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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

December  
2022

THE MESSENGER

"Behold," says the Lord, "I make all things new." (Revelation 21:5)

It has been a busy week at your church office. Here at Good Shepherd office we are making all things new as well. It is not what we planned, but the computer that has served the congregation for a few years gave up the ghost. You read this newsletter because a new computer has been installed, and we are back in business.

It seems that making all things new is messy business, but on the other side of the struggle lies the satisfaction that we have worked through the troubles and arrived at a better state with new possibilities.

Your sanctuary has been transformed by the loving work of a half dozen faithful and now says: Christmas is coming, let us celebrate big! And, yes, "Big" we shall celebrate this year. Since I am responsible for two congregations, we negotiated **Christmas Eve Service at Good Shepherd will be at 8PM on December 24**. All things have been made new for that blessed evening.

The week before, more "new" will come as the **Christmas Program** will be held on **December 16, at 7PM** with cello and harp and Christmas voices.

Two days before that, **Good Shepherd Preschool is holding their Christmas party. That will be December 14**. Yes, they are looking for about 5 volunteers. It will be a good time if you can volunteer for it. Yes, there is a signup sheet in the narthex.

The beauty of the season, the anticipation of the festival is great and makes us do great things. Oh that we would always be so joyfully looking ahead into the time to come. And, yes, Good Shepherd, you should do exactly that. Your Shepherd, your Lord is even at hand, in all times, bright or colored in the hues of dusk. The Lord is with you, rejoice. Again I say: Rejoice.

A personal note: I have announced at Arise, my regular call, that I will retire at the end of the year. It is time. I feel it in my bones that it is time to regroup and become "new" as well. After 30 years of ordained ministry, I know to listen to the Spirit and my own frame, and the Spirit has said it is OK and the frame has said: "We need to."

The Southern Ohio Synod knows of my plans and, with LSiM, is working out how to cover you in pastoral care. I talk to them every month and lay on them that here in West Milton is a pulpit and congregation of quality that deserves a shepherd to walk ahead with its plan to speak the name of the Lord and grow in numbers, ministry and spirit. Whatever is next, I am confident, now that I know you, that you will do it with energy and grace. The Lord will provide, even if He delays his coming but for a little while.

So, always be "made new," Good Shepherd. The Lord is with you.

Pastor Peter

# Senior Shepherds News



Join the Senior Shepherds for lunch on December 27 at 11:30 at Rob's in Brookville.

*Thank you to all those who helped decorate our church for Christmas!*





## REMEMBER AMAZON SMILE !

We are fast approaching that time of the year when many of you will be doing your Christmas shopping from the comfort of your own home. Amazon is the shopping venue of choice for many of us. This is to remind you to make the switch to Amazon Smile before you shop.

You remember the Kroger rebates? Good Shepherd Lutheran is getting close to \$300 a year because some of our members took the time to sign up for the rebates on the Kroger website. Any time they shop at Kroger now, Kroger sends us money! Tapping into free money is a no brainer.

We wanted to remind you that Amazon does the same thing! It takes just a couple of minutes to arrange it. Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and set it up. The toughest part is finding Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, West Milton on the list of eligible non-profits. There were something like twelve pages of eligible Good Shepherds and our Good Shepherd was on the 9th or 10th page. Don't give up – it's there.

Once you designate our church as your charity of choice, you need to access Amazon via the [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) website. Once there, everything looks exactly the same as if you went via [amazon.com](https://amazon.com). All your preferences, lists, buying history, prior history, etc. are there. The only difference is now when you buy something, Amazon will send us money!! They donate .05% of whatever you buy to our church.

Free money! Sounds good, doesn't it? Take a couple of minutes today and tap into what Amazon is offering! We'll all have a Merry Amazon Christmas!!



# Good Shepherd Lutheran Preschool News:

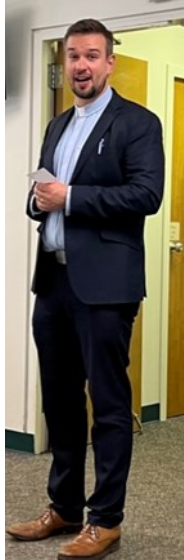
A look at November...

November went past quickly! We learned about our great country, America, and we also learned about Thanksgiving. The week of Thanksgiving we did an activity with various foods and learned about the Thanksgiving story. (see pictures) We are looking forward to learning about Christmas this coming month and having our Christmas party. We hope that you have a safe and wonderful Christmas season.





**Consecration Lunch  
November 13, 2022**



**Council Meeting Highlights  
November 15, 2022**

The Church Council met on Tuesday, November 15, for their regularly scheduled monthly meeting. After an opening prayer and reports, Ric Warner shared with the Council that Pastor Peter will retire on Dec 31 of this year. He has been a great inspiration to Council and will be missed. Thank you Pastor for all that you have done for Good Shepherd and congratulations on a well-deserved retirement!

Ric Warner provided a quote for a new computer as the current computer gave up the ghost this past week. Council agreed to move forward with the purchase. The Council then considered a request for funds for coats for the homeless. \$250 was requested and given for the purchase. Darrell Fryman has accepted the full-time pianist position. Welcome Darrell!

Council was then apprised of several future outreach activities: Christmas food baskets, community Thanksgiving service, Pre-school Christmas party were highlighted.



# Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

## Council Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2022

Present: Les Barker, Vice President; Diana Frye; Pastor Peter; David Stein; Toby Theis; Ric Warner, President

Meeting was called to order by Ric Warner.

Opening prayer was offered by Pastor Peter.

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes were approved as written. Motion: Les Barker, Second: Toby Theis. All were in favor.

**Financial Secretary's Report:** Motion to approve as written: Diana Frye, Second: Les Barker. All were in favor. Ric Warner commended our Financial Secretary, Toby Theis, for his dedication and efficiency.

**Treasurer's Report:** Motion to approve with corrections: David Stein, Second: Toby Theis. All were in favor. Ric Warner shared with Council that our Administrative Assistant, JoAnn Antonides, will be receiving a \$500.00 per year raise effective November 1, 2022 per the agreement when she was hired.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor noted that there have been multiple visitors to our Sunday morning church services over the past month. He also shared with Council that there is now a procedure in place to contact anyone who attends our Sunday church service as a visitor. The visitor receives a letter or an e-mail from Pastor thanking them for attending. The response to the contact has been very positive.

### NEW BUSINESS:

Endowment request – There was discussion about an Endowment Request submitted by Carol Simcox. The daughter of Good Shepherd members Susan and Raymond Landis, Gail Landis, lost her home and her personal belongings to Hurricane Ian. A motion was made by Toby Theis and seconded by Les Barker to send her \$1000 immediately and \$200 per month for a year. All were in favor.

2023 Council member nominations – Council discussed possible nominations to serve on Council in light of the 5-Year Plan. Ric Warner will be completing his second 3-year term and will be leaving as a council person but will be staying on Council as Treasurer.

### OLD BUSINESS:

Consecration Sunday – Plans are well underway for this year's campaign. Pastor commended Suzie Vagedes for heading up the effort so well.

5-Year Plan – Ric Warner reported that arrangements are being made to post the average Sunday morning worship attendance on the hymn boards on the wall beside the altar to draw attention to Item #1 of the 5-Year Plan. Also, in line with Item #3 of the 5-Year Plan, several seminars are being planned. How to get the most out of a personal computer and CPR certification training are in the works.

Pastor search – No change

### Committee Reports:

Worship: no report

Mission/Outreach/LSIM/MUCC: MUCC - Les Barker reported that the Community Thanksgiving service would be held on November 23, 2022. Welcome bags will be distributed in the Stillwater Crossing neighborhood on Saturday, October 22. Christmas food baskets will be distributed on December 9 with packing being done the day before. Good Shepherd is being asked to donate mac & cheese and grape jelly as in past years. The goal is 100 of each.

Property: Les Barker reported that filters have been changed and several burnt out lights replaced. David Stein reported that there are still several to-do items pending, but none are of significant concern.

Youth/Christian Education/Preschool: Trunk-or-Treat will be on October 26, 2022. Pastor reported that things are pretty lively when Pre-school is in session. The teachers have their challenges, but the overall atmosphere is very positive

Stewardship: no report.

Fellowship: no report

Motion to Adjourn Council Meeting: Les Barker, Second: David Stein. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzie Vagedes

## MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS...



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH  
INVITES YOU TO ...

### *“The Sounds of Christmas”*

**Friday, December 16, 2022**  
**7:00 p.m.**

A WONDERFUL EVENING OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC  
FEATURING THE CHRISTMAS CHOIR, SOLOISTS,  
AND THE SHEPHERD’S BELLS

**Special Guest:**  
**Tara Mar Iddings, Cellist**  
**Cinnamon Peppo, Harpist**

1209 South Miami Street  
West Milton, Ohio  
Phone: (937) 698-5826





# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

## December 2022



D

- 3 Bob Cecil
- 7 Butch Traylor
- 11 Bob & Heidi Spitler
- 12 Brian Ely
- 14 Arlene Warner
- 17 Mia Paddock

- 23 Paula Barker
- 25 JESUS
- 26 George Franks  
Liam Hammermeister
- 29 Jose Lopez

E

# SERVING

C

### ASSISTING MINISTER

Ric Warner

### COMMUNION ASSISTANT

Ric Warner  
24 Susan Langley

### ALTAR GUILD

Gloria Shellhammer  
Debbie Bredeson

E

### LECTOR

4 Jeff Barth  
11 Jeff Barth  
18 Ric Warner  
24 Ric Warner

### USHER CAPTAIN

4 Barbara Cecil  
11 Jarrett Grile  
18 Dave Vagedes  
24 Molly Franks

### SOUND

Rusty Baker

M

### FLOWERS

4 in memory of Tom Frye from Diana  
11 from Ric & Arlene Warner  
18 from Victoria Hammermeister  
24 in memory of Tim Moncrief & Jim Diley from Judy

### COUNTERS

Susan Langley  
Ralph Blakley

B

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## Pledge Giving Reports

through the end of:	<u>October 2022</u>	<u>November 2022</u>
Pledges over	11	13
Pledges under	8	7
Pledges even	17	16
Year to date pledge giving:	over \$2,362	over \$754



# DECEMBER 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
 <p><i>Merry Christmas</i></p>				1	2	3
<b>4</b> 10am Choir Practice 11am Holy Communion 12:15pm Christmas Musical Practice	<b>5</b> 9-12 Preschool 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9-12 Preschool 3-5 pm Planning 6:30 pm Christmas Musical Practice	<b>8</b> Fill Food Boxes	<b>9</b> 9 to 6 pm Food box pickup 9-12 Preschool	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 10am Choir Practice 11am Holy Communion 12:15pm Christmas Musical Practice	<b>12</b> 9-12 Preschool 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 9-12 Preschool 3-5 pm Planning 6:30pm Dress Rehearsal	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 9-12 Preschool 7 pm Christmas Musical	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 10am Choir Practice 11am Holy Communion	<b>19</b> No Preschool 12:30 Lydia's Study 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	<b>20</b> 7:00 pm Council Meeting	<b>21</b> No Preschool No Planning	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> No Preschool	<b>24</b> 8 pm Christmas Eve Service
<b>25</b> Merry Christmas No Service	<b>26</b> No Preschool 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	<b>27</b> 11:30 am Senior Shepherds Lunch at Rob's	<b>28</b> No Preschool No Planning	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> No Preschool	<b>31</b> 2pm Pack Son Rise Breakfast

## Our Church Staff

**Pastor Peter Kruse**  
Interim Pastor

**Ric Warner**  
Church Council  
President

**Marsha Fischbach**  
Music Director

**JoAnn Antonides**  
Administrative Asst.

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

## *Prayers and Concerns*

Chuck Franks, Aaron & Renee Johansen,  
Bill Sims, Jeff Theis, Judy Tipton,  
Patty Tipton, Rhonda Vance, Trace Vallance and for the  
next pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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***PASTORAL CARE***

***Pastor Peter Kruse 937-974-3216 or  
PastorKruse@icloud.com***

