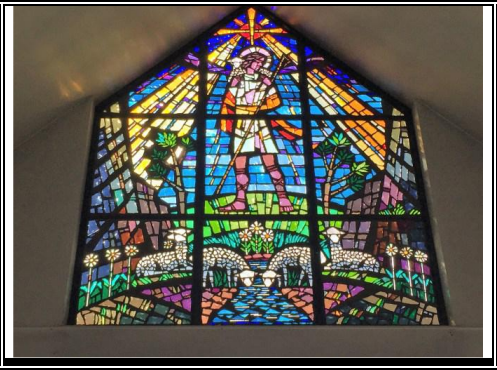
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Monthly Newsletter

THE CALL



December 2026
Goodshepherdpaxtang.com

Dear friends in Christ,

The Word became flesh and lived among us.
(John 1:14)

Words.
Words are written. Words are spoken. Words are signed. Words are sung.
Words are powerful. Words can create. Words can destroy.
Words are everywhere.

What do we make of this Word that becomes flesh and lives among us?
How does this Word change our lives?
Does it make any difference that the Word came into this world?

God spoke words and the world was created. God spoke and there was light. God spoke to bring things into being and through the prophets, and now God speaks to us through Jesus Christ.

The Word becoming flesh and living among us is what defines us as Christians. While the Abrahamic religions (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam) and many other world religions hold some things in common (We all hold some form of the Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do to you." Luke 6:31), Christianity is the only religion that worships the Word, worships Jesus Christ, who was born. He lived on this earth, breathed air, ate food, got sleepy, walked around, laughed and smiled, screamed and cried, died, and was resurrected. This is uniquely Christian.

So we pay attention to the Word. We get together and study the Word and we consume the Word into our bodies through Holy Communion. We worship (see the calendar for worship times) and we pray (come and join us in singing Holden Evening Prayer on Wednesday evenings during Advent, starting with a soup supper at 5:30 p.m.). We pay attention to the words that Jesus spoke. We pay attention to the words that we use. We carefully consider which words we use and we try to hear how our words are being heard by others.

Holy and blessed is this time of the church's year.
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel…

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

Parish Staff:
Kathleen J. Baker, STM, Pastor
Nicholas P. Werner, Director of Music
Carol J. Thai, 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, Vicki Delp, Sue Bricker, Don Lausch, Dix McCauley, Robert Roller and Fred Sprunk.

THE CALL is a monthly publication of
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Pastor: Kathleen J. Baker, STM

The editor reserves the right to edit for brevity and clarity. Deadline for submissions is the third Sunday of the month.



From Our Treasurer:

October Financials

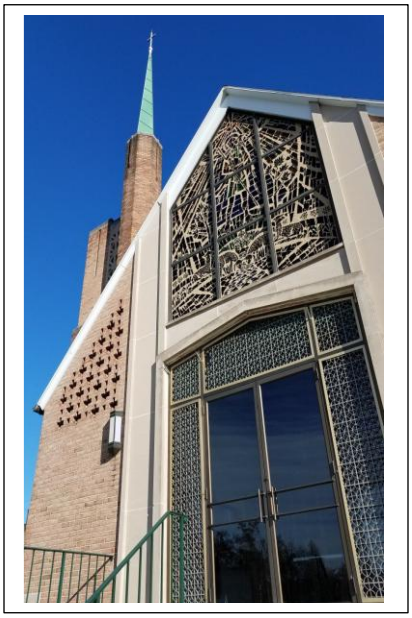
	2026	
	OCT	YTD
Giving	22,094	218,957
Spending	23,822	206,209
Surplus/(deficit)	**(1,728)**	**12,748**

BALANCES

General Fund	**46,682**
Exchange (Restricted)	**37,401**
Memorial	**22,831**
Mission Investment Fund CD	**33,648**
Investments	**440,859**

ADULT FORMATION CLASS HAS SPECIAL ADVENT SERIES

John Switaj is leading an Advent series on "It's A Wonderful Life," based on the classic movie starring Jimmy Stewart, in the Adult Formation Class. The class meets between worship services each Sunday at 9:45 a.m. in The Gathering Room.



Keystone Band Schedule:

For Lent (Feb 10-March28): at secondary rehearsal Location, however on February 17 rehearsal will be at Good Shepherd from 8-9:30 p.m.
Last rehearsal 2026: will be on November 18, at the Good Shepherd Church.
First Rehearsal of 2027: will be on January 27, 2027.

- Advent Social Hour –

All are welcome. Mark your calendars for the Advent Social Hour on Sunday December 20, during Sunday school hours from 9:45 to 10:45 in All Saints Hall. Please bring your favorite food item to share. Beverages will be provided. If you are participating in the Christmas Giving Tree gift(s), please place the gift(s) under the tree in the narthex or in the Gathering Room. Thank you.

Family Promise of Harrisburg Capital Region

Both families that we hosted in October are on their way to securing permanent housing. They are very grateful for the hospitality of our volunteers. The program is already interviewing potential guests.
Our next week to host will be January10-17. Mark your calendars now! Let Georgia know if you can prepare/help with a meal, serve as an overnight host or drive the van between the Day Center and Our Saviour.

December Readings

12/01 Psalm 79, Micah 4: 6-13, Revelation 18:1-10

12/02 Psalm 79, Micah 5: 1-5a, Luke 21: 34-38

12/03 Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13, Hosea 6: 1-6, 1 Thessalonians 1: 2-10

12/04 Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13, Jeremiah 1: 4-10, Acts 11: 19-26

12/05 Psalm 85: 1-2, 8- 13, Ezekiel 36: 24-28, Mark 11: 27-33

12/06 Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13, Isaiah 40: 1-11, 2 Peter 3: 8-15a, Mark 1: 1-8

12/07 Psalm 27, Isaiah 26: 7-15, Acts 2: 37-42

12/08 Psalm 27, Isaiah 4: 2-6, Acts 11: 1-18

12/09 Psalm 27, Malachi 2: 10-3:1, Luke 1: 5-17

12/10 Psalm 126, Habakkuk 2: 1-5, Philippians 3: 7-11

12/11 Psalm 126, Habakkuk 3: 2-6, Philippians 3: 12-16

12/12 Psalm 126, Habakkuk 3: 13-19, Matthew 21: 28-32

12/13 Psalm 126, Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1: 6-8, 19-28

12/14 Psalm 125, 1 Kings 18: 1-18, Ephesians 6: 10-17

12/15 Psalm 125, 2 Kings 2: 9-22, Acts 3: 17—4:4

12/16 Psalm 125, Malachi 3: 16-4:6, Mark 9: 9-13

12/17 Psalm 89: 1-4,19-26, 2 Samuel 6:1-11, Hebrews 1:5-14

12/18 Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26, 2 Samuel 6:12-19, Hebrews 1:5-14

12/19 Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26, Judges 13:2-24, John 7: 40-52

12/20 Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26, 2 Samuel 7:1-11, Romans 16: 25-27

12/21 Luke 1:46b-55, 1 Samuel 1: 1-18, Hebrews 9: 1-14

12/22 Psalm 96, Zephaniah 3:8-13, Romans 10: 5-13

12/23 Psalm 96, Zephaniah 3: 14-20, Romans 13: 11-14

12/24 Psalm 96, Isaiah 9: 2-7, Titus 2: 11-14, Luke 2: 15-20

12/25 Psalm 97, Titus 3: 4-7, Luke 2: 8-20

12/26 Psalm 148, Jeremiah 26: 1-9, Acts 6: 8-15,

12/27 Psalm 148, Exodus 33: 18-23, 1 John 1: 1-9

12/28 Psalm 148, Jeremiah 31:15-17, Matthew 2: 13-18

12/29 Psalm 148, Isaiah 49: 5-15, Matthew 12: 46-50

12/30 Psalm 148, Proverbs 9: 1-12, 2Peter 3:8-13

12/31 Psalm 148, 1 Kings 3:5-14, John 8: 12-19



Christmas Giving Tree

Good Shepherd will be supporting the Paxton Home Ministries residents and one or more families whose children attend the Swatara Middle School. Like last year, the tree and wreath will be on display in the narthex with paper ornaments to detach and take home.

A gift of $20 for a branded T-shirt is the request of the Paxton Home Ministries. Cash and checks are the acceptable method of gift giving. Checks are to be made out to Good Shepherd, with "Paxton T-shirt" on the memo line. Checks may be mailed to Good Shepherd or put in the offering plate at church. Please see the wreath display, **beginning Sunday, November 29** in the narthex and detach a star ornament to take home as a reminder. **Checks must be received into the church office by Sunday, December 20, 2026.**

The Swatara Middle School Administrative Office has been contacted to supply a gift list from a family and /or families for Christmas gifts. A very positive participation response from the Middle school has been received. The gift list will be printed in the November 29 bulletin. The tree with paper ornaments and sign-up sheet will be in the narthex that same Sunday, November 29.

If you have any questions, please see or contact Susan Master.

Women of the ELCA

MONEY.
STEWARDSHIP.
GENEROSITY.

ANGELS

There are many Angel Christmas Carols. Here's a list:

"Angels We Have Heard on High" (the Angel hymn)
"Angels from the Realms of Glory"
"Angels and Shepherds"
"The First Noel"
"Gentle Mary Laid Her child"
"O Little town of Bethlehem"
"God Rest You Merry Gentlemen"
"Mary's Boy Child"
"O Holy night"
"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"
"The Angel Gabriel"
"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

The Angel Gabriel appears to Mary in Luke 1:26-38. Angels appear to the shepherds in Luke 2:8-14. In 2021 Good Shepherd's WELCA studied GATHER magazine's 4-part Bible study on angels:

Session 1, "Looking Up" with the Cherubim from Genesis in the Garden of Eden. They were guarding Adam & Eve and the Tree of Life. Cherubim also were protecting the Ark of the Covenant in Exodus

Session 2, "Turnaround Angels" told of angels changing people's lives- Jacob's ladder and Moses.

Session 3, "Comforting, Encouraging, Protecting Angels" also known as Guardian Angels. ELCA AMMPARO stands for Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities. Mary Campbell is in charge and as a pro bono lawyer was our guide and Jennifer DeLeon from WELCA also organized and led our Border Immersion Trip. We were in Texas, New Mexico and Mexico to witness and participate in how Lutherans are "loving our neighbors". We stayed in a church, transitional housing, prepared and shared meals, listened to stories, spent time in court and toured how Mexico was also helping those with health, housing and hunger issues.

Session 4 “Feasting, Funny Alleluia Angels”. C.K. Chargterson said,” Angels can fly because they take themselves lightly.” The second Sunday of Easter is celebrated by some churches as “Holy Hilarity Sunday”. It’s a time to laugh at God’s defeat of death and the devil.

Good Shepherd’s WELCA thanks our congregation for supporting our Prison Fellowship Angel Tree Project. We will let you know about our contributions soon. Again, with gratitude for sharing God’s love with a Christmas gift for children who have an incarcerated parent. We love Guardian angels.

Many thanks again for being angels for our annual homemade cookies for our homebound members. We stopped at 26 dozen cookies. They will be packed and delivered Tuesday December 8th, 2026, at 9:30 in the ASH room. Cookies should be in the ASH kitchen by Sunday, December 6 unless you’re bringing them on December 8. Once again, extra cookies will be donated to our Advent suppers.

Wishing you A MERRY CHRISTMAS from Good Shepherd’s WELCA.

“PEACE CAME TO EARTH AT LAST THAT CHOSEN NIGHT WHEN ANGELS CLOVE THE SKY WITH SONG AND LIGHT AND GOD EMBODIED LOVE AND SHEATHED HIS MIGHT- WHO COULD BUT PRAY IMMANUEL! WHO COULD BUT PRAISE IMMANUEL!”

PICK UP YOUR ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Make sure you pick up a copy of this year’s daily Advent Devotional – written by us for us! Devotionals are located in the Narthex. May this booklet enrich your Advent journey.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES: CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Multiple worship options are available to members and friends as we welcome the birth of our Savior.

Thursday, Christmas Eve – 12/24/26

3:00 PM Word and Sacrament; Choir
5:00 PM Word and Sacrament; Special Music
7:00 PM Word and Sacrament; Special Music
11:00 PM Word and Sacrament; Contemplative Service

Sunday, 12/27/26

9:30 AM Service of Lessons and Carols

Workshop News

We have been busy organizing and cleaning out after our In-Gathering donations.
We continue to meet on Tuesday mornings and everyone is welcome.
Come and see what we do!



Wednesday night Advent "Souper Suppers" begin on December 2, 2026, and continue Wednesdays, December 9, 16 and 23 at 5:30 PM in All Saints Hall. The Hospitality Committee is asking for volunteers to sign up to bring a crockpot of soup or a loaf of bread or a dessert. Volunteers are also needed to set up or clean up for Wednesday night supper. If you have any questions or comments, please see or contact- Susan Master.

EVENING VESPERS WILL BE HELD IN THE NAVE AT 7:00 PM FOLLOWING THE ADVENT SUPPERS.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



December 2

Georgia Rehm

December 6

Sallee Rowe

December 9

Alan Jacobs

John McAnnaney

December 12

Michael Zeigler

December 14

Lorraine Wilson

December 16

Scott Cordner

Dan Gleiter

December 20

Alexander Dankman

December 25

Barbara Weaver

December 28

Lindsey Dermes

December 31

Kyle Boyd

WORSHIP SPONSORSHIP

Flowers $25 Bulletins $30 Lamps $10

December 6	No Flowers		McCauley
December 13	No Flowers		
December 20	No Flowers		
December 27	No Flowers	McCauley	

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 ____Sanctuary 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

Poinsettias for Christmas



We spend only funds designated for seasonal decorations. Nothing is ever spent from the general fund. Please return this coupon with your contribution (any amount would be appreciated) to the church office (or in the offering plate) if you'd like to contribute toward this effort. Dedications will be printed in the back of the bulletin at Christmas.

To the Glory of God:

_____

In Memory of:

_____

In Honor of:

_____

In Celebration of:

_____

Submitted by: _____

Amount: _____

DECEMBER 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 9:30 am Workshop (St. Lydia/ASH) 10 am Ready for school, etc. (St. Peter/St. Paul)	2 9:30 am W &S (Chapel) 5:30 pm Super Supper (ASH) 7pm Advent Vespers (Nave)	3	4 11 am Ready for School, Ready to succeed (St. Peter and St. Paul)	5 5pm W&S (chapel)
6 8:30 am W &S (YouTube/Nave) 11:00 am (Nave)	7 9:30 am WELCA (Gathering rm.) Last day to donate to Prison Fellowship Angel Tree 6:30 pm Cub Scouts (ASH)	8 9:30 am Workshop (St. Lydia/ASH) 10 am Ready for school, etc. (St. Peter/St. Paul) 11am -12pm Prayer Shawl (ASH)	9 9:30 am W &S (Chapel) 5:30 pm Super Supper (ASH) 7pm Advent Vespers (Nave)	10	11 11 am Ready for School, Ready to succeed (St. Peter and St. Paul)	12 5pm W&S (chapel)
13 8:30 am W &S (YouTube/Nave) 9:45 am Adult faith formation 11am W &S (Nave)	14 6:30 PM Cub Scouts (ASH) 6:30 PM Congregational Council (gathering rm.)	15 9:30 am Workshop (St. Lydia/ASH) 10 am Ready for school, etc. (St. Peter/St. Paul)	16 9:30 am W &S (Chapel) 5:30 pm Super Supper (ASH) 7pm Advent Vespers (Nave)	17	18 11 am Ready for School, Ready to succeed (St. Peter and St. Paul)	19 5pm W&S (chapel)
20 8:30 am W &S (YouTube/Nave) 9:45 am Advent social hour (gathering rm) 11am W &S (Nave)	21 6:30 PM Cub Scouts (ASH)	22 9:30 am Workshop (St. Lydia/ASH) 10 am Ready for school, etc. (St. Peter/St. Paul)	23 9:30 am W &S (Chapel) 5:30 pm Super Supper (ASH) 7pm Advent Vespers (Nave)	24 Christmas Eve Worship in the Nave at 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, and 11 pm.	25 11 am Ready for School, Ready to succeed (St. Peter and St. Paul)	26 5pm W&S (chapel)
27 9:30 am - Service of Lessons and Carols (Nave)	28 6:30 PM Cub Scouts (ASH)	29	30 9:30 am W &S (Chapel)			

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: 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)