

The Shepherd's Staff

February 2026



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus,

Believe it or not Lent is starting soon. Some of us look at Lent as a dull season. The music is somber, the liturgy speaks about repentance and our sinfulness. We talk about Jesus' horrendous death on the cross.

Let me give you a new option: let's look at this as a new beginning into a vast richness of God's amazing love. God has already blessed you with His life and gives you the gift of faithfulness. Each time we begin anew, we enter a new phase of life intent on enriching our relationship with God. You are beginning an exciting but scary new journey. You are looking into the vast expanse of Christ's love and your desire to share it more deeply. We see this through His journey to the cross.

God's love for us is more than we can ever imagine. The universe is limitless and there could be multiple universes on different planes. God's love for us is more than all those put together. He longs to share that with you.

Each Sunday in Lent I will give you a new Bible verse to read on Wednesday. As you read it the first time imagine Jesus telling you the lesson. The second time, think about how is this telling you about God's love. Write your thoughts down. At the end of Lent, see how you have grown in your journey of faith. Lent is truly a journey.

But remember this my dear friends, You are beginning again, and you will continue to begin again and again for the rest of your life.

In His Hands,
Pastor Gary

"Let us begin to do good, for as yet we have done little"
St. Francis of Assisi

February 1
Scout Sunday &
In Touch

February 2
Groundhog Day
Worship & Music
7pm

February 5
Bells & Choir
6:30 & 7:30pm
each Thursday

February 7
Mardi Gras &
Talent Show
5-9pm

February 8
Food Bank &
Souper Bowl
Bring you change
to 9am worship!

February 9
Council Meeting
6:30pm

February 14
Valentine's Day

February 15
Girl Scouts selling
cookies after
worship

February 16
Presidents Day

February 18
Ash Wednesday
Services at 11am
& 7pm

February 19
Bells & Choir
6:30 & 7:30pm

March 8
Daylight Savings
Begins!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

This year has really started out difficult for some of us, but others have had a truly happy new year, so far. For me, 2026 has taught me quite a bit about how God's love shines in our hearts in different ways. First, I am truly honored to be serving you as Council President this year. Much has been accomplished and planned in the last few years and I intend to continue with Council's initiatives and ideas, hopefully with some new and existing ones. The dedication of our Council to our Congregation shows me how much they love Good Shepherd. Our Congregation's love has always come through when times were rough and when times were joyous, volunteering their time, talent, money and of course delicious food. Second, I recently lost my mother after a lengthy time in hospice. Her love and support for our family over the last 86 years has been profoundly special. Although, there was great sadness and tears as we spent our last moments with her, praying and reminiscing, it was her love that comforted us. As we wrote her eulogy, we realized she was special to so many people throughout her life that we were surprised to hear some of the stories from those she touched. Her faith was forefront to everything she took on and accomplished.

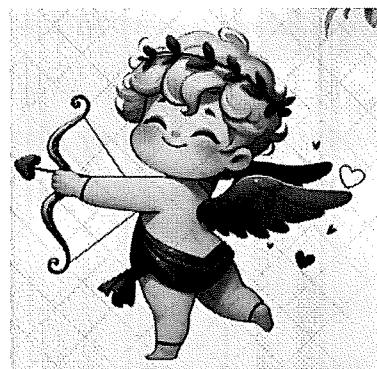
A common theme emerged as I sat to write this February note and that is LOVE. The support and love of my mother, our Council, our Pastor and most of all our Congregation is so special for so many people, we really need to share it with every one we know and interact with every day. Let your faith be inviting to those who are seeking love to join our Good Shepherd church family. For 2026 and forward, I challenge each and every Parishioner to share your love with your neighbor, strangers and community the same way that Jesus modeled for us.

Mark 12:30-31: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

Yours in Christ,
Mark Weaver



Consumers buy over 58 million pounds of chocolate and candy for Valentine's Day, in addition 145 million greeting cards are exchanged.
That's a lot of LOVE!



PASTORAL ACTS

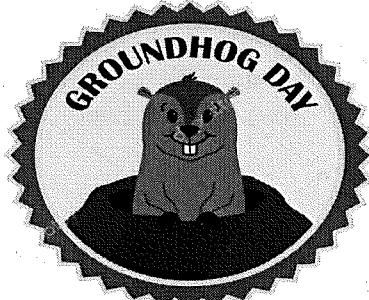


Just a reminder that Ash Wednesday is February 18th. Good Shepherd will have services at 11am and 7pm on that Wednesday. Please plan to attend one of those services to receive your ashes and begin the journey of Lent.



We have certainly had our share of snow this winter. Please be sure to check WFMZ 69 News or Facebook for up to the minute cancellations for Sunday

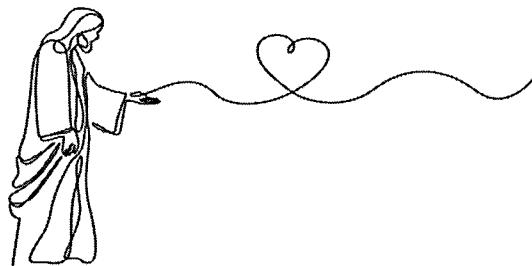
February 2nd is



A single sunbeam is enough to drive away many shadows.
St. Francis of Assisi

inTouch

In Touch— The first Sunday of each month is In Touch which 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!



A Note of Thanks...

Dear Pastor Gary, Congregational Council members & members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for honoring me & my 35 years as Recording Secretary for Council on Sunday, November 30, 2025.

The cake was delicious. Also, thank you for the gifts. The beautiful tote bag, candle and thank you angel along with the Biblical affirmation cards were all so thoughtful. I especially love the cards and start each day by picking a card from the deck.

I am so blessed to be a member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

Love & God Bless,
Alexis Saylor



| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Lorie Gaugler | 2/01 |
| Janice Andrew | 2/02 |
| Sheila Persing | 2/03 |
| Ralph Tobias | 2/03 |
| Kristine Meyers | 2/04 |
| Jennifer Burrell | 2/05 |
| Ruth Goodin | 2/07 |
| Courtney Hahn | 2/07 |
| Lauren Yelles | 2/09 |
| Ava Talbot | 2/11 |
| Christine Vash | 2/12 |
| Nicholas Vash | 2/12 |
| Zachary Vash | 2/12 |
| Jennifer Gaugler | 2/15 |
| Tori Schaffer | 2/16 |
| Kristen Weiner | 2/16 |
| Joshua Holub | 2/19 |
| Benjamin Klusaritz | 2/20 |
| Mark Weaver | 2/20 |
| Douglas Yelles | 2/20 |
| John Hoff | 2/21 |
| Paul Evans III | 2/22 |
| Christina Talbot | 2/22 |
| Keegan Edelman | 2/25 |
| Alexa Wiland | 2/25 |
| Brock Weiner | 2/27 |
| Michael Hahn | 2/28 |
| Barbara Weimann | 2/28 |

| | |
|-------------------------------|------|
| Scott & Jolene LaBarre (19) | 2/05 |
| Alex & Beverly Lubenesky (55) | 2/13 |
| Joyce & Morry Pulley (48) | 2/14 |
| Dean & Roseann Yelles (51) | 2/22 |
| Harold & Nancy Kochenash (64) | 2/24 |



January saw 131 food items going to the Food Bank. You were able to help a lot of families by your generous donations. Let's keep it going. Let's make a Love offering by bringing in food items for Valentine's Day. Please bring your items on or before Feb. 8th. We can make a difference in Northampton!



Have you got the winter blues? Start looking at some seed catalogs and start dreaming of warmer days and planning a garden. We all have a little farmer inside of us. Sometimes we just need to nourish that feeling.
www.burpee.com

PROM

**OUR 3RD ANNUAL SENIOR'S PROM IS COMING THIS JUNE.
 THIS YEARS THEME IS 'TALE AS OLD AS TIME' WE WOULD LIKE IF OUR SENIORS
 WOULD SHARE THEIR STORY OF HOW THEY MET THEIR SIGNIFICANT OTHER AND
 INCLUDE A PICTURE IF POSSIBLE. PICTURES AND STORIES MAY BE SUBMITTED TO
 NICOLE OR BRYANNA BOGDEN. MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW...**

HELLO
february



The Girl Scouts will be selling their famous cookies in our narthex on **Sunday, February 15th**. Meet the troop members and help support this yearly fundraiser. Plus you will have some snacks for the big game!!!



JOIN US !

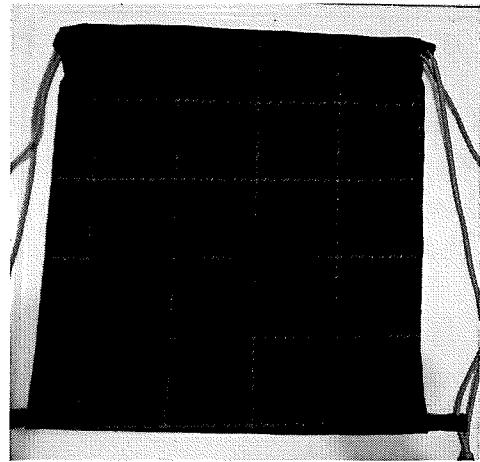
Mardi Gras Talent Show & Pot Luck

March 7th from 5-9pm in our Fellowship Hall

Sign up sheets for Talent and covered dishes are on the bulletin board in the narthex, or call Nicole at 484-241-1275.

Fun, Food, TALENT and Fellowship what a great way to spend a Saturday.

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 pattern, fabric, and thread. The bags will be used next August, so this is a great project for this winter. 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.



*just
wedding!*



A friend bought tickets for the Super Bowl LX on February 8th 2026 not realizing that it is also the day of his wedding. So if someone is interested... the church is in Allentown, the women's name is Brittney.

2026 Financial breakdown for February
 Amount needed weekly to stay on budget = \$ 3334.00

| Date | Weekly offering | Memorial | Building repair |
|------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 12/07/2025 | 3600.53 | - | \$295.00 |
| 12/14/2025 | NO CHURCH | DUE TO | SNOW |
| 12/21/2025 | 2051.50 | \$150.00 | - |
| 12/24/2025 | \$5618.00 | - | \$275.00 |
| 12/28/2025 | NO CHURCH | DUE TO | SNOW |

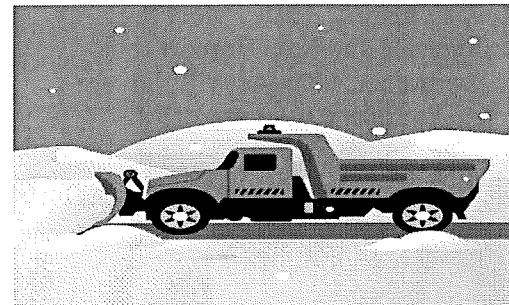
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

One of the steps in growing up in the church is receiving your First Holy Communion. We give First Holy Communion instruction to anyone who is in second grade or older.

Our First Communion classes will take place March 17th and March 24th. The classes will begin at 7:00pm in the 3rd/4th grade room. They will last approximately 45 minutes. At least one parent must attend.

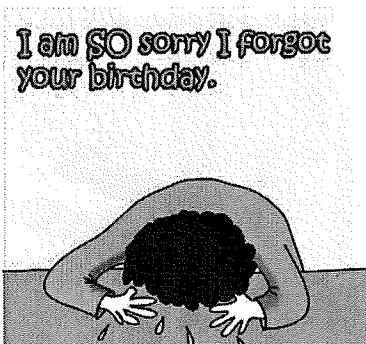
First Holy Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, March 29th during the 9:00am service.

If you are interested in having your child participate, or have any questions, please call the church office or Pastor Gary at 610-262-9517.



The winter season is upon us and thankfully our building crew has been doing so much. As with so many things the cost for snow removal has increased. Please consider making a special donation through the **Adopt A Bill** program here at Good Shepherd. You can pick up an envelope in the narthex or if mailing a donation please just specify that it is to support snow removal.

Happy Belated
Birthday
to Brittany Hahn.
Sorry we missed
your day on
January 26th.
Hope it was happy.



1 Corinthians 13:13

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.



Easter Flowers

Orders due Sunday, March 8, 2026.

Name _____ Phone _____

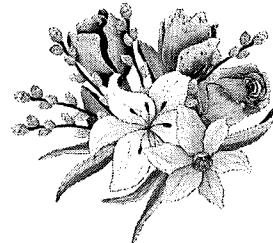
Pansies (asst colors) **\$3.25**

Dwarf Iris (purple) **\$3.25**

Mini Daffodils (yellow) **\$6.25**

Triple Hyacinths (triples) **\$7.25**

Available colors: (a) pink (b) blue



5 bulb Tulips **\$7.25**

Available colors: (a) yellow (b) pink (c) white

Lilies 5 + blooms **\$10.00**

| FLOWERS | COST | COLOR | QUANTITY | TOTAL \$ |
|------------|------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Pansies | \$3.25 ea | assorted | | |
| Dwarf Iris | \$3.25 ea | purple | | |
| Daffodils | \$6.25 ea | yellow | | |
| Hyacinths | \$7.25 ea | | | |
| Tulips | \$7.25 ea | | | |
| Lilies | \$10.00 ea | white | | |

SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION:

IN HONOR OF:

_____ OR _____

IN MEMORY OF:

Sponsored by: _____

**Please make checks payable to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

Please give form & payment to Altar Guild or office.

Sponsors may take their flowers after either service on Easter morning.

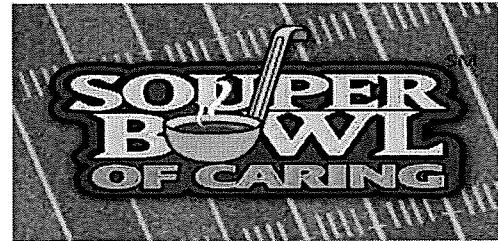
February 2026

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---------|---|--|--------|---|
| 1 Scout Sunday In Touch | 2 Groundhog Day! (please don't see your shadow) Worship & Music 7pm | 3 | 4 | 5 Bells & Choir 6:30 & 7:30 | | 7 Mardi Gras & Talent Show 5-9pm |
| 8 Souper Bowl Sunday! Bring change to church. Food Bank | 9 Council Meeting 6:30pm | 10 | 11 | 12 Bells & Choir 6:30 & 7:30 | 13 | 14  Valentine's Day |
| 15 Girl Scouts Selling cookies in Narthex after service. | 16 President's Day | 17 | 18 Ash Wednesday Services at 11am & 7pm | 19 Bells & Choir 6:30 & 7:30 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 Bells & Choir 6:30 & 7:30 | 27 | 28 |

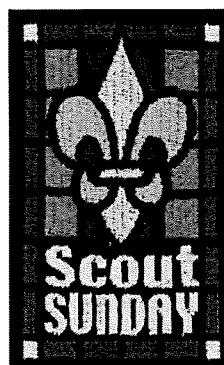


Spring is coming and in only 63 days the celebration of Easter will be upon us.

Please remember to watch our website and Facebook page for upcoming events and worship times.



Bring your extra change and dollar bills on February 8th for our **Souper Bowl Collection Sunday**. The donation will help to support the Northampton Area Food Bank.



*Join us for Scout Sunday
on February 1st at
9:00am Sunday Service!*



Homemade Easter Candy \$4.00 1/4 lb and \$8.00 1/2 lb

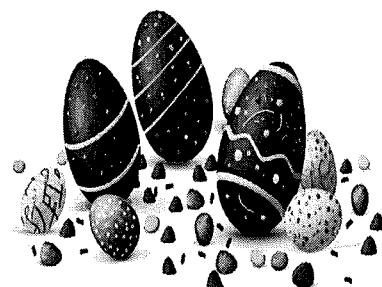
| | |
|--------------|--|
| Submitted by | |
| Phone | |

| Item | amount | 1/4 or 1/2 | | Total due |
|-----------------------------------|--------|------------|-----|-----------|
| | | Circle one | | |
| Milk chocolate peanut butter eggs | | 1/4 | 1/2 | |
| Dark chocolate peanut butter eggs | | 1/4 | 1/2 | |
| Milk chocolate coconut eggs | | 1/4 | 1/2 | |
| Dark chocolate coconut eggs | | 1/4 | 1/2 | |
| Milk chocolate pretzels | | 1/4 | 1/2 | |
| Dark chocolate pretzels | | 1/4 | 1/2 | |
| Milk chocolate nonpareils | | 1/4 | 1/2 | |
| Dark chocolate nonpareils | | 1/4 | 1/2 | |
| Milk chocolate peanut clusters | | 1/4 | 1/2 | |
| Dark chocolate peanuts clusters | | 1/4 | 1/2 | |

Total _____

- Please make check payable to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

*Good Shepherd Lutheran Church fundraising committee is making homemade Easter candy, **presale only**. Please submit order and payment by Sunday, March 15th. Pick up will be Sunday, March 29th, after Palm Sunday service (10:15am-12:00pm)*





Church is Fun

Word Search

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| L | B | L | M | C | U | D | C | O | R | A | G | E | G | R | A | C | E | R | |
| H | E | A | L | I | N | G | V | K | F | W | T | P | E | A | C | E | I | C | B |
| J | E | S | U | S | F | N | K | P | C | H | U | R | C | H | M | X | L | F | O |
| X | O | P | F | Q | L | U | H | O | L | Y | N | F | A | I | T | H | I | O | N |
| W | R | C | O | M | P | A | S | S | I | O | N | Z | D | H | A | A | K | D | E |
| I | Q | F | A | X | T | W | J | P | I | H | S | D | N | E | I | R | F | M | O |
| S | K | U | A | E | G | N | I | T | G | O | D | S | L | B | E | L | I | E | F |
| D | J | O | Y | I | T | M | A | B | N | Y | L | Q | F | G | U | Z | K | F | E |
| O | V | M | S | R | T | V | A | I | E | Z | Z | G | N | I | V | I | G | N | W |
| M | B | O | W | P | L | H | R | K | P | S | R | E | C | N | E | I | T | A | P |
| H | W | Q | O | A | I | L | F | Q | W | O | D | E | I | Q | X | J | L | Q | A |
| F | O | X | S | B | V | R | F | U | U | Q | G | L | A | N | R | E | T | E | F |
| G | N | T | V | A | E | U | I | Z | L | D | B | L | E | S | S | I | N | G | S |
| A | W | R | J | K | U | D | C | T | Y | N | J | W | V | U | F | Q | U | Q | T |
| M | K | T | L | O | V | E | I | N | S | S | E | N | E | V | I | G | R | O | F |
| G | U | I | D | A | N | C | E | E | T | H | P | S | T | S | I | R | H | C | X |
| M | U | Y | K | W | O | S | Y | U | N | N | N | B | S | Q | L | V | H | P | O |
| L | Y | Y | C | R | E | M | S | K | J | C | H | O | P | E | Q | F | U | F | I |
| O | N | E | V | A | E | H | D | A | J | G | E | J | M | X | U | L | K | S | Q |
| T | R | U | T | H | J | B | E | F | D | D | K | B | U | V | M | N | D | V | F |

Word list:

| | | |
|--------------|------------|-----------|
| BELIEF | FRIENDSHIP | JOY |
| BLESSINGS | GIVING | LOVE |
| CHRIST | GOD | MERCY |
| CHURCH | GRACE | OBEDIENCE |
| COMPASSION | GUIDANCE | PATIENCE |
| COURAGE | HEALING | PEACE |
| ETERNAL | HEAVEN | SALVATION |
| FAITH | HOLY | SPIRIT |
| FAITHFULNESS | HOPE | TRUTH |
| FORGIVENESS | JESUS | WISDOM |

