



**CHURCH
COUNCIL**

JUNE

Minutes recorded by Diana Salentino.

Call to order- 6:30 pm by Brian Gesalman, Chair.

Attendance; Bonnie Altman, Andrew King, Diana Salentino, Brian Gesalman, Jim Stewart, Andrea Territ, Linda Turchetta, Denny Clawson and Pastor Paul Gruesu.

Excused; Amy Donahue, Jenny Luffy, Greg Bittner, Jack Gesalman.

Devotions; Jim Stewart.

Election of Congressional Officer: Jim Stewart nominated Diana Salentino for Secretary. Denny Clawson seconded and Council approved. Diana Salentino is the new Council Secretary.

Accept Agenda; Motion to accept agenda by Linda Turchetta, seconded and approved.

Communications;

- It has been reported to Church Council that the Boy Scout group that utilizes our social room, has shown disrespect for the property. The Sexton found evidence of misuse in the restroom. The Boy Scout leaders have been notified that they must correct this behavior among the scouts.

Reports;

- Pastor Sheehan baptized Logan Jeffery Nagle, on May 11, 2025. In attendance were Logan's parents; Nickolas and Amanda Nagle and his brother Noah.

- Pastor Gruseu reported on visitations to members.

- Pastor Gruesu advised and ministered to the family of Jack Ritter throughout his viewing and funeral on April 29,2025.

- Motion to accept April minutes, Andrew King, seconded and approved.

Committee Reports;

Christian Education; Vacation Bible School is June 16- 20th.

Community Fellowship;

- Cinco De Mayo was a huge success!- The community yard sale will be Saturday June 14th. Church members can purchase a 6 foot spot to sell items in the parking lot. The spot cost \$20.00. Food will be sold in the social room.

- Vacation Bible School is June 16-20th.

- Future Events; Outdoor movie, July 26th; Chicken BBQ September 6th; October 17th Trunk or Treat; Light Up Night December 5th.

Youth-Youth went to Urban Air Sunday, April 27th . They had a great time!

Property- Urinal divider in men's room was reattached to the wall. Social Room ceiling tile fell and broke in half. The common entrance to the church will be closed between Monday, June 23, through Friday 27th. There will be drainage repair and concrete being laid.

Fellowship; Church Picnic will be August 24th. It will be at Mount Odin Park, Lund Pavillion.

Rocking Horse Preschool; 2025-2026 class registration remains the same with (4) 3-year old students and (12) 4-Year-old students. RHPS is continuing to recruit and advertise. Board members attended a Westmoreland + Preschool Expo on April 28th. Discussions are being held with a potential board president. Mother's Day Tea and Graduation is scheduled for May 2025.

Old Business;

Search for partner congregation- A prospective congregation has expressed interest in a shared pastor. It is a procedure that is moving along steadily.

Council Retreat- The Congregation Council and Congregational officers will meet for a retreat on June 1st. At Kathy Wolfe's home.

Voting Members for 2025 Synod Assembly- Karen Gesalman and Bonnie Altman will be our representatives to vote at the Synod assembly. The assembly will be at La Roche University, June 12, 6pm to June 14, 12:30 pm.

Internal Audit- Linda Turchetta is preparing information to review the audit.

New Business;

A. The Pa. Corporate Annual Report is a work in progress.

B. Rocking Horse Preschool has confirmed that Darlene Frederickson has accepted the nomination for the President position. Council recognizes and accepts this motion, Jenny Luffy 2nd. Cindy Iwig accepted the nomination for the new Preschool Director and 3-year old teacher position. Council recognizes and accepts this motion, Jenny Luffy 2nd.

C. Review budget support with the RHPS deficit. Finance chair will be in discussion with Rocking Horse Preschool.

D. Synod assembly is asking for special funding for the Levi Fund. This fund is in honor of Bishop Kusserow to ensure the next Bishop will have provisions to perform her duties. Jack Gesalman motioned that Council could use \$100.00 from Pastor Discretionary Benevolent and \$100.00 from Council Designated Benevolent funds to use as seed money for Levi Fund offering. Council motioned and approved.

E. Pastor Paul expressed the importance of pastoral boundaries at the end of a pastor's call.

Adjournment; Motion to close by Denny Clawson seconded and approved. Closed with the Lords Prayer. Next meeting August 18, 2025.

August

Minutes recorded by Diana Salentino.

Call to order- 6:33 pm by Brian Gesalman, Chair.

Attendance; Pastor Kara Propst, Pastor Paul Gruesu, Bonnie Altman, Andrew King, Diana Salentino, Brian Gesalman, Jim Stewart, Andrea Territ, Linda Turchetta, Amy Donohue, Jenny Luffy, Greg Bittner, Jack Gesalman.

Excused; Denny Clawson

Devotions; Brian Gesalman.

Accept Agenda; Motion to accept agenda by Jenny Luffy, seconded and approved.

Communications; Pastor Gruesu and Rachel King have sent out Confirmation letters to families with eligible students. Three family's responded and a schedule is to be announced.

Officer Reports;

Pastor Gruesu reported on visitations to members and meetings.

Pastor held worship services at Redstone Highlands, Greensburg, Pa.

Motion to accept amended minutes, Jim Stewart, seconded and approved.

Motion to accept Treasurer report by Jim Stewart, seconded and approved.

Committee Reports;

A. Community Fellowship. We hosted a community outdoor movie Saturday 8/9/2025.

Upcoming Events; Chicken BBQ- Saturday, September 6th 11:30-2:00pm tickets on sale until August 31st. Stoooges Night-

Saturday, October 4th 5:00 pm. More info coming.

Trunk or Treat- Friday, October 17th 6:30- 8:30pm. Trunks Needed!!

Turkey Wreath- Sunday, November 2nd 1:00. Adult craft.

Light up Night- Friday, December 5th 6:00-8:30pm Volunteers needed.

B. Rocking Horse Preschool. RHPS Report for the month of June 2025.

The preschool will operate at a deficit for the 2025-2026 school year. The Preschool must control expenses. The Church will consider

assisting the preschool when compiling the 2026 budget.

Registration for the 3-year-old class will continue throughout the summer. As of June there are 5 students enrolled and 2 considering the school. Discussed recruitment tools including advertisement at Twin Lakes Heritage Festival and Harold Zion Church has discussed sharing “wait list” candidates.

Cindy Iwig is approved by the Church Council to serve as Director for RHPS. Orientation for 2025-2026 school year is scheduled for August 19 at 6:pm

D. Christian Education. We had 18 youth participate in Vacation Bible school this year. Huge thank you to all who volunteered their time!! Next year’s kit has been ordered the theme is Rain Forest Falls. Sunday School will kick off Sunday, September 7th.

E. Fellowship. Church Picnic will be August 24th.at 1:00pm. Hot Dog Sunday will be back! Beginning September 28th and will continue on the last Sunday of every month.

F. Property. The committee is receiving quotes for snow removal this winter. Andrew King is stepping down from being the Chair of Property Committee. He will still be active as a liaison.

Old Business;

A. Search for partner congregation- Good Shepherd Church held a pulpit swap with Salem Lutheran Church in Delmont, Pa. On August 10th. Pastor Kara Propst held worship service at our Church and a luncheon was a held afterward to allow a congregation meet and greet.

Eight Good Shepherd members attended the Salem Lutheran council meeting on August 14th. Pastor Propst and Pastor Asplin were also in attendance. This meeting was the beginning of negotiations on sharing a pastor. The topics covered were; service times, general Pastoral duties between congregations, responsibilities of each church. A prospective first parish agreement draft meeting will be held September 6, 2025.

B. Internal Audit- Linda Turchetta has reviewed information with Barb Terek and is moving forward.

C. Pa. Corporate Annual Report. Barb Terek has completed this report.

New Business;

A. Rocking Horse Preschool. RHPS has updated its by-laws. Council will table this approval of the by-laws until the September meeting.

B. Organist update. There will be a luncheon after church, on Sunday September 7th to celebrate Jean Brunot's retirement. Greg Bittner will be our interim organist until we can find a permanent person. Pastor Propst might have a lead on someone for this position.

C. Review of Counsel Roster. Good Shepherd Church Council has four positions open for 2026. Three spots are eligible for reinstatement. There is one spot open for a new candidate. Bonnie Altman has completed her term on council and will have to rotate out, Thank You Bonnie for your service.

Adjournment; Motion to close by Jack Gesalman, seconded and approved. Closed with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting Monday, September 15, 2025.



Starting **September 7th** Sunday services will start at 10:30AM

**SAVE THE
DATE**

**Wednesday, October 1st
6:30PM**



Lutherans Help Immigrants and Refugees Settle in America

Immigration, refugees, and asylum seekers have been the focus of much discussion and action in our country in the past few years. It is sometimes a challenge to know what is right or wrong, and what action we as individuals and congregations can take. You may not know this, but Lutherans have been helping immigrants and refugees for many generations.

For more than 85 years, Global Refuge (formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service) has provided the resources, guidance, and community to help forge a way forward for New Americans. We're committed to helping people reimagine the possibilities while providing a soft place to land.

With more than 1,000 partners and 50,000 volunteers, we are the largest faith-based national nonprofit exclusively dedicated to helping restore a sense of home to immigrants and refugees. Since 1939, we've built a legacy of compassion by walking alongside more than 800,000 new neighbors as they rebuild their lives in the United States.

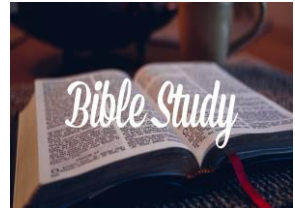
Disinformation and hateful rhetoric about immigrants and refugees are everywhere... on social media, in political speeches, on the news, and beyond.

At Global Refuge, we know the truth: **immigrants and refugees make the United States a better place. Not only is welcoming newcomers the right thing to do, it's the smart thing to do.**

At GlobalRefuge.org, you can find reliable information from fellow Lutherans who have worked for years with immigrants and refugees. I found their section entitled "Myth vs. Facts: Debunking Common Misconceptions about Immigrants & Refugees in the U.S." to be most + informative. I would be happy to talk with any member about Global Refuge, or the work they do to welcome people to America in the name of Jesus Christ.
Pastor Ed

What Is Important to Luke?

Each of the four gospel writers highlighted different actions and teachings of Jesus. Knowing what was important to Luke, as well as Matthew, Mark, and John, help us to better understand the whole of who Jesus was, what he did, and what he taught.



Pastor Ed will continue an Adult Bible study beginning on Sept. 7. The class will meet the first and third Sunday of each month – Sept. 7 & 21; Oct. 5 & 19; Nov. 2 & 16. The discussion is informal, and any questions you have about the gospels, or our beliefs in general, are encouraged.



Westmoreland Choral Society Concert – Sunday, Oct. 5

The Westmoreland Choral Society Concert will perform its Fall Concert “Living Composers” on Sunday, Oct. 5, 3:00 pm, at First Presbyterian Church, downtown Greensburg. The Choral Society will be joined by the Latrobe High School

Chamber Choir for four of their own pieces, as well as joint music. See Pastor Ed for details.

Bishop-Elect Stoller’s Installation

As many of you already know, with the retirement of our current SWPA Synod Bishop, Rev. Kurt Kusserow, our SWPA Synod has elected a new Bishop, Rev. Melissa Stoller. All are welcome to attend her installation on Saturday, October 18, at 1pm, at Berkeley Hills Lutheran Church, 517 Sangree Road, Pittsburgh, PA, 15237. Bishop-elect Stoller will begin her duties as Bishop on September 1. Please keep her in your prayers as she begins this important ministry for our Synod! Feel free to contact Pastor Paul if you’d like to attend the installation, as the Synod has requested those attending to RSVP.

Election of new Churchwide Bishop of the ELCA

Our current Churchwide Bishop of the ELCA, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, recently announced her upcoming retirement. With that in mind, on July 30, 2025, at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Arizona, Bishop

Yehiel Curry, the current Bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, was elected as our new Churchwide Bishop of the ELCA. Please lift up Bishop-elect Curry and the ELCA in your prayers in this exciting time of transition for the ELCA!



INSTALLATION OF
The Reverend
Melissa L. Stoller
TO THE OFFICE OF BISHOP

By the grace of Almighty God, your prayers and presence are requested at a celebration of the Rite of Installation for the Reverend Melissa Stoller as Bishop of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

OCT | 18 | 1 PM

Reception to Follow

Berkeley Hills Lutheran Church
517 Sangree Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Please RSVP by September 15



HAVE A WATCH PARTY!

We want everyone to be included. The service will be livestreamed. Ask your leaders about having a watch party at your church!



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

Contact: Rachel King 724-454-6476



Pre/K-8th Grade

Sunday School kick off is **September 14th 9:30AM**

We look forward to welcoming everyone back!

We will kick off with a breakfast of
Pancakes, Bacon & Juice!



**Food 2 Go-
West Point Elementary**

Look for the kids posted in the Commons Area and donate for our upcoming packing in October!

Community Fellowship Upcoming Events

Saturday, September 6th 11:30-2:00PM -



Saturday, October 4th 6:30PM -

Join us for a fun evening with the
Stooges-Presentation by Rich Sanner

Friday, October 17th 6:30PM-8:30PM -

Trunk or Treat & Fun House

Join us for a Spooky evening of Tricks & Treats
Grab some coffee at the **Coffin Bean & Co.** or



some tasty food from **Chick-fil-A!**

More information coming soon



Sunday, November 2nd 1:00PM -

Adult Craft

Make a festive turkey wreath for your door!

Deadline to register is October 19th

Friday, December 5th 6:00PM-8:30PM -

4th Annual Light Up Night



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



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church



www.goodshepherdgbg.org

Stooges Night

Saturday, October 4 • 6:30PM

Join us for a fun evening for a Three Stooges presentation by our very own Rich Sanner!

Dinner will be provided:

pizza, salad, drinks, & dessert.

Sign up in the Church Commons area by September 28.



good shepherd lutheran church



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17 | 6:30PM-8:30PM

Join us for a Spooky Evening of Tricks & Treats!

Grab some coffee at the **Coffin Bean & Co.** or something tasty from **Chick-fil-A!**

FREE Trunk or Treating, Funhouse, Bonfire, S'mores & more!

Adult Craft

Turkey Wreath



Day: Sunday, Nov. 2 **Time:** 1:00PM **Cost:** \$15/person

Light refreshments will be provided.
20 participants max.

Pay & register by scanning the QR Code or
by contacting the church office at 724-834-1940.



SCAN TO REGISTER

save the date!

Light Up

West Point
& Wendover

Friday, December 5 • 6-8:30PM

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
501 Fairfield Drive

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.*





TRUNKS NEEDED!

This Year Trunk or Treat will be held on
Friday, October 17th 6:30-8:30PM.

We need volunteers to decorate their trunks & hand out treats to all attendees. On average we have had around 50-60 kids participate in the past. We encourage incorporating lights into your décor as it will be dark.

Look for a sign up that will be posted in the Commons Area/contact the church office or scan the QR Code to register your car!



Volunteers Needed!

This will be our 4th Annual Light Up Night!
This is Good Shepherd's largest community event. We have some new and exciting plans once again for this year. Our Light Up Committee has been meeting monthly. Anyone is more than welcome to attend. Look for a sign up to be posted soon for volunteer time slots as well as a raffle donation sign up if interested in donating a basket for our raffle!



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 June, July, August winner
Fran Ober**

*The cross was located on page
2, 4 & 13

News & Announcements

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

The deadline for the October Newsletter is September 15th.



**Rocking Horse
Preschool
Enroll Today!**

3 yr old AM & PM Classes
Tuesday & Thursday

4 yr old AM & PM Classes
Monday, Wednesday & Friday

Scan QR to register online

501 Fairfield Drive • Greensburg, PA
Questions? Contact church office at (724) 834-1940



September Committee Meetings

Anyone welcome to JOIN!

Sunday, September 21st 7:00PM- Light Up Night MTG



Join the Choir...
**You'll Be Glad
You Did!**

Choir will resume on Sunday,
September 7th practice is at 9:30AM!
Hope you will join US!

BGS (Books, Games & Scripture) Monday, Sept. 8th at church 6:30. Bring any books you've read that you might want to share with the group. We will have a brief devotion and discuss dates and plans for future activities. Your input is appreciated.

Save the dates: July 16-19, 2026 national Triennial Gathering in Des Moines, IA

SWPA Women of the ELCA Designated Outreach 2025:

Robin's Home Veteran Services opened in April of 2020. They are a transitional housing program providing a continuum of care for homeless, unstably housed and low income female veterans and their children. Headquartered in Butler, they also serve the larger surrounding area. Beyond housing, they offer peer support services and safe spaces for veterans to share their stories with empathetic support of one another. They address mental health and promote personal growth. By also running Veterans HEART Resource Center, they offer a range of services including education, employment assistance, healthcare advocacy and community engagement. You may find more information at <https://robinshome.us>. Our church is asked to help them by donating the following items:



- shelf stable coffee creamer & sugar
- individually packaged snacks (granola bars, pop-tarts, cookies, crackers, pretzels, etc. good until at least October 2025)
- cleaning supplies
- towels and washcloths
- \$25 gift cards - Walmart, Aldi or Visa

Monetary donations also desperately needed and appreciated. You can do this by making Checks Payable to: SWPA Women of the ELCA and designating them to Robin's Home. Then bring them to retreat or mail them to: Janet Fishovitz

136 Clearwater Drive
Ellwood City, PA 16117

The big pink box is in the vestibule to collect any donated tangible items but please do not leave gift cards or checks there.

Tangible items will only be collected thru Sunday Sept. 21st because they will be delivered the following Friday. Checks can still be mailed to Janet thru the end of the year.

If you have any questions about any of the Women of the ELCA activities, please contact Karen Gesalman at 724-309-2667.



HARVEST HOME FOOD COLLECTION

The congregation's annual Harvest Home food collection to benefit the Good Shepherd Food Pantry will be conducted on Saturday October 18, 2025, and Sunday October 19, 2025.

Food items most needed are: Cereal, Juice, Peanut Butter & Jelly, Soup, Pasta & Sauces, Canned Fruit and Vegetables, Chicken & Tuna Salads, Pancake Mix & Syrup, Condiments (Ketchup, Mustard, Mayonnaise). Please bring your donations of non-perishable foods for display at the worship services on October 18th and 19th. Thank you!



We would like to thank Jean on her many years here at Good Shepherd as our organist. We are so thankful and wish you all the best. You will be missed. Happy Retirement from all of us at Good Shepherd.

**ATTENTION MEALS ON WHEELS
COOKIE BAKERS**



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

SEPTEMBER

COOKIE BAKERS (GROUP 1) Cookie Sunday is September 14, 2025.

Barbara Henderson	Donna Sheridan
Fran Ober	Sue Strasser
Fran Robb	

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.

Happy Birthday to:



September

Kristy Alderson	(09/01)
Andrew Mellon	(09/01)
Valerie Pollock	(09/01)
Sandra Wright	(09/01)
Robert Gesalman	(09/03)
Michelle Ryan	(09/03)
Richard Neiderhiser	(09/04)
Morgan Mull	(09/06)
Zachary Meyers	(09/10)
Miriam Starenchak	(09/11)
Christine Adams	(09/12)
Noah Nagle	(09/13)
Deborah Territ	(09/14)
Jamie Luffy	(09/15)
Andrea Territ	(09/15)
Tristyn Mays	(09/20)
Jessica Darragh	(09/23)
Kenneth Hill	(09/25)
Michael Hook	(09/26)
Amy Donahue	(09/28)
Peyton Starenchak	(09/30)

(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
Lynda Gesalman
Mac McMurtrie
Bill Ambrose
Mina Rutter
Darlene Fligger
Debbie Sullenberger
Jerry Plummer
Nancy Flinger
John Strasser
Chuck Ober
Brynn Ecker

Friends and relatives of the Good Shepherd family:

Lauren Floyd
Brian Murphy
Janice Territ
Gianna
Chris Brinker
David Gesalman
Tobi Geyer

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.



Soft Pumpkin Cookies

Prep Time: 20 mins

Cook Time: 12 mins

Total Time: 32 mins

Yield: 3 dozen

These Soft Pumpkin Cookies are the softest, fluffiest, most tender pumpkin cookies I have ever tasted! They will absolutely melt in your mouth!

Ingredients

2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour

1 teaspoon baking soda

1 teaspoon baking powder

1 teaspoon cinnamon

1/2 teaspoon nutmeg

1/2 teaspoon salt

1 1/2 cups granulated sugar

1/2 cup butter, softened

1 cup pure pumpkin

1 egg

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1 cup powdered sugar

Instructions

Line baking sheets with parchment paper or spray with non-stick baking spray.

Combine flour, baking soda, baking powder, cinnamon, nutmeg, and salt in a medium bowl.

Beat granulated sugar and butter with mixer on medium high speed, then blend in pumpkin, egg, and vanilla until incorporated.

Gradually mix in flour and dry ingredients. Refrigerate dough for 3-4 hours. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

Scoop dough into one inch balls. Roll in powder sugar, place dough balls on baking sheet (12 per sheet) and bake for 11-13 minutes.

Remove from baking sheet to a cooling rack. When completely cool, store cookies in an airtight container.

Fall Activities

Word Search



X F I R E P L A C E L O U N G I N G H Y
H U A Y M X F Q O W E N T Y W P E H A X
M E M O R Y S C R A P B O O K I N G U U
J O U R N A L W R I T I N G I D G J T H
V R V P P U Z Z L E S O L V I N G K U L
P X C I F F S O U P C O O K I N G N M S
U J A D E M O G A I Y G X S G N V I N T
X T N W V M O R J E I V S P I A M T P A
Q E D E C R A F T C R E A T I N G T A R
K A L S D O V R I B R T A A R R J I I G
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G I I J P L O M W Y I H N D I S C O G G
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S N C J I B A K I N G S P I C E S C K G
Y L X U S T O R Y S H A R I N G A T B K
V R Q N P E W J X R E A D I N G N O O K



READING NOOK
KNITTING PROJECT
BAKING SPICES
PUZZLE SOLVING
COCOA SIPPING
MOVIE MARATHON
GAME NIGHT

FIREPLACE LOUNGING
FORT BUILDING
MEMORY SCRAPBOOKING
JOURNAL WRITING
CANDLE MAKING
AUTUMN PAINTING
CRAFT CREATING

STORY SHARING
QUIET MEDITATING
TEA BREWING
SOUP COOKING
LEAF PRESSING
STAR GAZING

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