chrismon Tree decorating, all youth and children are asked to stay to practice the Children's Christmas Program. We will meet in the Youth Room for pizza and then return to the sanctuary to practice the program.

There is also a practice during the Sunday School hour on Sunday, December 1 at 10:45 in the FAB.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024 11:00 A.M.

Please join us in the Fellowship Activities Building (FAB) after the 9:30 a.m. service for this program given by our youth and children.

Light refreshments will be provided.

Christmas Opportunities



GIVING OPPORTUNITIES FROM ELCA GOOD GIFTS

Looking for a Christmas gift for a hard-to-buy-for friend or family member? How about a goat...or a rooster...or a pig...or honeybees...or a water filter...or a vaccination for a child...or mosquito nets...or seeds and gardening tools? These and many other gifts are available through the ELCA Good Gifts catalog. Donations to this program help needy persons around the world, including in the U.S.

Gift cards are available for you to send to recipients to let them know gifts have been made in their honor. You also can send email greetings.

To check out gift possibilities and giving options, check the ELCA Good Gifts website at <https://goodgifts.elca.org/>.

RINGING THE BELL FOR SALVATION ARMY



Good Shepherd will lend a hand to the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign on Saturday, December 14, at Lowes Foods, 4711 Forest Drive. We have divided the day into

one-hour shifts from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The sign-up sheet is on the bell ringing stand in the Narthex. If you have questions, call Pat Quattlebaum (803) 446-1945 or Janet Lockhart, (803) 413-6728.

ANGEL TREE

Good Shepherd is having an Angel Tree again this year. We are supporting Providence Home with 60 men and



Women's Shelter with 13 women. We will provide a \$25 gift card from Walmart, Visa, MC, or AMEX for each resident. If you are unable to get a gift card, a donation can be made to GSLC and designated for Angel Tree on the envelope or check. Each card is placed in a box or bag before it is delivered. There will be Christmas cards available if you would like to write a note of encouragement to add to your gift card. The tree will be in the Narthex until **December 15**. The gift cards will be delivered before Christmas as many of the residents will use them to buy things for their families.

**PATHFINDERS OF GOOD SHEPHERD
CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON—DECEMBER 11
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING 12 NOON ADVENT SERVICE**



POGS will meet December 11 in the FAB at 12:45 p.m. immediately after the Midweek Advent Worship Service. **It will be a catered meal. There will be no charge for the meal, but we do need you to make a reservation to make sure there will be plenty of food.** Please complete the reservation form, email, or call the church office to make a reservation.

Help setting up and cleaning up afterwards will be greatly appreciated.



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.

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

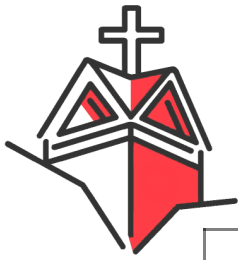


You have the opportunity to help beautify our church for Christmas by placing poinsettias in the sanctuary for Christmas Eve. Please use the **Seasonal Flower Offering** envelopes in each pew to order your poinsettia.

The **Seasonal Flower Offering envelopes** have the order form printed on them for your dedication. Complete the form to indicate your dedication, place your check or payment amount in the envelope, and place it in the offering plate.

The cost is **\$15.00 each**. Make your check payable to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and place it in the **Seasonal Flower Offering envelope**. If you can't come to the church but want to order a poinsettia, call the church office to place your order.

Place your check and the order form in the offering plate or bring or mail it to the church office **by Sunday, December 15**. The first 75 orders accompanied by payment will be accepted. If you donate a poinsettia, you may take your plant home after the 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service.



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 Confirmation Class (E-112)
- 10:45 - 11:45 am Youth Sunday School (Youth Room)
- 10:45 - 11:25 am Children's Sunday School (E-111 & E-113)
- 11:25 - 11:45 am Children's Music (E-115)


December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue
<p>1</p> <p>1st Sunday of Advent 9:30 am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:45 am Adult Sunday School (CL 1, 2, & Parlor) 10:45 am Children's Christmas Program practice (FAB)</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>11:30 am Bible Study (Conf Rm)</p>
<p>8</p> <p>2nd Sunday of Advent 9:30 am Worship Service (Sanctuary)</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Children's Christmas Program (FAB)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:00-8:00 pm [private event] Beta Sigma Phi (Conference Room)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>11:30 am Bible Study (Conf Rm)</p> <p>3:00 pm Executive Committee meeting (CL 2)</p>
<p>15 SUNDAY SCHEDULE TIMES ABOVE</p> <p>3rd Sunday of Advent</p> <p>Congregational Meeting</p> <p>Food Pantry Sunday 6:30 pm Council meeting (CL 2)</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>11:30 am Bible Study (Conf Rm)</p>
<p>22 SUNDAY SCHEDULE TIMES ABOVE</p> <p>4th Sunday of Advent</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>No Bible Study</p> <p>5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)</p> <p>10:00 pm Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)</p>
<p>29 SUNDAY SCHEDULE TIMES ABOVE</p> <p>Noisy Offering</p> <p>Lessons & Carols</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>No Bible Study</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.

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>4 8:00 am Zoom Bible Study</p> <p>12:00 pm Midweek Advent Worship (Sanctuary) 12:45 pm Advent Lunch (FAB) 6:30 pm Midweek Advent Worship (Sanctuary) 7:15 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>5 11:00 am Mary Group Christmas lunch (off-site)</p>	<p>6 5:30-7:30 pm set up for Beta Sigma Phi Christmas Brunch (FAB)</p>	<p>7 8:00 am-3:30 pm [private event] Beta Sigma Phi Christmas Brunch (FAB) 11:00 am Chrismon Tree Decorating (Sanctuary) 12:00 pm Lunch (Youth Room) Children's Christmas Program practice (Sanctuary)</p>
<p>11 8:00 am Zoom Bible Study</p> <p>12:00 pm Midweek Advent Worship (Sanctuary) 12:45 pm Advent Lunch (FAB) 6:30 pm Midweek Advent Worship (Sanctuary) 7:15 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>12 Fun Fridays set up (FAB)</p> <p>6:00 pm Communication Committee meeting (Conf Rm)</p>	<p>13</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>6:00-9:00 pm Fun Fridays (FAB)</p>	<p>14 10:00 am-6:00 pm Salvation Army Bell Ringing (Lowe's on Forest Drive)</p>
<p>18 8:00 am Zoom Bible Study</p> <p>12:00 pm Midweek Advent Worship (Sanctuary) 12:45 pm POGS Lunch (FAB) 6:30 p.m. Midweek Advent Worship (Sanctuary) 7:15 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>19 6:00 pm Dorcas Christmas gathering (Becky Shealy home)</p> <p>6:30 pm Tamar Christmas gathering (Leigh Ann Tollison home)</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>25 No Zoom Bible Study</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>26 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>1 No Zoom Bible Study</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>DECEMBER 24 SCHEDULE: 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Services</p>		

PREPARING FOR 2025

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES GETTING CREDIT FOR YOUR OFFERINGS

The **2025 offering envelopes** will be on a table in the Narthex starting Sunday, December 1, 2024 through January 5, 2025. Please stop by and pick up your offering envelope box at your earliest convenience.



Donations are effective only in the year in which they are offered. A check received after December 31, 2024, cannot be credited for the 2024 year even if the check is dated "2024." Make sure your **mailing envelope is postmarked by December 31, 2024.**

Also available for your convenience is **online giving**. Call the church office or visit our website to further explain how to do online giving.

When completing your contribution, please do the following:

1. Use your assigned general offering envelopes or a pink special envelope.
(The pink special envelopes are located in the pews and on the table in front of the Chapel. If using a pink special envelope, please indicate which fund the contribution is to be applied.)
2. Write your name on the envelope.
3. Write the amount on the envelope.

Thanks,

Deb Embrey, Financial Secretary

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.**

GOOD SHEPHERD FOUNDATION GRANT AWARDS

The Good Shepherd Foundation Board has reviewed grant applications received by November 1 and awarded \$34,490 for 13 projects in the following categories:

Outreach into the Community

Ebenezer Lutheran Church for Family Promise--\$3,000
 Richland County School District Two: Blythewood Academy for 3-D Technology--\$3,000
 Camp Cole Foundation for military children with special needs--\$2,750
 Prisma Health Hospice-Midlands for memory making supplies--\$250
 Backpacks for A.C. Flora High School students in need--\$2,990
 MORE Justice for Nehemiah Action Assembly--\$2,500

SC Synod of the ELCA Institutions and Agencies

SC Synod for 200th Anniversary Celebration--\$2,500
 Lutheran Disaster Response-Carolinas for home repair supplies--\$3000
 NovusWay Ministries for hurricane recovery at Lutheridge-- \$3,000
 NovusWay Ministries for camper scholarships targeted to families affected by hurricanes--\$3,000

Good Shepherd Special Projects

GSLC 75th Anniversary Task Force for printing historical materials--\$3,000
 GSLC Property Committee for remotely controlled thermostats--\$3,000
 GSLC Property Committee for signage and exterior improvements--\$2,500

The Foundation Board thanks all of the grant applicants and their Congregational Shepherds for their project submissions. We also thank all who have made donations or bequests to the Foundation, making it possible to fund these projects.



SAVE THE DATES CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF MINISTRY

January 31 – February 2, 2025 – Congregational Retreat – Lutheridge. Be sure to sign up!

February 9, 2025 – 75th 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.

EARLINE SUYDAM: 70 YEARS OF 'LOVE' AT GOOD SHEPHERD



When Earline Suydam says, "I Love You," she really means it!

During her nearly 70 years as a Good Shepherd member, she has given that sincere greeting to untold numbers of people. As she often puts it, "How will they know it if I don't tell them?"

Earline and her late husband Henry joined Good Shepherd in May, 1955, when the congregation was meeting in the "White House on the Hill." So, she has been a first-hand observer of Good Shepherd's campus growth to the old sanctuary (now the office complex), the educational building, the FAB and the current sanctuary.

During all those years, the importance of her church has remained the same. "My friends, my family, my church all mean the world to me," she says. "The church has always given something to me."

And Earline has certainly given a lot to the church. As Good Shepherd's oldest member at age 98 plus, she is a wonderful example of faithfulness...a model of the Godly life. Virtually every Sunday, she can be seen on her usual pew just in front of the pulpit. "When we moved to the sanctuary (in 1992), I picked out a pew close to the pulpit so I'd be able to hear the pastor when I got old," she laughs. She rarely misses a service and Sunday School, so when she isn't there, people get concerned.

On a recent Sunday afternoon, Earline had a visit from two of our active teenage members, Savannah (17) and Blake (14) Gross. Both were baptized and confirmed at Good Shepherd. It was a wonderful sharing opportunity for different generations to get to know each other better. Savannah and Blake went away knowing much more about one of our most faithful members, and as Earline said, "I now have two more friends." And of course she told them several times, "I love you!"

Ever the gracious hostess, Earline had to offer food to her visitors. She brought out ice cream, cookies, cheese and crackers, and candy. Asked to give a one word description of their new friend, Savannah said "Vivacious." For Blake, "Impressive" came to mind. Both very fitting words for Earline.

During the visit, Earline shared her life story in capsule form. A lifelong Lutheran, she grew up in Chapin, one of nine children. Church and Sunday School attendance were a weekly routine. "We just didn't miss," she said.

She and Henry married in 1948. He was a Methodist. "I was willing to be a Methodist, but I really wanted to stay a Lutheran," she recalled. For a number of years, they drove up to Chapin each weekend to visit her family and to attend Mt. Horeb Lutheran Church!



Good Shepherd's first pastor, Harold Park, was a native of Chapin. Earline's family was friends with his family. Earline's mother told Pastor Park she knew where he could find some new members. He reached out to Earline and Henry, and soon they became Good Shepherd members. Their son Rusty was one of the first babies to

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be baptized in the old sanctuary. All three Suydams were very active members. At various times Henry and Earline taught Sunday School. Rusty was an acolyte and crucifer. Church was an integral part of their lives.

Earline helped start the 3K program at Timmerman School and taught there for 25 years. For many years she was a fixture in children's Sunday School at Good Shepherd. She has had the opportunity to get to know all the pastors who've served at Good Shepherd. "I've loved all my pastors," she says. "They all had their strengths. And I knew I could call on them if I needed them."

For many years Earline served as a greeter before service, and she says she'd like to see us start that again as a way to help the pastor. Of course, she can be found between worship and Sunday School virtually every week chatting with friends, greeting visitors, checking on people...telling people she loves them...and meaning it!



There have been some challenging periods for her, and her faith and positive spirit have been a big support for her. A particularly difficult time was a nine-month period from April 2011 to January 2012. Her only child Rusty died from ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease), husband Henry died in October, brother-in-law Fred Klein died in November, and older sister Sara Klein died in January. "I found myself at one point sitting in my chair getting depressed," she said. "I told myself 'Earline, you can sit there feeling sorry for yourself, or you can get up and do something.' I decided to get up and do something."

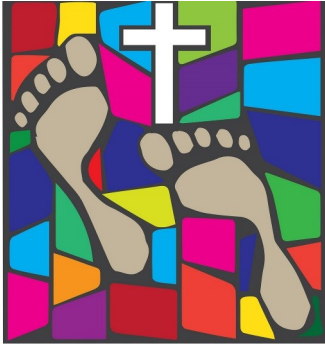
Her faithfulness and positive attitude continue to be a great example for the rest of us. And how fortunate we are to see her in church virtually every week...and to hear her heartfelt "I love you." As she puts it, "As long as these old legs will take me, I'll be there!"

Sometimes the best measure of a person is what others say about her. Here are some thoughts from a couple of Good Shepherd members.

Ben Haigh: *Does she realize the positive impact she has had on so many over the years and the number of lives she has touched that she has never met? I can think of several ways she has influenced my behavior out in the community just by actions I have witnessed from her at Good Shepherd. The genuine happiness she has when she greets you like it's what she has looked forward to all day. Or the attention she gives when you talk about something that may be trivial to most (It's the main reason she's the last to arrive in Sunday School class!). She just has an authentic love for all she encounters and it helps me try to be a better person to others.*



Alice Buckner: *When Charles and I joined GSLC in 2010, Earline consistently warmly welcomed us, every Sunday. Hers was the first name we knew, even though we thought her name was Pearlina! She was so warm and welcoming, something we will never forget. Been in love with her ever since.*



WALKING IN THE SPIRIT

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

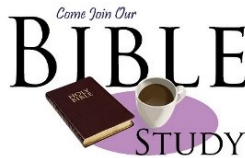
January 31 – February 2, 2025
Lutheridge in Arden, NC

Join in our yearlong Anniversary Celebration with fun and fellowship!

Program Presenter: Pastor Drew Yoos

Registration deadline is December 15, 2024.

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES



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

*There will be no Bible Study on December 24.
There will be no Bible Study on December 31.*



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.

*There will be no Bible Study on December 25.
There will be no Bible Study on January 1, 2025.*

FUN FRIDAYS - DECEMBER 13



We'll have a Christmas party for our Fun Fridays' guests on Friday, December 13, at 6:00 p.m. in the FAB. There will be crafts, singing, games and food. Please come and be a helper for the night to help us host our guests who have developmental disabilities. The Fun Fridays program gives parents and guardians a break from the care of their family members for the evening while our guests have a great time with our own members. If you can be a helper on this night or would like more information, contact Susan Sturkie at 803-788-6807 or sloopystur@aol.com.

December Sunday School Schedule

December 1—Regularly scheduled Adult classes and
Children's Christmas Program practice in FAB during Sunday School
December 8—No Sunday School classes due to the Nativity Program

December 15—Regularly scheduled classes—see schedule below

December 22—Regularly scheduled classes—see schedule below

December 29—Regularly scheduled classes—see schedule below



Sunday School Classes

10:45 - 11:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School Classes

Around the Corner (CL 1), Come and See (Parlor), 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)

NOISY OFFERING

Start saving those coins! Noisy offering is coming on December 29. The children's Sunday School classes selected the City of Columbia Animal Shelter to receive this month's collection. Some of the GSLC children will be in the Narthex before and after service that day with their buckets to accept your coins, bills and checks! You can also send your contributions to the church office any time in December or make an online contribution. Make checks payable to Good Shepherd and designate for noisy offering.



HAPPY FIRST ANNIVERSARY, JIM JOHNSON

Good Shepherd has been blessed in past years to have Deacon Jim Johnson serve as Interim Music Director. However, this month we celebrate Jim's official first year anniversary as our permanent Director of Music. We give thanks for Jim's musical talents and commitment to serving with us here at Good Shepherd.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR NOVEMBER

COUNCIL PERSON OF THE MONTH: Becky Shealy, Jason Fowler, Anna-Marie Plyler

DATE	12/1	12/8	12/15	12/22	12/29	1/5/25
USHERS	Mary Stallings, Pat Quattlebaum, Alice Buckner, Marion Eargle, Marcia Woodward, Chris Herrmann, Dick Sturkie, Sid Havird	Mary Stallings, Pat Quattlebaum, Alice Buckner, Marion Eargle, Marcia Woodward, Chris Herrmann, Dick Sturkie, Sid Havird	Mary Stallings, Pat Quattlebaum, Alice Buckner, Marion Eargle, Marcia Woodward, Chris Herrmann, Dick Sturkie, Sid Havird	Mary Stallings, Pat Quattlebaum, Alice Buckner, Marion Eargle, Marcia Woodward, Chris Herrmann, Dick Sturkie, Sid Havird	Mary Stallings, Pat Quattlebaum, Alice Buckner, Marion Eargle, Marcia Woodward, Chris Herrmann, Dick Sturkie, Sid Havird	Wade Wingard, Rod Kent, Mike Weaver, Rebecca Richardson, Mary Aitchison, Ben Haigh
WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	Lector & Communion Assistant: Amanda Snodgrass	Lector & Communion Assistant: Steve Steck	Lector & Communion Assistant: Mike Weaver	Lector: Virginia Morris Communion Assistant: Bruce Shealy	Lector: Don Caughtman Communion Assistant: Amanda Snodgrass	Lector: Alice Buckner Communion Assistant: Gaye Tucker
ACOLYTE & CRUCIFER	A: Adam Ortiz C: Evelyn Ortiz	A: Natalie Ferlauto C: Lucas Ferlauto	A: Madelyn Snodgrass C: Amanda Snodgrass	A: Savannah Gross C: Blake Gross	A: Madelyn Snodgrass C: Amanda Snodgrass	A: Blake Gross C: Savannah Gross
ALTAR GUILD	Becky Shealy, Joey Allison	Becky Shealy, Joey Allison	Becky Shealy, Joey Allison	Becky Shealy, Joey Allison	Becky Shealy, Joey Allison	Janet Lockhart, Elaine Zornow, Anne Rush
TABULATORS	Mary Stallings, Steve Steck	Donna Foster, Karen Lucas	Rebecca Richardson, Lavina Chandler	David Lucas, Mary Margaret Hoy	Steve Steck, Karen Lucas	Rebecca Richardson, Donna Foster

DECEMBER 2024 MEETINGS

Please call the church office to reserve a room for any upcoming meetings.

- December 5 Mary Group (11:00 a.m.)
- December 10 Executive Committee (3:00 p.m.)
- December 12 Communication (6:00 p.m.)
- December 15 Council (6:30 p.m.)
- December 19 Tamar Group (6:30 p.m.)



FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

The GSLC Food Pantry provided food for 41 families in October serving 135 individuals.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE VOLUNTEERS
5:00 & 10:00 P.M.
DECEMBER 24, 2024

5:00 p.m.

Ushers	Stallings/Herrmann Team
Lector/Comm Asst	Becky Shealy
Acolyte	Anna-Marie Plyler
Crucifer	Lucas Ferlauto
Torch Bearers	Callen Gilbert, Kate Ferlauto
Banner Bearer	Mike Sanchez

10:00 p.m.

Ushers	Stallings/Herrmann Team
Lector/Comm Asst	Barbara Rowell
Acolyte	TBD
Crucifer	Becky Shealy
Torch Bearers	David Lucas, Barbara Rowell
Banner Bearer	Mike Sanchez
Tabulators	Becky Shealy, Mary Margaret Hoy

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS (ACCORDING TO CHURCH RECORDS)

1	William Pope	16	Jackson Nabors
	Tim Nance		Stephanee Seay
3	Una Rose Van Duys	17	Brenda Wicker
4	Dave Shelton	18	Cheryl Christian
6	Alyia Grosh		Marion Eargle
7	Devon Robinson		Michelle Isenhower
9	Charlene Fink	21	Leo Van Duys
10	Delaney Uehling		Adelaide Cannon
12	Walker Bostic	24	Chuck Henderson
	Hagan Sightler		Chris Seay
	Victoria Houghton	25	Jeff Inabinet
14	Linda Van Duys	30	Gaye Tucker



LECTIONARY FOR DECEMBER 2024

December 1 – First Sunday of Advent

Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

First Reading – Jeremiah 33:14-16

In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name—“The LORD is our righteousness”—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.

Psalm – Psalm 25:1-10

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. (Ps. 25:1)

Second Reading – 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Upon Timothy’s report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

Gospel – Luke 21:25-36

God will fulfill God’s purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God’s people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God’s promised redemption.

December 8 – Second Sunday of Advent

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer’s voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi’s prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the LORD of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the “salvation of God.”

First Reading – Malachi 3:1-4

God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means “my messenger”) will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God’s people, as silver and gold are refined.

Psalm – Luke 1:68-79

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us. (Lk. 1:78)

Second Reading – Philippians 1:3-11

The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

Gospel – Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by “repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

December 15 – Third Sunday of Advent

Christ’s presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one “more powerful” than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

First Reading – Zephaniah 3:14-20

The prophet Zephaniah’s message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the

book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God’s salvation is at hand.

Psalm – Isaiah 12:2-6

In your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (Is. 12:6)

Second Reading – Philippians 4:4-7

Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God’s joy and peace.

Gospel – Luke 3:7-18

John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God’s reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

December 22 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary’s magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ’s advent is for “the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—“we proclaim the Lord’s death.”

First Reading – Micah 5:2-5a

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

Psalm – Luke 1:46b-55

You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (Lk. 1:52)

Second Reading – Hebrews 10:5-10

The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ’s coming. Through obedient acceptance of God’s will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.

Gospel – Luke 1:39-55

Elizabeth, John’s mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth’s inspired greeting and Mary’s song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

December 29 – First Sunday of Christmas

On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God “to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God,” who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” It is Christmas, still.

First Reading – 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Having dedicated her son Samuel to God’s service, Hannah visits him every year when she and her husband Elkanah come to the temple to offer sacrifices. God grants Hannah more children, and Samuel himself gains favor in the sight of all.

Psalm – Psalm 148

The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)

Second Reading – Colossians 3:12-17

Just as newly baptized Christians in the early church were clothed with new garments upon arising from the baptismal waters, so all who have received God’s gift of life in Jesus Christ are covered with the character of Christ.

Gospel – Luke 2:41-52

Jesus grew up in a family that went to the Passover festival each year. It was in this environment of faithful adherence to the law that Jesus grew into spiritual maturity and an understanding of his identity and mission.

WITH PRAYER

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

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
Allie Clark—friend of Betty Cox
Betty Cox—former member
Landon Derrick—friend of Amanda Snodgrass
Sally Elliott—mother of Lee Elliott (loss of husband)
Idona Erwin—friend of member
Torin Otto Fessler—grandson of Susan Uehling
John Flitter—friend of Leigh Tondini
Sarah Harmon—friend of Anna Lawson
Forrest Hinebaugh—father of Elaine Zornow
David Hinshaw—Deb Embrey's nephew
Frank Hinshaw—Deb Embrey's nephew
Steve Johnson—friend of Wade Wingard
Kathy Killian—sister of Bobbie Storey
Sylvia Livingston—mother of Cheryl Beaman
Chris Powell—husband of Debi Powell
Barbara Reese—friend of Justine Parker & Joyce Mobley

Henry Richardson—father of Amanda Snodgrass
Dick Sanders—father-in-law of Suzanne Sanders
Sharon Schulze—friend of Sandy Gundlach
Joanne Schweitzer—sister of Mary Clare McAbee
Martha Sigmon
Smith Family—friends of the Lawson-Nabors Family
Harry Swindler—father of Penny Sox and grandpa of Stacy Gross
Phyllis Tollison—mother of Phil Tollison
Joey Turner—college friend of Trisha Benson
Richard Wall—neighbor of Barbara Nagy
Gayle Watts—friend of Leigh Tondini
Danny and Joey Wheeler—cousins of Jason Fowler
Tom White—friend of Frances Plyler
Shirley Zornow—mother of Peter Zornow

NEW BABY

Torin Otto Fessler, grandson of Susan Uehling

SYMPATHY

Betty Ciccolella
John Cantey, husband of Nadine Cantey

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/**Carole Sox**

Evangelism/**Jason Fowler**

Finance/**David Lucas**

Gifts/**Ed Woodward**

Learning/**Barbara Nagy**

Parish Life/**Deb Bodie**

Property/**Richard Inman**

Social Ministry/**Jan Haigler****

Worship Life/**Becky Shealy**

Youth & Children/**Chris Herrmann**

****Non-Council Committee Chairs**

Social Ministry/**Cathy Milejczak**

Social Ministry/**Rod Kent**

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

3909 Forest Drive

Columbia, SC 29204

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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Columbia, SC

DELIVERY REQUESTED BY

November 30, 2024

DATED INFORMATION ENCLOSED



December 1

9:30 a.m. Worship Service
10:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Children's Christmas Program Practice
12:00 noon Midweek Advent Worship

December 4

following service Midweek Advent Lunch
6:30 p.m. Midweek Advent Worship

December 7

11:00 a.m. Chrismon tree decorating
12:00 p.m. Lunch & Children's Christmas Program practice

December 8

9:30 a.m. Worship Service
No Sunday School

December 11

11:00 a.m. Children's Christmas Program
12:00 noon Midweek Advent Worship
following service Midweek Advent Lunch

December 13

6:30 p.m. Midweek Advent Worship
January Newsletter Deadline

December 14

6:00 p.m. Fun Fridays

December 15

Salvation Army Bell Ringing (Lowe's on Forest Drive)
Food Pantry Sunday

December 18

Regular Sunday Schedule classes
Congregational Meeting
12:00 noon Midweek Advent Worship
following service Midweek Advent Lunch

December 22

6:30 p.m. Midweek Advent Worship
Regular Sunday Schedule classes

December 24

5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship
10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship

December 25-26

Church Office Closed

December 29

Noisy Offering

January 1

9:30 a.m. Lessons and Carols

10:45 a.m. Sunday School

Church Office Closed