

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
510 Albany Shaker Road  
Loudonville, NY 12211

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We thank God for:



**A community of God's faithful people...*LIVING* in God's amazing grace!**  
[www.gsicl.org](http://www.gsicl.org)

## Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Contacts

Pastor Edwina Landry <a href="mailto:pastor@gsclcl.org">pastor@gsclcl.org</a>	518-458-1562 – office 518-469-9282 - cell	Sun. – Thurs. (Please call ahead to confirm availability.)
Kathy Williams, Administrative Asst. <a href="mailto:office@gsclcl.org">office@gsclcl.org</a>	518-458-1562	Mon. – Thurs. 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

<b><u>CONGREGATION COUNCIL</u></b>		
Pastor	Rev. Edwina E. Landry	518-458-1562
President	Marjorie Raymond	518-435-0906
Vice President	Danny Patrick	518-477-5355
Secretary	Atif Dean	518-225-2832
Treasurer	Jeff Emptage	518-280-4942
Robert Beach		518-331-4548
Kathy Crouse		518-459-6068
Dave Ferrill		518-459-4965
Elaine Sacco		518-221-8277
Maryanne Sangiacomo		518-776-0001
Mark Silo		518-786-1511
Pauline Wanjugi		813-817-9521
Marie Wertman		518-438-6683
Pam Zepf		518-785-1102
<b><u>ADMINISTRATION</u></b>		
Financial Secretary	Barbara Emptage	518-280-4942
Asst. Financial Secretary	Joan Walker	518-438-3849
Assistant Treasurer	John McGrath	518-437-0837
<b><u>MINISTRY TEAMS</u></b>		
Outreach & Evangelism	Danny Patrick	518-477-5355
Endowment Fund	Keith Behrens	518-783-0527
Finance Chair	Robert Beach	518-331-4548
Hillenbrandt Scholarships	Shahnaz Dean	518-225-2175
Mutual Ministry	Marie Wertman	518-438-6683
Property Chair	Mark Silo	518-265-2321
Stewardship Chair	Colleen Kromrey	518-258-4811
Webmaster	Jessica Kaercher	518-786-9956
Bldg. Rental Coordinator	Danny Patrick	518-477-5355

# The GOOD NEWS

of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Loudonville, NY

December 2018



*“The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’” Mark 1:1-3*

Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> marks the beginning of the season of Advent for Christians around the world. Advent is a version of the Latin word meaning “coming.” It is an in-between time where we are preparing for the coming of Christ both in the celebration of Christmas and when Christ will return again at the second coming. As the days grow shorter, we wait in darkness for the Light of the World, yet we wait with hopeful and eager expectation. For many dealing with grief and loss, this season can be a particularly difficult one, and so on the eve of the Winter Solstice – the shortest day of the year – Good Shepherd will hold its first Longest Night Service (also known as Blue Christmas Service)-and we hope you will join us.

The first snowfall has already fallen, and the days grow shorter, yet Advent is a time for our faith to deepen and grow stronger. It is a time when we can intentionally focus on the centrality of our Christian faith – Jesus, the Christ, the Messiah, the Prince of Peace – who came to save all the world. Advent is a time for us to “prepare the way of the Lord.” As we open our hearts this season, and spend time in prayer and meditation, as we sow seeds of love and compassion, as we give of ourselves, we are preparing a way for Christ to come among us.

Wishing you a Blessed Christmas!

Pastor Edwina

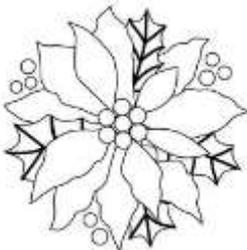
## PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- **Keith Kelly** is still recuperating from illness. Cards can be sent to 52 Old Birch Lane, Albany, NY 12205
- **Dorothy Wimble** who is still suffering with back and mobility issues. Get well wishes may be sent to 38 Dowling Street, Albany, NY 12205
- **Maureen Behrens** as she continues with treatments. Cards may be sent to 23 Dutch Meadows Drive, Cohoes, NY 12047
- **Carol Phelps** as she continues with treatments. Cards can be sent to 812 Al Constantino Drive, Schenectady, NY 12308
- **Dick Dunn** is now finished with rehab and is home. Cards can be sent to 6026 Bane Berry Drive., Schenectady, NY 12303.
- **Barbara Murray** who is in Glendale Rehab. Cards can be sent to her at Glendale Rehab (Room 215), 59 Hetcheltown Road, Schenectady, NY 12302.
- **Pauline Wanjugi** as she recovers from surgery. Cards can be sent to 2136 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Apt. 4, Troy, NY 12180

## Commitment Sunday

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**Sunday, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> is Commitment Sunday.** If you have not already returned your financial stewardship pledge cards, please bring them with you that morning. We will also have pledge forms available. Our pledges are a spiritual discipline to help us focus on the ministry of the church. Thank you for your prayerful and dedicated commitments.



## Christmas Poinsettias

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Poinsettias can be ordered in memory of, or in honor of loved ones, or special memories or events. Each 6" pot is \$11. Order forms are available in the narthex. Deadline is **December 2**. For additional information, contact Carol Phelps 518.355.3901.



## Christmas Eve Worship Services

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Good shepherd will be offering two services on Monday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm and 9:00 pm.

*Come, Let Us Adore Him!*



## December Birthdays

1 – Christine Kleinhenz	16–Jessica Mutahanamilwa
8 – Jessica Kaercher	23–Margaret Gallucci
9 – Johnathon Rudat	25–Sade Miller
10–Kit LaManna	28–Colleen Ward
12–John Knarvik	29–Jane Ludwin



## Longest Night Service

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For many people experiencing grief and loss, the Christmas season can be a very difficult one. This year GSLC will hold a Longest Night Service (also known as Blue Christmas Service) on **Thursday, Dec. 20 at 7:00 pm**. There will be time during this service for anointing with oil and laying on of hands. If you or someone you know is experiencing a difficult time, please join us for this beautiful service.



## Christmas Caroling

Help to brighten the Christmas season for members and friends of Good Shepherd who are unable to attend services! On **Sunday, December 9**, pizza and beverages will be available after the 10:30 service for volunteers who will travel to several locations for caroling to the sick and shut-ins among us. We have two good drivers and singers thus far, and we hope others will join them. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Please add your names and your voices to this wonderful ministry!



## Cookie Walk Fundraiser

In place of a regular meeting, WELCA is sponsoring a fundraising event to benefit RISSE (Refugee and Immigration Support Service of Emmaus, Albany Chapter) and to boost Good Shepherd's depleted Building Fund. Please help by baking 4 to 6 dozen cookies (or more!) for the Cookie Walk. More bakers are needed to ensure a successful event, so please sign up on the sheet posted in the narthex. The Cookie Walk will be held on **Saturday, December 15, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm** and is open to the congregation and the community. Cookies will be sold for \$10 per box. Join us in baking and buying cookies and spreading the word to your friends and colleagues!



## Christmas Decorating

Christmas Tree trimming and other decorating will take place on **Saturday, December 16** at 12:30 pm and conclude with a fellowship hour. Each year this is a wonderful gathering of our church families to bring the festive look to the church to give glory to Jesus on his birthday. Please join us!

# Christmas at Sea

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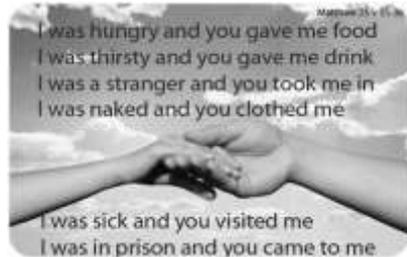
Every year the Albany Maritime Ministry provides Christmas boxes to the seafarers who come to port here in Albany. For those who will not be home for Christmas these Christmas gift boxes mean so much to them. It shows them that people care. We would like to support this **“Christmas at Sea” program** this year. Shoe boxes are available on the table in the front of the church.

**Please take one and fill them with the following or similar items:** tooth paste/brushes, men’s knit caps, gloves, pens, dental floss, shaving cream, razors, AA or AAA batteries, lip balm with sunscreen, deodorant, and post-it-notes. Most items can be purchased at the Dollar Store. **Please return the wrapped shoeboxes by Dec. 9th.**

For more information on this great ministry – including a video with Richard & Maralyn Walker – go to [www.albanymm.us](http://www.albanymm.us)

## The Gift of Clothing

Looking for that perfect gift for someone? What about the gift of clothing and shoes?



American Clothing Recycling has a Clothing Bin in our parking lot just waiting for your clothing donations. If you or someone you know has clothes or shoes they no longer want or need, donate them here. The clothing is sold throughout the U.S. and to third world countries to be re-worn, where new clothing is unaffordable for many of its citizens. Locally, they are currently working with members of Schoharie County, helping with their rebuilding efforts. Donations have also been made to Glens Falls Hospital supporting Communities Against Cancer, Jezreel, and other local non-profit organizations. GSLC also receives 5 cents per pound for the donations, which we can then use for our various ministries.

## Church Book Club

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The Book Club will meet on Tuesday, **December 4<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 pm in the Blue Room. discussing Bethlehem Besieged by Mitri Raheb. Rev. Raheb is a Palestinian Christian, the pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Christmas



Church in Bethlehem, and the founder and president of the Diyar Consortium, a group of Lutheran-based, ecumenically-oriented institutions serving the Bethlehem area. As Christmas approaches, learn about this little town of Bethlehem, and the struggles they face. Refreshments too.

## News from the Senior Shepherds

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The Senior Shepherds will be making baskets to give to the women at St. Paul's Women's Shelter. We are also collecting small stuffed animals to give to the children at Parson's. If you would like to donate a stuffed animal, please do so by **December 2<sup>nd</sup>**. We will also be having a craft table at the Cookie Walk Fundraiser on **December 15<sup>th</sup>**.

This month's Senior Shepherds meeting is scheduled for **December 12<sup>th</sup>** at 11:00 am. We will be having our **annual potluck lunch** on that day and all are welcome to join us! A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the narthex. Any questions, call Marilyn at 518-459-3400.

## New Member Class

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A class is scheduled for Sunday, **December 9<sup>th</sup>** at 9:00 am. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a member of Good Shepherd, please come to this class to learn about our Lutheran Faith, the many ministries here at Good Shepherd, and to ask any other questions that you've been pondering. Pastor Edwina will be leading this class and is looking forward to seeing you.

**New Member Sunday** will be on **December 16<sup>th</sup>** followed by Tree Trimming and Christmas Decorating. Everyone is invited!

## From the Music Corner

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“Music acts like a magic key, to which the most tightly closed heart opens.”

— Maria von Trapp



Our fall schedule is in full swing! Choir rehearsals are Thursday evening from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm and Sunday mornings from 10:00 am to 10:15 am. The **Children’s Choir** rehearses on **Sunday’s 9:30 am-9:45 am**. We have incorporated choir rehearsal as part of Sunday School.

We will introduce several new choral pieces during fall and Advent. Much appreciation to Susan Perkins who led the choir in a moving rendition of “It Is Well with My Soul” on All Saints Sunday. Our introit for the season of Advent will be “Wait for the Lord”. The choir will sing several standards: “One Candle Lights the Way” and “Breath of Heaven”. We will sing Setting III for Advent and Christmas.

For Christmas Eve Services, the adult choir will only sing at the 9:00 pm service. The children’s choir has the option to sing at the 3:00 pm service. This will depend on commitment to rehearsal at Sunday School and attending the 3:00 pm service. The Sunday School team will outreach parents for commitment.

Several of you have provided lists of your favorite hymns and we continue to incorporate them into the music schedule. Please forward lists of favorite hymns to the attention of the music director’s mailbox at Good Shepherd Church.

If you are called to participate in our music ministry (vocal choir or instrumentalist), please speak to myself, Pastor Edwina or any of the choir members after service. You can also leave a message at the Church office.

Carl Rorie Alexandrov, Director of Music

**SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS** – Our New Intergenerational Sunday School is a great experience for both children and adults. There’s fun activities for everyone. If you haven’t previously joined us, we encourage you to do so. It starts promptly at 9:15 am and then at 9:30 am the children learn songs with our Music Director, Carl.



Some important dates you don’t want to miss are:

**Sunday, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> - Children are singing** a special song during our 10:30 am worship service.

**Sunday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> - Children are singing** a special song during our 10:30 am worship service, and we will have our annual Baby Jesus Birthday Party during the Fellowship Hour.

**Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup> – Children’s Christmas Pageant** during our 10:30 am worship service.

This is Epiphany – and what better way to close the end of the 12 Days of Christmas with a Christmas Pageant including the wise men!

## **Altar Flowers**

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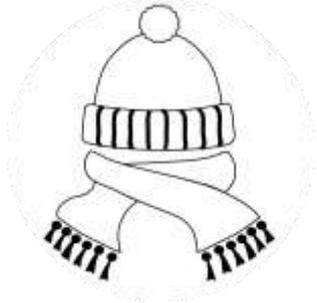
The new flower donation chart for 2019 is posted in the narthex. This is a special way to remember important occasions, loved ones we have lost, and to support the church as well. After you have signed up for a particular Sunday, payment of \$18 should be placed in a flower envelope and put in the collection plate. A supply of envelopes can be found on the wall near the swign-up chart. Please be sure to include the date of the flowers on your check and on the envelope. After the 10:30 service, the flowers may be taken by those who donated them for the altar that day. If special arrangements need to be made or if you have any questions, contact Colleen Ward.



## **Mitten Tree**

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Once again, we will be collecting mittens, hats and scarves for our friends at the Outreach Center. The tree will be in the narthex. If you knit, please lend your talents and help those in need of items to help keep them warm. If you prefer to purchase and donate a new item, please do so!



## **Splash/Cradle Roll News**

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Splash Kids will not meet over the winter months, but will resume in the Spring. Participating moms are in planning mode to open the group to the community. Three of our little cuties have graduated and have moved on to the Sunday school programs. We look forward to being together again in the Spring to enjoy time together and some new activities. Blessings to all our youngest faith members and their families

## **Qi Gong Classes**

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Classes are scheduled for Saturday, December 1 & 8 at Good Shepherd from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM. Classes are \$15 each. The sessions will be led by Maria Patrick, Certified Health Coach and Qi Gong Instructor. Participants should wear comfortable clothing and may bring a yoga mat. Registration is required and you can call or text Maria at (518) 629-5800.

Email is [CoreFourHC@gmail.com](mailto:CoreFourHC@gmail.com). Website is [CoreFourHealthcoaching.com](http://CoreFourHealthcoaching.com) or [MariaPatrickHealthCoach.com](http://MariaPatrickHealthCoach.com).

# **Just Breathe: Contemplation at Good Shepherd**

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## **Silent Night? What a Great Idea!**

*Silent Night...Holy Night...All is Calm...All is Bright*



There are many ways to meditate. You can sit, walk, kneel, bow...and some (like me) even run! However, I have never met anyone who meditates while shopping. And yet, during this Advent Season, many in our community pass by the calm beauty inherent in expectant waiting and become overwhelmed in the act of getting things done for the holidays. Think *Black Friday*...I am sure you know what I mean.

Need a respite from consumer overload? Many find that starting a new spiritual practice during Advent helps counter their end of the year stress. One practice that may be perfect is the Just Breathe Christian Contemplation offered each week at Good Shepherd.

In Just Breathe we gather to turn our hearts and minds towards The Divine who is the source of all that is. We listen to a short reading, sit in quiet for a few minutes, and then talk a bit about the experience. It is simple, and straightforward, yet so helpful. New to meditation...no worries! It's free, and it won't add anything to your shopping list.

Just Breathe meets for 45 minutes or so at 7PM at Good Shepherd nearly every Wednesday. We invite you to join us for a quiet sit and some heart felt conversation. And, unlike the mall, there is plenty of free parking. Thank you.

Thank you.  
Michael Gerrish

## Faith Matters: Practice

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Aging ... grief ... injustice ... illness ...  
disappointment ... just some of the  
ways we are knocked down in life.  
Sadly, we can't escape these  
"wounds".



As we listen to wisdom teachers Richard Rohr, Barbara Brown Taylor, Brian McLaren, and Mirabai Starr during Sunday Faith Matters sessions, some simple themes about finding "healing" for these inevitable wounds are emerging:

- \* we participate in God's love not by doing it right, but by being connected
- \* we connect through practice

How to practice?

Weekly worship is one way. So is prayer, meditation, studying scripture, and contemplation. So is enjoying nature, sharing a smile, extending hospitality, listening with an open heart, being patient with another.

As we enter a new church year and prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth, let's consider how we might deepen and be more faithful to our practice.

Faith Matters ... Sunday mornings during the 9:15 a.m. Education Hour. Coffee, tea and refreshments are plentiful. Please join us.



**Club Scientific** is currently holding classes at Good Shepherd on Tuesdays from 5:30 - 6:30 PM starting on **11/20 and goes to 12/18** and is called Under the Sea Oceanography. To enroll your child for this class please call Cathy at (518) 479-9888. Also information is available at the church and online [www.Colonie.ClubScientific.com](http://www.Colonie.ClubScientific.com)



## **Men's Breakfast**

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The men of the church are invited to join together on the **first and third Saturday of each month at 8:00am** at the church. This month's meetings are **December 1st and 15<sup>th</sup>**. The men take turns cooking breakfast, and we have

pot-luck gatherings as well. The food is accompanied by great fellowship and prayer. If you would like more information, please contact Mark Kaercher (518-786-9956).

## **January/February Cluster Collection**

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The Schuyler Inn, located in Menands, is an emergency housing shelter for families. Many of these families are there as a result of severe financial difficulties or natural disasters (such as fire or flood). They often arrive with nothing but the clothes they are wearing and are in great need. Please consider donating: Packages of diapers (all sizes), baby wipes, diaper rash ointment, socks for adults, body wash, shampoo toothpaste and toothbrushes.

## **Tuesday Morning Bible Study**

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Everyone is welcome to join us **Tuesdays** from 11:am to 12:15 pm. Along with reading from the New Testament and sharing related discussions, we also reach out to others in need with prayers, cards and a personal note. Any questions or in need of a ride, please contact Carolyn Wolfe 518-977-3951.

<b>Financial Report for October 2018</b>			
	This Month	YTD	
Expenses	\$12,115.67	\$129,847.63	
Revenue	\$14,060.81	\$127,776.28	
<u>Surplus +</u>			
Deficit -	-\$2,071.35	\$-2,071.35	

## **From the Financial Secretary**

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As 2018 draws to an end, you may want to know how you are doing with your pledge to the Operating Fund. Contact Barbara Emptage at 518-458-1885 or leave a note in her mailbox at church. Also, a reminder that collections for the 2018 year, to be eligible for a charitable contribution on one's income tax, must be received and recorded on the books on Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Men's Shelter Meals** – If you can help with future dates after the new year, please contact Danny Patrick.



## **Stewardship**

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Our stewardship focus for December is Grace; a perfect theme as we journey through Advent and the season of Christmas. On Christmas we celebrate the greatest gift of all – the birth of Jesus, the Messiah. He is God's perfect gift of grace. How can we be better stewards of

God's grace? We show God's unconditional love when we treat one another with kindness, listen to one another, care for one another with compassion, and share the love of Christ through all we say and do.

## **Upstate NY SYNOD News**

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The holidays are approaching - Let the on-line shopping begin!! The Upstate New York Synod is currently enrolled in the Amazon Smile Foundation program. This program donates 0.5% your purchase price of to our organization. This is a donation from Amazon, and costs the purchaser nothing. Details on this program and how to apply your purchases can be found at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com). When you do your shopping on Amazon, they automatically donate. It's that easy!! All grants received from Amazon will help fund communications projects within our synod.

## **Thrivent Grants**

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### **Thrivent Choice Dollars – Hidden Treasure**

Did you know you may have money to give to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church that you don't even know about?

The Thrivent Choice program encourages benefit members to recommend where Thrivent Did you know you may have money to give to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church that you don't even know about?

The Thrivent Choice program encourages benefit members to recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes an amount of its charitable grant funds. Members make this recommendation by directing Choice Dollars to enrolled nonprofit organizations, including churches. Thrivent members who have Choice Dollars can designate Good Shepherd to receive these funds, and it costs nothing to you.

Simply go online at [www.Thrivent.com](http://www.Thrivent.com) and look for Thrivent Dollars. If you'd rather call, you can contact our local Thrivent representative, Paula Heighton at 518-221-9472 who will be happy to help.

**Check today, and see what hidden treasure might be waiting for you to share with Good Shepherd!**

## Social Justice

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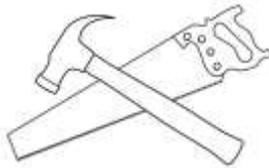


As the holidays approach, they remind us of the many who are struggling economically and or spiritually. We would like to put an end to the suffering and help change lives; put an end to unjust practices; see the world go in a kinder direction. Jesus had an answer to the inequities of this world. He simply asked us to share what we have. That is; our time, our gifts, our prayers, our financial resources and most importantly our love. With every problem comes a solution. Jesus just asks that we take action. The only way this world will be a paradise for all living things, is to recognize all living things as equally deserving of our respect. Here are a few ways we can show respect and caring for God's world this Christmas:

- See how many people will smile back at you when you're out and about - it lowers blood pressure and raises endorphins which has a ripple effect-literally spreads the light
- Send a message to your representatives (lists available on the bulletin board). Thank them for their service and tell them how you feel about global warming, pay inequities, racial profiling, gun violence, hunger, refugees, veteran issues (suicide and jobs), war, Opioid crisis, voter rights
- Shop with a conscience, by choosing clothing and products with least environmental impact, packaging and chemical treatment.
- Giving experiences (movie, concert or play tickets, restaurant coupons or special event tickets) helps cut back on rampant consumerism and is a gift that lasts a lifetime in one's memory.

- Look for clothing with low chemical use (organic cottons, Lyocell(TENCEL) made from wood pulp with nontoxic solvent vs rayon, viscose and modal which use toxic chemicals, MODEL (safer version of rayon), BambooLyocell, Silk, Organic Hemp & Linen, SeaCell (fabric also good for skin).
- Better yet support local thrift stores many of whom reach out to people in need with their resources. Updated list on bulletin board
- Switch to a local bank credit card or a green bank that does not support fossil fuels or funding for wall on southern border
- Bring your own bags when shopping and help reduce plastic bags and fossil fuels. Some of Dorothy Wimble's totes still available
- The gift of God's love in us is what makes Christmas as we share our love with others.

**Hoffman Car Wash Helping Hands Fundraiser** – Proceeds will now go to the Hillenbrandt Scholarship Fund. Tickets available from Chris Kleinhenz or online at <http://www.hoffmanhelpinghands.com/fundraiser.cfm?id=375> Exterior \$10 – Interior \$25. They make great Christmas and birthday gifts!!



**Please help replenish the Building and Equipment Fund** that is used for our building or “mission station”. Special envelopes are in your envelope boxes for November, in the seats in the sanctuary, and on the table in the narthex. Thank you!



## **Send Christmas Greetings**

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We encourage members to send holiday wishes to those of our congregation who are unable to regularly attend worship services.

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|----------------------------|---|
| Betty Cadwallader<br>12189 | 8 Carondelet Dr., #225, Watervliet, NY  |
| Lydia Carbonaro            | Loudonville Assisted Living 298 Albany<br>Shaker Rd., #117, Loudonville, NY 12211 |
| Gwen Graham                | Beltrone Living Center 6 Winner's Circle<br>#313, Albany NY 12205                 |
| Shirley Kroll              | Coburg Village 1 Coburg Village Way,<br>#1232, Rexford, NY 12148                  |
| Marion Krug<br>Street,     | The Pines in Glens Falls 170 Warren<br>#323, Glens Falls, NY 12801                |
| Ron Lagerroos              | Atria, 140 Washington Ave Ext., Apt C38,<br>Albany NY 12203                       |
| Marilyn Loecher            | Coburg Village 1 Coburg Village Way,<br>#1203, Rexford, NY 12148                  |
| Barbara Murray             | Glendale Rehab 59 Hetcheltown Road,<br>#215, Schenectady, NY 12302                |

Beverly Quinlan	Diamond Hill Nursing Home 100 New Turnpike Rd.,#310B Troy, NY 12182
Lou Reiss	82 Surrey Hill Dr., Latham NY 12110
Lillian Skarka	Our Lady of Mercy, 2 Mercy Care Lane, #460, Guilderland 12084
Betty Sickler	Pine Ridge Trailer Court, 413 Saratoga Rd. Lot #119, Scotia, NY 12302
Mildred Vigars	20 Kenlyn Drive, Albany, NY 12205
Margaret Vogel	65 Orchard Street Delmar, NY 12054
Joan VanApeldoorn	7 Pettibone Drive Albany, NY 12205

**Transportation Ministry**

We would like to start a new Transportation Ministry here at Good Shepherd for people who need rides to and from our worship services. If you are interested in helping in this ministry, or if you or someone you know is in need of a ride, please contact Mark Kaercher



**Pictorial Directory Update –**

We will be updating our pictorial directory for 2019, and would like to include as many pictures as possible. This is especially helpful to our new members. Maryanne Sangiacomo and Steve Layne will be available after services on **December 2, 9 and 16** to take individual and family photos.

# THANK YOU!

**Equinox** – Thank you to everyone who donated to the Equinox Thanksgiving Drive. We exceeded our goal and collected 638 applesauce and fruit cups!

## **Thanks to those who helped with our property cleanup!**

Working in a group can be so much fun and so rewarding! Many thanks to all who helped this year, including Rob Beach, Maryanne Sangiacomo, Neil Olsen, Mike Serge, Patti Olsen, Maria Mackey, and Pastor Edwina. Great group of folks! Mark Silo

## **Results of October Blood Drive**

Thank you to those who donated at our October Blood Drive. We had 23 donors, 19 gave whole blood and 4 were power red donors. The power red donors donate twice the amount of red cells and receive the plasma portion of their blood back. The red cells are the portion most commonly used for surgery and patients requiring frequent transfusions. The whole blood donors blood is split into 3 different products, red cells, plasma and cryoprecipitate. Each portion having a specific use. The total number of patients being helped from our drive is 65. Giving blood is a life saving act as there is no artificial substitute for blood products. Thank you all. Our next blood drive will be Wed., April 24th. Carol Phelps

On behalf of the Outreach and Evangelism Committee, thank you to everyone who donated candy, decorations and time to make this year's **Community Halloween Party** a success. The children (and the adults!) had a great time. Danny Patrick

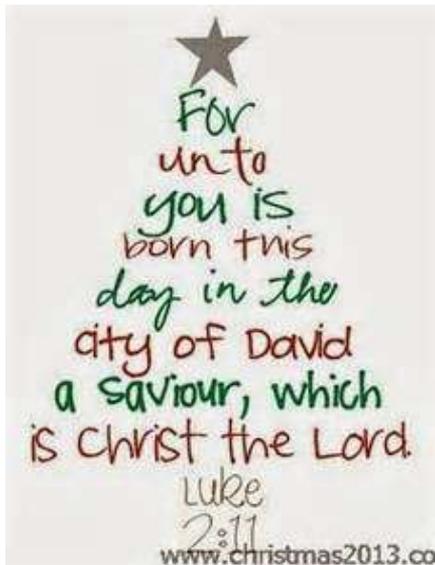
Dear Senior Shepherds: The staff and patients of the Stratton VA Medical Center wish to express their appreciation for your generous donation of afghans and puzzles for our veterans. We appreciate your continued dedication in helping us to provide for the needs of the increasing number of veterans we serve. It means so much to them when they are remembered and recognized for their service to our Country. James Kellar Jr., Chief, Voluntary Service

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Annual Reports Due Soon** - Attention Committee Chairs – Before the holidays take over all of our time, this will service as a reminder to take a few minutes to start your annual report. The deadline for submission is **Dec. 31st**.
- **Epiphany Sunday, January 6** – Children’s pageant at 10:30 am service.
- **Sunday, January 27** – Congregational Annual Meeting following the 10:30 am service.

### **Next Newsletter Deadline: Monday, December 10**

Call the Church Office at 458-1562 or e-mail [office@gscl.org](mailto:office@gscl.org) if you have item(s) for publication.



**Worship & Music**

Committee Secretary	Jessica Kaercher	518-786-9956
Music Director	Carl Rorie Alexandrov	518-281-2388
Flower Coordinator	Pamela Zepf	518-785-1102

**Christian Education**

Sunday School	Susan Kelly	518-459-5344
Cradle Roll/Splash	Elaine Sacco	518-221-8277
Fellowship of Lutheran Youth		
Faith Matters	Carol Gerrish	518-366-2843
Media Center	Mark Kaercher	518-786-9956
Sunday Bible Study	Bertie Cole	518-626-0657
Tuesday Bible Study	Carolyn Wolfe	518-977-3951

**Fellowship & Support Groups**

Parish Life	Meg Winters	518-860-4594
Just Breathe	Michael Gerrish	518-366-2853
Men's Breakfast	Mark Kaercher	518-786-9956
Senior Shepherds	Marilyn Graver	518-459-3400
Parkinson Support Group	Susan Brant	518-783-3492
Fellowship of Lutheran Youth		

**Service**

Social Ministry	Elaine Sacco	518-221-8277
Outreach	Danny Patrick	518-477-5355
Social Justice	Elaine Sacco	518-221-8277
Women of the ELCA	Susan Perkins	607-376-3485

**ELCA Contacts**

National Office – Chicago, IL  
 Bishop: Rev. Elizabeth Eaton

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

Upstate NY Synod, Syracuse, NY  
 Bishop: Rev. John Macholz

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

Hudson-Mohawk Conference  
 Dean: Rev. Jo Page

e-mail: [jopage34@yahoo.com](mailto:jopage34@yahoo.com)

**DECEMBER 2018**

**Commitment Sunday – Dec. 2**

**Book Club – Tuesday, Dec. 4 7:00 pm**

**Christmas Caroling – Sunday, Dec. 9 after Fellowship Hour**

**Cookie Walk Fundraiser – Sat, Dec. 15 9:00 am-1:00 pm**

**Christmas Decorating – Sunday, Dec. 16 12:30 pm**

**Longest Night Service – Thurs., Dec. 20 7:00 pm**

**Christmas Eve Services – Mon. Dec. 24 3:00 pm & 9:00 pm**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

**“We are a community of God’s faithful people called by Christ to love, welcome, and care for all.”**