

*We are a community of all ages gathered by God's grace  
for worship, learning, loving, and service to all.*  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

**MINUTES – Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Council Meeting**  
Sunday, October 19, 2025

**Present:** Pastor Andrew, Anna-Marie Plyler, Barbara Nagy, David Lucas, Deborah Whitlow, Don Caughman, Jan Haigler, Kate Ferlato, Mary Margaret Hoy, Richard Inman, Sid Havird.

**Absent:** Becky Shealy, Chris Herrmann

**Call to Order:** Vice President Lucas called the meeting to order at 6:29 p.m.

**Devotion:** David Lucas provided the devotion.

**Guest:** Lauren Chandler shared the status of the Narthex roof repair with Council. After Mr. Chandler reviewed the details of the proposed repair and fielded questions from Council, Jan Haigler offered the following motion. The second was provided by Don Caughman.

*Council moves to proceed in reaching a final agreement with all participating parties in the replacement of the damaged Narthex roof with a non-metallic cover. The removal of the damaged panels and the replacement will be at no cost to the church. The Property Committee desires the approval of Council to proceed with the agreement process based on this solution. It is understood that no action will be taken without the approval by Council of the final agreement.*

A voice vote was taken, and the Motion was **Unanimously Approved**.

**Adoption of the October 19, 2025 Council Agenda.**

Having no changes, Vice President Lucas declared the Agenda **Approved**.

**Adoption of the August 17, 2025 Council Minutes**

Mr. Lucas asked for any comments or corrections to the September 21, 2025 Council Minutes. Having none, Mr. Lucas asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Richard Inman provided the motion; with Jan Haigler offering the second. Vice President Lucas called for a vote. The August 17, 2025 Minutes were **Unanimously Approved**.

**Attendance and Membership for September, 2025**

<u>2025</u>	<u>9:30</u>	<u>SS</u>	<u>YouTube</u>		<u>2024</u>	<u>9:30</u>	<u>SS</u>	<u>YouTube</u>
9/7/2025	90	40	24		9/1/2024	88	18	48
9/14/2025	181	n/a	57	2024 Rally Day #	9/8/2024	118	69	37
9/21/2025	90	34	39		9/15/2024	124	51	33
9/28/2025	100	49	25		9/22/2024	96	43	25
					9/29/2024	92	52	31
Average	115	31			Average	104	47	

**Note:** YouTube numbers reflect number of views, not number of people viewing.

Total Membership as of 12/31/2024: 568

Total Active Members 12/31/2024: 397

Current active Realm membership at the time of the September 2025 Council Meeting: 396

Members Added since the September 2025 Council Meeting: 0

Members Removed since the September 2025 Council Meeting: 1

Rosemarie O. Brown: Adult, Removed - Death

Current active Realm membership at the time of the October 2025 Council Meeting: 395

### **Reports**

1. Treasurer's Report: Written Reports Submitted:
2. Realm Financial Reports: Written Report Submitted.
3. Pastor Andrew's Report: Written Report Submitted.

### **Standing Committees:**

1. Communication – Don Caughman: No Written Report Submitted.
2. Evangelism Committee – Sid Havird: No Written Report Submitted at the meeting.
3. Finance Committee – David Lucas: Written Report Submitted at the meeting.
4. Gifts Committee – Kate Ferlauto: No Written Report Submitted.
5. Learning Committee – Barbara Nagy: No Written Report Submitted.
6. Parish Life Committee – Deb Whitlow: Written Report Submitted at the meeting.
7. Property Committee – Richard Inman: Written Report Submitted. Post report submission information: Dominion Energy was contacted the morning after the Property Committee meeting. Dominion responded immediately and repaired the gas leak.
8. Social Ministry Committee – Mary Margaret Hoy: No Written Report Submitted.
9. Worship Life Committee – Becky Shealy: No Written Reports Submitted.
10. Youth & Children Committee – Chris Herrmann: No Written Report Submitted.

### **Ad Hoc Committee Reports:**

1. GSLC 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Report: Nancy Hyatt: Written Report Submitted.

### **Old Business:**

1. Status of Nominees for Council:  
At the August Council Meeting, Council rank ordered the list of potential nominees for six upcoming vacant Council seats. At the time of this Council Meeting, four members have agreed to be nominated. The Executive Committee callers will continue to contact the nominees until we have a slate of six nominees.

### **New Business:**

1. Motion from Staff Support:  
*The Staff Support Committee moves to approve the updated Job Description of the Parish Administrator to include bookkeeping/payroll.*

The following markup of the updated Parish Administrator is contained below with the proposed updates highlighted in yellow and deletions struck through in red.

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**  
**3909 Forest Drive    Columbia, South Carolina**

**Position: Full-Time Parish Administrator**

**Hours per Week: 33 hours/week – 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM – M-Th - 30 min. lunch**  
**9:00 AM to 2:00 PM Friday - No lunch**

**Reporting to/Supervisor: ~~Senior~~ Pastor or Designee**

**Evaluator of Responsibilities: ~~Senior~~ Pastor in partnership with**  
**~~the President of the Congregation~~**  
**~~should be~~ Staff Support Liaison**

**Updated: September 2025**

**General Description:**

To oversee and implement the administrative/clerical, communication, and volunteer coordination efforts of the congregation.

**Qualifications:**

- Have 3 to 5 years of experience in an office or congregation setting and have proven clerical competence, judgement, the maturity to maintain confidentiality, and the ability to work well with others
- Have a congenial personality in dealing with co-workers and others and the self-motivation to perform job tasks with minimal or no supervision
- Have the skills and knowledge to operate office equipment, computers, software and a willingness to learn and master new tools in this area
- Have a basic knowledge and ability to quickly grasp the workings of the parish and to communicate verbally and in writing using proper grammar
- Have the proven ability to handle multiple tasks at the same time
- Have filing and organizational qualifications as needed and desired
- Have energy, initiative, and a desire to lead by example a “team feeling” within the paid church staff
- Have a creative and enthusiastic attitude
- Should meet the criteria outlined in GSLC Employee Handbook and agree to sign acceptance of said handbook
- Must have no prior conviction of felonies or misdemeanors and be willing to agree to a background check

**DUTIES:**

**Administrative/Clerical Duties**

- Assists in receptionist services for the parish office – telephone, email, ~~fax~~, walk-ins
- Distributes incoming mail to staff, council members, and executive committee
- Provides administrative support to pastor and executive committee

- Works with the Council Secretary to prepare and distribute council packets and other information necessary to communicate to council members when needed
- ~~Maintains and operates the Calling Post list for emergencies~~
- Orders office supplies as needed or requested
- Maintains the phone system voice operation
- Oversees scheduling of room assignments. Furnishes sexton written information relating to preparation and cleanup needed for room use of congregational events, is point of contact for those outside of the congregation who use our facilities and ensures that those who use the facilities are informed of the expectations for facility use
- Ensures that website calendar stays up to date and accurate
- Schedules service appointments for all office equipment as prescribed in contracts and as needed and maintains the account with the US Postal Service for handling bulk mail and Pitney Bowes
- Is responsible for and works with the ~~Senior~~ Pastor to ensure that the Parish Register is secure in locked safe and is current in data entry, data integrity, and daily upkeep of congregational records
- ~~Maintain membership data through Realm software~~
- Organizes Flower Schedule. Calls in orders weekly to florist and sends reminders to those who have offered flowers to ensure appropriate wording for the bulletin.
- ~~Updates bulletin board in Narthex~~
- Assist Financial Secretary when needed
- Assist in other workplace operations as needed/directed by supervisor or church officers

#### Communication Duties:

- Responsible for the editing and production of all printed communication materials including monthly newsletters, bulletins, brochures, and posters
- ~~Deliver monthly newsletter to USPS Bulk Mail Center for mailing~~
- Responsible for email communication for congregational distribution
- Works with the Communication Committee to keep information accurate and attainable on the church website
- Works with the Communication Committee to maintain a social media presence of GSLC (Facebook, etc.)
- Helps congregational leadership coordinate publicity for events as approved by Council/Pastors
- Works with the Communication Committee to circulate Press Releases to the local media as appropriate
- ~~Create YouTube link to post on website each week~~

#### Volunteer Coordination Duties:

- Maintains and updates the Time & Talent sheets and ensures that the data from the sheets is collected and distributed in a timely and efficient manner
- Schedules office volunteers as needed
- Assists leadership and actively seeks volunteers for specific needs as requested
- Partners with the pastor and leadership to ensure that all willing church members are able to participate in volunteer opportunities as appropriate

**Bookkeeper Duties:**

- Maintain bank accounts through Realm software
- Reconcile bank statements and prepare Month-End Reports
- Sort and distribute invoices received for approval prior to payment
- Parish Admin credit card expenditures are reconciled and paid once statement is received
- Once bills or invoices are approved, record and print checks for payment or electronic payment for bills paid via ACH payment and online
- Present checks weekly to Treasurer for signature
- Maintain files of paid bills
- Ensure we have a current W-9 Form for all contractors such as painters, construction contractors, electricians, plumbers, etc.
- Work with Finance Chair to keep track of expenditures and monthly reporting to present to Council
- Manage payroll component in Realm for GSLC employees and ensure payroll is processed twice a month
- Ensures all State and Federal payroll withholding requirements are met
- Maintain records to pay SC Sales Tax on a quarterly basis
- Year-End reporting via W-2s and 1099s

**General Duties:**

- Attends and participates in all staff meetings as required and/or directed by supervisor or designee
- Abides by church policies and values
- Performs other duties as necessary and as directed by the pastors or Congregational President

I understand these responsibilities and accept responsibility for their effective completion.

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Employee Name

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Date

After reviewing the updated Job Description and Council discussion, Mr. Lucas called for a vote to approve the Staff Support motion. A vote was taken, and the Motion was **Unanimously Approved**.

**2. Important Upcoming Dates:**

- October 19, 26 and November 2:** Pledge Cards to be Turned In.
- November 16, 2025:** 2026 Proposed Budget to be submitted to Council for Approval.
- November 23, 2025:** Called Congregational Meeting to accept nominations from the floor for Council and Foundation Board.
- December 14, 2025:** Called Congregational Meeting to vote to Approve Budget and also Vote for New Council and Foundation Board Members.
- Committee Annual Reports are to be submitted in January of 2026.

## **Petitions and Communications**

### **The Pulse**

### **Adjourn**

Vice President Lucas declared the meeting adjourned at 7:29p.m. Pastor Andrew closed the meeting by offering prayer followed by leading the Council in The Lord's Prayer..

Respectfully Submitted: Anna-Marie Plyler

## **Church Business**

The Executive Committee and I recruited new council members for the coming term. In addition, the Finance Committee, staff, and I have been working to prepare a budget for the upcoming year. I attended a MORE Justice meeting on behalf of Good Shepherd and was pleased to have our congregation join the organization thanks to Council's vote at the last meeting. We are now an official member congregation.

## **Committee Business and Parish Activities**

I have met with the Shepherds Visitors group, Finance Committee, Executive Committee, Social Ministry Committee, and Worship Life Committee. I also attended the POGS luncheon, the Grounding in Gratitude events, and the Fall Fest Event.

## **Pastoral Care**

With the faithful help of our Shepherd's Visitors, I continue to provide care and support for the congregation. The past month I made 9 home visits, 5 hospital/facility/nursing home visits, and made 31 pastoral care phone calls. I am continuing to work with the Mutual Ministry committee to strategize ways to maximize visitation effectiveness.

## **Worship**

I prepared, planned, presided, and preached for all worship services throughout the month. In addition I planned and officiated a funeral for Pamela Holmes Dickens, daughter of late member Silas Holmes and sister of current member Wendell Holmes. The staff and I are working on midweek Advent services as well as Advent and Christmas seasonal worship services.

## **Teaching**

I've continued teaching our Confirmation students each week. I've also continued to teach weekly bible study in person and online. I am preparing materials and a strategy for small group bible studies during Lent in 2026 per the Learning Committee's discussion at our last meeting.

## **Continuing Education**

I missed my clergy support group meeting this month due to illness. I will continue as usual with this group in December.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Andrew Isenhower

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**Finance Committee Meeting - MINUTES  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
November 6, 2025**

**PRESENT:** Deb Embrey, Jan Haigler, Rod Kent, Karen Lucas, David Lucas, Janet Lockhart, Gloria Oakes, Pastor Andrew

**ABSENT:** Becky Shealy

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 5:28 PM, by David Lucas, chairperson of the Finance Committee.

**DEVOTIONAL:** Karen Lucas shared a devotion from "The Daily Bread", called "Shining Stars", related to Philippians 2:15-16.

**MINUTES:** The minutes from October 9, 2025 were emailed to all members. Deb Embrey moved to approve the minutes as emailed. The motion was seconded by Jan Haigler and approved unanimously.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** Jan Haigler provided the end of October balance sheet for the savings and checking accounts. The money market savings account balance was [REDACTED] and the checking account balance was [REDACTED].

Jan Haigler shared that the Congregational Council, at the October meeting, approved her to move [REDACTED] from the Unallocated Interest Income account to the Reserve Fund. Jan had to pull [REDACTED] from the Reserve Fund to cover operating expenses and taxes.

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT:** Deb Embrey reported we received [REDACTED] in general offering for the month of October, which is [REDACTED] of our monthly budget needs of [REDACTED].

We received [REDACTED] of the monthly budget for October 2024.

We received [REDACTED] of the monthly budget for October 2023.

We received [REDACTED] of the monthly budget for October 2022.

**TABULATORS REPORT:** David Lucas reported no problems with tabulators.

**TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT:** Jan Haigler reported that she signed the check for Susan Sturkie's new computer. The members of the technology committee are handling some software license changes.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Committee reviewed Statement of Activities and Statement of Financial Position. No issues were noted.

Financial Audit update: No updates yet, but Becky Shealy has talked with Carole Sox.

Budget worksheet: The 2026 budget worksheet was reviewed by the committee. Deb Embrey used pledges received along with other giving information to develop an estimate of 2026 offerings. Based on this information the Finance Committee worked through the budget to determine places that could be adjusted. A new proposed budget is being put together by David Lucas to be presented to the Congregational Council on November 16.



**Finance Committee Meeting - MINUTES  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
November 6, 2025  
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**NEW BUSINESS:**

The Finance Committee will meet on Tuesday, December 2, at 5:30 PM, if needed to review the 2026 Proposed Budget.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM with a prayer from Pastor Andrew.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Karen Lucas

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**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Learning Committee Meeting  
Minutes**

October 16, 2025

Meeting called to order with a devotion by Barbara Nagy at 5:05 pm.

Present: Barbara Nagy, Don Caughman, Bruce Shealy, Pastor Andrew, Lisa Sanchez, Heather Gilbert, Stacy Gross.

Adult classes continue: two weekly bible studies with pastor, one on Tuesdays at 1130 am in the conference room and one virtual at 8:15 am with a link sent in a weekly email on Tuesdays.

Sunday School class attendance: K through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade: 5.

Confirmation: 7-8

High School: 2

Bruce spoke to Sunday School organization (short term plan, guide lines, expectations), a handbook for teachers to make it easier for lay people to want to give their time, support for these volunteers. We need to decide where we want to go with Sunday School. Adult classes are thriving, children's are hit and miss.

Don spoke to having a decrease in children in our church at present. Is there support for a Sunday School? Do we want one? Do people really want to help? Servivability of our church depends on what the congregation wants.

Bruce added we need an action plan, a vision and more support. The tipping point is now.

Lisa suggested we register any visitors that attend our Fall Festival and write a note as a follow up inviting them to a church service.

Stacy reminded folks to invite friends as well. Reminded us that Sunday School teachers get burned out too.

Bruce made the statement: "What do we need to do to get people here" ?

Pastor asked how do we nurture souls now versus the early days of the church? How do we re-invigorate people? Are families dying or are they just too busy to be bothered with church?

Don stated church was and is a significant part of his life growing up as well as now. Why do we attend church now? Can you get the same thing somewhere else?

Barbara checked out Gracelife Church on Clemson Road via their website. It's a nondenominational church with the theme of existing to know God, find life, make a difference, and reaching out in our world. Service times are Thursday evenings at 6:45 pm, Sundays at 9 am, 1030 am, and noon. There is an on line campus at 9 am Sunday. They have life groups which they tout as ideal for making friends along with groups on marriage, finance, spiritual freedom, and community groups that discuss the weekend message (similar to Sunday School (?)). They offer a military men's group as well as one for military wives. Looks like they cover a lot of bases. Our church does a lot in ways of service to others. I don't feel we should be in competition with other churches.

Pastor spoke about innovations, what are the unspoken needs and how do we meet these needs in today's world. We need to identify the problems.

How do we inspire a Christian Family today?

Stacy added that we should talk to our children, the older ones, and ask what they would like to see in our church. Pastor added that he might do that with his confirmation group. Might be good to get their families input as well. Is it scheduling? Maybe try a podcast just for the children. He stated Christus Victor (Irmo area), is trying intergenerational classes.

NOTE: Barbara checked the Christus Victor website and found they have large number of children. Their Sunday School curriculum sounds very good, with story tellers, crafts and games, special events, and service projects and leaders for all these categories.

Heather spoke to the importance of Sunday School. She spoke to her son and he likes being with kids his age and interests. He would like to have a youth group experience and a contemporary style of church service and music (most of his friends have this at their churches). He's enthusiastic about this!

Pastor also spoke to the importance of Sunday School. Suggested rotating teachers. I reminded everyone that first we need to find teachers and substitutes. Two teachers per class are needed to maintain order. The lack of support needs to be addressed. Don mentioned high schoolers interacting with the adult classes. Heather would like to see this group join Jim and Susan in music also.

No Sunday School on December 7 due to the Christmas Program There will be mid week services during Christmas Advent.

Bruce spoke to small groups (6-8 people) meeting for special studies. Would like to expand these groups with more leaders. He will mention this at the small group supper club.

We need to train and prepare lay people on how to teach, where to find resources, and a curriculum.

Confirmation will take place on May 24, 2026.

Vacation Bible School needs to be addressed for 2026.

Pastor closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Nagy Chairperson Learning Committee

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**MINUTES – Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Parish Life Committee Meeting**

**Date:** 11/13/2025 @ 5:30 PM

**Present:** Laura Leigh Smith, Bobbie Storey, and Deb Whitlow

**Absent:** Amy Kemp, Suzanne Sanders, Mike Weaver, and Kappy Steck

**Call to Order and Devotion:** Deb Whitlow provided the devotion for the night.

Meeting Minutes:

No Meeting in October and no November Event.

Our event will be on Sunday, December 7th, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. Please let me know if you will not be attending. We need help manning the stations. Please let me know what station you would like to help with.

@Bobbie, will you please put my name down for a box of 20 cards on the sign-up sheet? The donation board was placed in the narthex at the meeting.

@Laura Leigh, I confirmed with Mary Margaret that we will do 50 Stockings for the Food Pantry, and then we will do 15 Stockings for our Shut-ins that Don Caughman will deliver. That makes a total of 65. I hope everyone gets excited to make the stockings (as excited as I am)!!

@Amy, do you know what the set-up will be for the Children's Program? Will you be using the 6 Pencil Christmas Trees on the stage? Are you using them at all?

@Amy, would you be willing to pre-make some sugar cookie dough? I will pre-make the chocolate chip cookie dough and the snickerdoodle cookie dough.

These are the stations we will be having:

Station 1. Cookie Baking Station (Everyone will be baking cookies if they wish to) -

Station 2. Card Signing Station (Everyone will be signing cards if they wish to)- **Suzanne Sanders** will help with this station.

Station 3. Cookie Decorating Station and Packaging Station (Everyone will be decorating if they wish to)-

Station 4. Stocking Stuffer Station (Everyone can help fill stockings if they wish to)- **Laura Leigh** Smith will help with this station.

We have already placed the sign-up board in the Narthex. Please help us promote this event; it is for everyone, and we encourage you to invite family, friends, and neighbors.

Thank you all for all of your help with this committee this year. We're getting excited and already have some ideas for next year's events.

January- Event will be the Chili Cook off and Epiphany Service (We need to confirm the date)

February- Most likely there will be a Supper Club event, Tentative date February 7th? Mardi Gras Theme possibly .

March-No event

April- First Sunday of the month (will have to change the date of the event due to Easter)

May- No event

June- First Sunday of the month

July- No event

August- Supper Club?

September- No event

October- First Sunday of the month

November- No event

December- First Sunday of the month

We will most likely change the meeting time for next year so hopefully we can have more people available to meet. I have enjoyed working and getting to know those on the committee. I hope I have covered everything.

**Parish Life Events Calendar:**

Nov. - No Event

Dec. - Cookies, Cards & Carols (Christmas Party)- 1st Sunday in December.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer and adjourned at 6:30 PM.

**Submitted Respectfully:** Deb Whitlow

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

**Date:** November 11, 2025

**Present:** Don Caughman, Mary Margaret Hoy, Pastor Andrew Isenhower, Jim Johnson, Rod Kent, Janet Lockhart, Cathy Milejczak, Susan Sturkie

**Absent:** Janice Haigler, Anne Rush, Suzanne Sanders, Steve Steck, Kerry Stubbs, Susan Uehling

**Call to Order:** Mary Margaret Hoy called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

**Devotion:** Jim Johnson gave a devotion.

**Approval of Minutes/Actions:** Mary Margaret Hoy asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Social Ministry committee meeting held on September 9, 2025. Cathy Milejczak provided the motion which was seconded by Don Caughman. A voice vote resulted in unanimous approval.

### **Committee Projects:**

- **Food Pantry** – Anne Rush was unable to attend and asked Don Caughman to read her food pantry report. In September, 34 bags of food were given to food pantry clients with a total of 100 people served. In October, there were 51 bags of food given to 159 people. Year to date totals are 315 bags for 1,029 people served. Food requests increased beginning mid-October due to the SNAP benefits stoppage in November which means more food has had to be purchased to meet the increase in need. Thanksgiving and Christmas boxes will be distributed to clients in November and December to include items for a special holiday meal using funds from two significant donations this year. Bread has been added to the distribution beginning in September which clients really enjoy, but a suggestion was made that we consider removing the bread handout in 2026. Because the large carts are more difficult to maneuver, a small grocery cart has been ordered with funds from the Ray Adams memorial fund. Two significant donations to the food pantry were received recently.
- **Meals on Wheels** – Don Caughman reported that one person has been removed from the Meals on Wheels route, one other is moving soon, and there will then be only 7 recipients on the route. The current volunteers are managing well.
- **Fun Fridays** – Susan Sturkie reported that she would always like more helpers for Fun Fridays. Around 20-25 clients typically come to these events.
- **Ramp Ministry** – Rod Kent reported that the group worked on a ramp recently with another on the schedule soon and a couple of more applications are also under review. Don Caughman would like to write an article for the Star about our ramp ministry, and Cathy Milejczak will speak to Mike Weaver about that possibility.
- **Family Promise** – Jim Johnson reported that in October there was a very successful Family Promise Week with different activities and ending with a potluck dinner attended by guest families and partner congregation participants. The group has a new case manager, and 56 families served in core programs this year with many more families on the edge of homelessness served in other capacities. An application was submitted for a GSLC Foundation grant for Family Promise. The fall newsletter is available on the narthex display board.
- **MORE Justice** – Pastor Andrew Isenhower reported that the church council approved Good Shepherd to become a member congregation with MORE Justice. Janet Lockhart reported that the GSLC Foundation approved a [REDACTED] grant submitted to provide funds to the organization on behalf of the church. GSLC and Christus Victor Lutheran both joined MORE Justice as member congregations this fall. The 2025-2026 focus will continue to be affordable housing including projects already in progress such as the local housing issue where MORE Justice has requested an Affordable Housing Trust Fund to be established with a dedicated source



of funding and statewide legislation to help remove evictions from public records after six years. The group is working on a third area related to affordable housing for the current year.

- **A.C. Flora** – Pastor Andrew Isenhower reported that the school counselor has not been in contact about any specific needs recently. He will check in with the school before the next meeting.

#### **Old Business:**

- **Noisy Offerings** – The future noisy offerings for 2025 are listed below.
  - November (11/30/25) – Pawmetto Lifeline
- **Monthly Emphasis** – The committee chose the December and January emphases as shown below.
  - November – VA Food Pantry
  - December – Angel Tree, ELCA Good Gifts
  - January – The Woodyard Fund
- **Salvation Army Bell Ringing** – Janet Lockhart reported that the annual Salvation Army Bell Ringing is still scheduled for Saturday, December 13, 10 am to 6 pm, at Lowes Foods on Forest Drive. Sign-up sheets will be available either this Sunday or next Sunday.
- **Social Ministry Display Board** – Mary Margaret Hoy reported that the display board is in the narthex. It will be updated monthly with the monthly emphasis and thank you notes.

#### **New Business:**

- **Candyman Homeless Outreach Ministry** – Bubba Cromer emailed Don Caughman about a grant for his ministry. Don suggested to him that he apply for a Foundation grant which he did.
- **Angel Tree** – Susan Uehling will make all arrangements for the December Angel Tree where gift cards are collected to give to all clients at the Providence Home men's shelter and the Women's Shelter.
- **ELCA Good Gifts** – Kerry Stubbs has offered to include an item in the newsletter and/or bulletins so that the congregation will be aware of the ELCA Good Gifts opportunity for Christmas. A few catalogs are available on the Social Ministry display board for members to browse if so desired.
- **SNAP Benefits and Food Pantry** – Due to the delay in SNAP benefits related to the government shutdown, the church office needs volunteers to help answer the phones on Monday mornings. Mary Margaret Hoy has agreed to help but others are welcome to let Deborah Mithell know if they would like to help out some Mondays. Anne Rush requested and the committee approved for the food pantry cart to be put in the narthex each Sunday until the food pantry needs decrease. The committee changed the capacity from 20 to 25 clients each week for November and would like to reevaluate and consider a capacity of 30 per week in December. The food pantry had planned for 50 Thanksgiving boxes and 40 Christmas boxes for this year but the increase in clients will far exceed those limits, at least for November. The committee decided that every family, whether established or new clients, who comes for food in November should be given a Thanksgiving box including food for a special holiday meal. The additional boxes that will need food purchased may include different items than the original boxes as needed. Clients may continue to come to the food pantry twice a month. There will be further discussion at the next meeting about guidelines for food purchases. Another consideration for the future is to have additional times for packing bags of food before Wednesday distributions.
- **Parish Life Christmas Stockings for Food Pantry** – Although the topic was accidentally omitted during the meeting, Mary Margaret Hoy also let the committee know by email that the Parish Life December event will include putting together Christmas stockings to be given out to the food pantry clients, one per family. The event is not until 12/7/25 and Anne requested stockings for 12/3/25 to be fair to the food pantry clients, so Mary Margaret Hoy will provide the stockings for that first food distribution in December.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at 5:30 in Classroom 2

**Devotion for January:** Cathy Milejczak

**Adjourn with Prayer:** The meeting was adjourned after a prayer was offered by Pastor Andrew Isenhower.

**Respectfully Submitted:** Mary Margaret Hoy

# Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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## Worship Life Committee Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2025

Attendees: Pastor Andrew, Becky Shealy, Susan Sturkie, Jim Johnson, Pat Quattlebaum, Marcia Woodward and Kerry Stubbs.

Pastor Andrew began the meeting with devotion.

The Minutes of the September meeting were approved as amended.

### Old Business:

Jim Johnson gave an update on the Handbell Choir. He informed the committee that the Handbell Choir would not be starting this year. He plans to try again after the first of the year. He has been unable to get 8 people to volunteer a Saturday and Sunday to practice and play bells in worship.

We are still having issues with the audio streaming and a couple of the microphones. Jim Johnson volunteered to check them prior to service to make sure the congregation and streaming have audible programming.

The revised budget for 2026 was discussed and the cuts were analyzed. It was decided that we need to advise Council that copyrights are a must and should be left in the budget as requested. It was also noted that altar and communion supplies may be overspent because of increased prices. Jim Johnson advised that he could use the 2 music lines items for adult choir if necessary.

Acolyte and Crucifer training has not begun. Pastor Andrew was asked about when he planned to do this. No definite date has been set. He was advised that we need to move forward with scheduling the training. He plans to do it during his Confirmation class time.

Advent Services were discussed. Jim Johnson advised that all Sunday services have been laid out and he is presently working on the mid-week services.

The Children's Christmas program is not coming along well. If participation does not pick up it may have to be cancelled this year. He cannot get commitments for practice on Sunday morning or the Saturday rehearsal. He is sending recordings to each family in hopes they will learn the music and participate. It is the same music as the previous year.

The committee was advised that Pastor Andrew and Becky Shealy have discussed the best way to go about starting the discussion of a second service. Pastor Andrew advised that at this time he is concerned about finances and people to support the new venture. More to come in the future.

### New Business:

It was decided to have another Music Festival in 2026. The tentative date for the event is April 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 P.M. with light refreshments following the event. Jim Johnson will start getting people to

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participate. We will publish as date to remember in the next newsletter and do newsletter article in March. Jim Johnson will handle this.

### Upcoming Events:

First Sunday of Advent 11/30/2025 – Chrismon tree will be placed in sanctuary without Chrismons.

Advent Wednesdays starting Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>

– Services at noon and 6:30 P.M. Meal served following noon service and at 5:30 P.M. for evening services.

Children's Christmas Program Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 following worship service.

Christmas Eve Services – 5:00 P.M. and 10:00 P.M. Both services will have strings. Ed Beaman has agreed to do lighting for Christmas Eve services.

A meeting date will be set after the first of the year when a new Chair has been appointed.

Pastor Andrew closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Becky Shealy, Chair of Worship Life Committee