



Our Mission: To share the Good News of God's grace through worshiping, teaching and reaching out to all in need of God's

Pastor's Message

April
2024

THE MESSENGER

Dear friends in Christ,

April kind of snuck up on me, Holy Week being the last week of March, closing on a new condo in Springboro, and packing up our home of 23 years as we prepare to move mid-month sort of sucked all the oxygen out of the room! Leann and I have been experiencing a lot of change of late and we feel a bit discombobulated. No one likes change, but then life is all about change and there really isn't much we can do about it, Monday bleeds into Tuesday, March into April, Easter into Pentecost, change is inevitable and beyond our power to control. How we *react to change, however, is entirely within our power!*

Change is upon us here at GSLC ready or not! I am encouraged to hear that the call committee is active and working on our behalf, I know no details nor should I, but knowing a process is going on with people I trust is a change I can manage! Let's be patient, God is at work, and I firmly believe that change, whenever it comes, will be for the better! I have heard enough doom and gloom over the past few years to last a lifetime. I know things are not what they once were, but by any reasonable measure, GSLC is strong! Attendance and giving continues to grow, and we now stand at the starting line of a new chapter in our mission. Let's not get so wrapped up in fear of change that we miss the starter's pistol. As St. Paul once said "...lay aside every weight and sin that clings so closely and run with perseverance the race that is set before you, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured even a cross!" (Hebrews 12:1-3)

As I told you last month during my remaining time here we will look at our culture at GSLC and try to get more in tune with outreach. We recently finished an adult class where we looked at the atmosphere, gifts, and attitudes at GSLC and did an assessment. We rediscovered the many ways we are open and welcoming, but we also found things we need to rethink and relearn. We will be working on this as we prepare for a new pastor to be called, first by caring for each other (remember this was Jesus' command that we "should love on another" not pay a pastor to do it for us) and how to better welcome guests into our presence. As April 21st is our "namesake" Sunday (Good Shepherd Sunday) and a day that always held special significance to me and was for many in this congregation, we will celebrate with special music and a special liturgy. It will be a perfect day to invite a friend to worship!

He is Risen! He is risen indeed!

PC



Eclipse Party

April 8 at 2 p.m.

We have ordered special glasses for that day for an “eclipse party”. Bring lawn chairs so we can gather on the lawn to watch this event of a lifetime. We will order pizza so sign up soon! Drinks will be provided. Remember to invite a friend



Michael Wayne Smith Concert

at Good Shepherd

Saturday, May 4 at 6 p.m.

(A love offering will be collected.)



Sunday, April 14, 2024 at 6 p.m.
Zion Lutheran Church Tipp City

Elva Hurst is a professional artist and author from Lancaster County, PA. Growing up in a large old order Mennonite family, she spent most of her time teaching herself art between chores on the family dairy farm. After graduating 8th grade from her one room school, she discovered the lost performance art of chalk talk. She now owns and operates the Barnyard Art Studio & Gallery on her 40 acre farm in Lancaster while traveling abroad to share her stories of faith and freedom through chalk talk.

Watch as Elva takes you and the audience through an inspiring show, sharing her stories through florescent chalk, music, and sound effects. Enjoy the grand finale as colored lights and an ultraviolet black light create beautiful effects on her artwork, ending the show with a memorable experience.



You have to see it to believe it!

“Patchwork Memories”

6:00 p.m. (restaurants within walking distance for dinner after)
Zion Lutheran Church, 14 W. Walnut Street, Tipp City, OH
Northwest Conference WELCA, Southern Ohio Synod begins at 5:00 p.m.

DONATIONS
WANTED

Union Township FISH

Needs:

- * Paper Towels
- * Bar Soap
- * Laundry Detergent
- * Toothpaste



Pictured from left to right; Pastor Craig; mother, Abby Belcher; Audrey; father, Tyler Lucas; and great grandmother, Donna Plunkett.

Audriana Nicole Lucus' Baptism and First Communion on March 10, 2024

Pictured: Back row: Jeff Barth, Ric Warner, David Hayes, Adam Barker and Brian Clelan
 Front row: Susan Landis, Marsha Fischbach, Leah Bray, Christa Clelan, Leann Fourman, and Paula Barker. Not pictured: Darrell Fryman on piano



Celtic Praise Team St. Patrick's Day Worship Service



Palm Sunday Service with guest cellist, Tara Mar Iddings



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes

February 20, 2024

Present: Pastor Craig Fourman; Molly Franks; Amy Grile, Vice President; Ray Louis; David Stein, President; Toby Theis, Suzie Vagedes; Rob Williams; Les Barker

Meeting was called to order by David Stein after Zoom meeting with Pastor Abrams and Call Committee was over, Les Barker remained.

Opening Devotion- Pastor Craig

David Stein asked Les to provide his report now so that he could leave afterward: Property Proposal - Les Barker reported on the City's proposal for a City Park involving Good Shepherd's back lot. The City of West Milton has approached Good Shepherd to lease or buy our land between the back parking lot and Sanlor apartments. Les and Pastor Craig met with Village Manager, Jeff Sheridan. Les has been in consultation with Jose Lopez regarding whether to keep, lease or sell. Motion to empower Les Barker to negotiate a deal to sell GSLC back lot made by Molly Franks; Second: Rob Williams. All were in favor.

Secretary's Report: Motion to approve: Pastor Craig, Second: Rob Williams. All were in favor.

Financial Secretary's Report: Motion to approve: Suzie Vagedes, Second: David Stein. All were in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Motion to approve: Rob Williams, Second: Molly Franks. All were in favor.

Pastor's Report: Monthly report reviewed as well as Annual Congregation Report to ELCA. Also, recommending a reorganization of parish from Council/Committee structure to Teams. Provided information and asked council members to familiarize themselves with the information prior to next meeting so we can vote on it.

OLD BUSINESS: • Safe Sanctuary - Preschool – Suzie Vagedes reviewed new “Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Preschool Guidelines and Protocols”. This document was reviewed by the Preschool Director and Board and found to cover all the necessities and would be in place until a more comprehensive Safe Sanctuary Protocol can be drafted. Motion to make the GSLC Preschool Guidelines and Protocols a Continuing Resolution was made by Rob Williams; Second: Toby Theis. All were in favor.

• Insurance – Pastor Craig and Ric Warner contacted GSLC's property insurer to inquire about the coverage for the Preschool. We have more preschooler's now than insurer was aware of, so there will be a slight raise in rates with next statement.

• Building use form – Pastor and David Stein will work on a general building use form to be used for rentals/use by outside groups.

Committee Reports: Worship: – Adult Sunday School starts next week. All worship planning is done through Easter.

Mission/Outreach/LSIM/MUCC: St. John's in Vandalia will have the Easter Vigil Service. Amy Grile updated council on MUCC meeting: Good Shepherd will have the West Milton Community Good Friday Service; and West Milton is planning an Eclipse Party in the Park on April 8, do we want to be involved? After discussion, it was decided that we will have our own Eclipse Party at GSLC! Amy will ask JoAnn to order the eclipse glasses (50), and we will plan on food following.

Property: Rob Williams discussed the Preschool's request to have a crash bar installed on the double wooden doors (estimated cost \$300-\$500), and “Ring” door bells installed at the front and back glass doors that could be viewed from the offices and could communicate with the visitor outside. Tabled.

Youth/Christian Education/Preschool: Suzie Vagedes gave the Preschool report and on behalf of the Board requested that Council set up a Preschool Scholarship Fund of \$6000 to be used at the discretion of the Director and Board jointly. Motion to approve: Rob Williams; Second: Toby Theis. All were in favor. Suzie will provide Ric Warner, Treasurer, with the Preschool's Quarterly Financial Statements.

Stewardship: No report

Fellowship: Planning for this year's annual picnic. Will call Transfiguration and have it at the Lange Estate shelter again this year. Will set for June 9.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Reorganization – see Pastor's Report above
- Pastor Fourman Contract – Pastor Craig offered to stay on as Pastor of Record until Christmas Eve Service and would then retire ...really...absolutely not staying any longer...he means it (Thank you Pastor Craig). He will draw up the next contract to be reviewed at the next council meeting.
- Molly Franks has arranged for Michael Wayne Smith to come back for a community concert at Good Shepherd again this year. Set for May 4. He will need lodging for the night and enough to cover expenses. David Stein motioned to approve \$500 to cover expenses; Second: Rob Williams. All were in favor.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting March 19, 2024

Respectfully Submitted, Suzie Vagedes



March News

We had a really fun March. We had some birthdays, a “green” day and ate lots of new green foods and also had a construction day with a dump truck and a skid loader. Our open house was a success and we are fully booked for next year.

We have learned so much and are excited to start April. In April we will have our spring break, Donuts with Dads day and our butterflies will be hatching!! We are going to be learning about ponds/frogs, butterflies, plants and farms.





Lenten Study

First Class on Feb. 24, 2024

Pictured left to right:

Vice President: Amy Grile,
 Secretary: Suzie Vagedes,
 Financial Secretary: Toby
 Theis, Molly Franks,
 President: David Stein, and
 Ray Louis.

Not pictured: Rob Williams
 and Treasurer: Ric Warner



2024 Church Council Members



Pictured left to right:

Diana Frye,
 Donna Plunkett,
 Les Barker,
 Jeff Barth,
 Marsha Fischbach,
 Barbara Cecil

Not pictured:
 Trevor Grile

2024 Call Committee Members

Lenten Soup Supper

on February 21, 2024

Thanks to everyone who provided soup and other food for the Wednesdays in Lent.



Celtic Lunch

Provided by Pastor Craig & Leann Fourman
Thank You!





BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

April 2024



2 Gloria Shellhammer
 6 Rose Ely
 Brian & Brianna Ely
 11 Anna Vagedes
 14 Matt Barker
 Emma Hammermeister
 15 Bob Mason

18 Toby Theis
 19 Kristine Hayes
 23 Rob Williams
 Jeff & Jodi Barth
 25 Matt Grile

A
P
R
I
L

SERVING

ASSISTING MINISTER

Ric Warner

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

7 Marsha Fischbach
 14 Barbara Cecil
 21 Barbara Cecil
 28 Barbara Cecil

ALTAR GUILD

Debbie Bredeson

LECTOR

7 Jeff Barth
 14 Barbara Cecil
 21 Ric Warner
 28 Ric Warner

USHER CAPTAIN

7 Donna Plunkett
 14 Jarrett Grile
 21 Dave Vagedes
 28 Molly Franks

SOUND

Jarrett Grile

FLOWERS


7 In celebration of Emma Hammermeister's birthday
 14 In memory of Jeff Barth's dad
 21 In celebration of Becky Guth's birthday
 28 In memory of Jodi Barth's mom

COUNTERS

Susan Langley
& Ralph Blakley



April 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 NO Preschool 1:30pm Grief Share Group 7:30pm AA Mtg.	2	3 NO Preschool 3:30pm Planning	4	5 NO Preschool	6
7 9:30 Choir Practice 10:30 Holy Communion	8 9-12 Preschool 2 pm Solar Eclipse Party 7:30pm AA Mtg.	9	10 9-12 Preschool 3:30pm Planning	11	12 9-12 Preschool	13
14 9:30 Choir Practice 10:30 Holy Communion	15 9-12 Preschool 1:30pm Grief Share Group 7:30pm AA Mtg.	16 7 pm Council Mtg.	17 9-12 Preschool 3:30pm Planning	18	19 9-12 Preschool	20
21 9:30 Choir Practice 10:30 Holy Communion	22 9-12 Preschool 1:30pm Grief Share Group 7:30pm AA Mtg.	23	24 9-12 Preschool 3:30pm Planning	25	26 NO Preschool	27
28 9:30 Choir Practice 10:30 Holy Communion	29 9-12 Preschool 1:30pm Grief Share Group 7:30pm AA Mtg.	30				



Our Church Staff

Craig Fourman
Interim Pastor

Marsha Fischbach
Music Director

Darrell Fryman
Pianist

JoAnn A.
Administrative Asst.

Church Photographer:
Barbara Cecil

Ongoing Prayers and Concerns

Margaret Strozensky, Chuck Franks, Bill Sims,
Barbara Theis, Judy Tipton, and Patty Tipton

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