



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.

November
2022

THE MESSENGER

Pastor's Message

November is upon us again. In church we begin the month with the celebration of All Saints Sunday, a day that gives thanks to the Almighty for the life of those preceded us here on earth and who lived lives that reminded us of Jesus.

We end the month in a day that has become a thanksgiving for family and friends and also a day to remember our charity to others. In many places free meals are offered as a reminder to the world and those in loneliness and want: There is enough for all, and there is enough for you as well; God wills it so.

So, here we are in the month of November, a month that has thanksgiving at both ends. Maybe that can be our theme for November.

I know what you are thinking: "Pastor, have been paying attention to what is happening in the world?" To which I will answer: "Thanksgiving as it is now observed was declared by Lincoln who called for the first observance in the midst of the Civil War." I think we are doing better than that today.

Thanksgiving is a state of mind. In it, we receive all of life as a gift and deem all of it as worthy of a "Thank You," to the King of Heaven. Look not on your worries. Look at what is still in your hands, look at the hearts that still pray for you, look at the hands that serve around you and would serve you as well if you were in dire need, look at your church that praises the Savior and prays you will be present to join your voice to their song. There are true riches that surround you, put there by a Lord who looks with favor on his own.

Let there be a month of Thanksgiving in our church this year. Through many dangers, toils and snares we have come. Let there be thanksgiving and generosity in our hearts and in our voices. Let no neighbor be left in loneliness or want. Let there be giving and celebration because it is a saint's way to live. Rejoice, your salvation is at hand, always.

Pastor Peter

Senior Shepherds News

On Tuesday, October 25, fifteen gathered to hear from Mike Kendall about changes and offerings with Medicare in 2023. A lively discussion took place with many questions. Refreshments were provided by Eva and Tom Coughnour.



**WEST MILTON
SENIOR CITIZENS
COMMUNITY CENTER**
435 W Hamilton St.
W. Milton OH
937-698-7129
Carol Garver - Director

Nov 3, 9 & 17 - 1PM -
Dominos - Stop in and play

Nov 15 at 10:30 a.m.
Cardio Drumming

Nov 28 at 1 p.m. Bingo

SENIOR SHEPHERDS PERSONAL CARE KIT PROJECT

Thanks to all who
participated in the Personal
Care Project this year.

We were able to send
68 care kits to
Lutheran World Relief.



*Save
the
Date*

**Our Christmas
gathering will be
Dec. 27
at 11:30 a.m.
at Rob's in
Brookville**



The above group which included Suzie Vagedes, Barbara Cecil, Marsha Fischbach, Betty Lou Johansen, and Ric Warner (Les Barker took the picture) went out on Saturday, October 22, a beautiful fall day, to a new development in West Milton at Route 571 and Iddings Road called Stillwater Crossing. They knocked on doors and distributed goodie bags that included mugs, travel mugs, water bottles and magnets with Good Shepherd's logo and information about our church services to the 32 residents that have recently moved there. Several of them expressed interest!

Council Meeting Highlights October 19, 2022

The Church Council met on Tuesday, October 18, for their regularly scheduled monthly meeting. After an opening devotion and reports, Pastor Peter shared with the Council that there have been several visitors to our Sunday morning worship services and that there is now a procedure in place to follow-up with visitors. He emphasized the importance of capturing contact information so that the procedure can work.

The Council then considered an Endowment Request to provide financial assistance to Gail Landis, the daughter of Ray and Susan Landis. Gail's home on Pine Island, FL, was totally destroyed by Hurricane Ian along with all her personal belongings. Due to its proximity to the ocean, no insurance is available on homes in that area, so Gail's loss was uncovered. It was moved, seconded, and approved.

Council was then apprised of several future outreach activities: distribution of housewarming gifts at Stillwater Crossings, Christmas food baskets, community Thanksgiving service, Pre-school Trunk-or-Treat, and educational seminar planning were highlighted.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Preschool News:

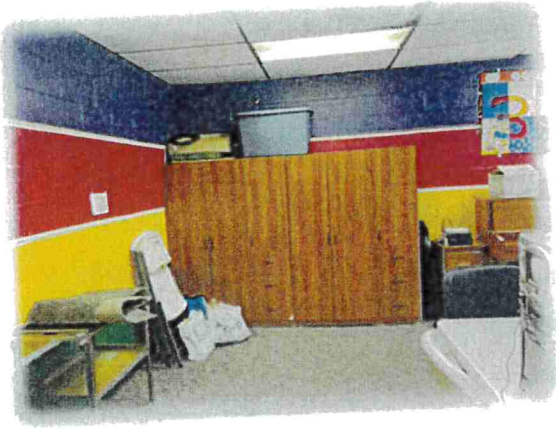


A look at October...

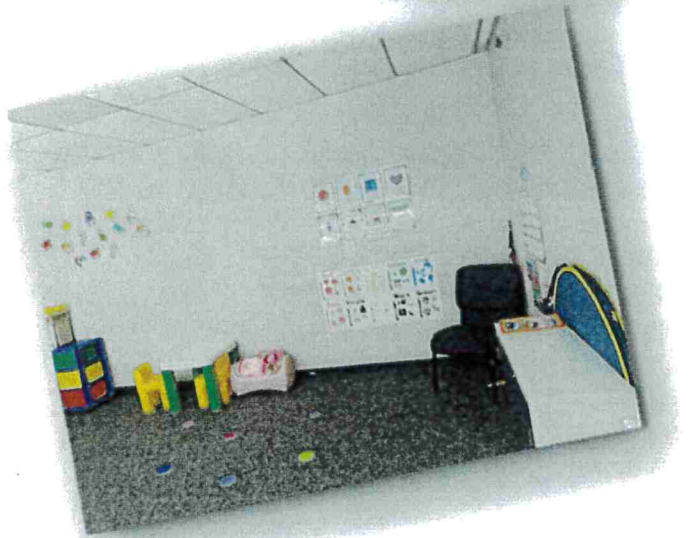
We had a wonderful October! We learned about fire safety, families, and pumpkins. We had a great day with the firemen, police officers and EMTs!! We also had an awesome time at our trunk or treat day and we even got to decorate pumpkins. A huge thank you to all who came out to hand out candy to our students. We hope that everyone has a great Thanksgiving.



Before and after pictures of the activity room/old kitchen transformed into a new preschool



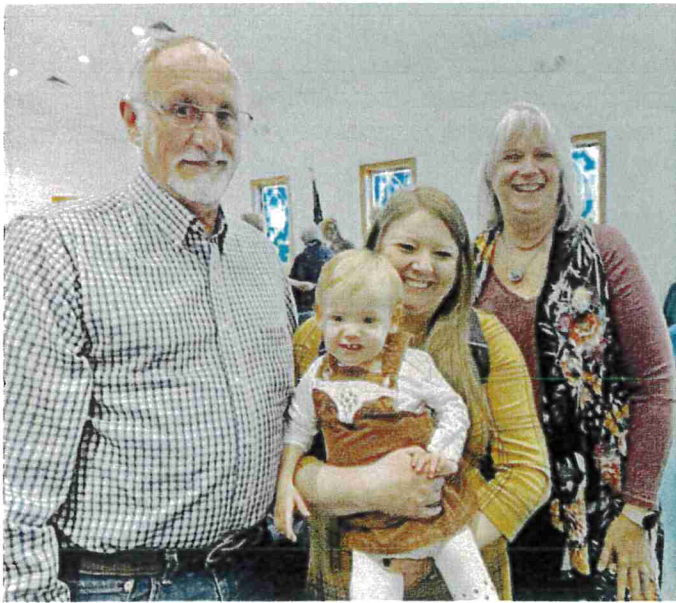
Pictures of our new preschool classroom



STEWARDSHIP

What a difference a year makes!

I am so encouraged as I write this. We are rebounding from the shutdown of the past two years, and it is an exciting time at GSLC. We have an ambitious Five-Year Plan. We have an engaging interim pastor. Our members are energized and are answering the call to reach out and invite those around us to come (or to come back) to church, and we have restarted Sunday School! These are just the beginnings to be sure, but I truly believe that God is blessing the tiny seeds that we are attempting to sow. I encourage everyone to continue to think and pray about how you can use the time, talents and financial blessings that God has given you to keep this momentum going! We want GSLC to be a blessing to all with whom it comes into contact, both now and into the future. I know that this will not be easy, nothing of great worth is, but God has put us at this crossroads for a reason. Please prayerfully consider your offering and make plans to join together on Sunday, Nov. 13, for a Special Service and Celebration Luncheon. Please send or text your RSVP to Suzie Vagedes (937) 510-8637. When you come on the 13th, please bring your Estimate of Giving Card to be placed in the offering. Blessings, Suzie



Our precious little girl, Abby Bonner, was in church on Sunday with her mother Stephanie, and her grandparents Peri and Jerry - we've been praying for her for two years because she only weighed 1 lb. 3 oz. at her birth and now look at her — God is awesome!

A huge thank you to all those who have saved egg cartons for me. At this time, I am well stocked as the girls have slowed way down. I will let you know when we need more. Thanks again! Blessings, Peri Bonner



**Daylight Savings time ends November 6;
Remember to set your clocks back
one hour before going to bed on
Saturday, November 5.**

Persecuted Christians - worldwide nation prayer day is November 6. Please pray and remember our persecuted brothers and sisters who struggle daily to live and spread the gospel.



Community Thanksgiving Service
November 23 @ 7 pm
at Center Friends Church

**Thanks to everyone who participated at the work day on
October 8; the landscaping and other outside work that was
done makes the church look so nice!**



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2022

Present: Les Barker, Vice President; Diana Frye; Pastor Peter; 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: Minutes were approved as written. Motion: David Stein, Second: Toby Theis. All were in favor.

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

Treasurer's Report: Motion to approve as written: Toby Theis, Second: Les Barker. All were in favor.

Pastor's Report:

NEW BUSINESS:

Stewardship – Pastor Peter outlined the steps of Consecration Sunday Stewardship campaign, which has been successful in the past and council agreed to use for this year's Stewardship campaign. Suzie Vagedes offered to chair. Will begin planning now with tentative Consecration Sunday date between middle of November to beginning of December. Pastor Peter will begin work on which LSIM pastor will be officiating on that Sunday, and provide guidance as needed.

5 Year Plan – The 5-year plan has been written and reviewed. After discussion it was decided to present it to the congregation in a Congregational Meeting on October 9. Ric Warner asked each of the council members to take one of the 5 goals in the plan and present it that day. Ric Warner will take goal 1, David Stein goal 2, Toby Theis goal 3, Suzie Vagedes goal 4, and Les Barker goal 5. See addendum "5-Year Plan 2023-2027"

October workday – Saturday, October 8 has been scheduled as a workday.

OLD BUSINESS:

Pastor search- Ric Warner informed Council that the Mission Site Profile has been revised to reflect recent changes and has noted that Good Shepherd's Council has a 5-year plan.

Committee Reports:

Worship: Meeting was canceled; will reschedule.

Mission/Outreach/LSIM/MUCC:

MUCC - Les Barker asked if Good Shepherd wanted to host the Community Thanksgiving service if no other church wanted it. It was agreed that we would like to host. He will inform MUCC at next opportunity. **LSIM** - next meeting is Tuesday, Sept 27. **Outreach** – Les Barker passed out the magnets and Pamphlet "Why Kids Need to Grow Up in the Church". Welcome bags are being put together to be passed out to Stillwater Crossing neighborhood and to new visitors to GSLC. On October 9, after the 5-Year Plan has been announced, Suzie will pass out magnets to each member to be, in turn, given away along with an invitation to come to church next Sunday!

Property: Ric announced that JoAnn Antonides will take over as custodian, as the previous cleaning crew resigned. Dave Stein is still working on an electrical issue. He has installed the new battery in the self-propelled mower, and has cut the tree stumps down, he stated that the mowing crew still must be careful to lift the blade when mowing over them. Les Barker's mother donated a large Christmas wreath.

Youth/Christian Education/Preschool:

Pumpkins have been donated by Les and Paula Barker for the Preschool's Trunk or Treat Halloween Party. Suzie Vagedes asked about having a short Sunday School time during church; Pastor Peter and the Council were in favor. Suzie will review Sunday School materials and call for teachers. Pastor will be leading a retreat the first weekend in October so Deacon Nancy will be filling in that weekend.

Stewardship: no report.

Fellowship: Pastor Peter asked that we re-institute greeters on Sundays. These people should be able to spot a visitor in order to welcome them. He encouraged Council members to do this until we have greeters trained/assigned. He also requested that we ask, "How can we pray for you?" and capture an e-mail in order to send them the Messenger and keep in communication.

Motion to Adjourn Council Meeting: Pastor Peter, Second: Les Barker. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Suzie Vagedes

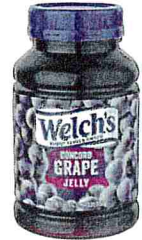
Helping Hands Christmas Food Program

As part of the Milton Union Council of Churches, we are once again hosting the program here at our church. This year's distribution day is **December 9**.

Applications can be picked up at any of the area churches, the library, Wertz, the municipal building or Dollar General. They will also be given out by the school.



As part of that ministry we are collecting food for the boxes. Our church is collecting grape jelly and boxed macaroni & cheese. We are hoping to collect 100 of each. You can drop off your donations in the boxes under the tables in the narthex.



POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

It is time to order poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary during the Christmas season. They will be displayed during the Christmas Musical and on Christmas Eve and can be picked up after the Christmas Eve service. Please fill out the form and return it with your payment by **Sunday, December 4**. Our supplier is Andy's Garden and the cost is \$10 each. Make check payable to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

(Please Print Names Clearly)

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Given By _____

Your phone # _____

How Many

Total Price

White _____ x \$10.00 = _____

Red _____ x \$10.00 = _____

Marble _____ x \$10.00 = _____

Total Due _____

(We may have to substitute color choice.)

MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS...



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
INVITES YOU TO...

"The Sounds of Christmas"

Friday, December 16, 2022

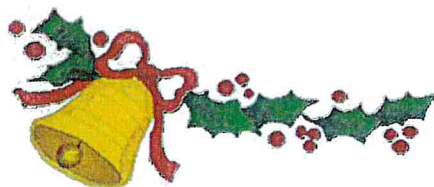
7:00 p.m.

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

Special Guests:

Tara Mar Iddings, Cellist
Cinnamon Peppo, Harpist

1209 South Miami Street
West Milton, Ohio
Phone: (937) 698-5826





BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

November 2022



1 Kelly Jones
 3 Rusty & Marla Baker
 9 Adam Barker
 13 Patty Tipton
 Susan Knife

17 Barbara Cecil
 Judy Gardner
 24 Becky Black
 26 Matt & Amy Grile

SERVING

ASSISTING MINISTER

Barbara Cecil

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

David Stein

ALTAR GUILD

Debbie Bredeson

LECTOR

6 Marsha Fischbach
 13 Marsha Fischbach
 20 Debbie Bredeson
 27 Debbie Bredeson

USHER CAPTAIN

Barbara Cecil
 Jarrett Grile
 Dave Vagedes
 Molly Franks

SOUND

Les Barker

COUNTERS

Diana Frye &
 Debbie Bredeson

FLOWERS

6 in honor of Connie Louis' and Richard Donohoo's birthdays
 13 in honor of Patty Tipton's birthday
 20 available
 27 available

October 2022 Pledge Giving Report will be published in the December *Messenger*



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November 2022

| | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|--|--|---|--|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
|  | | 1 | 2 9-12 Preschool 3-5 pm Planning | 3 | 4 9-12 Preschool | 5 |
| | 6 10:00 am Choir Practice 11:00 am Holy Communion 12:15 pm Christmas Program Practice | 7 9-12 Preschool 7:30 pm AA Mtg. | 8 | 9 9-12 Preschool 3-5 pm Planning | 10 | 11 Veterans Day 9-12 Preschool |
| 13 10:00 am Choir Practice Consecration Sunday Luncheon Christmas Program Practice after lunch | 14 9-12 Preschool 6:30 pm Pre-school Board Mtg. | 15 7pm Council Meeting | 16 9-12 Preschool 3-5 pm Planning | 17 | 18 9-12 Preschool | 19 |
| 20 10:00 am Choir Practice 11:00 am Holy Communion 12:15 pm Christmas Program Practice | 21 9-12 Preschool 12:30 Lydia's Bible Study 7:30 pm AA Mtg. | 22 | 23 No Preschool 3-5 pm Planning | 24 Happy Thanksgiving  | 25 No Preschool | 26 |
| 27 10:00 am Choir Practice 11:00 am Holy Communion 12:15 pm Christmas Program Practice | 28 9-12 Preschool 7:30 pm AA Mtg. | 29 | 30 9-12 Preschool 3-5 pm Planning |  | | |

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

Susan Baker, Chuck Franks, Aaron & Renee Johansen,
Bill Sims, Jeff Theis, Ron Timmons, Judy Tipton,
Patty Tipton, Gail Landis, and our next pastor
of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Phone 937.698.5826

E-Mail: office@goodshepherdwestmilton.org

Website: <http://goodshepherdwestmilton.org>

PASTORAL CARE

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

VETERANS DAY



HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

