

Pastor's Page

Dear Beloved in Christ-

Thank you so much to everyone who made our Christmas celebrations so joyful: the musicians, choir, greeters, readers, Communion assistants, ushers, acolytes, Altar Guild, "cup people," decorators, luminaria folks and poinsettia donors. Thanks to the staff for having everything in place and keeping the place tidy! To any I may have forgot, please forgive me, but know that the gift of time and talents is so appreciated!

THANK
you.

The Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 21st**, directly following the 9:30am worship service. After the meeting we will be having a luncheon to celebrate the "burning of the mortgage." You may be wondering why the meeting is a bit later than is typical for Good Shepherd. This fall the Church Council began the process of preparing the 2024 Annual Budget. After a review of the initial draft from the Finance team, it was agreed that council members would go back to their committees to see if expenses might be reduced for the coming year. Next the Council looked carefully at our current and historical income so that projections might be as accurate as possible. We believe that taking this additional time was an important part of a healthy process. The new budget will be distributed next week.

The Call Committee has had its first two meetings. In December they had a joint meeting with the Transition Team to review the process that was followed to create our Ministry Site Profile. (It's kind of like the church's résumé.) At its second meeting the Committee began working on interview questions in preparation for meeting with pastoral candidates.

One of the trickiest parts of being in the Call Process is that the Committee's work is very confidential. Interview times, candidates names, results of meetings- none of this can be shared with the congregation, the Council or even the very curious Interim Pastor. So while we may all be eager to learn what's happening, we will have to wait for a while longer. What I can tell you is that we have been waiting for the last three months for the congregational audit to be completed before the Committee could receive any candidates' names. This delay was not the fault of the congregation or the auditor, but was caused by a delay in receiving materials from two of our banks. This created a stall in the process which has now been started in earnest.

You may be wondering, "how long must we wait?" I can't really tell you, though I wish that I could. What I can tell you is this. From the time of the initial interview with a candidate until the time they could start serving, varies with every process. In part, this is because pastoral candidates do not want their current congregation to know they are in the call process and because the Committee is made up of volunteers. Getting all of these people together can be tricky. Unforeseen delays can happen due to illness and bad weather. On page five of this newsletter you will find a "Call Process Flow Chart." As you look at it you will find there are a lot of twists and turns, but hopefully it will help to clarify any questions you may have about "what happens next." We are currently approaching the third green box, *Office of Bishop gives names of candidates to Call Committee Chair*.

As the congregation continues to move forward, please keep the Call Committee in your prayers. That's all for now! Hope to see you on Sunday!

Pastor Heidi

The Mortgage is Paid! But wait...

As you have hopefully heard, Good Shepherd completed its mortgage payments this summer. We will be celebrating by **burning the mortgage** in worship on **Sunday, January 21st**. A celebratory luncheon will follow the service that day.



In the meantime, please know that any offerings received that are designated "mortgage payment" are being used to offset the cost of the recent kitchen remodeling in the parsonage. Additionally, our 2024 offering envelopes will no longer include a *Mortgage* option but will offer an option to give gifts designated as *Building Maintenance*.



As the Council has worked on the 2024 Budget, we are hoping that you will continue to give at the same level as in the past. We may not have a mortgage but there are other ministries in need of support. Thank you

Monthly Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, January 20, 2024 8-10 am

This event is open to the public.

Tell your friends and neighbors.

Join us for pancakes, french toast, bacon, sausage, eggs/omelets made to order, hash browns, dry beef gravy, baked goods, fruit, coffee, tea and juice.

\$10 adults/\$4 children



Inclement Weather

With the winter months approaching, it won't be long before there is snow and ice in our forecast! In order to ensure everyone's safety, there may be times that it will be necessary to cancel Sunday worship services.

Church closure information will be available by calling the church office, 610 384-2035. We will also make every effort to have this information posted on our website and Facebook page.

Please do not attempt to attend worship if you feel it is unsafe to drive!!



The Blessings Box

Add the Blessings Box to your shopping list! Every day a Good Shepherd volunteer replenishes the Blessings Box with non-perishable food, personal care and household items. Often when they arrive, the box is nearly empty which tells us that people depend on us as a regular resource. With changes to SNAP, the need for assistance only increases. Additionally, spring into summer can be a difficult time for people in need. As you do your weekly shopping, please remember this important ministry.

Hanny's Bible Study

Hanny's Bible Study meets every Wednesday at 10:30 am in the Café. Currently they are studying the Gospel according to John. All are welcome!



A Message from the Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry

- ♦ **LIFT** is back on January 7th! Join us after Sunday Worship for a time of learning and fellowship!
- ♦ Thanks to everyone who purchased Gift Cards through the Scripps program. Remember, you can buy gift cards all year long, in person or online.
- ♦ If you have suggestions for events or activities, please feel free to email me at cyfm@luthgoodshep.org or talk to me after church or call 267.463.3914.

Thanks! Katie Schnaath

Looking For New Worship Team Members

Our Worship teams do a great job with leading us, but we could use some more members for weekly leadership. If you would like to be a regular or substitute worship team member, sign-up forms can be found on the Welcome Center. Team assignments will be made in December.



Prayer Chain Updates

The Prayer Chain is a meaningful way to share joys and concerns with others in the congregation. If you would like to participate as one who prays or add a prayer request, contact Kim Tapscott at (484) 678-9255. You can also contact Pr. Heidi or Sandy at the church office.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. + Philippians 1:3-5



Get Ready for Summer 2023!

We're excited to announce the Summer 2024 theme: One in Love!

The theme for the 50th summer of camp at Bear Creek is based on the final phrase of the beloved BCC song *Go in Peace*. "The part of you in me and the part of me in you will keep us all together **one in love**."

We can't wait to share more information about the summer programs in the coming weeks! And remember, campers from LCGS can apply for scholarships every summer!



Summer Registration opens January 2, 2024!

2024 Sponsorships

Signup sheets for 2024 are now up outside of the Pastor's office.

The price for flowers is \$40 for 1 vase/\$80 for both.

The Eternal Candle remains at \$15 per month. Bulletins are \$10/week. There is no sponsorship available for Children's Bulletins.

Grass Cutting will be posted in early spring.

Thank you!

1/1	Christiana Bangura
1/2	Hawah Kollie
1/3	Edwin Obed-Joel Rivera Davila
	Sharon Hopkins
1/5	Susan Huston
	Minico Williams-Hufnagel
1/6	Barbara Siple
	Nancy Kirchgasser
	Cameron Clark
1/7	Sandy Wirth
1/8	Christine Caria
1/9	Cheryll Morris
1/10	RJ Wilgis
1/12	Darwin Andreozzi
1/13	Gloria Kristof

1/14	Colleen White
1/17	Susan Cowan
1/22	Richard Kollie
	Bradley Davidson
	Linda Kimes
1/23	Lilly Griffith
	Abby Griffith
1/24	Bob Durborow
1/25	Kabba Bangura
1/26	Ed Waas
1/27	Cynthia Hall
	JoAnn DiOttavio
1/28	Mark Kauppila
1/30	Shirley Blount
1/31	Amy Gauer



1/1	Jon & Margaret Roth	19 yrs.
1/1	James & Melissa Thoss-Bond	57 yrs.
1/3	David & Sata Grigsby	43 yrs.
1/11	Bill & Lynn Hornberger	55 yrs.
1/19	Glenn & Darlene Ford	63 yrs.
1/23	Walt & Catherine McCulley, Jr.	53 yrs.
1/23	Raymond & Mary Lou Taylor	59 yrs.



Deaths in Our
Church Family

12/6/23 - Charlie Scott

Financial Update - November 2023

Receipts: Total Current Receipts through November 2023 were up (+4.5%) compared to the same period in 2022. Adult Receipts (pledged giving) was down (-1.7%). Other Adult Receipts were up (+35.3%). Hall Donations/Rental Fees were up (+18.1%). Mortgage Receipts were down (-12.6%).

Expenses: Total Current Expenses through November 2023 increased by (+15.6%) compared to the same period in 2022. The largest portions of the increased expenses were due to Staff salaries and Property maintenance.

Giving

Activate the QR Reader to make an online gift to the general fund or designated ministries.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Are you a member of Thrivent? You may have unused Choice Dollars! Choice Dollars can be designated to Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. Another great way to keep our ministries going! Check with your Thrivent Representative for more information.

