

**GOOD SHEPHERD EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL CONGREGATION MINISTRY MEETING AGENDA
Sunday, June 9, 2024 ~ 10:30 AM**

Call to Order – Richard Alagona, Congregation Council President

- a. Attendance (Quorum = **39**)
- b. Recognition of members attending for the first time.
- c. Purpose of this meeting: Review congregation's 2023-24 ministry year; elect members to our Congregation Council, Nominating Committee and Endowment Committee
- d. Prayer – led by Pastor Chelsea Scholl
- e. Guidelines for our discussion

Our Congregation Council, at its May 2004 meeting, adopted the following guidelines for discussion at our Congregational meetings:

- ◆ Any voting members wishing to speak to an issue will have an opportunity to do so.
- ◆ After all voting members wishing to speak to an issue have had the opportunity, any voting member wishing to speak again on the same issue will have one additional opportunity.
- ◆ The Chair can limit the length of time allotted each speaker if there are 5 or more members who wish to speak on an issue.

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes of Congregational Meetings

- a) Congregational Ministry Meeting of June 11, 2023 (*pages 3-4*)
- b) Special Congregational Meeting of October 1, 2023 (*page 5*)
- c) Congregational Financial Meeting of January 28, 2024 (*page 6*)
- d) Special Congregational Meeting of March 17, 2024 (*page 7*)

Nominating Committee – Christeen Jacquish, Convener (non-voting)

Duties of Congregation Council Members (*see page 31*)

Bios of Candidates for Congregation Council, Nominating Committee, Endowment Committee (*see pages 33-34*)

Nominating Committee recommends:

A. THAT THE CONGREGATION ELECT TO THE CONGREGATION COUNCIL: (*see page 32*).

- ◆ *Motions from the floor may be made.*
- ◆ *If there are additional nominations, a motion needs to be made and seconded that nominations be closed.*
- ◆ *After congregation votes to close nominations, then the congregation votes on the recommendations.*

B. THAT THE CONGREGATION ELECT TO THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE: (*see page 32*).

C. THAT THE CONGREGATION ELECT TO THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE: (*see page 32*).

Statistical Reports *(see pages 8-9)*

- Membership Report to the NJ Synod and ELCA
- Parish Register

Staff and Lay Leader Reports *(see pages 10-15)*

- Chelsea E. Scholl, Pastor
- Jamie Dungey, Deacon
- Joyce Irwin, Music Director
- Iolene Hadley, Office Staff
- Rhiannon Stitley, Daycare Director
- Richard Alagona, Council Report

Review of June 2023 – May 2024 *(see pages 16-30)*

- Year-Round Activities
- Month by Month

NJ Synod Assembly Report

- Delegates: Stephanie Meister and Debbie Gelormine

New Business

Thank you to outgoing members

- Congregation Council: Lynn Francesconi, Wes Thielke, Mark Marsigliano
- Nominating Committee: Alice Cotton, Martin Linton

Adjournment and Lord's Prayer

**GOOD SHEPHERD EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL CONGREGATION MINISTRY MEETING MINUTES
Sunday, June 11, 2023 10:30AM**

Call to Order – Richard Alagona, Congregation Council President, called the meeting to order at 10:47AM

Attendance – 49 members attended.

- f. Recognition of members attending for the first time
- g. Purpose of this meeting: Review congregation’s 2022 – 2023 ministry year; and elect members to our Congregation Council and Nominating Committee.
- h. Prayer – led by Pastor Chelsea Scholl
- i. Guidelines for our discussion
Our Congregation Council, at its May 2004 meeting, adopted the following guidelines for discussion at our Congregational meetings:
 - ◆ Any voting members wishing to speak to an issue will have an opportunity to do so.
 - ◆ After all voting members wishing to speak to an issue have had the opportunity, any voting member wishing to speak again on the same issue will have one additional opportunity.
 - ◆ The Chair can limit the length of time allotted each speaker if there are 5 or more members who wish to speak on an issue.

Approval of Agenda – VOTE: APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

Approval of Minutes of Congregation Meetings

- a. Congregational Ministry Meeting of June 12, 2022- **VOTE: APPROVED BY CONSENSUS.**
- b. Congregational Financial Meeting of January 29, 2023 **VOTE: APPROVED BY CONSENSUS.**

Nominating Committee – Christeen Jacquish (non-voting)

Duties of Congregation Council Members

Bios of Candidates for Congregation Council

A. THAT THE CONGREGATION ELECT TO THE CONGREGATION COUNCIL FOR A 3-YEAR TERM RICHARD ALGONA, CHRIS FUSON AND CARRIE RIEBLE, FOR A 1-YEAR TERM JEANNA GRAPES AND YOUTH PRESENTATIVE MARK MARIGLIANO. VOTE: RECOMMENDATION PASSED.

B. THAT THE CONGREGATION ELECT TO THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE BARBARA SCHUSTER AND JEFF DAVIS FOR A 2-YEAR TERM ENDING MAY 2025. VOTE: ALL IN FAVOR RECOMMENDATION PASSED.

Statistical Reports

- Membership Report to the NJ Synod and ELCA
- Parish Register

Staff and Leader Reports

- Chelsea E. Scholl, Associate Pastor
- Jamie Dungey, Deacon
- Joyce Irwin, Music Director
- Laura Meerovich, Office Administrator
- Yasmin (Jazz) Correa. Office Staff
- Rhiannon Stitley, Daycare Director
- Jill Weidner, Council Report
- **NJ Synod Assembly Report** (*see separate NJ Synod Report*)
 - **Delegates – Julia Sabella and Nancy Waltermire**
 - Congregation Council Members – Laura Paknis, Nadine Pitti, Bill Schafer, Michael Marsigliano
 - Nominating Committee – Julie Burt, Brain Pitti

Adjournment and Lord's Prayer – Suzzanne Westberg made motion at 10:30 AM. Carrie Rieble seconded. **VOTE: ALL IN FAVOR; RECOMMENDATION PASSED.** The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Dilks
Recorder

AGENDA
Special Congregational Meeting
Sunday, October 1, 2023 – 10:30 AM

Richard Alagona, Congregation Council President, presiding called the meeting to order at 10:32

Call to Order

- a. Attendance (Quorum: 39) – 52
- b. Purpose of meeting to vote on recommendation from Council regarding sanctuary roof and sanctuary painting.
- c. Prayer – led by Pastor Chelsea.
- d. Guidelines for our discussion
Our Congregation Council, at its May 2004 meeting, adopted the following guidelines for discussion at our Congregational meetings:
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 - ◆ After all voting members wishing to speak to an issue have had the opportunity, any voting member wishing to speak again on the same issue will have one additional opportunity.
 - ◆ The Chair can limit the length of time allotted each speaker if there are 5 or more members who wish to speak on an issue.

Recommendation from Congregation Council:

- **THAT GSLC APPROVE \$47,897 (INCLUDING A \$5000 CONTINGENCY) FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE SANCTUARY ROOF AND CONTRACT WITH MK ROOFING TO COMPLETE THE WORK. VOTE: ALL IN FAVOR; RECOMMENDATION PASSED.**
- **THAT GSLC APPROVE \$18,650 FOR THE REPAINTING OF THE SANCTUARY CEILING AND WALLS AND CONTRACT WITH J.C. PAINTING SERVICES TO COMPLETE THE WORK. VOTE: ALL IN FAVOR; RECOMMENDATION PASSED.**

Adjournment & Lord's Prayer – Jill Weidner made motion to adjourn at 10:41. Carrie Rieble seconded. Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Dilks
Recorder

CONGREGATIONAL FINANCIAL MEETING MINUTES

Sunday, January 28, 2024 ~ 10:30 AM in Sanctuary

Richard Alagona, Congregation Council President presiding, called the meeting to order at 10:32 AM.

2. Call to Order

- a. Attendance – 48 members present.
- b. Recognition of members attending for the first time.
- c. Purpose of this meeting, review congregation's 2023 financial year and adopt a spending plan for 2024 for Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and Good Shepherd Christian Daycare.
- d. Prayer – led by Pastor Chelsea Scholl
- e. Guidelines for our discussion

Our Congregation Council, at its May 2004 meeting adopted the following guidelines for discussion at our Congregational meetings:

- ◆ Any voting member to speak to an issue will have an opportunity to do so.
- ◆ After all voting members wishing to speak to an issue have had the opportunity; any voting member wishing to speak again on the same issue will have one additional opportunity.
- ◆ The Chair can limit the length of time allotted each speak there if there are 5 or more members who wish to speak on an issue.

3. Financial Review of 2023

- a. 2023 Financial Secretary's Report – Stephanie Meister
- b. 2023 Treasurer's Report – Joyce Jonat

4. Financial Projections for 2024

- a. Weekly Envelopes, Special, and Plate Offerings – Stephanie Meister
- b. Presentation of the Spending Plan – Jill Weidner

- ❖ Recommendation from Congregational Council:

THAT THE CONGREGATION ADOPT PROPOSED 2024 SPENDING PLAN, TOTALING \$559,931. VOTE: ALL IN FAVOR; RECOMMENDATION PASSED.

- ❖ Discussion of the Plan from the Floor

- ❖ Vote on the Recommendation.

5. Approval of Good Shepherd Christian Daycare Spending

- ❖ Recommendation from Congregation Council:

THAT THE CONGREGATION ADOPT THE PROPOSED 2024 GOOD SHEPHERD CHRISTIAN DAYCARE SPENDING PLAN TOTALING \$606,850. VOTE: ALL IN FAVOR; RECOMMENDATION PASSED.

6. Lord's Prayer

7. Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Dilks
Recorder

**Special Congregational Meeting
Sunday, March 17, 2024 – 10:30 AM**

Richard Alagona, Congregation Council President, presiding, called the meeting to order at 10:41 AM

Call to Order.

- a. Attendance 69
- b. Purpose of meeting to vote on recommendation from Council regarding GSLC & GSCDC bathroom renovations
- c. Guidelines for our discussion
Our Congregation Council, at its May 2004 meeting, adopted the following guidelines for discussion at our Congregational meetings:
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Recommendation from Congregation Council:

THAT GSLC APPROVE \$80,000 (\$20,000 TO BE PAID BY GSLC AND \$60,000 TO BE PAID BY GSCDC) FOR THE RENOVATION OF 2 DAYCARE BATHROOMS, SMALL JANITOR'S CLOSET AND MEN'S & WOMEN'S CHURCH BATHROOMS AND CONTRACT WITH ACCURATE RECONSTRUCTION TO COMPLETE THE WORK. VOTE: ALL IN FAVOR; RECOMMENDATION PASSED.

Adjournment & Lord's Prayer – Cathy Thornton made motion to adjourn at 10:57AM.

Chris Fuson seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Dilks

Recorder

**REPORT TO NEW JERSEY SYNOD
Calendar Year 2023**

Baptized Membership as of December 31, 2022 **665**

Members received during 2023

By baptism	6
By affirmation of faith	12
By transfer of membership	3
Total members received this year	21

Members removed during 2023

By death	6
By transfer	4
For other reasons	0
Total members removed this year	10

Baptized Membership as of December 31, 2023 **676**

Confirmed Membership as of December 31, 2023 **522**

Confirmed and Active Members on the Roll **398**

STATISTICAL COMPARISON

Year End:	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Baptized	721	677	687	692	686	558	574	592	587	604	644	644	660	665	676
Confirmed	530	512	541	557	533	466	481	499	478	486	509	508	516	511	522
Confirmed – Active/Voting	473	441	480	474	450	389	346	357	351	362	366	366	392	388	398
Worship Attendance	207	226	221	209	197	174	175	170	159	162	164	NA*	92**	97^	112

*In-person worship was suspended as of March 13, 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Average weekly attendance from January 1 – March 8, 2020 was 154.

**Based on 27 Sundays featuring in-person worship as pandemic conditions permitted.

^Based on 46 Sundays with in-person worship as pandemic conditions improved.

PARISH REGISTER
June 12, 2023 – June 8, 2024

BAPTISMS (12)

2023

June 25 Robert Michael Sebastian Flamos
 July 23 Ziggy James Gurnick
 August 6 Serena Lee deCastro (Adult)
 August 13 Benjamin Robert Steinberg
 October 15 Gino Hernandez-Correa (Adult)
 November 12 Liesl Alexandria Shott

2024

January 7 Mark William O'Dell
 January 21 Emme Bloom Kazar
 February 4 Mila Francisca Mora
 March 17 Evan James Kunkel
 April 21 Sophia Rose Najemian
 April 21 Emma Marie Najemian

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**CONFIRMATION (3)**

**Rite of Confirmation - June 2, 2024**

Logan Conner  
 Paul Fuson  
 Charleigh Jacquish

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NEW MEMBERS (14)

March 10, 2024

Transfer from ELCA

Bob & Susie Chilcoat
 Gareth & Amy Chilcoat, Trystan, Peter, Merrin

Affirmation of Faith

Margie Brady
 Melenie Gonzalez
 Dan & Kim Kazar, Parker
 Mark & Angela O'Dell

DEATHS (4)

2023

July 24 Terese Hatch
 August 24 Elsie Groth
 December 10 Margaret Hauschild
 December 23 Joanne Padula

2024

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**FUNERALS (10)**

*Non-Member\**

**2023**

July 8      Judy Miller\*  
 August 12    Terese Hatch  
 September 30   Elsie Groth  
 October 21    Richard Sudnick\*  
 November 21   Karen O'Dell\*  
 December 28   Joanne Padula

**2024**

January 20    Margaret Hauschild  
 April 5      Regine Brown\*  
 April 13     Wayne Jackson\*  
 April 19     Irene Lindenmuth\*

## STAFF REPORT

### Chelsea E. Scholl, Pastor

*“A lot of good love can happen in ten years.” ~ Jim Carrey*

Dear Good Shepherd –

It’s not often that Jim Carrey gets quoted instead of Scripture at the beginning of a Pastor’s Annual Report. But how could I not use this quote as I sit to write my tenth report as Pastor at Good Shepherd. Can you believe this is our 10<sup>th</sup> year of ministry together already?! *A lot of good love can happen in ten years.*

As I prepare to celebrate my 10<sup>th</sup> ordination anniversary in November and my official 10-year anniversary with you all, I simply say thank you. Thank you for letting me walk beside you in your deepest sorrows and your greatest joys. Thank you for introducing me to your families, for allowing me to join you in times of grief and celebration. Thank you for welcoming and supporting my family – Kevin and I are eternally grateful that our families know home alongside us at Good Shepherd.

Reflecting back on the past 10 years, I am certainly not the “baby” pastor I was when I first came to New Jersey in 2014. I was learning and navigating what it meant to serve in this role. I am forever grateful to those along the way (many of you!) who have offered care, support, and the occasional good push in the right direction. We have certainly grown together in mission and ministry, figuring out how God has called us in new and similar ways to respond to one another, the needs of our neighbors, and the care of God’s good creation.

And we all know that as much as I enjoy a moment of reminiscing, I certainly don’t like to live there. So we look ahead – what will the next 10 years hold? I know in 2014, 2024 felt eons away – looking back now, not so much. Who will we be in 2034? What will God’s church at Good Shepherd look like? Where will we go? Who will we meet? And who will we become along the way? Only time will tell – I trust that the Spirit will continue to guide us into all the places God needs us most.

As we continue this journey together, know that it is my great privilege to serve as your pastor and walk this life and ministry with you. I can never thank you enough for this gift you have given me.

I also need to thank your GSLC staff for their dedication and passion for our work in this place for the sake of the Gospel (and of course, for their willingness to put up with me!). I have such fun and gain such joy from doing this work alongside you.

Finally, I need to take a moment to thank Kevin. For his steady calm in my moments of worry, for his willingness to sift through my new, crazy ideas to land on fruitful ones, and for his ever-dutiful service as “the pastor’s spouse” - from moving tables and hanging butterflies to finding all the things I randomly put down on a Sunday morning. I am a better pastor with him in my corner. Thank you, Good Shepherd, for loving both of us and letting us love you back!

*A lot of good love can happen in ten years.* I look forward to the years to come.

God’s peace,



Pastor Chelsea Scholl

# **STAFF REPORT**

## **Jamie Dungey, Deacon**

*God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. 1 Peter 4:10*

As I thought about the past year, I was drawn to the ways in which the congregation uses their varied gifts to serve others. From the food pantry to the weekend backpack meals, Christian Education to the choirs. I could go on and on!!! We have been blessed with various gifts and we are called to serve in different ways. It is in the variety of gifts that we complement each other and accomplish things we could never do by ourselves.

I would like to thank the congregation for all your encouragement and support. I would especially like to thank Pastor Chelsea, Laura, Jazz and Iolene for all their support. I would like to thank the All-Ages Christian Education Team, the Social Ministry Team and the Caring Ministry Team. You all use your gifts and talents to serve God by serving others.

As a member of the All-Ages Christian Education team, I was involved in planning and helping to lead the weekly educational hands-on experiences and Family Fun Nights. The kids enjoyed getting together to learn about God by doing arts and crafts, listening to bible stories and playing games.

As a member of the Social Ministry team, I have helped with numerous projects, including the Giving Network giveaway, weekend backpack meals and God's Work. Our Hands. I am blessed to be a part of this team that continually reaches out to the community.

As a member of the Caring Ministry team, I coordinated the assembly and delivery of the Easter and Christmas care packages for the homebound members. I visited the home bound members and shared communion with them. I led the Cancer Caring Ministry Group where we met via zoom and shared resources and prayed for each other. I coordinated the Greeting Card Ministry, which sends cards monthly to homebound members and to members who are on the prayer list to remind them that they are thought of and prayed for by their GSLC family.

It is a blessing to be able to participate in the Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday worship services as well as the Quiet Christmas service. I also provided emergency pastoral care when Pastor Chelsea was on vacation, preached once a month and participated in numerous memorial services.

May we continue to use our gifts to serve God and one another!!!

God's Peace,

*Deacon Jamie*

Deacon Jamie Dungey

## **STAFF REPORT**

### **Joyce Irwin, Music Director**

*“I will sing praise with the spirit, but I will sing praise with the mind also.” (I Cor. 14:15)*

Having joined the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians in order to attend this summer’s convention, I recently logged on to a Zoom “Happy Hour” meeting of association members. One of the participants was endorsing the position that church musicians are ministers of the Word and that music is a means of proclaiming the Word. This is the viewpoint that has led some to call J. S. Bach the Fifth Evangelist. I once generated a scholarly controversy by criticizing this view of Bach in print, and I am still not convinced that Luther regarded music as equivalent to preaching. But this did lead me to think about the multiple functions of music in worship at Good Shepherd.

Whether or not we regard hymns as proclamation, Pastor Chelsea and I do attempt to reinforce the scriptural texts through our choices of hymns for each service. It is gratifying when one of you (most often Stephanie Meister) comments on how well the hymns and scripture fit together. During Lent this year I joined Pastor Chelsea and the Wednesday Bible study group in a rewarding study of Lenten hymns. We came to appreciate the richness of meaning in hymn texts that merit deeper exploration than time allows on a Sunday morning. Important as the teaching role of music may be, I believe the greater function of music in worship is to give expression to our response to the Word through praising God and communicating our joy and commitment to the gospel. While this involves the whole congregation, I am particularly grateful to those of you who take on the responsibility of leadership through singing in the choir or Grace Alive! Each of these groups has led in worship each month this year, and, though attendance has been impacted by travel and illnesses or injuries, both groups have increased in numbers.

Special thanks are due to Debbie Gelormine as lead soprano in the choir and lead guitarist in Grace Alive! Dan Groth has continued to serve the group as sound engineer, assisted on occasion by James Thornton. We are grateful when Jeff Davis and Alex Duque are available to share their instrumental talents. The return of the Chilcoat family to Good Shepherd brought us not only two new choir members but an excellent saxophonist, Peter Chilcoat, who enriched our Christmas Eve worship as well as one Grace Alive! Sunday. Teri Weniger also shared her piano skills with a piano-organ duet and is an occasional keyboardist with Grace Alive! As much as the adult musical leadership is appreciated, the greatest joy comes when children sing in worship. We have not yet devised a way to have an organized children’s choir, but small groups of children have sung anthems on several occasions this year, always delighting the congregation.

It is the involvement of multiple generations under Pastor Chelsea’s leadership that makes Good Shepherd such a vital congregation and a fulfilling place to engage in musical leadership. Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Joyce Irwin, Director of Music

# **STAFF REPORT**

## **Iolene Hadley, Office Staff**

*“For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven.” Ecclesiastes 3:1*

As Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, there is a time for everything under heaven. My time in Good Shepherd started back in 2010 as a preschool mom, then as a teacher, as office staff and then director. Looking back, it seems to me all those roles came at the right moment.

My relationship with Good Shepherd and its people continued even after I was no longer part of the staff. Two years later I find myself interviewing to fill some very large and lovely shoes. Once again, I feel that there is a time and season for everything under heaven.

After only a few weeks here I realized that there was a lot going on that I never saw from the daycare halls. I was beyond fortunate to have had Laura train me in all things Good Shepherd. She is such a huge part of all the processes that are established for the office to run smoothly. Her detailed descriptions of all the procedures has made it possible for me to step in and keep the office running. One of my first priorities, aside from learning the day to day, was to put names to faces. I've come to Sunday worship twice in the past few months and have had the pleasure to meet many of you.

I am thankful for the opportunity to once again be part of the Good Shepherd family. I want to thank you all for your patience and grace as I learn all the moving parts of this operation. Thank you to those that have taken some of their time to teach me, walk me through details of different activities and for fixing all my technological issues. My goal is to continue to work to balance the congregation's administrative needs with the staff's talents and skills. Warm thanks to Pr. Chelsea, Deacon Jamie, Joyce Irwin, Jazz Correa, Joyce Jonat, Dean Levin, Gene Lepelletier, Andrey Rodriguez, and Rhiannon Stitley for making my job enjoyable and much easier.

Some of this year's accomplishments:

- Trained on the ins and outs of the office
- Helped compile the Annual Financial Report and this Ministry Report
- Created the weekly Announcement, Worship, and “Zoom” emails and special emails as they were needed, as well as new signups through Sign-up Genius
- Helped with all the details of the Easter Celebration

I thank you all for making me feel welcome. Blessings to all of you.

Iolene Hadley

Office Staff

## **STAFF REPORT**

### **Rhiannon Stitley, Daycare Director**

*“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6*

This past year at Good Shepherd Christian Daycare & Preschool was incredible! We shared many special events and programs from our annual graduation program, an amazing summer camp program, a new school year with lots of new faces, and our fun celebrations throughout the school year. We loved sharing so many memories with the students, staff, and parents here at GSCDC.

In June of 2023, we had 21 graduates moving on to kindergarten! The graduation turned out great and our school wide picnic was a complete success. Our Summer camp was in full swing by July and we had over 50 campers signed up for the Summer from the ages of 6-10! This was also the first year we planned a field trip for each week, and boy did the campers love that! Summer camp was such a fun time and a great learning experience to see what changes we'd make for the following year. The start of the school year came quickly, and we had 70 students enrolled for the 2023-2024 school year! Unfortunately, we did have some staff changes in our Toddler classroom earlier in the year, but gained two wonderful teachers, Ms. Shelby and Ms. Sandra.

We celebrated some of our favorite moments in the year with our costume trunk or treat, thanksgiving feasts, and our annual Christmas Pageant! It's always fun bringing back these traditions each year to our school. Parents, staff, and students all love the exciting events we have here at GSCDC. One of the favorite events of the year is our Multicultural Day. On this day, families bring food, items, and different pictures from their native country and share fun facts and information with our students. Some of the countries represented this year were India, Germany, Argentina, Costa Rica, Paraguay, Mexico, and many more! We also had our Parent Appreciation Breakfast & Art Gallery, however this year we decided to have 2 family members attend and have a hot sit-down breakfast to share with their child. The families all appreciated the yummy breakfast and loved the art displayed by their children.

We are excited for this upcoming Graduation and end of the school year because we will be getting brand new bathrooms for our students in the daycare! They will be redone before our Summer Camp begins in July!

We, here at GSCDC have an amazing staff, wonderful students and parents, and a truly supportive ministry team to help make this one of the best preschool/daycares around. I am honored to be the director of this incredible school and am excited for all the new things we will be doing for years to come!

*Rhiannon Stitley*

Director

# CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL REPORT

## Richard Alagona, Council President

It has been wonderful to see the continued growth at Good Shepherd in this past year. We had 14 new members join Good Shepherd in March and welcomed 11 children and 1 adult by baptism!

Our worship continues to be a vibrant experience with an average of more than 100 people worshipping in the pews. (See any familiar faces?)

Christian Education for children is continuing to grow with wonderful, dedicated volunteers creating experiences for our youngest members on Sunday mornings. We also started *The Chat*, a new opportunity for youth and adult education.

Social Ministry projects are still going strong. We packed 1200 weekend backpack meals in April, after two other packing events in September and January. In addition, there was this year Laundry Love, God's Work. Our Hands., the Angel Tree, Giving Network Giveaway, and of course the several events for filling the food pantry.

Speaking of the Food Pantry! I hope you all have had a chance to see the transformation of room D. Another blessing at Good Shepherd is that we can feed so many people at this time.

Our music ministry continues to expand under the direction of Joyce Irwin. The Adult choir and *Grace Alive!* are growing and Joyce has been developing a children's choir. We have been blessed several times with the voices of the children of Good Shepherd.

"I'm ready for my close-up Mr. DeMille!" Don't the sanctuary, the offices and rooms A-C look great! With drive, talent, support and patience, this transformation came to be. Not forgetting the cleaning of the attic space in Luther Hall to give us extra storage to use the space more efficiently throughout the building. And before long, updated bathrooms outside the sanctuary!

We are continuing with ways to put our welcome statement into action. There is still plenty to work on outside our walls and to do so, we need to strengthen our mission inside our walls.

As always, the growth of Good Shepherd wouldn't be possible if it wasn't for all of you. You who sit in the pews or view via live-stream each week, you who always support one another, you who spiritually, financially, and emotionally see us grow each year. The time and gifts that are shared with our whole community, so all know that they aren't alone is a blessing. All of this is possible because of what Jesus has done for us – may we never forget that!

As always, thank you for what you do.

Richard Alagona  
Council President

# GOOD SHEPHERD EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## 2023-24 Year-Round Gatherings, Roles, & Tasks of Our Ministries

*Many thanks to the loving, caring, and serving volunteers who participated in these and many other behind-the-scenes activities that were provided this year.*

**All Ages Education Ministry** ~ Confirmation class for our 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders met throughout the year; Weekly Children's Christian Education program began. Adult Education continued with Book Discussions and Bible Study. Chair: Deacon Jamie Dungey

**Caring Ministries** ~ Grief Support (in-person) and Cancer Caring Ministry (via Zoom) met regularly. Greeting Card Ministry and serving the homebound with visits, communion, altar flowers, and care packages continued. Prayer Ministers offered private prayers of healing. Military veterans were remembered & honored. Chair: Deacon Jamie Dungey

**Community Groups** ~ Non-profits currently meeting at GSLC include AA, Al-Anon, ESL, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts (2 troops) and the Ida Recovery Team.

**Creativity Groups** ~ *Comfort Creators* knitted and crocheted prayer shawls, "worry worms", lap blankets, hats, scarves, and baby items year-round; *Crafteers* worked on needlecraft and counted cross stitch keepsakes for baptisms and for other life events; *Shepherd Stitchers* made dozens of quilts over the course of the year, including quilts to our newly baptized babies. Chairs: Roxanne Powers, Joan Grace, Janice Brunsbach

**Daycare Ministry** ~ Our Daycare continues with full enrollment and staffing, including through our summer camp program which began in July 2023. Chair: Gale Murphy. Director: Rhiannon Stitley.

**Finance Ministry** ~ Finance Ministry continued its vital work of making deposits, paying bills, producing monthly reports, evaluating grant and loan opportunities, and more. Chair: Jill Weidner

**Property Ministry** ~ Maintenance on the building and grounds is ongoing. Chair: Gene Lepelletier

**Small Group Ministry** ~ Women of Good Shepherd met in a hybrid model on Zoom and in-person. Leader: Stephanie Meister

**Social Ministry** ~ Through the power of the Holy Spirit and in response to God's love as revealed in the Gospel, the mission of GSLC's Social Ministry is 1) to serve those in our local community who hurt, who are in need, or who have limited choices; 2) to respond to crisis within our world; and 3) support ELCA social ministry initiatives. It is through the generosity and benevolence of volunteers in our congregation that we can serve those in need.

**Stewardship Ministry** ~ Met throughout the year to discuss the many ways we invite our GSLC community to share our gifts, talents, and resources to meet the needs of the church. Chair: OPEN

**Technology Team** ~ Provides IT support to the staff and Daycare whenever we ask (which is often). Chair: Jeff Davis

**Worship Planning Ministry** ~ We continue to gather on Sunday mornings to worship and praise our God. With a few extra opportunities for gathering thrown in, it has been a beautiful year of worship. Chair: Nancy Waltermire

Read on for details about all of our ministries!



# JUNE 2023

## Outreach

- Spending Plan Outreach: H.O.M.E. \$1,000
- Collection: “Backpacking Bonanza” School supplies and backpacks for our Backpacking for Others ministry; Items for our GSLC Pantry
- Food Bank staffing: Volunteers staffed the Somerset County Food Bank’s Somerville branch for 2 Saturday mornings.
- GSLC Pantry distribution: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday.

## Worship

- In-person worship w/Holy Communion ~ 9:30am Sundays.
- **Rite of Confirmation was held on Sunday, June 4.**
- Faith in Action forms with our offerings of time and talent for the coming year were placed on the altar on Sunday, June 11. **Staff from Cross Roads also joined us for worship.**
- On Sunday, June 18, we shared special music with some of our favorite childhood church songs!



## Our GSLC Community

- *Women of Good Shepherd* enjoyed eating our dinners together on the N. Richards lawn as we solved a challenging sheet of rebus puzzles. We also wrote cards to our home bound members for Independence Day.
- *Comfort Creators* presented five crocheted/knitted prayer shawls for an outside group going on mission to Kentucky.
- *Shepherd Stitchers* made one quilt for a newly baptized.
- GSLC Community Garden volunteers began weeding and watering.
- *Finance Team* converted church financial bookkeeping records to QuickBooks online.
- *Property Team* dug out trench along Sanctuary brick walls to avoid water seepage. Realigned gutters around Luther Hall to allow proper drainage.
- ***Christian Education* held the first of three Summer Family Fun Nights, full of games and activities.**
- *Tech Team* installed Photoshop Elements to support all digital postings.
- *Crafteers* created four counted cross stitch plaques for Confirmands. Created one needlepoint wall hanging for baptism.



# JULY 2023

## Outreach

- Spending Plan Outreach: Visions & Pathways \$500 and Safe + Sound \$500
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Social Ministry Giving Funding Outreach: Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center \$2,500
- Collections: “Backpacking Bonanza” School supplies and backpacks for our Backpacking for Others ministry; “Christmas in July” GSLC Pantry \$25 ShopRite gift cards via a Quilt Drawing of a handmade Christmas quilt donated by the Shepherd Stitchers. Items for our GSLC Pantry
- H.O.M.E.: Volunteers prepared and delivered homemade meals for guests housed offsite 7/23-7/29.
- GSLC Pantry distribution: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday

## Worship

- In-person worship w/Holy Communion ~ 9:30am Sundays; virtual worship only on July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend
- **On Sunday, July 9, the New Jersey Gay Men’s Chorus led us in music for worship.**
- Sunday, July 16 began a special worship series where we journeyed through the seasons of the church year (**Advent**, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter & Pentecost) over the course of 6 summer Sundays!



## Our GSLC Community

- *Women of Good Shepherd* had lunch and conversation together after Worship. Unfortunately, the planned guided walk of Rutgers Gardens had to be rescheduled due to rain.
- *Crafteers* created one needlepoint wall hanging for baptism.
- *Shepherd Stitchers* created one quilt for the Quilt Drawing. Proceeds went to GSLC Food Pantry.
- *Tech Team* changed staff logins and emails to support new staff duties and responsibilities.
- *Property Team:*
  - Power washed Narthex entrance and exterior brick wall.
  - Cleaned up Sanctuary floor and pews from plaster that fell during roof leak.
  - Re-stained pews as needed.
  - Selected a Roofer to patch the Sanctuary to avoid missing any Services.
- ***Christian Education* held the second Summer Family Fun Night**



# AUGUST 2023

## Outreach

- Spending Plan Outreach: Somerville Fire Department \$500 and Somerville Rescue Squad \$500
- Collection: Items for our GSLC Pantry
- God's Work Our Hands prep: Collections of party napkins, change for ELCA World Hunger, household items for the GSLC/Giving Network Giveaway and items for Weekend Backpack Meals for the Somerset County Food Bank
- **Backpacking for Others\*: 383 backpacks filled with school supplies** were assembled and were distributed to the following: GSLC Pantry families, GSLC Angel family, Agape House, Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ, Visions & Pathways, H.O.M.E., Safe + Sound Somerset, Jewish Family Services, Manville High School, Somerville Middle School, CAPS Emerson Campus, Somerset Angel Food Program and several individual requests. *\*Supported by a Thrivent Action Team Grant*
- H.O.M.E.: Volunteers prepared and delivered homemade meals for guests housed offsite 8/27-9/2.
- GSLC Pantry distribution: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – School backpacks distributed.



## Worship

- In-person worship w/Holy Communion ~ 9:30am Sundays
- Celebration of the Seasons of the Church Year continued
- **Culmination of summer worship had us outside around the campfire – with s'mores!**



## Our GSLC Community

- **Enjoyed a Somerset Patriots baseball game on August 11**
- *Crafters* created one needlepoint wall hanging for baptism.
- *Women of Good Shepherd* assembled 382 pencil cases in preparation for "Backpacking for Others".
- *Comfort Creators* delivered one handmade prayer shawl to someone in need of comfort. Donated 28 baby layettes (Blanket, sweater & hat) 40 hats, 30 scarves, one afghan and one security blanket to Giving Network Giveaway.
- *Shepherd Stitches* created one quilt for a newly baptized and one quilt was given to a homebound member.
- *Property Team:*



- Power washed Memorial Garden sidewalks and pavers & fixed downspout at entrance to Memorial Garden to reroute water



- Installed solar lighting & treated and eliminated wasp nests in fencing in playground
- Property day organized to clean up gardens on N. Richards Ave side of building & clear brush around playground
- Installed microphone stand in balcony; reorganized wiring & camera stand in tech area for better access
- Fixed sticking main doors going into Sanctuary.

○ **Christian Education held the final Family Fun Night of the Summer where the families enjoyed bubbles, and ice cream from the Scream Truck.**

- *Finance Team* completed church book review.

# SEPTEMBER 2023

## Outreach

- Spending Plan Outreach: H.O.M.E. \$1,000, Middle Earth \$500
- **God's Work Our Hands Sunday:** Activities included packing 800 sets of wooden flatware\* with donated party napkins for H.O.M.E., Somerset County Food Bank & Feeding Hands; **assembled 850 Weekend Backpack Meals; rolled \$245.50 in coins for ELCA World Hunger;** wrote 40 cards for our home bound, veterans and college students; distributed 35 containers and recipes for the take-home project to benefit our GSLC Pantry families; sorted coats & Halloween costumes and collected 2 vans full of household items for the GSLC/Giving Network Giveaway. \*Supported by Thrivent Action Teams.



- Hosted our fifth GSLC/Giving Network Giveaway on September 15 & 16. Items included household goods, small appliances, baby items, Halloween costumes & coats. The Zarephath Ministry gave away free clothing. A dozen Somerset County agencies had information tables. A Thrivent Action Team\* provided \$250 for food. The Shepherd Stitchers

donated 50 fleece hats and 24 quilts. The Comfort Creators donated 28 layette sets\* (baby sweater, hat and blanket), 27 hat/scarf sets, 13 additional hats & 8 scarves, 1 Afghan & 1 security blanket.

*\*Supported by a Thrivent Action Team Grant*

- Forty-Eight pairs of eyeglasses were collected and donated to Lions International in Warren, NJ.
- GSLC Pantry distribution: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday



## Worship

- In-person worship w/Holy Communion ~ 9:30am Sundays; virtual worship only on Labor Day weekend
- Faith in Action forms placed on the altar with our offerings of Time & Talent for winter & spring
- Bible presentations for 3-year-olds, third graders, and seventh graders



## Our GSLC Community

- *Christian Education* hosted a Meet & Greet where parents could meet our Christian Education team; weekly Christian Education activities began.
- *Women of Good Shepherd* participated in a variety of *God's Work Our Hands* projects focusing on food insecurity. Enjoyed a guided walk of the Rutgers Gardens led by Bonnie Gould's friend Lee
- *Crafters* created 20 needlepoint bookmarks for those receiving bibles.
- *Shepherd Stitchers* donated 24 quilts and 50 fleece hats to the Giving Network. Book Discussion: *Reclaiming the L Word* by Kelly A. Fryer
- *Finance Team* identified Stephanie Meister as new financial secretary candidate and began transition training. Enabled credit card usage for paying tuition at Daycare
- *Tech Team* worked with staff and CDW to get our license for Broadband's Symantec EndPoint antivirus software renewed for another year.
- *Property Team* replaced lighting transformers in Daycare and Narthex. Obtained multiple quotes for Sanctuary roof replacement and made recommendations to Council.

# OCTOBER 2023

## Outreach

- Spending Plan Outreach: Somerset County Food Bank \$500, Giving Network \$500
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Social Ministry Giving Funding Outreach: Lutheran Disaster Response \$1,500, Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services \$1,500, ELCA World Hunger \$1,250, Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity Repair Program \$500
- Collections: GSLC Pantry “World Series” - 4 weeks of collections/competition of non-perishable food and non-food items. Collected turkeys, roasters & turkey breasts for Thanksgiving\*. *\*Supported by a Thrivent Action Team Grant*
- H.O.M.E.: Volunteers prepared and delivered homemade meals for guests housed offsite 10/29-11/4.
- GSLC Pantry distribution: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – Frozen homemade food from GWOH distributed.
- **Blessing of the Animals on October 2**



## Worship

- In-person worship w/Holy Communion ~ 9:30am Sundays
- Reformation Sunday Worship with the Reformation Choir singing.

## Our GSLC Community

- Partners in Ministry Fair: A dozen of the organizations we support joined us with information tables in the narthex after Worship.
- *Women of Good Shepherd* enjoyed lunch and fellowship at the Stage House Tavern
- *Christian Education* - children participated in a matching game at the Partners for Ministry Fair and participated in the Congregation Mission Forward Retreat.
- **On Reformation Sunday, Good Shepherd gathered in retreat before worship to learn about our past, name where we are, and dream about where we'd like to go. Food and conversation were abundant as we listened for how God has, is and will call us into the future!**



- Annual Financial Stewardship Campaign begins: *A Firm Foundation*
- *Tech Team* Worked through issues experienced with assigning MS365 licenses to staff and volunteers.
- *Finance Team* received and analyzed bids for health, dental, STD/LTD/Life insurances and made recommendations for coverages to executive team.
- *Property Team* replaced lights for stained glass windows in the sanctuary, cross and sign lights



- *Crafters* created one adult cross stitch baptism plaque.
- *Cancer Caring Ministry* met on Zoom.



- **Daycare went pumpkin picking** and held fall activities.

# NOVEMBER 2023

## Outreach

- Spending Plan Outreach: Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ \$1,000
- 4th Quarter Social Ministry Giving Funding Outreach: \$3,450 for GSLC Pantry \$25 ShopRite gift cards.
- Collections: Angel Tree Gifts\*; items for the GSLC Pantry; Turkeys, roasters & turkey breasts for Christmas\*; GSLC Pantry \$25 ShopRite gift cards via a **Quilt Drawing of a handmade Christmas quilt donated by the Shepherd Stitches.**  
\*Supported by a Thrivent Action Team Grant
- Thanksgiving Food Baskets: Delivered to 4 families\*. \*Supported by a Thrivent Action Team Grant
- H.O.M.E.: Volunteers prepared and delivered homemade meals for guests housed offsite 11/19-11/22.
- GSLC Pantry distribution: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – Turkeys, turkey breasts and roasters distributed.



## Worship

- In-person worship w/Holy Communion ~ 9:30am Sundays
- All Saints Sunday names read in the Memorial Garden
- **2024 financial commitments placed on the altar during worship on November 19.**



## Our GSLC Community

- *Women of Good Shepherd* made “Lord’s Prayer” prayer bracelets for our home bound members under the guidance of Christine Peterson Duque with beads provided by Julia Hong Sabella. We also wrote Thanksgiving cards for our home bound members as our service project.
- *Finance Team* shopped for health, dental and disability insurance plans for non-called staff members.
- *Property Team* cleared out Room D and transformed it into the Food Pantry room. Discarded old couches and chairs, removed dividing doors in Room B/C and fixed broken playground fence piece.
- Annual Financial Stewardship Campaign *A Firm Foundation* ends with Commitment Sunday Nov. 19
- Thanksgiving Pie Day offered a tasty treat and fellowship.
- *Tech Team* worked to develop spending plans for the 2024 GSLC plan. Worked with Dan Groth, James Thornton, and Alex Duque to discuss audio issues with the sanctuary and sound system.
- *Comfort Creators* delivered two handmade prayer shawls to someone in need of comfort.
- *Crafteers* created one needlepoint wall hanging for baptism.
- *Shepherd Stitches* created one quilt for a newly baptized and one quilt for a homebound member.
- ***Christian Education* – the children participated in a Talent Show where they were able to share their gifts.**



# DECEMBER 2023

## Outreach

- Spending Plan Outreach: H.O.M.E. \$1,000
- Collections: GSLC Pantry \$25 ShopRite gift cards via a Quilt Drawing of a handmade Christmas quilt donated by the Shepherd Stitches; Annual tower of toilet paper vs. paper towels competition for the GSLC Pantry.
- Christmas Food Baskets\*: Delivered to 5 families. \*Supported by a Thrivent Action Team Grant
- Safe + Sound: Received 18 child-sized quilts from the Shepherd Stitches.
- Lutheran World Relief: Received 40 60”x 80” quilts from the Shepherd Stitches.
- Food Bank staffing: Volunteers staffed the Somerset County Food Bank’s Somerville branch on 2 Saturday mornings.
- GSLC Pantry distribution: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – Turkeys, turkey breasts & roasters also distributed.

## Worship

- In-person worship w/Holy Communion ~ 9:30am Sundays
- Virtual Thursday evening Advent Worship
- **Many hands helped decorate the sanctuary for Christmas!**
- A Quiet Christmas held December 17 for those facing loss, transitions, and life changes.
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship services at 1:00, 4:00 & 8:00 PM



## Our GSLC Community

- *Women of Good Shepherd* baked and packed homemade Christmas cookies for the gift bags for our home bound members and the Living Nativity. Christmas cards were also written for the home bound gift bags
- *Property Team* worked on the painting project that included the office, sanctuary, rooms A & B/C and Caring Ministry room.
- *Crafteers* created 11 coasters with mugs for homebound members.
- *Shepherd Stitches* donated 18 quilts to Safe and Sound. Also, one quilt was donated for the Quilt Drawing. The proceeds went to GSLC Food Pantry.



- *Christian Education* – the children decorated Christmas ornaments.
- *Cancer Caring Ministry* met on Zoom.
- *Caring Ministry* put together Christmas Care Packages for the Homebound members which included homemade cookies and a mug/coaster from the Crafteers.
- *Tech Team* worked with Pr Chelsea to select and order hardware to upgrade older PCs and other equipment.
- *Finance Team* facilitated and compiled annual spending plan for 2024. Converted daycare financial bookkeeping records to QuickBooks online
- **Daycare Christmas pageant** held December 8

## DECEMBER 2023 *(continued)*

- **The Living Nativity** was held on Dec. 9, with two performances. There were 60 people in the cast and crew and approximately 500 people in attendance. Refreshments and dinner for cast and crew were served inside again this year. A new star for the manger was purchased with Memorial Fund donations. As always, it was a wonderfully spiritual evening for everyone.





# JANUARY 2024

## Outreach

- Collections: Items for the GSLC Pantry including cans of soup for 2/11/24 distribution.
- “Souper Bowl Sunday” prep: Distributed containers and soup recipes as a take-home project to benefit our GSLC Pantry families.
- **Hands-on Project after Worship: Assembled 1,000 Weekend Backpack Meals for Kids\* for the Somerset County Food Bank.** \*Supported by a Thrivent Action Team Grant
- H.O.M.E.: Volunteers prepared and delivered homemade meals for guests housed offsite 1/14-1/20.
- Food Bank staffing: Volunteers staffed the Somerset County Food Bank’s Somerville branch on 2 Saturday mornings. The Shepherd Stitchers donated 40 fleece hats for distribution.

## Worship

- In-person worship w/Holy Communion ~ 9:30am Sundays

## Our GSLC Community

- *Finance Team* led the annual spending plan compilation and provided 2023 giving statement to all members of the congregation. Updated all simply giving amounts in system from annual stewardship appeal.
- Annual Financial Meeting held on January 28.
- *Property Team* coordinated gutter repairs due to snow damage.
- *Women of Good Shepherd* met via Zoom with Beth Gebhart of Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ for a worthwhile presentation of “Keep This; Toss That” for which handouts of helpful strategies were shared.
- *Comfort Creators* delivered one handmade shawl for a friend in need of comfort.
- *Shepherd Stitchers* created one quilt for a newly baptized and donated 40 fleece hats to the Somerset County Food Bank.
- *Crafters* created two needlepoint wall hangings for baptisms.
- *Tech Team* Set up a new laptop and printer for Stephanie Meister to use for Financial Secretary duties at home. Encountered lingering problems with printing and network speed.
- *Christian Education* – the children had a chance to explore what it looks like to follow Jesus.



# FEBRUARY 2024

## Outreach

- Spending Plan Outreach: Cross Roads Camp & Retreat Center \$5,000
- Collections: Quarters for the Laundry Love Ministry of St. John's Episcopal Church, Somerville. Frozen homemade soup and cans of soup for distribution to our pantry families.
- GSLC Pantry distribution: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – Frozen “Souper Bowl” soups distributed.

## Worship

- In-person worship w/Holy Communion ~ 9:30am Sundays
- Ash Wednesday: Worship w/Holy Communion and Distribution of Ashes at 11am and 7pm.
- Virtual Worship on Thursdays in Lent began.

## Our GSLC Community

- A retirement celebration was held for Laura Meerovich on Sunday, February 4. Unfortunately, Laura was unable to attend in person as she had COVID, however, we still prayed for her during worship and held a brunch in her honor. She greeted us over Zoom and gifts and food were delivered to her home. We thank her for her many years serving Good Shepherd!
- *Women of Good Shepherd* wrote Valentines and “Ashes-to-Go” cards to send to our home bound members. Ellen Parker gave a stirring presentation of Katie Luther which included a devotion on Psalm 31
- The Seed of Joy daily devotional sent daily from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday.
- **Stay and Play Game Day was fun for all ages on February 25.**
- Book Discussion: *Raising Kids Beyond the Binary* by Jamie Bruesehoff



○ *Property Team* installed lights and coordinated the installation of pull down stairs in the Luther Hall attic. Repainted Luther Hall closet and patched ceiling.

○ *Christian Education* continued to meet weekly and the children took part in various activities and arts and crafts where they learned about Transfiguration Sunday and Lent

○ *Crafters* created one needlepoint wall hanging for baptism. Also presented one framed cross stitch picture to Laura Meerovich upon retirement.

○ *Shepherd Stitches* donated and delivered 20 quilts to Lutheran World Relief in Maryland.

- *Comfort Creators* delivered one handmade shawl for someone in need of comfort. Also presented one knitted afghan to Laura Meerovich upon retirement.
- Music Ministry invited all to participate in Choir and Grace Alive! groups.



# MARCH 2024

## Outreach

- Spending Plan Outreach: H.O.M.E. \$2,000
- Collections: GSLC Pantry “March Madness” - 4 weeks of collections/competition of non-perishable food and non-food items. Coats for the GSLC/Giving Network Giveaway.
- Hands-on Project after Worship: Rolled \$386 quarters for Laundry Love for St. John’s.
- H.O.M.E.: Volunteers prepared and delivered homemade meals for guests housed offsite 3/24-3/27.
- GSLC Pantry distribution: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday

## Worship

- In-person worship w/Holy Communion ~ 9:30am Sundays.
- We welcomed Pack 80 and Troop 84 to worship for Scout Sunday on March 3.
- We recognized 14 new members during worship on March 10.
- Virtual Worship on Thursdays in Lent.



○ Palm Sunday worship included coat donations.

○ **Maundy Thursday Worship at 11am & Dinner Church at 6:30pm.**

○ Good Friday at 11am & 7pm Tenebrae Worship.

○ **Easter worship: Grace Alive! at 9am, Egg Hunt at 10am, Festival Worship at 11am.**



## Our GSLC Community

- *Christian Education* – the children colored Easter pages that were given to the homebound members.
- *Cancer Caring Ministry* group met on Zoom.
- *Caring Ministry* put together Easter care packages for the homebound members which included a beautiful cross from Crafterers and a handmade art project from one of our young members.
- *Women of Good Shepherd* dyed and decorated fancy Easter Eggs with the supplies and expertise of Joan Grace. Some of the eggs were provided for the Easter coffee hour.
- Book Discussion: *We are not Like Them* by Christine Pride and Jo Piazza.
- *Tech Team* set up Iolene’s laptop to do remote printing to the GSLC Xerox printer. Had staff order replacement batteries for the APC SUA3000X UPS in the closet.
- *Crafterers* created one needlepoint wall hanging for baptism. Also created eight glass cross keepsakes for homebound members.
- *Shepherd Stitches* created one quilt for a newly baptized.
- New Member class held on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- *Property Team* repaired a play structure in the playground as required by daycare safety standards. Repaired window screens and installed new blinds in daycare windows.

# APRIL 2024

## Outreach

- Spending Plan Outreach: Giving Network \$1,500 and Middle Earth \$1,000
- 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Social Ministry Giving Funding Outreach: Lutheran World Relief \$1,500
- Collections: Items for Weekend Backpack Meals for Kids for the Somerset County Food Bank, and household items for the GSLC/Giving Network Giveaway.
- Easter Food Baskets: Delivered to 5 families\* \*Supported by a Thrivent Action Team Grant
- Hands-on Project after Worship: **Assembled 1,200 Weekend Backpack Meals for the Somerset County Food Bank.**
- GSLC Pantry distribution: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday



## Worship

- In-person worship w/Holy Communion ~ 9:30am Sundays.
- First Holy Communion celebrated during worship on April 14.

## Our GSLC Community



- **Women of Good Shepherd created beautiful glass sun catchers, pocket crosses and glass ornaments for ourselves and our home bound members with the generosity of Debbie Lawton.**

- *Tech Team* replaced the batteries in the SUA3000X UPS and reconfigured all of the power connections to remove power strip to power strip connections and put all the servers and main network hardware on the 3000X. Finally fixed the networking and printing connection problems at the Meisters. A new Wi-Fi router was required that enabled the



printer communications and provided better connectivity to the Internet and the GSLC VPN.

- *Property Team* took on the massive project of renovation of church and daycare bathrooms. Worked with plumber to install water cutoff valves.
- *Christian Education* – Children learned about how Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. They helped to clean up and plant in the community garden.
- **First Communion Retreat was held for our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders on Saturday, April 13.**
- *Crafters* cross stitch plaques for First Communion.
- On Saturday, April 20, Good Shepherd hosted a concert by the Whitehouse Wind Symphony.
- First gathering of *The Chat*, a new adult educational opportunity, was held.



# MAY 2024

## Outreach

- Spending Plan Outreach: Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ \$1,500 and Habitat for Humanity Repair Program \$1,000.
- Collection: Hamburgers and hot dogs for our GSLC Food Pantry families. A Thrivent Action Team Grant provided funds to purchase buns and condiments.
- Hosted our sixth GSLC/Giving Network Giveaway on May 3 & 4. Items included household goods, small appliances, baby items, toys and coats. The Shepherd Stitchers donated 12 quilts and 2 fleece blankets. The Comfort Creators donated 20 layette sets (baby sweater, hat and blanket). Seventeen Somerset County agencies had information tables. A Thrivent Action Team\* provided \$250 for food.  
\*Supported by a Thrivent Action Team.
- Fifty-two pairs of eyeglasses were collected and donated to Lions International in Warren, NJ.
- GSLC Pantry distribution: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday
- Confirmation class packed 80 bagged lunches for SHIP



## Worship

- In-person worship w/Holy Communion ~ 9:30am Sundays; virtual worship only on Memorial Day Weekend
- **Children's Choir sang on Sunday, May 12**
- **Special Combined Choir on Pentecost Sunday, May 19**



## Our GSLC Community



- **H.O.M.E. staff joined us for Worship and gathered with us for *The Chat* to invite renewed participation by our members.**
- *Women of Good Shepherd* enjoyed a fascinating India Travelogue presented via Zoom by Cathy Thornton
- *Comfort Creators* donated 20 baby layettes (blanket, sweater & hat) to the Giving Network Giveaway

- *Crafteers* created 11 cross stitch plaques for First Holy Communion. Also created two needlepoint wall hangings for baptisms
- *Shepherd Stitchers* donated 12 quilts and 2 fleece blankets to the GN Giveaway.
- *Finance team* received property and liability insurance renewal and analyzed ways to reduce premiums without significant negative impact to coverages. Made recommendations to Council.
- **On Sunday, May 5, the Fellowship Team hosted a Scavenger Hunt around Somerville (an indoor option at church was also provided). The events were followed by a taco lunch!**



# MAY 2024 (*continued*)

- A special Spirit Week was held in the lead up to Pentecost Sunday, May 19. Days included: Selfie with Your Pet, **Sunglasses Day**, and Random Act of Kindness Day, among others!



- *Christian Education* had our children thinking about all the languages we can use to recognize the Spirit in our midst.
- **On May 19, Good Shepherd hosted the NJ Gay Men's Chorus Concert.**



## **DUTIES OF CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS**

(from our Constitution)

The duties of the Congregation Council shall include the following:

- a. To lead this congregation in stating its mission, to do long-range planning, to set goals and priorities, and to evaluate its activities in light of its mission and goals.
- b. To seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support.
- c. To oversee and provide for the administration of this congregation to enable it to fulfill its functions and perform its mission.
- d. To maintain supportive relationships with the pastor(s) and staff and help them annually to evaluate the fulfillment of their calling, appointment, or employment.
- e. To be examples individually and corporately of the style of life and ministry expected of all baptized persons.
- f. To promote a congregational climate of peace and goodwill and as differences and conflicts arise, to endeavor to foster mutual understanding.
- g. To arrange for pastoral service during the sickness or absence of the pastor.
- h. To emphasize partnership with the Synod and church wide units of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as well as cooperation with other congregations, both Lutheran and non-Lutheran, subject to established policies of the Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- i. To recommend and encourage the use of program resources produced or approved by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- j. To seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel.

The Congregation Council shall:

- be responsible for the financial and property matters of this congregation.
- see that the provisions of this constitution, its bylaws, and the continuing resolutions are carried out.
- provide for an annual review of the membership roster.
- be responsible for the appointment and supervision of the salaried lay workers of this congregation.
- submit a comprehensive report to this congregation at the annual meeting.
- normally meet once a month. Special meetings may be called by a pastor or the president and shall be called at the request of at least one-half of its members.

[Council currently usually meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month.]

# NOMINEES FOR CONGREGATION COUNCIL

**Youth Representative - 1 year term:**  
**Merrin Chilcoat 2024-2025**

**1<sup>st</sup> 3-year term**  
**Skip Fuller 2024-2027**  
**Jeanna Grapes 2024-2027**  
**Nancy Waltermire 2024-2027**

**2<sup>nd</sup> 3-year term**  
**Christeen Jacquish 2024-2027**

**2-year term (vacant position)**

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Continuing Council Members:
Richard Alagona 2023-2026
Patricia Craig 2022-2025
Chris Fuson 2023-2026
Carrie Rieble 2023-2026
Jill Weidner 2022-2025 (2nd term)

Completing Their Service in 2024:
Lynn Francesconi 2018-2024
Wes Thielke 2021-2024

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## NON-COUNCIL NOMINEES

**Nominating Committee & Endowment Committee**

**Sandy Alexander** – Nominating Committee – two-year term – 2024-2026  
**Glen Denys** – Nominating Committee - two-year term – 2024-2026  
**Suzanne Westberg** – Endowment Committee – one-year term – 2024-2025  
**James Murphy** – Endowment Committee – two-year term – 2024-2026  
**Florindo Gallicchio** – Endowment Committee – three-year term – 2024-2027

**Continuing Nominating, Memorial & Endowment Committee Members:**

**Jeff Davis 2023-2025** – Nominating Committee  
**Barbara Schuster 2023-2025** – Nominating Committee

**Completing Their Service in 2024:**

**Alice Cotton 2022-2024** – Nominating Committee  
**Martin Linton 2022-2024** – Nominating Committee  
**Gail Hammond** – Endowment Committee



# COUNCIL NOMINEE BIOS

## First 3-Year Term

**Skip Fuller** - I have been a member at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for 12 years. I am a sports performance coach and personal trainer. I enjoy football, golf, baseball hockey and classic cars. I am happily married for 33years to Lana Fuller and have two children, Alayna (Grad School - Univ of Denver) and Joshua (college - Rutgers) We also have 5 beautiful golden doodles.

**Jeanna Grapes** - Jeanna Grapes has been a member of GSLC for almost 7 years. Jeanna grew up in New York City and currently resides in Martinsville with her husband, Jody and their son Wyatt and daughter Emmely. Jeanna has extensive experience as a business owner and a c-suite Executive Assistant. She currently enjoys working for Bridgewater-Raritan High School and is looking forward to sharing her experience and skills to help support our community.

**Nancy Waltermire** – Is a Managing Director in the Healthcare and Life Sciences Disputes, Regulatory, Compliance & Investigations practice at Ankura Consulting, Inc. Nancy has been a member of GSLC since 2001. I have served on Church Council 2004 – 2010 & 2012 – 2018 as Social Ministry Team and Worship Committee Liaison, Vice President, and President. I currently volunteer my Time serving as a Worship Assistant, Altar Guild, Communion Assistant, Reader, Usher, Confirmation Mentor, Assist with Youth Group, and Chair the Worship & Music committee. I also chaperoned the 2015 Youth Gathering in Detroit & 2018 Youth Gathering in Houston. I currently serve as a member of the National Scleroderma Board of Directors and Regional Chair of the Mid-Atlantic region Scleroderma Foundation. I am also a Diakonia Student. I have been married 15 years to the love of my life, Robert, and have a stepson, James.

## Second 3-Year Term

**Christeen Jacquish** - Attending GSLC since 2003 but official member as of March 2020.

Family: Married to Eric Jacquish. Mother to Colin Miller & Sean and Charleigh Jacquish.

Occupation: Dental Assistant

Current Participation:

- Living Nativity Crew
- Church Community Garden

Prior Participation:

- Sunday school teacher
- Council President-Elect
- Refreshments

## First 2-Year Term

### Youth Representative

**Merrin Chilcoat** - I'm a Sophomore at Somerville High School. I'm involved in the Medical Science program at the school as well as Drama Club and I am a lacrosse goalie all year around. Outside of school, I volunteer at Mane Stream - a therapeutic riding program. I've always been involved in the church as Acolyte, Usher, Reader, Assisting with Christian Education, going to Crossroads camp, and Worship assistant. I joined GSLC in March 2024, I was confirmed in September of 2023. I've also done many community service projects within church like the Crop Walk, Volunteering at the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, Packing school bags, Box City, and many more. I have two older brothers, a turtle, and a cat.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE NOMINEE BIOS

**Sandy Alexander** - Member of Good Shepherd 1965~1971, 1977-present.

Has served as worship assistant, communion assistant, on Council. Active in adult Bible study, altar guild, offering counter for special offerings, and visiting the home bound. Also active in WELCA.

I enjoy visiting my scattered families, especially my grandchildren!

**Glen Denys** - Member of GSLC since 1974

Family: Married with 2 children, Graham (13), Harrison (9). Wife, Ruth, teaches preschool in Bridgewater

Occupation: 5th grade teacher at Oak Street School in Bernards Township

Serves on Somerville Borough Council and Somerville Environmental Commission.

Glen and his family participate in Family Fun Nights, Christian Education and the Food Pantry.

## ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE NOMINEE BIOS

**Suzanne Westberg** is a retired special educator and intermediate/middle school principal from Piscataway. She and her husband Eric have been members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church since 2008. Suzanne is a member of the GSLC Choir, the GSLC Daycare Ministry Team, and has served on the Congregation Council. She and Eric live in Piscataway and have two children and two grandchildren.

**Florindo Gallicchio** and his family came to Good Shepherd in 1995 after serving in the United States Navy for ten years. Florindo has served in a number of roles including Sunday Church School teacher for ten years, worship assistant, communion assistant, sound technician, bass guitarist for Grace Alive!, Confirmation teacher, and as a volunteer in multiple church activities. He has four adult children and four grandchildren who live across the United States. He currently lives in Raritan, NJ with his dog Marty.

**James Murphy**- Member of GSLC since 2008

Family: Married to Gale since 2003. Daughter Lily is our only child.

Occupation: Insurance Agent for Marine Agency Corp. We write insurance for small businesses.

Prior Occupations: over 20 years in financial services industry where I held Series 7, 24 & 66 licenses. Worked at AT&T in various management and non-management positions for almost ten years prior to working in the financial services industry.

Current Participation:

- Head Counter for Counting Team
- Food Bank Volunteer
- Endowment Committee

Prior Participation: Worked for several years on the Audit Committee