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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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# **Pastor's Message**

December  
2021

**THE MESSENGER**

Dear Friends in Christ,

We begin another cycle of the church year. Preparing for Christ's coming during Advent, hopefully not lost in Black Friday or Cyber Monday. Remembering the story and its lessons for us is what it is all about until the day of Christ's second coming. Let me share with you a devotion from Max Lucado, first written in his book, "Applause of Heaven." It is entitled An EXTRA-Ordinary Night based on Luke 2:11. Today your Savior was born in the town of David. He is Christ the Lord.

An ordinary night with ordinary sheep and ordinary shepherds. And were it not for a God who loves to hook an "extra" on the front of the ordinary, the night would have gone unnoticed. The sheep would have been forgotten, and the shepherds would have slept the night away.

But God Dances amidst the common. And that night He did a waltz. The black sky exploded with brightness. Trees that had been shadows jumped into clarity. Sheep that had been silent became a chorus of curiosity. One minute the shepherd was dead asleep, the next he was rubbing his eyes and staring into the face of an alien.

The night was ordinary no more. The angel came in the night because that is when lights are best seen and that is when they are most needed. God comes into the common for the same reason. His most powerful tools are the simplest.

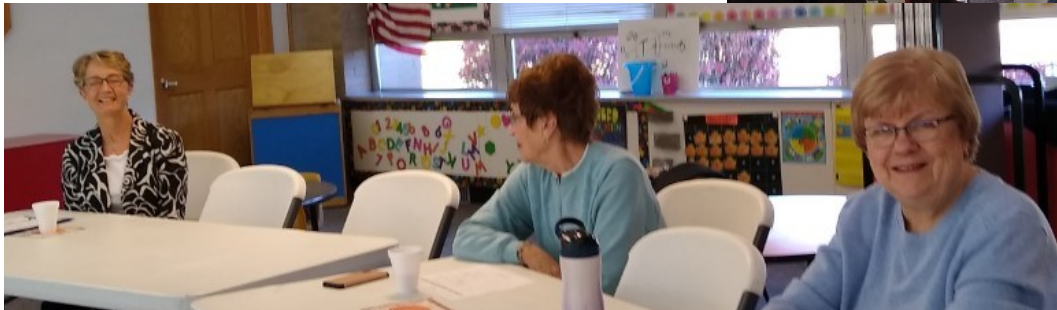
Hugh and I wish you the most blessed Christmas. I am humbled to serve you in this in-between time of your life as Good Shepherd. As Max Lucado noted, God's most powerful tools are simplest. Simplify your Christmas celebrations this year, thanking God for all His gifts to you. Jesus, indeed, is the reason for the season! God bless each and every one of you.

Nancy Trimble LSIM Deacon/Vice Pastor

# Senior Shepherds News

A small group of G.S. seniors met on Tuesday, November 23, to discuss "Health Topics" under the leadership of LSIM nurse Beth Ewing. She brought a Kubler-Ross Grief Cycle chart which stimulated a very helpful discussion. Her presentation began with the premise that most people in our country and in the world are experiencing grief - at one stage or another. We should be open to listening to others, if they are willing to talk, to be sensitive to the grief they are presently experiencing. Others may share the same kinds of grief that we may feel. Sharing stories is helpful to good health.

Betty Lou Johansen provided some delicious ginger bread cake for our "just desserts."



Business included encouragement to bring socks, caps, and gloves

for distribution at First Lutheran Church in Dayton. Judy Moncrief and Judi Gilbertson are team leaders for this project in Advent.

Activities at the West Milton Sr. Center were mentioned and a brief outline of "dreams" for GSLC meetings in 2022 were mentioned.

## NEXT MEETING

**December 28 at Old Mason Winery**

We will gather at noon to enjoy a catered meal.

Price will be between \$12 and \$15. Don't stay away because of price - "Sr. Discount" may be available. Please make a reservation by signing the paper at church or calling the church office. (937-698-5826)

We will probably get a meal package for 10 people who want Fried Chicken Tenders, or 10 people who want Pot Roast. Register before December 22. (No gift exchange.)

*Save  
the  
Date*

## MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS...



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH  
INVITES YOU TO ...

### *"The Sounds of Christmas"*

**Friday, December 17, 2021**  
**7:00 p.m.**

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

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

**1209 South Miami St.,**  
**West Milton, Ohio**  
**Phone: 698-5826**



The Chancel Choir will continue to practice at 9:30 Sunday morning instead of Wednesday evening. We invite you to join us.

We still need people to play in our bell choir. If you read music, please consider joining the bell choir. We cannot play as a choir until we get more ringers. Please consider joining this beautiful music ministry.

*For more information please contact Marsha Fischbach (937)581-6036.*



# Preschool News:

We had a great turnout for our November Thanksgiving



Fun Day. We played BINGO, decorated apple slices with caramel and lots of toppings, read a fun turkey book about a turkey who disguised himself and made a tree with names of things that we are blessed with. Please feel free to check that out in our classroom.



We are looking forward to December, which will be a short month for us. We will be continuing chapel, once a week and we will be learning about the true meaning of Christmas.

Thank you for your support and help with our program! We hope you enjoy the pictures that are on our bulletin board- our class pictures were taken, and I have to say these kids are pretty cute!!

Are you looking for a great cause to give to this Christmas? There are many worthwhile programs and missions to support here at Good Shepherd. If you would like to give to FISH, the Preschool Playground Fund, Son Rise Breakfast/Dayton Homeless, Guiding Light Ministry, LSIM, MUCC or any other ministry here. You can find "Special Offering" envelopes at the back of the sanctuary or in the narthex. Simply designate where you would like your money to go and drop it into the offering plate. Thank you to all who support our church and all its ministries.



# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 8 @ 11:30am

The West Milton Senior & Community Center extends an invitation to our congregation to attend their Christmas Luncheon. There is NO CHARGE!!

A delicious luncheon & dessert will be served.

Entertainment will be provided by PROVIDENCE ROAD DUO - husband and wife - Jerry & Chris Asburg from Greenville OH.

They have performed all across the Miami Valley. They offer a wide range of vocals from 60's & 70's, Gospel, Country and more.

**PLEASE RSVP -**

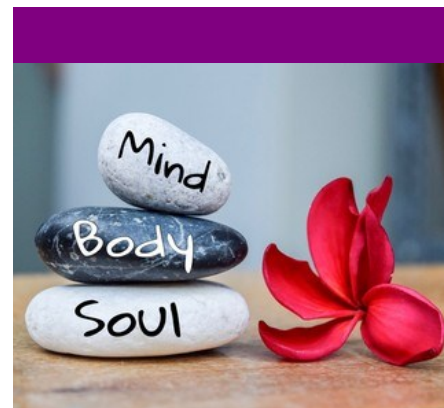
**this is very important - NO LATER THAN FRIDAY DECEMBER 3 by calling Carol Garver @ (937) 698-7129 or 546-7665.**

If you wish to participate in the gift exchange, please bring a \$5.00 "food" related gift.

The Center is located at 435 West Hamilton Street in West Milton. The building is handicap accessible and there is ample parking.

*If you have never visited the center this will be a great time to visit.*

Christmas  
Luncheon



**Do you  
have health  
questions?**

Confused by  
all the vaccine  
news or just  
need advice or  
assistance with  
medical issues  
or  
appointments?

Beth Ewing is an RN and the LSIM Parish Nurse and she is available to help with any health care related issues you might have. You can reach her by calling 937-878-2888 (Abiding Christ's office) and leave her a message. She will return your call ASAP!



# CALL PROCESS

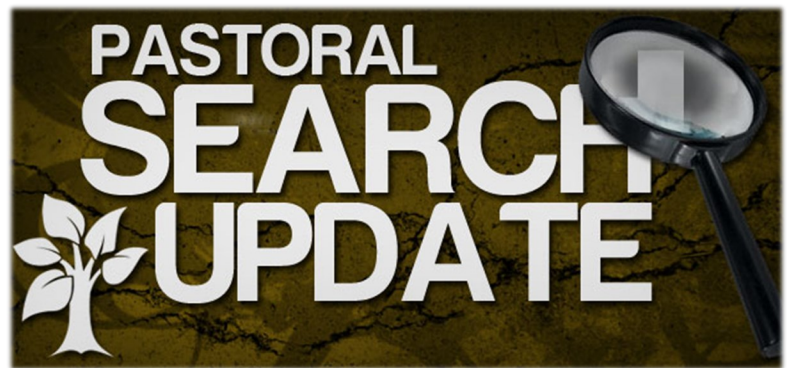
## DECEMBER REPORT

A big step in the call process was completed in November. After several rewrites, the Mission Site Profile (MSP) was approved by the GSLC Council on November 16 and submitted to the Synod.

We are the Mission Site so the Mission Site Profile is all about us – what is the community like, what is the congregation like, what are our goals, what challenges do we face, what are our finances like, what are we looking for in a new pastor, what do we want a new pastor to do for us and so forth. This is the document that the Synod makes available to potential pastor candidates as a brief introduction to our church. After reading our MSP, candidates decide if they want to move on to the next step – an interview with our Call Committee.

A special thank you to the individuals who have stepped up and volunteered to be on our Call Committee: Barbara Cecil, chairperson, Bob Spitler, Marsha Fischbach, Donna Plunkett, and Trevor Grile. Their primary responsibility will be to conduct the initial interviews with pastor candidates and make recommendations to Council.

The next step in the process is a training session for our Call Committee with Pastor Bob Abrams from the Synod. This should happen sometime in the first two weeks of December. Once that is completed, the Call Committee will be available to interview any candidates who may be interested in being the pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.



**Caring is a gift no one can buy. It's made up of love that roots in our hearts & creates memories not just for a while but for a lifetime.....**

You may have noticed that some of our church family have not yet returned after our life altering pandemic experience. Now is a perfect time to reach out and check in on our friends and neighbors. Perhaps call and check in on someone each day from now until Christmas. You may never know how wonderful of a gift you are giving.



Our church  
is once again  
decked out  
in it's finest  
Christmas  
attire.

Deck  
the  
Halls



*Thank  
You  
to all  
those  
who  
helped.*

## Opportunities to Serve

### Volunteer to help with Worship service:

Assisting Minister

Greeter

Usher

Audio/Video

Nursery

Altar Guild

Lector

### Or volunteer to help with:

Sunday School

Luth Youth

Yard Work/Upkeep

### Other Ministries

Chancel Choir

Bell Choir

Son Rise Breakfast

Clothesline

Planning Group

Panera Bread

Senior Shepherds

Guiding Light Advocate

## 10 Ways to Keep Christ in Christmas

### 1) Give God one very special gift just from you to him

Let this gift be something personal that no one else needs to know about, and let it be a sacrifice. David said in 2 Samuel 24 that he would not offer a sacrifice to God that cost him nothing. (Maybe your gift to God will be to forgive someone or perhaps your gift will be to commit to spending time with God daily.)

### 2) Set aside a special time to read the Christmas story in Luke 1:5-56 through 21-20.

### 3) Set up a Nativity scene in your home.

### 4) Plan a project of good will this Christmas.

Find someone with a genuine need, involve your whole family, and see how happy you can make him or her this Christmas.



### 5) Take a group Christmas caroling in a nursing home or a children's hospital.

### 6) Give a surprise gift of service to each member of your family.

### 7) Set aside a time of family devotions on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning.

### 8) Attend a Christmas church service together with your family.

### 9) Send Christmas cards that convey a spiritual message.

### 10) Write a Christmas letter to a missionary or military member.

Citation: Fairchild, Mary. "How to Keep Christ in Christmas." Learn Religions, Mar. 4, 2021, [learnreligions.com/ways-to-keep-christ-in-christmas-700764](https://www.learnreligions.com/ways-to-keep-christ-in-christmas-700764).



# GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

October 19, 2021 7:00 p.m.

Present: Deacon Nancy Trimble, Diana Frye, Judy Tipton, Ric Warner, Les Barker, Marsha Fischbach, Amy Grile, and David Stein

Good Shepherd member Victoria Hammermeister presented an idea for a community kid's club for Wednesday early evenings beginning in January. Council supports her idea and future information will be distributed in the community.

Motion: Les Barker Second: David Stein. All were in favor.

Devotions were led by Ric Warner.

Secretary's Report: Approved as read. Motion: Amy Grile Second: Diana Frye. All were in favor.

Financial Secretary's Report: Approved as read. Motion: Amy Grile Second: Les Barker. All were in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Approved with changes. Motion: David Stein Second: Marsha Fischbach. All were in favor.

Pastor's Report: Vandalia Saint Johns is joining LSIM. The LSIM retreat has been rescheduled for April of next year.

Administrative Assistant Report: - We received a letter from Workers Comp regarding reducing our payment. Order forms for Christmas Poinsettias will be out soon. Our Facebook page has 156 followers.

## **New Business:**

An Endowment Consideration Form was received for a new kitchen floor.

We will let Thrivent Members know they can apply for a \$250 grant to benefit our different outreach ministries. Someone will help them fill out the request form.

Les Barker estimates the cost of approximately \$1895 to install a fence for a preschool play area. Our preschool is applying for a grant for equipment. Council approved using endowment money. Motion: Amy Grile Second: David Stein All were in favor.

Tulips Up, a new business in West Milton, will be supplying our altar flowers at a cost of \$22.50 each Sunday. This is the price we were paying Patterson's Flowers until they went out of business.

## **Old Business:**

There will be a Call Committee meeting Thursday to complete the on-site form requested by the Synod to get our call process started.

Council decided not to pursue the idea of sharing a pastor with Phillipsburg Emmanuel Lutheran Church. Counters are still needed to count the offerings each Sunday.

## **Reports:**

Worship: Christmas choir practices are underway for our program on December 17. We have several people that joined the choir from other churches in the area.

Mission/Outreach/LSIM: We are collecting mac and cheese and grape jelly for the community Christmas baskets. We are asked to donate 100 of each item.

We are hosting the helping hands food distribution program this year.

People are needed to ring the bell for the Salvation Army.

The Milton-Union Council of Churches will meet at Good Shepherd the fourth Monday in November.

Property: (see info about Preschool play area under new business)

Youth/Christian Education:

Stewardship: Council is asking for a renewal of pledges with the thought of calling a new pastor.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Marsha Fischbach

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BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Bob Cecil
- 7 Butch Traylor
- 12 Brian Ely
- 13 Pr. John Johansen
- 17 Mia Paddock
- 23 Paula Barker
- 25 JESUS
- 26 George Franks

ANNIVERSARIES

- 11 Bob and Heidi Spitler
- 29 Ed and Barbara Menker

*Did we miss your birthday or anniversary?  
Let us know. Just send an email to:  
office@goodshepherdwestmilton.org*

SERVING

ASSISTING MINISTER

Ric Warner

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

David Stein

ALTAR GUILD

Gloria Shellhammer  
Debbie Bredeson

LECTOR

- 5 Jeff Barth
- 12 Jeff Barth
- 19 John Johansen
- 26 John Johansen

USHER CAPTAIN

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

SOUND

Rusty Baker

COUNTERS

Victoria Hammermeister  
Debbie Bredeson

FLOWERS

- 5 Jeff & Jodi Barth
- 12 Betty Lou Johansen
- 19 Ric Warner
- 24 Judy Moncrief
- 26 Molly Franks



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

**Pledge Giving Report**

through the end of November

Pledges over 10

Pledges under 9

Pledges even 15

Year to date pledge giving over \$648

# December 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			<b>1</b> 3 -5 pm Plarn  7:00pm Christmas Choir Rehearsal	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 9:30am Chancel Choir 10:30 am Holy Communion 12:00pm Christmas Choir Rehearsal	<b>6</b> 7:30 pm AA Meeting	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 3 -5 pm Plarn  7:00pm Christmas Choir Rehearsal	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Helping Hands Christmas Food Box Distribution 9:00am— 5:00pm	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9:30am Chancel Choir 10:30 am Holy Communion 12:00pm Christmas Choir Rehearsal	<b>13</b> 7:30 pm AA Meeting	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 3 -5 pm Plarn  6:30pm Christmas Program Tech. Rehearsal	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>The Sounds            of Christmas</b> 7:00pm	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 9:30am Chancel Choir 10:30 am Holy Communion	<b>20</b> 12:00 pm Lydia Bible Study 7:00 Council Meeting 7:30 pm AA Meeting	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 3 -5 pm Plarn	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Christmas            Eve Service</b> 7:00pm	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas            Day</b>
<b>26</b> 10:30 am Holy Communion	<b>27</b> 7:30 pm AA Meeting	<b>28</b> Senior Shepherds 12:00pm at Old Mason Winery	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	



## **Our Church Staff**

**Nancy Trimble**  
LSIM Deacon/  
Vice Pastor

**Ric Warner**  
Church Council  
President

**Marsha Fischbach**  
Music Director

**Amy Grile**  
Administrative Asst.

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

# ***Prayers and Concerns***

Susan Baker, Chuck Franks, Abby Bonner,  
Marie Kopp, Susan Tully, Judy Gardner,  
Butch Traylor, Dick Stalinsky, Ron Timmons,  
Bill Sims, Aaron Johansen and Terri Fryman.

**Phone 937.698.5826**

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

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

***PASTORAL CARE***

***Deacon Nancy Trimble***

***937-269-6359 or [nancytrimble@abidingchrist.net](mailto:nancytrimble@abidingchrist.net)***

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE