

# The Shepherd's Staff

January 2024

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

*Brothers and Sisters in Jesus,*

*We are starting another year filled with hopes, possibilities and dreams of a new & fresh year, 2023 was a good year for Good Shepherd.*

*Our fundraising committee did an amazing job. Thank you for all the hard work you did! We had our first BINGO, it was a success. Looking forward to 3 more next year. Our yard sale, basket raffle and bake sale was incredible! Thank you for the countless hours you faithfully put in to make it a big success. Our Dine & Donate events were also very successful and will continue next year. Soup sale and filling sales were delicious and went over great!*

*We have seen growth in our congregation in 2023. We had new members join and are enjoying seeing the growth of the young ones. Financially we had an amazing year. We are in the BLACK! We said goodbye to our beloved Sexton John Moschella. He served as sexton for over 30 years. He was a true blessing to us. We hired a new organist, Kristen Merkert. She has brought new life to our music program and worship service. Our secretary Jennifer is the rock that holds the office in place. Thank you!*

*Many thanks to our outgoing Council President, Nicole Bogden. She has done an amazing job keeping the church council together through the trials we have faced these past two years. Welcome to our new president Chris Holub. We pray for his success, strength and patience in the year ahead. Yes, we still need three more members!*

*Finally, and foremost, we must thank our Jesus for all the blessings He gave us this past year. He has guided us and protected us in any situation we faced. He will never leave us alone. Let us all be faithful servants at all times.*

*May you all have a blessed new year!*

*Pastor Gary*

**January 1**  
New Years Day

**January 6**  
Feast of the Three Kings

**January 7**  
Epiphany/  
Baptism of our Lord

**January 28**  
New member reception

**February 4**  
Scout Sunday

**February 10**  
Mardi Gras Pot Luck & Talent Show

**February 11**  
Souper-Bowl collection

**February 14**  
Ash Wednesday  
St. Valentine's Day

**February 19**  
Presidents Day

## President's Corner

*Dear Friends:*

At our last Council meeting for 2023 I was elected the new President of Church Council. I am excited to take on this new challenge, and will do my best to serve our Good Shepherd congregation in the New Year.

Most of you know me, and many of you have watched me grow up in this congregation. I started here as a child, and went through the Sunday School program through my Confirmation. I was singing on the Senior Choir by the time I was a young teenager, and continue to worship with you as a singer and bell choir member. I have served for many years on the Worship and Music Committee, and have helped in our music program in any way I can. I serve as a lector and worship assistant, I am a Scout Leader at Troop 40 here at the church, and I help with fundraising activities when possible. (Some of you just ate some of my chocolate chip cookies in December!) I have also served for several years as a member of Church Council. I thank Nichole Bogdan for her wonderful leadership in the past, and we will both do our best as President and Vice-President to continue the church life and mission of Good Shepherd.

My first goal in 2024 will be to make our Church Council a full 12 members. We currently have 3 places open. With about 330 or so confirmed active members, We should have a full council making the decisions needed to run our church. You may be a person sitting quietly in a pew wanting to volunteer, but feeling too quiet to speak out. You may be listing the (very valid) reasons why you can't commit to serving right now. Or you may be ready to give it a try, if only someone would ask.

I intend to ask. In the next few weeks I may give you a call or have a conversation with you. Please prayerfully consider talking with me, telling me what your vision for Good Shepherd is, and consider ways you can help us all get there. Remember, I have never been a Council President before. But there are a lot of people here who will help me to lead, and they will help you too. Thank you for your prayers and support, and Happy New Year!

Sincerely

Christopher Holub



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Kayla Dennis	January 2
Brian Emery	January 2
Jared Schmall	January 2
Nancy Kochenash	January 3
Bonnie Spengler	January 3
Corbin Reinsmith	January 11
Diane Kramer	January 13
Nicholas Miller	January 14
Cody Kramer	January 20
William Sherman	January 21
Amber Shook	January 21
Laurie Perna	January 22
David Hausman	January 23
Diana Kratzer	January 23
Jolene LaBarre	January 23
Tina Miller	January 23
Dean Yelles	January 23
Dorothy Clauser	January 24
Brittany Hahn	January 26
Helen Moyer	January 27
Barbara Steigerwalt	January 27
Teesa James	January 31



Anniversaries  
and Birthdays

The Social Ministry Committee extends a sincere thank you to everyone who helped in making 2023 a great year at Good Shepherd. Good Shepherd's Food Bank donations, In-Touch program, School Kits, Sharing Produce Table, Gracedale cards and visit, and the Northern Lehigh Mission District In-gathering constituted our 2023 events. All of the events conducted throughout the year were successful due to your exceptional generosity and time. Again, we thank you and look forward to 2024 as we reach out to the congregation and the community at large through our Social Ministry program.



## FILLING SALE

*Yes, our volunteers were at it again! On December 14th in the very early hours the filling making crew was dicing and slicing up bread and potatoes to create their delicious recipe. With over 40+ pounds sold, the savory scents filled the halls and the outside air! So fresh it will jump up and kiss you! Thank you to Ruth Frack for chairing this fundraiser and the wonderful crew for all you do! ( Ruth Frack, Gail Loch, John & Lisa Mann, Barb Wiemann, Dean & Roseann Yelles and Lori Filipovits)*



## Cookies And More Sale

We had a very successful Cookies and More Sale. Our sales totaled \$2,173.75. From this, we sent \$220 to ELCA Good Gifts to buy 100 chicks and 8 roosters. These animals will enable families who have experienced food insecurity to have a steady source of food. We donated 20 pounds of goodies to Victory House of the Lehigh Valley, a shelter which provides transitional services to homeless veterans and men. Finally, we distributed boxes of homemade treats to 14 homebound and ill members of our congregation.

Thank you to

- the wonderful members of our congregation who baked an amazing variety of cookies and baked goods. It truly was a congregational effort.
- the volunteers who bagged the cookies, priced the baked goods, and assisted during the sale. Our volunteers included long-time and first time helpers, teens to seniors.
- Thrivent for an Action Team grant which paid for advertising. We had a steady stream of eager buyers who raved over our terrific selection.

-Barb



## Congregation Council 2024

Christopher Holub, President  
Nicole Bogden, Vice President  
Jessica Kirkpatrick, Treasurer  
Donna Pavlick, Financial Secretary  
Jennifer Gaugler, Executive Secretary  
Alexis Saylor, Recording Secretary  
(Alexis is not a member of Council)

Jennifer Burrell      Benjamin Bogden  
Lisa Mann              Ed Filipovits

**\* We are still in need of 3 members!**



**Mardi Gras Talent Show &  
Pot Luck**

**Save the date!**

**GSLC once again will host crowd favorite  
talent show and pot luck.**

**MC by Scott Heninger**

**FEBRUARY 10th  
5:00pm-9:00pm**



### **Dine & Donate Update**

We have received a total of \$440.00 from the past three events. ( Grove Street Pub, Seemsville Pub & Sam Owens) **For 2023, We raised \$1541.40!** Thank you for supporting our events!

### **Treasurer Report – November 2023**

In the month of November, we had income of \$2200, which increased our net income to \$13,400 for the year.

Some notable activity for the month is the following:

Monthly income was approximately \$14,800.

Some notable expense activity includes:

\$615 for Lawn Maintenance  
\$125 for Fundraising  
\$1,620 for Property Insurance Policy  
\$1,100 for Electric

At the end of November, we had a balance of \$200 in our checking account. Our savings account has a balance of \$32,300.

There is about \$1,500 in outstanding checks that will clear in the upcoming days.

Total assets, all bank accounts and CDs, were \$197,000 at November 31, 2023

Assets Balances:

12/31/2022 - \$185,000  
12/31/2021 - \$190,000  
12/31/2020 - \$205,000  
12/31/2019 - \$261,000  
12/31/2018 - \$255,000  
12/31/2017 - \$218,000  
12/31/2016 - \$245,000

## Yard Sale Event

THANK YOU to everyone who helped in many ways to make our yard sale a successful one! The donations were abundant this year, we thank all that donated for their generosity! Also, a **great big thank you** to the wonderful volunteers that donated their time to take in the items, sort and price them and set up /clean up. We raised over \$3200.00. And remember, our tithe of 10% of the total will be forwarded to little Sammy to assist with his medical bills.

With Many Thanks, Marge

## FOOD BANK 2023

Through the wonderful generosity of our congregation, a total of 1,791 non perishable food items were donated to the Northampton Area Food Bank in 2023. A BIG THANK YOU to Judy and Rick Fehr for transporting these items monthly!



## Basket Raffle Event

As we come to the end of 2023 and our Winter Event has passed, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped to make the Basket Raffle portion of our 3-in-1 event a success. Firstly, to the best team I have worked with in quite some time - Shelly Dorn, Lorie Filipovits, LeAnne Krill, and Lisa Mann. I could not have pulled together this raffle without your help. Also, I want to thank the congregation and all who donated items or funds to build the baskets. Your collective generosity has helped this raffle exceed all expectations! Did you know we had a total of 128 baskets and 34 gift cards up for grabs? Did you know we sold a whopping 500 tickets for those prizes?

Sincerely, you all have my thanks.  
Jennifer Gaugler



A very warm and gracious thank you to:

The Yelles family for donating the Christmas trees.

The Hower family for donating the fresh Christmas wreathes and swags as well as the advent wreath.

Everyone that assisted in Christmas decorating on December 17th.



# January Worship Assistant List

Date	Assisting Minister	Lector	Pouring Chalice	Acolytes
1/7	Jennifer Gaugler	Bill Gebhardt	LeAnne Krill	Andrew LaBarre
1/14	Chris Holub	Jen Burrell	Linda Siekonic	Will Burrell
1/21	Dave Hausman	Dave Hausman	Gail Loch	
1/28	Bill Gebhardt	Diane Hausman	Diane Hausman	Andrew LaBarre

	Ushers
1/7	Dave Hausman, Ed Marshall, Dean & Roseann Yelles
1/14	Doug Yelles, Mary Dennis, Jeff & Shelly Dorn
1/21	Ed Marshall, Dean & Roseann Yelles, Jennifer Gaugler
1/28	Dave Hausman, Mary Dennis, Dan Pavlick, Jessica Kirkpatrick

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

## PASTORAL ACTS

The Northampton Area Food Bank would like to thank the congregation of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for the generous donations in November. 116 items were delivered !



Our annual Souper-Bowl collection to benefit the NAFB will take place after service on February 11th.

**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.

## 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.



## Baptisms in December

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 December.

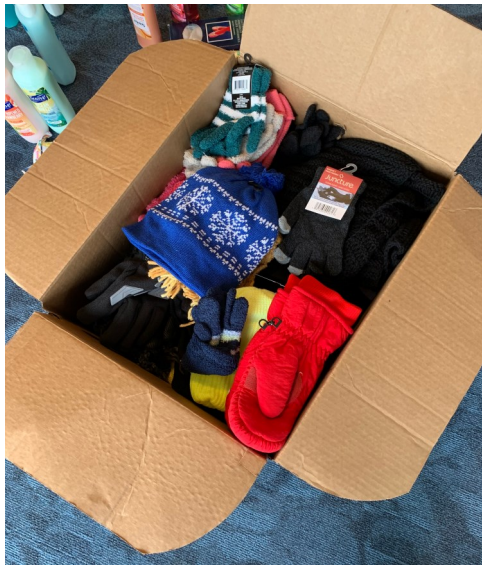
Joseph Thomas Pier  
Son of Joseph & Angela Pier of Bangor





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

Date	Weekly offering	Memorial	Building repair
11.5	5064.0		265.00
11.12	3005.75		45.00
11.19	3120.50		
11.26	1980.00		130.00



**Christmas In Gathering**

*Through the wonderful generosity of our congregation, we were able to continue our tradition, along with the Northern Lehigh Valley Mission District and provide assistance to 6 area facilities, providing gifts to those in need. Some of the items that Good Shepherd Lutheran church provided pictured below along with gift cards and gifts. Thank you to Judy and Rick Fehr for transporting all these items, to the Northern Lehigh Valley Mission District meet in December.*



# January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!	2 Office closed Christian Ed 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm	3 W & M Meeting 7:00pm	4 Bell Choir Practice 6:30pm Choir practice 7:30pm	5	6
7 Worship 9:00am <b>Epiphany/ Baptism of our Lord</b> In Touch	8 Council Mtg 6:30pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm	9 Boy Scouts 7:00pm	10	11 Bell Choir Practice 6:30pm Choir practice 7:30pm	12 <b>Council Reports Due</b>	13
14 Worship 9:00am Food Bank Sunday school	15 Girl Scouts 7:00pm	16 Boy Scouts 7:00pm	17	18 Bell Choir Practice 6:30pm Choir practice 7:30pm	19 <b>NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE</b>	20
21 Worship 9:00am Sunday school	22 Girl Scouts 7:00pm	23 Boy Scouts 7:00pm	24	25 Bell Choir Practice 6:30pm Choir practice 7:30pm	26	27
28 Worship 9:00am New Member reception Sunday school	29	30 Boy Scouts 7:00pm	31			

## New Member Reception

On Sunday, January 28th we will receive the new members during the worship service. Please fill out the form below and hand it to the pastor or place it in the offering plate.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE : \_\_\_\_\_ CHURCH AFFILIATION: \_\_\_\_\_