

The Shepherd's Staff

From the Pastor:

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus,

Christmas music is playing in the background as I write this article. My mind is flooded with memories of Christmases past. I remember many of the Christmas services I was involved in. The beauty of the darkened church with lighted candles everywhere and the hymn Silent Night being sung. I remember greeting so many people after the service.

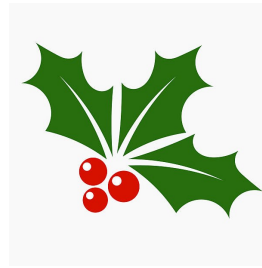
I have many family memories, How to trick the children in staying in bed at least until 7am, watching the delight of children opening up their presents, and those wonderful family gatherings later in the day. Those days are so precious to us because they will not return. So I hold them close to my heart.

We need to go back to the greatest memory of the birth of the baby in Bethlehem. We hear this beautiful verse, "But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart." Mary remembered her entire life time the birth of her son: the angel announcing His birth, the long, hard trip to Bethlehem, His first bed, a feeding trough, the Shepherds and the Kings from the East coming to worship Him. It was truly a night of miracles.

So as we prepare to celebrate, the birth of our King, let us remember all those beautiful memories of Christmas past, but also let us remember, why we are truly celebrating Christmas; the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

May you all have a blessed Christmas. May you create new and wonderful memories this year.

In Jesus' Name,
Pastor Gary



December 2022

Planning Ahead...

December 4
Advent Congregation Meeting
&
2nd Sunday of Advent

December 10
Holiday Shoppe
Yard Sale, Basket
Raffle, Cookies &
More

December 11
3rd Sunday of
Advent

December 18
4th Sunday of
Advent/Lessons &
Carols
&
Decorate the
Church

December 21
Service of Renewal

December 24
Christmas Eve
Services

December 25
Christmas Day
service

January 1
Happy New Year!
&
Epiphany

January 8
Baptism of our Lord



CHURCH MUSIC FUND

It is with great pleasure to announce the beginning of our Church Music Fund.

The main purpose of this fund is to support the growing music ministry. We will use the fund money for the following:

Special music, paying for a guest musician,; any repairs to the organ or piano that goes beyond the budget: choir music that is not covered in the budget: and hand bell music and maintenance.

We are funding this account by memorial gifts: donations from the congregation and fundraising.

If you would like to make a donation to the music fund, please note "music fund" on your envelope.



Happy Anniversary...

David & Jennifer Burrell

December 6

Larry & Sandra Graver

December 17

Brian & Lori Emery

December 27

Happy Birthday...

Scott Keiser	December 1
LeAnne Krill	December 3
Brynn Layton	December 3
Hannah Flamisch	December 7
Barry Gilbert	December 8
Edith Bachman	December 11
William Burrell	December 11
Shane Weiner	December 11
Jeanne Schweitzer	December 12
Sarah Landis	December 14
Brenda Liebert	December 14
Holly Cope	December 15
Talbot Houck	December 16
Joshua Klusaritz	December 19
Diane Hausman	December 20
Matthew Klusaritz	December 20
Timothy Talbot	December 21
John Enstrom	December 23
Tori Edelman	December 27
Joyce Pulley	December 27

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

FEBRUARY 11, 2023
VALENTINE'S DANCE
7PM -10PM

FEBRUARY 18, 2023
MARDI GRAS/TALENT
SHOW
5PM - 9PM
SHOW STARTS AT 6:30

Thank you to LeAnn Krill for organizing and leading the Advent Wreath craft on Nov.27. Everyone had fun and we all took home a beautiful wreath to use during Advent.



Annual Advent Congregational Meeting will

be after service on December 4th in the church.

The Church Council is requesting all confirmed members of

Good Shepherd attend this meeting. This meeting we have

an item up for discussion that will need to have a vote taken upon the next Congregational meeting in Spring. And we will also be accepting Council Members. We are asking that anyone who would like to join the Council please let Pastor or Nicole know.

A Council member would need to attend Council meetings once a month and to participate on a Committee. This is an important role in the church to help keep the church thriving.

President's Corner

It is here! The busiest time of the year. All the hustle and bustle, preparing for the BIG day. I pray that you do not forget to take time to sit down and take a moment to soak up the season and really feel the spirit of the holidays all around.

Lately, I have been feeling down and lost. My passion for the church has diminished. Being President of Council has become just a face to the title. The church has been going through some ruff patches and we are trying to keep it all going. Then a few weeks ago Pastor Langkamer came to fill in and he took me back to my childhood. I heard the infamous start to the service and it was like when I was in Confirmation class again, except I was not taking sermon notes. But listening to his sermon, he said "who can we trust? Trust in Jesus Christ." With so much going on, in and around the church I lost the reason for my passion. This has been my church and church family for 48 years. I love my church, my family, and my Lord Jesus Christ. Going forward I hope everyone can put Jesus Christ into their life. Come to church and feel the spirit of our Lord.

Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year to all!

**God Bless,
Nicole Bogden
Church Council President
E-mail: bensmom1101@ptd.net
Cell # 484-241-1275**



Christmas Eve Pew Candle Sponsorships 2022

Christmas Eve pew candle sponsorship sign ups are open , the sign up sheet is located in the Narthex. If you would like to sponsor a pew candle for Christmas Eve you can also call the office.

Pew Candle sponsorships are a beautiful way to honor a loved one or honor your family.



Hello! As we enter the holiday season in full, I would like to thank you and everyone else who helped our three Dine & Donate events to be a success. Thanksgiving has just passed; thus, I feel it is more than appropriate to share how grateful I am to you all. Between the congregational members who went out and the wider community who joined, we raised a total of \$560 for Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church. Of this total, we are returning 10% to the community through donations to the Northampton Area Food Bank. Thank you. You, the owners of Konkrete Creamery and Seemsville Pub & Grille, and everyone who came to join us for meals and treats helped to make a small idea into a great success!



As a small recap, August's event was hosted at Konkrete Creamery. Pastor Gary reveled in the fellowship shared with the community. Adults and children alike enjoyed a sweet treat with extended families. This was the beginning of our informing the extended town community that we are here on the hill, and they are welcomed to join us. September's event found us at Seemsville Pub & Grille for Sunday lunch. Our members were the first patrons for the day and our steady stream of customers was a pleasant surprise for the staff. Lastly, October's event, again at Seemsville Pub & Grille, was the biggest Thursday rush they had seen in a while. Our choir, too, enjoyed turning the event into a fellowship event of their own after practice. It is good, very good to commune and laugh with friends.

Please, stay tuned for next year's Dine and Donate event schedule. It will be a blast!



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church was blessed this October to have Pastor Langkamer (pictured left) return for a beautiful Reformation Service on October 30th, as well as Pastor Hand (pictured right) celebrating Sunday worship on October 23rd. We thank you both for supplying for us here at GSLC and the wonderful teachings and messages you shared with us while Pastor Gary was on his well deserved vacation.



December Worship Assistant Schedule

Date	Assisting Minister	Lector	Pouring Chalice	Acolytes
Dec.4	Chris Holub	Dave Hausman	LeAnne Krill	Tori Schaffer
Dec. 11	Jessica Kirkpatrick	Linda Siekonic	Diane Hausman	Bre LaBarre
Dec.18	Mark Weaver	Chris Holub	Linda Siekonic	Andrew LaBarre
Dec.24 4:00pm Dec.24 7:30pm	Dave Hausman Ben Bogden	Jen Burrell Edwin Marshall	Linda Siekonic/ Diane Hausman Jessica Kirkpatrick/ Barb Wiemann	Charles & William Burrell Ava Talbot/Alexa Wiland
Dec. 25	Jennifer Gaugler	Al Wiemann	Mark Weaver	Cody Reimer

Date	Ushers	If you cannot keep your scheduled time, please arrange for someone to fill in.
Dec. 4	Ed Filipovits, Dan Pavlick, Patrick Adams, Shelly Dorn	
Dec. 11	Doug Yelles, Allison Qaurtararo, Dave Hausman, Edwin Marshall	
Dec. 18	Ed Filipovits, Allison Quartararo, Dean Yelles, Roseann Yelles	
Dec. 24 4:00pm Dec. 24 7:30pm	Dan Pavlick, Ed Filipovits, Shelly Dorn, Jeff Dorn Dean Yelles, Roseann Yelles, Allison Quartararo, Doug Yelles	
Dec. 25	Dave Hausman, Jessica Kirkpatrick, Shelly Dorn, Jeff Dorn	

WITH GREAT APPRECIATION!

This message is overdue but still important to share. Did you know October was National Pastor Appreciation Month? This October, we had the opportunity to appreciate not one, but THREE pastors and their worship leadership styles. Pastor Gary spent some of his Appreciation Month on a well-deserved vacation. During that time, we had the pleasure of meeting Pastor Ray Hand and reuniting with Pastor Lyn Langkamer. Pastor Ray's humor was a gem and his message of connections – fresh, vital, and everlasting – was an important reminder of connecting with our families and our Lord. The following week, we had a wonderful homecoming with Pastor Langkamer here at Good Shepherd. Many congregational and community members came to greet him. With the feeling of nostalgia hovering through the sanctuary, he offered a message reflecting on the nature of truth, how it sets us free, and the relationship it has with us and God as our Father. Both lessons were good. Each should be taken to heart as we look forward to 2023. We are thrilled to have Pastor Gary Walbert at Good Shepherd Lutheran. He returned to us at the beginning of November for All Saints Sunday wide-eyed and bushy-tailed, rested and ready to take on the holiday season.

So as the holiday season arrives quickly upon us and we have much to do, please remember to offer gratitude and a smiling face to all. We need each other for our truths and our connections.

--- Mutual Ministry





PASTORAL ACTS



We rejoice that those listed below have been liberated from sin and death by being joined in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ through the sacrament of Holy Baptism in the month of November 2022.

Rhett Franklin Holland

Son of Drew Holland and Kylee Pavlick

(pictured above)

Born 9.12.22

Baptized 11.13.22



The Northampton Food Bank would like to Thank The congregation of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for the generous donations of food and monetary donations in November. Thank you very much!

Memorial gifts received in the month of November

In memory of Dolores Hoppes, given by

Linda Hoch

Judith L Clarke

Rodney & Shari Hoppes

Robert & Karen Hite

Frank & Carol Groller

David & Valerie Madea

Marjorie Leith

Trevor Vought

In memory of Gene Edelman, given by

David & Valerie Madea

In Memory of Skip Smith, given by

Elaine Kovacs

Anthony A Korves

Girl Scouts Clothing Swap 2022

We had a room FULL of donated clothes and accessories for folks to choose from. Everyone who stopped by was able to find something new to them. We had one family that was notably grateful. They are currently fostering 7 kids. So being able to cover some of their needs was especially rewarding. All leftover items were picked up by Purple Heart. Thank you Good Shepherd for your generosity of using the hall!



2022 Financial breakdown for November

Amount needed weekly to meet budget = \$ 3,101.00

Amount needed weekly to pay bills = \$2,781.00



date	Attendance	Online Attendance
10.2.22	56	120
10.9.22	41	104
10.16.22	63	137
10.23.22	48	102
10.30.22	74	136
total	282	599
average	56.4	119.8

Date	Weekly offering	Memorial	Building repair	Total weekly
10.2.22	\$2,434.00		\$95.00	\$2,529.00
10.9.22	\$2,036.00		\$85.00	\$2,121.00
10.16.22	\$1,606.00		\$30.00	\$1,636.00
10.23.22	\$2,746.00	\$500.00		\$3,246.00
10.30.22	\$2,345.00	\$325.00	\$75.00	\$2,745.00

A WORD FROM THE

TREASURER

Another Thanksgiving has passed. We at Good Shepherd have so much to be thankful for. We were finally able to worship together which is such a great blessing. Oftentimes, God gives us challenges so we can be thankful when we receive his blessings. This year was also filled with some financial challenges. Through October, the church is at a net loss position of \$19,000 and had to use our savings to cover our expenses many months.

Total offerings this year through October is at \$122,000, which is an increase of \$5,000 from the previous year. However, our expenses have increased as well. This year we have been battling septic issues which has cost the church and is the primary cost in our maintenance expense of \$5,100. We also have some large day to day expenses such as our copier lease (\$3,600) and landscaping charges (\$2,900) which are also significant. Our electric has increased significantly. Last year our monthly fees were \$588. Every few months our bill increases and is now over \$1,000 per month.

But through these challenges, God has given us blessings. Our friends at Good Shepherd are looking for ways to reduce our expenses. Pastor has stopped taking mileage checks a few months ago. Our employees didn't receive a pay increase this year; and our office secretary has reduced her hours but continues with the same workload. We are so thankful for their sacrifices.

I am committed to share with all of you more details on our financial challenges every month. I will prepare a letter in the monthly newsletter sharing some of our financial information to offer more visibility. The current financial statements are always posted on the bulletin board. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Let's make our goal to break even for FY2023.

As in Philippians verse 4:6, "Don't be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayers and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Fundraiser

1335 Old Carriage Road

Northampton, Pa 18067

Saturday, December 10, 2022, 9:00a.m.-2:00p.m.

Raffle tickets pulled immediately starting at 2:00pm

THEMED BASKET RAFFLE- 75+Baskets, including gift cards and door prizes!
\$5.00 for 26 tickets, drawing will begin at 2:00 (Need not be present to win Basket Prizes)

INDOOR YARD SALE -New and gently used items such as Bric A Brac, Household, Books, Holiday and Collectables
\$1.00 tickets for door prizes: 1 White Wreath and 1 Red Wreath

COOKIES AND MORE BAKE SALE- Offering Good Shepherd's famous homemade cookies at \$10.00 a pound. Cookies will be prewrapped in ¼ lbs. Baked goods will also be offered such as pumpkin roll, cakes and cupcakes!

This is a cash only sale sponsored by Good Shepherd's Fundraising Committee. Event will be held in the Fellowship/Social Hall. Tithe to the Jess Fin Foundation.



Cookies And More Bake Sale!

The Good Shepherd Cookie Sale is returning on December 10 at 9 AM with some new twists! It will be held at the same time as the Basket Raffle and Indoor Yard Sale. So, dust off those cookie and special dessert recipes and plan to bake a batch or two of your favorite treats. We need many varieties from all of our congregation members to make the sale a success!

Due to COVID concerns, we will be organizing our bake sale a little differently than in previous years. Each shopper will be given a box as in past years. However, the cookies will be pre-packaged in baggies containing a quarter pound in each bag, and the other desserts will also be pre-bagged. The baggies will be displayed on tables and shoppers may select the bags they wish to purchase. The cost for cookies will be \$10 a pound, the same price as in 2019. Other desserts will be individually priced. Shoppers will know how much they are spending since each bag is pre-weighed or pre-marked.

The committee will be accepting donations on Thursday, December 8, and Friday, December 9, from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. and on Saturday before 9 a.m. If you have any questions, contact LeAnne Krill or Barb Wiemann.



Good Shepherd Lutheran Christmas Service dates

Advent week 2 December 4 @ 9:00am

Advent week 3 December 11 @ 9:00am

Advent week 4/Lessons & Carols December 18 @ 9:00am

Service of Renewal- December 21st @ 7:00pm

Christmas Eve service December 24th @ 4:00pm**

Christmas Eve service December 24th @ 7:30pm**

Christmas Day service December 25th @ 9:00am

Epiphany January 1 @ 9:00am

Baptism of our Lord January 8 @ 9:00am

**** special music begins 1/2 hour before service**



December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Council Reports due December 8th			1 Choir practice 7:00pm	2 Office closed	3
4 9:00AM WORSHIP 2nd week of Advent Sunday school	5 Worship & Music 7:00pm	6 Christian Ed 7:00pm	7	8 Choir practice 7:00pm Cookie/Baked items drop off 6-8pm	9 Office closed Cookie/Baked items drop off 6-8pm	10 Holiday Shoppe Basket Raffle Cookies & More 9am-2pm Fellowship Hall
*DEC. 5- 9 FELLOWSHIP HALL SET UP FOR FUNDRAISER HOLIDAY SHOPPE- TIME TBA						
11 9:00AM WORSHIP 3rd week of Advent Sunday school Holiday Shoppe items for sale in hall after service 10:15-11:15	12 Council Meeting 6:30pm Evening Basket pick up 4-7pm	13	14	15 Choir practice 7:00pm	16 Office closed	17
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE						
18 9:00AM Worship 4th week of Advent Lessons/Carols Sunday school Decorate the Church 10:15am	19	20	21 Service of Renewal 7:00pm	22 Choir practice 7:00pm	23 Office closed	24 Christmas Eve Service 4:00pm & 7:30pm
25 9:00AM WORSHIP Christmas Day Service MERRY CHRISTMAS!	26 Office closed	27	28	29	30 Office closed	31 HAPPY & SAFE NEW YEARS EVE!
January 1, 2023 9:00AM WORSHIP Epiphany HAPPY NEW YEAR! Welcome 2023		<u>NEW for the New Year!</u> Along with our sponsorships for Bulletins, Wine & Wafers, Sanctuary Lamp and Flowers, you can now sponsor our Monthly newsletter ! Sponsorships are a great way to honor a family member or special occasions! Sign up sheets and more information are located in the Narthex!				