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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*

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December 2023  
&  
January 2024

# THE MESSENGER

## Pastor's Message

Friends,

I will celebrate my first anniversary as your “pastor of record” near the end of January. At the last council meeting, I offered to extend my time through Easter Sunday, March 31, and signed a contract to that effect, so I will be with you through Holy Week and Easter. However I am adamant that after that I return to the retired roster! So, I will be joining you in the pews beginning the Sunday after Easter!

It has been a delight to serve with you this past year. Leann and I are happy and privileged to be among you and we thank you for your warm welcome and committed care you show for this congregation and this community. As this is a “combined” December/January newsletter, may you have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

BTW...the financial reports for December (year-end) will be sent to you in January along with the Annual Reports in preparation for the annual meeting later that month.

In Christ,

PC and Leann



## Practice for Christmas Eve Children's Program

Sunday December 17, 9:40-10:20 a.m. Sanctuary

If your child, grandchild, neighbor or anyone you know wants to participate in this year's Christmas Eve tableau please come to the practice. Contact Christa at [christaclelan14@gmail.com](mailto:christaclelan14@gmail.com)

This is a simple yet beautiful program that brings the story of the birth of Christ to your altar. Any child of any age can participate in the tableau. There are no speaking parts, however, there is specific timing with music and reading of the gospel which takes practice. A guardian who is attending the service will be needed to attend practice with the child.

### **Christmas Eve Service Times:**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent 10:30 a.m. and  
Candlelight Service at 7 p.m.**

### **2024 Church Offering Envelopes**

are ready for pickup in the narthex. There are no names on the boxes this year, just pick up a box and it is yours. Please write your name on your envelopes each week or month.

### **Annual Meeting January 28, 2024**

**Election of Council Members, Adopt 2024 Budget,  
Approve Annual Reports; please plan to attend.**

I am writing this asking for help for Bulldog bags. With rising prices we are spending a lot more on the food that we give to the students. We have also had a rise in kids receiving the packages. If you are considering a year end gift to a charity, please consider giving to Bulldog Bags. We give bags of food to around 250 kids each Friday to take home for the weekend. We would appreciate any help that you can give us. Thank you so much!!

Milton-Union Bulldog Bags, PO Box 93, West Milton, OH 45383  
Thanks, Becky Garrett 937-524-7220 [ragarrett15@gmail.com](mailto:ragarrett15@gmail.com)



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH  
INVITES YOU TO...

# *"The Sounds of Christmas"*

**Friday, December 15, 2023**  
**7:00 p.m.**

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

**Special Guest:**  
**Tara Mar Iddings, Cellist**

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





# Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

## Council Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2023

Present: Les Barker, President; Pastor Craig Fourman; Molly Franks; Diana Frye; Amy Grile, Vice President; Ray Lewis; David Stein; Toby Theis, Suzie Vagedes; Ric Warner, Treasurer; Rob Williams

Meeting was called to order by Les Barker  
Opening Devotion- Pastor Craig

Secretary's Report: Motion to approve: Molly Franks, Second: Amy Grile. All were in favor.

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

Treasurer's Report: Motion to approve: Amy Grile, Second: Suzie Vagedes. All were in favor.

Pastor's Report: Motion to approve: Suzie Vagedes, Second: Ray Lewis. All were in favor.

### OLD BUSINESS:

Clothesline Grant amount \$5000.00. Council thanked Clothesline for the generous donation. The tables and chairs have been ordered.

Water Heater (Fixed and paid for with Clothesline Grant) \$1500.00.

Bonfire update October 27: Mortgage has been paid off! We are able to have a small fire as long as it's not too windy. Preparations for burning the mortgage, Chili supper and a service are well under way.

Computer class had 13 people attend!

### Committee Reports:

5-Year Plan Review (Our Sunday attendance has stalled?)

Worship: Christmas Choir practice Oct15 to Dec 10. All Saint's Day Nov. 5.

Mission/Outreach/LSIM/MUCC: Helping Hands baskets- GSLC providing grape jelly and Mac & Cheese (100 each) again this year. Need by Dec 2. Distributing Dec 8. 5th Sunday feed the homeless Oct 29th. Need volunteers.

Property: Air conditioner drain plugged. Les Barker will fix it when he has the lift available to do. Christmas decorations - end of November. Copier Lease- will continue to lease as is cheaper than buying. Old printer in Preschool can go to a good cause- Pr. Craig will handle.

Youth/Christian Education/Preschool: Trunk or Treat Oct 25 at 11:15am.

Sunday School: Suzie Vagedes -We have had kids for SS each Sunday! Approx. 10 different kids have come at one time or another. Progress! We are having a problem with misc. items being stored in SS room that need a better home. Diana Frye stated that Peter Dole can come get couches, end tables and Foosball table to donate to "Recently Re-homed Homeless". Will contact him to pick up.

Fellowship: Cost for Council and Consecration Sunday dinners approx. \$300- 400 and \$900 plus gratuity, respectively. Motion to fund overages for dinners made by Les Barker, Seconded Rob Williams. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS: First Budget Review: Les Barker reviewed first budget draft with council members. Will adjust once giving estimates have been totaled and have a better idea of funds available.

Website is up! Discussed how to add Calendar and YouTube links.

Motion to adjourn Amy Grile, Second: David Stein. All in favor. Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Suzie Vagedes

# Good Shepherd Lutheran Preschool



How are we in December already?

November was such a quick month!  
We didn't really have any special days,  
just a lot of learning.

This coming month - December, we will be learning about the true meaning of Christmas and about how Jesus came to earth. We will be having our Christmas party with our parents and we are very excited!

We were able to get a grant from the Miami County Foundation for tables and chairs. We hope that these new tables and chairs are easier for the church congregation to move. If you know of anyone who would like our big round circle tables, please let Becky know. We are selling them for \$50 and you get a table and four yellow kid chairs.



## LSIM Food Packaging Event

**Save the date:  
January 20, 2024**

At Abiding Christ Lutheran Church  
Morning registration until about 1:00.  
36,000 meals (2.5 pallets)

Last year food went to Ukraine.  
Looking for Volunteers  
2 Action Teams (Thrivent)

Sign-up coming  
Fund Raiser being planned.  
More info coming soon!

**DONATIONS  
WANTED**

### Union Township FISH

#### Needs:

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

Consecration Sunday  
November 26, 2023



# GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH



## OPERATING BUDGET

**FY: 2024**

| <u>MINISTRY</u>         | <u>BUDGET</u>          | <u>% of total</u> |   |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---|
| <b>MISSION</b>          | 4,000                  | 2.3%              | <i>Synod, LSIM, MUCC</i>                        |
| <b>MANAGEMENT</b>       | 30,100                 | 17.1%             | <i>Office, property, utilities, stewardship</i> |
| <b>PARISH LIFE</b>      | 4,700                  | 2.7%              | <i>events, education, worship, small groups</i> |
| <b>PERSONNEL</b>        | 136,800                | 77.9%             |   |
|                         | Pastor Salary 72,857   |                   | <i>salary, housing, FICA</i>                    |
|                         | Pastor Benefits 21,036 |                   | <i>pension, insurance mileage</i>               |
|                         | Staff Salaries 43,661  |                   | <i>sec, music dir., pianist, janitorial</i>     |
| <b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>     | <b>175,600</b>         |                   |   |
| <b>PROJECTED GIVING</b> | <b>175,600</b>         |                   |   |
| <b>DIFFERENCE</b>       | <b>0</b>               |                   |   |

## 2023 CONSECRATION SUNDAY FINAL REPORT

Total # of giving units we have on record: 53

Total # of giving units that completed as Estimate of Giving Cards this year: 31

Total #of these giving units that increased their financial commitment above their last year's amount: 24

The giving units present on Consecration Sunday to fill out Estimate of Giving Cards committed a total of \$75,892.00.

Based on last year's giving, we can expect to receive another \$42,609.00 from members who give regularly on record and are active but were not present or chose not to fill out a card.

Other income from past giving records (cash, savings, rentals, and fees) totaled \$57,000.00 and were also added.

So the total anticipated budget for 2024 will be \$175,501.00

The total income for our general operating budget during the last twelve months from pledged givers was \$104,500.00. On Consecration Sunday our operating budget income increased by \$14,001.00 and the new total expected for operating budget for next year from this giving is \$118,501.00! This represents an increase over the previous year actual giving of 13.4%!

Submitted,  
Rob Williams, Stewardship Chair



# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

## December 2023



3 Bob Cecil  
 7 Butch Traylor  
 11 Bob & Heidi Spidler  
 12 Brian Ely  
 14 Arlene Warner

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

D  
E  
C  
E  
M  
B  
E  
R

## SERVING

### ASSISTING MINISTER

Kristine Hayes

### COMMUNION ASSISTANT

Ric Warner  
Dec 24 Susan Langley

### ALTAR GUILD

Debbie Bredeson &  
Gloria Shellhammer

### LECTOR

3 Jeff Barth  
10 Jeff Barth  
17 Ric Warner  
24 Ric Warner  
31 Ric Warner

### USHER CAPTAIN

3 Barbara Cecil  
10 Jarrett Grile  
17 Dave Vagedes  
24 Molly Franks  
31 Barbara Cecil

### SOUND

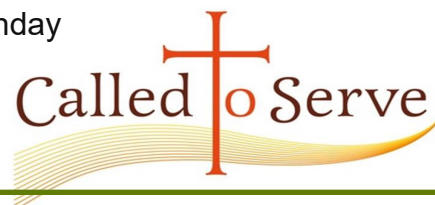
Rusty Baker

### COUNTERS

Susan Langley  
& Ralph Blakley

### FLOWERS

3 In memory of Tom Frye from Diana  
10 In memory of John Johanson from Betty Lou  
17 In celebration of Arlene Warner's birthday  
24 In memory of Tim Moncrief & Jim Diley from Judy  
31 In celebration of Liam Hammermeister's 12th birthday



### Pledge Giving Reports

through the end of:

November 2023

|               |    |
|---------------|----|
| Pledges over  | 10 |
| Pledges under | 10 |
| Pledges even  | 18 |

Year to date pledge giving short: \$ - 2,373



# December 2023

| SUN  | MON   | TUE                             | WED   | THU       | FRI  | SAT                                       |
|--|---|---------------------------------|---|-----------|--|---|
|  |   |                                 |   |           | <b>1</b>   | <b>2</b>                                  |
|  |   |                                 |   |           | 9-12 Preschool                                       |   |
| <b>3</b><br>9:30 Choir Practice<br>10:30 Holy Communion<br>12 pm Christmas Choir Practice  | <b>4</b><br>9-12 Preschool<br>7:30pm AA Mtg.                            | <b>5</b><br>7 p.m. Council Mtg. | <b>6</b><br>9-12 Preschool<br>3pm Planning                  | <b>7</b>  | <b>8</b><br>9-12 Preschool                           | <b>9</b>                                  |
| <b>10</b><br>9:30 Choir Practice<br>10:30 Holy Communion<br>12 pm Christmas Choir Practice | <b>11</b><br>9-12 Preschool<br>11:30am Lydia's Circle<br>7:30pm AA Mtg. | <b>12</b>                       | <b>13</b><br>9-12 Preschool Christmas Party<br>3pm Planning | <b>14</b> | <b>15</b><br>9-12 Preschool<br>7pm Christmas Musical | <b>16</b>                                 |
| <b>17</b><br>9:30 Choir Practice<br>10:30 Holy Communion                                   | <b>18</b><br>No Preschool<br>11:30 Lydia's Circle<br>7:30pm AA Mtg.     | <b>19</b>                       | <b>20</b><br>No Preschool<br>No Planning                    | <b>21</b> | <b>22</b><br>No Preschool                            | <b>23</b>                                 |
| <b>24</b><br>9:30 Choir Practice<br>10:30 Holy Communion<br>7pm Christmas Eve Service      | <b>25</b><br>Merry Christmas<br>7:30pm AA Mtg.                          | <b>26</b>                       | <b>27</b><br>No Preschool<br>No Planning                    | <b>28</b> | <b>29</b><br>No Preschool                            | <b>30</b><br>10:30am Son Rise Bag Packing |
| <b>31</b><br>9:30 Choir Practice<br>10:30 Holy Communion                                   |   |                                 |   |           |  |   |



# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

## January 2024

J  
A  
N  
U  
A  
R  
Y

3 Kea Blankenship  
5 Billie Conn  
19 Suzie Vagedes  
22 Andy Baker  
Barbara Theis

29 Jarrett Grile  
Margaret Strozensky  
30 Kitty Klipstine

*Did we miss your birthday or anniversary in 2023? Email to: gslcwmil-*

## SERVING

### ASSISTING MINISTER

Ric Warner

### COMMUNION ASSISTANT

Marsha Fischbach

### ALTAR GUILD

Susan Landis &  
Susan Langley

### LECTOR

7 Marsha Fischbach  
14 Marsha Fischbach  
21 Leann Fourman  
28 Leann Fourman

### USHER CAPTAIN

7 Barbara Cecil  
14 Jarrett Grile  
21 Dave Vagedes  
28 Molly Franks

### SOUND

Jarrett Grile

### FLOWERS

7 Ric & Arlene Warner  
14 available  
21 Diana Frye  
28 available

### COUNTERS

Debbie Bredeson  
& Diana Frye



# January 2024

| SUN   | MON   | TUE                              | WED   | THU  | FRI                         | SAT       |
|---|---|----------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------|-----------|
|   | <b>1</b><br>No Preschool  | <b>2</b>                         | <b>3</b><br>9-12 Preschool<br>3pm Planning  | <b>4</b>   | <b>5</b><br>9-12 Preschool  | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>7</b><br>9:30 Choir Practice<br>10:30 Holy Communion                       | <b>8</b><br>9-12 Preschool<br>7:30pm AA Mtg.                        | <b>9</b>                         | <b>10</b><br>9-12 Preschool<br>3pm Planning | <b>11</b>  | <b>12</b><br>9-12 Preschool | <b>13</b> |
| <b>14</b><br>9:30 Choir Practice<br>10:30 Holy Communion                      | <b>15</b><br>9-12 Preschool<br>7:30pm AA Mtg.                       | <b>16</b><br>7 p.m. Council Mtg. | <b>17</b><br>9-12 Preschool<br>3pm Planning | <b>18</b>  | <b>19</b><br>No Preschool   | <b>20</b> |
| <b>21</b><br>9:30 Choir Practice<br>10:30 Holy Communion                      | <b>22</b><br>No Preschool<br>11:30 Lydia's Circle<br>7:30pm AA Mtg. | <b>23</b>                        | <b>24</b><br>9-12 Preschool<br>3pm Planning | <b>25</b>  | <b>26</b><br>9-12 Preschool | <b>27</b> |
| <b>28</b><br>9:30 Choir Practice<br>10:30 Holy Communion<br>11:30 Annual Mtg. | <b>29</b><br>9-12 Preschool<br>7:30pm AA Mtg.                       | <b>30</b>                        | <b>31</b><br>9-12 Preschool<br>3pm Planning |  |                             |           |

## Support Your Church through Your IRA Required Minimum Distribution

Are you over the age of, or approaching 70-1/2 and must take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) annually from your traditional IRA? This Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) is taxed as ordinary income.

Why not consider turning some or all of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) into a [Qualified Charitable Distribution \(QCD\)](#) to your Church to fulfill all or part of your annual contribution, and/or for a special project? In so doing, the amount donated is excluded from your taxable income keeping your taxable income lower.

Qualified Charitable Distributions don't require you to itemize. Therefore, you may choose to take advantage of the higher standard deduction and still use a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) for charitable giving.

### To make a Qualified Charitable Distribution, certain requirements must be met:

- You must be 70½ or older
- The maximum annual amount that can qualify for a [Qualified Charitable Distribution \(QCD\)](#) is \$100,000. Your spouse may also be able to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from his or her own IRA in the same tax year for up to \$100,000.
- Your Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) can be made to one or more charities, such as the church, or IHN, or any qualified charity. You may also stipulate how you wish your Qualified Charitable Distribution ([QCD](#)) be used by the organization you are supporting such as the Food Pantry or the Youth Program.
- For a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to count toward your current year's Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), the funds must come out of your IRA by your Required Minimum Distribution deadline, generally December 31. However, it is wise to not wait to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) until the deadline date since the IRA Custodian needs time to process your request.

### Tax reporting

A [Qualified Charitable Distribution \(QCD\)](#) is reported as a normal distribution on IRS Form 1099-R for any non-inherited IRAs. While the Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) amount is not taxed, you may not then claim the distribution as a charitable tax deduction.

To accompany your tax form, you will need a letter from the charity detailing that the gift came directly from your IRA custodian and that you received no goods or services in exchange for your gift.

### Next steps?

Consult your tax or legal advisor. Then notify your IRA custodian you wish to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). **The Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) must be sent directly to the charity by the IRA Custodian.** If it is sent to you, it will be considered taxable income.



### **Our Church Staff**

**Craig Fourman**  
Interim Pastor

**Marsha Fischbach**  
Music Director

**Darrell Fryman**  
Pianist

**JoAnn A.**  
Administrative Asst.

### ***Ongoing Prayers and Concerns***

Margaret Strozensky, Chuck Franks, Pat Porter, Bill Sims,  
Judy Tipton, and Patty Tipton

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

**Phone (937)698-5826**

**Email: [gslcwmilton@gmail.com](mailto:gslcwmilton@gmail.com)**

***PASTORAL CARE: Pastor Craig Fourman***

***Email: [craigfourman@yahoo.com](mailto:craigfourman@yahoo.com)***



**Christmas Eve Service Times:  
Fourth Sunday of Advent 10:30 a.m. and  
Candlelight Service at 7 p.m.**