



Minutes recorded by Diana Salentino.

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

Attendance; Pastor Paul Gruesu, Diana Salentino, Brian Gesalman, Linda Turchetta, Amy Donohue, Greg Bittner, Jack Gesalman, Jenny Luffy, Andrew King, Andrea Territ . Jim Stewart and Denny Clawson were excused.

Devotions; Jenny Luffy.

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

Communications; Brian Gesalman reported that the UPG Car Club was interested on using our parking lot for their meetings/ gatherings. Brian discussed the rules with the group and has not heard back from them as of yet.

Officer Reports;

Pastor Gruesu reported on visitations to members and meetings.

The following are corrections to the September minutes. Good Shepherd Council currently has Four positions open for 2026. The motion to accept the agenda, the minutes and the treasurer report was Jim Stewart. The motion to close the meeting was Jack Gesalman.

Jack Gesalman motioned to accept September minutes with corrections, seconded and approved.

Motion to accept Treasurer/ Finance reports by Greg Bittner, seconded and approved.

Committee Reports;

A. Youth. The Youth went to Evergreen Drive on Friday, October 3rd for Trunk or Treat and to watch the movie Casper.

B. Rocking Horse Preschool. The budget for the 2025-2026 school year was presented to the Board and approved. All tuition payments were received for the month of September. Enrollment for the school year is (6) 3-year olds and (14) 4-year olds. RHPS Bylaws are in the process of being revised. Teacher contracts are signed and waiting for Council approval. Website updates are in progress and new director paperwork has been sent to the State and waiting

for acceptance. RHPS is reviewing ideas to celebrate the 50th Anniversary during the 2026-2027 school year. West Point Fire Department is scheduled for a visit in October during Fire Prevention month. Pictures are scheduled for October 15th and 16th. The next meeting is Wednesday, October 15, 11:45 am.

C. Community Fellowship. Stooges Night was a fun evening. Huge thanks to our presenter Rich Sanner. Trunk or Treat will be held Friday, October 17th 6:30- 8:30pm. Adult Turkey Wreath Craft night Sunday, November 2nd 1:00. The cost is \$15.00. Spots are still available. The Fourth annual Light up Night is Friday, December 5th 6:00-8:30pm Volunteers needed! There a sign-up sheet posted in the commons area of the church. It was brought to Council the importance of volunteers needed for Community events. This involves set up, manning, and cleanup. These events are enjoyed by many families some with young children throughout Westmoreland County. Come out and have fun while being a Volunteer!!!!

D Finance. Jack Gesalman Has started asking the Church Committees for their 2026 budget requests. These are due by November 11, 2025. Congregation Pledge cards will be available from October 25th to November 16, 2025.

Old Business;

A. Rocking Horse Preschool. Linda Turchetta motioned for Council to accept the Bylaws as presented. The motion was seconded and approved.

B. Search for partner congregation. A Parish Agreement draft was presented to the Council for review. There will be amendments to the initial agreement. Greg Bittner motioned for Council to accept the proposal as it will be amended. Council will also have a final vote on the Parish Agreement via e-mail. The motion was seconded and approved. Pastor Gruesu abstained from the Parish Agreement motion and future vote. The Parish Agreement will take affect November 30, 2025. This is pending approval of both councils.

C. Internal Audit. Linda Turchetta and Barb Terek have been finalizing the audit. Linda is hoping to have this completed by the end of October.

D. Organist update. Greg Bittner reported that he and Nancy Flinner had interviewed a candidate. Unfortunately, he withdrew his application. At present, we are still actively seeking an organist. We have 3 guest organists for November.

E. Council Roster. There are four positions available to be on Council. Amy Donahue and Andrea Territ agreed to run again for their positions. Kathy

Wolfe is planning on running for a position on Council. If anyone is interested to be on Council, please contact Brian Gesalman.

New Business

A. Rocking Horse Preschool. RHPS has presented for approval a tree mural to celebrate their 50th anniversary. The tree mural would be in the hallway. The branches would hold seasonal leaves and photographs of students and staff from the last 50 years. The Property Committee would be involved in approving the hallway paint color and oversee the mural project. Motion to accept the Mural by Linda Turchetta, seconded and approved.

B. Advent Funds. The Advent Funds collected this year will be donated evenly to The West Point Fire Department and The Westmoreland Food Bank. Motion to accept by Jenny Luffy, seconded and approved.

C. Annual Reports. The Committee reports are due back to Rachel King by December 15, 2025. Rachel needs these reports to add to the Annual Report which will be presented at the January Congregational Meeting.

Adjournment; Motion to close by Andrea Territ, seconded and approved. Closed with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting Monday, November 17, 2025.

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.





We wanted to provide an update to the congregation on our partnership with Salem Lutheran Church of Delmont. We are finalizing the Parish agreement to enter into an 18-month trial period for shared ministry and to become partners in our parish mission. Much will look the same as each church will maintain their individual councils and committees as well as their own budget and events. But I encourage everyone to look for opportunities to join in events at Salem Lutheran church as well and to welcome + members of Salem to join in at Good Shepherd events. Once approved by the synod and council, the 18-month trial begins, with a target start date at the beginning of Advent on November 30th. As part of the change, the weekly Sunday service will move to 11:00 am, with Sunday School starting at 9:45 am. Saturday services will continue as scheduled. Please reach out to me or other council members with any questions or concerns you may have.

Thank you and God Bless,
Brian Gesalman
Council President

Council regrets to acknowledge the passing of Bonnie Altman a congregation council member who served for many years on council as well as many other committees.

Finance Committee

This newsletter includes your “Estimate of Giving-Pledge Card”. This year’s card will be distributed thru this newsletter and at the Church beginning November 1-2nd services. They will be collected throughout the rest of the year and dedicated Nov 16 at 10:30 service. Pledging does help the Finance Committee budget for the next year.

Moving into the future, Committing our Pledge – 2026 Env #_____

Good Shepherd has continued to offer a full schedule of worship, education and fellowship thru 2025 thanks to the efforts of Pastors Sheehan, Clement, and Dennis, Interim Pastor Gruesu, our lay church leaders, committees and membership. Please consider an increase in both your giving and participation to make hiring a new pastor a more attractive proposition. Your continued support is necessary for the growth of our church. Pledge cards will be collected from now to Dedication Sunday, Nov 15-16.

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_____



Get Involved in Worship

Readers and Greeters/Ushers Needed for Sundays

As you all know, the congregation council is in conversation with Salem Lutheran Church to share Pastor Kara Propst as joint minister. In order for this arrangement to work smoothly, Good Shepherd has to have Readers and Greeters/Ushers in place each Sunday in advance. Since Covid, the practice of signing up in advance for worship leadership has fallen by the wayside. We want to re-institute using the sign-up sheet, to have it in place, if and when the two congregations formally join hands.

I am asking members who have either been or want to begin being Readers or Ushers/Greeters to reach out to myself, Rachel King, or Jack Gesalman, to reaffirm your willingness to be involved in this work. We will put out the sign-up sheet in November, and ask that you take a turn each month or two. This will insure that worship leaders will be in place on Sunday mornings, when Pastor Propst arrives to lead worship.

Thank you in advance.

Pastor Ed

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 17th**. Baskets must be picked up between **9-3PM on November 25th**



Christmas Poinsettias

Sign-Up sheet is posted all orders must be placed
by December 1st

Cost: \$12.00



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

**Friday, November 28th @
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.



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

Contact: Rachel King 724-454-6476



Pre/K-8th Grade

November

2nd- 9:30AM

9th- 9:30AM

16th- 9:30AM

23rd- 9:30AM

30th- NO Sunday School



Community Fellowship Upcoming Events



Sunday, November 2nd 1:00PM -

Adult Craft

Make a festive turkey wreath for your door!

Registration Closed



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



Friday, December 5th 6-8:30PM

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. Sign up is posted for volunteer time slots as well as a raffle donation sign up if interested in donating a basket for our raffle!



October Committee Meetings

Anyone welcome to JOIN!

Sunday, November 9th 7:00PM- Light Up Night MTG



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 October winner

Fran Ober

***The cross was located on page**

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News & Announcements

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

The deadline for the December/January Newsletter is
November 17th.



Join us for a celebration
luncheon **November 23rd**
following **10:30AM** service.
Keep an eye out for more details
in the next few weeks.

A colorful graphic for 'Rocking Horse Preschool' enrollment. The title 'Rocking Horse Preschool' is in a playful, multi-colored font, with 'Enroll Today!' in a blue brushstroke font below it. The graphic is framed by a border of various colored crayons. In the center, there is a QR code with a red brushstroke background. To the left of the QR code, the text lists '3 yr old AM & PM Classes Tuesday & Thursday' and '4 yr old AM & PM Classes Monday, Wednesday & Friday'. Below this, it says 'Scan QR to register online' with a yellow arrow pointing to the QR code. At the bottom, a purple brushstroke banner contains the address '501 Fairfield Drive • Greensburg, PA' and the contact information 'Questions? Contact church office at (724) 834-1940'. A small illustration of a rocking horse is in the bottom right corner.

**Rocking Horse
Preschool
Enroll Today!**

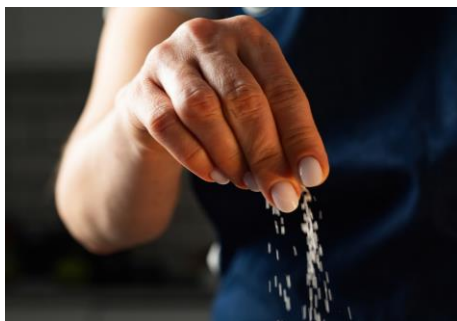
3 yr old AM & PM Classes
Tuesday & Thursday

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

The next meeting will be on Sun., Nov. 16th noon-3 (bring your own lunch). We will be having a **Special Guest, our Churchwide Treasurer, Jennifer Armstrong-Schaefer.** She will be telling us more about what our churchwide organization does, especially with our offerings. We are collecting a “SALT” offering (Share Abundance, Love and Thanks) as our Thankoffering this year at this meeting. To do this, we are setting aside some change each time we use salt in our eating, cooking or baking. Personally, I am keeping a note on my phone of each time I use it and will turn that count into a monetary amount. If you really don’t use salt or find it hard to track, we are asking you to prayerfully consider simply making a contribution to this effort. We encourage ALL women of the church to participate or at least attend this meeting to learn more. Our special “SALT” Thankoffering will then be sent forward to churchwide. If you are wondering, “why give to churchwide?” Briefly: because it will support the ongoing ministries of Women of the ELCA - like our ground-breaking racial justice advocacy, [Gather](#) magazine and Bible Study, [Café](#) e-zine and podcast, leadership training, [discipleship resources](#), global education, and more. Every dollar helps continue their work to inspire, support, and mobilize women for bold lives of faith. Want to learn even more and ask all your questions, **Please come and ask Jen!** We will also be finalizing plans for our annual Epiphany Tea and more. Hope you decide to come!



Save the dates:

Jan. 4, 2026 Annual Women’s Epiphany Tea

May 1-2, 2026 SWPA Women of the ELCA convention

July 16-19, 2026 National Triennial Gathering in Des Moines, IA

SWPA Women of the ELCA Designated Outreach 2025:

Robin’s Home Veteran Services is a transitional housing program providing care for homeless, unstably housed and low income female veterans and their children. Beyond housing, they offer safe spaces to share their stories with empathetic support of one another. They address mental health and promote personal growth. You may find more



**ROBIN’S
HOME**
VETERAN SERVICES

information at <https://robinshome.us>. **Thank you for your donations to their program.** Thru the end of the year we will only be accepting monetary donations which are desperately needed and appreciated. Do this by making Checks Payable to: SWPA Women of the ELCA and Designating them to Robin’s Home. Then Mail them to: Janet Fishovitz 136 Clearwater Dr. Ellwood City, PA 16117.

***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 9, 2025.

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

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.



**Sunday, December 7th
at 5:00 PM.**

Sign-Up will be posted in the Commons Area. Join us following the dinner for a production of Off-Grid Christmas in the sanctuary.

Interested in playing a role in the production of Off-Grid Christmas following the Advent dinner? Contact the church office!



**Sunday, December 14th at
11:00AM**

Please plan to attend!

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)
James Hook	(11/28)
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
Bill Ambrose
Mina Rutter
Jerry Plummer
Nancy Flinner
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
Maxine Shroyer
Sarah Besser
Bob Neumann
Elaine Grace
Kevin Ober
Silas Howells

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