

Pastor's Page

The largest living organism in the world is *Pando* also referred to as the *Sleeping Giant*. Above ground, Pando appears to be a grove of individual Aspen trees, like any other grove. It was overlooked, for years, but underground everything is connected by a single and vast root system. It is one tree. A one-tree-forest. Located in Utah, Pando is made up of more than 47,000 trunks and millions of leaves. While we are each a new creation, like Pando we share common roots. We are connected to each other through the community of the church. Through fellowship, faith formation and service we come to know each other's stories as we share common tasks.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, it has not always been easy to feel a sense of connectedness. We have yearned to stretch out and be nourished by what Luther called "the mutual consolation and conversation of the brothers and sisters." The feeling of disconnect has gotten better, but for many there is still a challenge to feel in synch with the whole.



As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, I invite you to consider how you are connected to this organism known as Christ's Lutheran Church. Are you ready to get involved in a new commitment to service? Are you feeling a need to grow deeper through study and faith formation? Do you want to stretch and grow in your financial commitment to CLC's ministry? The spiritual health and well-being of each member at CLC contributes the whole of our "root system."

Of Pando, Maria Shriver said, "Pando means I belong to you, you belong to me, we belong to each other." May the same be said about Good Shepherd and our life together.

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



Financial Update - September 2023

Receipts: Total Current Receipts through September 2023 were up (+1.5%) compared to the same period in 2022. Adult Receipts (pledged giving) was down (-0.9%). Other Adult Receipts were up (+71.1%). Hall Donations/Rental Fees were up (+7.0%). Mortgage Receipts were down (-41.4%).

Expenses: Total Current Expenses through September 2023 increased by (+22.5%) compared to the same period in 2022. The largest portions of the increased expenses were due to Staff salaries and Property maintenance.

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

LIFT has resumed! We are excited to have a new curriculum, *Whirl*, which is a lectionary-based Sunday School program. This means the lessons will correspond with the lessons from each week's worship service. LIFT is expected to last no more than thirty minutes and everyone is invited to attend.

Fall is here and we have had some great things happening at church with much more to come. I want to thank everyone who came out to help with **Bag and Basket Bingo**, by donating your time, baskets, bags and yummy treats. We are excited to have three Young Adults attending the ELCA 2024 Young Adult Gathering and we are hoping for five youth attending the ELCA National Youth Gathering. If you are interested in going to either event there is still time to sign up. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. We don't want money to be the reason why you don't get to participate in these amazing events.

Our current Gathering fundraiser is **Fill an Envelope**. Find an envelope in the narthex and fill it with cash or a check that corresponds with the number you chose. If every envelope gets filled we will have raised \$1,110.

Thank you for your continued support in making sure our Youth and Young Adults get a chance at this amazing opportunity for faith formation with Lutherans from across the country.

Trunk or Treat was a great success and I want to again thank everyone who came out for the event. I loved seeing all the creative trunks and costumes.

Our Church Directory is Online!

View our church directory online or via the **FREE** mobile app today.

To view the directory online, go to members.instantchurchdirectory.com and follow the prompts under "Sign In" to "Create a login now." Please remember, you must confirm your email address before you can sign in.

There is also a free mobile app available for download at the Apple® App store in iTunes®, Google Play™ store and the Amazon Fire App Store. Simply search for "**Instant Church Directory**" to get the download.

You will need to use your email address as listed in our directory to create a log-in the first time you use the directory online and via the mobile app.

Need help or have questions?

Please contact Sandy or Pastor Heidi.



Our Church Directory is powered by [Instant Church Directory](https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com).



Tuesday, November 28, 2023

We're Building Up to Giving Tuesday!

Each year, our community tackles a BIG project together. In the past three years we have enhanced our program site cabins to be able to be used throughout the year with heat and insulation, purchased new mattresses for all of camp, and invested in a new pavilion and upgrades at the waterfront.

In 2023, we're excited to work together on the next BIG thing – expansion and enhancements to the high ropes course!

<https://bearcreekcamp.campbraingiving.com/>

Hanny's Bible Study

Hanny's Bible Study meets every Wednesday at 10:30 am in the Café.

All are welcome!



Daylight Savings Time Ends

Sunday, November 5th.
Set your clocks **BACK** one hour before bed on **Saturday the 4th.**

How Can Kids Serve in Worship?



On Sunday, December 3rd at the weekly LIFT Gathering Pastor Heidi will be leading our children in youth in a training session for worship leadership. She'll be covering acolyting, ushering, assisting with communion and serving as a reader. If you have young people who enjoy serving in worship, please make sure to have them at church on December 3rd at 10:30am!

Looking 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.



Gifts For Vets 2023 Holiday Collection!

Good Shepherd is again partnering with our Scout Troop 117 for a holiday collection of items for veterans at the Coatesville VA Hospital.



Items donated should be placed in the Narthex bin – Deadline December 6.

Items needed for women & men include:

New white socks, T-shirts, underwear, wire-free bras, slipper socks, liquid body wash, toothbrushes, toothpaste, denture cream/paste, combs & brushes, deodorant, powder, shaving cream, disposable razors, tissues, shampoo & conditioner, paper/pads/envelopes, Forever stamps, belts, phone cards.

Thank you for your generosity towards those who have served our country!

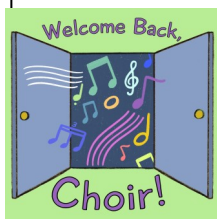
Music Opportunities!

Handbell ringers needed! No experience necessary. Rehearsals are Monday's at 7:30 in the sanctuary. Please see Martha or email her at mchan@luthgoodshep.org.



Adult Choir! I invite you to join the Adult Choir in our quest to worship our Lord. We will start rehearsal on Thursday Sept. 7 at 7:00 pm in the music room. We sing at the 9:30 am service on Sundays from September through May and other special services. Even if you feel you do not know how to sing you can join. My job is to teach you. We have a lot of fun while we try to worship the Lord to the best of our availability. Looking forward to seeing some new faces!!!

Feel free to contact Donna Fesmire, dfesmire@luthgoodshep.org, with any questions.



Monthly Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, November 18, 2023 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



Good Shepherd Food Ministries – Powered by You!

Many grateful thanks to our Good Shepherd congregation for your faithful support of our food ministries. So many of you have faithfully provided much-needed food donations for our Food Table, Blessings Box, Coatesville Library Food Bin, and Holiday Meals. We also sincerely thank our community supporters – Good Shepherd's neighbors, Good Shepherd's Scout troops, Rosebud's Daycare, Olivet United Methodist Church, Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, retired Friendship Elementary schoolteachers group, Coatesville Lions, and others! Finally, big thanks to Thrivent for their generous Action Team grants which allow us to make timely food purchases. **Thank You All!**



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.

Prayer Chain Updates

Kim Tapscott has the prayer chain up and running!

Kim can be reached at 484 678-9255 for all prayer requests. You can also contact Pr. Heidi or Sandy at the church office.

If you would like to be a part of the Prayer Chain, please contact Kim and she will see that you are included!



11/1 Mark Zaplitny
 11/2 Katie Scheivert
 11/3 John Mitchell
 11/4 Joan Merkle
 11/5 Ben Genaro
 11/6 Ali Scheivert
 11/7 Kim Tapscott
 Erin Kauppila
 John Anderson, Jr.
 Jack Murray
 11/8 Victoria Tarley
 Laraine Popplewell
 11/9 Hernon Castro

11/10 Kristen Solt
 11/12 Tim Urban
 11/13 Gail Ekstrand
 Ava Wilgis
 11/14 Eden Mentzer
 Phil Hetzel
 11/15 Nancy Hanna
 Ryan Regenski
 Michael Bertoni
 Sterling Zaplitny
 11/18 Dawn Rubincam
 Todd Matukaitis
 11/19 Sandy Weagley
 11/22 Hope Davidson
 11/25 Hunter Gauer

11/2 Carmen & James Brown 14 yrs.
 11/5 Lindsay & Joshua Bowman 7 yrs.
 11/11 Charlotte Townsend & John Hanaway 12 yrs.
 11/16 Wayne & Linda Croshaw 55 yrs.
 11/17 Tony & Erin Scheivert 22 yrs.
 11/23 Jill & Charlie Scott 21 yrs.
 11/23 David & Barbara Althouse 55 yrs.
 11/27 Matt & Megan Richards 13 yrs.
 11/30 Phyllis & Barry Haines 49 yrs.



10/4/23 - Sally Breuninger



Adoption Anniversary

November 8, 2023

Monali Dean

Parents - Dave & Pam Dean

25th Adoption Anniversary

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.

