



**HELLO**  
*December!*

*Here's to a blessed holiday season!*

**GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH  
510 ALBANY SHAKER ROAD  
LOUDONVILLE, NY 12211  
518-458-1562  
[www.gslcl.org](http://www.gslcl.org)  
[office@gslcl.org](mailto:office@gslcl.org)**

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

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

### **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Contacts**

Pastor Joyce Fiore pastorjoycef@live.com	518-458-1562 – office 518-588-3149 - cell
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<b>President</b>	Maryanne Sangiacomo
<b>Vice President</b>	Elizabeth Strohbeck
<b>Secretary</b>	Marjorie Raymond
<b>Treasurer</b>	Jeff Emptage
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Dave Ferrill	
Kathryn Ingalls	
Marc Kleinhenz	
Carol Phelps	
Rev. William Siiss	
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<b><u>ADMINISTRATION</u></b>	
Financial Secretary	Barbara Emptage
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Dean: Rev. Jo Page	jopage34@yahoo.com
Bishop: Rev. Lee Miller II	www.upstatenysynod.org
Bishop: Rev. Elizabeth Eaton	www.elca.org

**January 2022 Newsletter Deadline:**  
**Thursday, Dec. 16th**

## A Message from Pastor Joyce

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Advent comes this year on November 28, while I am on vacation in AZ. Pr. Greg Tennermann will lead worship remotely from his home, the sermon will be offered in video from a series titled, "*Not a Silent Night...Mary Looks back to Bethlehem*" by Rev. Adam Hamilton. Worship leaders will be in the sanctuary to light the first Advent candle. Holy Communion will be offered.

The video, *Not A Silent Night*, is a series of four sermons that walk with Mary, mother of Jesus, and starts with her reflection on the crucifixion of her first-born child (11/28/21). It is titled, *Beginning With the End*. Each week, Mary's perspective moves closer to the birth of Jesus. The second week, (12/5), *The Piercing of Mary's Soul*; third week (12/12), is titled *Amazed, Astounded, and Astonished*, with week four looking at the birth of Jesus titled *Mary, Full of Grace (12/19) and finally (12/26) shows "It Was Not A Silent Night."*

I pray you find these videos as inspiring as I have and will find the Reverend Adam Hamilton (UMC) opening new thoughts and outlooks. I follow his presentations frequently and have learned from them.

Each Sunday, when the video is shown, the traditional worship service will take place with lighting of the Advent Candles, Holy Communion, and music of course. Children are especially invited to come each Sunday with a special Christmas Celebration following in the Fellowship Hall on December 19th. Dick Walker has donated a special manger scene which we will find under the altar. Watch the children put the figures around the manger.

Also, look for the new banners, the Advent Calendars to be distributed, and the Advent Transparencies on the glass doors. So much planning is being done by the Worship and Music Team with my thanks to them.

Christmas Eve worship service will offer Holy Communion, Jeff Emptage is the musician with a surprise soloist. Carl will be the musician on 12/28. How blessed we are as we approach this most holy time.

Grace and peace to you, Pastor Joyce

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS**

- Paul Spofford, 32 E. Highland Drive, Albany, NY 12203
- Barbara Emptage, 22 Morocco Lane, Schenectady, NY 12304
- Carolyn Wolfe, 119 Rockefeller Rd., Apt. 112, Delmar, NY 12054
- Gwen Graham - 6 Winners Circle #313, Albany, NY 12205.
- Betty Cadwallader - Schenectady Center for Rehab, 526 Altamont Ave., 515-B Maple, Schenectady, 12303.
- Maria Mackey - Cards can be sent to 71 Messenger Street, Apt. 1013, Plainville, MA 02672.

**Don't Forget Our Homebound Members**

	Ron Lagerroos
Lydia Carbonaro	Marilyn Loecher
Bob & Ann Howland	Lou Reiss
Shirley Kroll	Joan VanApeldoorn

**Annual Meeting of the Congregation**

**The Annual Meeting of the Congregation of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday, January 30, 2022. Mark your calendars and look for more information in the January newsletter.**

# HOPE LOVE JOY PEACE

## The Meaning of Advent

The Advent season is an invitation for us all to choose to set aside the fear and uncertainty that has defined 2020 and 2021. It's a chance to be intentional about taking our focus off of the hustle of the Christmas season. We can also give to God the sadness that many may be feeling as many of us will need to observe the holiday season differently this year.

The word "[Advent](#)" comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means "coming." Advent in the 4th and 5th centuries was a time of preparation for the baptism of new Christians. Christians would spend 40 days in [prayer](#) and fasting to prepare for the celebration that accompanied the baptism of new believers.

Over time, Advent was connected to the coming of Christ. Originally Christians used this term to reference Christ's second coming, but by the Middle Ages, Advent was connected to Christ's first coming that we celebrate at Christmas.

Today, we celebrate Advent over the four weeks leading up to Christmas each year. This year we begin advent on November 28th and end this season of prayerful anticipation on December 24th.

Advent season is an invitation to set your mind off of the stresses of the year. We can take our focus off of the crazy hustle that can be associated with the Christmas season that often threatens to produce more hassle than delight. Advent is a chance to focus our thoughts on the gift God has given us in his son Jesus who stepped down from Heaven and took the form of a man *so that we might believe*.

The tradition for the first Sunday of Advent includes lighting the candle of **hope**. **This candle of hope** symbolizes promises delivered through the prophets from God as well as

the hope we have in Christ. God crafted a great rescue plan that he lays out in Scripture. This plan foretells years in advance the arrival of Christ. The Bible also gives us a glimpse of the future and promises that God will come down to create a new heaven and Earth.

The tradition for the [second Sunday of Advent](#) includes lighting the second purple candle that is a symbol of **faith**.

As we prepare our hearts for the celebration of Jesus' arrival as a gift to all humanity, let's stir up in our hearts and homes a sense of anticipation. May God's spirit transform the days leading up to Christmas into a time of holy anticipation; preparing our hearts, as we **faithfully await** the chance to celebrate the arrival of our king.

The third Sunday of Advent we are invited to reflect on the **joy** we have access to because of our [faith](#) in Jesus. One of the defining characteristics of Christ-followers is their *joyful demeanor*. Let's not allow the struggles of the past two years steal from the **great joy** we have because of Jesus.

The [fourth candle](#) of Advent is called the "**Angel Candle**" and **symbolizes peace**. This name comes from the fact that the angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace ([Luke 2:14](#)). This week we are reminded that Jesus came to bring peace to our hearts and to our world!

Over this Advent, would you pray that *God's unexplainable peace* would be evident in your heart and home? These most recent years we all have faced so much chaos and uncertainty. God's peace is something we need to grab tightly onto *more than ever*. May God's spirit transform the days leading up to Christmas into a time to joyfully await our King!

## **Christmas Eve Service**

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**Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm.**

***Come, Let Us Adore Him!***

## BABY JESUS CELEBRATION DECEMBER 19TH!

All children are invited to come to worship every Sunday during Advent starting with November 28th and culminating on December 19th with a Baby Jesus Celebration in the Fellowship Hall.



### A Special Season for Children

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Each Sunday in Advent we will be welcoming and focusing on the wonderful children in our congregation and community.

We will be providing opportunities for all children to be a part of the worship service, helping them to understand, celebrate and prepare the way for the birth of Jesus.

During the service on December 5<sup>th</sup> we will be asking the children to help paint Advent stars. We will also be asking them to wear special costumes which we provide and have them bring to the altar the various pieces of our Nativity scene, so graciously donated to Good Shepherd by Richard Walker.

The various activities being planned all culminate with the Baby Jesus Celebration following the worship service on December 19<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall.

Let **THE**  
Little Children  
*Come*  
to me

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE WILL BE AT 4 PM.  
NO WORSHIP SERVICE ON CHRISTMAS DAY.  
REGULAR SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 9:30 AM ON  
DECEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup>.**

**What is an Advent Calendar and how does it work?**

An Advent calendar **helps countdown the days until Christmas**, usually with a small item or devotional phrase that is revealed on each day. Traditional calendars are rectangular cards or boxes you can hang on the wall or sit on a table with small sealed doors or windows meant to be opened in order on each day of Advent.



**What is the meaning of the Advent wreath?**

The wreath as a whole is meant to **remind us of both the immortality of our souls and God's promise of everlasting life to us through Christ**. The candles also have their own special significance. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent, and one candle is lit each Sunday.





## December Birthdays

- 1 – Christine Kleinhenz, Maria Mackey
- 2 – Gail Koser, Jennifer Bradley
- 4 – Nicholas Layne, Susan Perkins
- 7 – Rachel Carey
- 9 – Johnathon Rudat
- 10 – Kit LaManna, Colleen Kromrey
- 11 – Jonathan Adams
- 25 – Sade Miller, Sunita Dean
- 26 – Felicity Caufield
- 28 – Colleen Golon
- 29 – Jane Ludwin



## New Little Free Library!

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A new addition to Good Shepherd is our "**Little Free Library**". A bit of gentle outreach to the youth of the neighborhood. This box contains books for Kids of all ages that can be taken and enjoyed without charge. They can also add their own books as they finish and wish to share.



**ATTENTION TO ALL PARENTS WHO NEED TO TELL  
THE TRUTH ABOUT SANTA 🧑🏻 AND NEED TO INSTILL  
GOOD INTO THEIR YOUNG ONES!**

Son: "Dad, I think I'm old enough now. Is there a Santa Claus?"

Dad: "Ok, I agree that your old enough. But before I tell you, I have a question for you. You see, the "truth" is a dangerous gift. Once you know something, you can't unknow it. Once you know the truth about Santa Claus, you will never again understand and relate to him as you do now. So my question is: Are you sure you want to know?"

Brief pause...

Son: "Yes, I want to know"

Dad: "Ok, I'll tell you: Yes, there is a Santa Claus"

Son: "Really?"

Dad: Yes, really, but he's not an old man with a beard in a red suit. That's just what we tell kids. You see, kids are too young to understand the true nature of Santa Claus, so we explain it to them in a way that they can understand. The truth about Santa Claus is that he's not a person at all; he's an idea.

Think of all those presents Santa gave you over the years. I actually bought those myself. I watched you open them. And did it bother me that you didn't thank me? Of course not! In fact it gave me great pleasure. You see, Santa Claus is THE IDEA OF GIVING FOR THE SAKE OF GIVING, without thought of thanks or acknowledgement.

When I saw that woman collapse on the subway last week and called for help, I knew that she'd never know that it was me that summoned the ambulance. I was being Santa Claus when I did that."

Son: "Oh."

Dad: "So now that you know, you're part of it. You have to be Santa Claus too now. That means you can never tell a young kid the secret, and you have to help us select Santa presents for them, and most important, you have to look for opportunities to help people. Got it?"

Help each other this Christmas 🌲🧑🏻 and...be kind ❤️❤️



## **How We Fit into the Lutheran Worldwide Church**

I am somewhat embarrassed to admit, prior to the past two years, I am not sure if the word “synod” ever passed my lips, although I and all members of Good Shepherd, are part of the Upstate New York Synod. I am not sure why we rarely spoke of the Synod. Much has changed since that time. I’ve found myself referring to the synod rather frequently over the past several months as many of us here at Good Shepherd have. Unfortunately, the word “Synod” has not been spoken around Good Shepherd in a very positive way. Some have seen the Synod as an enemy; as holding us back, keeping us from calling a pastor.

This is not how I see it. All members of Good Shepherd are part of the Upstate New York Synod which is part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. The ELCA is part of the Churchwide Organization that is based out of the Lutheran Center in Chicago and is comprised of the ELCA’s 65 Synods and nearly 10,000 congregations across the 50 states, the Caribbean and U.S. Virgin Islands. We here at Good Shepherd are a part of a much larger Lutheran body and also the body of Christ.

As Paul said to the Corinthians (1Corinthians 12:12-20) :  
“Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body – whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? But in fact, God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part where would the body be? As it is, there are many

parts, but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet "I don't need you!" On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while the presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it."

For if the Synod were to work against us, not want the best for us, try to prevent us from moving forward, it would be tantamount to the head saying to the feet "I don't need you!" It would be an insult to the body of Christ. That is not the Synod's purpose for being.

The Churchwide Organization is a structure comprised of the ELCA, its Synods and their many congregations – congregations comprised of people like us who, within their individual church structure, can best achieve their goal to grow in Christ through the Holy Spirit. As individuals, we are all parts, each as valuable as the other. Together we are the body of Christ.

Wishing you God's continued blessings,  
Maryanne

## **Wednesday Bible Study**

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Come and join in on the Wednesday Bible Study 1:00 pm – 2:15 pm as we study Scripture and grow in God's word. Each week we begin in prayer, reach out to others who may be ill or just need cheering up with a card and personal note, and enjoy some coffee, tea, and other snacks. If you have any questions, please contact Bertie Cole 518-626-0657.



## **Meeting with Rev. Bishop Lee Miller II**

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On Wednesday, November 17th, Pastor Joyce along with the Executive Committee of the Church Council met with the Upstate Synod's new Bishop, the Reverend Lee M. Miller II and the Reverend Lori Kochanski, an Assistant to the Bishop. The meeting provided a great opportunity for us to introduce ourselves to them and in turn, they to us.

Over the past two years our relationship with Synod has become strained. It was an opportunity to open up meaningful, healing dialogue between us. The Bishop and Executive Committee addressed the past two years and the present time with open dialogue.

The presence of our ongoing Mediation process was addressed. Since taking office, Bishop Miller has had discussions with our Mediator. Expectations for our future and the pastoral search were also discussed.

The meeting left us all with a renewed understanding, hope and faith in our Synod and Good Shepherd's relationship with the Synod, as we go forward.

General plans were also discussed for Bishop Miller's return scheduled for **Sunday, January 9th**. At that time, he will preach and meet the entire Council. A Fellowship time was also discussed where he would meet the Congregation. More to come on this. Put the date on your calendar.

Jeff Emptage



**Deadline for submissions for Annual Report:  
Thursday, December 30<sup>th</sup>**



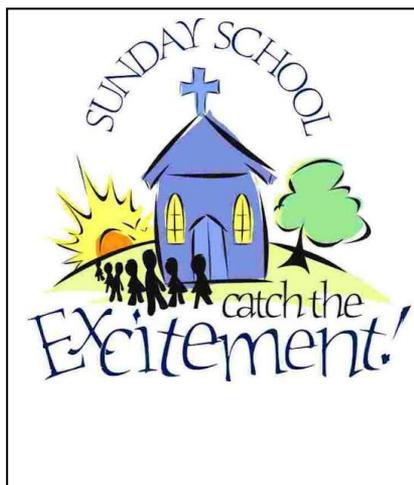
The WELCA group of Good Shepherd is excited to announce that a Cookie Walk will be held on **December 11, 2021** from 11:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m., or until we run out of cookies. We are very hopeful that a special guest will be the first in line to purchase a box of delicious homemade goodies! (You'll recognize him because of his red suit and long white beard!)

Help is needed prior to the event in the form of making cookies and the day of the event to assist as greeters and cashiers and help our shoppers. Watch for sign up sheets in the narthex soon. Any questions? Dying to help out? Contact Patti Kopach at 518-788-0386 or [patti.kopach@yahoo.com](mailto:patti.kopach@yahoo.com).

## **Women of the ELCA**

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The next WELCA meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 18 at 7:00 pm.**



## **Sunday School News**

Sunday School is coming back! Plans continue to once again have Sunday school class for our youth during the worship service time on Sundays. We would appreciate it greatly if you could email the office if you have school age children who would participate in the class. We also need volunteers to teach the lessons each week. Contact Pastor Joyce.

## Please Dedicate Altar Flowers!

The altar flowers add so much to our worship service! It not only adds to the beauty of our service, but it is also a special way to remember important occasions, loved ones we have lost, and to support the church as well. Please sign up for a particularly important Sunday for you and your family. Payment of \$18 should be placed in a flower envelope and put in the collection plate. Please be sure to include the date of the flower donation on your check and on the envelope. After the service, the flowers are ready to 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 the church office or Bonnie Siiss.



## Fall Cluster Collection

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Emergency Overflow Homeless Shelter - The shelter, run by Capital Area Council of Churches, reopened for the season on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you would like to drop off supplies, you may contact Pam, the shelter manager, during the week at (518) 391-2675, and she will meet you at the shelter door (the farthest door from the State Street parking lot) to collect the supplies. You could also purchase the supplies from Amazon and have them mailed to the CACC address. If you prefer, you may send a check to cover the cost of some supplies. Please write "shelter supplies" in the memo section.

Thank you for your continuing support of the shelter. Your generosity is appreciated.

## Financial News

<b>Financial Report for October 2021</b>			
	October	YTD	
Expenses	\$11,227.03	\$110,382.88	
Revenue	\$10,400.40	\$105,786.88	
<u>Surplus +</u>			
Deficit -	-\$826.63	-\$4,596.00	

## **From the Financial Secretary**

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As 2021 draws to an end, you may want to know how you are doing with your pledge to the Operating Fund. Contact Barbara Emptage at 518-280-4942. Also, a reminder that collections for the 2021 year, to be eligible for a charitable contribution on one's income tax, must be received and recorded on the books by **December 30<sup>th</sup>**.

### **The IRA Charitable Rollover Is One of the Most Popular Ways to Give**

One way that a gift of retirement funds is becoming ever more popular is for those who have a regular IRA to authorize their IRA administrator to make a direct transfer of funds - known as the IRA rollover - to a charitable organization such as Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at 510 Albany-Shaker Road, Loudonville, NY, 12211.

**There are three main advantages to making your gift in this manner:** The amount you transfer will count towards your required minimum distribution.

- The amount you transfer will not be taxed - as it would be if the IRA funds were paid to you.
- The IRA transfer is equivalent to a charitable deduction because it is subtracted from income.

Please consider transferring some or all of your Required Minimum Distribution to Good Shepherd in 2021 and 2022.

## **Building Use**

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A lot of community organizations have resumed using our building during the week. In order to accommodate everyone and make sure that we have adequate space for everyone, including our members who have a need to use the fellowship hall or any of the rooms for meetings, please be sure to contact Danny Patrick at [dannypatrick83@gmail.com](mailto:dannypatrick83@gmail.com).

## Thrivent Grants

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The many outreach projects of our congregation are made possible in large part by grants from Thrivent Financial. Every Thrivent member is eligible to apply for two \$250.00 Action Team grants per year. These are easy to apply for, and if you need help please ask Carol Phelps, Danny Patrick, or Pastor Joyce.

If you are not a Thrivent member, but would still like to help apply for a grant, you can become a Thrivent Associate Member. **Associate membership is \$19.95 and with that membership you are able to apply for a one \$250.00 Thrivent grant for our congregation's outreach projects.** Contact Thrivent either by phone or at Thrivent.com for more info.

## Men's Shelter Meals

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The cluster churches will be preparing meals for the Overflow Homeless Shelter at First Lutheran Church that opened on November 1, 2021. The meal needs to be prepared for about 15 people and consist of an entree, vegetable or salad, and dessert. These are Good Shepherd's date: For 2022 - January 4, February 1, March 1, March 29, and April 26. If you would like to help with this special ministry please speak with Danny Patrick and he can be reached at (518) 477-5355. As always thank you for your anticipated help.

## 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. GSLC also receives 5 cents per pound for the donations, which we can then use for our various ministries.





I spoke to people getting food at a food bank and here are some things I learned from those in need:

1. Everyone donates Kraft Mac and Cheese in the box. They can rarely use it because it needs milk and butter which is hard to get from regular food banks.
2. Boxed milk is a treasure, as kids need it for cereal which they also get a lot of.
3. Everyone donates pasta sauce and spaghetti noodles.
4. They cannot eat all the awesome canned veggies and soup unless you put a can opener in too or buy pop tops.
5. Oil is a luxury but needed for Rice a-Roni which they also get a lot of.
6. Spices or salt and pepper would be a real Christmas gift.
7. Tea bags and coffee make them feel like you care.
8. Sugar and flour are treats.
9. They fawn over fresh produce donated by farmers and grocery stores.
10. Seeds are cool in Spring and Summer because growing can be easy for some.
11. They rarely get fresh meat.
12. Tuna and crackers make a good lunch.
13. Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.
14. They get lots of peanut butter and jelly but usually not sandwich bread.
15. Butter or margarine is nice too.
16. Eggs are a real commodity.
17. Cake mix and frosting makes it possible to make a child's birthday cake.
18. Dishwashing detergent is very expensive and is always appreciated.
19. Feminine hygiene products are a luxury and women will cry over that.
20. Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.

In all the years I have donated food at the Holidays, I bought what I thought they wanted, but have never asked. I am glad I did. If you are helping a Family this Christmas, maybe this can help you tailor it more. It does for me!



## Support Good Shepherd Lutheran Church with Amazon Smile!

Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. Sign in to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) on your desktop or mobile phone browser and choose "Good Shepherd Lutheran Church."

## Tithe.ly

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Our online giving is available for your convenience! 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.



We now have the added availability of a QR code to make the opportunity to contribute more convenient. You will see the below message in your weekly bulletins and on our website.

*Donate here to support the various ministries of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church*





**Don't forget to  
Order Your Holiday Poinsettias!  
Nothing is more beautiful over the  
Christmas Season!**

An order form is available in the church narthex for your holiday poinsettias. Each plant will be available for the cost of \$14.00 each. The final deadline is Sunday, **December 5<sup>th</sup>** and the order must be in to the florist by the end of that day. So don't delay!

**2021 Christmas Poinsettias  
Order Form**  
Each 6" Pot is \$14.00

To order, complete this form below and deposit, with your check or cash, in the box provided in the narthex. If you prefer, send it to the church office. **The order deadline is Sunday, December 5**

(Please print clearly)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
No. of Plants: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$14.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**(Make checks payable to Good Shepherd)**

(Please print the requested information below):

**IN MEMORY OF:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**IN HONOR OF:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Any questions  
contact Carol Phelps at 518-355-3901



This Christmas many will be surrounded by family and friends, at home and in church. At the same time, Christmas for most seafarers will be in the middle of the ocean with neither family nor friends, home nor church. Albany Maritime Ministry's "Christmas-at-Sea" program brings wrapped packages aboard ships for distribution among seafarers. We're asking you to help gather gifts for our port volunteers to bring to the seafarers before their ships head out over the Christmas holiday.

Here's how easy it is to help:

Gather some items together, place them in a shoebox and wrap it. We will include a Christmas message from the Seafarer's Center and "friends from NY Capital area". Last year youth groups, scout troops, organizations and individuals, all got involved and helped gather and assemble 350 "Christmas-at-Sea" boxes.

**Check our website for more information:** [AlbanyMM.us](http://AlbanyMM.us)

Some suggested items to include in a Christmas-at-Sea" box: Knit cap or gloves, work gloves, warm socks, sweatshirt, writing paper, envelopes, pencils, pens, comb or brush, books, toiletries - razor, shaving cream, After Shave , tooth brush/paste, deodorant, "AA"/"AAA" batteries, ear buds, puzzles, word search, new or gently used DVD's, NO CANDY, PLEASE

**PLEASE NOTE:** These items can be collected and donated during the year for our Hospitality Bags, which are brought to the ships when they are in Port.

*If you have questions, contact Dick Walker at 518-718-4882* Boxes can be dropped off at Good Shepherd in the narthex or at St. Matthew/St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1500 Western Ave., Albany, NY (across from Stuyvesant Plaza). Please call ahead (518-464-2648) to make sure someone is there to accept the packages.



## O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree

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On behalf of the congregation of Good Shepherd, thank you to Mike and Nancy Serge, and Lynn Salerno for donating this year's Christmas Tree for the sanctuary. It is beautiful!



## Fall Blood Drive

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Results of Good Shepherd's American Red Cross Blood Drive Oct. 28th, 2021: We had 19 successful donors 18 whole blood and 1 power red which will benefit 56 patients who receive red cells, plasma or cryoprecipitate during surgeries, after dialysis or cancer treatments, trauma, or bleeding episodes. The blood supply has been at very low levels, with the Red Cross some days only having a day's worth of blood available. If you were unable to give at our drive, please consider finding a drive to donate at because there is no substitute for blood products. Thank you to all our donors who donated and to Kirsten Andersen for volunteering to help with registration.

Our next blood drive is scheduled for Wed., April 6th 1:30-6:00 PM. If you have never donated before, please consider becoming a first-time donor. Any questions please contact Carol Phelps 518-355-3901.

## Holiday Boutique

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Many thanks to everyone who donated gifts, gift baskets, and gift certificates for the Holiday Boutique! We are also grateful to everyone who brought in baked goods for the Pie and Bake Sale, made soup for the luncheon, and helped before, during and after the event. The raffle and silent auction were well received. We made \$2600 at the Boutique!! This was a congregational fundraising event. Ten percent of the proceeds (\$260) will go to RISSE (Refugee & Immigrant Support Services of Emmaus, Inc.), and \$2340 will go to the Good Shepherd Operating Fund. Thank you all for your support and generosity!

Marjorie Raymond and Nancy Serge, Co-Chairs



**2022 Financial Commitments** – Thank you to everyone who has sent in final commitment cards for 2022. Your financial stewardship makes possible the many ministries our congregation is able to carry out.

If you have not returned a commitment card for 2022, please prayerfully consider doing so today so we can more accurately project the ministries we can provide next year. Thank you!



Are you interested in something new? Are you interested in volunteering to help us out in a huge way? We are in search of someone who is a bit tech savvy and creative too! Our website needs help! Call the office if you would like to take on this fun project.

~ December 2021 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 1:00pm - Bible Study	<b>2</b> 12 pm Col. Srs 4-8:30 Drama Kids	<b>3</b> 9:30 am Colonie Seniors	<b>4</b> 10-2 Drama Kids
<b>5 ADVENT 2</b> 9:30 WORSHIP 10:30am: Fellowship	<b>6</b> 4 pm Club Scientific	<b>7</b> 12:30 Colonie Srs 6pm Audubons 6:30 Council	<b>8</b> 9:30- 12:30 Col Srs FH 1:00pm - Bible Study	<b>9</b> 12 pm Col.Srs 4-8:30 Drama Kids	<b>10</b> 9:30 am Colonie Seniors	<b>11</b> 10-2 Drama Kids
<b>12 ADVENT 3</b> 9:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30: Fellowship	<b>13</b> 4 pm Club Scientific	<b>14</b> 12:30 pm Colonie Srs	<b>15</b> 1:00pm - Bible Study	<b>16</b> 12 pm – Col Srs 4-8:30 Drama Kids	<b>17</b> 9:30 am Colonie Seniors	<b>18</b>
<b>19 ADVENT 4</b> 9:30AM WORSHIP 10:30am: Fellowship Hour <b>Baby Jesus Celebration</b>	<b>20</b> 4 pm Club Scientific 7 pm Worship & Music	<b>21</b> 12:30 pm Colonie Srs.	<b>22</b> 1:00pm - Bible Study	<b>23</b> 12 pm – Col Srs 4-8:30 Drama Kids	<b>24</b> <b>Xmas Eve Worship</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Xmas</b>
<b>26</b> 9:30AM WORSHIP 10:30am: Fellowship Hour	<b>27</b> 4 pm Club Scientific	<b>28</b> 12:30 pm Colonie Srs	<b>29</b> 9am Colonie Sr Board 1:00pm - Bible Study	<b>30</b> 12 pm – Col Srs 4-8:30 Drama Kids	<b>31</b> <b>ANNUAL REPORTS DUE!!</b>	