



**MAY 2025**

**SEMIANNUAL  
CONGREGATIONAL REPORT**

**THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

750 Greenfield Road • Lancaster, PA 17601

717-393-3958 • [www.GoodShepherdLancaster.org](http://www.GoodShepherdLancaster.org)

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## **VISION STATEMENT**

The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd  
is committed to living out the unconditional love  
and radical hospitality of Jesus  
in our worship,  
in our service to the world,  
and in our shared life.

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

We value, respect, and engage people as children of God  
expecting to encounter Christ in everyone we meet.

We care for one another as Christ cares for us  
and seek to create relationships of love and support.

We believe all that we are, and all that we have,  
are gifts that have been entrusted to us by God to be shared with others.

We seek to serve others following the example of Christ.

We encounter God in a way that forms and feeds us.

We forgive others as we have been forgiven.

We seek to be transformed through our relationship with Christ  
so as to live as Christ's disciples in the world.

Adopted by the Congregation 12 May 2019

# MINUTES SEMIANNUAL MEETING NOVEMBER 24, 2024

## **Call to Order**

Mike Young, Congregation Council President and Presiding Officer, called the meeting to order at 11:12 a.m.

## **Prayer**

Pastor Kurt Strause led the congregation in prayer.

## **Adoption of Minutes from Congregational Meeting of April 21, 2024**

A motion was made by Scott Lefever and seconded by Kris Albert to accept the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

## **Adoption of Constitution Changes**

Changes to the Constitution, suggested by the Synod, were primarily those of language. After a short discussion, Kris Albert moved to adopt the changes. Cheryl Laub seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

## **2025 Budget Overview and Approval**

Mark Lowery reviewed the attached Proposed Budget Proposal-2025. He highlighted reductions to align with committee structural changes (including Small Groups) and a decrease in charitable giving. He also pointed to increases, such as meeting a 3% salary increase for the church secretary and the return to normal mortgage payments. He commented that the congregation has been responding to needs, and he will continue to monitor trends and expenses.

Discussion topics included designated giving, the elimination of LNP advertising, Contact, and Small Groups.

Mike Young and the congregation formally thanked Mark for his dedication, time, and effort. Ed White made a motion to accept the 2025 Budget which was seconded by Virginia Young. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Approval of Nominating Committee**

A motion was made by Becky Marks and seconded by Tom Karge to approve the following members to the Nominating Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

- Doug Albert
- Ed Smith
- Donna Wennerholt

## **Approval of Synod Representatives**

A motion was made by Doug Albert and seconded by Kelly Lowery to approve the following members as Synod representatives.

- Kathy Saltzer
- Bob Walton

## MINUTES SEMIANNUAL MEETING NOVEMBER 24, 2024

### Approval of Sale of Property

Mike Young reviewed items included in a letter of intent from the High Foundation. He also announced that a real estate attorney will be retained.

- The sale includes 3.59 acres.
- High will obtain subdivision approval from the township, and will assume any costs involved.
- A purchase agreement will be in place by January 10, 2025.
- The sale must be approved by the High Foundation at their December 2024 board meeting.
- Parking for the LCGS will not be impacted as a permanent easement will be in place.
- High made an offer of \$965,000 which is less than the \$1,000,000 sale price. The church's representatives will continue to negotiate as the budget has been written based on this price. However, there will be no realtor fees.

Proceeds will be designated as follows:

- 50% General Endowment Fund
- 30% Capital Reserve Account
- 10% Operating Reserve
- 5% Operating Budget
- 5% Charitable Gifts

Discussion topics included snow removal, the easement, the gifts and opportunities from the sale, the timeline, future financial issues, property appraisal, and Randy Patterson emphasized the need for continued stewardship. Bob Walton highlighted how the proceeds could forward the church's charitable mission.

Following the discussion, Judy Lefever made the following motion:

"I would like to make the motion that the subdivision and sale of portions of 750 Greenfield Road real estate, approximately 3.59 acres, on terms that the Congressional Council deems appropriate, and to grant any reasonably necessary easements related to the same be entered into with the High Foundation." The motion was seconded by Bob Walton.

Pastor Strause led a prayer prior to the vote, and the motion passed unanimously.

A thank you round of applause was given to all who have been involved with the sale.

### Review of Semi-annual Reports:

Kris Albert reported on the growth of Small Groups and invited the congregation to prayerfully consider their own involvement.

Other written committee reports can be found in the April 2024 Congregational Report.

### Adjournment:

A motion made by Randy Patterson and seconded by Cynthia Boyer Blakeslee unanimously passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Hunter  
Congregation Secretary

## MINUTES OF THE CALL VOTE ON MARCH 30, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Mike Young at 11:15 a.m.

Pastor Henry Herbener led the congregation in prayer.

Mike Young reviewed the purpose of the meeting and read the Council minutes of February 12, 2025, when Pastor Paradise was interviewed.

At that meeting a roll call vote was held, and council unanimously recommended that Pastor Scott Paradise be presented to the congregation of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd for a call vote. He added that only full members who were present were allowed to vote. He then asked for questions, and there were none.

Pastor Beth Martini, from the Synod, was introduced. She brought greetings from Bishop Dunlop and led the congregation in prayer. She explained the voting procedure, and ballots were distributed, collected, and counted.

A hymn sing, led by Valerie Hughes, was held during the count.

At 11:36, Mike Young announced the results of the Call vote:

- 84 votes were cast
- 82 votes yes
- 2 votes no

Mike then thanked Council for trusting the Call Committee and introduced the members as follows:

Kathy Good-Chair  
Kris Albert  
Chuck Book  
Henry Herbener  
Anne Hohenwarter  
Kelly Lowery

Pastor Paradise then thanked the Congregation for the Call, and led a closing prayer.

Kris Albert made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Barb Kurtz. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting ended at 11:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Hunter  
Congregational Secretary

## REPORT OF THE CONGREGATION COUNCIL PRESIDENT

DR. MICHAEL C. YOUNG

As I write this report, of course I reviewed past president's messages. I see no reason to change from the theme of transition, with one critical difference. Our transition today is healthy, vibrant and forward looking.

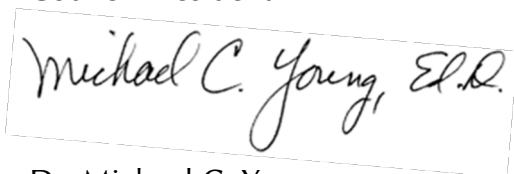
Often in reality, transitions are mixed, and this is the case here at Good Shepherd. We bid Bon Voyage to Pastor Strause and Lois as they start on a new phase of their time together, including the overseas trip they are on as you read this. Good Shepherd was blessed to have such a fantastic "interim" Pastor that we came to know, love, and look to as our Pastor! With his departure, we are also welcoming a new spiritual leader, Pastor Scott Paradise. We wait with joyful anticipation of Pastor Paradise's first service on June 1. No doubt our Good Shepherd welcome will make Pastor Paradise and his wife Christine feel comfortable in their new home. I am certain you join me in thanking the Call Committee for the months of service to help select our new Pastor.

Another significant positive transition is regarding our financial condition. Initially, my report explained the challenges we were facing on things as basic as monthly expenses. While all of us need to stay committed and involved in the daily life of our congregation, we have had a wonderful response by so many people in countless ways. To repeat the borrowed words from one of our members, "God has plans. God needs us to make them happen." We heard the plans and with the support of the Holy Spirit, we are putting those plans into place. Thank you to everyone for your support of time, talent, money, prayers, thoughts, and love.

I want to thank a few people for their LONG service to Good Shepherd in roles that are generally not of a high profile nature. This was a difficult group to put together, and I hope I did not slight anyone. We have many people who do different things and move from one role to another role as needed. These four people have been in the same roles for over 100 + combined years! Each would say they could not do it without their respective teams of people, and I agree. I also know, the groups need a leader or a person with critical knowledge. These folks have guided unselfishly for a long time. In no particular order we thank, Denise White for the monthly Grace Meal, Steve Beiler for never ending support of the building upkeep (sometimes in the middle of the night), Ellen Hostetter for creating feasts for any and all events, and Barb Kurtz for always having everything ready for services we have at church.

Finally, I want to thank you for the challenge and pleasure of being Council president for the past two years. I started Council with baited breath, knowing we had a difficult road to travel. Now, as I "transition" to a different role on Council, I can breathe easier, knowing Good Shepherd is on a positive trajectory!

Council President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael C. Young, El.D." The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a thin, hand-drawn rectangular border.

Dr. Michael C. Young

## **PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD-2025**

***Rationale for changes to the congregational meetings:*** After the Lower Susquehanna Synod reviewed our amended constitution Pastor Thomas McKee, former secretary of the synod and the person reviewing constitutional changes, noted that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania requires the bylaws of non-profit organizations to designate one meeting of the organization as an official annual meeting. The current bylaws designate two semi-annual meetings. The proposed change to bylaw C10.01.01 designates the November meeting as the official annual meeting.

*In addition, the church council deems as advantageous a change to the times of year the two designated meetings are held. Christ the King Sunday often falls on "Thanksgiving Weekend" on which some people travel. Holding the meeting on the third Sunday in November avoids that conflict. The spring meeting is designated to be held on the fourth Sunday of Easter which is "Good Shepherd" Sunday. However, that meeting can occur anywhere between the third Sunday in April to the third Sunday in May. Designating the meeting on the first Sunday in May regularizes the time of year it will be held.*

*Removing the requirement that voting members to the synod assembly be elected by the congregation allows the church council to appoint the voting members. Currently, voting members must be designated as early as March in order to receive the discount for early registration.*

*Portions to be eliminated are ~~struck through~~. Additions are underlined.*

### **Chapter 10. CONGREGATION MEETING C10.01.**

The ~~semi-annual~~ meetings of this congregation shall be held at a time specified in the bylaws.

#### **C10.01.01 A**

The annual meeting will be held ~~in~~ on the third Sunday of November (~~Christ the King Sunday~~) to approve the budget and elect the Nominating Committee. A ~~semi-annual~~ report from committees and staff will be published to establish goals and to present the rationale for their budget requests. Any reports (i.e., the proposed budget) will be made available at the church the Sunday prior to the meeting.

#### **C10.01.02 A**

An additional meeting will be held on the ~~fourth Sunday of Easter~~ first Sunday in May to receive the report of the Nominating Committee and elect new members to the Congregation Council (terms to begin at the conclusion of the meeting). ~~and two representatives to the upcoming Synod Assembly.~~ Another semi-annual A report from committees and staff will be published to report and celebrate progress toward goals. Any reports (i.e., the proposed budget) will be made available at the church the Sunday prior to the meeting.

*The proposed changes to the Constitution continue on the next page.*



# PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD-2025

***Rationale for changing the terms and composition of the Congregation Council:*** Many congregations allow for congregation council members to serve more than one term. Typically this involves a member being eligible for an additional term, limited to two consecutive terms.

*The provision for a youth or young adult member of the Congregation Council is no longer deemed necessary. Any confirmed member, youth or otherwise is eligible to serve on church council.*

## **Chapter 12. CONGREGATION COUNCIL**

### **C12.01.**

The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the pastor(s), and not more than thirteen members of the congregation, ~~one of which will be a youth or young adult.~~ Any voting member of the congregation may be elected. A member's place on the Congregation Council shall be declared vacant if the member a) ceases to be a voting member of this congregation or b) is absent from four successive regular meetings of the Congregation Council without cause. Consistent with the laws of the state in which this congregation is incorporated, the congregation may adopt procedures for the removal of a member of the Congregation Council in other circumstances.

### **C12.02.**

The members of the Congregation Council except the pastor(s) ~~and the designated youth or young adult~~ shall be elected to serve a three-years term, and may be eligible to serve an additional three-year term, or until their successors are elected. ~~The youth or young adult shall be elected to serve for one year or until their successor is elected.~~ Their term shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected. ~~It is expected that~~ Congregation Council members will not serve more than two consecutive terms on the Congregation Council.

## **NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL**

The Nominating Committee elected at the congregational meeting in the fall of 2024 secured the following nominees for our Congregation Council.

The Nominees to serve on Council (3-year terms) are:

MARA MOORE  
JANET MUSSER  
BARRY SANGREY

## **NOMINATIONS FOR VOTING MEMBERS TO SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

The Nominating Committee elected at the congregational meeting in the fall of 2023 secured the following nominees to represent us at the 2024 Assembly of the Lower Susquehanna Synod.

The Nominees to Synod Assembly are:

KATHY SALTZER  
BOB WALTON

## **REPORT OF THE ADULT EDUCATION TEAM**

**DR. KRISTEN ALBERT**

The Adult Education Team coordinated by Dr. Kris Albert and Pastor Henry Herbener have sought to create a robust and engaging schedule of Adult Education offerings. Classes started in September 2024 and will conclude on May 18, 2025.

Attendance varies in Adult Ed classes; it may be as low as 6 attendees, and as many as 50 or more, depending on the topic. We encourage all adults to pay attention to the schedule of offerings and we ask that you consider attending as often as you are able.

The schedule of classes and forums for the remainder of the 2024-2025 church year include:

- *Partnering with Our Neighbors: The High Foundation*, with guest presenter Robin Stauffer of the High Foundation on May 4, 2025
- *The Secret Life of Trees*, presented by Becky Marks and Kathy Good, May 18, 2025

Much time, consideration, and effort go into the planning and arranging of these adult education classes. Our intention is to provide relevant, inspirational, and faith-deepening programming of interest to our adult members. We look forward to your support and attendance.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Kris Albert  
Rev. Henry Herbener

## **REPORT OF THE CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

**KAREN GRIMALDI**

A copy of the Child Protection Policy is on the church website and the Child Protection Committee is careful to keep the appropriate clearances necessary and up to date for child safety.

Respectfully submitted  
Karen Grimaldi

## REPORT OF THE CALL COMMITTEE

KATHY GOOD

As you are aware, most of the work of the Call Committee is confidential. However, the congregation played the most important role in the call process through answers given in the surveys that were sent out, and in the final vote to call Pastor Paradise.

Using our Ministry Site Profile and Rostered Minister's Profiles, the Synod gave us several names of pastors whom they thought might be a good fit for Good Shepherd. With guidance of the Call Committee Manual, our constitution, and the Synod's guidelines, we started the process.

Beginning with prayer always, we read, reviewed, discussed, interviewed, discussed and prayed some more. When we were close to a decision we checked references. Following reports that indicated that Pastor Scott Paradise was a good, solid and faithful person and pastor, we voted as a committee to recommend him to the Congregation Council for their interview and vote.

On February 12, 2025, Pastor Paradise met with council and the committee for an extensive interview. Following prayer and discussion the council voted unanimously to recommend Pastor Scott J. Paradise to the congregation for a call vote.

On the final weekend in March there was a Meet and Greet with Pastor Scott and his wife, Christine. Informal conversations took place. Pastor Scott then answered questions that had been submitted to him. The next day, Sunday March 30<sup>th</sup>, he led our morning worship.

Following worship there was a congregational meeting led by Pastor Beth Martini, assistant to the bishop. The recommendation to call was read and the congregation voted. After a vote of 82 – 2 (97.6%) Pastor Paradise was informed, and immediately accepted the call to Good Shepherd. Pastor Scott will begin his ministry with us on Sunday, June 1, 2025.

The Call Committee will continue to be 'on duty' until Pastor Scott is installed sometime this summer. Then we will transition into the Mutual Ministry Committee for up to one year.

The congregation was very patient with our process throughout this past year as we worked. Curious, yes, but impatient, no. We are grateful for the part each of you played in this call process and the trust you gave us.

We look forward to this new and exciting chapter in the life of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd.

Kris Albert  
Chuck Book  
Kathy Good  
Anne Hohenwarter  
Henry Herbener  
Kelly Lowery

# REPORT OF THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

BOB WALTON

The Endowment Committee includes six members at large with staggered three-year terms, plus the President of the Congregational Council, the Finance Committee Chair and the Senior Pastor.

The Committee is charged with managing the Endowment Funds in a manner consistent with the Investment Policy established by the Congregational Council, and with the reporting of all activity in the Endowment Funds to the Council on a regular basis. Distribution of funds from any Endowment Account is subject to the guidelines established in the Endowment Committee Policy by the Congregational Council. The Endowment Committee is also charged with providing information and educational opportunities to the Congregation related to financial and endowment matters.

## Endowment Fund Balances

<u>Fund Name</u>	<u>Market Value 05/01/25</u>
General Endowment Fund	\$ 343,165.61
World Hunger Endowment Fund	86,437.96
Organ & Piano Maintenance Endowment Fund	23,171.21
Education & Scholarship Endowment	44,947.38
Memorial Garden Endowment	10,280.07
Total Endowment Funds	\$ 508,280.07

## Endowment Fund Activity 11/1/24 through 04/30/25:

Beginning Balances 10/31/24	\$ 526,069.35
Gain/Loss on security holdings during the six-month period	<u>-17,789.28</u>
Total Ending Balances 05/01/25	\$ 508,280.07

Based on Endowment Committee recommendation, and Congregational Council approval, the following distributions of income from Endowment Funds were made in the first quarter of 2025, in accordance with the Endowment Policy:

General Endowment Fund – Undesignated	\$ 16,421.95
World Hunger Fund for local and ELCA hunger appeals	4,130.99
Organ & Piano Maintenance Fund for maintenance	1,052.21
Memorial Garden for maintenance	<u>458.96</u>
Total Distributions	\$ 22,064.11

These funds were transferred to the General Operating Fund in January 2025 to support 2025 budgeted expenses as determined by the Congregational Council.

Endowment Funds are maintained in accounts with Personal Wealth Advisory, LLC the Endowment Funds investment advisor. As part of our relationship with Personal Wealth Advisory, all members of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd are invited to attend quarterly personal finance workshops that are offered by the advisors. Information about these workshops is posted on several bulletin boards, and is included in *Good News from Good Shepherd*.

All members with questions about the Endowment Funds structure or operation, or about how to designate endowment gifts, are encouraged to talk with any member of the Endowment Committee.

Endowment Committee: Chuck Book, Scott Faller, Mark Lowery (Ex Officio, Finance Committee Chair), Judy Lefever, Pastor Strause (Ex Officio), Ed Schoenberger, Rod Schoening, and Bob Walton (Chair). Advisory members are Sue Kelshaw, Treasurer, and Steve Bell, Financial Advisor.

# REPORT OF THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE

ED WHITE

The Property Committee is responsible for various operations of the church, such as the following.

## General Building Maintenance & Monitoring Pricing

- a. HVAC Controls
- b. Elevator
- c. Emergency Generator
- d. Security System (With great help from Dale Lefever)
- e. Fire Alarm Service
- f. Cleaning Service
- g. Electricity & Natural Gas
- h. Trash Removal
- i. Water & Sewer
- j. Lawn Care

The main projects of the roof replacement and new fascia being added is well underway. The new roof is on and they are currently installing the new fascia around the building. Once the fascia is complete, they will go back and cap the roof off, which should be complete within the next month.

We also needed to get some replacement parts for the HVAC system and Humidifier which was taken care of by Steve Beiler. So many thanks to Steve.

And thanks to Dick Denlinger. He is going to install twelve new lights in the Memorial Garden sometime this summer.

Projects needing attention in the future:

- Pricing for some new windows
- Explore the potential electric savings we could incur by installing solar panels on our roof

Please make note that our email address is now [whitecrew@gmail.com](mailto:whitecrew@gmail.com)

# REPORT OF THE SMALL GROUP SUPPORT TEAM

DR. KRISTEN ALBERT

Our Small Group ministry structure provides opportunities for participants in small groups to grow in relationship with one another, grow in faith, and, guided by the Holy Spirit, to serve together around a shared vision and mission.

Since late 2023, the Small Group Support Team has been supporting small groups and remaining open to requests and opportunities for small groups. Team members serve as guides, consultants, and overall support at any and all stages of a small group's development.

Currently there are eight small groups operating including: Children's Ministries Small Group, Creation Care, Feeding Ministries Small Group, Fellowship, Growing in Christ, and Towards Racial Justice, Prayer Shawl Ministry, and the Stewardship Circle. More than 40 people are involved in one or more small groups, and new small groups are being explored.

Are you looking for a way to actively live out your faith? Consider joining one of the small groups. Participation is flexible, and leadership is shared. Through engaging in a mission that you are passionate about, you will also grow in faith and build lasting friendships and relationships with new people. There is a place for everyone in these small group ministries.

Should you have interest in joining a small group, or have an idea for a small group that you would like to explore, please reach out to any of the below members with questions or thoughts. We are here to support the congregation in continuing to grow the Small Group Ministry here at Good Shepherd.

Here are the details associated with our current and fledgling small groups:

## **Children's Ministry Small Group**

Mission: Our mission is to minister and serve the needs of children and families in our neighborhood and our congregation.

Meetings: TBD

Core Members: Shirley Hunter & Judy Lefever

Contact: Shirley Hunter at x4hunters@gmail.com

## **Creation Care Small Group**

Mission: D.E.W.C.A.P. is our mission statement.

**D**iscipleship

**E**ducation

**W**orship

**C**ommunity

**A**ctivism

**P**roperty

Meetings: We meet the second and fourth Saturdays of each month at the church at 9:00 a.m. Usually the second Saturdays are a business meeting and the fourth Saturdays are our Creation Care book club discussions.

Core Members:

Kathy Good, Linda Stuver, Dorie Ramsel, Kathy Saltzer, Stephanie Lower, Becky Marks.

Contact: Kathy Good at 717-201-1869

## **REPORT OF THE SMALL GROUP SUPPORT TEAM**

DR. KRISTEN ALBERT

### **Feeding Ministry Small Group**

Mission: The Good Shepherd Feeding Ministry exists to share the gospel of Jesus by providing food to those in our community in need. We also strive to make local community connections with other church feeding ministries as well as local nonprofits to help them with their missions. (This mission statement is a work in progress!)

Meetings: Meetings are usually in All Saints Hall before church service beginning either 9:00 or 9:15 a.m. Our meetings are held as needed per event. Notice of a group meeting is sent out via email.

Core Members: Kathy Saltzer, Ellen Hostetter, Denise White, David Marks, Becky Marks.

Contact: Becky Marks at 717-201-0445

### **Fellowship Committee**

Mission: Growing Fellowship within Good Shepherd. Assist Good Shepherd to create a social community of its members and/or surrounding community members.

Meetings: Meetings are held as needed. Contact Cassie if interested.

Core Members: Christy Dietrich, Annie Haase, Scott Lefever, Cassie Rumbaugh, Dawn Weidman, Tammy Ziegler.

Contact: Cassie Rumbaugh at 717-823-1670 or crumbaugh561@comcast.net

### **Growing in Christ**

Mission: Spiritual growth through prayer, study, and conversation.

Meetings: Second and Fourth Wednesdays of each month from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Shepherd's Crook Café.

Core Members: Kris Albert, Joan Walton, Linda Stuver, Kathy Saltzer, Lillian Herbener, Linda Mason, Miriam Burke, Janis Richardson and Roxanne Koch.

Contact: Kris Albert, kristen@liveworksatisfied.com

### **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Mission: Sharing the love of God and the connection of Belonging, Caring, and Community.

Meetings: First Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. in the Martin Luther Room

Core Members: Denise White, June Ochs, Linda Mason, Kathy Saltzer.

Contact: Denise White, whiteycrew@gmail.com

Current Update: We have recently shared prayer shawls with the Senior Shepherds at their October luncheon meeting. Prayer shawls are also given to our at-home members, those in long term care communities, and those who attend the Grace Meal. We hope to soon connect with organizers of groups and agencies serving unhoused people. Knitting or crocheting experience is not necessary- beginners welcomed!

### **The Stewardship Circle**

Mission: To encourage the congregation to invest financially in the mission and ministry of Good Shepherd and to find ways to share their time and talents to mission and ministry of Good Shepherd.

Meetings: TBA

Core Members: Randy Patterson, Henry Herbener.

Contact: Randy Patterson at randypatterson@comcast.net



## **REPORT OF THE SMALL GROUP SUPPORT TEAM**

DR. KRISTEN ALBERT

### **Towards Racial Justice**

Mission: Working Together for Peace and Justice

Meetings: Second Tuesday (for planning) and Fourth Monday (for learning) of each month from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Zoom.

Core Members: Miriam Burke, Kris Albert, Kathy Schoenberger, Wanda Stoltzfus, Robin Schoenberger, Alana Reeves, and Roxanne Koch.

Contact: Kris Albert at [Kristen@LiveWorkSatisfied.com](mailto:Kristen@LiveWorkSatisfied.com) or Miriam Burke at [mrburke67@gmail.com](mailto:mrburke67@gmail.com)

Respectfully Submitted,

The Small Group Support Team

Kristen Albert

Kelly Lowery

Becky Marks

Kathy Saltzer

## **REPORT OF THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SMALL GROUP**

JUDY LEFEVER

After an informal brainstorming session this winter, a small group was formed to minister to children in our congregation and our community. Children, youth and family concerns are being incorporated into this new small group. We are still seeking ways to serve the community, but have partnered with SEEDS, a Conestoga Valley nonprofit, to assist with childcare during English Learning classes in the fall and spring of each year. Our group also sponsored the Easter Egg Hunt this year and reinstated "busy bags" for children to use during worship. We assist with child safety concerns as well.

This group continues to send out Bible Story Project postcards to children in the congregation. That project turned five years old in October! Stories are on a five-year cycle, so we have begun to rerun the very first stories. Even though children are now receiving the same stories, those children are five years older, and ready to experience those stories from a different perspective. Postcards are available on the bulletin board in the main hallway. If you know a child that might benefit from these stories, please pick up cards and give them out!

We continue to seek out ways that we might work with children. Ideas are welcome, as are any people who are interested in helping. We can always use more adults who have obtained clearances to support children. Contact Shirley Hunter, [x4hunters@gmail.com](mailto:x4hunters@gmail.com) or Judy Lefever, [jrlfever@gmail.com](mailto:jrlfever@gmail.com) with ideas or inquiries.

## REPORT OF THE CREATION CARE SMALL GROUP

KATHY GOOD

On March 22nd we hosted the Creation Justice and Care Coalition for a meeting to refine our vision statement and learn more about the other churches in the group. There were 13 people from 6 churches in attendance. This coalition meets four times a year to share resources, learn about creation care activities throughout the county, and support each other in our mission. During this meeting our team gave a tour of our grounds. Pastor Matthew Carlson from Akron Mennonite Church, convener of the group, was asked to provide a short blessing of our newer rain garden, which will be on the grounds of the future High Foundation offices.

We were asked to provide space for a Lunch and Learn session on “One Water Partnership” during Lancaster Water Week in June. This annual celebration by the Lancaster Conservancy lifts up the 1,400 miles of streams and rivers in Lancaster County with a number of different events and activities to celebrate, learn, and act to protect our streams and rivers for the future.

The team set up an informational table on bees and native plants at the MT Earth Fest at Overlook Park on April 26th. There, a number of displays, information, vendors, and presenter were on hand to celebrate Earth Day and promote the conservation of natural habitats.

The team checks on our bluebird boxes starting in April each year to make sure friendly birds are using our boxes, and thwarting the efforts of destructive and less desirable birds.

On Sunday May 11th, the team will once again hand out native pollinator plants to anyone interested in taking one home. This is one way the team hopes to educate the congregation in one aspect of care of creation.

Members of the team will lead an Adult Education class in May on Trees. Trees provide so much for other plants, birds, insects, animals and people. With circulatory systems similar to those of human beings, trees are more connected to us than we might think. The team offers various learning opportunities each year for members and friends of the congregation. The more we learn, the better we can help each other care for this fragile world that has been entrusted to us.

Our book study on *The End of Eden; Wild Nature in the Age of Climate Breakdown* by Adam Welz was finished in February. The book, while fascinating, was a clear and disturbing reporting on the ever- changing state of the earth and its inhabitants.

Our current book study on *The Soul of an Octopus: A Surprising Exploration into the Wonder of Consciousness* by Sy Montgomery is a refreshing change, full of eye-opening stories of octopuses and how they can connect with people.

We will soon begin planning our activities for the annual Season of Creation in September. This year’s theme is “To Hope and Act With Creation.”

# REPORT OF THE FEEDING MINISTRY SMALL GROUP

BECKY AND DAVE MARKS

## NOVEMBER, 2024

It's been a busy 6 months for Good Shepherd's Feeding Ministry Small Group. November 2024 was our "Thanksgiving At Good Shepherd" month. We handed out 100 Turkey Boxes on "Turkey Box Monday" and served around 85 meals at the in-person Thanksgiving Dinner on Thanksgiving Day. We thank all our wonderful sponsors who donated food, supplies, and turkeys, and monetary donations as well. We applied for, and were awarded, a grant from the Lower Susquehanna Synod of \$1750 as a Hunger Grant to help us with the Thanksgiving event. Many thanks to LSS.

## DECEMBER, 2024

As the Feeding Ministry partners with local (Conestoga Valley) non-profits, we teamed up with CV SEEDS to host a Christmas Gift Wrapping event at Good Shepherd. SEEDS families were served a turkey dinner in All Saint's Hall and then had the chance to wrap Christmas gifts for their children. The gifts were purchased with money donations from the generous members of Good Shepherd. Thank you for making the Christmas celebrations of the SEEDS families so very special!

## BUSHEL OF LOVE 2024-25

We continue to stand alongside and support various non-profits in both Conestoga Valley School District and the Lancaster area. Each month a new non-profit is highlighted with Bushels of Love:

- December 2024: CV SEEDS
- January 2025: CVCCS (Conestoga Valley Christian Community Services) Food Bank
- February 2025: GS Feeding Ministry served a soup lunch after services and collected cans of soup for the Lancaster Food Hub
- March 2025: donations of towels, fitted sheets, washcloths, toiletry items to Red Rose Retirement Community in Lancaster
- April 2025: Collected needed items for the Lancaster Food Hub
- May 2025: SEEDS-Watch for more details

## POWER PACKS

The Feeding Ministry continues to go to the PP warehouse in Greenfield Industrial Park to pack meal boxes once a month on a Tuesday morning. Good Shepherd is also a distribution center for the weekly Power Pack meal boxes for local parents/families. Every Wednesday afternoon, we pick up the meal boxes at the PP offices and hand them out to the three families that live nearby.

GRACE MEAL is prepared in Good Shepherd's kitchen and then taken to Grace Lutheran in Lancaster to be served on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Contact Denise White for information if you would like to help with Grace Meal in any way.

HELPING HANDS provides meals for those in our congregation who are in need of a hot meal during times of illness, bereavement, or any other times of stress. Contact Katie Smith if you would be willing to provide a meal from time to time.

RECEPTIONS prepares funeral luncheons, Fine Arts receptions - any time a get together is needed, our trusty band of kitchen helpers pull together fantastic luncheons, meals, etc. This group is small but mighty! They could use extra hands to prepare food. Please contact Ellen Hostetter if you would be able to help with this ministry.

Submitted by the Feeding Ministry Core Team

Ellen Hostetter, Denise White, Kathy Saltzer, Becky Marks, Dave Marks

## DECEMBER 2024 BALANCE SHEET & TREASURER'S REPORT

Account Name		Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
<b>INCOME</b>					
<i>Weekly Offering</i>	Weekly Offering Total	\$34,563	\$361,106		
<i>Special Offering</i>	Special Offering Total	\$266	\$13,018		
<i>Other Receipts</i>	Other Receipts Total	\$483	\$4,419		
	Total Income	\$35,578	\$396,580		
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
<i>World Ministry</i>	World Ministry Total	\$3,351	\$37,880	\$43,788	\$5,907
<i>Worship Ministry</i>	Worship Ministry Total	\$2,129	\$34,467	\$58,861	\$24,393
<i>Program Ministry</i>	Program Ministry Total	\$2,971	\$5,858	\$11,475	\$5,616
<i>Pastoral Services</i>	Pastoral Services Total	\$7,838	\$96,559	\$102,799	\$6,239
<i>Administration</i>	Administration Total	\$5,893	\$79,327	\$91,429	\$12,451
<i>Youth &amp; Family Ministry</i>	Youth & Family Ministry Total	\$0	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000
<i>Property</i>	Property Total	\$14,902	\$139,091	\$183,839	\$44,747
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	Miscellaneous Total	\$0	\$855*	\$0	(\$855)
	Total Expenses	\$37,135	\$394,490	\$494,191	\$100,499
	Difference	(\$1,557)	\$2,089	(\$494,191)	

\* = Income/Expense exceeds amount budgeted to date



