



March  
2021

# THE MESSENGER

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## *Our Mission*

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

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## **Pastor's Message**

"March is known as a time for lots of good college basketball games." That was the first line of the pastor's message in the newsletter last year. The NCAA tournament was then cancelled and there were no basketball games. This year is different and the tournament is on.

More importantly, we are also moving toward Easter (April 4) and unlike last year when we did not have 'in person' worship there will be 'in person' worship. The planning for Easter worship is underway and hopefully will be announced soon.

In the meantime Lent rolls on. Midweek devotions will be held on Wednesdays March 3, 10, 17, and 24. The 3rd Sunday in Lent is March 7 and Passion Sunday is March 28. Maundy Thursday is April 1 and Good Friday is April 2. Please remember to turn your clocks ahead when you go to bed on March 13 so you won't miss church on the 14th. The "Young Spirits" have traditionally graced us with an appearance on one of the Sundays in March but they are not singing this year. The 'Celtic Mass' has also been held around St. Patrick's Day but will not be taking place this year.

Although the worship schedule is not as full as we are used to, I look forward to worshipping with you often this March.

Pastor Steve

# 2021 Pledged Giving Update

Pledges Over: 9  
Pledges Short: 6  
Pledges Even: 18  
Year to Date Over: \$2,931  
Short for 2020: \$6511.88

## Calendars for 2021

If anyone would be interested in a calendar for \$4, or many calendars, simply let us know by calling or e-mailing the church and we will arrange to get them to you.

We also have the blank greeting cards as well if anyone is interested in any of these. The cost of these are still the same as last year at \$7.00 for a package of 12 cards.

—Thank you, Jeff Barth



## Altar Flower Chart

The 2021 Flower Chart has many, many open spaces. If you would like to give flowers for our Sunday morning worship service, please stop in the Narthex and sign up or contact Breanna Ely at the church to reserve the Sundays you want. Flowers may be dedicated to a special occasion, a remembered loved one, or to the glory of God.

Following the service, the flowers are then yours to take home for you to enjoy. Or you can give them away so they may be appreciated by someone who may need a lift.

## Prayer Chain Updates

Our prayer list has become very lengthy. Names have been added as the need arose. Once the need for prayer support is past, however, names have tended to stay on the list long after the need to be on the list still exists. Going forward, at the end of each month, our church secretary, Breanna Ely, will review the prayer list and remove names that we know no longer need to be there or that we can no longer tell if they need to be there or not.

Good Shepherd members can help in this process and we would welcome your input. If you have had someone added to the prayer list, please let Breanna know at the end of each month whether the name should remain or can be removed. With everyone's help, we can keep the list to a manageable length.

*Effective immediately, I am dropping my land line phone. Please use my cell phone, 937-673-7566, to reach me. -Kathryn Grisso*

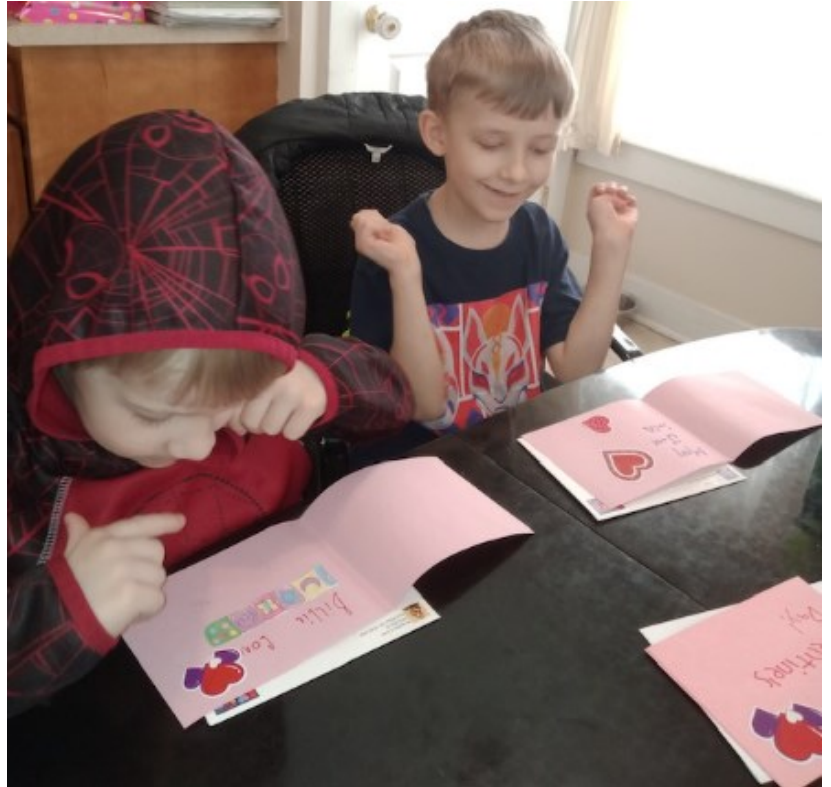
## Backpack Jesus Sunday School—February 2021

During the month of February, our Sunday School class decorated and sent valentines to our shut-ins and to the members who are not attending due to the Covid pandemic — so we hope you all enjoyed the children’s art work and best wishes for a Happy Valentines Day!

Barbara Cecil



Above: Audrey Lucas making valentines for GSLC members — and showing her Backpack Jesus!



Above: Michael and TJ Ellis decorating their valentines

Below: Eva and (Tom) Coughnour receiving their valentine from Liam Hammermeister — she put it on her refrigerator so she and Tom could enjoy it all month.



## EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM

I would like to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ Easter plant(s) for the church sanctuary *in honor of* or *in loving memory of* (please circle one) and list the name. Proceeds will go to the Senior Shepherds.

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Plants available are in six inch pots. Please check your preference.

Daffodil \_\_\_\_\_, Easter Lily \_\_\_\_\_, Tulip \_\_\_\_\_, and Hyacinth \_\_\_\_\_

The prepaid cost for each plant is \$12.00. Please make your checks payable to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

**Orders must be placed by March 7th**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT DUE \$ \_\_\_\_\_



# GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

February 23, 2021 7:00 p.m.

Present: Ric Warner, Pastor Gellatly, Dianna Frye, Judy Tipton, David Stein, Les Barker, Susan Jebens, and Amy Grile. Marsha Fischbach joined the meeting on Zoom.

Secretary's Report: Approved as read. Motion: Pastor Steve Second: Judy Tipton  
All were in favor.

Financial Secretary's Report: Approved as read. Motion: Susan Jebens

Second: Dianna Frye All were in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Approved as read. Motion: David Stein Second: Les Barker

All were in favor. We received \$40,000 interest from the Endowment Fund at the Dayton Foundation. It was placed with Edward Jones. Electronic Funds Transfers are available with the Dayton Foundation.

Pastor's Report:

There will be a memorial service for Alene Oliver as part of our regular Pentecost service on Sunday, May 23. Tara Iddings, cellist, will play for the service. More news will follow concerning the arrangements.

Pastor Steve, BettyLou Johansen, and Marsha Fischbach will meet to finalize plans for our Easter Service.

New Business:

We welcomed new council members, Dianna Frye, Judy Tipton and David Stein. Lists of contact information for council members and committee assignments were handed out to each member.

Marsha Fischbach asked when council members would be installed.

There is \$16,000 in interest earned from our Endowment Fund in 2019. Since there were no submissions from our congregation suggesting how we might use these funds, Council decided to gift these funds as follows. Motion: Les Barker Second: Dianna Frye Motion carried.

The following six organizations will each receive \$2,000:

St. Jude's Childrens Hospital Shriners' Childrens, Dayton  
Children's Hospital, Cincinnati Salvation Army, Miami County  
Children's Hospital, Dayton Habitat, Miami/Shelby County

The following will receive \$1,000 each:

First Lutheran Church, Dayton, OH  
LSIM  
Seeds of Hope

Committee Reports:

Worship: Marsha Fischbach, Choir Director, reported that she will invite the Chancel Choir and the Shepherd's Bells to practice and play for our worship service on Easter. The choirs will participate as they are able after that. New members are always welcome.

Mission/Outreach/LSIM: The Senior Shepherds' are again sponsoring the Personal Care Kit Ministry during Lent. The Milton-Union Council of Churches will meet at Good Shepherd on March 29. Arlene Warner will no longer head our Lunch Bunch program.

Property: A television was mounted on the wall of the Community Room. The eventual goal is to be able to show the church service live in the Nursery and Community Room. A switch was installed where the baptismal font is plugged in. This will allow the fountain to be switched on and off rather than having to pull the plug.

Youth/Christian Education: Amy Grile will take charge of our Sunday School Program.

Stewardship: No report

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Marsha Fischbach

## F.I.S.H of Union Township

We will be participating in the **Meijer Simply Give** Program from Sunday, February 14th through Saturday, April 10th. During this timeframe, \$10 gift cards will be available on a display rack with our name on it at the **Troy Meijer Store only**. The purchase of these cards will then be given to us in the form of gift cards of which we can purchase food at the Meijer store for our pantry.

On Saturday, March 13th and Saturday, April 3rd they will be doing what they call "**Double Match Days.**" When a \$10 gift card is purchased, Meijer will double it and add to the \$10 purchased and we get the total of \$30 worth of gift cards for our pantry.

If you want to participate in this program and don't want to go to Meijer, you can write a check to FISH-Union Township, 30 Marjorie Ct., West Milton, OH 45383 and in the memo line, put Meijer Simply Give. We will invest the money donated on one of the Double Match Days. We appreciate any support you give us.

Thanks, Ralph Warner (Treasurer) Cell 937-672-7303

## SENIOR SHEPHERDS ANNUAL "PERSONAL CARE KIT" PROJECT

This is our 7th year to ask for your help in providing Personal Care Kits for those who are displaced as a result of natural disasters or other life changing experiences. This annual Lenten Project began in 2014. To date, we have provided 728 kits.

The kits contain a bath towel, toothbrush, nail clippers, comb, and soap. In the past, we have asked that you shop for these items and deliver them to church.

This year, because of COVID restrictions, we are only asking for monetary donations. At a later date, we will shop for the items, prepare the kits, and deliver them to a location where they will be sent for distribution by Lutheran World Relief.

A monetary donation of \$10 will provide one kit. There will be a box in the Narthex for your donations. If you would like to mail your donation to the church, please note on the outside of the mailing envelope that it is for the Personal Care Kits or make a notation on your check. Our address: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 1209 S. Miami St., West Milton, OH 45383. Please have your donations in by Palm Sunday, March 28.

The Senior Shepherds appreciate your support of this project each year. Many thanks to all of you.

## **ENDOWMENT FUND GROWTH AT WORK**

The recently approved Endowment Fund By-law provides for the withdrawal of 80% of the growth over basis in our Endowment Fund. In January 2020, Council approved the 80% of growth withdrawal and we received a check for \$21,000 from the Dayton Foundation. We donated \$5,000 to the Buckeye Backpack program when that program ran into serious financial difficulties. That donation allowed the program to continue its important work of feeding West Milton school children.

After the Buckeye Backpack donation, there was a carry-over from 2020 of close to \$16,000 in our Endowment Fund Growth account. At the February GSLC Council Meeting the Council voted to put that money to work. The Council approved donations to the following organizations for the amounts listed:

St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, TN \$2,000

Dayton Children's Hospital \$2,000

Shriner's Hospital for Children-Cincinnati \$2,000

Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center \$2,000

The Salvation Army-Miami County \$2,000

Habitat for Humanity - Miami and Shelby Cos. \$2,000

Seeds of Hope, Troy, OH \$1000

First Lutheran Church, Dayton \$1,000

Lutheran Saints in Ministry \$1,000

This month, we received a check for \$40,000 from the Dayton Foundation that represents the withdrawal of 80% of the growth from last year. Any GSLC member in good standing can submit an Endowment Consideration form if they have a worthy cause they would like to be considered for a donation. If you would like to suggest a donation, forms can be obtained by asking Pastor Steve, our secretary Breanna Ely, or any Council member.

Figuring out where to donate from the growth of our Endowment Fund is a marvelous problem to have. We need to count our blessings to be in such a position.

## Sunday School Update

I hope this finds everyone well and in good spirits, with spring just around the corner. I am sending this to let everyone know Good Shepherd Sunday School is returning soon! This is no small undertaking given our ongoing struggle with getting and keeping youth participation and Covid concerns. These issues are what I am wanting to address as we look to restart classes.

First, due to the above issues, we will begin by having a “one room schoolhouse” during Sunday morning service. If numbers allow and restrictions ease we will then go back to classes by age group, before service. This will address the difficulties of trying to keep children socially distant, with masks for the duration of the church service. This brings us to...

Second, while in class, there won't be a requirement to wear masks or social distance. I want to be sure that all parents/care givers are fully aware of this. If your child has any medical concerns please do not send them. It is of the utmost importance to me that we do not put anyone in danger. Based on the current information being provided, children who are not immunocompromised are at very little risk of contracting or spreading the illness.

My third reason for this letter is to encourage everyone's input into what would make our Sunday School program effective, uplifting and successful. Current studies show that what a child has incorporated into their belief system by the age of 13, is predominantly what they will believe as adults. In a world where children are struggling with stress and depression at increasingly younger ages, it is critical to their wellbeing for them to have the security of a strong religious belief and loving church family.

Finally, please know that if you have concerns, I respect your view and support your choice to not participate. This is for those families that feel that this is a safe addition to their current interactions. Some families have seen emotional and behavioral distress in their children during this time of isolation. Our physical health is very important and as we have navigated through this pandemic, we have been made more aware of how our mental and spiritual health directly affect(s) our physical health. I am hoping the return of our program will give children a safe place to just be kids, learn of God's love and feel the love and support of our church family.

Thank you for your time in reading this. There will be more to come.

Sincerely,

Amy Grile

937-312-7777

ajgrile@gmail.com

***Want more information on the benefits of bringing your children to church?***

***Check out the link below:***

**<http://sundaysoftware.com/site/the-life-benefits-of-church-membership/>**



## Good Shepherd Lutheran Preschool Update

The preschool and I are excited to welcome Becky Garrett as our new preschool Director! Some of you may know Becky for she is very active in the West Milton community and lifelong resident which will be a great asset to our preschool. Becky will start June 1st. In the meantime, I will continue to hold the fort down while accepting enrollments for fall. Currently, we have 1 spot open for 3 year olds. Get the word out for 4 and 5 year olds! Thank you for your continued support!

Lori Gellatly

### "A Year Like No Other"

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, as other churches all over our land and the world, have completed a "Pandemic Year." We know churches that have been "closed" the entire time. But, Christian living never stops! Those churches that "opened" with COVID restrictions saw a greatly reduced congregation as people feared contacting the disease in crowded spaces.

GSLC did have many members who wanted to stay away at least until vaccines were developed, and now numbers of people in hospitals and numbers of deaths have dropped significantly. We hope there is light at the end of the tunnel! "New Normalcy" may begin soon, but probably not soon enough for most people.

During recent months many members have been in contact with other members, to encourage them. Most of this support has been voluntary and unorganized. But there was a small group that tried to call and encourage, and "check on" absent members.

The results of these calls did, in fact, encourage some of the people who were called. We hope that when the new normal arrives, everyone will return "in person" to worship, learn, and serve together as one strengthened congregation. Be ready!

Most families with children stayed away from crowds. The "Back Pack" Sunday School program helped these families and also served as a way for families to reach out to "singles" and "elderly" members, who also wanted to isolate themselves from crowds.

If you were not contacted, and feel "left out" please take the initiative to call one or two people to check on them, and encourage them. You will be part of the Good Shepherd's ministry!

With the possibility of again leaving someone out, we want to mention some people with special needs. Please contact Pr. Steve, or president Ric Warner, if you are aware of someone who needs spiritual support.

Perhaps the people who are alone in this new year, in a new way, would appreciate a caring call. Several of these people are on our weekly prayer concern list. Prayers and calls for the following will be appreciated. Susan Baker, Kelly Jones, and Mary Jane Smith. And the mates and families of those who have entered the "Church Triumphant" through death and resurrection.

These include: Dennis Bohlender (son is Lynn), Tom Frye (wife is Diana), Gary Grisso (wife is Kathryn), Richard Hennesey (wife is Alice), Alene Oliver (son is Glenn; son-in-law is Butch Traylor), Allen Rogers (wife is Nova), Ron Shellhammer (wife is Gloria), Milo Strozensky (wife is Margaret; daughter is Michelle Mason), Nolin Sims (father is Bill Sims), Tim Donohoo (sisters are Connie Louis and Patty Tipton), Janet Jones (son is Kelly Jones). If you would like a telephone number for any of these people, please call the church to request a number. The GSLC telephone number is 937-698-5826. Please leave a request, and your number on the message machine if no one is in the office. Thank you for caring in the name of Jesus, our Lord.

Pastor Emeritus John Johansen, Barbara Cecil, and Donna Plunkett

# M

## BIRTHDAYS

## ANNIVERSARIES

2 Mary Jane Smith      17 Rebecca Mason  
 4 Nikki Tinnerman      22 Kathryn Grisso  
 5 Rusty Baker              Jonathan Bredeson  
 8 Leah Vagedes          25 Breanna Ely  
 9 Diana Frye              29 Ed Menker  
 16 Susan Langley        30 Jerry Bonner  
     Nova Rogers          31 Mimi Klipstine

18 Emil and Patty Tipton

# A

*Did we miss your birthday or anniversary? Please let us know! Send an email to:  
office@goodshepherdwestmilton.org*

## SERVING

### ASSISTING MINISTER

Ric Warner

### COMMUNION ASSISTANT

### ALTAR GUILD

Debbie Bredeson  
Kea Blankenship

# R

### LECTOR

7 Kristine Hayes  
14 Kristine Hayes  
21 Amy Grile  
28 Amy Grile

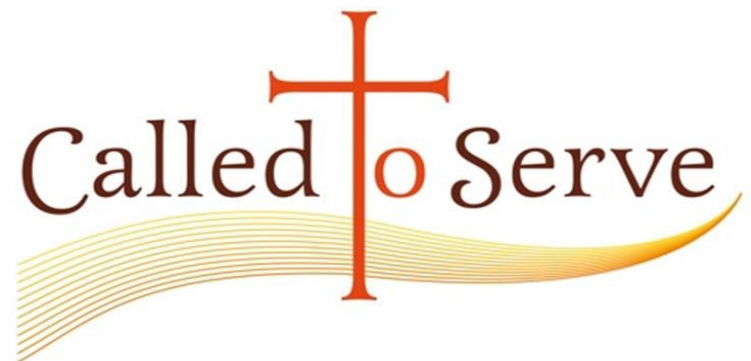
### USHER CAPTAIN

7 Brian Ely  
14 Jarrett Grile  
21 Dave Vagedes  
28 Lori Gellatly & Barbara Cecil

# C

### SOUND

Brian Ely



# H

*If you cannot serve on an appointed day,  
It is your responsibility to find someone to serve in your place.*

# March 2021

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1	2	3	4	5	6
	7:30p - AA Meeting		3-5p - Plarn 7pm - Lenten Service			
7 10:30a - Holy Communion	8 7:30p - AA Meeting	9	10 3-5p - Plarn 7pm - Lenten Service	11	12	13 <i>Spring Forward!</i>
14 10:30a - Holy Communion	15 7:30p - AA Meeting	16 7:00p - Council Meeting	17 3-5p - Plarn 7pm - Lenten Service	18	19	20
21 10:30a - Holy Communion	22 7:30p - AA Meeting	23	24 3-5p - Plarn 7pm - Lenten Service	25	26	27
28 10:30a - Holy Communion	29 7:30p - AA Meeting	30	31			

## Our Church Staff

**Rev. Steve Gellatly**  
Pastor

Home Phone  
937.667.6527

Cell Phone:  
937.623.1600

**Ric Warner**  
Church Council  
President

**Marsha Fischbach**  
Music Director

**Betty Lou Johansen**  
Pianist

**Breanna Ely**  
Administrative Asst.

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

Phone 937.698.5826

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

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

## Prayers and Concerns

Susan Baker, Chuck Franks, Carol Simcox, Mary Jane Smith, Grant Hibner, Matt Louis, Mia Paddock, Kim Van Winkle, Dick Stalinsky, the family of Alene Oliver, Judy Gardner, Nicole Tipton, John & Carol Garver, Kelly Jones, Sharon King, Barb Theis, Abby Bonner, Connie McCarroll and family, Kelli, Connie Louis, Mike Donohoo, Pete and Charlotte Byrd, Kathy Byrd, Susan Webb, Juanita Petry, Brian and Emily and Elder Donohoo, Pat Smith, Bill Sims, Ann Siler



7 Open

14 Open

21 Bob and Barb Cecil - In memory of Brittanie Cecil

28 Open