



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

Greetings, fellow brothers and sisters in Christ,

If you do not know me yet, I am the new Pastor of Record, Craig Fourman. I am here on a limited schedule, 15 hours a week, as I am recently retired. I will be in the office on Wednesdays and will lead worship on Sundays, attend council and other meetings as needed, and will be available for pastoral emergencies. (My contact information is posted below.)

GSLC is my home congregation, the place I went to Sunday school, was confirmed, attended youth group, and received my call into ministry. Here I met and married my wife, Leann, here we baptized Leah and Christa our two oldest children. Here I learned to be who I am, here I was shaped, here I was sent forth in hope and joy. My father's funeral was here and my mother, Shirley, is still an active and committed member here. We go back a long way together. I watched, prayed over and assisted this community where I could over the past 40 years. In all that time it never once occurred to me I would one day be granted the privilege of serving as your pastor. But this letter is not about looking back, but looking forward.

I have heard words of affection, hope, and excitement the past weeks since the Bishop approved my appointment. But I also heard words of concern, despair and worry about the future. Sure, the world has changed, not for the better, and the church as an institution has diminished. Perhaps this congregation has seen better days, but those days are in the past, we live in the present. When all is said and done, I am more hopeful than not, because this is what the present looks like to me:

You worship, fellowship and serve in a building that is beautiful and well maintained by devoted and talented members. It is used by this community for education, service and fellowship. It is located on one of the premier areas for any public institution, right as you enter town, right on the main drag, right beside the community's *only supermarket*... It sits on nearly 4 acres of land, only half of which is developed. It has good parking, good signage, good facilities, great accessibility, and this happened because 64 years ago Synod planners and a group of committed laypersons envisioned a church here. This is what comes of dreaming.

You are not burdened with an outdated building tucked in an out-of-the way place with no potential for growth or parking....

You have over half a million dollars in assets – 95% of which was unrestricted by the donor. In my 40 years I have never served a congregation with this much available wealth. *Never*. It is a hard transition to go from a reality of financially “living on the

**February
2023**

THE MESSENGER

Pastor Craig Fourman's Message Continued

edge” to being well to do, from living bill to bill, to thinking like people who have been given an astonishing gift. Such a transition can be scary. Financially we are accustomed to expecting the worst, but right now financially you are in a position to do whatever seems good to you and the Holy Spirit! This is not a call for us to be *reckless*, but to *think differently*. For example, last year, your investments lost about 50K. The ups and downs of a market can be unsettling for those who are retired and must live off the income. (I speak from experience here.) But you are NOT retired, so another way to look at it is this: the market took back 50K and you got nothing for it - no Gospel was proclaimed, no person comforted, no conscience assuaged. What if, a year ago, instead of letting the money lay untouched out of an “abundance of caution” you instead invested it in a fund to send someone to seminary? I know, I know...woulda, shoulda, coulda...but if we could free ourselves to think different, maybe there would be different outcomes. This much is certain, to those whom much is given, much is expected! (I read that in the Bible.) Think differently because, you are not poor.

You have a committed core of worshippers and your worship life is vibrant, inspiring and *good*. Your music program, while small, is good – and I know because I most recently served a church that arguably has one of the best music programs in the Southern Ohio Synod. For your size you compare well! And NO ONE in this village, not a single protestant church, offers the kind of good liturgical worship you do. You are alone – the market is all yours! Your worship life is not dull!

And you are known as a church that interacts with those in need. You make and distribute plarning mats, you serve the homeless in downtown Dayton through the Sunday Breakfast at First Lutheran, you partner with the MUCC for outreach to families at Christmas, and to assist with a backpack ministry for school supplies and food for hungry children in the MU schools, you actively support the Clothesline Ministry at Ginghamburg UMC, and with LSIM last week along with 150 volunteers from all 5 of our congregations, you gathered to pack thousands of meals for war-torn victims in the Ukraine. You do not lack in compassion.

And late last year, ably led by your pastor at the time (Pastor Peter Kruse) and your council, you wrote, adopted and promoted a workable, realistic and visionary five-year plan. You do not lack in vision!

I know searching for a new pastor feels a long slog. You are not alone. Every church I know, regardless of size, complexity, or location, is in the same boat. The message you need to speak is not “poor little us needs a pastor” – but rather a clear and exciting invitation that confidently points not only to what you were, but who you now are what you aspire to be! Decide to lay aside negativity! GSLC is a going concern with lots of good things to share! My family started here in 1964 when I was 9. The world was different, but the experience, promise and vision of this place that propelled me has NOT changed.

I will be with you at least through Easter, probably beyond, or until someone has the good sense to see the promise and purpose of this place and take the risk of joining you on this grand adventure. Until then I will continue to advocate your cause to the Synod and I ask you to remember,

God loves you, and so do I

PC

My contact information:

Email: (preferred medium. I check this multiple times a day) craigfourman@yahoo.com **Cell:** (a bit more of a crapshoot, but I will respond) **937-902-3820** - text or leave a voice mail if I do not answer. Or call the office **937-698-5826**, JoAnn will forward information as she is able.



Thank you, Ric!!

On behalf of the Council, I would like to thank Ric Warner for his time as President. He has done a tremendous job, and the Council and Good Shepherd have benefited greatly from his steady leadership over the past six years. We have enjoyed his humor and quick wit and have leaned heavily on him and his ability at the helm to keep us on-course through some pretty challenging times. Although we are losing him as President, we are very grateful that he will remain on as our Treasurer.

Ric has put in countless hours for the good of the church, both in front of the congregation and behind the scenes, and the Council wants him to know how much we appreciate him.

Sincerely, Suzie Vagedes, Secretary

Good Shepherd welcomes Darrell Fryman as our full-time accompanist. We are so pleased that he has joined our music ministry.



Good Shepherd Lutheran Preschool News:

A quick look at January...

January was a late Christmas for us! We were awarded a grant from the Miami County Foundation for \$4,000. We bought new tables, new bookbag cubbies, a new rug, kitchen food, puzzles, and a dollhouse for our 3-year-olds classroom. Make sure to stop in and see all our new furniture!

In class this month, we talked about our five senses, arctic animals, prayer, and the seasons. Next month, we are looking forward to Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day and learning about zoo animals!

Please share with your family and friends that on March 5 from 2-4PM we will have our open house for the 2023-2024 school year.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

February 21, at 6 p.m. Come for the food and stay for the fun. We will serve pancakes from 6 - 7 p.m. and then play a few rounds of Bingo. Bring your neighbors, your friends and your family! Hope to see you there!



The Flower Calendar is up!

The cost is \$25.00 to give flowers and altar candle. After service the flowers are yours to take home or give to someone of your choosing.

You can sign up on the calendar in the narthex, or call/email the office and we will get you added.

If you would like to give in honor of a special occasion or in memory of a loved one, please note it on the calendar

February 22, 2023
at 7 p.m.



and Soup Suppers

March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29

Supper at 6:00 p.m. and
service at 6:45 p.m.

We need donations of soup!

Gray plastic bags needed for planning mats for the hopeless. We do not need tan or white bags. Thanks!



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes

December 20, 2022

Present: Les Barker, Vice President; Pastor Peter; David Stein; Suzie Vagedes, Ric Warner, President

Meeting was called to order by Ric Warner.

Opening prayer was offered by Pastor Peter.

Secretary's Report: Minutes were approved with the addition of Bob Abrams' last name.

Motion: Les Barker, Second: Dave Stein. All were in favor.

Financial Secretary's Report: Motion to approve as written: Dave Stein, Second: Les Barker. All were in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Motion to approve: Suzie Vagedes, Second: Les Barker. All were in favor. Ric Warner shared with Council that our Administrative Assistant, JoAnn Antonides, will be receiving a raise in 2023 per the agreement when she was hired.

Pastor's Report: Pastor instructed JoAnn on how to set up the Bulletin in January. Les will get Christmas decorations down by January 7. In January: Deacon Nancy is available as needed and a supply Pastor, Rogers Mtui, has been arranged for 5 Sundays in January. Pastor Benjamin Prill will cover Wednesdays for Preschool for the month.

NEW BUSINESS:

Michael Wayne Smith Concert – Ric Warner informed the Council that the singer has offered to perform on April 22, 2023, for a free will offering. Dave Stein moved to invite Michael Wayne Smith to perform as above. Les Barker second. All were in favor. Motion approved.

Change Service Time – Starting Jan 8th, the Sunday Service will return to 10:30. Will ask JoAnn to send out a chain e-mail, place on slides, and place signs on the doors.

Proposed Fourman Contract- Ric Warner presented a contract for the establishment of Pastor Craig Fourman as part-time Interim Pastor. After review of the contract, it was agreed by Council that it should be presented to the Congregation for a vote. Therefore, on January 22, at our annual Congregational Meeting we will do so.

2023 Budget- Ric Warner presented this as a rough draft and reviewed with Council members.

He stated that he and Toby Theis, will work together on finalizing the new pledge numbers, and have the final 2023 budget ready prior to the Congregational Meeting in January.

OLD BUSINESS:

5-Year Plan –A big Thank-You to Amy Grile and Les Barker for the Poster in the Narthex. Great job!

Pastor search – No change

Air Purifiers- Becky Garrett received a grant for air purifiers and has asked permission to have them mounted in the two large preschool rooms. Ric Warner provided Dave Stein with the written specifications for his review. General consensus is positive with moving forward as it will not cost Good Shepherd anything but electricity to run them.

Committee Reports:

Worship: no report

Mission/Outreach/LSIM/MUCC: MUCC -Les Barker reported that Christmas Helping Hands food baskets were distributed on December 9 to 100 families. This is up from last year. Also, Helping Hands received \$4000.00 in donations for next year!

Continue on next page.

*December 20, 2022 Council Meeting Minutes
continued*

Property: Les Barker reported that back lights are still a problem. Maybe switch over to all LED lights outdoors. Christmas Musical went very well. Tim Guth has put in a lot of hours and expense of equipment rental and asked if he could get a receipt written up as a donation to the church. Ric Warner stated that he and Toby Theis will work on it. Dave Stein reported that the cabinets are coming along. Bases are completed.

Youth/Christian Education/Preschool: The Pre-school Christmas Party was held in the Sanctuary on December 14. It was a wonderful chaotic success!

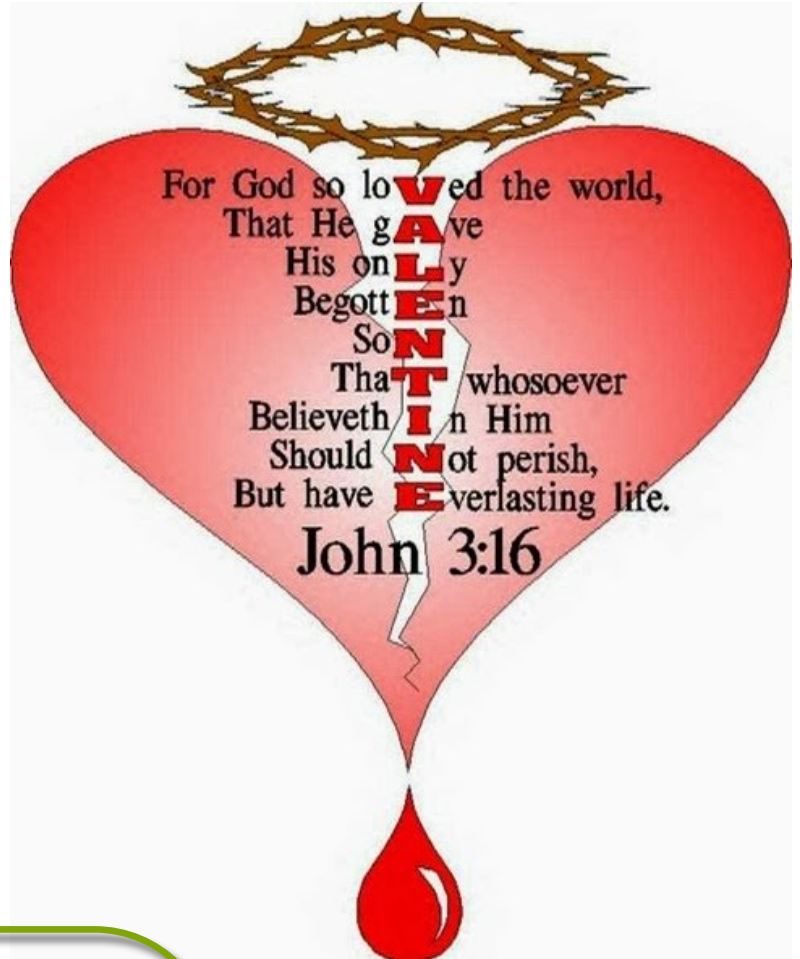
Stewardship: no report.

Fellowship: no report

Motion to Adjourn Council Meeting: Suzie Vagedes, Second: David Stein. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Suzie Vagedes



Council Meeting Highlights January 17, 2023

Ric Warner and Toby Theis presented the 2023 Budget. The budget was reviewed and with a few minor tweaks was approved for presentation at the Congregational Meeting later this month.

Pastor Craig's part-time interim pastor package was formally approved, and he will start in February. Welcome Pastor Craig!

Respectfully Submitted,
Suzie Vagedes



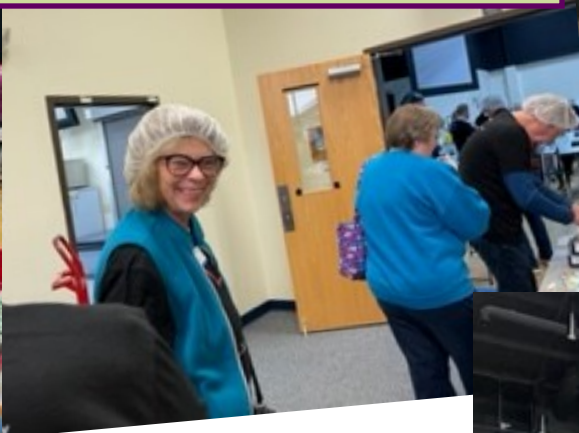
LSIM Food Packing Event to aid Ukraine held on Saturday, January 21 at Abiding Christ



GSLC Volunteers: Ann Siler, Amy Grile, Rob Williams, Kathy Williams, Grace Stacy, Diana Frye, Marsha Fischbach, Betty Lou Johansen, Gloria Shellhammer, Zach Shellhammer, Pat Porter, Debbie Bredeson, Nova Rogers, and Judy Moncrief



More than 150 volunteers, 14 from GSLC, helped create 28,000 packaged meals for displaced people and refugees in Ukraine on Saturday at the Abiding Christ Lutheran



BIRTHDAYS

February 2023



- 1 Zach Vagedes
- 3 Betty Lou Johansen
- 5 Russ Siler
- 20 Emil Tipton
- 21 Debbie Bredeson
Tarah (Langley) Smoker

Did we miss your birthday or anniversary? Let us know, just send an email to: gslcwmilton@gmail.com

SERVING

ASSISTING MINISTER

Barbara Cecil

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

Amy Grile

ALTAR GUILD

Ann Siler
Suzie Vagedes

LECTOR

5 Marsha Fischbach
12 Marsha Fischbach
19 Jeff Barth
26 Jeff Barth

USHER CAPTAIN

5 Barbara Cecil
12 Jarrett Grile
19 Dave Vagedes
26 Molly Franks

SOUND

Les Barker

COUNTERS

Susan Langley
Ralph Blakley

FLOWERS

5 Ray & Joyce Louis
12 in celebration of Whitney's birthday from Jeff & Jodi Barth
19 available
26 available



Pledge Giving Reports

through the end of: January 2023

Pledges over 4

Pledges under 8

Pledges even 25

Year to date pledge giving over: \$ 3,378

February 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 9-12 Preschool 3-5 pm Planning	2	3 9-12 Preschool	4
5 9:30 am Choir Practice 10:30 am Holy Communion	6 9-12 Preschool 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	7	8 9-12 Preschool 3-5 pm Planning	9	10 9-12 Preschool	11
12 9:30 am Choir Practice 10:30 am Holy Communion	13 9-12 Preschool 6:30 Preschool Board Mtg. 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	14	15 9-12 Preschool 3-5 pm Planning 7 pm Church Council Mtg.	16	17 9-12 Preschool	18
19 9:30 am Choir Practice 10:30 am Holy Communion	20 No Preschool 12:30 Lydia's Study 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	21 6 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	22 9-12 Preschool No Planning 7 pm Ash Wed Service	23	24 9-12 Preschool	25
26 9:30 am Choir Practice 10:30 am Holy Communion	27 9-12 Preschool 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	28				



Our Church Staff

Craig Fourman
Interim Pastor

Marsha Fischbach
Music Director

JoAnn Antonides
Administrative Asst.

Darrell Fryman
Pianist

Prayers and Concerns

Chuck Franks, Bill Sims, Jeff Theis, Judy Tipton,
Patty Tipton, and for the next pastor of
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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

Phone (937)698-5826

Email: gslcwmilton@gmail.com

PASTORAL CARE: Pastor Craig Fourman

Email: craigfourman@yahoo.com

Phone : (937)902-3820

let us
LOVE
one another
for love
is from
GOD

1 John 4:7
Lynnie Finnis