



## **GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Date February 17 2025**

Minutes recorded by J. Gesalman due to vacancy in the Recording Secretary position

### **Election of Congregation Officers:**

Recording Secretary; position discussed, no nominations, tabled

### **Accept Agenda**

Items added:

Under New Business Social Room Microphone

Worship & Music Committee Report

– Motion to accept as amended by A. King, seconded and approved

### **Communications**

Thank yous were sent by Worship & Music Chair concerning the new organ

Notification was given to scouts concerning behavior and locking up procedure

Notices should be given to Rachel concerning notes to council rather than simply placing them in councils' mailboxes

### **Reports**

- Pastor's reported on his visitations to members and meetings, and church services at Redstone and at Good Shepherd
- Jan 20th Minutes; Motion to Accept J Stewart, seconded and approved
- Treasurer and Asst Treasurers reports; Motion to accept J Luffy, seconded and approved
- Annual Congregation meeting minutes; Motion to accept B Altman, seconded and approved Note: they will still need approved at Congregation Meeting

## Committee Reports

**Evangelism** – kickoff meeting was Feb 13, next meeting will be March 13

**Community Fellowship** – Shrove Tuesday Free Pancake and Sausage dinner will be March 4<sup>th</sup> 5-7, Lunch with the Bunny will be Saturday April 5<sup>th</sup> 12pm, and Cinco de Mayo Buffet will be Monday May 4<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-7:30 (Quatro de Mayo because of scheduling issue)

**Finance** – showed levels of gifts in 2024 and discussion followed for notification and thank yous from the Financial Secretary and it was decided that they were unnecessary and a security risk if done by anyone else. They are part of the annual financial statements and information on them is available to the donor from the Financial Secretary.

**Fellowship** – Aiding with Shrove Tuesday and Wednesday Soup & Sandwich during Lent

**Rocking Horse Preschool** – Registration has begun for 2025/26 school year. Marketing and recruiting discussed. First Aid Certification for teachers is scheduled, State Certification application submitted. Audit is scheduled. Update of RHPS Board Handbook is being revisited.

**Worship & Music – Ash Wednesday** is March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00; **Lenten** Soup & Sandwich begins March 12 at 6:00 with service at 7:00. Theme will be a different biblical person whose life was changed by Christ every Wednesday. For **Holy Week**, Taize Service will be April 16<sup>th</sup>, Maundy Thursday April 17<sup>th</sup>, Good Friday April 18<sup>th</sup> all at 7:00. **Easter Services-** Sunrise Service is at sunrise and Easter Service is at 10:30 with Easter Breakfast between the services. There will still be a **Saturday Evening Service** at 5:30

## Old Business

**Church Council Roster** distributed and checked. A Donahue appointed Evangelism Liaison

A new **church directory** was discussed and tabled until our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary or progress is made on achieving a shared pastor

20 Letters to select local congregations concerning **sharing a pastor** were revised showing new officers, reviewed and signed by president and sent Feb 10<sup>th</sup>

Moving of **34 inactive units** from the active to inactive rosters was discussed. Motion to make this move was made by J Stewart, seconded and approved

## **New Business**

The **female troop of the Scouts** request to have an overnight at the church was discussed and restrictions and parameters were discussed. Motion to waive the \$150 hall use fee, but keep the \$25 sexton fee and \$50 refundable security fee was made by J Stewart, seconded and approved

The **submission of articles** recognizing persons or events within the church submitted by church members and their publication in the newsletter was discussed at length and it was decided to examine these on an individual basis to determine if they would be published. It was agreed the length could not be longer than a page, (which is a half sheet), permission from the family or individual being recognized must be obtained, they should be submitted in a timely manner and the article will be printed under the submitter's name.

A **council retreat** will be held May 3<sup>rd</sup> for Congregation Council and Congregation Officers.

**Renumbering of envelopes** to lessen the number of envelopes ordered saving the church money and decreasing waste. The new numbers will go into effect for 2026 but envelopes should be ordered by the end of February. Motion to this effect made by J Luffy, seconded and approved

Good Shepherd gets two voting representatives to **Synod Assembly** but can send more. Three names were discussed as interested in going. Order of business at the assembly will include electing a new bishop.

Getting a lapel or ear-piece **microphone** that is compatible with the Social Room sound system was referred to Property who will investigate options

**Adjournment:** Motion by J Stewart. Closed with Lord's Prayer, Next meeting March 17, 6:30



## Ash Wednesday Service – March 5 – 7:00 pm

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.

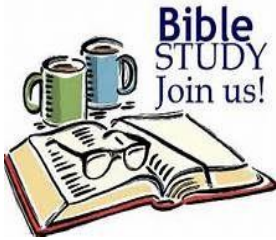
### Wednesday Evening Soup Dinners and Mid-Week Lenten Services

Christians have celebrated the 40-day season of Lent since the early times of the church. It is a time to take a deep dive into the stories of Jesus and his ministry and teachings. This Lent, the Mid-Week Services focus on the stories of five people whose lives were changed by their encounter with Jesus. Each service will contain prayers, Bible readings, hymns, and a dramatic monologue from each of the five persons. The services begin at **7:00 pm**, and are about thirty minutes long and reflective in nature.

The five stories are:

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| March 12 | Jesus Goes to Zaccheus House                 |
| March 19 | Jesus Heals a Man Overcome with Evil Spirits |
| March 26 | Jesus Teaches the Rabbi (Teacher) Nicodemus  |
| April 2  | Jesus Touches and Heals a Man                |
| April 9  | A Roman Army Officer Comes to Faith          |

Each service will be preceded by at **6:00 pm** with a community soup and sandwich dinner, (bring your own sandwich) hosted by a church group.



## **Wonder about what makes Luke's gospel special?**

Then come to the bible study lead by Pastor Ed on the first and third Sunday of the month, at 9:30 am. Luke, like the other three gospel writers, had his own particular take on the life of Jesus, and its meaning. The class is informal, and the discussion often takes the class all over the lot with questions about the bible, what we believe, and how to live it out in everyday life.

## **Election of a New Bishop of the Synod in June**

Our synod will elect a new bishop in June 2025, as Bishop Kusserow is retiring. The bishop who is elected will serve a six-year term. The Bishop provides leadership, oversight, and spiritual guidance for both the pastors and congregations in the synod. Discernment and hearing the call of the Holy Spirit for the right person to be elected as the bishop is something that happens both as individuals and communally.

Save the Dates: Two sessions of the Synod Assembly 2025

- 1) Saturday, May 17, 2025  
One Morning on Zoom Only  
Ecclesiastical First Ballot (nominating ballot)
- 2) Thursday, June 12 thru  
Saturday, June 14, 2025  
In-Person Only

Please consider being one of the two voting members from Good Shepherd, who will be responsible for this important task.



**Pre/K-8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**JOIN US**

**Sunday mornings 9:30AM**

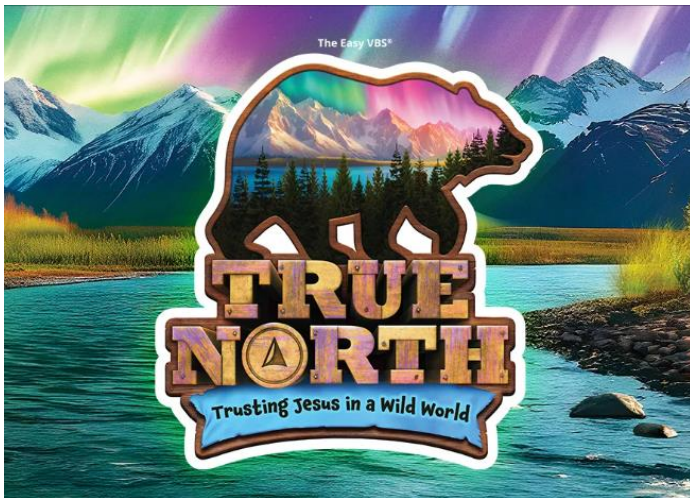
**\*There will be no Sunday School on March 9<sup>th</sup>**

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



Contact: Rachel King 724-454-6476



**Save the DATE!**

**June 16-20<sup>th</sup>**

Interested in helping this year? Please contact the church office!

# Community Fellowship Upcoming Events

**Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> 5:00 PM-7:00PM-**  
Shrove Tuesday  
Join Fellowship & Community  
Fellowship for Free pancakes, sausage  
& juice!



**Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> 12:00PM-**  
Lunch with the Bunny

Adult Cost-\$5.00  
12 & Under- FREE



Scan QR code to register. Deadline to register is March 30<sup>th</sup>

**Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> 5:00PM-7:00PM-**  
Cinco de Mayo Taco Bar  
Join us for Tacos, Dessert & Fun



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



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church



[www.goodshepherdgbg.org](http://www.goodshepherdgbg.org)

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

# Lunch with the Bunny

12:00PM

Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>

\$5.00/Adult

Kids 12 & under FREE

Scan the QR below to register  
online by March 30



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



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

## Shrove Tuesday

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Join us for FREE pancakes,  
Sausage, & Juice!

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Tuesday March 4 • 5-7pm





# 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.*

**January Trivia Night Winners**  
 John Mathers & Mark Gesalman



**February Soup Cook-Off Winners**  
 1<sup>st</sup> Place Beth Ober  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Jack Gesalman

## Lent 2025

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 March 5<sup>th</sup>, Ash Wednesday with worship at 7:00pm. Our Worship and Music Committee along with Pastor Sheehan is preparing various services to join together in worship and fellowship. Starting weekly on Wednesday March 12<sup>th</sup>, there will be soup and sandwich gatherings in the social hall starting at 6:00pm, followed by 7:00pm services prepared by Pastor Sheehan. A Taize service will be held on Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, followed by Maudy Thursday, and Good Friday services, each at 7:00pm. Please join in on these various worship and fellowship opportunities.

If you are looking for other opportunities to engage at Good Shepherd, I would like to also remind you of the fellowship hour starting at 9:30am prior to Sunday service in the social hall and the various committees you could become involved with. Our faith as Christians calls us to come together for strengthening of our faith, glorifying God, and fostering community. I wish everyone a season of connection, a season of love, and a season of promise. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

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

Sincerely,

Brian Gesalman

Council President

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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 Lutheran Disaster Relief.





### **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  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday** of the month.



**Congratulations to our February winner  
Mary Ann McMurtrie!**

**\*The cross was located on page 9 \***

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## *News & Announcements*

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\*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 17<sup>th</sup>.**

# 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



## March Committee Meetings

**\*Anyone welcome to JOIN!\***

**Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> 6:30PM-Light Up Night MTG**

**Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> 6:45PM-Evangelism MTG**

**Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> 6:30PM-Community Fellowship MTG**



**Calling ALL Women, you are invited!**

**BGS (Books, Games & Scripture) Sunday Mar. 16th after church, Noon-2.** Please pack your own lunch and bring any books you've read that you might want to share with the group. We will have a brief devotion, some fellowship, discuss our upcoming activities and play a game or two.



**Tues., May 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 will be the Annual Ladies Dinner.** ALL Ages of women and girls are invited! Our program will be "SPRING INTO A BETTER DAY!" by inspirational speaker, author and professional balloon twister, Faerie M. Grace. Dinner will be sirloin tips with noodles and more provided by Fuggenthaler catering. Tickets are \$25 for adults and teens, \$12 for girls 6-10 and children 5 and under are free. Tickets will be for sale in the vestibule.

**Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup> & Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup> will be the SWPA Women of the ELCA annual convention.** (This is NOT Memorial Day weekend and will be here at Good Shepherd). The theme is "The Lord Gives you Hope and a Future". Bishop Kusserow is going to be honored Friday evening for his many years of service to our synod. He will be retiring in the summer of 2025. You MUST pre-register and pre-pay \$20 to attend dinner at 6:15 p.m. Fuggenthaler catering will be serving a buffet featuring stuffed chicken breast, roast beef au jus and more. The program, immediately following, will have some special surprises. We hope you plan to attend



dinner as well as the convention immediately following, around 8:00 p.m., for important voting and other matters. We will wrap up around 9:30 p.m. and continue Saturday morning with worship led by the bishop at 8 a.m. Following service there will be elections for a new President, Treasurer, Board Members, Designated Outreach and Triennial Voting Members. Please consider running for one or more of these positions. Triennial convention has been changed to being held online for financial reasons with details to be released later. Registration forms for Friday dinner (\$20), convention (\$20) and Saturday's lunch (\$6 loaded baked potato bar provided by Lynns Franks) for a grand total of \$46, are available from Karen Gesalman or online and need returned to New Brighton, PA by May 1<sup>st</sup>. If you are interested but would like to apply for a grant to help defray the costs, grant request forms are available and need submitted by March 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Do you have a guest room?** We are looking for people in the greater Greensburg area who may have a spare room that would be willing to let a woman, or 2, stay the night with them for convention. If you do, could you please email our registrar, Roberta Herrington [daherrington@comcast.net](mailto:daherrington@comcast.net). We have women who want to come to convention from other areas but often don't have the money for a hotel room. Thank you for your consideration.

**New nominees are needed for our 2026 Designated Outreach** which will be voted on at the May convention. Do you have a favorite local non-profit group that is in need of tangible items, money or gift cards and not just volunteers? If you do and would like to see a boost to their donations, please provide them with an application to fill out. You may contact Karen at 724-837-1439 with any questions or for a form.

## **SWPA Women of the ELCA Designated Outreach 2025:**

At convention last May, a new 2025 Designated Outreach was elected: Robin's Home

Veteran Services. They opened in April of 2020 and 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 honor and support our veterans by providing a comprehensive and inclusive center which strives to create a welcoming and empowering environment. It offers 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
- laundry detergent & dryer sheets
- cleaning supplies
- brooms, dustpans, mops, mop buckets
- towels and washcloths
- \$25 gift cards - Walmart, Aldi or Visa

Monetary donations also appreciated by making Checks Payable to: SWPA Women of the ELCA and designated to Robin's Home. Then bringing them to convention or mail them to:

Janet Fishovitz

136 Clearwater Drive

Ellwood City, PA 16117

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

**Save these Dates:**

**Sept. 26-28 2025 retreat at Camp Lutherlyn** – more information later

**July 16-19, 2026 Triennial Gathering in Des Moines, IA**  
– This is a lot of fun, learning and a spiritual experience being in the presence of hundreds of Lutheran women from all over the country and abroad! 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.

If you have any questions about any of the Women of the ELCA activities, please contact Karen Gesalman at 724-837-1439.



Save the Date:

**April 22, 2025**

**11:00-4:30PM**

Appointments are available now through the Red Cross website.





## Meals-on-Wheels Cookie Update

Calling all cookie bakers! Our Meals-on Wheels donation program is still in operation. Fifteen years ago we had 17 contributors per month. Now we are lucky to get 5 or 6 contributors per month. Could you help out? Now that the weather is getting cooler we can bake up a storm! (Just kidding!) But seriously, how can you make a difference? Just send 3 or 4 dozen cookies to the church on the second Sunday of the month. No nuts or coconut please. The elderly recipients will be thankful! P.S. Bought cookies are also acceptable and appreciated.

-Dorothy Gesalman, Coordinator

## ***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 9, 2025.**

Dorothy Gesalman	Jill Hixson	Lucy Mento
Karen Gesalman	Doris Wood	

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.***

# Boy Scout Troop 416

## Pancake Breakfast

PANCAKES, CHOICE OF SAUSAGE OR BACON,  
COFFEE OR JUICE

Saturday, March 15, 8:00 to 10:30 AM  
Good Shepherd Church



\$10 – Adults

\$7 – Children 3 to 12

Children under 3 free

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All proceeds benefit the Troop 416 Program Fund  
Learn more about us at [www.troop416.net](http://www.troop416.net)

# 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



A belated THANK YOU to everyone who made my 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday so special.

-Fran Ober

**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  
Bonnie Altman  
Matt Alderson  
Jess Darragh  
Jack & Mina Rutter  
Darlene Fligger

**Friends and relatives of the Good Shepherd family:**

Laura Starzynski & Family  
Lauren Floyd  
Brian Murphy  
Gertrude Pezzoni  
Janice Territ

**Those in care facilities:**

**Redstone Highlands:** Charlotte Hein, 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.