



The

Call

Dear Friends,

Grace and peace to you on this blessed season of Christmas!

Last year, at this time, I started my letter to you with the following:

There's news to share. God is working in us, every day. We never know exactly when someone is going to be called to do something for God's work (those opportunities often present themselves when we least expect them, especially as we age and we think that God is done asking us to do things). We never know exactly what we are going to be called to do for God. And we certainly rarely know why God calls us to do one thing or another, but we trust that God has reasons, and we have faith that God never ever calls us to do something without giving us the resources to do it.

The news to share is this. Beth Fine, our Church Administrator, is in preparation to be a Commissioned Ruling Elder in the Presbyterian Church. God is calling her to be a different type of leader.

I then ended the letter with:

We celebrate that God is working in her life in this way and offer her our prayers and support.

I keep reminding myself of that last sentence. Because while I sincerely mean it, there is a greedy and selfish part of me that wants no part of it. In addition to not liking change, I have been blessed and enriched by my time working with Beth. Not that there weren't hiccups along the way, namely the many challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. But Beth's service and her being were true gifts and a joy.

But the time has come for her to leave Good Shepherd and go on to a paid internship with Big Spring Presbyterian Church in Newville. We continue to offer her our support and our prayers. And we celebrate what God is doing in her life!

We also pray that God will send us a new Church Administrator who will love and care for us in the ministry that we do in God's holy name.

Merry Christmas to you as you live as the eyes, ears, hands, feet, and voice of Jesus in all places!

*Peace, and many blessings,
Rev. Kathleen J. Baker, STM*

Parish Staff:

Kathleen J. Baker, STM, Pastor
 Nicholas P. Werner, Music Director
 Beth C. Fine, Church Administrator
 Kester T. Sobers III, Pastor Emeritus
 Herbert O. Fowler, Cantor Emeritus

Church Officers:

Fred Sprunk, President
 Sue Bricker, Vice President
 Don Lausch, Treasurer
 Karen Borzok, Secretary

Congregational Council Members:

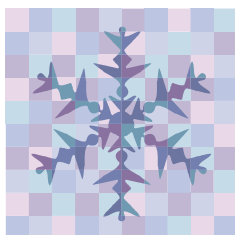
Bill Baum, Greg Borzok, Karen Borzok,
 Sue Bricker, Vicki Delp, Don Lausch, Dix McCauley,
 Robert Roller, Fred Sprunk, and Ann Vazquez

THE CALL is a monthly publication of
 The Evangelical Lutheran Church
 of the Good Shepherd
 3700 Rutherford Street
 Harrisburg, PA 17111
 717-564-0385
 goodshepherdpxtang@gmail.com
 Pastor: Kathleen J. Baker, STM

The editor reserves the right to edit for brevity and clarity. Unless otherwise publicized, the deadline for submissions is the third Sunday of the month.

REMINDER: In Case of Inclement Weather...

It has been and will continue to be the policy of Good Shepherd never to cancel our Sunday liturgies regardless of the weather. The only change in that policy would be if a snow emergency were declared with roadways closed to all but emergency personnel. Wednesday services will be canceled if the Central Dauphin School District delays the opening or closes their administrative offices and holds a remote learning day due to winter weather.



Christian Education Opportunities

Adult Faith Formation

*Sundays at 9:45 a.m.
in the Gathering Room*
Class Resumes January 18

The Adult Faith Formation Class will reconvene Sunday, January 18 at 9:45 a.m. in the Gathering Room.

Pastor's Bible Study

*Tuesday, January 20
at 7:00 p.m.
in the Gathering Room*

Pastor Baker's monthly study will focus on John 8: 12 and 9: 4-5: *Light of the World*. The class meets Tuesday, January 20 at 7 p.m. in the Gathering Room.

Living Room Dialogue

*4th Sunday of the month
at 6:30 p.m.
in the Gathering Room*

Living Room Dialogue resumes its book study on **Sunday, January 25** at 6:30 p.m. in the Gathering Room.

Worship and Music Committee Upcoming Events

Monday, January 5
Undecorate the Church at 9 a.m.

Wednesday, January 7
Committee Meeting
1p.m. in the Gathering Room

All are welcome!



January 1 Fred Sprunk
 January 3 Don Lausch
 January 4 Pr. Kathleen Baker
 January 6 Andrea Azzalina
 January 7 Alex Cordner
 January 10 James Stettler
 January 11 Amy Hower
 January 12 Steve Watson
 January 17 Margie Thorpe
 January 18 Jane Buhrman
 January 19 Ann Vazquez
 January 25 Charlie Wright
 January 26 Joan Corbett
 January 27 Pat Watson
 January 29 Jeff Baum
 January 31 James Cordner

January Readings

Jan. 1 Numbers 6: 22-27, Psalm 8, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:15-21
 Jan. 2 Genesis 12: 1-7, Hebrews 11: 1-12, Psalm 72
 Jan. 3 Genesis 28: 10-22, Hebrews 11: 13-22, Psalm 72
 Jan. 4 Jeremiah 31: 7-14, Psalm 147: 12-20, Ephesians 1: 3-14, John 1: [1-9] 10-18
 Jan. 5 Joshua 1: 1-9, Hebrews 11: 32-12:2, Psalm 72
 Jan. 6 Isaiah 60: 1-6, Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3: 1-12; Matthew 2: 1-12
 Jan. 7 1 Kings 10: 1-13, Ephesians 3: 14-21, Psalm 72
 Jan. 8 1 Samuel 3: 1-9, Acts 9: 1-9, Psalm 29
 Jan. 9 1 Samuel 3: 10-4:1a, Acts 9: 10-19a, Psalm 29
 Jan. 10 1 Samuel 7: 3-17, Acts 9: 19b-31, Psalm 29
 Jan. 11 Isaiah 42: 1-9, Psalm 29, Acts 10: 34-43, Matthew 3: 13-17
 Jan. 12 Genesis 35: 1-15, Acts 10:44-48, Psalm 89: 5-37
 Jan. 13 Jeremiah 1: 4-10, Acts 8: 4-13, Psalm 89: 5-37
 Jan. 14 Isaiah 51: 1-16, Matthew 12: 15-21, Psalm 89: 5-37
 Jan. 15 Isaiah 22: 15-25, Galatians 1: 6-12, Psalm 40: 1-11
 Jan. 16 Genesis 27: 30-38, Acts 1: 1-5, Psalm 40: 1-11
 Jan. 17 1 Kings 19: 19-21, Luke 5: 1-11, Psalm 40: 1-11
 Jan. 18 Isaiah 49: 1-7, Psalm 40: 1-11, 1 Corinthians 1: 1-9, John 1: 29-42
 Jan. 19 Exodus 12: 1-13, 21-28; Acts 8: 26-40, Psalm 40: 7-17
 Jan. 20 Isaiah 53: 1-12, Hebrews 10:1-4, Psalm 40: 6-17
 Jan. 21 Isaiah 48: 12-21, Matthew 9: 14-17, Psalm 40: 6-17
 Jan. 22 1 Samuel 1: 1-20, Galatians 1: 11-24, Psalm 27: 1-6
 Jan. 23 1 Samuel 9: 27-10:8, Galatians 2: 1-10, Psalm 27: 1-6
 Jan. 24 1 Samuel 15: 34-16: 13, Luke 5: 27-32, Psalm 27: 1-6
 Jan. 25 Isaiah 9: 1-4; Psalm 27: 1, 4-9; 1 Corinthians 1: 10-18; Matthew 4: 12-23
 Jan. 26 Judges 6: 11-24, Ephesians 5: 6-14, Psalm 27: 7-14
 Jan. 27 Judges 7: 12-22, Philippians 2: 12-18, Psalm 27: 7-14
 Jan. 28 Genesis 49: 1-2, 18:20; 1 Peter 3: 8-12, Psalm 15
 Jan. 29 Deuteronomy 16: 18-20, 1 Peter 3: 8-12, Psalm 15
 Jan. 30 Deuteronomy 24: 17-25:4, 1 Timothy 5: 17-24, Psalm 15
 Jan. 31 Micah 3: 1-4, John 13: 31-35, Psalm 15

From Our Treasurer: November Financials

NOVEMBER FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2025

	Nov.	YTD
Giving	19,177	231,121
Spending	19,779	224,646
Surplus/(Deficit)	(662)	8,474

BALANCES

General Fund	27,222
Exchange (Restricted)	33,752
Memorial	19,534
Mission Investment Fund CD	33,105
Investments	412,317

Women ^{of the} ELCA The Gift of Peace

*Lord make me an instrument of your peace
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, let me sow pardon;
Where there is doubt; let me sow faith;
Where there is darkness; let me sow light;
And where there is sadness, let me sow joy...*

This is the opening of “The Prayer of St. Francis.” Our 3 Italian/ American grandchildren were all baptized in Assisi, Italy. We also visited his place where he would retreat in the woods. There is a museum, a church, and a forest to explore. The priest that baptized them said it’s thought that this prayer was found on a battlefield and attributed to St. Francis. Whatever the case, it’s also a message that reminds me of our baptismal promise.

W/ELCA has scholarships that support Lutheran women pursuing their vocations. It can be for ministry, lay leadership, and other studies. A friend left her office job and went back to school to be able to work with the elderly. I also know a pastor who was a member of my sister, Chaplain Sadie Pounder’s Criminal Justice Ministry Synod Committee. She told me she also received a W/ELCA scholarship when she was in seminary. These scholarships are available yearly. Applications are received after December 15. Go online for more information.

We also used to do grants. It was an application process. Grants were offered to support programs offering daycare, afterschool programs, housing and resources for trafficked and abused women to name a few. Katie’s Fund is now our other resource that supports women in their callings.

As our purpose statement states, we “support on another in our calling, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.”

This year, Good Shepherd’s W/ELCA helped students and donated to the Prison Angel Tree project as well as many other projects. It was a joy to see the Christmas cookies and candies that were packed and delivered to our homebound members. They were a delight for the eyes and delicious to eat. We shared our extras for an Advent supper. It is a joy to read our congregation’s Advent devotional and to witness the giving spirit of Good Shepherd.

In the coming year, W/ELCA will again join Good Shepherd to offer the gift of Peace.

Peace be with you!

—Lois Griffiths

Workshop Update

Prayer Shawl Ministry has joined Workshop on the **second Tuesday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to noon!** Feel free to bring a lunch and socialize with Workshop attendees during lunch. Anyone/Everyone is welcome to come and help with crocheting or knitting. This month, 10 prayer shawls were donated to Andrews Patel.

Also this month, Workshop donated **16 twin size quilts to Family Promise** and are preparing a donation for UPMC. Please consider bringing a friend or neighbor to workshop. Although we meet weekly, our motto is, “Come when you can. Leave when you must.” We have a good time and work together to provide for needy folks in our community. All are welcome to join us Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.

—Georgia Rehm

Thank you, Good Shepherd!

Thank you, with appreciation, to all who donated gifts from the Christmas Angel Tree for the family from the Swatara Middle School. The Christmas tree was empty in no time. The family very appreciative of the gifts. Kudos to Good Shepherd members.

Thank you, also, to all who donated money for the purchase of bathrobes for the residents of the Paxton Street Home, helping ensure a Merry Christmas for the residents. Again, kudos to Good Shepherd members.

The Mission and Ministry Committee can't thank you enough. It has been years of out pouring love with the gifts for our neighbors in need. It seems each year it becomes bigger and bigger. Your gracious giving has made happy faces throughout our community.

—The Mission & Ministry Committee

Thank you to all the folks who made soup, donated bread or crackers, and provided desserts for the three Wednesday Advent meals. The soups were delicious and well received. The desserts were an added treat as conversations occurred around the tables. Kudos to the Property Committee for setting up tables and chairs.

—The Hospitality Committee

Our Gratitude is extended to our loving church family for the kind and generous Christmas gifts, cards, and treats, and the way that you share God's love with all of us. Blessings to all of you, and thank you!

—Pastor Baker, Beth Fine & Nick Werner



Lots of Family Promise News this Month!

Family Promise Host Week will be January 4 through 11, 2026. Mark your calendars now. We still have a few slots to fill, so if you are able to help with a meal, sleep overnight, or drive the van, please contact Georgia.

Welcome New Partners! Three new churches have joined as FPHCR partners, through assisting St. Peter's Lutheran, Middletown. Welcome to Church of God, Middletown; Faith Outreach Center, Middletown; and Messiah Lutheran, Harrisburg. Without all our vital partners, we couldn't do what we do!

February Book Club: We'll discuss *Evicted* by Matthew Desmond via Zoom, Tuesday, February 3 at 7 p.m. We've got lots of copies of this book so if you need one let me know. It's a while away, but if you're a slow reader, you've got lots of time. Mark your calendar and bring friends!

Nadia, Shayron and Family have a housing opportunity. The hope is that they will be moved in by Christmas! We'll keep you posted.

We continue to evaluate applicants for the IHN, we'll keep you posted on that front, too.

—Georgia Rehm

Modified Worship Schedule January 4 and 11

Good Shepherd's Church Council has announced there will be single Sunday services at 9:30 a.m. in the Nave on January 4 and 11, 2026.

Our church council members will be installed during worship on Saturday, January 3 at 5 p.m. in the Chapel or Sunday, January 4 at 9:30 a.m. in the Nave.

On Sunday, January 11, we will honor our Church Administrator, Beth Fine. There will be a luncheon program following the 9:30 a.m. worship service.

—Fred Sprunk

Farewell to Beth Fine

Join us on Sunday, January 11 to celebrate the nearly six years of loyal service by Beth Fine, our church administrator and friend.

Beth has resigned her position at Good Shepherd to take a paid pastoral internship with Big Spring Presbyterian Church in Newville. This will allow her to complete field work prior to becoming a Commissioned Ruling Elder (lay pastor) in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

We will hold one service at 9:30 a.m. in the Nave on January 11 and then move to All Saints Hall for a luncheon provided by the Hospitality Committee. There will be a brief program to honor Beth as well as plenty of time for everyone to offer good wishes for Beth's new venture. There also will be a basket for those wishing to leave a card or personal note. **Please contact the church office no later than Monday, January 5 to r.s.v.p. for the luncheon.**

—Fred Sprunk

WORSHIP SPONSORSHIPS

	Flowers \$25	Bulletins \$30	Lamps \$10
January 4			
January 11			
January 18			
January 25			

A central calendar is also posted in the Narthex of the Nave. Sign your name to that calendar as well and turn in the form to the office. We can also do double dedications.

Sponsorship Form



Please return this slip with your contribution to the church office. Dedications are printed in the bulletin each week. For Sunday, _____ 2026


Flowers: \$25 Bulletins \$30 Lamps \$10

_____ To the Glory of God _____ In Memory Of _____ In Honor Of _____ In Celebration Of

Submitted by: _____

Amount: _____ Deadline: Wednesday a.m. prior to the upcoming Sunday

January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	POINSETTIAS may be taken from the Nave after worship on Sunday, January 4. Each pot includes a plastic cover to protect the plants from the cold. After January 4, poinsettias may be picked up from the Breezeway.			1 NEW YEAR'S DAY Church Office CLOSED	2	3 5 p.m. W & S (Chapel)
4 Food Pantry Sunday 9:30 a.m. W & S (Nave/YouTube)	5 6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 42 (ASH)	6 9:30 a.m. Workshop (St. Lydia/ASH) 10 a.m. Ready for School, Ready to Succeed (Sts. Peter & Paul)	7 9:30 a.m. W&S (Chapel) 10:15 a.m. Undecorate the Church 12 p.m. Worship & Music (Gathering Room) 7 p.m. Keystone Concert Band (ASH)	8	9 10 a.m. Ready for School, Ready to Succeed (Sts. Peter and Paul)	10 5 p.m. W & S (Chapel)
11 9:30 a.m. W & S (Nave/YouTube) 10:30 a.m. Beth Fine Farewell Luncheon (ASH)	12 9:30 a.m. W/ELCA (Gathering Room) 6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 42 (ASH) 6:30 p.m. Council (Gathering Room)	13 9:30 a.m. Workshop /Prayer Shawl Ministry (St. Lydia/ASH) 10 a.m. Ready for School, Ready to Succeed (Sts. Peter and Paul)	14 9:30 a.m. W&S (Chapel) 7 p.m. Keystone Concert Band (ASH)	15	16 10 a.m. Ready for School, Ready to Succeed (Sts. Peter and Paul)	17 5 p.m. W & S (Chapel)
18 Feb. Call Deadline 8:30 a.m. W & S (Nave/YouTube) 9:45 a.m. Adult Faith Formation (Gathering Room) 11 a.m. W&S (Nave)	20 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR'S BIRTHDAY Church Office CLOSED	20 9:30 a.m. Workshop (St. Lydia/ASH) 10 a.m. Ready for School, Ready to Succeed (Sts. Peter and Paul) 7 p.m. Pastor's Bible Study (Gathering Room)	21 9:30 a.m. W&S (Chapel) 7 p.m. Keystone Concert Band (ASH)	22	23 10 a.m. Ready for School, Ready to Succeed (Sts. Peter and Paul)	24 5 p.m. W & S (Chapel)
25 8:30 a.m. W & S (Nave/YouTube) 9:45 a.m. Adult Faith Formation (Gathering Room) 11 a.m. W&S (Nave) 6:30 p.m. Living Room Dialogue (Gathering Room)	26 6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 42 (ASH)	27 9:30 a.m. Workshop (St. Lydia/ASH) 10 a.m. Ready for School, Ready to Succeed (Sts. Peter & Paul)	28 9:30 a.m. W&S (Chapel) 7:00 p.m. Keystone Concert Band (ASH)	29	30 10 a.m. Ready for School, Ready to Succeed (Sts. Peter and Paul)	31 5 p.m. W & S (Chapel)

**Health Ministries Wish List
Christ Lutheran Church
124 South 13th Street,
Harrisburg**

Items needed:

Bayer contour blood glucose test strips
Tussin CF cough medicine
honey • lice shampoo • allergy eye drops
sugar-free cough drops • shoe inserts
men's & women's socks • underwear
t-shirts • chapstick • toothpaste
toothbrush • deodorant • soap
back supports/braces
HP LaserJet toner, 85A & 83A
quality orthotics (knee, ankle, wrist braces)
muscle rub pain relief cream
hot/cold packs for muscle pain
coffee • tea • sugar • powdered creamer

Harrisburg Area Food Pantry

Needed Items — The Basics

Canned Items

baby food
fruit juice
meats (tuna, stew)
peanut butter
soups
spaghetti sauce
tomatoes
vegetables

Packaged Items

baby formula
cereal
crackers
mac & cheese dinners
powdered milk
pudding
jello
ramen noodles
rice
spaghetti

Other items: Cake mix, flour, pancake mix
condiments: jam, jelly, mustard,
ketchup, salad dressing, salt (no sugar due to mice)

toiletry items: soap, shampoo, toothpaste,
deodorant, baby diapers.

**Please place donated items in our
shopping cart in the Breezeway.**

**REMINDER:
JANUARY 4 is Food Pantry Sunday.**

Our Purpose

To be the eyes, ears, hands, feet, and voice of
Jesus.

Guiding Principles

When you see us at our best, you will see us in
worship and living our faith by being:

welcoming/accepting
generous and giving
supportive and caring
active/involved
joyful
spiritual/faithful

*Adopted by the Congregation Council of
Good Shepherd on October 11, 2020*



Church Office

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Monday through Thursday

Phone: 717-564-0385

email: goodshepherdpxtang@gmail.com

website: www.goodshepherdpxtang.com

Holy Eucharist

5:00 p.m. Saturday (Chapel)

8:30 a.m. Sunday (Nave)

11:00 a.m. Sunday (Nave)

9:30 a.m. Wednesday (Chapel)