



On November 1, we will celebrate All Saints Day in worship. On this day, we give thanks to God for all the saints and all the beloved departed in the last year. We give thanks for the redeemed sinners, aka saints, of God who are still among us. We give thanks for the saints of God still to come.

In chapter one of Ephesians, Paul prays that the faith community might understand the wisdom, hope, and power of God that is embodied in Jesus Christ. He writes:

*“15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, 18 so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. 20 God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. 22 And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.” (Ephesians 1:15-23)*

Reflecting on Paul’s words, we might ponder upon the communion of saints, past, present, and future who sought, seek, and will seek to understand how to navigate this gift of life and faith with the wisdom, hope, and power of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Even more, Even more, we might ponder how our understanding of these things has been influenced by people of God past and present who helped to form our understanding of the gospel. Here are some saints of God whose lives, stories and writings have influenced my faith and my understanding of the gospel of Christ.

St. Maria of Paris — I saw an icon of her recently at Antiochian Village with a quote, “Love to the end and without exception.” This hit my soul because it’s the type of faith active in love I want to live in my daily life, but it’s sometimes difficult. In those cases, I have to pray and ask Jesus to help me love who seems unlovable. I’m going to be studying more about St. Maria to see how she came to this conclusion of faith.

St. Katherine von Bora, the wife of Martin Luther. Katie was a powerhouse and the right helpmate for Luther. She was a support for him, but we must remember that she stood on her own. A former nun, she ran the household and kept everyone fed and clothed, including all the students and guests Luther would show up with. She had a home-based business of brewing beer to support the household. My favorite quote of faith from her is, “I will cling to my Lord Christ as a burr on a coat.” Her love for Jesus was wide and deep and it influenced her whole life.

St. Mildred of Salem — I have given her this name. She was a member of Salem who was a shut-in that I used to visit before her death. She told me a story of her life about how once she had to choose between holding onto a principle at the cost of a beloved relationship or holding onto a relationship with her beloved one at the cost of a principle. This was certainly not easy. Yet, she said, and I will never forget, “I chose my daughter over my principle, and I have no regrets. To have a loving relationship with her was the most important thing.”

This month, I invite you to ponder: Who helps you to know Jesus? Whose faith active in daily living helps you to navigate the stuff stuff? Whose stories help you to grow in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit? Who are the saints of God influencing your life and faith? If you don’t have any, I encourage you to study and get some. It is tremendously helpful to consider and understand how the saints of God navigated life with the wisdom, hope, and power of the gospel of Jesus Christ. I invite you to share with someone what you’re pondering. Finally, I invite you to reflect how you — a redeemed sinner and saint of God — are influencing the lives and faith of those around you. Rise up, O saints of God! Proclaim the good news of Jesus!

Blessings,  
Pastor Kara



# Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

## Church Council Meeting Summary

October 19, 2026

**11** In Attendance

| **5** Decisions

| **5** Motions Passed

*The Church Council met with eleven members present to conduct business on several facility projects and administrative matters. The council addressed exterior repairs to the arch pillar, with Denny volunteering to prime and paint after regular wood was used in the repair, and discussed parking lot sealing, with the contractor recommending a spring 2027 timeline and funding to be drawn from Major Repairs. For brick replacement and pointing work, the council received a donation toward seamless gutters and Jim provided a contractor recommendation, though a final decision on the pointing and brick company was deferred pending additional donations for the gutter project. The council also approved continuing implementation of direct deposit payroll with the bank, advancing grant funding efforts with the Scott Foundation under Denny's leadership, and ongoing updates to the RC Management Upgrade software. Several motions passed unanimously: approval of the minutes reports and treasurer report, approval of Rachel King and Sarah Anderson as Rocking Horse Preschool board members, and acceptance of Jack Gesalman's resignation as Finance Committee Chair effective October 19, 2026, with the council now tasked with finding a replacement. Additional action items included updating social room rental agreements to clarify bounce house restrictions, with Rachel advertising the rental option on the church website, and potentially combining the Vacation Bible School fire department donation with Advent collections for the West Point Volunteer Fire Department.*

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If you are in need of a Thanksgiving Basket or know of anyone that is in need of one contact the church office (724-834-1940) by **November 15<sup>th</sup>**. Baskets must be picked up between **9-3PM** on **November 24<sup>th</sup>**



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

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

**November**

1<sup>st</sup> - 9:45AM

8<sup>th</sup> - 9:45AM

18<sup>th</sup> - 9:45AM

22<sup>nd</sup> - 9:45AM



**29<sup>th</sup> – NO SUNDAY SCHOOL-Advent Dinner**

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*Christmas Poinsettias*



Sign-Up sheet is posted all orders must be placed by  
November 29<sup>th</sup>  
Cost: **\$12.00**



**Operation  
Christmas Child  
Boxes ARE HERE!**

Each box packed full of quality toys, school supplies, and personal care items becomes a tangible expression of God's immense love for the child. For many, it is their first gift ever! Delivered by our local church partners, shoebox gifts provide an opportunity to present the Gospel to boys and girls in a clear, child-friendly way. Pick up your box in the church social hall. Boxes must be returned **November 15th** to be blessed during Worship.

# Community Fellowship Upcoming Events



**December 4<sup>th</sup> 6:00-8:30PM**

Light Up Night

Come Celebrate Our 5<sup>th</sup> Year!

**It's our 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary and we are celebrating BIG!**  
**Join us as we celebrate this special milestone with some**  
**Whoville magic!**

**This year's festivities include:**

Craft Vendors, Raffle Baskets

Food Trucks (Poullich Pit, Kickin Korn Dogs, Funky Funnels)

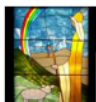
Free Hot Cocoa, Caricatures by Ray

Goodie Bags, Scavenger Hunt

DJ, Horse & Carriage Rides

Santa, the Grinch, and so much more!!!

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



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church



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



### Volunteers Needed!

This will be our 5<sup>th</sup> 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!

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church's Annual

# Advent Dinner

Sunday,  
Nov. 29  
5:00PM

Welcome the Advent season with a delightful evening of dinner and fellowship, followed by live Christmas music from *The Infamous*, featuring our very own Ronna Yeager!



Add your name below & bring your favorite covered dish to share. Ham and dessert will be provided courtesy of the Worship & Music Committee.

*Please sign up no later than November. 22.*



Join us at Good Shepherd and help us  
decorate for Christmas.

**Saturday, November 28<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30AM.**

Lunch will be provided. Please sign up in  
the Commons Area or contact the church

office if attending so we have a count for lunch.

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**Sunday, NOVEMBER 29<sup>th</sup>**

**at 5:00 PM.**

Sign-Up posted in the Commons Area.

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**Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:00AM**

Please plan to attend!



**Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**

**7 pm**

Blue Christmas Service

The Blue Christmas/Longest Night service is designed for anyone who is stressed, lonely, or grieving during the holiday season. Everyone is welcome: Lutheran, Christian, non-Christian. Please share with anyone you know who might benefit from this service.

**Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

Salem Lutheran: **4:30PM**

Good Shepherd: **7:30PM**



# Estimates of Giving for 2027

This newsletter includes your “Estimate of Giving-Pledge Card”. This year’s card will be distributed thru this newsletter and at the Church beginning in October. They will be collected throughout the rest of the year and dedicated Nov 15. Pledging does help the Finance Committee prepare the budget for the next year.

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## Look to the Future, Committing our Pledge – 2027

Env # \_\_\_\_\_

Good Shepherd, thru the efforts our church leaders, committees and membership, has continued to offer a full schedule of worship, education and fellowship under the leadership of Pastor Kara Propst thru 2026. Please consider an increase in both your giving and participation. Your continued support is necessary and an increase in the support would be appreciated to help meet our rising costs in 2027. Pledge cards will be collected in November and dedicated Sunday, Nov 15.

In a deepening sense of discipleship and faith, I would like to make the following commitment:

My commitment is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per

☐Week      ☐Month      ☐Year

☐ I am not pledging at this time but will continue to support Good Shepherd

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

# Upcoming Events at Salem Lutheran



## Annual Roast Beef Dinner

**Saturday November 7, 2026**

**4:30 - 7:00 pm**

at

Salem Lutheran Church  
301 E. Pittsburgh Street  
Delmont, PA 15626  
724-468-4189

Adults \$20.00   Age 6 - 12 \$7.00   Under 5 - Free

Tickets are available on Sunday mornings, or can be purchased in the church office Monday 11-1 pm or Thursday 10 - 4 pm.

Sponsored by Thrivent Financial and Social Ministry/WELCA.

### *Volunteer Opportunities*

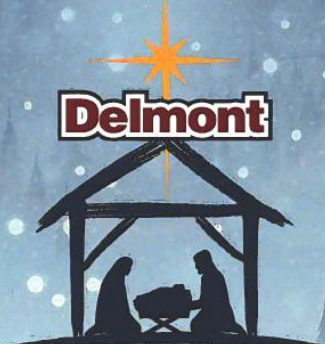
**EVENING  
PILGRIMAGE**

**SATURDAY**  
**12/05/26**  
5:00PM TO 9:00PM

**SUNDAY**  
**12/06/26**  
5:00PM TO 8:00PM

*A dramatic presentation  
of the Christmas Story  
geared for ages 13 and up*

**Delmont**



**Christmas  
Pilgrimage**

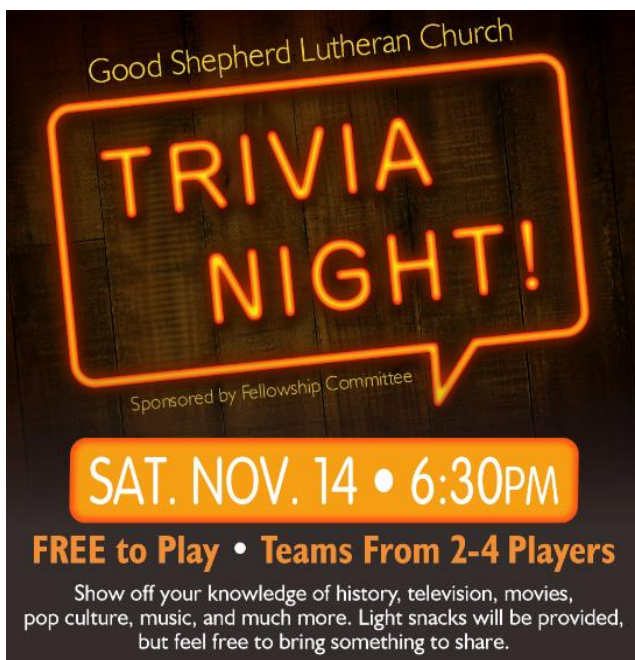
**PILGRIMAGE  
JUNIOR**

**SUNDAY**  
**12/06/26**  
2:00PM TO 4:30PM

*Interactive telling of  
the Christmas Story  
for ages 12 and under*

*Experience the Love  
at Shields Farm*

**DelmontPilgrimage.com** | **DelmontPilgrimage@gmail.com**



We are having a pre-holiday Trivia Night **November 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30.**

This event is so popular the Church Fellowship Committee decided to have a second one in 2026. It is a fun time of socializing and eating while you and your team attempt to answer questions about all sorts of trivia ranging from history to pop culture. If you can't bring your own team we will put teams together. Winners in January, 2026, were Dave Wolfe and Jim Mathers from Good Shepherd and Doug and Brenda Rosensteel from Salem Lutheran. If you can answer the question "What fictional character fell + asleep in the Catskill Mountains for twenty years?" you can play, and if you can't, you can still play! A signup sheet is posted in the commons. Our fellow parish church, Salem Lutheran, is being invited as well. You are encouraged to bring finger food but it is not necessary. Sliders will be provided by the committee.



## 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 October winner**

**Jane Elliott**

\*The cross was located on page

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## ***ATTENTION MEALS ON WHEELS COOKIE BAKERS***



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

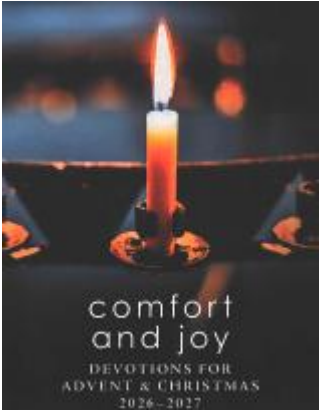
## **NOVEMBER**

**COOKIE BAKERS (GROUP 3) Cookie Sunday is November 8, 2026.**

|                  |                |               |
|------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Doris Wood       | Karen Gesalman | Carol Clawson |
| Dorothy Gesalman | Jill Hixson    | Dixie Mowl    |

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!***



**Comfort and Joy: Devotions for Advent & Christmas by Lisa Smith (Contributor) ...**

Jesus is coming; Jesus comes to us at Christmas and in each day; and Jesus will come again. These are the "tidings of comfort and joy" ("God rest ye merry, gentlemen") that we proclaim throughout Advent and Christmas. Drawing on centuries of Christian tradition, Comfort and Joy draws attention to God's surprising

presence and action as we prepare for Jesus' birth during Advent, rejoice at his arrival throughout the twelve days of Christmas and the day of Epiphany, and anticipate his future return. Cost for pocket size \$3.50 or large print \$7. Sign up in the Commons Area or contact the church office.

*Just a few*

**REMINDERS**

— regarding the —

*Food Pantry*

**@ Good Shepherd**

 **IT IS AVAILABLE  
24/7 TO  
ANYONE IN NEED**



 **GUIDELINES FOR  
FOOD DONATIONS**

- Non perishable in date items accepted.
- All donations are to be placed in bin under pantry. Church staff will sort through the items & place them in the pantry.
- Any items donated past expiration will be discarded.

 **FOOD ITEM  
SUGGESTIONS**

|                                                                                                   |                                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  Cereal        |  Canned meat  |
|  Powdered milk |  Pasta        |
|  Pancake mix   |  Pasta sauce  |
|  Syrup         |  Juice        |
|  Soup          |  Canned fruit |
|                                                                                                   | <i>Etc.</i>                                                                                      |

 **Thank you again to everybody  
who supports and donates  
to this mission.** 



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

Eight minutes.....that's all it takes for a PREDATOR to reach out and groom your

CHILD. Sadly online child exploitation is the fastest growing criminal industry in our country. LEARN MORE:

FBI Internet safety guidelines: <https://www.fbi.gov/how-we-can-help-you/online-safety> or **come to a special**

**program on Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. by Darlene Crawford.** She will give a presentation

emphasizing the importance of online safety and the dangers children, teens and women can encounter. She is striving to increase awareness of human trafficking and encouraging churches, community groups and local organizations to become involved in efforts to protect children and women. It is happening right here in southwestern PA! For more information: visit the Facebook page, Under His Wings.

**Both Men and Women are welcome to attend this presentation. Light refreshments will be served. Please sign up by the water fountain.** After the presentation W/ELCA will have a brief meeting in the council room to finalize plans for the Epiphany Tea and perhaps choose a date for the May dinner.

**SAVE THESE DATES:**



Women of the **ELCA**   
Southwestern Pennsylvania  
Synodical Women's Organization  
Convention

**May 14-15, 2027**

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
501 Fairfield Drive  
Greensburg, PA

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Ephesians 2:10 NIV

# Happy Birthday to: November



|                    |         |
|--------------------|---------|
| Julianna Paluch    | (11/02) |
| Maggie Isler       | (11/04) |
| Gabrielle Trickett | (11/04) |
| Isabella Trickett  | (11/04) |
| Jack Gesalman      | (11/06) |
| Brynn Ecker        | (11/08) |
| Lucas King         | (11/09) |
| Cody Barnard       | (11/14) |
| Taylor Dunn        | (11/15) |
| Jim Stewart Jr.    | (11/16) |
| Gail Brown         | (11/17) |
| Richard Hall Jr.   | (11/20) |
| Beth Bush          | (11/23) |
| Mackenzie Halfhill | (11/24) |
| Colton Isler       | (11/24) |
| Dixie Mowl         | (11/24) |
| Carrie Jackson     | (11/25) |
| Peyton Ryan        | (11/28) |

(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  
Jerry Plummer  
John Strasser  
Chuck Ober  
Kay Wright  
Joy Stynchula  
Vincent Smith  
Wendy Strasser Mcdonnal  
Kathy Wolfe  
Joyce Coates  
Jessica Darragh

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

Lauren Floyd  
Brian Murphy  
Gianna  
Connie Brinker  
Tobi Geyer  
Maxine Shroyer  
Bob Neumann  
Elaine Grace  
Kevin Ober  
Silas Howells  
Maria Meyers  
David Beistel  
Joanie S  
Camryn Ecker  
Amanda Jo  
J. Arturo  
Bob McCorkle  
Bill Lengel  
Ronna Yeager

**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