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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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Message from Pastor Peter Kruse:

It is July again. A month that begins with the celebration of our nation's founding. As you may have noticed by my accent, I am an American by choice. I came at the age of 17 and spent the next 20 years as a green card holder, an alien resident. America as experienced in the great state of North Dakota finally convinced me to swear in as a citizen.

I cherish that time of being an alien resident in this country. The experience gave me an understanding of the thought behind St. Peter's thought that Christians travel the world kind of like aliens. (1 Peter 2) The demand is upon Christians to live peacefully and honorable in a world that is frankly off the rails and in need of grace and help from God.

Yet, there, in that place, are the people of Jesus to live as a walking reminder of a better choice of living. St Peter goes on to write:

But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, 15 but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. (1 Peter 3:14-16)

This type of living is an act of giving witness to the Lord and all that He has done for us. May our Lord indeed grant that we will be asked why we have hope or confidence in life. If they do ask us, may we all be ready to speak the Holy Spirit and say: "It is because of Jesus. Let me introduce you to Him and His people."

Have a happy 4th of July and also be confident that your citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. (Philippians 3:20)

July  
2022

THE MESSENGER





Luncheon to Welcome  
Pastor Peter Kruse





**Welcome  
Pastor Peter!**





# Senior Shepherds News

**WEST MILTON  
SENIOR CITIZENS  
COMMUNITY CENTER**

435 W Hamilton St.

W. Milton OH

**937-698-7129**

**Carol Garver - Director**

**LUNCH @ 11:30**

**Please Call to Signup**

\***July 13**—Summer Picnic Luncheon with entertainment by Providence Road. You will really enjoy the music, the food, and the fellowship—Free

\***July 27th** - Lunch & Learn provided by Randall House—Free

**July 12th** - Tuesday --  
10:15 AM Cardio Drumming - No Charge Drop In  
- Have fun and work out!

**July 18th** - Monday --  
3 PM BRING YOUR OWN DEVICES- FREE -  
Receive help with your phones, iPads, computers that's easy to understand. Don't forget to bring your passwords!

**July 25th** - Monday  
1 to 4 PM - Bingo

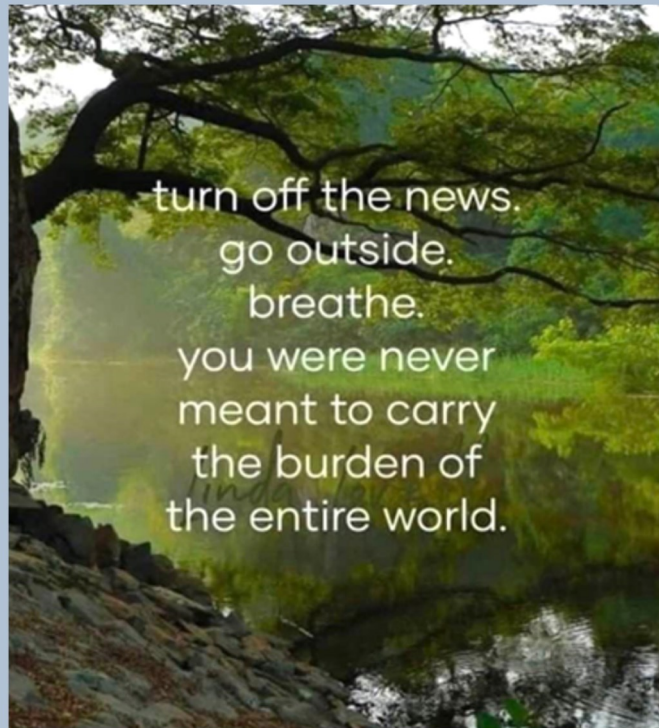
**July 28**— Friday - 9 AM  
-11 AM -- FREE Blood Pressure & Glucose Screenings - Stop in no registration required.

**EVERY THURSDAY** - 1PM  
- Dominos - Stop In and play

**EVERY FRIDAY EVENING @ 6 PM** EUCHRE -  
Everyone Welcome!

Our Sr. Shepherd Group will meet on July 26 at 2 p.m. at the church. Our program will be Dayton Inventions. The speaker will be Jim Charters of Dayton who has a power point presentation. He will remind us that many creative minds from Dayton have shaped the world we live in today. Bring family, friends, or neighbors. This program should be very interesting.

Since this Messenger is arriving early, the Shepherds want to inform you that the June 28 meeting at church has been canceled. Please say a prayer for Deacon Connie McCarroll who had planned on sharing her faith journey and her present thoughts about church cooperation with us; she is in the hospital.



turn off the news.  
go outside.  
breathe.  
you were never  
meant to carry  
the burden of  
the entire world.

### **June 20, 2022 Council Meeting Highlights**

It was noted at our last meeting that the Council meeting minutes we put in the newsletter each month, which have to be the minutes approved by Council, are almost two months old by the time Good Shepherd members are reading the newsletter. It was suggested that each month we publish a paragraph or two summarizing the most recent Council meeting so that church members are a little more connected to what is going on with your Council. It's a great idea so here is the first meeting summary.

Council met for about an hour and a half on Monday, June 20. The meeting opened with a prayer and then dealt with the Secretary's Report, the Financial Secretary's Report, and the Treasurer's Report. There was nothing of note in these reports except the fact that utility expenses this year are significantly exceeding budget. During the Pastor's Report, Pastor Kruse exhorted Council to be forward-looking and to be constantly in mission mode.

Under New Business there was discussion about the potential need to invest in silk flower arrangements for our Sunday services due to the many Sundays with no one signed up to pay for flowers. Council also set a workday for several necessary projects and approved of a Thrivent-sponsored estate planning and retirement planning workshop for this fall. Under Old Business, Council discussed the ongoing project of contacting non-attending members and re-emphasized the need to establish a task force to spearhead contacting new homeowners in the Stillwater Crossing development.

The meeting concluded with committee reports and then the Lord's Prayer.

It is with a profoundly heavy heart I am sharing with you the passing of Pastor John Johansen. Our beloved Pastor Emeritus went home to be with his Lord on Monday, June 20, 2022.

Pastor John was born on December 13, 1937 and served as the pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran from 1989 to 2000. The full details of his life and career can be found at the Hale-Sarver Funeral Home website.

Please keep Betty Lou and the Johansen family in your thoughts and prayers.

Ric Warner

## TABLES AND CHAIRS

Just a reminder that Good Shepherd's tables and chairs are available to members to borrow for short-term use (3 days or less).

For those wanting to borrow tables and/or chairs, we ask that you follow these steps:

1. Let our Administrative Assistant, JoAnn, know how many of each you will be needing and when you will be needing them. Include the date you will pick them up and when you plan to return them. Please do not take tables or chairs that you have not reserved in advance and notify JoAnn after the fact.
2. After use, please make sure all tables and chairs are cleaned. Pay special attention to table tops if serving food and chair legs cleaning, especially after outdoor use.
3. Please return borrowed items to the racks in the Community Room and notify JoAnn of their return.

Thanks to everyone for helping with this. With these simple steps will help keep track of the church's property and make for a good experience for those using the tables and chairs at a later date.

## HOLE IN THE FLOWER CHART

We need some help filling the many holes in the flower chart. The cost is still \$25 per Sunday and, following the service, you have two beautiful flower arrangements to take home and enjoy for days after.

Providing for Sunday flowers has always been a way for members to give back to the church and the hope is to try to keep it that way. Please take a look at the chart the next time you have the opportunity and pick a couple of Sundays. That will help keep this floral tradition intact.



## SPECIAL MUSIC

If you, or someone you know, would like to provide special music for our Summer Worship, please sign up on the schedule on the bulletin board. If you need any help or more information, please contact Marsha Fischbach, Music Director, at 937-581-6036.



## Opportunities to Serve

### Volunteer to help with Worship service:

Assisting Minister  
Greeter  
Usher  
Audio/Video  
Nursery  
Altar Guild  
Lector

### Or volunteer to help with:

Yard Work/Upkeep

### Other Ministries

Chancel Choir  
Bell Choir  
Son Rise Breakfast  
Clothesline  
Planning Group  
Panera Bread  
Senior Shepherds  
Guiding Light Advocate





Present: Les Barker, Vice-President; Diana Frye; Pastor Peter Kruse; David Stein; Toby Theis; Suzie Vagedes; Ric Warner, President  
Meeting was called to order by Ric Warner  
Opening prayer was offered by Pastor Peter

**Secretary's Report:** Approved as written. Motion to accept: Toby Theis Second: Les Barker. All were in favor.

**Financial Secretary's Report:** Approved as written. Motion: David Stein Second: Les Barker. All were in favor. There was discussion regarding a check didn't clear and that the bank place it back in the money bag, where it stayed for 3 months. It was resolved that JoAnn will be asked to pick up money bag from bank once a week.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ric will shift some funds from Checking to Money Market Fund and will send FISH and LSIM donations quarterly. Report approved as written. Motion: Les Barker Second David Stein. All in favor.

**Pastor's Report:** The preschool finishes classes on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Pastor has met with them for chapel a couple of times. Sunday service time change begins June 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Administrative Assistant Report:** No report.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Administrative Assistant hire: JoAnn Antonides has taken the position and will be in the office from noon to 4pm. She has a great deal of experience and we are looking forward to working with her!

Summer Picnic: June 12<sup>th</sup> date was agreed upon. Ric will call to reserve a shelter at West Milton Park. Will grill and have sign up sheets for carry-in.

Activity Room Remodel: David Stein has taken on the remodel of the room. He presented a cabinet schedule. Motion to approve schedule and proceed with work: Toby Theis Second: Les Barker. All in favor.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Pastor Search: Ric Warner talked with Bob who said that there are no new candidates and that the lack of candidates is severe.

Contacting non-attending members: the list was split up among council members.



## Committee Reports

Worship: Choir done for the summer. Marsha Fischbach has gotten piano accompanists to fill in through the end of the year.

Mission/Outreach/LSIM/MUCC: 1. Hoffman is buying a bus for LifeWise project. 2. Laura Christian church is pulling out of MUCC. 3. JTI camp had 83 campers, 27 youth counselors and 20 adults. The weekend "went great".

Diana Frye brought LSIM minutes from 5/16/22. LSIM is asking GSLC council to appoint 3 members to the LSIM Board. Suggested Diana Frye, Pr. John Johansen and Judy Moncrief. Suzie Vagedes made a motion to appoint same. Les Barker seconded. All were in favor. Motion approved.

Property: Fence poles were placed. Will stretch fence in the next few weeks.

Youth/Christian Education/Preschool: Playground to be installed in late fall.

Stewardship: No report

Fellowship: Will have coffee hour prior to Sunday Service to offset the later start time.

Motion to adjourn Les Barker. Second: Diana Frye. Adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting June 20, 2022

*Create* in me a clean  
heart, O God,  
and *renew* a *right spirit*  
within me.  
Psalm 51:10





## BIRTHDAYS

6 Jodi Barth                    25 Martha Doughty  
 7 Marsha Fischbach       27 Logan Welhener  
 10 Lester Barker            29 Dave Vagedes  
 15 Marla Baker              30 Chuck Franks  
     Carol Simcox            31 Donna Plunkett  
 16 Claire Ely                   Michelle Mason  
                                          Michele Elliott

## ANNIVERSARIES

14 George & Judi Franks  
 17 Steve & Connie Louis  
 27 Dick & Donna Plunkett



# SERVING

### ASSISTING MINISTER

Ric Warner

### COMMUNION ASSISTANT

Les Barker

### ALTAR GUILD

Connie Luis

### LECTOR

3 Kristine Hayes  
 10 Kristine Hayes  
 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

????

### COUNTERS

Diana Frye  
 Victoria Hammermeister



### FLOWERS

3 In Memory of David McDaniel (brother)  
 and Rita Stitz (dear friend) birthdays  
 from Jodi & Jeff Barth.  
 10 open  
 17 open  
 24 open  
 31 open

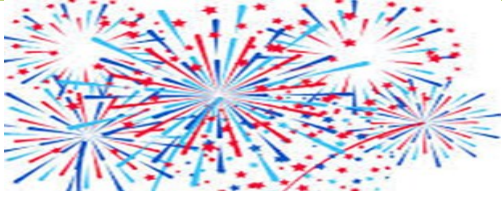


## **Pledge Giving Report**

The June and July report will be published in  
 the August newsletter.



# JULY 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 11:00 am Holy Communion	4 Happy Independence Day! 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	5	6	7	8	9
10 11:00 am Holy Communion	11 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	12	13	14	15	16
17 11:00 am Holy Communion	18 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	19 7:00 pm Council Meeting	20	21	22	23
24 11:00 am Holy Communion	25 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	26 Senior Shepherds 2:00pm At the church	27	28	29	30
31 11:00 am Holy Communion						

## **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***

The family of Pastor Johansen, Susan Baker, Abby Bonner,  
Chuck Franks, Aaron & Renee Johansen, Connie McCarroll,  
Bill Sims, Jeff Theis, Ron Timmons, Judy Tipton, Patty Tipton,  
Butch Traylor, for the next pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran  
Church and the people of Ukraine.

**Phone 937.698.5826**

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

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

### ***PASTORAL CARE***

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

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE