



The Shepherd's Staff

January 2026

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus,

A new year and it is a new start. Maybe you made some resolutions-things you want to change in your life. Maybe it is simply just to get through this year healthy and with no major problems. Do not be afraid, Jesus promises us He will be with us always. So what do you think God wants you to do in 2026?

John the Baptist did what God wanted him to do-he prepared the way for Jesus. But John never lived to see the results. He died in prison and never lived to see very much of what Jesus did or hear very much of what He said.

Now here's a thought...Am I willing to be part of something, invest myself in something that I'll never live to see fully accomplished?

Some of those great cathedrals in Europe took over 100 years to build. People could work on a church all their lives, knowing they would never live to see it finished.

Well, God's plans for this world are far greater than our minds can grasp. God's dream is a big dream. It includes all creation. There will come a time that there will be peace and truth and love. But I doubt that I or anyone I know will live to see it.

So...do I throw up my hands and give up? Do I just try to get out of life what I can in the few years I have? That's the question. Or am I willing to invest in a great work-God's work-that I'll never live to see finished?

How about we make 2026 God's year? Have a blessed New Year!

*In His Hands,
Pastor Gary*

January 1
New Years Day
Office Closed

January 4
Epiphany ~
In Touch
Sunday

January 5
Worship & Music
7pm

January 6
Christian Ed
7pm

January 11
Baptism of our
Lord ~ Food
Bank Sunday~
Undecorating of
the church

January 12
Council
Meeting 6:30

January 17
Movie Night
"Sketch"
6-9pm

March 7
Mardi Gras Pot
Luck & Talent
Show
5-9pm

February 14
Valentine's Day

February 16
President's Day

February 17
ASH
WEDNESDAY



Brian Emery	January 2
Nancy Kochenash	January 3
Bonnie Spengler	January 3
Jane Laudenslager	January 4
Diane Kramer	January 13
Nicholas Miller	January 14
Cody Kramer	January 20
William Sherman	January 21
Laurie Perna	January 22
Diana Kratzer	January 23
Jolene LaBarre	January 23
Tina Miller	January 23
Dean Yelles	January 23
Dorothy Clauser	January 24
Helen Moyer	January 27
Barbara Steigerwalt	January 27

Happy anniversary!

Larry & Cindy Wassum (35) January 5



The sanctuary was all ablaze in red and white for the Christmas Eve Services. The trees were lit and it was officially the birthday we have all been waiting to celebrate. Happy birthday baby Jesus!



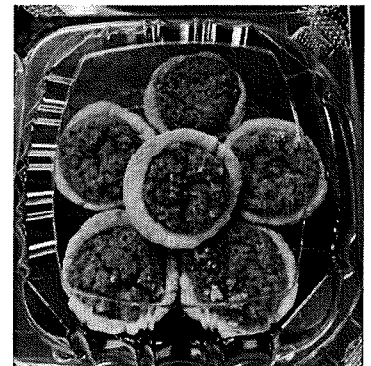
Special Christmas Thanks to
The Yelles family for donating the Christmas trees and
The Hower family for donating the fresh Christmas wreathes
and swags as well as the advent wreath. Thank you also to
everyone who helped to decorate on Dec. 21st.

31st Cookie Sale

With tremendous support from the congregation, our Cookie Sale was a wonderful success. We sold \$2,239 worth of cookies to enthusiastic and appreciative shoppers who marveled at our huge variety. Ten percent of our sales (\$240) has been sent to ELCA World Hunger Good Gifts to support sustainable solutions to hunger. We also contributed gift bags of cookies to the Social Ministry Committee for our home bound members and those on our prayer lists. We also delivered cookies to Victory House of the Lehigh Valley, which assists homeless veterans and men.

Thank you to everyone who baked such an amazing variety of cookies, to the "cookie elves" who carefully weighed and packaged the cookies, and the sales assistants who made the event run smoothly, and Thrivent for an Action Team grant which paid for newspaper advertising and packaging supplies.

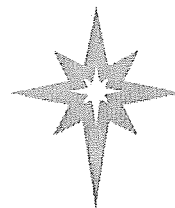
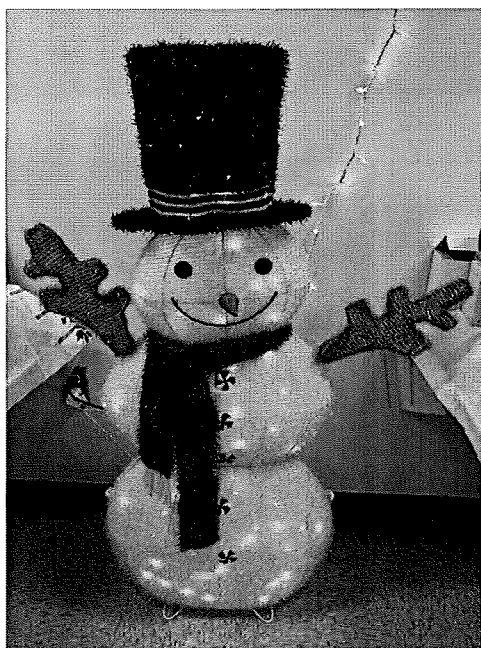
Special thanks from Social Ministry to all the people who took time during this busy time of year to deliver the cookies.



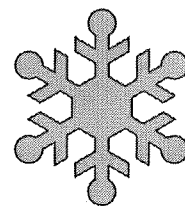
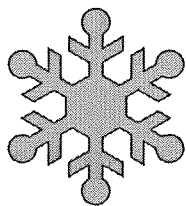
Oodles of cookies to choose from! We had all the bases covered with the great selection of cookies. We had cutouts and kiffles. Traditional chocolate chip and peanut butter and let's not forget the nut tossies. We also offered gluten free and vegan. Our shoppers braved the morning chill to get their favorites. Thank you to everyone that helped make this successful.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Our Christmas Bazaar happened on December 13th along with our Cookie Sale. Marge Leith and her crew put together a lovely selection of Christmas themed items to sell. We had everything from lights, to stockings and so much holiday décor. There was definitely something for everyone. We raised a total of \$652.00. All remaining items were donated to American Family Services. We hope that those remaining items brightened the holidays of a family. Thanks to everyone who sorted, priced and organized. We accomplish so much when we work together.



Our lovely Nativity Set found a new home this year. The back drop highlights the beautiful view from our narthex. Thank you to everyone who sets it up to remind us of the true meaning of Christmas.



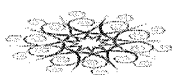
Mardi Gras Talent Show & Pot Luck



Good Shepherd's Mardi Gras event in the fellowship hall is always a hit. Join us on Saturday, February 7, 2026 at 5pm in the fellowship hall for a pot luck dinner and then the fun starts!

The talent show starts at 6:30. So, if you have a talent that you would like to share and have your moment in the spotlight, we encourage you to sign up.

Please contact Nicole Bogden (484) 241-1275 to reserve your spot.



January is the coldest month in the Northern Hemisphere and the warmest month in the Southern Hemisphere.

Thank you to Tom & Bonnie Schwartz who recently gave a snowblower to the church to help us handle the snow here at Good Shepherd. It was much appreciated!



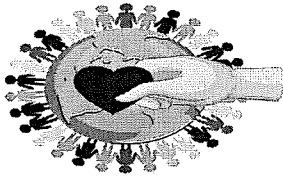
just kidding!

A man appeared before St. Peter at the pearly gates. "Have you ever done anything of particular merit?" St. Peter asked.

"Well," the man said, "once I came upon a gang of bikers who were threatening a young woman. I approached the largest and most heavily tattooed biker and smacked him on the head, kicked over his bike, ripped out his nose ring, and threw it on the ground. 'Now leave her alone!' I yelled."

St. Peter was impressed: "When did this happen?"

"Just a couple of minutes ago."



CHURCH COUNCIL

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!

The Northampton Area Food Bank would like to thank the congregation of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for the generous donations in December. 104 items were delivered! **For the 2025 year we collected and delivered 1967 items! AMAZING!**



Good Shepherd mourns the loss of two of our members in December:

*David Hausman December 8th
Robert Shipe December 28th*

Our prayers are with their families at this difficult time.

Congregation Council 2026

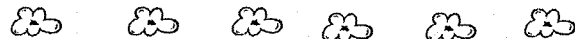
Mark Weaver, President
Ben Bogden, Vice President
Jessica Kirkpatrick, Treasurer
Donna Pavlick, Financial Secretary
Jennifer Gaugler
Jeanne Schweitzer
Chris Holub
Nicole Bogden
Diane Kramer

We would also like to welcome Jessica Snyder, Carole Holub and Paul Evans as new council members.

GSLC would like to thank Alexis Saylor for her 35 years of service as Recording Secretary.



GSLC will be hosting a Movie Night on January 17th in the Fellowship Hall. Showtime starts at 6 pm. The feature will be "Sketch". Please snuggle in for a night of entertainment. Bring your comfy blanket. Popcorn will be available.

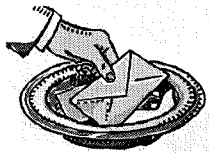


We recently received a letter of resignation from Kristen Merkert our Church Organist & Music Director. We were saddened to get this news, however Kristen has led the members of GSLC in many new directions. For that we are thankful that she came into our lives. She has graciously agreed to stay on until May 2026 to give the church time to fill the position. We wish her the best and are sorry to see her go. As she heads in a new direction we are certain that music will always remain a priority for her.

2026

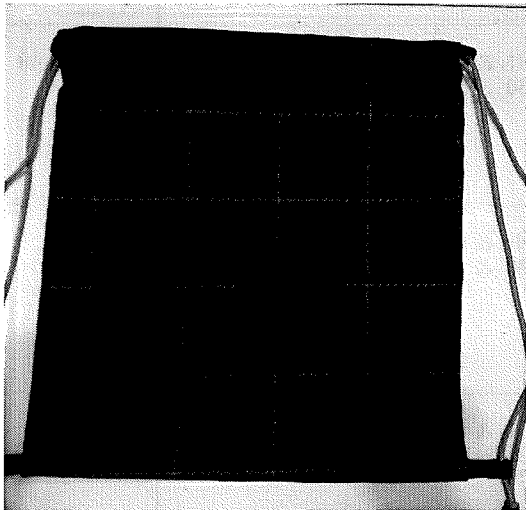


***There are far better things ahead than any we leave behind. Years change
God never does.***



OFFERINGS

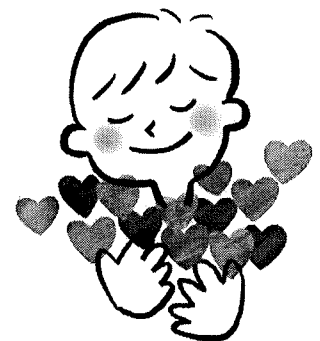
Date	Weekly offering	Memorial	Building repair
11/2/2025	\$5317.50		\$260.00
11/9/2025	\$3300.50		\$45.00
11/16/2025	\$1076.50		\$20.00
11/23/2025	\$2197.50		-
11/30/2025	\$2188.50		\$10.00



Help Wanted!!

Do you like to sew? The Social Ministry Committee is looking for volunteers to sew cloth bags for our annual Lutheran World Relief School Kit mission project. The bags do not require any fancy stitchery. We will supply the pre-cut fabric, thread, and easy instructions. The bags will be used next September, so this is a great project for this winter or when you have time to sew. Volunteers can construct as many or as few bags as they wish over the next 9 months. If you would like more (no obligation) information, contact Barb Wiemann at blwiemann@gmail.com or 610-262-6977.

The Social Ministry Committee extends a sincere thank you to everyone who helped in making 2025 a wonderful year at Good Shepherd. Good Shepherd's Food Bank donations, In-Touch program, School Kits, Sharing Produce Table, Gracedale cards and visits, a washcloth / lotion collection to support flood victims and home-bound gift bags, and the Northern Lehigh Mission District Ingathering constituted our 2025 events. All the events conducted throughout the year were successful due to your exceptional generosity and time. Again, we thank you and look forward to 2026 as we reach out to the congregation and the community at large through our Social Ministry program.



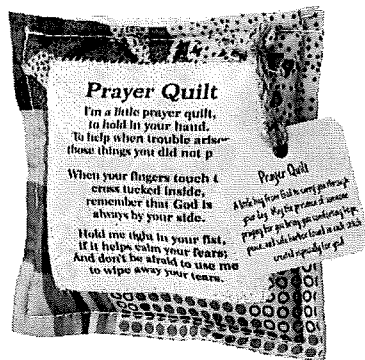
One of our vital ministries is the Northampton Food Bank. Our monthly food items help families feed those in their households. Our monetary donations help the Food Bank buy needed food to supplement what is given by others.

Let us dedicate 2026 to help the Northampton Food Bank as much as we can. Try to bring a food item to church every time you attend. Every little thing makes a difference in someone's life. We can help stop hunger.



January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Happy New Year! 2026! OFFICE CLOSED	2	3
4 Epiphany Worship 9am IN TOUCH Undecorate sancutary	5 Worship & Music 7pm	6 Christian Ed 7pm	7	8 Bells & Choir 6:30 & 7:30	9	10
11 Baptism of Our Lord Worship 9am FOOD BANK	12 Council Meeting 6:30pm	13	14	15 Bells & Choir 6:30 & 7:30	16	17 Movie Night 6-9pm
18 Worship 9am	19 Martin Lutheran King Day	20	21	22 Bells & Choir 6:30 & 7:30	23	24
25 Worship 9am	26	27	28	29 Bells & Choir 6:30 & 7:30	30	31



Social Ministry delivered Christmas greetings and prayer squares (which contain a cross inside) to our unit at Gracedale Nursing Home. Everyone was so happy with the visit.



**TIME TO
UPDATE!**

As we head into a new year please remember that we are only as good as the information that we have been given. If you have a new phone number or perhaps got rid of a home number in exchange for a cell number, please let us know. If you would like to have the newsletter delivered by email give the office at call and we will handle it.

**Call us M-F from
9-2pm 610-262-9517**