



## **GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Date March 17, 2025**

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

**Devotions;** J Gesalman

### **Accept Agenda**

Items added:

- Motion to accept by G Bittner, seconded and approved

### **Communications**

Nancy Maxim's passed, Martha's hosted luncheon

### **Reports**

- Pastor reported on his visitations to members and meetings, and church services at Redstone and at Good Shepherd
- February Minutes; Motion to Accept D Clawson, seconded and approved
- Treasurer and Asst Treasurers reports; Motion to accept B Altman, seconded and approved

### **Committee Reports**

**Community Fellowship** – 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, Trunk or Treat, Oct 17<sup>th</sup> and Light up night, Dec 5<sup>th</sup> Next meeting CF March 30<sup>th</sup>, light up night meeting Apr 13<sup>th</sup>

**Rocking Horse Preschool** – Registration has begun for 2025/26 school year, 3 in the 3-year-olds and 8 in the 4-year olds. Marketing and recruiting is ongoing thru signs and will be starting thru Instagram. First Aid Certification for teachers is scheduled for June. Update of RHPS Board Handbook is in progress. Upcoming events include parent/ teacher

conferences, Dr. Suess week, a book fair and annual lunch with the Easter Bunny. Outside storage unit donated and will be installed.

**Worship & Music** – Jean Brunot and the committee met with Jeff, The Allen Oran Company Rep. He showed sound and setting for the organ. Improvements to the wiring and sound was discussed which included mounting new speakers on the walls, for a cost of \$5800 plus.

**Property-** A new microphone system was purchased for the social room that will replace the handheld microphones. This was done at the request of W/ELCA and its representative on council made at the February meeting.

Concrete work at the church entrance will begin in the spring.

**Personnel-** On March 4<sup>th</sup> the committee, chaired by Kathy Wolfe met with Rachel King, Nancy Flinner and Rich Sanner. Suggestion was made to shampoo the carpet which will be broached to Property and Finance Committees. A change in R King's office hours began last week 9-12 on Monday and Thursday and 9-3 on Tuesdays. N Flinner will look at having electrician replace ballast in choir room

**Evangelism-** Identified 30 houses sold in the vicinity of West Point in past 6 months. Organizing to send out welcome cards.

## Old Business

**The New Organ-** review of what is in the committee report including an attachment that would increase the settings and sound variety. Final cost and second bid not in yet. Motion will be made next month. A congregation meeting will be necessary.

**Search for Partner Congregation-** we are in discussion with one interested congregation

**The female troop of the Scouts** request to have an overnight at the church was discussed last meeting but they have postponed the overnighter

The **submission of articles** recognizing persons or events within the church submitted by church members and their publication in the newsletter was discussed last month. Two articles were read by council and "submitted by author" will be added to each article. Motion to approve by J Gesalman, seconded and approved

A **council retreat** will be held at noon, June 1, for Congregation Council and Congregation Officers. K Wolfe volunteered to host

**Voting Members for 2025 Synod Assembly.** Kathy Wolfe & Bonnie Altman will be voting representatives Karen Gesalman, will be the non-voting representative.

**New Business**

**Eagle Scout Project** of a Gaga Ball Ring not in favor of project for several reasons.

**Internal Audit-** We need help getting the audits done for 2024.

**Adjournment:** Motion by A Donahue. Closed with Lord’s Prayer, Next meeting April 21, 6:30

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*Soup and Sandwich Supper*



**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 three remaining stories are:

- 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.



## Services for Holy Week and Easter

Holy Week is a series of worship services which relive the final climatic events of Jesus Christ's life.

At the Palm/Passion service, we hear again the story of both Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, when he was acclaimed by the crowds as the Messiah, and the full reading of the Passion Narrative, which recounts Jesus' betrayal, trial, and crucifixion.

At the Maundy Thursday service, we experience Jesus' final meal with his disciples, the Last Supper, and the institution of the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

On Good Friday, the Tenebrae service takes us from light to darkness, as we hear and ponder the seven last words Jesus uttered from the Cross.

Easter is the culmination of the Holy Week journey, as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. He had been buried in the tomb for three days. Now he is resurrected to new life by God the Father's power and joyfully returns to see his disciples and friends.

Sat, Apr 12 <sup>th</sup> 5:30 pm	Palm/Passion Worship Service
Sun, Apr 13 <sup>th</sup> 10:30 pm	Palm/Passion Worship Service
Wed, Apr 16 <sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm	Taize Service
Thur, Apr 17 <sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Service
Fri, Apr 18 <sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm	Good Friday Way of the Cross Service
Sat, Apr 19 <sup>th</sup> 5:30 pm	Easter Service
Sun, Apr 20 <sup>th</sup> 7:00 am	Sunrise Service
9:00 am	Easter Breakfast
10:30 am	Festival Easter Service



Join Us for Easter Breakfast  
Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup> 7:30-10:15am  
Pancakes, Eggs, Sausage, Juice & Coffee will be  
provided. If you would like to bring breakfast  
casserole, fruit or any pastries they  
are welcome but not required.

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### **Music from a Passionate Story – Friday, April 11**

Composers over the ages have written choral music about the story of Jesus' Passion and Death. The Westmoreland Choral Society and the Diocesan Choir of Greensburg will present two new choral works with this theme. The free concert is on **Friday, April 11, 7:00 pm, at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, downtown Greensburg.**

The two works are "The Passion of St. Matthew," and the world premiere of "Stabat Mater," both by Nancy Galbraith, a contemporary Pittsburgh-based Lutheran composer. Directed by Tom Octave, and Nancy Finke Sheehan as the accompanist. Pastor Ed also sings in the choir.

Come and enjoy this free concert of beautiful, moving choral and instrumental music on April 11.

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### **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

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# Holy Week Taize Service

## Wednesday April 16

### 7 pm

Holy Week, starting with Palm Sunday and ending with Easter, is the culmination of the Christian liturgical year. For a number of years, Good Shepherd has held a Taize service on the Wednesday night of Holy Week. On the night before the start of the Three Great Days (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter), we have a quiet and reflective service focused on the theme of love.

The name “Taize” comes from an ecumenical monastic community in France whose 100 plus members come from 30 different countries and many different Christian denominations, Roman Catholic and Protestant and Orthodox. Over the 85 years of the community’s existence, they have developed a unique worship style that involves easily learned chants. The Taize service at Good Shepherd combines these chants with readings from the New Testament focused on the primacy of love: the love Jesus had + for his disciples, the love God continues to have for all people, the centrality of love to our understanding of who God is. At the end of the service, participants are encouraged to light candles in front of various icons for their own individual prayer intentions. There is also the opportunity to receive prayers for healing.

Everyone is welcome to this service that, we hope, will provide a quiet reminder of the centrality of love to the events of Holy Week.

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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.





Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>  
9-11:00AM  
Private Rental (includes  
socks, pizza & a drink)  
Cost \$20.00 per jumper  
RSVP by April 11<sup>th</sup> to Rachel



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**

JOIN US

Sunday mornings **9:30AM**

**Last Sunday School** until September will be **April 13<sup>th</sup>**

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Save the DATE!

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

Registration opens **April 1<sup>st</sup>**

scan QR code below to  
register!



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

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# Community Fellowship Upcoming Events



**Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> 12:00PM-**

Lunch with the Bunny

Registration Closed

**Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> 5:00PM-7:00PM-**

Cinco de Mayo Taco Bar

Join us for Tacos, Dessert & Fun



**Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 6:30PM-8:30PM-**

Trunk or Treat & Fun House

Join us for a Spooky evening of Tricks & Treats!

\*More information coming soon\*

**Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup> -**  
4<sup>th</sup> Annual Light Up Night

\*More information coming soon\*



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



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church



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





**CELEBRA**

**CINCO**

**DE**

**MAYO!**

**SUNDAY MAY 4 • 5-7PM**

**TACO BAR | DESSERT | FUN!**

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
501 Fairfield Drive • Greensburg Pa



# 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.*



## 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 March winner  
Fran Ober!**

\*The cross was located on page  
15\*

## *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 May Newsletter is April 21<sup>st</sup>.



A colorful poster for Rocking Horse Preschool enrollment. The title "Rocking Horse Preschool" is written in multi-colored letters, with "Enroll Today!" in blue on a brushstroke background. The poster lists two class options: "3 yr old AM & PM Classes Tuesday & Thursday" and "4 yr old AM & PM Classes Monday, Wednesday & Friday". A QR code is provided for online registration, with a yellow arrow pointing to it and the text "Scan QR to register online". The address "501 Fairfield Drive • Greensburg, PA" and contact information "Questions? Contact church office at (724) 834-1940" are at the bottom. The poster is decorated with rows of colorful crayons on the sides and a wooden rocking horse on the right.

**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



### April Committee Meetings

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

**Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> 7:00PM-Light Up Night MTG**

**Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> 7:00PM-Community Fellowship MTG**

# LENTEN FOOD DRIVE

Please support the Community Food Pantry at Good Shepherd by donating items during our food drive.



## Donations:

- Not Expired
- Non Perishables
- Canned Goods
- Toiletries (deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, etc.)

LETS FEED THE HUNGRY

DONATE APRIL 5TH-APRIL 11TH

DROP DONATIONS IN THE BIN UNDER THE PANTRY  
OR OUTSIDE THE CHURCH DOORS



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



**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 before and after church services. Family and friends outside of the congregation are welcome to attend. Deadline to buy tickets will be Sunday April 27<sup>th</sup>.

**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 and roast beef au jus. 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. Triennial Voting Members will be elected to represent us on the national ELCA level in July 2026. Triennial convention has been changed to being held online for financial reasons



with details to be released later. Therefore, you would not be required to travel in order to represent us. Please consider running for one or more of these positions. We really hope you plan to attend.

**Registration forms for dinner Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup> (\$20), convention (\$20) and Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup> 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>.**

**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, May 30<sup>th</sup>, for convention. If you do, could you please email our registrar, Roberta Herrington [daherrington@comcast.net](mailto:daherrington@comcast.net). Karen Gesalman also has Roberta's phone number if you would rather speak to her, please ask Karen for it. We have women who want to come to convention from other areas but don't have the money for a hotel room. Thank you for your consideration.



Tentatively, we will not be having a meeting in April. Our next BGS may be Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> after church but that may change. **Sept. 26-28 2025 will be retreat at Camp Lutherlyn.**

**July 16-19, 2026 is the national Triennial Gathering in Des Moines, IA**

### **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 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
- 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 designating them to Robin's Home. Then bring 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.

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

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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.**

### APRIL

**COOKIE BAKERS (GROUP 4) Cookie Sunday is April 13, 2025.**

Janet Ambrose	Carol Clawson	Michele McMahan
Patti Benton	Jenny Luffy	

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.***



## **Fondly Remembering Joan Billig**

Joan Louise Billig, Good Shepherd's beloved church secretary during the 1970s, died October 10, 2024.

Joan was born July 6, 1939 in Greenville, PA.

A graduate of Penn High School, Joan worked briefly for General Electric until she married George Billig. In 1963, George accepted an engineering position with the Elliot Company and Joan and George moved to Greensburg where Joan served as Good Shepherd's church secretary for Pastor Goehrig. In 1980, Joan and George purchased the Vaccum Center in downtown Greensburg, where Joan worked first with George and later with her son, Brad, until she passed.

At Joan's request, the family held a private burial service.

Joan is survived by her husband George, their four children - Wendy, Lori, Brad, and Brenda - and their spouses, 7 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren.

Joan and George were kind, generous, active, hardworking members of our church and touched the lives of many members.

George can be reached at  
Woodcrest Senior Living Center, Apt. 406  
1 Woodcrest Circle  
Scottsdale, PA 15683

-Submitted by Patti Benton

## Congratulations Bettie Davis

After many years as a college for men, Saint Vincent became a co-educational college. It welcomed its first women's class in 1983. In 2023, as part of its celebration to recognize 40 years of having women students at Saint Vincent College, it recognized "40 Women for 40 Years" at a Celebration Dinner in October 2023. Saint Vincent had over 200 nominees for this recognition from which the 40 were selected. One of those selected 40 women was Dr. Bettie Davis, a member of Good Shepherd and now retired faculty member but also Adjunct Lecturer in Chemistry at Saint Vincent.

In a booklet that described contributions of each of the 40 selected women, Bo Tokarski describes Bettie's as "For nonmajors, Bettie's "Chemistry and Crime" course became as a must-take, and students from across campus would be enthralled with learning more about their favorite crime assays as depicted in their favorite crime television shows, learning more about key aspects of chemistry that underlie the assays performed to solve crimes of arson, drugs or murder. Her dedication to advancement of education is evidenced by her continued support of the Collaborative Learning Program (CLP), which became a staple for continued knowledge-development and scientific practice for hundreds of students across the chemistry and biology disciplines, while also providing critical teaching skills to CLP facilitators who could then go on to become successful teaching assistants and/or professors themselves in higher education."

"Bettie's emphasis on mental health, her openness to speak about her own experience with mental health, became a backdrop of support for so many students who confided in her their own self-doubts and mental health struggles, providing a strong and courageous support to so many to help make it through even the toughest times as a student. Within the Saint Vincent community, there is no one I can think of who more exemplifies the Ten Benedictine Hallmarks upon which the foundation of Bearcat Nation is built. Most of all, it has been and always will be Bettie's love — love of science, love of students, love of the Saint Vincent campus— that make her the ideal candidate for the 40 Women for 40 Years honor. Her incredible personality, unwavering smile, extensive chemistry and biology knowledge, and kind heart make her unlike any other woman who has helped to shape as many lives as Dr. Bettie Davis has in STEM courses at Saint Vincent College.

-Submitted by Patti Benton

# Happy Birthday to:

## April



Lisa Hook	(04/01)
Dustin Wodoslawsky	(04/01)
Joshua Mellon	(04/02)
Morgan Ryan	(04/02)
Alex Gray	(04/07)
John Strasser	(04/08)
Jessica Reinhart	(04/11)
Charles Ober	(04/13)
Donna Cairns	(04/16)
Isabelle Bruggeman	(04/17)
Madelena Mull	(04/19)
Robert Territ	(04/20)
Jonathan Askey	(04/25)
Madison Ryan	(04/27)
Brian Hixson	(04/28)
Julian Hill	(04/29)
Terry Hall	(04/30)

(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  
Bonnie Altman  
Matt Alderson  
Jess Darragh  
Jack & Mina Rutter  
Darlene Fligger  
Joyce Coates  
Debbie Sullenberger

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

Laura Starzynski & Family  
Lauren Floyd  
Brian Murphy  
Gertrude Pezzoni  
Janice Territ  
Gianna  
Linda Speedy  
Greg Pologouto

**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.