

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit
from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain me with
your bountiful Spirit.
(Psalm 51:10-12)*

Ash Wednesday (February 18) begins the season of Lent, a time in church and faith life of solemnity and repentance, when we more deeply reflect upon human sin and mortality and upon God's forgiving and saving grace in Christ, and then our response to it all. When I ponder these realities, the Psalmist's words bring both comfort and courage. Comfort because they remind me that God is ever merciful in the face of a human condition shadowed by the wages of sin, death and evil. God doesn't cast away human beings when we become weak and frail and near death; God holds and gathers. God doesn't take God's spirit away from human beings when we sin and fail, God gives and restores.

Being Comforted in Christ.

God operates in a very different way towards human beings than most of us expect or anticipate. From the heart of God, revealed to us in the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, springs forth a fountain of steadfast faithfulness and love, forgiveness and mercy for you, for all people. God readily and daily pours into human lives the abundance of God's mercy, forgiving us, washing us, creating in us a clean heart, and renewing a right spirit within us. We are daily freed from sin by the gracious love, mercy, and forgiveness we have been given. We are daily sustained with God's bountiful spirit.

Living Courageously in Christ.

With God created clean hearts and renewed spirits, we seek to live anew each day with courage. Restored to the joy of God's salvation in Christ, we are courage in Christ to live in service towards others—in vocations, in marriages and partnerships, in families and friendships, in sickness and in health, in times of ease and trial, plenty and scarcity. We are encouraged in Christ to lay aside the things that lead us into temptation, that hinder us from being more fully present and engaged in life, that keep us from loving God and loving neighbor, that tempt us to be complacent about sin and evil in times when action for peace and justice is so needed.

Walking in the light of Christ.

Living courageously in Christ, we awake from sleep and walk as children of light, for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. We seek to understand and do what is pleasing to the Lord; we seek to take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness (Ephesians 5:8-14). Rather, we live by the Spirit and bear the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). This is what it means to sing as we journey in Lent and in life:

I want to walk as a child of the light,

I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus!

God bless you with peace of mind and strength of heart
as you walk in the light of Christ!

— Pastor Kara



CALL TO ORDER- 01/19/2026 @ 6:35pm by Brian Gesalman

ATTENDANCE: Andrea Territ, Andrew King, Greg Bittner, Brian Gesalman, Linda Harbaugh, Jenny Luffy, Jack Gesalman, Pastor Kara Propst, Kathy Wolfe

ABSENT: Amy Donahue, Dee Salentino, Jim Stewart, Denny Clawson

Note: Newly elected and returning council members were welcomed by Brian Gesalman.

DEVOTIONS: Andrew King

ELECTION OF CONGREGATION OFFICERS

Brian Gesalman for President. Motion made by Kathy Wolfe, seconded by Jenny Luffy

Andrew King for Vice President. Motion made by K. Wolfe, seconded by Jenny Luffy

Kathy Wolfe for Recording Secretary. Motion made by J. Luffy, seconded by Andrew King

None opposed, all three motions carried.

Motion made by J. Luffy and seconded by L. Harbaugh that the three additional officers be retained as follows: Barb Tychinski as Treasurer, Jack Gesalman as Assistant Treasurer and Kathy Wolfe as Financial Secretary. None opposed and motion carried.

ACCEPT AGENDA

Motion to accept made by Greg Bittner and seconded by Kathy Wolfe. None opposed and motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Jenny questioned why the mounted heaters in the sanctuary were not working. Unsure who should address this problem. Andy volunteered to look into this. See committee reports.

OFFICER REPORTS

Pastor Propst submitted a calendar that included activities for both churches. There are 13 miles between Good Shepherd and Salem and mileage

reimbursement will be split between the two. Confirmation classes began in January for three students and will run for 12 months.

Treasurer's report was approved at the annual congregational meeting. No further action needed.

Motion to approve December 2025 minutes with no revisions was made by Jenny Luffy and seconded by Andrea Territ. None opposed and motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Christian Education - VBS kit has arrived and this year's theme is Rainforest Falls. Date in June TBD. VBS volunteer meeting scheduled for Sunday, February 1st at 7 pm.

B. Community Fellowship

Chili Cook-off on February 7th. Sign up to enter your chili.

Lunch with the Bunny on March 21st

Alice in Wonderland Party on April 25th

Community Yard Sale on June 13th

Christmas in July with date TBD

Chicken BBQ in September with date TBD

Trunk or Treat on October 16th

Light Up Night on December 4th

C. Fellowship

Hosting Trivia Night this Saturday at 6:30. Fun, food and testing of your team's knowledge of miscellaneous facts

The first Hot Dog Sunday to follow the service is January 25th and will continue through May.

Fellowship will be contacting the Greensburg Recreation Department regarding renting the Lund Pavilion at Mt. Odin in August for the picnic. Cost last year was \$200 and around 70 people attended.

Fellowship will be hosting Shrove Tuesday's pancake dinner on February 17th.

D. Property

Further discussed the sanctuary heaters not working. The Ladies room in the Education wing is very cold also. Andy to explore.

E. Finance

Certificate of deposit being renewed on January 20th for 5 months at an interest rate of 3.75%.

F. Worship and Music - Greg Bittner, Nancy Flinner, and Pastor Propst to meet with the organist of Salem Lutheran Church to explore her playing for both churches.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Members for Parish Council - Motion made by Jenny Luffy and seconded by Andy King to approve Linda Turchetta as the Member at Large, William Benton as Finance Committee representative, and Kathy Wolfe as the Congregation Council representative to the Parish Council. None opposed and motion carried. First meeting scheduled for February 23rd at 6:30 @ Good Shepherd.
- B. Notification Phone System revisited and tabled. Snow cancellation notification continues to be coordinated between Pastor and Council President and Vice President. Zoom service will be available on both church websites on the day of cancellation. Note: If looking on TV for church cancellation remember to look under “E” for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Lenten Money to be designated as follows:
 - Good Shepherd Food Pantry—\$100
 - West Point Volunteer Fire Department—\$100
 - Balance to the Westmoreland County Food Bank
- Amended motion made by Andrea Territ and seconded by Jenny Luffy. None opposed and motion carried.
- B. New council members provided contact information, chose months to deliver devotions and were assigned liaison committees.
 - C. Motion made by Jenny Luffy and seconded by Jack Gesalman to establish a Good Shepherd Anniversary Ad Hoc committee. Anniversary is in 2027. First meeting scheduled for March 1st at 7 pm.
 - D. Kathy brought up the possibility of direct deposit for the church employees whose salaries do not change on a monthly basis. Jack to discuss with the Treasurer and determine possible cost.
 - E. Council members invited to a retreat with Salem at The Yellow Bridge in Delmont on February 1st at 4 pm.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion made by Jack Gesalman and seconded by Linda Harbaugh. Closed with the Lord’s Prayer. Next meeting scheduled for February 16th at 6:30.

The NEW Joint Parish Council

From our Parish Agreement: The ministry and mission partnership between ELCGS and SELC shall be managed by a Parish Ministry Council consisting of the Pastor and 3 members of each congregation: 1 at large voting member from each congregation, 1 finance committee representative from each congregation, and 1 member of each congregation council to serve as parish liaisons who will report back to each congregation council.

Please join me in giving thanks to God for the members of Salem and Good Shepherd who volunteered and were appointed by each congregation Council to serve the initial 18-month period on the Joint Parish Council. Let us pray that God guide bless them in their work.

Salem

Cathy Piper — At Large Voting Member

Linsey Brown — Finance Committee Representative

Mike Sullivan — Council/Parish Liaison

Good Shepherd

Linda Turchetta — At Large Voting Member

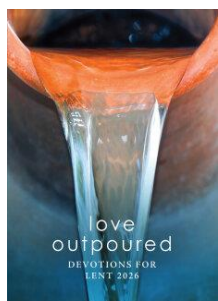
Bill Benton — Finance Committee Representative

Kathy Wolfe — Council/Parish Liaison

Financial Statements have been emailed. If you receive a paper copy it is available to be picked up in the Commons Area



Please keep an eye out on the church Facebook page for service cancellations and office closure due to snow. If announced on TV look under E for Evangelical.



Order Your Daily Lent Devotional Today!

Love Outpoured: Devotions for Lent 2026
by Yolanda Denson-Byers (Contributor) ...

Love Outpoured focuses on portions of the apostle Paul's letter to the Romans. In words that continue to speak to us today, Paul lays out foundational beliefs for a life of faith in Christian community.

The daily devotions for each day, from Ash Wednesday to the Resurrection of Our Lord / Vigil of Easter, begin with evocative images and brief scripture texts. The writers then bring their diverse voices and pastoral wisdom to the texts with quotations to ponder, reflections, and prayers. May God's love pour out into us and through us to our neighbors, churches, communities, and all creation!!

Pocket size (\$4) and Large Print (\$7) books are available!

To place your order: Call the church office or use the order form in the social hall.



Ash Wednesday Service – February 18

10:30 am- Salem Delmont

7:00 pm- Good Shepherd

Each year, Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent. On Ash Wednesday, we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of prayer and repentance. Marking our foreheads with ashes, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the ashes trace the life-giving cross of Jesus Christ indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. It is a time of reflection and renewal, as we recommit ourselves to living our lives as believers and followers of Jesus.

The service consists of both the receiving of ashes, as a sign of repentance, and holy communion, as a sign of Jesus coming again into our lives.

Wednesdays in Lent at Good Shepherd

Soup Supper: 6pm

Lent Devotion: 7pm

The church invented Lent with Easter and baptism in mind. From the very beginning, Lent was not about small stuff. Lent has aimed to place us in the center of it all: the crucified and risen Christ, our identity + given in baptism. Lent is a yearly invitation deeper into the heart of Christianity. Like Jesus did with Nicodemus, he beckons us toward the reign of God through a new birth by “water and Spirit.” (*From Worship Guidebook: for Lent and the Three Days, Augsburg Fortress, 2009, p, 38*)

Lent devotion on Wednesday nights will focus our attention on baptismal identity in Christ. We are people who consider all things — God, ourselves, others, daily life, etc. — through the lens of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus — so that we too may walk in newness of life with him, not only in our Lent pilgrimage but in earthly pilgrimage.

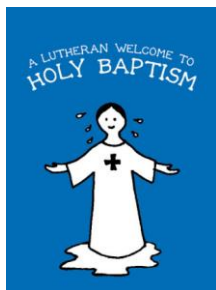
Feb 25: God comes to us

Mar 4: God speaks

Mar 11: Jesus makes trouble

Mar 18: Everything is a gift

Mar 25: This is all going someplace.



We will use a *Lutheran Welcome to Holy Baptism* to guide our devotion. If you would like a copy, use the signup sheet at church or call the church office.

All Are Welcome!

Holy Week in the Parish

Mark your calendar. Set a reminder.

Palm Sunday, March 29

8:30am Salem

11am Good Shepherd

Maundy Thursday, April 2

Good Shepherd, 7pm

Good Friday, April 3

Salem, 7pm

Vigil of Easter, April 4

Greensburg Cluster Churches & Clergy

Time and Place TBD



Easter Sunday Worship in the Parish

8:30am at Salem

11am at Good Shepherd

Come and celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior,
Jesus Christ!

He is Risen!

He is Risen, indeed!



Dear fellow members of Good Shepherd,

I hope this letter finds you well as we approach this season of Lent.

Our Lenten season will begin on February 18th, Ash Wednesday with worship at 7:00pm. Our Worship and Music Committee along with Pastor Kara Propst is preparing various services to join together in worship and fellowship. Starting weekly on Wednesday February 25th, there will be soup and sandwich gatherings in the social hall starting at 6:00pm, followed by 7:00pm services prepared by Pastor Propst. There will be a Maundy Thursday @ (Good Shepherd), and Good Friday (Salem Lutheran) services, each at 7:00pm. Please join in on these various worship and fellowship opportunities.

As we continue our new chapter in ministry in a partnership with Salem Lutheran, I encourage everyone to embrace new opportunities for fellowship, community, and general involvement in the life of the church and the Parish. Please take a look through the newsletter and weekly bulletins for various events to be involved. As always, you are also invited to join in the fellowship hour starting at 9:45am prior to Sunday service in the social room. I wish you all a meaningful Lenten season, filled with love and fellowship.

Let us greet each other in faith and share in God's word.

Sincerely,

Brian Gesalman

Council President

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 be divided between Good Shepherd Food Pantry, West Point Volunteer Fire Department & Westmoreland County Food Bank.





Don't want to miss out on events & interested in joining the youth group!?

Contact: Rachel King 724-454-6476



February

1st- 9:45AM

8th- 9:45AM

15th- Valentine's Day Party 9:45AM

22nd- 9:45AM



Trivia Night was a success!
Congrats to the winning team
Dave, John & not pictured Doug
& Brenda! Thank you to all who
braved the cold to come out and
participate in this FUN event!

Community Fellowship Upcoming Events



Saturday, February 7th 11-2PM-

Chili Cook-Off

Vote for your favorite chili!

Raffle Tree & Bake Sale

Tuesday, February 17th 5:00 PM-

Shrove Tuesday

**Join Fellowship & Community Fellowship
for Free pancakes, sausage & juice!**



Saturday, March 21st 12:00PM-

Lunch with the Bunny

Adult Cost-\$8.00

12 & Under- FREE

April 25th -Alice in Wonderland Party- More Info Coming

June -Rainforest Falls VBS- Date TBD/More Info Coming

June 13th -Community Yard Sale

July -Christmas in July

September -Chicken BBQ Date TBD

October 16th -Trunk or Treat

December 4th -Light Up Night

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



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church



www.goodshepherdgbg.org

A vibrant orange background featuring a bowl of chili, tortilla chips, and various peppers. The text is arranged in a dynamic, slightly curved layout.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church's Annual

CHILI COOK OFF

Saturday, Feb. 7 • 11-2PM

Savor a variety of delicious homemade Chilies.
Plus, enjoy our bake sale and gift card tree raffle!

A light blue and white background with a close-up of a pancake topped with butter and syrup. The text is centered and uses a mix of fonts.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Shrove Tuesday

Join us for FREE pancakes,
Sausage, & Juice!

Tuesday February 17 • 5-7PM

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Lunch *with* the Bunny

Saturday, March 21st

Lunch Served promptly at 12:15
Easter Bunny Will Arrive at 12:30

\$8.00/Adult

Kids 12 & under FREE

Scan the QR below to register
online by March 30



Questions? Call the Church Office
at 724-834-1940



Hot Dog Sunday



Join us for Hot Dog Sunday! On the last
Sunday of every month* gather in the Social
Room following the 10:30am service.

Enjoy a toppings bar, chips, side,
and a drink with your hot dog!

**Excluding November, December, June, July & August.*

Festival of Love Family Dinner

Saturday, February 14, 2026

Dinner at 6 pm, Music until 10 pm

at Salem Lutheran Church
301 E Pittsburgh Street, Delmont, PA 15626

FREE

Community Event

Spaghetti, Tossed Salad, &
Bread.

Please bring a dessert
to share!!

Music by
DJ Randy Barker

Donations are welcome!

All proceeds will support
a local charity.

Join us for
dancing, crafts, &
games!!

Please RSVP to Salem Lutheran Church
at 724-468-4189 or email
office@salemdeilmont.org by
Wednesday, February 11, 2026.

Sign up in Commons Area by **Wednesday, February 11th**

News & Announcements

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

The deadline for the March Newsletter is February 16th.



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!

In order to be entered your slip must be turned into office into container labeled

Find the cross by the
3rd Sunday of the month.



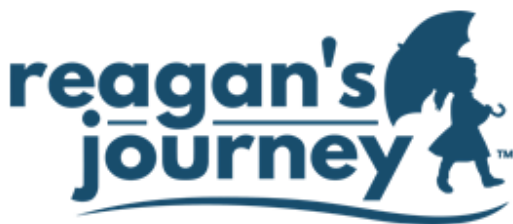
**Congratulations to our December/January winner
Jane Elliott**

*The cross were located on page
8, 15

BGS (Books, Games & Scriptures) Sunday, Feb. 15th after church Noon -

All women are invited to pack your own lunch and stay for an afternoon of fun! If you'd like, bring any book(s) you've read that you might want to share with the group. Then lend & borrow for a nice winter's read (but you don't have to). We'll be discussing plans for the next couple months especially our annual May dinner and your input is greatly appreciated. Then as time (and the weather allows), we'll have some laughs and play a game or 2. Contact Karen Gesalman at 724-309-2667 with any questions.

SWPA Women of the ELCA annual Convention Friday May 1st & Saturday May 2nd will be held at Good Shepherd again this year. The theme is "From Memories to New Beginnings" to celebrate both our new SWPA president and our new Bishop, Melissa Stoller. We are planning to have some musicians for entertainment this year as well as some interesting speakers. Friday night sign-in will start at 6:00 and we'll wrap up for the evening around 9:30. Then we'll pick up Saturday morning at 8, have a wonderful overloaded baked potato lunch by Lynn's Franks and wrap things up mid afternoon. Registration is \$20 to attend plus \$8 for Saturday lunch. Registration forms and money are due by March 31st. There are grants available for help with the cost which must be applied for by March 31st. See the SWPA website under ministries/welca in the Friends Inc newsletter for more details and registration forms or contact Karen and she will be happy to provide you with one.



2026 Designated Outreach is Reagan's Journey.

Reagan's Journey began in 2012 when Reagan's family quickly learned how difficult it can be when your child is given a medical diagnosis. She was born with a brain injury in 2008 and her family had to figure out how to acquire the proper equipment to help her thrive. When she outgrew those items, no one would take them back but they had so much life left in them. That's when her family decided to start a free pediatric closet where families, caregivers, agencies, and hospitals could help the children they serve get equipment they desperately needed without waiting upwards of 6 months and navigating through insurance denials and appointment wait times. Custom equipment is best, but no child should have to wait to sit, stand, and walk. Their goal is to make sure all kids have access to the right equipment to reach their full potential. Oftentimes, insurance will only cover ONE piece of equipment every 3-5 years. This is a hardship for families when children experience growth spurts and developmental changes. Reagan's Journey accepts gently used pediatric durable medical equipment and unused medical supplies. The items are sanitized and redistributed to children in need. Equipment donations come from local durable medical equipment companies, therapists and therapy facilities, special education schools, families, caregivers, and grant funds. Anyone in PA and surrounding states who is caring for a child with special needs and is willing to make the trip. We've served families in PA, MD, WV, OH, IN, NY, and even Canada! If they schedule an appointment and make the trip, they can have access to the items at the Closet. Each week 10-15 families, caregivers and/or therapists visit the closet for critical medical supplies and pediatric equipment. Since 2017, we have saved families over \$4

MILLION by giving them the equipment & supplies they need for their kids - all for FREE! At this time we are asked to help by donating to their Wish List:

- Monetary Donations: Their greatest need is financial support. It costs \$150 per family to operate the Reagan's Journey Closet. On average they serve 500 families/year. Financial support keeps the Closet FREE. Please make checks payable to: SWPA Women of the ELCA & Designate to: Reagan 's Journey Mail checks to: Janet Fishovitz 136 Clearwater Drive Ellwood City, PA 16117
- \$25 Gift Cards: Amazon, Walmart, Sheetz
- Baby Wipes
- Disposable Adult Bathing/Cleansing Wipes

Thank you for your donations and if anyone has any questions, please let me know.

New nominees are needed for our 2027 Designated Outreach which will be voted on at the May convention. If you have a favorite non-profit group that helps women &/or children, please provide them with an application to fill out and turn it in by April 1st.

Save the dates:

July 16-19, 2026 national Triennial Gathering in Des Moines, IA - Register now for better prices! If we get enough attendees from this area, we may be able to charter a bus.
Sept. 25-27, 2026 SWPA & NWPA Retreat at Camp Lutherlyn

ATTENTION MEALS ON WHEELS COOKIE BAKERS



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

FEBRUARY

COOKIE BAKERS (GROUP 2) Cookie Sunday is February 15, 2026.

Pat Gatons	Ellen Monnich	Susan Rhome
Darlene Frederickson	Val Pollock	
Carol Clawson	Lucy Mento	

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.



Food 2 Go for West Point Elementary

bags will be delivered Thursday, March 5th.

Please support by this program by taking a child off the wall located in the Commons Area and returning the picture with **\$16.00**. Each child represents 2 kids!



Vacation Bible School Volunteer MTG-
Sunday, February 1st 7:00PM



2027 will mark the **70th** Anniversary of Good Shepherd. We will be forming an Anniversary committee early **2026** to plan festivities to make this exciting milestone. We are also looking to do a new directory next year. If you are interested in being involved in either or both, please contact the church office! Come share your ideas to make this the best Anniversary yet!! **1st meeting will be held March 1st @ 7:00PM**



Please mark your calendars to remember that the annual Souper Bowl of Caring will be conducted at worship services to be held February 7 and 8, 2026, corresponding with the time of the NFL Super Bowl. This collection of funds will be turned over to the Westmoreland County Food Bank, Inc., and is part of a nationwide campaign originated and annually conducted by church youth to help their local communities. Look for the Big Soup Pot + at the church services, or you can mail your donation to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 501 Fairfield Drive, Greensburg, PA 15601. Please include Souper Bowl of Caring on the memo line of your check.

Thanks to all of you for caring!



Enrollment for Rocking Horse Preschool for the 2026-2027 year is OPEN for 3 Year Old & 4 Year Old Classes.

AM Classes fill quickly so register early



Preschool Class Portal
(3 & Young 4 year olds)



Pre-K Class Portal
(4 & 5 year olds)

Happy Birthday to:

February



Andrew Fox	(02/02)
Carole Bridges	(02/04)
Denise Adamrovich	(02/9)
Thomas Meyers	(02/10)
Joe Cottrill	(02/18)
Mycal Jones	(02/19)
Kristina King	(02/20)
Clifford Fligger	(02/21)
Reese Sikora	(02/21)
Carrie Dorko	(02/23)
Emmett Ober	(02/24)
Dorothy Flock	(02/26)

(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
Jackie Guhl
Jane Elliott
Val Pollock
Erik Williams
Mac McMurtrie
Bill Ambrose
Jerry Plummer
Nancy Flinner
John Strasser
Chuck Ober
Kay Wright
Joy Stynchula

Friends and relatives of the Good Shepherd family:

Lauren Floyd
Brian Murphy
Janice Territ
Gianna
Chris Brinker
Tobi Geyer
Maxine Shroyer
Sarah Besser
Bob Neumann
Elaine Grace
Kevin Ober
Silas Howells
Maria Meyers
David Beistel

Those in care facilities:

Redstone Highlands: Donna Sheridan, Dorothy Stewart

Mt. View Senior Care: Carole Bridges

Woodcrest Senior Living Community: George Billig

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.