

LAST CHANCE

If you would like to indicate how you would like to receive your newsletter (**mailed, picked up or read online**) @ www.goodshepherdgbg.org. Call or turn in on piece of paper to office by **Sunday, March 10th**.



February Council Meeting

DEVOTIONS: Dee Salentino

ACCEPT AGENDA: Amended to add W/ELCA to Committee Reports, Shared Pastor Update under Old Business, Change of October council meeting and Automated Phone Call Notifications under New Business.

COMMUNICATIONS: Nothing to add.

MINUTES: January minutes accepted as presented.

TREASURER'S REPORT: January report accepted as presented.

PASTOR'S REPORT: January report accepted as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. **FELLOWSHIP**—Mammoth Park Pavilion #13 rented for church picnic on Sunday, August 25th.

B. **YOUTH**—Youth group meeting was held on Sunday, February 18th. Youth created handmade cards for Pastor Paul to deliver to the Good Shepherd shut-ins and played a treasure hunt game in the church.

C. COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP—Upcoming events include a Glow Party on Friday, March 1st. Register by going to the church website. Cost is \$15 per kid ages 3-10 (must be fully potty trained). Lunch with the Easter Bunny is Saturday, March 16th at 12 pm. Kids are free while adults are \$5. Registration will be up soon!

D. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION—VBS kit arrived with SCUBA as the theme this year. Planning a volunteer meeting for early spring. VBS to be held the week of June 10th through the 14th.

E. ROCKING HORSE PRESCHOOL—currently accepting registration for the next school year. Four-year-old morning class is full due to 3-year-olds moving up. A police officer visited the school this month. Sink repair is scheduled for February 22nd by Goods Plumbing. Repairs should be covered by installation warranty or by manufacturer's warranty.

F. PERSONNEL—On Thursday, February 8th a meeting was held with the staff. Various topics were discussed including the upcoming event schedule, the possibility of moving or replacing the organ, bathrooms to be used by the scouts and the possible sale of the lawn mower. Discussed adding "Celebrate" back to the bulletins, the failure of the system to heat some areas of the church, and the introduction of the new office calendar (electronic) to Jessica. An individual is needed who can update the commons area monitor. (Please notify the church office if interested). A comment was also made as to the poor quality of the video of the Sunday morning service. Next monthly personnel meeting is scheduled for March 7th. Note: The chair of the Worship and Music Committee was notified of the discussion surrounding the organ. See Worship and Music report.

G. WORSHIP AND MUSIC—About one year ago we moved the choir down from the loft because it was getting harder for some choir members to climb the steps. This has made it very difficult for our organist to see the choir and the choir director. Also it is very difficult for the organist to hear the choir singing from the organ bench. We are therefore considering moving the organ and piano down from the loft. We are currently in the process of getting bids and acquiring more information as to the specifics of this move. The chair will keep council updated as the committee receives more information.

H. PROPERTY—Flooring in the commons area and hallways is being installed the week of February 19th. Lawn care equipment suggested to be cleaned up and sold. Andrew presented information regarding the quote for professionally cleaning the sanctuary

carpeting, kneelers and seats. Council requested that he get at least one more bid for comparison.

I. W/ELCA—Meeting was held yesterday with Darlene Frederickson’s exchange students from Latvia and Georgia giving a presentation on calligraphy, etc. Plans being made for a cluster meeting on 4/13, a three-day convention at Good Shepherd around the 18th of May, which will include a visit by the bishop, and a May dinner. W/ELCA continues to support the Lily Fund. Dee expressed the need for this committee to better advertise their events. This could be helped by the updating of the commons area monitor.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Regarding the estate of Elizabeth Jane Croushore, the church has been removed as beneficiary of the real estate. Jon Thomas Croushore is willing to assume ownership of the real estate which allows them to make final distribution and close the estate. This is being handled by Finance Chair Jack Gesalman.

B. Regarding removing inactive members from membership roll...the Acting Financial Secretary provided to council a list of those who have not contributed in all of 2023 and to this date in 2024 along with a request to review and contact anyone on the list we are concerned about. Proposed that action be taken at a later meeting. Council discussed this and Pastor Paul has suggested that a letter be sent to the individuals on the list indicating that our constitution requires both contributing and communing to remain an active member. The individual(s) will be asked to fill out a form or contact the office if they want to remain on the active member list. He also suggested that at Easter or another service expected to be well attended we distribute communion cards so that we have updated information on those who are communing. Kathy offered to work with Pastor Paul to draft a letter. Will allow two months for the individuals to respond before any action to move to Inactive is taken.

C. Shared Pastor Information Update—Pastor Paul stated that the pastor he had mentioned at last month’s council meeting as possibly interested had approached his own church council to meet and discuss the possibility of sharing. His council was scheduled to meet soon and would then be contacting Pastor Asplin at the synod with their decision.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Newsletter preferences—last year at this time the church office was bulk mailing around 269 newsletters. With the November/December/January newsletter the congregation was given an opportunity to let the church know how they wished to receive their newsletter...in the mail, at the church or read on the church’s website. If no response was received the assumption was made that the household was going to read the newsletter online. After several individuals notified the office that they had not seen this blurb in the newsletter, including some council members, it was decided to offer the opportunity again in both the newsletter and the bulletin. If your household wishes to read the newsletter online no action is required. If you want to either have it mailed or pick it up at the church please let Rachel know by putting a note in the collection plate or office or call Rachel. This will be reiterated in the bulletin and the March newsletter.

B. Proposed change of Congregational President—Ad hoc committee to be formed to address some proposed changes to the constitution, including changing who fills the office of Congregation President. Amy, Kathy and Jenny have agreed to work with Jack Gesalman, Chair of the Constitution Committee, on proposed changes.

C. Looking for a volunteer to spearhead the generation of a new church directory in late 2024 or early 2025. Please notify the church office if interested.

D. Storage Issues—Gladys Maloy continues as the church’s Storage Monitor. Several individuals are working to clean out the pastor’s office. All organizations in the church should be cleaning out their space at least once a year and discarding items that have expired or that are no longer used.

E. Rejuvenation of Church Committees—council members determined which committees they would be liaison to at this time. It was noted that several church committees have only one member and might be able to be combined with another committee. No further action taken at this time.

F. October meeting moved to the 28th to accommodate Pastor Paul’s schedule.

G. Automated phone call notifications—for a small fee the church would be able to do a telephone blast to members who provide their preferred phone number when an event happens, such as the death of a church member. Council suggested that this be worked out at the time the directory was being created.

ADJOURNMENT:

COUNCIL RETREAT at the home of Kathy Wolfe (176 Dunn Road, Greensburg) on March 9, 2024, beginning at noon. **NEXT COUNCIL MEETING** is March 18th. Brian Gesalman has March devotions.

Budget Income Report YTD thru Jan 31

YTD Income – means the posted income toward the Budget (Other income not included)

YTD Budget – means the income expected in January according to the budget

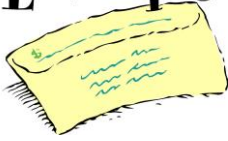
Budget Exp – Paid expenses that are budget related for year to date

Offering total is inflated because of one-time contributions for the year made in January.

Category	YTD Income	YTD Budget	Budget Exp
Offering	20,817	13,000	
Loose	122	125	
Sunday School	43	75	
Initial	96	160	
Rocking Horse	400	400	
Total	21,478	13,760	11,694

It should be noted that the non-budgeted Furnace (Boiler) Fund has taken in \$3210 in January. The goals are a minimum of \$6000 a year for 5 years or \$30,000 total

Offering Envelopes



Offering envelopes are available to be picked up in church office. If you do not have envelopes at this time and wish to receive them contact the church office.



First Communion Service on Sunday, March 3rd

Please join with the families of Mycal Jones and TJ Adamson, as they receive their First Communion at the Sunday Service on **March 3rd**. They have completed a series of classes with Pastor Ed, and are now ready to join the rest of the congregation in receiving the bread and wine of Holy Communion. This is an important milestone in their life as followers of Jesus Christ. They will be the first to receive Communion that day, along with their families.

**Mid-Week Wednesday Lenten Services –
Soup & Sandwich Supper – 6:00 pm
Service – 7:00 pm**



During the season of Lent, the congregation hosts a series of Soup and Sandwich Meals and Lenten Services each Wednesday after Ash Wednesday. The simple supper begins at **6:00 pm**. Soup is provided; please bring your own sandwich. The theme of this year's Lenten services at **7:00 pm** is "Rocks and Stones." At each of the five services, both the Psalm and the Gospel reading make reference to stones or rocks. Hand-size stones will be provided at the services for each worshipper to use, as a physical reminder of the biblical passages. The dates and themes of each service are below.

Feb 21 - Judgement - Mt 18: 6-9 ("those who lead others into sin should be thrown into sea with a stone tied around their necks")

Feb 28 - Foundation - Mt 7: 24-27 ("a wise person builds a house on solid rock")

Mar 6 - Destruction - Luke 21: 1-6 ("the stones of the Temple will be torn down")

Mar 13 - Rejection - John 10: 22-39 ("once again the people picked up stones in order to kill Jesus")

Mar 20 - Compassion - John 8: 1-11 (woman caught in adultery - "If any of you have never sinned, then go ahead and throw the first stone at her")

Services for Holy Week



Holy Week is a series of worship services which relive the final

climatic events of Jesus Christ's life. At the Palm/Passion service, we hear again the story of both Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, when he was acclaimed by the crowds as the Messiah, and the full reading of the Passion Narrative, which recounts Jesus' betrayal, trial, and crucifixion.

At the Maundy Thursday service, we experience Jesus' final meal with his disciples, the Last Supper, and the institution of the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

On Good Friday, the Tenebrae service takes us from light to darkness, as we hear and ponder the seven last words Jesus uttered from the Cross.

Easter is the culmination of the Holy Week journey, as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. He had been buried in the tomb for three days. Now he is resurrected to new life by God the Father's power, and joyfully returns to see his disciples and friends.

Sat, Mar 23	5:30 pm	Palm/Passion Worship Service
Sun, Mar 24	10:30 pm	Palm/Passion Worship Service
Wed, Mar 27	7:00 pm	Taize Service
Thur, Mar 28	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Service
Fri, Mar 29	7:00 pm	Good Friday Tenebrae Service
Sat, Mar 30	5:30 pm	Easter Service
Sun, Mar 31	7:00 am	Sunrise Service
	8:00-10:15 am	Easter Breakfast
	10:30 am	Festival Easter Service



Join Us for Easter Breakfast
Sunday, March 31st 7:00-10:15am
Pancakes, Eggs, Sausage, Juice &
Coffee will be provided. If you would
like to bring breakfast casserole, fruit
or any pastries they are welcome but
not required.

Lent 2024

Dear Good Shepherd,

Lent is here. It begins February 14th. It culminates on Easter, March 31. Without Easter there is no Christianity. Please take this time and reflect on what Lent is all about. It is nice to give up something for the season but if you really want to do something meaningful maybe we all could be a little more “Christ-Like”. That would be Love, Forgiveness, “patch-up” one bad relationship, don’t gossip, or Forgive one person who has wronged you. Basically be a good Christian.

May this Lenten season and 2024 bring us good health, a deeper faith, and a true Love for one another.

God Bless All.

Harry Harbaugh
Congregational Council VP



Lenten offering envelopes will be available in the Commons Area on the table. Please return in the offering plate. If you would like to mail in a Lenten offering, please indicate on envelope and check that it is for Lent and include your offering envelope #. All Lenten monies will go to West Point Volunteer Fire Department this year.



Grades Pre/K-8th

March

3rd-Sunday Club 9:30AM

10th-Sunday Club 9:30AM

17th- NO Sunday Club

24th- Sunday Club 9:30AM

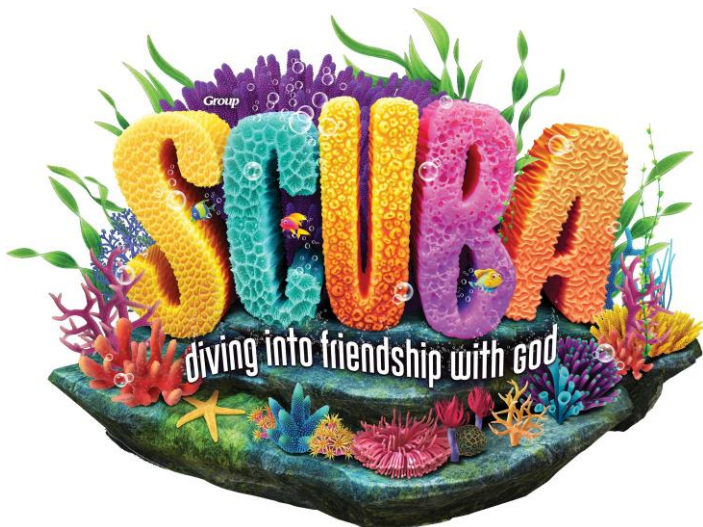
31st- NO Sunday Club Happy Easter!



JR/SR

Join us for a FUN afternoon Sunday, March 17th
@ 814 Lanes & Games Time TBD!

Keep an eye out for upcoming activities! Don't want to miss out on events & interested in joining the youth group!? Contact: Rachel King 724-454-6476



**Dive into fun this summer June 10-14th at
Good Shepherd for Vacation Bible School!**



**Interested in being a volunteer scan QR code to
sign up or contact the church office!
(Volunteer MTG April 7th 12PM Lunch provided)**

***Participant registration opens February 25th @
10:30AM Use QR code above to register!**

Community Fellowship Upcoming Events



Friday, March 1st 6:30-8:30PM- Glow Party

(Look out for more information and registration coming soon)

Saturday, March 16th 12:00PM- Lunch with the Bunny

Register by calling the church office

Adult Cost-\$5.00

12 & Under- FREE

*Must register & pay by Sunday, March 10th



(*All activities are tentative & subject to change*)

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Lunch *with* *the* Bunny

12:00PM

Saturday, March 16th

\$5.00/Adult • Kids 12 & under FREE

Register by calling the Church Office at 724-834-1940
Payment due by March 10



Fellowship Committee Events



There will be an Art Show in the Spring Saturday & Sunday, April 27 & 28th for all ages to show their creative skills. This is an annual event. It is mentioned at this time so you have time to finish (or start) a project or creation. All art and craft mediums are encouraged as are all ages.



Find the cross (+)

In each monthly Newsletter there will be a hidden cross (+) that can be found in one of the articles! If you find, please turn in where it was found including page # and article found in with your name & number on a piece of paper. At the end of each month, all who turn in will be entered into a monthly drawing to win a prize!

All women from the church, your friends & family are invited to participate in any or all of our activities. Please share this information with them. If you have any questions, please contact Lillian Shea or Karen Gesalman.

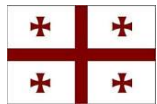
Sat., Mar. 2, 2024 at 9:30 a.m is the next SWPA W/ELCA ZOOM cluster event “Let’s Go Fishing.” The Zoom Meeting ID: 853 4095 3317 Passcode: 878752 The call in #: 1-646-876-9923 At this time, we are not planning to show this meeting on the church’s big screen. If you want us to do this, please contact Karen Gesalman and she will see if we can make it happen.

BGS (Books, Games & Scripture) Sunday March 17th after church 12-2PM. Please pack your own lunch but drinks and treats will be provided. Bring any books you’ve read that you might want to share with the group. We will have a brief devotion and also discuss the menu and entertainment for the cluster gathering and the May dinner. Your involvement and input is appreciated.

Sat., April 13th Spring Cluster Gathering here at Good Shepherd 8:45 – Lunch.



We are thrilled to have Darlene Fredrickson’s exchange students Aleksis Ratenieks from Latvia and Tengo



Kandelaki from Georgia give presentations on their countries. We will also be learning about the importance of the Lily Project, worshipping, socializing, eating and more with the women from all our area churches. Watch for a poster and sign-up sheet. We look forward to seeing you there!

Tues., May 14th will be the annual Ladies dinner.

All ages of women and girls are invited! Fuggenthaler catering has agreed to feed us again this year. We are in the process of confirming entertainment. + Please attend BGS on March 17th if you'd like to help with planning. Stay tuned for more information on this.

Sat., May 18th 8-4 we are hosting the SWPA Women of the ELCA Convention "All Creation Praises and Sings."

Convention begins with worship led by Bishop Kusserow with a Q&A immediately following. There will be announcements, fellowship, meetings, elections, lunch, bible study, designated outreach information, Fair Trade shopping and more! If you desire, you may also pre-order items from Equal Exchange. Please look at their website then email Pastor Linda Theophilus at revtheophilus@live.com your order. She will then place the orders and bring the pre-orders to the convention. Please have pre-orders to her by April 1, 2024. You must pre-register to attend convention. The cost of attending is \$40 and includes lunch. There are grants available to offset this cost. Grant applications need returned by April 1st. Convention registrations need received by April 30th. You can find the forms at www.swpasynod.org/ministries/welca in the Winter 2024 newsletter or Karen Gesalman would be glad to get them to you.

SWPA Women of the ELCA Designated Outreach Program:

At convention last May, a new 2024 Designated Outreach recipient was voted on. St. Peter's Lutheran Church After School Program in Evans City provides a safe place for children after school. They receive snacks, tutoring, play games, make crafts, and have free play time too at NO COST to those who



qualify. All are welcome to attend their program. We are asked to help by supplying some of these items:

- snacks – applesauce, Oreo's, pretzels, kids cereal, chips, etc. Please make sure they won't expire until at least June 2024
- washable tempera paint, glue and glue sticks, pony beads, fuse beads, googly eyes, permanent markers, thin ribbon, other craft items
- paper plates, paper cups, napkins, paper towels, toilet paper, Kleenex
- card stock paper, index cards, construction paper, poster board
- board games, outdoor games
- disinfecting wipes &/or spray, garbage bags (all sizes)
- command hooks/strips
- small dollar store items that can be used as prizes or rewards

Monetary donations are also accepted by making checks payable to SWPA Women of the ELCA. Please designate on the memo line to St Peter's Lutheran Church After School Program. Mail these checks to Janet Fishovitz 136 Clearwater Dr., Ellwood City, PA 16117. We will currently be collecting items through May 18th.

New nominees are needed for our 2025 Designated Outreach which will be voted on at the May convention. When thinking about organizations for us to consider, try to think of local non-profit groups that need tangible items, money or gift cards and not just volunteers. If you have a group you would like to see supported, please provide them with an application to fill out. You may contact Karen with any questions. Application/nomination forms can be found at

<https://www.swpasynod.org/ministries/welca> inside the Winter 2024 newsletter, Friends Inc. Forms need turned in by April 15th to Patty Newton 180 Newton Ln., Leechburg, PA 15656.

Save these Dates:

Sept. 20-22 2024 retreat at camp Lutherlyn – more information later

July 16-19, 2026 Triennial Gathering in Des Moines, IA – You can register for triennial now at a discount! Check the Women of the ELCA website for information and forms. Registrations are transferable if you decide not to go. We hope you consider attending this life changing event.



Now enrolling for the 2024-2025 school year. There is currently AM & PM openings for the 3-year-old class and only PM classes available for the 4-year-old class. Contact the church office for more information or to pick up a registration form. You can also visit www.rockinghorsepreschool.com



Dear Member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,

We are excited to share with you that we are working with one of western Pennsylvania's most beloved Lutheran organizations; Lutherlyn. Lutherlyn has been a camp, retreat center, and special "place apart" since 1948.

Congregations look to Lutherlyn as a resource in providing a valuable ministry to our youth, families and synod.

Because of the need, after 75 years, for Lutherlyn to upgrade and modernize its facilities, the congregations of the Southwestern and Northwestern PA Synods, including our congregation, will participate in a Capital Campaign to help raise \$2.5 million.

Funds are needed to complete the necessary projects over the next three years of this Campaign. The projects are: **Renovation of the Steiniger Memorial Amphitheater, Construction of 5 new cabins (winterized and additional seasonal cabins), Removal of the older cinder block Cabins.**

During the next few weeks, you will learn more about this important effort. We pray that your commitment to ministry will encourage you to become involved and excited about Lutherlyn's **Building for the Future** Capital Campaign.

I spent many summers at Camp Lutherlyn as a camper, PK (Pastor's Kid), KP (Kitchen Patrol), craft cabin, lifeguard, song and worship leader, counselor, winter retreat leader and served on the board of directors. Lutherlyn has contributed so much to my life as a teacher, host mom to exchange students and daily Christian life. We need to keep more youth involved in our future and Lutherlyn is that special place.

Please look for more information coming and I hope you will make a pledge to help Lutherlyn have a successful Capital Campaign.

Yours in Christ,
Darlene Frederickson
Congregation Leader for Lutherlyn



Meals-on-Wheels Cookie Program

Our Meals-on-Wheels cookie program is still ongoing. The cookies are picked up at the church on the **2nd Sunday** of each month and delivered to the center on Monday morning. Anyone is welcome to donate cookies. At the present time, we are permitted to bake our own or buy them. You do not have to pack them into baggies, the center does this.

If you wish to be on the cookie contribution list, we usually donate three times a year. However, we will accept any donations. Many of our long-time cookie bakers are no longer with us or are elderly and no longer able to continue. So won't you please step up and be one of our contributors.

Thank You, Dorothy Gesalman

PS: If you cannot be in church on the **2nd Sunday**, please put them on the kitchen counter or in the freezer with a date and mark "Meals-on-Wheels".

ATTENTION MEALS ON WHEELS COOKIE BAKERS



Homemade or Store Bought are welcome! Please drop your cookies off **AT THE CHURCH.**

MARCH

COOKIE BAKERS (GROUP 3) Cookie Sunday is March 10, 2024.

Dorothy Gesalman	Doris Wood
Karen Gesalman	Lucy Mento
Jill Hixson	

We are still collecting cookies for **Meals-on-Wheels**. At **180 meals per day, 5 days a week**, we get enough cookies for about **2 days**.

New contributors are always welcome.

Office Hours



Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9:00-3:00PM

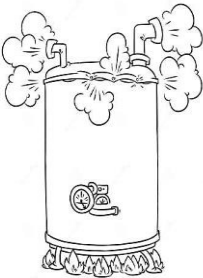
News & Announcements

*To include something in the bulletin, please have it to the church office by 9:00 am. Tuesday.

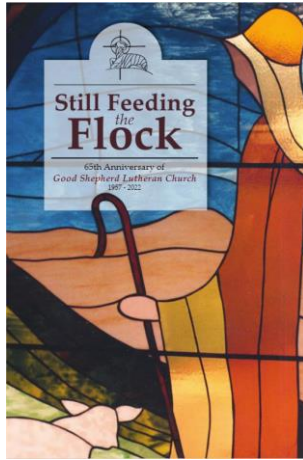
The deadline for the April Newsletter is March 18th.



The Prayer List has been updated and will be updated monthly. Every month all names will be removed. If you need a name added, please contact the church office. If you have any friends or relatives in the military that you want included, please let the office know.



We have begun the boiler fund drive. Simply use the green envelopes found at the pews. Clearly mark as "Boiler Fund" and include your envelope number. Also, put "Boiler Fund" on your check. Details about discussing this opportunity to help our church such as a 3-5-year commitment can be clarified by contacting
Denny Clawson at 724-331-2097 clawson.d@gmail.com.
-Thank you.



65th Anniversary Cookbooks are available!

\$15.00 per cookbook
over 250 recipes included

Contact the church office if interested in purchasing one



WANTED

Getting rid of any newer books? Looking for books published in the last 2-3 years that are no longer wanted to freshen up the church library located in the Social Room. Newer Movies DVD/Blu-ray also accepted.



Happy Birthday to:

March



James Askey	(03/01)
John Rutter	(03/01)
Drezden Gesalman	(03/06)
Antonio Mariani	(03/08)
Deborah Sullenberger	(03/13)
Elaina Fearer	(03/15)
Alexander Ryan	(03/15)
Michele McMahan	(03/22)
Scott Meyers	(03/23)
Mary Ann McMurtrie	(03/24)
David Welsh	(03/27)
Darlene Fligger	(03/28)
Erin Hill	(03/30)
Betty Nagy	(03/30)
Beverly Sarp	(03/31)

(If we have missed your birthday, we do not have it in our records. Please help us update them. Thank you

PRAYER LIST - Our thoughts and prayers are with the following:

Good Shepherd Members:

Tony Mariani
Miriam Starenchak
Jackie Guhl
Jane Elliott
Val Pollock
Erik Williams
Bernie Miller
Lillian Shea
Lynda Gesalman
Mina & Jack Rutter
Donna Sheridan
Mac McMurtrie

Friends and relatives of the Good Shepherd family:

Helen Bell

Those in care facilities:

Redstone Highlands: Bernie Fisher (Murrysville), Charlotte Hein

Mt. View Senior Care: Carole Bridges

St. Anne's: Becky Demi

Those in the Service

NATIONAL GUARD

Spencer Geohrig

NAVY:

Derek Leach

We pray for the safety of all military personnel and their families and give thanks to God for their service to our nation.

We welcome names for the Good Shepherd prayer list. Names will appear on the list for one month unless we are contacted to keep them longer. Thank you.