



Dear Friends,

On January 11, Good Shepherd bid farewell to our office administrator, Beth Fine. Below is a copy of the letter that I read. In addition to the letter, Good Shepherd presented Beth with a few parting gifts. She received a prayer shawl, and a 3-book collection of *The Book of Common Worship*, commonly used by Presbyterian pastors in their ministry. Please see page 4 of the newsletter for Beth's farewell message to the congregation.

Dear Beth,

Reinhold Niebuhr, American ethicist and theological giant of an earlier era, wrote *Leaves from the Notebook of a Tamed Cynic*. As you are winding up your work as the Office Administrator of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Harrisburg, what would you write about this experience?

Perhaps, *Leaves from the Notebook of Working with Crazy Pastor Baker*? Or, *Leaves from the Notebook of Reentering the Workforce*? Or, *Leaves from the Notebook of a Wife, Mom, and Baptized Child of God*?

If you were to write such a book, maybe we could suggest what some of the chapters might be.

- Working day to day in a Lutheran congregation office and guiding the inner functions of congregation committees, council, and people.
- Being the front spokesperson and publicist for all that the congregation does.
- Seeing where God is working in the lives of Good Shepherd's people through baptisms, weddings, and funerals.
- Discerning God's work in your own life.
- Embracing the motto of "God Bless the Flexible," especially through the COVID years.
- Making new friends, personal and spiritual, in the process.

Perhaps the people of Good Shepherd would write a foreword to the book?

Through it all, Beth demonstrated her love for the church. She came with compassion and a positive spirit. She was always ready to lend a hand, whether it was in her job description or not.

As you formally leave our employ, Beth, thank you from all of us for a job well done. You might write a book entitled, *Leaves from the Notebook of a Faithful Servant*, which could help others understand and process what a life of faith can hold for the person who says, "Here I Am, Lord." We wish you well and every blessing in the coming years.

Ever your friends, in Christ,

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

*Peace, and many blessings,
Kathleen J. Baker, pastor*

Parish Staff:

Kathleen J. Baker, STM, Pastor
 Nicholas P. Werner, Music Director
 Angela R. Spagnolo, Church Administrator
 Kester T. Sobers III, Pastor Emeritus
 Herbert O. Fowler, Cantor Emeritus

Church Officers:

Dix McCauley, President
 Sue Bricker, Vice President
 Don Lausch, Treasurer
 Fred Sprunk, 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
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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.

A PATRIOTIC TEA PARTY



Good Shepherd's USA
 250th Anniversary

Committee will open the Semiquincentennial (250 years) celebration of our nation's Independence with a Patriot Tea (and coffee) Party. The old-fashioned social will be held on Sunday, February 1 from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. in All Saints Hall. Good Shepherd members and their guests are invited to share in this special day in honor of the Boston Tea Party, which actually occurred on December 16, 1773. The party will feature English and herbal teas (and coffee for those more rebellious colonists among us) as well as a variety of tea sandwiches, scones and petite desserts. In addition, entertainment will include a brief program and music from the Revolutionary War period. Period costumes or red-white-blue dress are not necessary but are encouraged.

Looking ahead, the anniversary committee plans to host special events for Flag Day (June 14, 1777), Independence Day (Saturday, July 4, 1776), and Peace Day (September 3, 1783).

—Fred Sprunk

Lenten “SOUP-ER” Suppers and Worship



On Wednesday evenings during Lent, February 25 through March 25, we will gather to share a meal and worship together.

5:30 p.m.

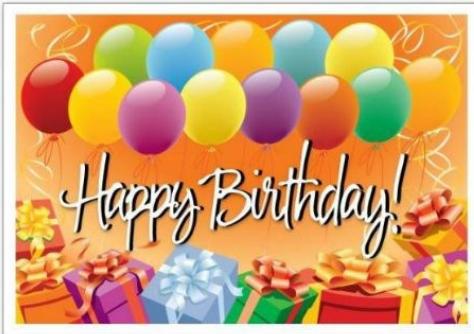
“Soup-er” Supper
 in All Saints Hall

7:00 p.m.

Holden Evening Prayer
 in the Nave

If you wish to help the Hospitality Committee by providing soup or bread or by helping with set up or clean up on Wednesday evenings, please sign up on the sheets which will be available in the Narthex of the Nave. For more information, please contact Susan Master.

February Birthdays



February 4 Frances Parker
 Misty Ulerick
 February 5 Derek Lochbaum
 February 6 Winter Lou Bricker
 February 7 Barbara Erney
 February 8 Kasey Kelchner
 February 10 Jonah Petruschke
 February 14 Jeff Gleiter
 February 17 Anna Clemente
 February 18 Kathy Jacobs
 February 20 Linda Beaver
 February 23 Jill Buhrman
 Karen Ditmer
 February 24 Lucille Nye
 February 25 The Rev. Kester
 "Chip" Sobers III
 February 26 Eric Dermes

February Readings

Feb. 1 Micah 6:1-8 (First Reading), Psalm 15 (Psalm), 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 (Second Reading), and Matthew 5:1-12 (Gospel)
 Feb. 2 Psalm 37:1-17; Ruth 1:1-18; Philemon 1-25;
 Feb. 3 Psalm 37:1-17; Ruth 2:1-16; James 5:1-6;
 Feb. 4 Psalm 37:1-17; Ruth 3:1-13; 4:13-22; Luke 6:17-
 Feb. 5 Psalm 112:1-9; Deuteronomy 4:1-14; 1 John 5:1-5;
 Feb. 6 Psalm 112:1-9; Isaiah 29:1-12; James 3:13-18;
 Feb. 7 Psalm 112:1-9; Isaiah 29:13-16; Mark 7:1-8;
 Feb. 8 Isaiah 58:1-9a, Psalm 112:1-9, 1 Corinthians 2:1-12, and Matthew 5:13-20
 Feb. 9 Psalm 119:105-112; 2 Kings 22:3-20; Romans 11:2-10;
 Feb. 10 Psalm 119:105-112; 2 Kings 23:1-8, 21-25; 2 Corinthians 4:1-12;
 Feb. 11 Psalm 119:105-112; Proverbs 6:6-23; John 8:12-
 Feb. 12 Psalm 2; Exodus 6:2-9; Hebrews 8:1-7;
 Feb. 13 Psalm 2; Exodus 19:9b-25; Hebrews 11:23-28;
 Feb. 14 Psalm 2; 1 Kings 21:20-29; Mark 9:9-13;
 Feb. 15 Exodus 24:12-18, Psalm 2 or 99, 2 Peter 1:16-21, and Matthew 17:1-9
 Feb. 16 Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55; Exodus 33:7-23; Acts 7:30-34
 Feb. 17 Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55; 1 Kings 19:9-18; Romans 11:1-6;
 Feb. 18 Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17, 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
 Feb. 19 February 19, 2026: Psalm 51; Jonah 3:1-10; Romans 1:1-7;
 Feb. 20 Psalm 51; Jonah 4:1-11; Romans 1:8-17; Saturday,
 Feb. 21 Psalm 51; Isaiah 58:1-12; Matthew 18:1-7; Sunday,
 Feb. 22 Genesis 3:1-21; Psalm 32:1-7; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11
 Feb. 23 Psalm 32; 1 Kings 19:1-8; Hebrews 2:10-18
 Feb. 24 Psalm 32; Genesis 4:1-16; Hebrews 4:14-5:10;
 Feb. 25 Psalm 32; Exodus 34:1-9, 27-28; Matthew 18:10-14;
 Feb. 26 Psalm 121; Isaiah 51:1-3; 2 Timothy 1:3-7
 Feb. 27 Psalm 121; Micah 7:18-20; Romans 3:21-31
 Feb. 28 Psalm 121; Isaiah 51:4-8; Luke 7:1-10

From Our Treasurer: December Financials

DECEMBER FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2025

	Dec.	YTD
Giving	26,909	258,030
Spending	22,197	246,844
Surplus/(Deficit)	4,712	11,186

BALANCES

General Fund	31,934
Exchange (Restricted)	34,285
Memorial	19,559
Mission Investment Fund CD	33,105
Investments	414,471

Thank you, Good Shepherd

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your heartfelt farewell and Godspeed to me as I leave my position here at Good Shepherd. My family and I were blessed by your hospitality on January 11. Thank you for the beautiful luncheon and for your prayers in worship. And, thank you for your generosity—I have been deeply touched by the personal messages you've shared and gifts you have given me.

I am leaving Good Shepherd 5 weeks shy of what would have been the sixth anniversary of my being hired. I had fully intended to work here until I was ready for retirement. Despite my being an old Presbyterian who was not up to speed on your lingo—proper, ciborium, alb, chasuble, etc.—or Lutheran polity...and, even though I was loud and clear in my interview that after God my family was my main priority, you took a chance and invited me to join your staff. You warmly welcomed me, and my family. You invited me to worship with you on Wednesday mornings, during my work hours. While I was hired to support Pastor Baker with administrative needs, she has treated me as a valued colleague. Early on, Council adjusted the office schedule at my request, which made it easier for me to juggle work and family responsibilities. You have brought me treats to share with my family—you've been especially generous at Christmas—and, you walked with me when my father died last year. Good Shepherd is a most special congregation, where the love of Christ is palpable and you are truly living as the eyes, ears, hands, feet, and voice of Jesus in all places.

But God has called me to do a new thing. I am so grateful for the love and encouragement you all have shared with me when, in 2024, I began seminary coursework and training to become a Commissioned Ruling Elder. I leave you to undertake a paid pastoral internship with Big Spring Presbyterian Church, after which I will be eligible to be commissioned to serve a congregation within Carlisle Presbytery as a lay pastor—hopefully as early as May. My time here has been key in discerning God's call. I've learned so much from Pastor Baker and from all of you, and it has been a great privilege to serve with you. I am on the path I'm on now in large part because of all of you and your faithful witness. And, I am so very grateful that although I will no longer be a member of my staff, my family will always have another church home here at Good Shepherd.

So...until we meet again, may God keep you in the palm of his hand.

—Beth Fine



We just finished hosting Family Promise Guests in January. We had only one family, a mom and 5 year old son. She is new to the program and is working very hard by working full time and part-time jobs. There were some "hic-ups" with transportation and communications. But we are working on getting those resolved.

Thank you to ALL the volunteers who helped and made this a successful week. The 5-year-old told his mom this was the BEST church. (I suspect because they were housed in the nursery with all the toys!) Mom was very grateful and appreciative for everything!

Our next host week will be in **April 26 to May 3. Mark your calendars now!**

—Georgia Rehm





“WISDOM and WORTH”

Psalm 107:43

“Let those who are wise pay attention to these things. Let them think about the love of God.”

Churchwide Women of the ELCA has a yearly Conference of Presidents every February. This year the conference will be February 22, 2026. It's a time for all synod presidents to come together to meet and learn. We focus on Bible study, business and budget items as well as Gather, Triennial Gathering, promotions, membership and resources. We used to meet in person in Chicago. After Covid, we now meet by Zoom.

This year's theme is “WISDOM and WORTH”. As requested in last year's event evaluations, we will have 3 workshop learning sessions. The first will be on Racial Justice. The second will be on 2SLGBTQIA+. The Third session will be a choice of 7 different topics.

Women of the ELCA has been about racial justice since we started a “Today's Dream; Tomorrow's Reality” (TDTR) program in 1997. Each synod sent 2 people to Chicago to be trained. We were to then return home to share our program with our synod and church women. We are now in the process of reorganizing. At the last Triennial Gathering in Phoenix, AZ, we asked for anyone interested to attend a meeting. In no time, we were standing room only. We signed up to become part of a new WELCA movement for racial justice. We're just getting started with new leadership. “for such a time as this”.

“Until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.”

As a past synodical president, I have been blessed to serve on the Churchwide President's Planning Committee for the past 2 years. I look forward to sharing our thoughts and ideas from our conference.

To our Good Shepherd congregation, we would like to invite you to join us for our Gathering Meetings.

We meet every 2nd Monday of the month except for July & August. Our meetings start at 9:30 in the Gathering Room. We enjoy our Bible Study - it's the second year of our Women of the Bible series. We also have refreshments and share updates on opportunities to serve our church and community.

You're also invited to join Women's Workshop. They meet weekly every Tuesday for sewing projects, ministry opportunities and refreshments. Their meeting time is from 9:30a.m. - 1 p.m. throughout the year.

Lois Griffith

Workshop & Prayer Shawl Ministry

After a break over the holidays, Workshop is back into full swing!

In December, we donated 7 quilts to the Angel Tree Family at Christmas, as well as Prayer Shawls to Andrews Patel, to the newly elected Church Council members and one to Beth Fine at her Farewell Luncheon. Please let Sylvia Beard, Carol Siipple, or Georgia Rehm know if there is a need that you know of for the shawls.

We continue to work on items for LWR and for items needed/requested throughout the community.

Lutheran World Relief

Traditionally, when we think of Lutheran World Relief (LWR) we think of their global mission and helping wherever there is a need throughout the world. Last year, **LWR began assisting those in need after disasters in the United States**. Last year, they **aided victims of Hurricanes Helene and Milton, victims of the wildfires in California, those across the South and Midwest and flood victims in Texas. Victims were aided in 12 states with 21 shipping containers of quilts and kits and over \$1 million in cash grants**. There are **2 brochures** on the bulletin board in the breezeway showing the distribution of materials and money in **2025**.

Prayer Shawl Ministry joins us on the **second Tuesday of each month**. Feel free to drop in and join us at any time, either for knitting/crocheting on Tuesday mornings or to help with needed items for the community at large.

Come when you can, leave when you must! We are in ASH on Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

—Georgia Rehm

2026 Worship Sponsorships

	Flowers \$25	Bulletins \$30	Lamps \$10	<i>A master calendar is posted in the Narthex of the Nave. Sign up on the calendar, and return your completed sponsorship form and payment to the church office.</i>
February 1				
February 8	Stewart			
February 15	E. Hafer			
February 22				

Sponsorship Form



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

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

Submitted by: _____

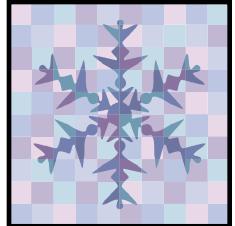
Amount: _____ **Deadline: Tuesday 9 a.m. prior to the upcoming Sunday**

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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REMINDER—In Case of Inclement Weather

It will continue to be the policy of Good Shepherd never to cancel our Sunday liturgies regardless of weather conditions. 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.



1 Food Pantry Sunday 8:30 a.m. W&S (Nave/YouTube) 9:45 a.m. Adult Faith Formation (Gathering Room) 11 a.m. W&S (Nave) 2 p.m. Patriot Tea Party (ASH)	2 6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 42 (ASH)	3 9:30 a.m. Workshop (St. Lydia/ASH) 10 a.m. Ready for School, Ready to Succeed (Sts. Peter & Paul) 12:15 p.m. Mission & Ministry (Gathering Room)	4 9:30 a.m. W&S (Chapel) 7:00 p.m. Keystone Concert Band (ASH)	5	6 10 a.m. Ready for School, Ready to Succeed (Sts. Peter and Paul)	7 5 p.m. W & S (Chapel)
8 8:30 a.m. W & S (Nave/YouTube) 9:45 a.m. Adult Faith Formation (Gathering Room) 11 a.m. W&S (Nave)	9 9:30 a.m. W/ELCA (Gathering Room) 6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 42 (ASH) 6:30 p.m. Council	10 9:30 a.m. Workshop/Prayer Shawl Ministry (St. Lydia/ASH) 10 a.m. Ready for School, Ready to Succeed (Sts. Peter & Paul)	11 9:30 a.m. W&S (Chapel) 7:00 p.m. Keystone Concert Band (ASH)	12	13 10 a.m. Ready for School, Ready to Succeed (Sts. Peter and Paul)	14 5 p.m. W & S (Chapel)
15 March 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)	16 6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 42 (ASH)	17 9:30 a.m. Workshop (St. Lydia/ASH) 10 a.m. Ready for School, Ready to Succeed (Sts. Peter & Paul) 7 p.m. Pastor's Bible Study (Gathering Room)	18 Ash Wednesday 9:30 a.m. W&S (Chapel) 7:00 p.m. W & S (Nave/YouTube) 8:00 p.m. Keystone Concert Band (ASH)	19	20 10 a.m. Ready for School, Ready to Succeed (Sts. Peter and Paul)	21 5 p.m. W & S (Chapel)
22 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)	23 6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 42 (ASH)	24 9:30 a.m. Workshop (St. Lydia/ASH) 10 a.m. Ready for School, Ready to Succeed (Sts. Peter & Paul)	25 9:30 a.m. W&S (Chapel) 5:30 p.m. Souper Supper (ASH) 7:00 p.m. Lenten Vespers (Nave/YouTube) 8:00 p.m. Keystone Concert Band (ASH)	26	27 10 a.m. Ready for School, Ready to Succeed (Sts. Peter and Paul)	28 5 p.m. W & S (Chapel)

Church Council Leadership for 2026

On January 13, 2025, the Church Council held its initial meeting of the year, and in accordance with our Constitution, the first order of business was to elect new officers.

The following individuals will serve as officers for 2026:

President	Dix McCauley
Vice President	Sue Bricker
Secretary	Fred Sprunk
Treasurer	Don Lausch

The committees of the church will be chaired by the following Council members:

Evangelism	Fred Sprunk
Finance	Greg Borzok
Memorial	Karen Borzok
Worship and Music	Vicki Delp
Mission and Ministry	Sue Bricker
Stewardship	Ann Vazquez
Property	Bill Baum
Insurance and Utilities	Robert Roller
A/V	Dix McCauley

Please remember the Church Council in your prayers as the members seek to fulfill their responsibilities to this congregation.

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



Church Office

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

Monday through Thursday

Phone: 717-564-0385

email: goodshepherdpaxtang@gmail.com

website: www.goodshepherdpaxtang.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)

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