



January  
2022

# THE MESSENGER

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## *Our Mission*

*To share the Good News of God's grace through worshiping, teaching and reaching out to all in need of God's love.*

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## **Pastor's Message**

A Happy and Joyful New Year to You!

2021 has passed away. Are you still worrying about it? You cannot change what has passed, so consider just letting it go. We start anew and God is always making something new. We are looking to the future with a new pastor, hopefully soon. Please remember your pledges and giving because even though there is not a pastor at present, you are giving to one who is to come.

Max Lucado has a devotion based on Psalm 37: 25: I was young, and now I am old, but I have never seen good people left helpless or their children begging for food.

We worry. We worry about the IRS and the SAT and the FBI....we worry that we won't have enough money, and when we have money we worry that we won't manage it well. We worry that the world will end before the parking meter expires. We worry what the dog thinks if he sees us step out of the shower. We worry that someday we'll learn that fat-free yogurt was fattening.

Honestly, now. Did God save you so you would fret? Would He teach you to walk just to watch you fall? Would He be nailed to the cross for your sins and then demand your prayers? Come on. Is Scripture teasing us when it reads, "He has put his angels in charge of you to watch over wherever you go? (Psalm 91:11).

I don't think so either. As you make your New Year's resolutions, consider only one: "I will not worry about the past or anything out of my control." Just keep it simple.

Thank you to all who worked hard to make the Christmas Concert and the Christmas Eve service successful and so inspiring. Special blessings to you.

Be a blessing wherever you go!

Deacon Nancy

P.S.: From the nurse in me, please continue to use masks, wash/sanitize hands, and get your vaccines and boosters. It does make a difference both for you and the health care providers who are overwhelmed. NT

# Senior Shepherds News

## December Christmas Lunch at Old Mason Winery.

The Good Shepherd Seniors enjoyed an outing on the Fourth Day of Christmas. Fifteen members traveled out to the Old Mason Winery to break bread together. They enjoyed a catered meal of pot roast or chicken strips with sides. Barb and Bob Cecil provided beverages and ice cream! Thanks to all who attended and helped. After the meal we honored guests who had birthdays in December. Retired Pastor John led a short program of carol singing. Marsha led a toast to the new year by leading the final chorus: Auld Lang Syne!



## NEXT MEETING

**Tuesday, January 25  
2:00pm**

The program will be about the Value of Bees, and their Honey!

*Plan to attend and invite a friend!!*

*Save  
the  
Date*

## MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS...

*Thanks to all who made our "Sounds of Christmas" program a success.  
We presented our program to approximately 90 people.*

**Chancel Choir practice will continue to be on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Our next practice will be Sunday, January 2.**

**URGENT APPEAL:** If you read music, please consider joining our bell choir. We need to fill three positions in order to continue playing.

Please contact Marsha Fischbach if you are interested or need more information.

# HAPPY RETIREMENT

## Betty Lou

As much as I have enjoyed playing for our many beautiful Christmas programs, what a pleasure it was to sit with the congregation, relax and thoroughly enjoy the beautiful music provided by the choir and special musicians this season. I KNOW how much time, commitment, and work such a production requires. Thanks Marsha and all those involved!

And then to add to it, I had a real surprise when I was presented with this gorgeous music box/snow globe that plays *Silent Night*, with which the choir and congregation always ended the Christmas program. What a perfect remembrance and gift. It sits on our mantel and the "snow" inside the church sparkles. I love it! Many thanks to my good friends in Chancel Choir, Christmas Choir and Hand Bell Choir. It gives me wonderful memories.

Betty Lou





# Preschool News:

We had a wonderful time learning about the true meaning of Christmas this past month. We talked a lot about the nativity and in chapel we learned about the advent wreath. We had a great Christmas party and enjoyed having a parent/grandparent there with each of us.

We are excited to see what 2022 brings all of us. We are praying that we will be able to come to school each school day and that our health will be good during this new year.



Your 2022 Offering Envelopes are waiting for you in the narthex.

Our Financial Secretary and Counters would love for you to use them! Don't forget to put your name and amount on the envelope.

You can use your envelopes for your weekly giving as well as any special giving. Simply note it on your envelope. If giving without an envelope please note your 2022 envelope number on your check.

Thank you!



**NEED HELP WITH YOUR DEVICES?**

Bring your device & passwords to

**WEST MILTON SENIOR & COMMUNITY CENTER**

**WEDNESDAY - JANUARY 5th  
NOON - 4:00 PM**

**Call Carol Garver  
for more information  
(937) 698-7129**

(If no answer - Leave a message & Carol will call you back.)





Thank you for all who have supported Guiding Light Advocates this year. You haven't seen me for many weeks as my family and I have been very sick and are slowly working our way back to health. Despite not being present recently, this year was still a successful year for Guiding Light Advocates. Anytime we can assist a local mom or family in need we provide hope and companionship to a many times private, stressful and lonely journey. I have been able to deliver and drop off items needed for several moms in need this year. Without your help and donations I wouldn't be able to do this. Thank you so much for your generosity.

This year we have supplied diapers and wipes to several children in need. Guiding Light supplied clothing for 3 local children in need whose father was just placed in jail and their mom is left struggling to care for them with no financial assistance. I was able to drop off a crib along with baby accessories to a local family experiencing a financial hardship caused by Covid. They were unsure how they could care for baby #4 after unexpectedly losing their only source of employment.

This year we were also faced with the new challenge of helping a mother who ultimately lost custody of her daughter. Baby Ella was placed in foster care despite our efforts to help her mom change her ways. This was upsetting but ultimately the best thing for baby Ella. I want to thank all for their involvement, emotional support and for those who became invested in Ella's story. I wanted to let you know I was recently updated with pictures and want to share that she is healthy, growing and looks very content with her foster family. I pray that she will be adopted as reconciliation is unlikely at this time, and pray for stability and love in Ella's future.

I'm not sure what the future holds for Guiding Light next year. Many changes are on the horizon for my family and a move due to military orders may happen by summertime. Until then, I will try my best to help those I can. I welcome anyone who wants to join me on this mission to help those facing unexpected pregnancies and life challenges as parents.

Thank you! May God bless you and peace be with you all.

Mindy Paddock

## Opportunities to Serve

### Volunteer to help with Worship service:

Assisting Minister

Greeter

Usher

Audio/Video

Nursery

Altar Guild

Lector

### Or volunteer to help with:

Sunday School

Luth Youth

Yard Work/Upkeep

### Other Ministries

Chancel Choir

Bell Choir

Son Rise Breakfast

Clothesline

Planning Group

Panera Bread

Senior Shepherds

Guiding Light Advocate

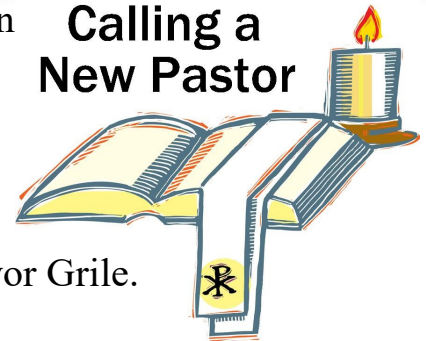


# CALL PROCESS DECEMBER REPORT

Call Process Update – January 2022

Pastor Bob Abrams, Assistant to the Bishop, Southwestern Ohio Synod, personally visited Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in December to conduct the training of our Call Committee. The Committee was in agreement that the session was very worthwhile. Members of the Call Committee are: Barbara Cecil, Chairperson, Marsha Fischbach, Donna Plunkett, Bob Spitler, and Trevor Grile.

**Calling a  
New Pastor**



## 2022 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Mark your calendars!! Sunday, January 23, 2022, is the date for our Annual Congregational Meeting. The meeting will be called to order immediately following the church service that morning.

We have several pieces of business that need to be addressed during this meeting. First, we need to approve the church budget for 2022. Second, we have several openings on our Church Council that need to be filled.

Finally, there will be an update on our search for a new pastor. The Synod has outlined what is needed before interviewing can begin and it is more than we expected. The time for determining how we are going to accomplish what is needed is at hand.

I hope to see you all there on Sunday, January 23. Your input and support are vital to the future of our church.

**WHAT... You have no  
calendar to mark?!**

We can help! There are still 2022 calendars available. The cost is \$7.00 each and you can pick one up here at the church. See Jeff Barth or Amy Grile to get yours before they are all gone.

Ric Warner



*The  
Sounds  
of  
Christmas  
2021*



**GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**COUNCIL MINUTES**

November 16, 2021 7:00 p.m.

Present: Amy Grile, Ric Warner, Les Barker, Susan Jebens, Deacon Nancy, David Stein, Judy Tipton, Diana Frye, and Marsha Fischbach

Deacon Nancy Trimble opened the meeting with prayer.

Devotions were led by Marsha Fischbach.

Secretary's Report: Approved as read. Motion: Susan Jebens Second: Amy Grile  
All were in favor.

Financial Secretary's Report: Approved as read. Motion: Judy Tipton Second: Deacon Nancy Trimble All were in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Approved as read. Motion: David Stein Second: Les Barker  
All were in favor

Interim Pastor's Report:

LSIM news: Sunset Cafe at St. Marks is doing only take-out. St Mark's building is being transferred to Emmanuel Ministries as of June 2022.

Deacon Nancy has to have surgery, but will not know the date until after Nov. 30. If the surgery comes before Christmas Eve, we will need to have a different pastor conduct the Christmas Eve service. Pastor Craig could fill in; but it would have to be a 5:00 service.

Administrative Assistant Report:

We are asking for help in finding a name for the youth ministry we are planning to begin in January on Wednesday evenings.

Amy Grile is still looking into hosting programs/classes available to the community.

Our altar flowers have been okay.

The Milton-Union Council of churches is asking all churches to prayerfully consider making a donation for medical expenses for Jessica Brown. She must reside out of state for her procedures for perhaps one to two years.

New Business:

Carol Garver, Director of the West Milton Senior Citizens' Center, has filled out an Endowment Fund Request for money for gliders and tables at the center. More information is needed. Our Council will add to the Endowment Fund Rules that those outside of our church family should have a church member sponsor the request.

A motion was made by Diana Frye, and seconded by Judy Tipton, that we pay off our mortgage with endowment fund interest money; and that such money each month would go toward a new pastor's salary. After much discussion, the motion was tabled. Motion to table: Susan Jebens Second: Amy Grile Motion carried.

The 2022 budget was reviewed by council, and will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting in January.



Ric asked for approval of the Mission Site Profile that will be submitted to our synod to begin the call for a new pastor. Motion: Les Barker Second: Marsha Fischbach Motion carried.

Marsha Fischbach and Amy Grile will complete their terms on council in January. We need volunteers to run for these empty seats.

With much regret, council accepted the resignation of Betty Lou Johansen as church accompanist, effective November 30, 2021.

A motion was made to hire Darrell Fryman as a substitute accompanist at a rate of \$100 per Sunday worship service and choir practice, plus mileage. Motion: Marsha Fischbach Second: Judy Tipton All were in favor.

Marsha Fischbach motioned that we purchase a Hymn CD at a cost of \$70. Susan Jebens seconded the motion. All were in favor.

#### Old Business:

Kitchen Floor estimates have been received. Council members saw samples of flooring and chose one. Motion: Susan Jebens Second: Diana Frye. All were in favor.

A preschool meeting was held on Monday, November 8. Beckett Garrett, director, shared that the preschool will start paying the church \$300 a month for expenses. Becky is waiting on a quote from Rob Tebbe for the cost of installing a fence, which the church will pay for. The preschool is planning to pay for playground equipment. She is looking into fundraisers, Thrivent Grants, and possibly a donation from Lowe's for equipment or fence installation.

#### Committee Reports:

Worship: We are asking our members to light the candles in the Advent wreath each Sunday. Families, Couples, and individuals are invited to participate. Christmas choir practice is going very well. We have several members of our community joining us this year. Since we do not have enough people to play in the full bell choir, we will have a quartet play this year for the program.

Mission/Outreach/LSIM: MUCC is packing the Christmas boxes here at Good Shepherd on December 9 this year. Distribution is on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Property: The portico lights are now on a timer.

Youth/Christian Education: Our preschool is going great and has 24 children attending.

#### Stewardship:

Our next meeting will be Monday, Dec. 20. All council members should bring a dessert.

A motion to adjourn was made by Diana Frye, and the meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marsha Fischbach

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## BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Kea Blankenship  
5 Billie Conn  
Camden Spitler  
7 Jason Tinnerman  
8 Carter Tinnerman  
19 Suzie Vagedes  
20 Marie Kopp  
22 Barbara Theis  
Andy Baker  
29 Jarrett Grile  
Margaret Strozensky  
30 Kitty Klipstine

## ANNIVERSARIES

- 21 Pastor John & Betty Lou  
Johansen

*Did we miss your birthday or anniversary?  
Let us know. Just send an email to:  
office@goodshepherdwestmilton.org*

## SERVING

### ASSISTING MINISTER

Ric Warner

### COMMUNION ASSISTANT

Marsha Fischbach

### ALTAR GUILD

Susan Landis  
Susan Langley

### LECTOR

- 2 Marsha Fischbach  
9 Peri Bonner  
16 Barbara Cecil  
23 Barbara Cecil  
30 Barbara Cecil

### USHER CAPTAIN

- 2 Barbara Cecil  
9 Jarrett Grile  
16 Dave Vagedes  
23 Molly Franks  
30 Barbara Cecil

### SOUND

Jarrett Grile

### COUNTERS

Diana Frye  
Debbie Bredeson

### FLOWERS

- 2 OPEN  
9 OPEN  
16 Betty Lou Johansen  
23 Toby Theis  
30 Judy Moncrief

We will  
**SERVE** the  
**LORD**

### **Pledge Giving Report**

through the end of December

Pledges over 10

Pledges under 11

Pledges even 14

Year to date pledge giving short \$1148



# January 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
<b>2</b> 9:30am Chancel Choir 10:30 am Holy Communion	<b>3</b> 7:30 pm AA Meeting	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 3 -5 pm Plarn	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9:30am Chancel Choir 10:30 am Holy Communion	<b>10</b> 7:30 pm AA Meeting	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 3 -5 pm Plarn	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9:30am Chancel Choir 10:30 am Holy Communion	<b>17</b> 12:00 pm Lydia Bible Study 7:30 pm AA Meeting	<b>18</b> 7:00 pm Council Meeting	<b>19</b> 3 -5 pm Plarn	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9:30am Chancel Choir 10:30 am Holy Communion Annual Meeting	<b>24</b> 7:30 pm AA Meeting	<b>25</b> 2:00 pm Senior Shepherds	<b>26</b> 3 -5 pm Plarn	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9:30am Chancel Choir 10:30 am Holy Communion	<b>31</b> 7:30 pm AA Meeting					

## **Our Church Staff**

**Nancy Trimble**  
LSIM Deacon/  
Vice Pastor

**Ric Warner**  
Church Council  
President

**Marsha Fischbach**  
Music Director

**Amy Grile**  
Administrative Asst.

**Good Shepherd  
Lutheran Church**  
1209 South Miami St.  
West Milton, Ohio 45383

# ***Prayers and Concerns***

Susan Baker, Chuck Franks, Abby Bonner,  
Marie Kopp, Susan Tully, Judy Gardner,  
Butch Traylor, Ron Timmons, Bill Sims,  
Aaron & Renee Johansen, Kim Baker  
and Terri Fryman.

**Phone 937.698.5826**

**E-Mail: [office@goodshepherdwestmilton.org](mailto:office@goodshepherdwestmilton.org)**

**Website: <http://goodshepherdwestmilton.org>**

***PASTORAL CARE***

***Deacon Nancy Trimble***

***937-269-6359 or [nancytrimble@abidingchrist.net](mailto:nancytrimble@abidingchrist.net)***

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE