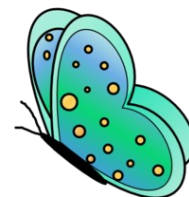


# The Shepherd's Staff

April 2024

The April 2024 Edition of the Shepherd Staff is sponsored to the Glory of God in Celebration of the 43rd Anniversary of Ordination of Pastor Gary Walbert. By Linda Walbert, the Church Council, Staff and Congregation of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.



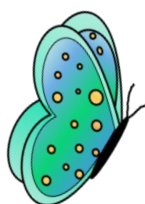
*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus,*

*I have been thinking a lot about the future of our church. I look around and wonder what our church will look like in five years and ten years. We will have a significant drop in members and also volunteers. I do not see many younger members joining. Our First Holy Communion class will be confirmed in 2030, the one before that will be 2025. We have some work to do. We are not the only church, there are many who are struggling. Many see aging congregations, and some are wondering how soon before they close their doors for good.*

*Our society is so busy it doesn't have time for church. COVID played a big part in killing churches. People found other activities to do while churches were closed. So what do we do? Do we radically change who we are? No, we need to be true to our beliefs. We need to continue to be the warm friendly church we are. We need to keep praying that the Holy Spirit will inspire us with ideas how to reach out into the community. We will continue to be the beacon on the hill, radiating the love of Jesus to all.*

*Yours in Jesus,*

*Pastor Gary*



**April 14**  
**BINGO**

**April 21**  
**Annual**  
**Congregational**  
**Meeting**

**May 12**  
**Mother's Day**

**May 19**  
**Pentecost**  
**Confirmation**

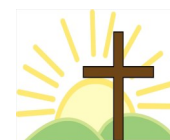
**May 26**  
**Holy Trinity**  
**Memorial Day**  
**Service**

**May 27**  
**Memorial Day**

**June 8**  
**Senior Prom**

**June 16**  
**Father's Day**

**June 24**  
**VBS begins**



## President's Corner

Dear Friends:

Our Church Secretary Jen Baker has decided to accept a full-time position with her other employer and will be leaving us at the end of March. Please join me in thanking her for the service she has given Good Shepherd. Jen recently spent some time educating me on what she does administratively to keep us going, and has worked very hard to leave us in good shape through Holy Week and to help us prepare for our annual Congregational Meeting. We are very grateful for those efforts, and I wish her great success on the new career opportunity before her!

In January I asked you all to consider serving on Church Council. I have spoken to some of you, and other council members have approached still more of you. We are still two members down, and running out of people to ask. Let me tell you why this is a concern. At the end of the year we will have two people who cannot serve again for a year because our Constitution specifies that. With two other openings unfilled, we could be looking at four open positions. That puts the decision making process of this church into the hands of a very small number of people and the problem is not going away.

Ben Bogdan is currently chairing a search committee, so we will keep asking you. However, the time has come to make decisions on how future councils can run. At our Congregational meeting we will have this discussion on the formal agenda for your input. We may have to formally change the number of people on Council in our Constitution. That would not be my first choice. We may also look at extending years of possible service or changing term limits requirements. The obvious danger of that is electing Council members "for life" and growing stagnant on new ideas to grow the church. This is a difficult discussion, and one that we need your help to resolve. Please come to our Congregational Meeting with some ideas and some opinions on what we should do. Any changes we decide to make to our Constitution require two meetings and a vote. Let this serve as notice that your church council intends for our meeting in April to be meeting #1. And of course, it is never too late to decide you are willing to serve on Council to help us make our church better!

May you and your families have a Blessed and Joyous Easter! He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

Sincerely,

Chris Holub





Good Shepherd Lutheran Church presents

# GIFT CARD BINGO

**Sunday, April 14**

Doors & Kitchen open at noon

Games begin at 1 p.m.

**PRE-SALE TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**

**\$25 in advance • \$30 at the door**

**Incl. 20 regular games, 5 specials & door prize**

**Extra games • 50/50 • Kitchen open**

Call 484-241-1370 or 610-262-9517 to reserve your seat

**1335 Old Carriage Rd., Northampton**



*From the desk of the Secretary...*

*It is with a heavy heart that I announce my resignation here at Good Shepherd as your Church Secretary. I have enjoyed my time here getting to know so many wonderful people that work toward so many wonderful causes. It has been a pleasure working with all of you as we navigated through good times and more challenging times.*

*I leave you to begin a new journey that will allow me to work from home, and spend more time caring for my children and family.*

*I appreciate the privilege given to me to work here at Good Shepherd, and my very best wishes to the entire congregation and church success! You may not see me in the office but I will be around assisting with anything I can during the transition time. Please do not hesitate to ask if there is anything I can help with or provide during this time! I hope to still be part of the congregation and events here at the church in the future!*

*Sincerely,  
Jen*



Our **fundraising team** was at it again! On March 20th, in the early AM hours sweet smells of chocolate filled the halls as they were hard at work making delicious homemade Easter candy. Each piece of candy was made and packaged with love & care. Candy orders were taken through the month of March and will be ready for pick up on Palm Sunday!

Thank you to Lorie Filipovits for organizing this event. A special thank you to all who helped out!

Lorie and Ed Filipovits, Dean and Roseann Yelles, Donna and Dan Pavlick, LeAnne Krill, Marge Leith, Jen Gaugler & Jeanne Schweitzer.



## Happy Birthday...

LeRoy Bealer	04/04
Gerald Persing	04/07
Ellen Stahl	04/12
Emily Wiland	04/12
Jeffrey Bauer	04/13
Judy Readinger	04/13
Owen Dungan	04/14
Dale Grow	04/15
Ruth Frack	04/17
Rodney Miller	04/17
Jessica Snyder	04/19
Patrick Adams	04/19
Dale Moyer	04/21
Helen Odenwelder	04/21 (103!)
Kathleen Gilbert	04/22
Bill Gebhardt	04/24
Dorothy Milkovitch	04.24 (97!)
Robert Henniger	04/27 (89!)
Kate O'Boyle	04/27
Pamela Reimer	04/27
Every Adams	04/28
Ed Filipovits	04/28
Shannon Dereamus	04/29



### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY...

**Jim & Gail Loch**  
(59 years)

**David & Jane Laudenslager**  
(47 years)

Happy 43rd Anniversary  
of Ordination to our own  
Pastor Gary Walbert!



# PASTORAL ACTS

**The Northampton Area Food Bank** would like to thank the congregation of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for the generous donations in February!



**In Touch**— Every first Sunday of each month, one of the great ministries we have at Good Shepherd is our In Touch. It is a very important way we can tell our members in need that we really care!

**Food Bank Sunday**— Every 2nd Sunday of each month, please bring a canned good to Sunday service to donate to the Northampton Area Food Bank.

Thank you to everyone that donated candy and other items for the Egg Hunt. It was very appreciated.  
God Bless you all,  
Egg Hunt Committee



## Sunday School

Sunday School is every Sunday at 10:15 a.m. All ages are encouraged to attend. So after the church service, please make your way down the hallway and find the classroom that is right for you. We hope to see everyone.



Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held after Sunday Service on April 21, 2024. We will have more information to follow.



We would like to recognize anyone who is graduating from kindergarten, elementary school, middle school, high school or college. Please give us a picture and a brief write-up of where you are graduating from and your future plans so we can display it on the bulletin board. Pictures will be returned. Information should be given to the church Office by May 31.



Date	Assisting Minister	Lector	Pouring Chalice	Acolytes
4/7	Chris Holub	Bill Gebhardt	Gail Loch	Andrew LaBarre
4/14	Jen Gaugler	Jen Burrell	LeAnne Krill	Will Burrell
4/21	Bill Gebhardt	Chris Holub	Linda Siekonic	Andrew LaBarre
4/28	Mark Weaver	Jen Burrell	Jessica Kirkpatrick	Will Burrell

Ushers	
4/7	Dean & Roseann Yelles, Mike Rogers, Jen Gaugler
4/14	Charles Burrell, Mary Dennis, Kerry Ruch, Doug Yelles
4/21	Dean & Roseann Yelles, Jess Snyder, Doug Yelles
4/28	Charles Burrell, Jen Gaugler, Kerry Ruch, Doug Yelles

If you cannot keep your scheduled time, please arrange for someone to fill in.



**2024 Financial breakdown for April**  
Amount needed weekly to meet budget = \$ 3,101.00  
Amount needed weekly to pay bills = \$2,803.00

Date	Weekly offering	Memorial	Building repair
2/4	5234.00		355.00
2/11	2086.00		
2/18	1952.75		
2/25	3840.35		110.0

**Treasurer Report – February 2024**

In the month of February, we had a loss of \$1,400 due to an increase in maintenance work, property insurance, and snow removal. The total loss for the year is \$3,800.

Some notable activity for the month is the following:

- Some notable income activity includes:
  - Offerings of \$12,900
  - Hall Rentals of \$400
  - Fundraising of \$572

- Some notable expense activity includes:
  - \$2,400 for Fire Doors
  - \$1,245 for Snow Removal
  - \$165 for Piano Maintenance
  - \$1,619 for Property Insurance

At the end of February, we had a balance of \$3,470 in our checking account. Our savings account has a balance of \$40,000. There is about \$2,000 in outstanding checks that will clear in the upcoming days. Total assets, all bank accounts and CDs, were \$212,000 at February 29, 2024



# April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Office closed	2 Christian Ed 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	3 Worship & Music Mtg 7:00 pm	4 Bell Choir Practice 6:30 pm Choir practice 7:30 pm	5	6
7 Worship 9:00 am In Touch Sunday school <b>Fundraising Mtg 10:30</b>	8 Council Mtg 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm	9 Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	10	11 Bell Choir Practice 6:30 pm Choir practice 7:30 pm	12  <b>Council Reports Due</b>	13
14 Worship 9:00 am Food Bank Sunday school  <b>BINGO! 1:00 pm</b>	15 Council Mtg 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm	16 Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	17	18 Bell Choir Practice 6:30 pm Choir practice 7:30 pm	19  <b>NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE</b>	20
21 Worship 9:00 am  <b>Annual Congrega- tional Meeting</b>	22 Earth Day  Girl Scouts 7:00 pm	23 Primary Election 6 am– 10 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	24	25 Bell Choir Practice 6:30 pm Choir practice 7:30 pm	26	27
28 Worship 9:00 am Sunday school	29 Girl Scouts 7:00 pm	30 Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	31			

## Vacation Bible School Mark Your Calendar!

June 24th - 27th 6 pm- 7:30 pm  
Stories, crafts and music each night. Ages Preschool - 6th grade,  
adults encouraged to stay. Call (610)262-9517 to sign up.

This year's theme is:  
**Special Women of the Bible**

**You will learn about women that had great faith in God  
and how their FAITH in God changed peoples' lives.**



**SAVE THE DATE!** Our upcoming  
Bingo events are scheduled June  
2nd and September 8th...



Thank you to LeAnne Krill  
for organizing a wonderful  
Easter Egg hunt on March  
30. The children gathered  
many eggs, and left with  
candy, homemade cookies,  
and a prize. Everyone had a  
very enjoyable time.

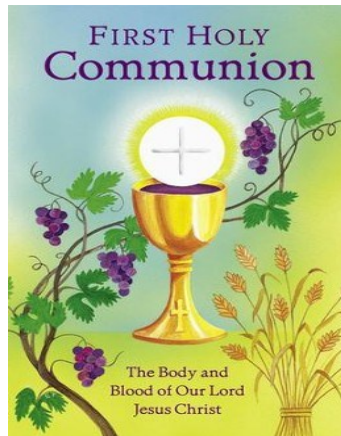
In preparation for our Memorial day service, please submit names of those that have died , that have served in the Armed Forces. Our Memorial day service of Remembrance will be May 28th, at 9:00 am. Please make your submission, (including name & branch) by email: GoodShepherdLutheran@rcn.com or by phone: 610-262-9517, or by mail, 1335 Old Carriage Rd, Northampton 18067.

Any names submitted will be added to our special prayer list for that service. Please submit by May 19 . Thank you!

**NOTE: If you submitted the names last year, you do not need to resubmit.**



**SAVE THE DATE JUNE 8, 2024**  
Dinner and dancing while celebrating our Senior members. Music from the 1920's to now. Doors open 3:30 pm.



**2024 First Communion Recipients**

Ella Rogers

Naomi R Schmoyer

Noah Gabriel Vash

During our office transition, we ask that you please call us before visiting. We will be making every effort to have a volunteer in the office from 9 am-12 pm Monday through Thursday. Thank you!

