



June 2019

*"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth,*

*whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you."*  
*John 14:15-18*

As we near the end of our Easter season, and celebrate Pentecost on June 9<sup>th</sup>, we do so with great joy. When Jesus died, his disciples felt lost and afraid. They couldn't believe the miracle of Jesus' resurrection would happen. Yet, it did indeed! God raised Jesus from the dead, and he continued to appear to the disciples after his resurrection. When it was time for Jesus to ascend to God, the disciples were once again feeling lost and afraid. Jesus assured them, "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you." Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with them always. And not only with them, but in them. He said, the Spirit "abides with you, and will be in you." This wonderful promise was not only for the first disciples, but for us today as well. The Holy Spirit dwells in us and with us. The Holy Spirit speaks to us in the form of an inner wisdom that we can tap into at any time. The Holy Spirit is always teaching, guiding, and leading us in new directions. This Advocate is forever moving us forward to live into the resurrection promise of Jesus.

As we transition from the season of Easter to the season of Pentecost, may we remember that we are not orphaned; God's presence is always with us. May this good news fill us with joy and peace to live life abundantly.

Blessings and Peace,  
Pastor Edwina

## PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

- **Carolyn Wolfe** and family on the death of her beloved mother, Alice Hoste. Cards can be sent to 119 Rockefeller Road, Room 112, Delmar, NY 12054
- **Marie Wertman and family** on the death of her uncle, Warren Noyes. Cards can be sent to 38 Dowling Road, Albany, NY 12205.
- **The Krug family** on the loss of Marion Krug. Cards may be sent to Karen Medina, 275 County Road 75, Mechanicville, NY 12118
- **Gisele Fortune** who is recovering from surgery. Cards can be sent to 7 Robinia Drive, Loudonville, NY 12211.

### Hearing Loop

In early May, Upstate Hearing Loops installed a hearing loop in the sanctuary. The cost of the loop was covered by generous members of the congregation. It allows those with hearing aids to receive the audio directly to their hearing aids. For those with hearing difficulty, but do not have hearing aids, the church has four receivers that can be used along with earbuds or headphones. This will improve accessibility in our church and we are blessed to have this in our worship space!



**Next Newsletter Deadline: Monday, June 17**

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



## June

- 2 - Kyle Beach, Scarlet Crouse, Ellie Yarter
- 4 – Azariah Chohan
- 6 - Daniel Brown
- 9 - Caron Crouse, Kayla Olsen
- 10 – Karen Quinn
- 11 - Susan Brant, Meg Winters
- 14 - Madelyn Terry
- 15 - Kathy Crouse
- 16 - Shannon Terry
- 17 – Lincoln Day
- 18 – Stephanie Conklin, Lila Crouse
- 20 – Billi Hoen
- 22 - Aidan Beach
- 24 - Richard Dunn, Rachele Goodfriend, Kathy Silo
- 25 - Caleb Kromrey
- 27 - Carol Gerrish
- 28 - Cliff Brant
- 30 - Dorothy Everin



*Happy Father's Day  
to all the dads on earth,  
to the dads in heaven,  
grand-dads, foster-dads,  
step-dads and part-time dads.  
Put your feet up and have a  
super relaxing day!*

## Easter Joy

Many children showed up on Easter morning for a joy-filled Easter Egg Hunt.



## Pentecost

Join us on **Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup>** as we celebrate the feast of Pentecost and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit! Wear your red, and get ready to feel the Spirit!



## Garden News

The garden is prepped and planting has been started. This year it is divided into 10 four by four foot squares for easier maintenance. A berry patch has been added behind the garage. We have some volunteers to help with the gardening, but could always use more to help keep it watered. What's your favorite vegetable? We'd like to grow it!

Last year our church was able to help out senior centers and food banks in Colonie. Let us know if you'd like to be a part of this "growing" ministry and adopt a square to grow some goodness!

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## Caring for God's Creation



Did you know our congregation is a Creation Care congregation? The Council has signed a Creation Care Covenant with Lutherans Restoring Creation to show our commitment to caring for all God's creation. This means that we are being intentional about the products we use, and the impact they have on the environment. We are moving toward eliminating our use of plastics, Styrofoam, and other toxic chemicals, and substances. The items we purchase to clean our building, and maintain our grounds need to be environmentally sound. Toxic chemicals and substances cause long-lasting harm not only to the earth, and other animals, and insects, but directly affect our health as well. We are all connected. When we hurt the planet, we hurt ourselves, and we dishonor all that God has made. God has called us to be caretakers of the earth. It's up to all of us to do our part.

## Baptism Blessings

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We welcome into the family of God Azariah Chohan who received the gift of the sacrament of baptism on Sunday, May, 12<sup>th</sup>.

## Congratulations

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Congratulations to Sunita Dean & Shakir Tariq who were joined in marriage on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. May God bless them both with a long and joyous life together.

Congratulations to our graduates – Sierra Morales, and Gabriela Valez. If there are any others who are graduating, please let us know so we can extend our congratulations.



## Nickel Social Raffle

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On **Saturday June 8th** we will again be having our **Nickel Social Raffle**. Doors open at 11:00 am. Drawing starts at 1:00 pm. You must be present to win!

For those who don't know what this is, buy tickets to win a variety of treasures – household items, collectibles, seasonal, children's items, tools, books, etc. It's a lot of fun!

We will begin accepting donations of new and used items (please, no clothes). People can leave items in the back left-hand corner of the garage. Please arrange them neatly and **do not block the front area of the garage**.

Proceeds will go to the general fund for the ongoing ministries of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

If you have items and are not sure if we could use them, please ask Chris or Marc Kleinhenz. We will also be looking for donations of **gift cards** and **gift baskets** to raffle off.



**The Senior Shepherds will be selling meatball sandwiches as well!**

## Bake Sale

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At the same time as the Nickel Social Raffle on Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> we will also be holding a bake sale. Proceeds will also go to the general fund for the ongoing ministries of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. If you are willing to bake items for the bake sale please contact Marj Raymond.



## 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 **June 1<sup>st</sup> 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).



## Tuesday Morning Bible Study

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**Everyone** is welcome to join us **Tuesdays** from 11am 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.

## Church Book Club

The Book Club will meet **Tuesday, June 18th at 7 pm** in the Blue Room. We will discuss "Small Great Things" by Jodi Picoult. We will have refreshments, too.





# The Music Corner

*“Music... will help dissolve your perplexities and purify your character and sensibilities, and in time of care and sorrow, will keep a fountain of joy alive in you.” — Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

A “shout out” to our Good Shepherd choir for providing reflective choral pieces during Easter. Also, to the Children’s Choir who led us in joyful singing of “This is the day the Lord has Made.”

During the summer, when we have one worship service instead of regular schedule, there will not be adult choir rehearsal on Thursday evenings or Sunday Mornings. The children’s choir will also recess until regular church schedule resumes after Labor Day.

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

## **Worship Server Volunteers Needed**

Please consider being a worship server. Don’t worry about doing it perfectly; God is glorified with your wiliness to serve. Training provided. Sign-up sheets for volunteers for worship servers are posted on the bulletin board next to the fellowship hall. .



## Splash Play Time

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Summer is almost officially here, but we're ready for some summer fun! Our playgroup for June is on 6/15/19 at 10:45. All children 4 and under are invited to come for some special activities. Hooray for summer! See you soon!



## Children & Youth

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### Children and Youth

May 19<sup>th</sup> was the official last day of Sunday School until the fall. A special thanks to Sue Kelly and Marie Wertman for all their hard work and dedication in teaching the Intergenerational Sunday School classes.



A special thanks to Carl Alexandrov, our Director of Music, for working with the children in teaching them songs to sing during worship. Their voices are a joyful noise to the Lord! Our intergenerational approach was off to a good start with several adults participating. We'd love to grow this program even more, and are open to new ideas. More teachers are also needed, and you don't need previous experience to help. A willingness to engage with our children, and have some fun with them is all that is needed. Our goal is to get several teachers so no one is teaching every week. Please prayerfully consider joining part of the education team, and contact Susan Kelly, Marie Wertman, or Pastor Edwina if you are interested.

Confirmation classes will resume in the fall, with two of this year's students being confirmed on Reformation Sunday in October. This is an engaging group of young people who ask insightful questions, and are great theologians. Pastor Edwina looks forward to working with them again in the fall.

## First Communion Classes

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If you are interested in having your child receive Communion, please contact Pastor Edwina who will be holding First Communion classes this month. Children as early as first grade are encouraged to participate.

## Summer Lunch Program

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The Outreach and Evangelism Ministry Team continues to put the final touches on this year's summer lunch program at the Schuyler Inn Motel on Broadway in Menands every Thursday in July and August, except for the Fourth of July.



Schuyler Inn 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. We provide a nutritious lunch for 100 that is prepared at church each week. We also get the children underwear, socks, sweatshirts and/or hoodies, as well as a backpacks filled with school supplies.

In the past, members of the congregation have been very generous with food donations and we are again asking for food, as well as children and adult books. Food suggestions are individual boxes of juice; chocolate, vanilla, and butterscotch puddings; fruit cups; raisins; gluten free items and cheese sticks; as well as bags of chips, granola bars pretzels, cheese and peanut butter crackers. We have found that the children do not like applesauce so we will not be asking for applesauce. A box will be in the narthex/front hallway for any food donations starting in June.

We are in great need for volunteers on Thursdays, who could lift large pans of food and load them into cars and help to unload these pans of food when we arrive at the Schuyler Inn. If you could help out with this specific task or any other part of the lunch, like preparing, serving and cleaning-up, please speak to Carol Phelps or Danny Patrick. Your help will be appreciated if you can volunteer just for an hour or the whole time.

We thank everyone in advance for your food and book donations, help and all of your support and prayers as we continue this special ministry.

## May/June Cluster Collection

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### **Throughout May & June the Lutheran Cluster congregations will**

**gather** items for Things of My Very Own (TOMVO), a non-profit organization, located in Schenectady that provides crisis intervention services to children who have been impacted by extensive abuse and/or

neglect. They also provide services to children at-risk of a Child Protective Services intervention where families don't have items necessary for sustainability.



The organization works to keep children with their non-abusive family members and out of the foster care system whenever possible. The transition out of an abusive situation is often sudden and unexpected. Rarely is a child able to return home to retrieve belongings prior to the move. TOMVO recognizes the need for children to have "things of their very own," even when they are in an unfamiliar setting.

**Urgent Needs:** Twin Sized Sheets & Blankets, Blankets (All Sizes), and towels. \*\*\* Clothing and Bedding in New or Gently Used Condition Please.

**Always Needed:** Seasonal Appropriate Clothing, Pajamas, Diapers and Wipes, Hygiene Products, Shampoo, Body Wash, etc., Toilet Paper, Baby Formula, Household Cleaning Products

**Administrative Needs:** Postage Stamps, Gas Cards, Copy/Printer Paper, HP 950 and 951 Officejet Ink Cartridges

## News from the Senior Shepherds

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On May 4<sup>th</sup> we made blankets for the Linus Project. The blankets will be going to Albany Medical Center. Thank you to Jo Anne Marcario and her crew for coming in to do this with us.

We have delivered Heart Pillows to St. Peter's Hospital.

We will be selling Hot Meatball Subs at the Nickel Social on June 8<sup>th</sup>. Our next meeting will be on June 28<sup>th</sup> and we will be having our Annual Picnic. All are welcome. We will not be meeting in July and August.

## Stewardship

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Stewardship isn't just about finances. It is caring for all that God has given us. Our time, our gifts, and our possessions are all gifts from God that are entrusted to care for, and use for the glory of God. The many ministries that we are involved in here at Good Shepherd are only possible because of everyone's generosity. As we approach the summer months, many of you will be going away for vacations, and will be gone for extended periods of time. The ministries we do here still continue. Please consider signing up for electronic giving, or pay your pledges ahead before you go. And if you have not previously pledged, prayerfully consider making one today. A letter will be going out soon to let you know where you are in your giving. Thank you for your continued generosity. If you have any questions about stewardship, please don't hesitate to contact Danny Patrick, our new stewardship chairperson.

## Social Justice

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Walking toward a more just world means walking in Jesus's footsteps. It means seeing the world God created as one creation that we are all a part. Whatever we do or don't do affects God's world. The support our congregation gives to local social ministries and global ministries is a wonderful testament to our stand we take to support those in need. There is still more we can do to protect all of God's creation. Small things like refusing to use plastic straws, refusing to pollute our groundwater and waterways by stop using all pesticides, buy less, waste less are all really big ways to create an equable world for all. New gun safety legislation will reduce senseless violence, but to end these acts means opening our hearts to all who feel marginalized. We are all part of God's world



Upcoming actions: June 29th - Annual march to end gun violence  
Support ELCA Advocacy Write to your legislators about climate change, fair housing, equal job opportunities, banning pesticides, immigration, better education

## Fair Trade – Fair Chocolate

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**Chocolate is big business.** Three-quarters of it is produced in Africa, particularly Ghana And Cote d'Ivoire, for a handful of multi-national companies selling to consumers in Europe and North America. Average American per capita consumption is 10 pounds annually ... for some of us, that's a minimum!

**Chocolate is a poverty problem.** Ivory Coast small-farmers (about 12 acres per farm) selling to large multi-national companies earn only \$0.78 per day, well below the *extreme* poverty line. Price and weather fluctuations add to their challenges.

**Chocolate is a child labor problem.** Although big companies agreed in 2001 to reduce child labor 70% by 2020, even more children (over 2 million) are engaged in hazardous work clearing land, carrying heavy loads, working long hours or at night. Some children are even sold into slavery.

**Chocolate is an environmental problem.** Since 1990 Cote d'Ivoire has lost 85% of its forests (similarly for Ghana) ... and only 200-400 elephants remain from an original population of hundreds of thousands.

**But .....** **Chocolate is a way to love our neighbor.** In our inter-connected world, our buying choices affect so many others. ***Choose to purchase chocolate from producers who are committed to fair trade sourcing.*** It may cost a bit more, but we are called to love and serve our neighbors -- even when buying chocolate.

You can find out about "good vs ugly" chocolate companies and their practices at <https://www.greenamerica.org/end-child-labor-cocoa/chocolate-scorecard> or pick up information about Equal Exchange Chocolate at the Fair Trade cart in the fellowship hall. Chocolate bars and minis are there for your purchase too.

For questions or special orders of Equal Exchange products, contact Michael Gerrish ([mrg@whyart.com](mailto:mrg@whyart.com), 518-366-2853) or Carol Gerrish ([Carol@TransformingWork.com](mailto:Carol@TransformingWork.com), 518-266-0305)

# Just Breathe: Contemplation at Good Shepherd

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## Waste Not, Want Not?

*"Never waste a sleepless night." Jim Finley*

Our youngest child celebrated her 36<sup>th</sup> birthday last month. I'm old! Aging brings changes to our daily rhythms: I make notes to myself so I won't forget tasks, I see more doctors, and my body gives feedback on what I eat and drink. Sometimes I find I'm dozing off in the afternoon and not sleeping when it's dark. What's up with that?

Jim Finley, who is experienced in being awake in the dark, advises us that meditation offers refuge during sleepless nights. As we seek release from circumstances which trouble our rest we may experience an awareness that we are not alone in the dark. God is a very good listener.

Just Breathe offers a friendly place to release worry and just be. We sit without judgment, hear a few encouraging words, ring a bell and rest in silence. After a few minutes, the bell sounds again and we share some thoughts. We often find echoes of the familiar in our different lives.

Just Breathe meets every Wednesday at GSLC for 45 minutes or so at 7PM. We invite you to join us for a quiet sit and some heart felt conversation. It might even help you get a good night's sleep. Thank you, and peace.  
Michael Gerrish

## Faith Matters

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Faith Matters meetings will resume in the fall.



## Hillenbrandt Scholarships



Several applications have been received for Hillenbrandt scholarships, and are in the review process. Scholarship awards will be announced soon. Stay tuned! For any questions, please contact Shanaz Dean.

# **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!!

## **Qi Gong**

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Boost your metabolism, increase your bone density, improve your balance, and enhance your immune system!

### **Join the Saturday Morning Qi Gong Club at GSLC**

Every Saturday starting at 9:30 am

Classes are \$10.00 each.

This is a wonderful spiritual practice, led by Maria Patrick, Certified Holistic Health Coach & Qi Gong Instructor

<b>Attendance for April 2019</b>			
Date	8 am	10:30am	Total
4/7/19	37	48	85
4/14/19	44	59	103
4/18/19	Maundy Thursday		38
4/19/19	Good Friday		47
4/21/19	56	121	177
4/28/19	31	40	71

## Financial News

<b>Financial Report for April 2019</b>			
<b>Operating Fund</b>			
	April	YTD	
Expenses	\$12,874.18	\$54,310.44	
Revenue	\$15,701.91	\$56,392.70	
<u>Surplus +</u> Deficit -	\$2,827.73	\$2,082.26	

### Tithe.ly

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Our online giving is up and running! More and more people are carrying around less cash, but that no longer means you can't make a donation to our congregation. You can go to our website [www.gslcl.org](http://www.gslcl.org) via your computer or phone and make an electronic donation.

You can also download the app from the App Store on your phone – tithe.ly. It's secure and easy. Try it out today.



**Please help replenish the Building and Equipment Fund** that is used for unbudgeted and unexpected needs as they come up for our building or mission station. Special envelopes are in your envelope boxes, in the seats in the sanctuary, and on the table in the narthex.

Thank you!

# Church Council News

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At the end of April, the church council held an open forum. It was very well attended by nearly 30 members of the congregation. It was used as a time for the council to share updates on action items, get feedback from members, and share ideas and questions. It was a wonderful opportunity to have an open conversation about the life and the ministries of the church.

As I reflect on the many committees, ministries, and small and large jobs that people in our church do, I am overwhelmed. We are a small community filled with so many blessings. I want to express my gratitude for all that our members do for Good Shepherd. Our church is always looking for ways that people can help. If you would like to help out and become involved, please reach out to the committee chairs listed in the newsletter, contact a council member, Kathy Williams, or Pastor Edwina.

Peace,  
Mark Kaercher

## Upcoming Events

### 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Berry Festival

The Fourteenth Annual Berry Festival will be on **Saturday, July 13th from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM**. Scrumptious strawberries, blueberries and raspberries will be served on homemade biscuits topped with your choice of either vanilla ice cream or whipped cream. This yearly summer event has always been a fun time for many people who come every year from the community as well as the congregation.

If you have never come to one of our Berry Festivals or if you come every year, we encourage you to jot this date down and come out for some great berries and wonderful fellowship. There will be a free will offering and the proceeds will be going into the church's general fund.

As we get closer to the event we will need berry pickers, and on the day of the Berry Festival people who would be willing to serve berries for 1/2 to 1 hour. If you can help out in any way, please talk to Carol Phelps or Danny Patrick.

## 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Fun Day

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Please mark your calendars as this year's Ninth Annual Community Fun Day will be held on **Saturday September 28th from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM.**

This is a fun day for all, where we invite our neighbors, friends, families in the surrounding neighborhood to join us as we will be having children's activities, informational tables about organizations in the area, flu shots, pony rides and a lot of information about Good Shepherd. We will also be serving hot dogs, chips, french fries, homemade lemonade, coffee and cookies from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM at no charge.

The Outreach and Evangelism Ministry Team would like to begin to get our informational vendors lined up for this year's Community Fun Day. Who do you know and what ideas do you have for organizations that might want to be a part of this fun event? If you have any ideas or names of people we can contact, please speak to Carol Phelps or Danny Patrick.

### Club Scientific

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**Club Scientific** will be hosting their summer camp again here at Good Shepherd during four weeks starting in July. Dates are July 8 – 12, July 22-26, July 29 – Aug. 2, and Aug. 5 -9. Information is available online at <https://colonie.clubscientific.com>

### Game Night

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Do you love to play board games? Do you love Scrabble or cards, but need someone to play with? Good Shepherd would like to host a Game Night on Monday nights in the fall starting in September. Game nights are a big event all around the country. This event will be open to the community, and it is sure to be a lot of fun. There is already quite an interest from many at Good Shepherd, but we need volunteers to be there on Monday nights to greet people and make sure things run smoothly. This will be a great way to get to know those in our community! Please contact Pastor Edwina if you are interested in helping out.



# Thank You!

## Crop Walk

Thank you to everyone who supported the Albany Crop Walk on May 5<sup>th</sup>. It was a huge success and Good Shepherd had over 20 walkers this year. Totals are still coming in but Good Shepherd raised over \$2,000 so far.



Reports on final figures will be announced as soon as available. Thank you for helping to end hunger!

## Thank you from the American Red Cross

Many thanks to all who generously participated in the Blood Drive held on **Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>** at Good Shepherd. A total of 22 units were collected (3 power reds & 19 whole blood units). That helps 66 patients!



**Marc and Chris Kleinhenz and family would like to express their appreciation for all the prayers and condolences expressed on the loss of Margaret Vogel.**

**Thank you to everyone for the beautiful cards and notes of encouragement following my recent shoulder/arm surgery. I am on the road to recovery!** **Kathy Williams**



**Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers, inspirational cards, and wonderful arm pillow. I am very happy to have you all in my life and very touched by your thoughtfulness.  
Gisele Fortune**

## **Bake Sale & Senior Shepherd Craft Sale**

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Thank you to everyone who baked and/or purchased cakes, cookies, brownies and pies at our Bake Sale on March 30 and 31! And special thanks to Dick Dunn for designing the beautiful floral arrangements that are being sold by the Senior Shepherds. With the combined sales on the two days, we added \$670 to the Building Maintenance and Repair Fund. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Dear Friends – It is an honor to thank you for your thoughtful contribution of \$1,284 to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation representing proceeds from the Chicken and Biscuit Dinner fundraiser in memory of Margaret Vogel. Our mission never wavers and you can be confident that your generosity is not taken for granted – we are grateful beyond measure!  
Myra J. Biblowit, President & CEO

Dear Friends – Thank you for your \$50 donation to the Regional Food Bank. The food and resources we provide would not be available without the support we receive from so many caring people. Thank you for the role you are playing in that process.  
Mark Quandt, Executive Director

Friends at Good Shepherd: Thank you for your generous donation of over 500 fruit cups for the Equinox Thanksgiving Community Dinner. Without your help, this cherished tradition could not continue.  
Christina Rajotte, Director, Community Relations