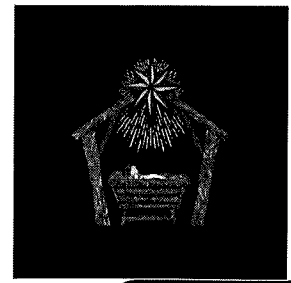




The Shepherd's Staff

December 2025



From the Pastor:

Brothers & Sisters in Jesus,

Hollywood would make the Christmas story different. Mary would be cast as a beautiful young girl, not the plain 13 year old she was. Joseph would be handsome and perfectly manicured and not the rough carpenter he was.

The manger scene would be changed. No person, especially the Son of God, should be born in a cow stall with hay on the floor and animals on the hay. Don't place the baby in a feed trough. Who knows what animals had their noses in there. Don't wrap the newborn in rags, they smell like sheep.

God didn't plan a big arrival, He came simply. We are not even sure of the exact date. Yes, the angels did announce His coming, not to anyone special, just a bunch of shepherds. So why did He do it this way?

The story of Christmas is the story of God's relentless love for us. If He was willing to be born in a stable to ordinary parents, there is no place He will not go. Expect Him to work anywhere we are. No place is too common. No person is too hardened. There is no person He can not reach. There is no limit to His love.

When Jesus was born, so was our hope. God became one of us so we could become one with Him. He did away with every barrier, fence, sin, debt and grave. Anything that might keep us from Him was demolished. Christmas is here, Jesus is here. Ask Him to enter your life and He will shatter the night you live in with His everlasting light. He will be born in you.

Listen as God whispers your name, "No mess turns me back, no smell turns me off, I live to live in a life like yours. Every heart can be my manger. Every day can be a Christmas. Let "Silent Night" be sung on summer nights. Let Advent brighten the autumn chill. Yes, the Christmas miracle is a year long celebration."

*Have a very Blessed Christmas,
Pastor Gary*

Planning Ahead...

December 1
Worship & Music
7pm

December 2
Christian Ed. 7pm

December 6
Holiday Spectacular
6-8pm

December 7
In Touch

December 8
Council Meeting
6:30pm

December 13
Cookie Sale &
Christmas Bazaar
9-2pm

December 14
Food Bank

December 21
Decorating of the
Sanctuary
after worship

December 24
Christmas Eve
Candlelight Services
4pm & 7:30pm
Music begins at
3:30pm & 7:00pm

December 25
Merry Christmas
Office is Closed

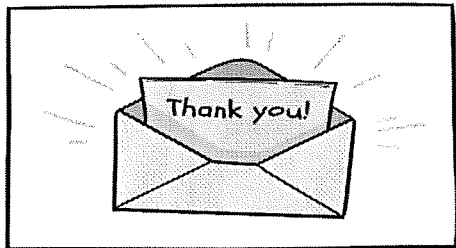
December 28
Lesson & Carols
9am worship



PASTORAL ACTS



Once again Good Shepherd has raised the bar when it come to supporting the Northampton Area Food Bank. With the continued need for food supplies, especially during the holiday months we are happy and blessed to say that we collected **303** items this past month. Thank you to everyone who contributed and for the continued work of Judy & Rick Fehr for counting and transporting the items into Northampton. Lets all come together to finish the year 2025 with another generous donation. Remember that the 2nd Sunday of each month is Food Bank. So plan to bring your items to church or drop them during regular office hours of M-F 9am-2pm.



Sharing a special note of thanks:

October 22, 2025

Members of Good Shepherd:

Returning from a week of vacation, I finally got around to perusing all of my accumulated mail. After discarding all the obnoxious political campaign brochures and retail flyers, and after setting aside all the usual bills, I was thoroughly surprised and pleased to receive your letter about the purchase of a brick in my honor. I am extremely appreciative of the fact that after so much time you still remember and celebrate with me our 19 years of mutual ministry. As I contemplate so many fond memories, I continually thank God for bringing us together. Indeed, I will stop by sometime soon to see my brick! May our God in Christ bless you through these challenging times of faithful service! Thank you!

Yours in Christ,

Pr. Lyn Langkamer



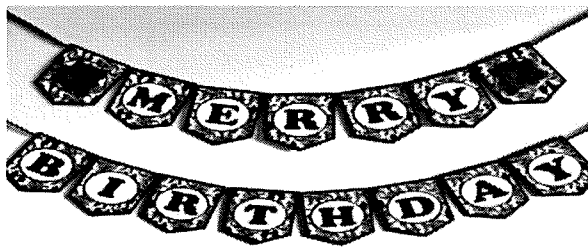
As the year comes to an end we want to extend a heartfelt "Thank You" to all of the volunteers at Good Shepherd. They help to keep our church looking and smelling clean. So much of what takes place might go unnoticed, but the cleaning crew, building maintenance and all the volunteers for the events really make our church run effectively. You all are the BEST!



Everyone here at Good Shepherd wants to alert you to a recent situation.

Pastor Walbert's email and cell number were hacked. Several people received text messages that read they were from Pastor. They were not. If you receive a text message or email asking for some type of assistance, please delete it immediately.

Any correspondence will come ONLY from Pastor's cell or the church office number. We apologize for the issue.

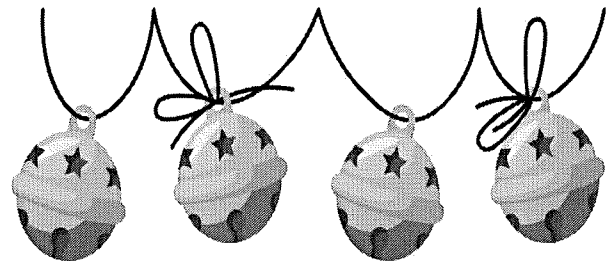


Scott Keiser	12/01
Leanne Krill	12/03
Brian Eberhardt	12/07
Barry Gilbert	12/08
Shane Weiner	12/11
William Burrell	12/11
Jeanne Schweitzer	12/12
Sarah Landis	12/14
Cindy Wassum	12/15
Talbot Houck	12/16
Joshua Klusaritz	12/19
Diane Hausman	12/20
Larry Wassum	12/20
John Enstrom	12/23
Tori Edelman	12/27
Joyce Pulley	12/27
Sara Houck	12/30



As we approach 2026, please make us aware of any address or phone number changes. If your birthday or anniversary doesn't make the list in the newsletter, it could be because we don't have the correct information. We need to keep our information up to date. Your help is greatly appreciated. Just call the church office at 610-262-9517 and let us know.

A FUN FACT OR TWO...



One of the world's most famous Christmas carols wasn't even meant for December! "Jingle Bells" was originally written in 1857 by James Lord Pierpont as a Thanksgiving tune. The melody, called One Horse Open Sleigh, was meant to celebrate winter fun but it was catchy enough to infect Christmas playlists everywhere.



David & Jennifer Burrell (19)	12/06
Larry & Sandra Graver (59)	12/17
Keith & Janet Falko (39)	12/20



Austrian surgical instrument maker Erwin Perzy accidentally invented the snow globe around 1900 while trying to make a brighter light source, inspired by glass balls shoemakers used to focus candlelight. He experimented with different materials, and when he added semolina, the flakes falling in the water reminded him of snow.



Bundle up...Winter begins on Sunday, December 21st.

2025 Financial breakdown for December

Amount needed weekly to meet budget = \$ 3,180.00

Amount needed weekly to pay bills = \$2,810.00

Date	Weekly offering	Memorial	Building repair
10/5/2025	\$4349.50		\$364.00
10/12/2025	\$1665.50		\$20.00
10/19/2025	\$1987.83		\$40.00
10/26/2025	\$3069.50		\$120.00

Year End Statements will be available on January 11, 2026.

You may pick them up at the church on that Sunday.

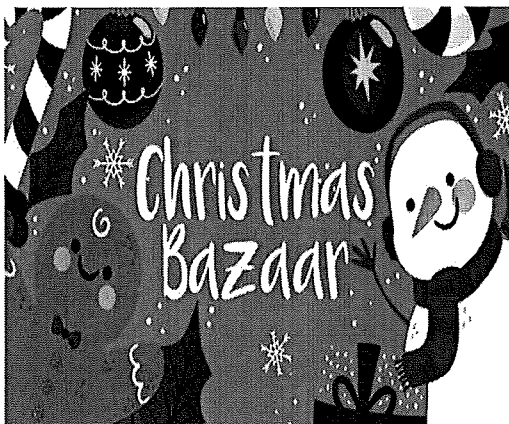
The remaining statements will be mailed on

Monday, January 12, 2026.

Please keep an eye out for them in your postal mailbox.

We thank everyone who gave so generously in the year 2025.

—END OF YEAR—
GIVING
STATEMENTS






This year our annual cookie sale will have an added feature. GSLC will be having a Christmas Bazaar. It will happen on Saturday, December 13th from 9am-2pm along side our Fabulous Cookie Sale. There is bound to be something for everyone. Looking for that one special holiday decoration? We just might have it! Looking for an item for a Secret Santa? We might have that too! So many items to choose from and everything is priced just right. Doors open at 9am. Get here early for the best selection! Let the shopping begin!

just kidding!

A pastor goes for a walk in the woods. He comes across a wild bear and it starts running towards him. The pastor prays " God, convert this bear into a Christian". Immediately the bear stops in its tracks. The pastor gives a sigh of relief. The bear then stands up and lifts up its paws to heaven and says, " Thank you lord for this food I'm about to eat".

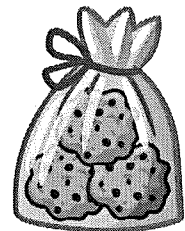
December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Worship & Music 7pm	2 Christian Ed. 7pm	3	4	5	6 Holiday Spectacular 6-8pm
7 Worship 9am 2nd Sunday in Advent In Touch	8 Council Meeting 6:30pm	9	10	11	12 Cookie sale Packaging 2-4pm & 6-8pm.	13 Cookie & Bake Sale & Christmas Bazaar Doors open at 9am
14 Worship 9am 3rd Sunday in Advent Food Bank	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Worship 9am Decorating of the Sanctuary after worship. 	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Services at 4pm & 7:30pm Music begins at 3:30pm & 7:00pm	25  UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN... Merry Christmas	26	27
28 Worship 9am Lesson & Carols	29	30	31 New Years Eve.			

Volunteers make our events successful!

GSLC will be in need of Cookie Packers for our Cookie /Bake Sale.
The packaging will take place on Friday, December 12th
from 2-4pm and also 6-8pm.
Please contact Barb Wiemann at blwiemann@gmail.com or
610-262-6977.

This is a very popular event and cookies will be \$12.00 per lb.



DID YOU KNOW?

Mistletoe is an evergreen parasitic plant found on trees. Its use dates back to pre-Christianity in Europe where the Celts used it to decorate their homes to celebrate the coming winter. It was regarded as bestowing future hope and peace to any who passed under it plus a kiss!



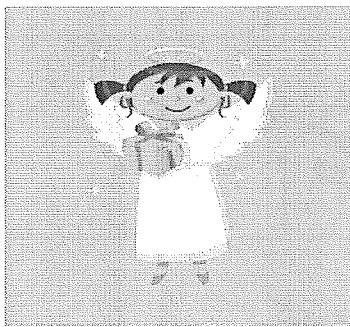
GSLC is excited to invite you to this NEW event on Saturday , December 6th from 6-8pm.

The Christmas Spectacular will feature an evening of music and celebration. Come and join us and be filled with the spirit of Christmas. We have planned to have music from our praise band Grounds of Grace. Multiple singers from the area will be joining us. We will also have a sing-a-long caroling segment. Refreshments will be served.

Please join us for what we hope to be an annual event.



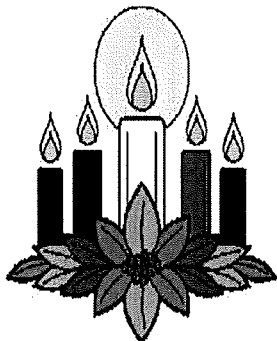
Good Shepherd held an Intergenerational Sunday School after worship on 11/16. We had a small group gather to discuss the topic of the day, "Is Heaven Real." There was lively discussion and several points of view presented. We will be incorporating these discussions on a semi regular basis so keep your eyes peeled for future dates after the first of the year.



Good Shepherd has been blessed with a gift from an "Angel." This person's gift was put to use to replace 4 toilets in church. They were installed by Northampton Plumbing. They are low flush toilets for water savings. All were installed on the main level of the church. We thank this "Angel" from the bottom of our hearts.



Meaning of the Advent Wreath

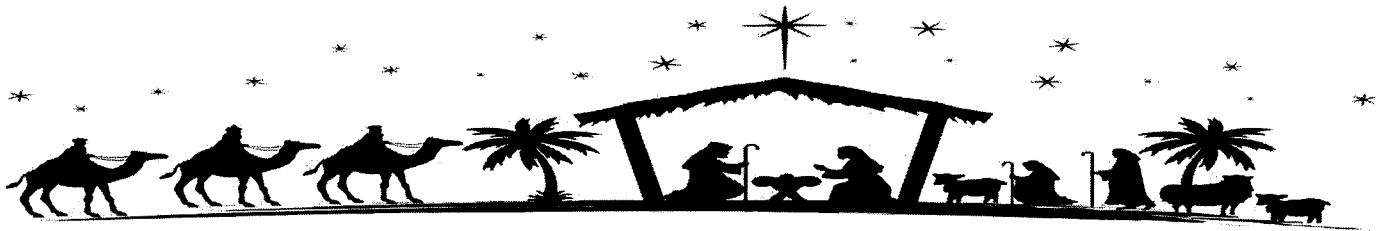


The wreath is a circle reminding us of the perfection and eternity of God. Many wreaths are decorated with evergreen branches. The evergreen, like the circle , is a symbol of eternity—but also of life. Holly is sometimes used instead of -or with the evergreen. The sharp points of the holly remind us of Christ's crown of thorns. The red berries remind us of His Blood. There is a story that holly berries were white until Christ's Blood fell on them—causing them to be red.



The decorating of the church and the trees will be on Sunday, December 21st after 9am worship. Please consider staying or dropping by to help. It's a great time to get in the spirit of the season and share in the fellowship and joy of making our church beautiful.

*Special thank you to Blair & Amy Hower of Covered Bridge Farm, who donate our beautiful Advent Wreath each year.



Please join us on Christmas Eve to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child.

Special Music	3:30pm
Worship /Candle Light	4:00pm
Special Music	7:00pm
Worship/Candle Light	7:30pm



The staff of Good Shepherd wishes you and yours a lovely Christmas season and all the blessings the New Year may bring. Let the spirit of season surround us all.

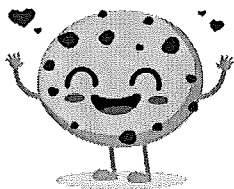
Pastor Gary L. Walbert

Organist/Choir Director, Kristen Merkert

Church Administrator, Beverly Moore



Cookies will be
\$12.00 per pound



Arrive early for the
best selection.

31st Cookies (And More) Sale on December 13

Good Shepherd's famous and eagerly anticipated 31st annual Cookies (And More) Sale will be held on **Saturday, December 13 starting at 9 a.m.** How do we know our sale is famous and anticipated? Shoppers line up an hour before opening to be sure to get the best variety of our home made goodies.

The success of our sale depends on offering a wide variety of cookies and other baked goods. We need the help of every congregation member! So mark your calendar and plan to bake a batch or two of your favorite cookies, tasty baked items, and desserts.

Bring your goodies to church on:

Thursday, Dec. 11 -- 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (give to Secretary Beverly)

Friday, Dec. 12 -- 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (give to Secretary Beverly)

Friday, Dec. 12 -- 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Saturday, Dec. 13 -- 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

We will pre-package our cookies in quarter pound and half pound packages. Packages will be either all one variety or a mixed assortment. Other desserts and treats will be wrapped and priced. Everything will be displayed on tables, and shoppers will select the packages they wish to purchase. **The cost for cookies will be \$12 a pound, the same price as last year.** Other desserts will be individually priced.

We will donate 10% of our profits to ELCA World Hunger Good Gifts to assist people who are struggling with food insecurity.

If you have questions or need a different donation time, contact Barb Wiemann at blwiemann@gmail.com or 610-262-6977.

Christmas Pew Candle Sponsorships

NAME _____

IN MEMORY/ HONOR OF: _____

A Pew Candle is a wonderful way to honor a loved one or family member. If you would like to sponsor a pew candle for Christmas Eve please complete this form or give the office a call. The sponsorships are only \$10.00. Please make checks payable to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

