

March 12, 2025

There is no scheduled March 2025 Council Meeting. At the March Executive Committee Meeting, President Shealy suggested that the February minutes be approved via email instead of waiting until the April Council Meeting. This would provide the timely reporting to the Congregation of the Approved February Council Minutes along with other submitted documents. Executive Committee agreed.

Council approved the February Council Minutes via email. Attached are the Approved February 23, 2025 Council Minutes along with the Treasurer's Report, Realm Reports, Finance Committee Report and Property Committee Report.

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April 14, 2025

This packet includes the reports that were turned in at the Sunday, April 13 Council meeting.

No minutes are attached since there was no March meeting. April meeting minutes will be included in the May meeting packet which is printed after they are approved at the May Council meeting.

Pastor's Report to Council  
April 2025

In this month's Report to Council, I'm trying something new and a bit different. Rather than bullet points of actions and activities, I want to share a few narrative highlights of ministry over the past couple of months.

**75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

We continue to commemorate our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. I have continued to work closely with the task force and staff to implement the festivities. Many thanks to all who are serving and working to make this a special milestone. We were blessed to have Pastor Paul Wollner come join us for worship and to preach on March 30. Our next guest minister currently scheduled is Pastor Ron Feltman who will be preaching for Homecoming in September.

**Committee Business**

I have met with various committees and worked with committee chairs to ensure the business of the church is continuing. At this point almost every committee has met! Great work, council and committees! I am continuing to work toward onboarding the new members of Mutual Ministry. We will be meeting for the second time this year during Holy Week. For all committees, please keep me informed of your meetings, remember to put them on the master calendar through the church office, and let me know if you have specific needs from me pertaining to your committees.

**MORE Justice**

I attended a training session for MORE Justice in March. At our April POGS meeting, we had a representative from MORE Justice to share updates with us. We are gearing up for the Nehemiah Action Assembly on May 12, when a planned 1,000 members from local faith communities (including GSLC) will meet with our elected officials to advocate for concrete steps toward just housing, access to healthy food, and an end to gun violence in our community. Thanks to the GSLC leadership team for all their hard work and passionate service.

**Pastoral Care**

With the faithful help of our Shepherd's Visitors, I continue to provide care and support for the congregation. From prayers and conversations with church and community members to hospital visits; from prayers before surgeries to funeral ministry, it has been a privilege to continue to care for the congregation. If you or a loved one have specific needs, please help me prioritize my time by letting me know what you need. As you can see from the rest of this report, I have many responsibilities and there is always much work to be done. It is a real gift you can give me to let me know when and where my attention is most needed during times of crisis and difficulty.

### **Worship and Formation**

We've been deepening our connections with God and one another during Sunday and midweek worship and learning opportunities. Lent and Holy Week mean lots of services and wonderful worship opportunities. Thanks to our lay volunteers and staff for making this season one of deeper faith, hope, and love.

### **Development**

As I stated in my last newsletter article, we are at a crossroads as a congregation. I'm beginning to work with the staff, council, committees, and other groups of members and guests of the church to discern and address the needs of our community and congregation and to seek how God is leading us to tend to these needs. In conversations so far, my sense is that we need to begin exploring additional opportunities during each week for disciples to engage and get plugged in. One first step may be more regular Wednesday noon services. A Sunday evening time of worship and faith formation may be another possible course of action. Guided by study, prayer, and a spirit of curiosity and experimentation, we will begin to explore and dream about other times and days for worship, learning, and fellowship opportunities. These non-customary times and styles of being the church together will be a valuable supplement to our existing opportunities (Sunday morning worship, Sunday school, bible study, etc.) and will help our members and new disciples to connect and engage in more ways with the ministry we are living out.

I'm excited to explore this new phase of ministry and life together and I welcome the partnership of the staff, congregation, and council in this process. May this 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary be a springboard to the next generation of ministry here. With the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit, I trust that when folks look back on this time at our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, they will see the work of the Spirit and will see 2025 as a positive turning point in our history. Through your prayer, collaboration, and openness to change, help me make this vision for a renewed and dynamic ministry a reality.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Andrew Isenhower

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**Finance Committee Meeting - MINUTES**  
**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**  
**April 8, 2025**

**PRESENT:** Jan Haigler, Deb Embrey, David Lucas, Janet Lockhart, Gloria Oakes, Karen Lucas

**ABSENT:** Rod Kent, Becky Shealy

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM, by David Lucas, chairperson of the Finance Committee.

**DEVOTIONAL:** Jan Haigler shared a devotional on the Power of the Church in the Community.

**MINUTES:** The minutes from March 06, 2025 were emailed to all members. Deb Embrey moved, and Jan Haigler seconded that the minutes be approved as emailed. Motion carried.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** Jan Haigler shared that she requested approval for the Church to use the ELCA 501 C3 number but has not heard back. She will follow up.

Jan provided the end of March balance sheet for the savings and checking accounts. The money market savings account balance was [REDACTED] and the checking account balance was [REDACTED].

The Statement of Activities showed nothing out of the ordinary. Jan shared that we have not had to move anything out of the reserve fund so far this year.

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT:** Deb Embrey reported that the March general offerings received were [REDACTED], which was [REDACTED] of budgeted need of [REDACTED]. In 2024, March offerings were [REDACTED] of need, and in 2023, they were [REDACTED] of need. Deb stated that we are keeping up with previous years.

**TABULATORS REPORT:** No report.

**TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT:** David Lucas said there are no technical issues to report. Everything is running okay.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Review of the Statement of Activities and the Statement of Financial Position showed no issues.

The new insurance premium of [REDACTED] should include Workers Compensation. David will verify that. We have a budget of [REDACTED] for insurance this year. To cover the organ will be an additional rider. There is [REDACTED] in our organ fund. Organ maintenance is under the Worship Life budget.

**NEW BUSINESS:** No new business.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 PM with The Lord's Prayer. Next meeting will be May 6th at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:  
Karen Lucas

## **MINUTES - Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Social Ministry Committee Meeting**

**Date:** March 11, 2025

**Present:** Don Caughman, Jan Haigler, Mary Margaret Hoy, Pastor Andrew Isenhower, Jim Johnson, Anne Rush, Suzanne Sanders, Steve Steck, Kerry Stubbs

**Absent:** Jason Fowler, Rod Kent, Janet Lockhart, Cathy Milejczak, Susan Sturkie, Susan Uehling

**Call to Order:** Mary Margaret Hoy called the meeting to order at 5:36 PM.

**Devotion:** Don Caughman gave the devotion followed by prayer.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mary Margaret Hoy asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 14, 2025, Social Ministry committee meeting. Jan Haigler provided the motion which was seconded by Steve Steck. A voice vote resulted in unanimous approval.

### **Committee Projects:**

- **Food Pantry** – Anne Rush reported that the food pantry served 26 families including 98 individuals in February. The year-to-date totals served are 54 families and 191 individuals. The food pantry volunteers were very appreciative of the large amount of canned good donations received from the Burgers and Bingo Parish Life event.
- **Meals on Wheels** – Don Caughman reported that there are 11 clients on GSLC's route with the same dependable and consistent volunteers as in the past. There was some discussion regarding the fact that while the clients certainly need the food provided, some are also just as much, if not more, in need of the human interaction.
- **Fun Fridays** – In Susan Sturkie's absence, other volunteers offered that the February event on Valentine's Day had gone well.
- **Ramp Ministry** – No report provided in the absence of Rod Kent. However, it is evident that work continues because of supplies that have been purchased.
- **Family Promise** – Jim Johnson reported that GSLC along with partner congregations Eastminster Presbyterian and Ebenezer Lutheran will provide meals in April with Jim handling a meal on April 29. There will also be a bowling event in West Columbia around that same time which allows time to connect with the families. The 2025 Night of Promise Gala will be held on April 10<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-10:30 at the Columbia Convention Center and is a formal attire event including both a silent and live auction with speaker Craig Melvin. GSLC has been given 4 free tickets thanks to our generous grant to Family Promise from the Good Shepherd Foundation. Family Promise serves 3 to 4 families at a time with transitional housing and works with 30-40 families with advice on how to stay in their homes.
- **More Justice** – Pastor Andrew Isenhower reported that the Executive Director of More Justice in Columbia, Lizzy Van Harn, attended a joint WELCA circle meeting recently and will also be the April POGS speaker. The annual large-gathering Nehemiah Action Assembly will be held on Monday, May 12, 2025, at a location yet to be determined.
- **A.C. Flora** – Pastor Andrew Isenhower reported that the GSLC Foundation directed [REDACTED] in excess funds from the grant for A. C. Flora backpacks to the A.C. Flora Food Pantry with the donation delivered in-person by Michelle Isenhower.

### **Old Business:**

- **Noisy Offerings** – Mary Margaret Hoy reported that the children's collections of donations on the fifth Sundays in 2025 will be directed as follows as decided by the children themselves. Thanks to Chris Hermann and Heather Gilbert for working with the youth regarding this project.
  - March (3/30/25) – Epworth Children's Home

- June (6/29/25) – Tanzania fund
- August (8/31/25) – AC Flora Backpack Program
- November (11/30/25) – Pawmetto Lifeline
- **Monthly Emphasis** – Some past and future monthly emphasis designations are given below.
  - December – Angel Tree: After [REDACTED] gift cards were donated and purchased for the 73 total clients at the Providence Home and Women’s Shelter, there were [REDACTED] in excess funds remaining. Following committee discussion, Steve Steck moved that we include the excess funds with the Lenten Self-Denial donations for Homeless No More, Providence Home, and Women’s Shelter where the funds will be split evenly among the three organizations so that the funds can be used now rather than saving the funds for the 2025 Angel Tree. Don Caughman seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion was unanimously approved.
  - March / Lenten Self Denial – Homeless No More, Providence Home, Women’s Shelter
  - April – Palmetto Place
  - May – Project HOPE
  - June – Big Red Barn

**New Business:**

- **“God’s work. Our hands.”** – The ELCA annual day of service is scheduled on Sunday, September 7, 2025, but congregations are encouraged to move their annual service day to a more convenient date as needed. Discussion included possibly choosing a Saturday in October or November without a USC or Clemson football game. It was mentioned that Operation InAsMuch struggled with having to solicit multiple organizations for service events and that finding an ongoing project to build lasting relationships might be a better choice. Pastor Andrew Isenhower suggested that Social Ministry coordinate with the Learning Committee regarding Vacation Bible School because families had indicated a desire for a day of service as part of VBS in the summer. Pastor Andrew will look further into this possible solution and report back to the committee at the next meeting. One option might be for members to spend time at a long-term nursing facility playing bingo or engaging in other activities with the residents.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 5:30 in Classroom 2

**Devotion for May:** Mary Margaret Hoy

**Adjourn:** Meeting was adjourned at 6:16 PM after a prayer was offered by Pastor Andrew Isenhower with the committee then reciting the Lord’s Prayer.

**Respectfully Submitted:** Mary Margaret Hoy

## Monthly Gift Report 2024 and 2025

Month/Year	Emphasis	Amount	Noisy Offering	Amount	Food Pantry	
					Families	Individuals
January 2024	Woodyard Fund	\$1,050.00	--	--	33	114
February 2024			--	--	38	146
March 2024	Lenten Self Denial • Homeless No More • Providence Home • Women's Shelter		A.C Flora		41	119
April 2024	TZ Farm Project		--		36	125
May 2024	Big Red Barn		--		31	104
June 2024	Project HOPE		Camp Cole		35	123
July 2024	Back Pack Programs Forest Lake, Conder, Bradley School Supplies Forest Lake, Bradley		--		50	162
August 2024	Free Medical Clinic		--		43	134
September 2024	Senior Resources (Andrew Boozer)		Epworth Children's Home		43	148
October 2024	Lutheran Disaster Relief Ray & Ruth Anne Sipe		--		41	135
November 2024	VA Food Pantry		--		42	143
December 2024	Angel Tree ELCA Good Gifts		City of Columbia Animal Shelter		27	92
January 2025	Woodyard Fund		--	--	28	93
February 2025			--	--	26	98
March 2025	Lenten Self Denial • Homeless No More • Providence Home • Women's Shelter		Epworth Children's Home			
April 2025	Palmetto Place		--	--		
May 2025	Project HOPE		--	--		
June 2025	Big Red Barn		Tanzania Fund			
July 2025			--	--		
August 2025			AC Flora Backpack program			
September 2025			--	--		
October 2025			--	--		
November 2025			Pawmetto Lifeline			
December 2025			--	--		

\* Because ELCA Good Gifts donations are sent directly to the ELCA and not through GSLC, no total amount can be provided.

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## **ACTION - Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Social Ministry Committee**

**Date:** March 19, 2025

### **Actions Taken:**

Jim Johnson forwarded information from Ebenezer Lutheran Church about an urgent funding need for Lutheran Services Carolinas (LCS) refugee program. Recently, the federal government stopped the resettlement of legal refugees despite a long history of bi-partisan support for this issue. LSC's concern is that the refugee families who have already come to the United States will be adversely affected by the government's actions.

The chair emailed all committee members on 3/16/25 regarding this issue and to ask if the committee wanted to consider changing our monthly emphasis schedule to include LCS. Kerry Stubbs made a motion to change the monthly emphasis schedule to April – LCS, May – Palmetto Place, June – Project HOPE, and July – Big Red Barn. Suzanne Sanders seconded.

Email discussion began, and Don Caughman made a motion to amend the original motion so that Project HOPE would be in May due to the sheriff's office needing the funds to purchase fans for warm weather sooner, and Palmetto Place would be for June. Suzanne Sanders seconded the motion to amend. After allowing time for discussion, the vote to amend the original motion was 10 Yes votes and 0 No votes out of 15 committee members excluding the chair. The amendment was approved.

More time was allowed for discussion, and then the final vote was taken resulting in 9 Yes votes and 0 No votes with voting ending on 3/19/25. The motion was approved to change the monthly emphasis to the following.

April – Lutheran Services Carolinas  
May – Project HOPE  
June – Palmetto Place  
July – Big Red Barn

**Respectfully Submitted:** Mary Margaret Hoy



## 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Task Force Report

The Task Force met on March 11, 2025.

### Items discussed and update:

#### 1) Upcoming events:

- A. April 27, 2025 – 4:00 p.m. --Spring Music Festival. Jim Johnson gave a report on members he is contacting to participate in this event. Jim will write a newsletter article about this event for the April newsletter and will try to provide someone to give a Temple Talk about event. Parish Life Committee will provide light refreshments. Members are encouraged to invite family, friends and former members.
- B. September 14, 2025 – Task Force recommends having worship service at 10:30 a.m., no Sunday School and a catered meal afterwards in the FAB. Former pastor The Rev. Dr. Ron Feltman will preach. Bishop Ginny Aebischer will attend.  
Several caterers were suggested and will be contacted for quotes on food/prices. Budget proposed █ per person. Special invitations sent mid-August with RSVP. Bulletin insert will be included several Sundays prior to event with opportunity for members to RSVP. Members are encouraged to invite family, friends and former members. Parish Life will assist with lunch event.
- C. Pastor Andrew was encouraged to invite other former pastors to participate in worship with us sometime during the summer months. Pastor Paul Wollner will be with us March 30th.

#### 2) Advertising/Communications/Publications

- A. Bulletin boards/ Posters – Special display posters and banner have been placed in narthex. Debi Powell and Anna Marie Plyler continue to work on a display to be viewed in the glass board on the walkway of the Educational Building.
- B. Newsletter articles – Don Caughman is continuing to do interviews with various members of the congregation to be published in newsletter.
- C. Magnet – Kappy Steck presented picture of sample, which was approved. She will place order for 500 with Allegra.
- D. Booklet – Booklet has been well received. Copies available one per family.
- E. 75-year ministry brochure – Nancy Hyatt presented data for a brochure on the various ministries of Good Shepherd for the past 75 years. Task Force approved proceeding with this publication. Don Caughman and Pastor Andrew will go over this data and make suggestions/recommendations.
- F. Bookmark – Bruce Shealy showed bookmark used and distributed at Congregation Retreats, suggesting a special one might be made and distributed for 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. It was decided we would wait until later to see if funds are available for this item.
- G. Facebook, Website, newspaper articles, etc. – Don Caughman will work with Communications Committee to do appropriate postings, etc.

Next meeting date – May 6, 2025, 4:30 p.m.