



January
2023

THE MESSENGER

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.

Pastor's Message

It is the prayer of every pastor that they can say, at the end of their time in any parish, repeat with St Paul, the words: "I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified." (1 Corinthians 2:2) It is my prayer as well today as it is but two days before the end of my official time with you. I do indeed give thanks that the Lord saw fit to place me with you for a few precious months. I have worked to drive the Gospel of Christ, he is Lord of all, and I have been blessed by my time with you. I really cannot ask for more.

When pastors leave we always leave with some things left undone, and I am no exception. I prayed that the next pastor of Good Shepherd would have taken over the Sunday after I left, but the Lord has taken His time on that matter. Sometimes, it is just best to leave things up to Christ and the will of the Father.

I assure you again today that you are not alone. Emmanuel: God is with us. God is with Good Shepherd. Since He is with us, we work without fear to be there for others. Hold on to one another. Receive visitors with kindness and a smile. Greet them with honest appreciation. Work hard on the goals of the ministry that is Good Shepherd, for in those goals the Gospel will spread and Heaven will indeed smile. Remember the poor. Remember the little children and bring them unto the Lord. Pray for them as you have begun to do last September, and continue to spend yourself on them for of such as these is the kingdom of God.

"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." (Phil 4:8)

The Grace of our lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

— Pastor Peter

Senior Shepherds News



The Senior Shepherds, Marsha Fischbach, Barbara & Toby Theis, Margaret Strozensky, Betty Lou Johansen, Clyde and Martha Doughty, Diana Frye, Barbara Cecil and Arlene & Ric Warner met for lunch on December 27 at Rob's in Brookville.

The Senior Shepherds will not meet in January or February.

Our Christmas Eve service this year was notable for two reasons.

First, the weather. Due to the blizzard-like conditions the day prior, we weren't sure for much of the morning if we would even have a service Christmas Eve night. Part of the reason for still having the service despite the weather brings me to the second reason it was notable.

It was at this year's Christmas Eve service that we said goodbye to our interim pastor, Pastor Peter Kruse. After 30+ years in the ministry, Pastor Kruse made what had to be a very difficult decision to finally retire. He is looking forward to devoting more time to his family and a few well-chosen post-retirement pursuits.

Pastor Kruse was with us a relatively short amount of time, but during that time he was able to find a place in our hearts and our memories that will not soon be lost. We wish him all the best as he closes one chapter in his life and embarks on the next phase. God bless and God speed Pastor Kruse.





**Christmas
Eve
Service**



Good Shepherd Lutheran Preschool News:

A quick look at December...

December was a quick month for us! We learned about Jesus' birth and about Christmas in other countries. On the last day of school for 2022, we had a Christmas party with the parents. (see pictures)

We are looking forward to what 2023 has in store for us. We should be getting our playground in February, and on March 5 from 2-4PM we will have our open house for the 2023-2024 school year.



A huge thank you to our helpers!!



Director Becky with her husband, Ben, and daughter, Lydia!





Christmas Sweater Sunday, December 18, 2022

Council Meeting Highlights December 20, 2022

Michael Wayne Smith Concert – Has been invited to perform at GSLC on April 22, 2023. He has generously offered to perform for a free will offering. The concert will be open to the public.

Change of Service Time – Starting January 8, the Sunday Service will return to 10:30 a.m.

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.

Son Rise Breakfast

Son Rise breakfast is offered at First Lutheran Church in downtown Dayton every Sunday morning. Various churches contribute. The LSIM obligation is the 5th Sunday breakfast. (About 4 times a year). A special collection will be taken at Good Shepherd Lutheran on the 3rd Sunday of each month to fund this mission.

If you can help pack sack breakfasts, meet in the church kitchen on Friday, January 27, at 1 p.m. Thank you in advance for helping with this mission.

Serving with Christ, Judy Moncrief

"The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor." Proverbs 22:9





Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2022

Present: Les Barker, Vice President; Diana Frye; David Stein; Toby Theis; Suzie Vagedes; Ric Warner, President. Meeting was called to order by Ric Warner. Silent opening prayer.

Secretary's Report: Minutes were approved as written. Motion: Les Barker, Second: David Stein. All were in favor.

Financial Secretary's Report: Motion to approve as written: David Stein, Second: Les Barker. All were in favor. Toby Theis stated that there were 28 pledge cards returned, 3 of these were new givers; of the current givers who pledged, 17 givers increased their gift! He is contacting any regular givers from last year that have not returned an Estimate of Giving Card (approximately 11 givers).

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

Pastor's Report: Ric Warner read Pastor Peter's notes:

1. Suggested that for All Saints Day in the future everyone should re-submit the Saint's names annually.
2. Christmas Eve Service will be at 8pm. (Council agreed that we would not have a Christmas Morning Service since Christmas Eve Service is Saturday night.)
3. Requested that we hold a training day for the AED. (We will check to see who we might know that would be credentialed to teach the class; possibly Rusty Baker or Beth Ewing.)
4. Preschool asked if GSLC would want to increase the Preschool's rent due to increased use of utilities and space. (Council agreed that we did not wish to increase their rent.) Preschool also discussed doubling the amount of the loan repayment per month for the playground equipment. (It was agreed that Council did not want to over burden the Preschool financially and was not seeking double payments, but would abide by what the Board decided). Preschool Christmas party is on Wednesday, Dec. 14, from 9am to noon. They are asking for volunteers.

5. Pastor Peter will retire on December 31.

NEW BUSINESS: Consecration Sunday- Ric Warner thanked Suzie Vagedes for her work on Stewardship planning and the Consecration Sunday event.

Church office computer- The hard-drive failed this week. Ric Warner received a quote for the new computer \$900.97. This includes new computer: *HP 12th Gen core i5 8gig ram 512 SSD drive Windows 11 Home Bluetooth and Wi-Fi 6*; Antivirus for 1 yr; set up; and first month of Back Blaze data service \$25/month. After some discussion, Dave Stein motioned to use the Capital Reserve fund to pay for the new computer, antivirus and set up, but to drop the Back Blaze data service. Toby Theis seconded. All were in favor. It was also agreed by all that the new computer would be password protected to limit usage in the future.

Coats purchase request- Judi Gilbertson requesting money for buying new and gently used coats for the homeless served by First Lutheran in downtown Dayton. After discussion Diana Frye motioned to take \$250 from the Kroger fund for the purchase of the coats. Suzie Vagedes seconded. All were in favor.

Air Purifiers- Preschool Director, Becky Garret has received a grant to pay for UV Light Air Purifiers and asked if GSLC would agree to have them mounted in the Preschool areas. GSLC's only expense would be paying the electric bill. More information coming soon. Item tabled until then.

OLD BUSINESS: 5-Year Plan – Ric Warner asked to have a poster made of the 5-Year Plan and placed prominently. Suzie Vagedes will ask Amy Grile to make a small mock-up and Les Barker will have it enlarged on a poster.

Pastor search – Ric Warner will be contacting Bob Abrams regarding the increased urgency of finding a suitable pastor candidate due to Pastor Peter's pending retirement.

Council Meeting Minutes Continued

Committee Reports:

Worship: Ric Warner will forward Marsha Fischbach's worship report: briefly there will be bell-ringers at the Christmas Eve Service. More singers are wanted for the Christmas musical, and Darrell Fryman is being asked to take the full-time pianist position. Marsha and Ric drew up a contract for the position for Darrell to sign. Motion to approve both the contract and the hiring of Darrell Fryman for the pianist position was made by Toby Theis. Diana Frye seconded. All were in favor.

Mission/Outreach/LSIM/MUCC: MUCC - Les Barker reported that the Community Thanksgiving service would be held on November 23, 2022, at the Center Friends Church. Welcome bags were well received in the Stillwater Crossing neighborhood on Saturday, October 22. No visitors from the neighborhood yet, but possibly for Christmas. Christmas food baskets will be distributed on December 9 with packing being done on the 7th and 8th. Diane Frye reported that LSIM will meet at GSLC on Tuesday, Nov 29.

Property: The outdoor lights have been (mostly) fixed. The LED lights for the sign have been shipped and Les Barker will install them once they arrive. He anticipates having the sign fixed by this weekend. David Stein reported that he hopes to install the cabinets over the Preschool's Christmas break. Les Barker and David Stein requested that we make known that a large shrub is blocking the light shining on the front of the church to see if any members have an objection to removing it.

Youth/Christian Education/Preschool: We are offering a Sunday School lesson during the Sunday service, hoping to grow attendance. Suzie Vagedes will continue to have a lesson ready.

Stewardship: see above

Fellowship: no report

Motion to Adjourn Council Meeting: David Stein, Second: Diane Frye. All in favor.
Meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

"Don't fear, because I am with you; don't be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will surely help you; I will hold you with my righteous strong hand."

ISAIAH 41:10



THANKS

Thank you from Pastor John's son and wife, Aaron and Renee Johansen, for all the prayers during the past year following his stroke and her breast cancer treatments.

She has been declared cancer free and he is doing quite well, also. His left arm and hand are still pretty stiff, but they continue to work on that. They really appreciate all the prayers and wanted you to know.

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

MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS...

Pictures from the "Sounds of Christmas" Musical on December 16, 2022



Special thanks to all our performers, sound crew, and all who attended; it was a wonderful evening. A BIG thanks to Marsha Fischbach for directing another great musical!

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.

BIRTHDAYS

January 2023



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? Let us know, just send an email to: gslcwmilton@gmail.com

SERVING

ASSISTING MINISTER

Ric Warner

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

Marsha Fischbach

ALTAR GUILD

Susan Landis
Susan Langley

LECTOR

1 Ric Warner
8 Barbara Cecil
15 Peri Bonner
22 Peri Bonner
29 Peri Bonner

USHER CAPTAIN

1 Donna Plunkett
8 Jarrett Grile
15 Dave Vagedes
22 Molly Franks
29 Barbara Cecil

SOUND

Jarrett Grile

COUNTERS

Debbie Bredeson
Diana Frye

FLOWERS

1 available
8 available
15 in memory of Audrey Diley from Judy Moncrief
22 available
29 available



Pledge Giving Reports

through the end of: December 2022

Pledges over 15

Pledges under 9

Pledges even 12

Year to date pledge giving under: \$ 42

JANUARY 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 11:00 am Holy Communion	2 No Preschool 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	3	4 9-12 Preschool 3-5 pm Planning	5	6	7
8 9:30 am Choir Practice 10:30 am Holy Communion	9 9-12 Preschool 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	10	11 9-12 Preschool 3-5 pm Planning	12	13 9-12 Preschool	14
15 9:30 am Choir Practice 10:30 am Holy Communion	16 No Preschool 12:30 Lydia's Study 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	17 7:00 pm Council Meeting	18 9-12 Preschool 3-5 pm Planning	19	20 No Preschool	21
22 9:30 am Choir Practice 10:30 am Holy Communion 11:45 am Congregational Meeting	23 9-12 Preschool 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	24	25 9-12 Preschool 3-5 pm Planning	26	27 9-12 Preschool 1 pm Pack Son Rise Breakfast	28
29 9:30 am Choir Practice 10:30 am Holy Communion	30 9-12 Preschool 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	31				



Our Church Staff

Pastor Peter Kruse
Interim Pastor

Ric Warner
Church Council
President

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

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“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”

Proverbs 3:5-6

*Happy
New Year*

