

**GOOD SHEPHERD EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL CONGREGATION MINISTRY MEETING AGENDA
Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ 10:00 AM**

Call to Order – Richard Alagona, Congregation Council President

- a. Attendance (Quorum = 39)
- b. Recognition of members attending for the first time.
- c. Purpose of this meeting: Review congregation's 2022-23 ministry year; elect members to our Congregation Council, and Nominating Committee
- d. Prayer – led by Pastor Chelsea Scholl
- e. Guidelines for our discussion
Our Congregation Council, at its May 2004 meeting, adopted the following guidelines for discussion at our Congregational meetings:
 - ◆ Any voting members wishing to speak to an issue will have an opportunity to do so.
 - ◆ After all voting members wishing to speak to an issue have had the opportunity, any voting member wishing to speak again on the same issue will have one additional opportunity.
 - ◆ The Chair can limit the length of time allotted each speaker if there are 5 or more members who wish to speak on an issue.

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes of Congregational Meetings

- a) Congregational Ministry Meeting of June 12, 2022 (*page 3*)
- b) Congregational Financial Meeting of January 29, 2023 (*page 5*)

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

- Duties of Congregation Council Members (*see page 29*)
Bios of Candidates for Congregation Council (*see page 31-32*)

Nominating Committee recommends:

- A. THAT THE CONGREGATION ELECT TO THE CONGREGATION COUNCIL: (*see page 30*).
- ◆ *Motions from the floor may be made.*
 - ◆ *If there are additional nominations, a motion needs to be made and seconded that nominations be closed.*
 - ◆ *After congregation votes to close nominations, then the congregation votes on the recommendations.*
- B. THAT THE CONGREGATION ELECT **BARBARA SCHUSTER and JEFF DAVIS** TO THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR A 2-YEAR TERM ENDING MAY 2025 (*see page 32*).

Statistical Reports (*see pages 6-7*)

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

Staff and Lay Leader Reports *(see pages 8-14)*

- Chelsea E. Scholl, Pastor
- Jamie Dungey, Deacon
- Laura Meerovich, Office Staff
- Yasmin (Jazz) Correa, Office Staff
- Rhiannon Stitley, Daycare Director
- Jill Weidner, Council Report

Review of June 2022 – May 2023 *(see pages 15-28)*

- Year-Round Activities
- Month by Month

NJ Synod Assembly Report

- Delegates: Julia Sabella and Nancy Waltermire

New Business

Thank you to outgoing members

- Congregation Council: Laura Paknis, Nadine Pitti, Bill Schafer, Michael Marsigliano
- Nominating Committee: Julie Burt, Brian Pitti

Adjournment and Lord's Prayer

**GOOD SHEPHERD EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL CONGREGATION MINISTRY MEETING MINUTES
Sunday, June 12, 2022 10:30 AM**

Call to Order – Jill Weidner, Congregation Council President, called the meeting to order at 10:31 AM

Attendance – 50 members attended.

- f. Recognition of members attending for the first time
- g. Purpose of this meeting: Review congregation’s 2021 - 2022 ministry year; and elect members to our Congregation Council and Nominating Committee.
- h. Prayer – led by Pastor Chelsea Scholl
- i. Guidelines for our discussion

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

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

Approval of Agenda – VOTE: ALL IN FAVOR; RECOMMENDATION PASSED.

Approval of Minutes of Congregation Meetings

Congregational Ministry Meeting of June 13, 2021 – **VOTE ON AMENDED MINUTES WITH CHANGE OF NAME “BRAIN TO BRIAN” ADDED CAROL WESTLAND AND STEPHANIE MEISTER TO DIAKONIA GRADUATES. 49 FOR 1 ABSTENTION; RECOMMENDATION PASSED.**

Congregational Financial Meeting of January 30, 2022 **VOTE: ALL IN FAVOR; RECOMMENDATION PASSED.**

Nominating Committee – Richard Alagona, Convener (non-voting)

Duties of Congregation Council Members

Bios of Candidates for Congregation Council

THAT THE CONGREGATION ELECT TO THE CONGREGATION COUNCIL FOR A 3-YEAR TERM PATRICIA CRAIG AND JILL WEIDNER AND BELINDA FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM ENDING JUNE 30, 2025 AND MICHAEL MARSIGILANO FOR A 1 YEAR-TERM ENDING JUNE 30, 2023. VOTE: PATRICIA CRAIG 48 FOR; JILL 49 FOR; MICHAEL 49 FOR RECOMMENDATION PASSED.

THAT THE CONGREGATION ELECT ALICE COTTON AND MARTIN LINTON TO THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE FOR A 2-YEAR TERM ENDING MAY 2024. VOTE: ALICE 49 FOR; MARTIN 48 FOR, RECOMMENDATION PASSED.

Statistical Reports

Membership Report to the NJ Synod and ELCA

Parish Register

Staff and Leader Reports

Chelsea E. Scholl, Pastor

Jamie Dungey, Deacon

Laura Meerovich, Office Administrator

Jill Weidner, Council President

Review of June 2021 – May 2022

Year-Round Activities

Month by Month²

NJ Synod Assembly Report (*see separate NJ Synod Report*)

Delegates: Jeff Davis and Stephanie Meister

NEW BUSINESS –

Thank you to outgoing members

Congregation Council: Skip Fuller, Nancy Waltermire, Suzanne Westberg

Nominating Committee: Chris Fuson, Lorretta Grace

Adjournment and Lord's Prayer – VOTE: ALL IN FAVOR; RECOMMENDATION PASSED. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Dilks

Recorder

CONGREGATIONAL FINANCIAL MEETING MINUTES

Sunday, January 29, 2022 ~ 11:00 AM in Sanctuary

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

1. Call to Order
 - a. Attendance – 59 members present.
 - b. Recognition of members attending for the first time.
 - c. Purpose of this meeting: call Jamie Dungey, review congregation's 2022 financial year and adopt a spending plan for 2023 for Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and Good Shepherd Christian Daycare.
 - d. Prayer – led by Pastor Chelsea Scholl
 - e. Guidelines for our discussion
Our Congregation Council, at its May 2004 meeting adopted the following guidelines for discussion at our Congregational meetings:
 - ◆ Any voting member to speak to an issue will have an opportunity to do so.
 - ◆ After all voting members wishing to speak to an issue have had the opportunity; any voting member wishing to speak again on the same issue will have one additional opportunity.
 - ◆ The Chair can limit the length of time allotted each speaker there if there are 5 or more members who wish to speak on an issue.
2. Call Vote for Deacon Jamie Dungey
 - a. Welcome to Assistance to the Bishop, Pr. Dean Brown
 - b. Recommendation from Congregation Council, that **JAMIE DUNGEY BE CALLED TO SERVE AS DEACON AT GOOD SHEPHERD FOR AN ANNUAL SALARY OF \$16,737 (10 HOURS PER WEEK AT \$32.19 PER HOUR. VOTE: ALL IN FAVOR; RECOMMENDATION PASSED. VOTE: ALL IN FAVOR; RECOMMENDATION PASSED.**
 - c. Q & A with Deacon Jamie after which Deacon Jamie is excused from the meeting.
 - d. Additional questions and conversation followed by Motion to end discussion.
 - e. Explanation of ballots and voting - a 2/3 majority vote is required for an election to occur.
3. Financial Review of 2022
 - a. 2022 Financial Secretary's Report – Eric Westberg
 - b. 2022 Treasurer's Report – Joyce Jonat
4. Financial Projections for 2023
 - a. Weekly Envelopes, Special, and Plate Offerings – Eric Westberg
 - b. Presentation of the Spending Plan – Jill Weidner
 - ❖ Recommendation from Congregational Council:
THAT THE CONGREGATION ADOPT PROPOSED 2023 SPENDING PLAN, TOTALING \$471,538. VOTE: ALL IN FAVOR RECOMMENDATION PASSED,
 - ❖ Discussion of the Plan from the Floor
 - ❖ Vote on the Recommendation.
5. Approval of Good Shepherd Christian Daycare Spending Plan
 - ❖ Recommendation from Congregation Council:
THAT THE CONGREGATION ADOPT THE PROPOSED 2023 GOOD SHEPHERD CHRISTIAN DAYCARE SPENDING PLAN TOTALING \$600,657. VOTE: ALL IN FAVOR; RECOMMENDATION PASSED.
6. Lord's Prayer
 - a. Adjournment – Eric Westberg made motion to adjourn at 11:10 AM. Chris Fusion seconded. Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Cindy Dilks, Recorder

**REPORT TO NEW JERSEY SYNOD
Calendar Year 2022**

Baptized Membership as of December 31, 2021	660
 Members received during 2022	
By baptism	9
By affirmation of faith	7
By transfer of membership	0
Total members received this year	16
 Members removed during 2022	
By death	5
By transfer	6
For other reasons	0
Total members removed this year	11
 Baptized Membership as of December 31, 2022	 665
 Confirmed Membership as of December 31, 2022	 511
 Confirmed and Active Members on the Roll	 388

STATISTICAL COMPARISON

Year End:	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Baptized	704	718	721	677	687	692	686	558	574	592	587	604	644	644	660	665
Confirmed	514	529	530	512	541	557	533	466	481	499	478	486	509	508	516	511
Confirmed – Active/Voting	455	474	473	441	480	474	450	389	346	357	351	362	366	366	392	388
 Worship Attendance	 209	 207	 207	 226	 221	 209	 197	 174	 175	 170	 159	 162	 164	 NA*	 92**	 97^

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

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

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

PARISH REGISTER
June 12, 2022 – June 10, 2023

BAPTISMS (8)

2022

June 19 Chase John Bradley
 August 14 Cooper James Newton
 August 21 Victor Carlo Gallicchio
 September 25 Max Manning Repetz
 October 9 Alyssa Genevieve Bond
 November 27 Penelope Isabelle Pelkey
 December 4 Kaiden Spencer Drewes
 December 18 Quinn Rhys McNamee

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**CONFIRMATION (4)**

**Rite of Confirmation - June 4, 2023**

Chelsea Balla  
 Jason Barnoski  
 Wyatt Grapes  
 Cai Whalen

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NEW MEMBERS (21)

January 22, 2023

Transfer from ELCA

Brian Dungey

May 7, 2023

Transfer from ELCA

David Muzik
 June Muzik
 Ruth Muzik

Affirmation of Faith

Carolee Berg
 Michelle Bond

Domenick & Bianca Distano, Aviana and Giovanni
 Danielle Graziano-Carrete, Jaxson and Hunter
 Chris & Kate Jagers, Devin
 Michael Licciardi & Erin Stidham, Penelope
 Diane Repetz
 Sue Taleho

DEATHS ()

2022

February 9 Joseph Hall*
 *inadvertently omitted last year
 June 26 Pr. Jack A. Denys
 September 2 George "Buck" LaFever
 November 21 Rosely LaFever

2023

January 3 Evelyn Kruck
 January 19 Wiltrud Eristavi

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**FUNERALS ()**

*Non-Member\**

**2022**

August 13 Pr. Jack A. Denys  
 September 26 Herman Kolbe\*  
 October 1 George "Buck" LaFever  
 October 22 Susan Flint\*  
 December 17 Rosely LaFever

**2023**

January 26 Wiltrud Eristavi  
 January 28 Rick LaFever\*  
 February 2 Edward Kvenvik\*  
 February 16 Phil Gelormine\*  
 April 1 Evelyn Kruck  
 May 25 Beverly Barnoski\*

## STAFF REPORT

### Chelsea E. Scholl, Pastor

*“The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living. It’s our handle on what we can’t see. The act of faith is what distinguished our ancestors, set them above the crowd.” ~ Hebrews 11:1-2 (The Message)*

Dear Partners in Ministry –

Every year I spend weeks thinking about what I am going to write in this report. And here I am, yet again, on the day before it’s due (sorry, Laura!), wondering how to even begin to put into words (let alone a one-page report!) what this ministry that we do together means.

So I turned to Scripture. It amazes me that God always seems to find a way to speak, especially through these ancient words, words that continue to hold so much of life today. It was in my flipping of pages that I came across this passage from Hebrews – one that I have read on more occasions than I can count and one that stuck with me in a different way today.

There are so many things in our lives that are beyond our understanding, begging those “W” questions – why, when, where. Often these are brought up in times of great distress or despair. Sometimes though, these questions come to mind when we wonder about where we’ve been and where we are going.

As I reflect on this past year, I could ask a thousand questions about how we got from where we were to where we are. Ministry a year ago looked different as we continued to push back into community and consider what we should hold firm and what could be let go. In this, I am reminded that each year looks a bit like that. Ministry is an everchanging ebb and flow that the Spirit moves us through so we can meet the needs of our community.

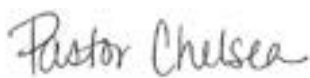
The one thing that doesn’t change in all of that is the trust we put in God to lead us through all the things we cannot see, all the things we cannot understand. Faith defines our community – it is what brings us together and it is what sends us out. Faith that God will show up in all the “W” questions of our lives. Faith that God will bring us into the communities of which we are meant to be a part when we need it most.

I pray in this next year of ministry at Good Shepherd that we continue to trust in the God who leads us, connects us, and calls us into this community. I pray that you ask your own “W” questions. What will I do to further spread God’s love this year? Who will I be in this community? Where will I serve? Why am I here?

I imagine for some of us the answers to these questions will be simple. For others, we will need to do some deeper reflection to find where we fit now. I encourage you to wonder about your answers with and in this community. It is safe to do that here. You are welcome to do that here. We are better community when we are wondering together.

It continues to be my privilege to walk this ministry with you – to step out in faith as God leads us and as we are community together.

God’s peace,



Pastor Chelsea Scholl

*\*\*Many continued thanks to our GSLC staff for their persistent and passionate work for the sake of the Gospel!\*\**



## **STAFF REPORT**

### **Jamie Dungey, Deacon**

*So, continue encouraging each other and building each other up, just like you are doing already.*

~ 1 Thessalonians 5:11

As I reflected on the past year, this scripture really touched my heart. I have witnessed time and again how the congregation has encouraged and built each other up, including me. I am blessed to have been called by the congregation to serve as Deacon.

Thank you all for your encouragement and support. I would especially like to thank Pastor Chelsea, Laura and Jazz for all of their support. I would like to thank the Social Ministry Team, the All-Ages Christian Education Team and the Caring Ministry Team. Your dedication and compassion are so uplifting.

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

As a member of the All-Ages Christian Education team, I was involved in planning and helping to lead the weekly educational hands-on experiences and Family Fun Nights. Thank you to the confirmands who have helped the team by engaging with the younger children.

As a member of the Caring Ministry team, I coordinated the assembly and delivery of the care packages for the homebound members. These care packages were delivered by the home communion ministers at Christmas and Easter. I visited the home bound members and shared communion with them. I started a Cancer Caring Ministry to provide support and resources to members and their caregivers who have been touched by cancer. I coordinated the Greeting Card Ministry, which sends cards monthly to homebound members and to members who are on the prayer list to remind them that they are thought of often by their GSLC family.

I am so blessed to have the opportunity to participate in the Maundy Thursday worship services and the Passport through Holy Week. I also preached once a month and participated in numerous memorial services.

May we continue to encourage each other and to build each other up!!!

God's Peace,  
Deacon Jamie Dungey

## **STAFF REPORT**

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

*“For the joy of the Lord is your strength.” (Nehemiah 8:10)*

After a few years of itinerancy as a church organ substitute, I opted to trade that freedom and flexibility for the opportunity to serve as music director at Good Shepherd Lutheran in the fall of 2022. The church I had been attending when not substituting elsewhere was set to close, and the vitality of Good Shepherd under the leadership of Pastor Chelsea promised a degree of spiritual fulfillment I had not experienced elsewhere.

Prior to becoming music director in October 2022, I had been serving as organist here at the traditional services on a biweekly basis for much of the previous six months, having first come on Christmas Eve 2021. During this period, the church was just beginning to relax the restrictions necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the choir had not resumed singing. As a gradual return to a routine, choir anthems were rehearsed after Sunday worship for special occasions, such as Easter, Reformation Day, Church Anniversary, and Christmas Eve. A poll of choir members in December showed a preference for evening rehearsals, when there would be more time for practice, and in January a regular pattern of two evening rehearsals per month was established, with anthems scheduled approximately once a month. I am grateful for the dedication and skill of all those who have sung in the choir this year. We could always benefit from more singers, especially when there are only one or two on a part, but I am happy that we are able to sing 4-part anthems.

The Grace Alive! contemporary music group had been leading worship under the leadership of Debbie Gelormine prior to my joining them. I am especially grateful to Debbie for helping me learn the repertoire and style of this congregation as I ventured into unfamiliar territory. Dan Groth has faithfully set up the sound equipment for rehearsals and services as well as adding his voice in song. I am grateful to all the singers and instrumentalists who have participated throughout the year and who have been willing to learn new songs and some different interpretations. Like the traditional choir, the Grace Alive! group has followed a pattern of two evening rehearsals prior to a once-a-month performance. Because some individuals participate in both groups, this schedule has not required anyone to attend more than one rehearsal a week.

On certain occasions, other individuals have shared their musical talents with the congregation. Pastor Chelsea has introduced new hymns with flute preludes, and Jazz Correa has sung solos. Alex Duque played trumpet for Reformation Day, Christmas Eve, and Easter, and Christine Peterson Duque played flute for Christmas and Easter. It was a special joy to hear children singing for a Sunday morning prelude and for an anthem on Palm Sunday; I appreciate both the children and those parents who supported their efforts.

While all of this musical leadership is important, its primary purpose is to support the singing of the congregation. I will not go so far as 17<sup>th</sup>-century schoolmaster Valentin Trotzendorf, who admonished his students to learn to sing so that the angels in heaven would admit them into the choir. I will say, however, that you serve both God and neighbor when you join with others in song. It is uplifting to me to hear your hearty singing of hymns and service music. Whether you sing in the choir loft or from the pews, you have a role in the music ministry by praising God with a joyful sound.

With gratitude to all,  
Joyce Irwin

# STAFF REPORT

## Laura Meerovich, Office Staff

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

When I wrote this scripture I have to admit I choked up a bit. This will likely be my final office report, and while I definitely won't miss writing the report, I know I will miss all of you when my retirement begins in early 2024.

Looking back to 2011 when I first learned of a temporary, part-time office assistant position at Good Shepherd (my first thought: there's a church on Union Ave??) I didn't imagine that I would find not only a new job, but a second church family as well.

After only a few weeks here I realized that, should the office administrator position ever become available, it would be a perfect fit for me. Of course, I didn't think that opportunity would ever arise, but how wonderful for me that it did! In these past dozen years the administrative procedures of the church have changed dramatically – in fact, thanks to the pandemic and our increasing use of technology, there is not a single process that is done in the same way as it had been done before. For example, we had long planned to phase out paper bulletins, but the pandemic forced us in that direction. This change has resulted in saving reams and reams of paper (we used 20 cases of paper a year pre-pandemic; we now use 4) and that is a good thing.

Included in our reimagining of office procedures was a reimagining of the office administrator position, adding a part-time assistant while expanding the role of the admin to include overall operations of the church. While I was offered the operations manager position, I knew that I was planning to retire in a year, and leapt at the opportunity to take on the part-time role. I am so grateful to Pr. Chelsea and the Council for allowing me to do so – I am at the point in my life where I need more time to help care for my elderly mom, and part-time work allows me to do that while also continuing to do a job that I still love. And now I have come full circle!

Jazz Correa is a great addition to our staff, and as we have worked with her over the past 6 months we are once again reimagining the office administration staffing, working to balance the congregation's administrative needs with the staff's talents, skills, and availability.

Some of this year's accomplishments:

- Trained Jazz on general office procedures
- Created a Google Doc to track the bills
- Compiled the Annual Financial Report and created this Ministry Report
- Created the weekly Announcement, Worship, and “Zoom” emails and special emails as they were needed, as well as new signups through Sign-up Genius
- Worked with Lowell Reinhardt to schedule Counters, and created the Altar Flower Delivery schedule
- Did a thorough update of the Member Directory, with the help of Stephanie Meister

Now how to thank the many people who have helped me, not just this past year but for the past 12? The list could take up the next two pages, but I must lift up Jeff Davis, who has spent hours this year on my email alone, and everyone in leadership who has supported me through the years, and this year especially as I transitioned to part-time – thank you all so much!

Finally, I thank my colleagues, Pr. Chelsea, Deacon Jamie, Joyce Irwin, Jazz Correa, Andrey Rodriguez, and Rhiannon Stitley, your dedication and professionalism has helped make my job so much easier. Blessings to all of you.

God's peace, *Laura*, Office Staff

## STAFF REPORT

### Yasmin “Jazz” Correa, Office Staff

*“You were called to freedom, siblings; only don't let this freedom be an opportunity to indulge your selfish impulses, but serve each other through love.” Galatians 5:13 (CEV)*

I'd like to open up by saying, *thank you!* Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of such a loving and united congregation! These last several months have been full of learning for me – and the learning continues.

We can most certainly attest to the fact that these times have changed everything. From the way the world functions to the way the church functions. All of it, *learning*. We've learned how to be strong for ourselves and for others, and how to acclimate through modern technology to a climate that is still shifting.

Here are some of my accomplishments this year:

- Through trial and error, found a formula that works best for our congregation with the worship slides.
- Run the worship slides and live stream each Sunday. This included troubleshooting when necessary.
- Revised the Employment Application and continued my work on revising the Employee Handbook.
- Worked in conjunction with the Daycare to help create a streamlined protocol for annual employee medical insurance renewals.
- Maintained the church website with all the most recent information each week – this has helped the members and the general public stay in tune with “What’s Happening at GSLC”.
- Maintained social media each week – this has helped to boost our viewability on our social media pages.
- Connected with members before worship on Sundays to help encourage members to be more active in church.
- Participated, when able, in the music ministry.

I am continually trying to brainstorm newer and more innovative ways of managing all of the moving parts that go into ministry.

Laura said it best last year when she said, “Technology being the inexplicable thing that it is means that I pretty much call Jeff Davis daily, and I thank him for all his help over the course of this year.” This still remains true. We are super grateful for him!

I'd like to thank the Church Council, the Finance Team, and all the valued members of our varying ministries for their hard work and dedication for GSLC.

I've been blessed for work with you all and with the esteemed leadership of the church and daycare; Pastor Chelsea, Deacon Jamie, Laura Meerovich, Rhiannon Stitley and Joyce Irwin. Thank you for letting me be a part of the GSLC family.

God's peace,

*Jazz*

GSLC Office Staff

## STAFF REPORT

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

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

We have had an exciting year at Good Shepherd Christian Daycare & Preschool! Our school celebrated many amazing things such as graduation, summer camp, the start of a new school year with classes filled up, field trips back, and our first multicultural day. Our school has welcomed some new faces and said goodbye to some others, however the joy within the school and classrooms is as strong as ever!

In June 2022, we had 21 students graduate. We had a beautiful graduation and a fantastic school wide picnic. It was also my first graduation as the new director! After graduation, we prepared for our summer camp program which welcomed children ages 6-10 to join us. Summer is always a fun time at GSCDC as children can explore, learn and play doing things they don't get to do during the school year such as arts and crafts, water play, and more! We also painted the entire school! Each classroom received a makeover with new paint on the walls and hallway!

At the end of summer, we welcomed Ms. Annie onto our staff as an assistant teacher for the toddler room. Our classes have been nearly at capacity for most of the school year. It was exciting to see our total enrollment rise over 70 students! We were able to bring back field trips and attended Melick's Farm in Oldwick for an apple picking event. Some of the children had never been on a field trip or even on a bus, which was extremely exciting for so many of them.

We celebrated our favorite moments in the year with our costume trunk or treat, thanksgiving feasts, and our Christmas Pageant! It's always amazing to see how excited the kids and parents get with all the fun things we do during the school year. The school is thriving, the children are excited, and the parents happy.

We were glad to celebrate our first multicultural day, an idea from the whole staff, to celebrate all the beautiful cultures within our school. We had parents represent India, Georgia, Costa Rica, Aruba, Puerto Rico, Columbia, Italy, and Poland. The students loved learning about other cultures and sampling food! Next year we plan on having an evening event so more families can come and share in this awesome event.

Unfortunately, we did see some staff changes, including a change in our office staff, saying goodbye to Ms. Erin. We were glad to have Ms. Marjorie, one of our teachers, take on this position. There have been some exciting changes throughout the year and we continue to look forward to what is to come with a new summer camp model for 2023 and celebrating our 30<sup>th</sup> year as Good Shepherd Christian Daycare!

We are so blessed with an incredible staff, a helpful support system from the daycare ministry team, and awesome parents to partner with throughout the year.

It is an honor to be a part of this incredible school and ministry!

*Rhiannon Stitley, Director*

# CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL REPORT

## Jill Weidner, Council Member

Re-engaged and reconnected! 2022-23 saw our comeback from Covid. While we did a good job of remaining a church family remotely for 2 years, this year saw us come together in person to re-engage and reconnect.

- We again are worshipping more than 100 people per week in-person
- “Sunday Church School” has begun in a new format
- Social Ministry projects like stuffing 850 lunch backpack bags are again taking place
- Choirs/Grace Alive! are rehearsing and leading us in song during worship
- We are mastering a balance of meetings both virtually and in-person
- The community giveaways are continuing

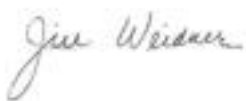
Many good things are happening at Good Shepherd!

The council also voted this year to:

- Reinforce our welcome statement, so that all people can be aware of the welcoming, family atmosphere at Good Shepherd regardless of race, sexual orientation, political affiliation, nationality, etc.
- Become a sponsor for local Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts so that those organizations can continue the programs that help youth grow.
- Hired Joyce Irwin as musician and Jazz Correa to help round out our staffing so we can provide the types of church service accompaniment and service visual aids that help enable our Sunday services.
- And...we went green. Using 53% less electricity from the grid was a big step and we expect more benefits in the year to come.

The council would like to thank everyone in the Good Shepherd family for re-engaging and participating in the life of the church. There will be continuing opportunities to volunteer and work together in God’s name - we hope that everyone will feel the call to participate for we together are the church and can do great things!

In peace,



Jill Weidner, on behalf of the GSLC Church Council

# GOOD SHEPHERD EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## 2022-23 Year-Round Gatherings, Roles, & Tasks of Our Ministries

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

**All Ages Education Ministry** ~ Confirmation class was reimaged and met in-person; Weekly Children's Christian Education program began. Adult education continued via Zoom (Book Discussions); and fully in-person (Bible Study) Chair: Open

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

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

**Creativity Groups** ~ *Comfort Creators* knitted and crocheted prayer shawls, "worry worms", lap blankets, hats, scarves, and baby items year-round, delivering 4 shawls and 15 worry worms to our members and their friends, in addition to many items to our community partners in ministry (see month by month report); *Crafters* worked on needlecraft and counted cross stitch keepsakes for baptisms (8 this year) and for other life events; *Shepherd Stitchers* made dozens of quilts and fleece hats over the course of the year, including quilts to our newly baptized babies. Chairs: Roxanne Powers, Joan Grace, Janice Brunsbach

**Daycare Ministry** ~ Our Daycare has resumed full enrollment and staffing. 2023 celebrates the 30<sup>th</sup> year of the Daycare. Chair: Gale Murphy Director: Rhiannon Stitley

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

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

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

**Social Ministry** ~ Our GSLC Food Pantry Distribution took place monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday; the Little Food Pantry on N. Richards Ave. was regularly filled and emptied. Collections and distribution of funds to our community partners and many outreach projects took place – see the monthly reports for all the details! Co-chairs Stephanie Meister, Lynn Weckworth

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

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

**Worship Planning Ministry** ~ Worship found a rhythm in-person after three years of ever-changing models due to the pandemic and changing music staff. Joyce Irwin was hired as the part-time music director and choirs (traditional, Grace Alive!, and children's) were created once again! Chair: Nancy Waltermire

Read on for details about all of our ministries!

# JUNE 2022

## Outreach

- Spending Plan Outreach: HOME - \$1,000
- Collected towels, combs, toothbrushes, nail clippers and soap for Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits (Supported by a Thrivent Action Team)
- Volunteers staffed the Somerset County Food Bank's Somerville branch on 4 Saturday mornings

## Worship

- In-person worship w/Holy Communion ~ 9:30am Sundays
- Faith in Action forms placed on the altar with our offerings of Time & Talent for summer & fall
- Rite of Confirmation was held on June 12

## Our GSLC Community

- *Women of Good Shepherd* enjoyed eating lunch together after Worship, then taking a walk through the Rose Garden at Colonial Park guided by Bonnie Gould's friend Lee
- Annual Ministry Meeting held in-person for the first time since the pandemic began
- *Crafteers* created one plaque for our Confirmand
- GSLC Community Garden volunteers began weeding and watering
- Property Team – Town Inspection completed for new HVAC rooftop units.
- Several GSLC members graduated from the diakonia program, the ceremony was held at Church of the Savior – Lutheran, in Paramus
- **Christian Education held the first of three Summer Family Fun Nights, full of games and activities.**
- Tech Team took care of issues encountered with the streaming system (lost 'views', sound problems, etc.)
- *Comfort Creators* crocheted 15 worry worms for the homebound and delivered a handmade prayer shawl for someone in need of comfort.
- Altar Guild was again kept busy in 2022. It has been great to be back to a regular in-person worship schedule and we have continued to adapt. Storage closets and cabinets are currently being sorted.
- **Daycare graduation** held indoors for the first time since 2019





# JULY 2022

## Outreach

- Spending Plan Outreach: \$500 each to Visions & Pathways and Safe+Sound
- Collected school supplies and backpacks for Backpacking for Others and \$25 Shop Rite gift cards for our Food Pantry



- **Little Food Pantry was installed on N. Richards Ave and immediately used**
- **Assembled 150+ Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits**



## Worship

- In-person worship w/Holy Communion ~ 9:30am Sundays; virtual worship only on July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend

## Our GSLC Community

- *Women of Good Shepherd* assembled the pencil boxes in prep for “Backpacking for Others” after enjoying conversation and cake together; hosted by Suzanne Westberg
- First of two *Youth Service Days* held
- Tech Team worked through problems with using MS Outlook and Gmail.
- Property Team:
  - Had stove repaired in Luther Hall Kitchen. Had defective thermostat in Luther Hall replaced.
  - Replaced all burnt bulbs and ballasts in Daycare and made all lighting the same color.
  - Repaired broken window mechanisms in Daycare.
  - Replaced broken blinds in Daycare classrooms.
  - Repaired six window screens.
  - Replaced anti-siphon valve in spigot outside Daycare.
  - Replaced thermostat in Daycare Bathroom and replaced a broken towel holder.
- **Christian Education held the second Summer Family Fun Night**



# AUGUST 2022

## Outreach

- Spending Plan Outreach: \$500 each to Somerville Fire Department and Somerville Rescue Squad
- **GSLC Pantry collected \$25 ShopRite gift cards via a Quilt Drawing of a handmade quilt donated by the *Shepherd Stitches***
- GSLC Pantry distribution: School backpacks distributed in addition to food and gift cards
- *God's Work Our Hands* prep: Collections of party napkins, change for ELCA World Hunger, household items for the Giving Network Giveaway and items for Weekend Backpack Meals for the Somerset County Food Bank
- HOME of Somerset County: Volunteers prepared and delivered homemade meals for guests housed offsite



- **Backpacking for Others: 358 backpacks filled with school supplies were assembled** and were distributed to the following: GSLC Pantry families, Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ, embrella, Visions & Pathways, Middle Earth, H.O.M.E., Manville High School, Safe+Sound Somerset and Somerset Angel Food Program



## Worship

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

## Our GSLC Community

- *Women of Good Shepherd* had a hybrid in-person & Zoom gathering to learn about “Going Green” arranged by Bonnie Gould.
- **We enjoyed the Somerset Patriots baseball game on August 21**
- Tech Team worked to clean up issues with the administration of Microsoft 365 (Office) and licensing.
- Property Team watered, weeded, and harvested of the Community Garden. Replaced a faucet in the Daycare bathroom. Solicited quotes and coordinated painting the Daycare classrooms and hallways.
- Christian Education held the final Family Fun Night of the Summer.
- Cancer Caring ministry begins meeting via Zoom



# SEPTEMBER 2022

## Outreach

- Spending Plan Outreach: \$1000 to HOME of Somerset County
- Collections: Items for our GSLC Pantry and coats for the Giving Network Giveaway
- **God's Work Our Hands Sunday:**
  - **Assembled 750 Weekend Backpack Meals for the Food Bank** (Supported by Thrivent Action Teams)
  - Packed 500 sets of wooden flatware with donated party napkins (Supported by Thrivent Action Teams)
  - Rolled \$201.53 in coins for ELCA World Hunger
  - Raised \$1,200 in ShopRite Gift cards with the Quilt Drawing
  - Distributed 48 containers and recipes for the take-home project to benefit our GSLC Pantry families,
  - Collected 2 vans full of household items for the Giving Network Giveaway.



## Worship

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

## Our GSLC Community

- **Christian Education hosted a Meet & Greet where parents could meet our Christian Ed team; weekly Christian Ed activities began**
- *Women of Good Shepherd* participated in a variety of *God's Work Our Hands* projects focusing on food insecurity.
- *Women of Good Shepherd* and others from GSLC viewed "A Day in the Life" which featured Kathy Boegershausen's son Burton in a video produced by the ARC of Somerset County in conjunction with the Rutgers School of Public Health. Everyone enjoyed meeting Burton and talking with him and Kathy afterward. Thanks to Deacon Jamie for facilitating this.
- Book Discussion: *The Stranger in the Lifeboat* by Mitch Albom
- Tech Team worked through issues with the administration of our Google Workgroup and our Gmail setup.



- Property Team had repairs made on the Daycare HVAC unit and the leaking sink.
- **Gene Lepelletier** and four other students of the **NJ Diakonia Program** completed the 2-year study and participated in the Graduation Liturgy and Celebration of Holy Communion at Good Shepherd.
- *Crafterers* created cross stitch & plastic canvas needlepoint bookmarks for those receiving Bibles.
- Wednesday and Thursday Bible Studies joined forces and began meeting in-person on Wednesdays at 12:30

# OCTOBER 2022

## Outreach

- Spending Plan Outreach: \$500 each to the Somerville Food Bank and Giving Network
- Collections: GSLC Pantry “World Series” - 4 weeks of collections/competition of non-perishable food and non-food items; coats for the Giving Network Giveaway; turkeys, roasters & hams for Thanksgiving
- HOME: Social Ministry Team members filled 3 gift baskets for the HOME Gala fundraiser
- Hosted our third GSLC/Giving Network Giveaway:
  - Items included household goods, small appliances, baby items, coats; \$250 of new pots & pans\*
  - Zarephath Ministry gave away free clothing; a dozen Somerset County agencies had information tables
  - The *Shepherd Stitchers* donated 60 fleece hats and 24 quilts
  - The *Comfort Creators* donated 19 layette sets\* (baby sweater, hat and blanket), 57 hats and 20 scarves \*Supported by Thrivent Action Teams
- GSLC Pantry distribution: Frozen homemade food from GWOH distributed.



## Worship

- In-person worship w/Holy Communion ~ 9:30am Sundays
- **Blessing of the Animals on October 2**
- Reformation Sunday Worship with the Reformation Choir singing

## Our GSLC Community

- *Women of Good Shepherd* enjoyed a fascinating talk “Backyard Bears” presented via Zoom by the Somerset County Environmental Center
- Assistance with Medicare Open Enrollment offered by Gail Jorgensen
- Annual Financial Stewardship Campaign begins: *Dessert First!*
- Book Discussion: *Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship* by Gregory Boyle
- Tech Team provided network support for Daycare as they set up and began using their new ProCare system
- Property Team held a Property Workday and got a quote for the 22/23 snow removal with Twin Oaks
- *Shepherd Stitchers* made 1 quilt for the quilt drawing, proceeds went to the Food Pantry; made 24 quilts and 60 fleece hats for the Giving Network Giveaway
- *Comfort Creators* donated 19 baby layettes (blanket, sweater & hat), 15 hats and 23 scarves to the Giving Network Giveaway
- Following the success of the Summer Fun Nights, Christian Education hosted a Fall Family Fun Night



- **Daycare went apple picking** and held Halloween activities
- **Trunk or Treat** was held on Reformation Sunday, October 30



# NOVEMBER 2022

## Outreach

- Spending Plan Outreach: \$1000 to Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ
- Collections: Angel Tree Gifts (Supported by a Thrivent Action Team); items for the GSLC Pantry; turkeys, roasters and hams for Thanksgiving & Christmas
- Thanksgiving Food Baskets were delivered to 4 families
- HOME: Volunteers prepared and delivered homemade meals for guests housed offsite
- **Middlesex Park Clean-up Grant: \$500 obtained for ELCA World Hunger**
- GSLC Pantry distribution: Turkeys, hams and roasters distributed



## Worship

- In-person worship w/Holy Communion ~ 9:30am Sundays
- All Saints Sunday names read in the Memorial Garden
- **2023 financial commitments placed on the altar; dessert served before worship**

## Our GSLC Community

- *Women of Good Shepherd* made Veterans Day cards with Joan Grace for members of GSLC to sign and also wrote Thanksgiving & Christmas cards for our home bound members as our service project. Hospitality was provided by Suzanne Westberg at her home.
- Book discussion: *Grateful: The Subversive Practice of Giving Thanks* by Diana Butler Bass
- Finance Team shopped for health, dental and disability insurance plans for non-called staff members.
- **Property Team** repaired some roof leaks in the Daycare, refinished the wooden countertop at the entrance of the Narthex, and **cut down 8 dead arborvitae trees in the parking lot.**
- Annual Financial Stewardship Campaign *Dessert First!* ends with Commitment Sunday Nov. 13
- Thanksgiving Pie day offered a tasty treat and fellowship.
- *Shepherd Stitches* made 24 quilts for Safe & Sound of Somerset and 50 fleece hats for the Food Bank
- Tech Team set up replacement PCs purchased by the Daycare for some of their classrooms.
- Church office hours changed to Sunday thru Thursday, office closed on Friday



# DECEMBER 2022

## Outreach

- Spending Plan Outreach: \$1,000 to HOME
- 4th Quarter Social Ministry Giving Funding Outreach:
  - Laundry Love \$200, ELCA World Hunger \$1,300, Lutheran Disaster Response \$1,500 (hurricanes), Cross Roads \$2,000, Shepherd Stitches \$350, GSLC Pantry \$800; Shop Rite gift cards \$2,850
- Collections: Angel Tree Gifts & GSLC Pantry \$25 ShopRite gift cards (\$1,400) via a Quilt Drawing of a **handmade Christmas quilt donated by the Shepherd Stitches**
- Christmas Food Baskets: Delivered to 4 families
- Safe+Sound received 24 quilts from the *Shepherd Stitches*
- HOME: Volunteers prepared and delivered homemade meals for guests housed offsite
- Volunteers staffed the Somerset County Food Bank's Somerville branch on Saturday mornings. The *Shepherd Stitches* donated 50 fleece hats for distribution
- GSLC Pantry distribution: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – Turkeys, hams & roasters also distributed
- GSLC was host & distribution site for Somerville Angel Gift Program for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year



## Worship

- In-person worship w/Holy Communion ~ 9:30am Sundays
- Virtual Thursday evening Advent Worship
- A Quiet Christmas held December 18 for those facing loss, transitions, and life changes
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship services at 4:00 (with a pageant) & 8:00 PM
- Virtual Worship Sunday, December 25; those who wished to worship in-person on Christmas gathered in Room A to watch the virtual service in community



## Our GSLC Community

- *Women of Good Shepherd* baked and packed homemade Christmas cookies for the gift bags for our homebound members and the Living Nativity
- **We celebrated our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on December 4**
- Deacon Jamie created Christmas goodie baskets for our homebound, delivered by our members
- Property Team had a dying tree removed from the outside of the Daycare and cut low branches on several trees by the playground
- *Comfort Creators* donated 33 crocheted/knitted lap blankets to NYU Langone Family Health Center



Our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Group Picture



# DECEMBER 2022 (continued)

## Our GSLC Community

- Crafters created 10 plastic canvas needlepoint “Bless You” pocket tissue holders for homebound members
- Tech Team helped identify older technology equipment that is no longer needed so that it could be removed and recycled
- 60 Plussers held a “One Last Time” Christmas lunch at Somerset County VoTech’s Trade Wins Restaurant



- Daycare Christmas pageant held December 16
- The Living Nativity was held on Dec. 17, with two performances. There were 60 people in the cast and crew and approximately 500 people in attendance. Refreshments and dinner for cast and crew were served inside again this year. New stage lights were purchased with Memorial Fund donations. As always, it was a wonderfully spiritual evening for everyone.



# JANUARY 2023

## Outreach

- Collections: Toilet paper and paper towels; additional food items for the GSLC Pantry
- “Souper Bowl Sunday” prep: Distributed 52 containers and recipes as a take-home project to benefit our GSLC Pantry families
- HOME: Volunteers prepared and delivered homemade meals for guests housed offsite
- Food Bank staffing: Volunteers staffed the Somerset County Food Bank’s Somerville branch on Saturday mornings

## Worship

- January 1<sup>st</sup> Worship was in-person but time was moved back to 11am
- In-person worship w/Holy Communion ~ 9:30am Sundays all other weeks

## Our GSLC Community

- Finance Team led the annual spending plan compilation and provided 2022 giving statement to all members of the congregation
- 2023 Spending Plan Presentation held in person; Annual Financial Meeting held in person and virtually
  - **Deacon Jamie Dungey was called as rostered minister of Word and Service to Good Shepherd**
- Extra Mile pledges were gratefully received
- *Women of Good Shepherd* met via Zoom with Beth Gebhardt of Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ for a worthwhile presentation of “Navigating Senior Living”
- *Comfort Creators* delivered 2 handmade shawls for friends in need of comfort
- Tech Team helped with other troubleshooting efforts for PCs and servers
- **Christian Education for children continued to occur weekly on Sunday mornings**





# FEBRUARY 2023

## Outreach

- Spending Plan Outreach: \$4,000 to Cross Roads Camp
- Collection: Quarters for the Laundry Love Ministry of St. John's Episcopal Church
- GSLC Pantry distribution: Frozen "Souper Bowl" soups distributed.

## Worship

- In-person worship w/Holy Communion ~ 9:30am Sundays
- Ash Wednesday: Ashes-to-Go from 7 – 9am; Worship at 11am and 7pm; 7pm worship livestreamed

## Our GSLC Community

- *Women of Good Shepherd* made Valentines, with the help of Joan Grace, to send to our homebound members and others that we felt needed a little love
- *Ask* daily devotional sent daily from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday
- An *End of Life* Series began with a presentation by attorney Gary Cornick (Legal Estate Planning)
- Book Discussion: *Sealed: An Unexpected Journey into the Heart of Grace* by Katie Langston
- Finance Team migrated QuickBooks accounting software to a new online version and updated the chart of accounts
- Finance Team also supported the Daycare team in the integration of the ProCare System
- Property Team repaired a leaking toilet in the Daycare, held the first indoor Property Workday of the year, and installed a step at the far end of the Choir Loft for safety reasons.
- Christian Education made Creation Cards.
- *Crafters* gifted Deacon Jamie with a cross stitch picture in honor of her official call as Deacon (see January!)
- *Comfort Creators* delivered 1 shawl for someone in need of comfort
- GSLC became the charter organization for Boy Scout Troop 84 and Pack 80
- **Music Ministry invited all to participate in Choir and Grace Alive! groups**



# MARCH 2023

## Outreach

- Spending Plan Outreach: \$1,000 to HOME of Somerset County
- 1st Quarter Social Ministry Giving Funding Outreach: Lutheran Disaster Response \$1,500 (earthquakes). Additional dollars were donated by individual GSLC members
- Collections: GSLC Pantry “March Madness” - 4 weeks of collections/competition of non-perishable food and non-food items; hams & roasters for Easter (Supported by a Thrivent Action Team)
- **Hands-on Project after Worship: Rolled \$600 of quarters for Laundry Love for St. John’s**



## Worship

- In-person worship w/Holy Communion ~ 9:30am Sundays
- We wore our pajamas to church as Daylight Saving Time began
- Virtual Worship on Thursdays in Lent from March 2 – 30

## Our GSLC Community

- Christian Ed played a fishing game and learned about the fruits of the spirit, learned about Jesus healing a blind man, and played the toilet paper wrap-up race while learning about Jesus raising Lazarus
- The *End of Life* Series continued with presentations by Pr. Chelsea (GSLC Funeral/Memorial Service Planning), Bruce and Brittany Van Arsdale (Funeral Home Planning) and Ron Kovac (Thrivent Financial Planning)
- *Women of Good Shepherd* enjoyed fellowship and lunch together at the Stage House Tavern
- Book Discussion: *An Altar in the World: The Geography of Faith* by Barbara Brown Taylor
- Wednesday Bible Study focused on Lent
- Finance Team compiled and communicated the results from the first year of using the Solar Power system
- Property Team got lights working again on the Reredos to illuminate the stained glass windows behind the altar at night, and secured cabinets and installed a bulletin board in the Daycare to expand available rooms for classes.
- **Daycare** celebrated Dr. Seuss and Read Across America events with a door-decorating contest and **celebrated the diversity of their students with a multicultural day.**



# APRIL 2023

## Outreach

- Spending Plan Outreach: \$500 each to Somerville FISH and SHIP
- Collections: Items for Weekend Backpack Meals for the Somerset County Food Bank (Supported by a Thrivent Action Team); coats and household items for the Giving Network Giveaway
- Easter Food Baskets: Delivered to 2 families;
- HOME: Volunteers prepared and delivered homemade meals for guests housed offsite
- GSLC Pantry distribution: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday – Hams & roasters distributed.

## Worship

- In-person worship w/Holy Communion ~ 9:30am Sundays
- **Palm Sunday worship included coat donations**
- Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship at 11am and 7pm, 7pm service also livestreamed
- Good Friday at 4pm featured Passport through Holy Week in Luther Hall
- **Easter worship: Grace Alive! at 9am, Festival worship at 11am**
- First Holy Communion celebrated during worship on April 30



## Our GSLC Community

- *Women of Good Shepherd* was led by Ellen Parker in a reading and discussion of the play “Little Women” and enjoyed homemade goodies at the home of Suzanne Westberg
- We held an Easter Egg hunt in the playground at 10am Easter Sunday
- Tech Team ran new cabling from sound system for connecting new electronic piano in loft; set up new piano; cleared the closet of old tech equipment that is no longer needed; upgraded Church Windows software to the latest version
- Property Team cut down a dead pine tree on the N. Richards Ave side of the property, repaired the exit sign in the Daycare, and replaced screening materials in several screens for the Daycare.
- New Member class was held on April 23
- Christian Education held Passport through Holy Week with activities relating to each day of Holy Week
- **Crafters created 10 Cross stitch framed pictures for homebound members Easter gift bags and seven cross stitch plaques for First Communion.**



# MAY 2023

## Outreach

- Spending Plan Outreach: \$500 to Somerset Chaplaincy to the Elderly
- 2nd Quarter Social Ministry Giving Funding Outreach: Backpacking for Others \$1,500
- Collection: GSLC Pantry \$25 ShopRite gift cards via a Quilt Drawing of a handmade quilt donated by the Shepherd Stitches
- Hands-on Project: Assembled 850 Weekend Backpack Meals
- **Hosted our fourth GSLC/Giving Network Giveaway:**
  - Items included household goods, small appliances, baby items, toys, coats; \$250 of new towels (Supported by a Thrivent Action Team); \$450 of new sheets purchased by the Social Ministry Team
  - A dozen Somerset County agencies had information tables



## Worship

- In-person worship w/Holy Communion ~ 9:30am Sundays
- **May 7 - We recognized 20 new members during worship**
- **May 21 - Connection Sunday event with worship, refreshments, and a Ministry Fair**



## Our GSLC Community

- *Women of Good Shepherd* discussed “The Personal Librarian” by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray at the home of Nancy Davis.
- *Comfort Creators* donated 20 baby layettes (blanket, sweater & hat) to the Giving Network Giveaway.
- *Shepherd Stitches* donated 24 quilts for the GN Giveaway and 1 quilt for the quilt drawing, proceeds going to the GSLC Food Pantry; donated a quilt to cover the coatroom entrance
- Property Team had a leaking sink repaired in the Daycare, cleaned up water in the Narthex due to heavy rain, dug out drainage in the Memorial Garden to prevent further water leakage into the Narthex, improved lighting in the Memorial Garden and installed a rod over the coatroom entrance outside the sanctuary so that a quilt could be placed there
- Music Ministry held rehearsals with the Choir, Grace Alive!, and Children & Youth groups in preparation for a Choir Extravaganza to be held on June 4
- Al-Anon began meeting Friday evenings in Room A

## **DUTIES OF CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS** (from our Constitution)

The duties of the Congregation Council shall include the following:

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

The Congregation Council shall:

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

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

## NOMINEES FOR CONGREGATION COUNCIL

**Youth Representative - 1 year term:**  
**Mark Marsigliano 2023-2024**

**1<sup>st</sup> 3-year term**  
**Chris Fuson 2023-2026**  
**Carrie Rieble 2023-2026**

**2<sup>nd</sup> 3-year term**  
**Richard Alagona 2023-2026**

**1-year term (vacant position)**  
**Jeanna Grapes 2023-2024**

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### **Continuing Council Members:**

**Patricia Craig 2022-2025**  
**Lynn Francesconi 2021-2024 (2<sup>nd</sup> term)**  
**Christeen Jacquish 2021-2024**  
**Wes Thielke 2021-2024**  
**Jill Weidner 2022-2025 (2<sup>nd</sup> term)**

### **Completing Their Service in 2023:**

**Michael Marsigliano 2022-2023**  
**Nadine Pitti 2017-2023**  
**Laura Paknis 2020-2022**  
**Bill Schafer 2021-2023**

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## **NON-COUNCIL NOMINEES**

The Nominating Committee recommends the following persons:

**Barbara Schuster** – Nominating Committee – two-year term – 2023-2025  
**Jeff Davis** – Nominating Committee - two-year term – 2023-2025

### **Continuing Nominating Committee Members:**

**Alice Cotton 2022-2024**  
**Martin Linton 2022-2024**

### **Completing Their Service in 2023:**

**Julie Burt 2021-2023**  
**Brian Pitti 2021-2023**

## COUNCIL NOMINEE BIOS

### First 3-Year Term

**Chris Fuson** has been active in Good Shepherd Lutheran Church since moving to Somerville in 2009 and becoming a member in June 2010. Chris grew up in Woodbridge, NJ and graduated from Rutgers University with a BS in Animal Science. He also earned his Certification of Veterinary Practice Medicine (CVPM) in April 2019, and is currently a regional manager for a veterinary distribution company. Chris resides in Somerville, NJ with his wife, Julie, and their three children – Paul, Brooke, and Beth. There are also canine and feline family members – Duke, Oliver, and Old Domeowmeow.

### **Carrie Rieble**

Carrie Rieble has been a member of GSLC since 1996. She has two adult sons, Markus and Brendan, both baptized and confirmed at GSLC. Carrie grew up in Woodcliff Lake, NJ, and Barrington, RI and returned to her NJ roots with her late husband, Siegfried, to raise a family. Carrie resides in Bridgewater, NJ and currently works for the Bridgewater-Raritan School District.

#### Current Participation:

- Grace Alive song leader
- Offering Counter

#### Prior Participation:

- Ministry Steward Scheduler
- Sunday School Secretary
- Lay Reader
- Special Tray Communion Assistant
- Food Bank Volunteer
- Nursery Volunteer

### Second 3-Year Term

### **Richard Alagona**

Member of GSLC Since 1966

Family: Married to David Katz since July 2005. We have a rescue dogs Tink, a Schnauzer mix.

Occupation: Site Manager for Extra Space Storage. Board member of the NJGMC, singing with them since 1992.

#### Current Participation:

- Council President
- Counting Team
- Choir

#### Prior Participation:

- Sunday School Teacher
- Assistant Minister
- Youth Council Member
- Altar Guild
- Food Bank Coordinator
- Co-coordinator Holiday Food Baskets
- Singing in the choir (on and off for years)
- Day Care Ministry team
- Reconciling in Christ Planning Team
- Memorial Committee
- Communion Assistant

## **1-Year Term (Vacant Position)**

### **Jeanna Grapes**

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

## **Youth Representative**

### **Mark Marsigliano**

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE NOMINEE BIOS**

### **Jeff Davis**

I grew up in Greece, NY, a suburb of Rochester. I earned a BA in Math at Brockport State and an MA in Computer Science from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. I moved to NJ to work at Bell Labs, doing software development. Over time my career shifted to working for several engineering consulting companies in and around the NYC area, finishing up in March, 2020. I am now retired and I spend my time working on the computers at GSLC, singing and writing music and performing where I can, splitting our time between here (NJ) and a 2nd home we have in NC near our daughter and granddaughter and their now-extended family. Nancy and I also are enjoying a lot of world travel. At GSLC, I have served in many capacities - Council, teacher, prayer minister, technology chair and computer support, and guitar player and singer for Grace Alive and other worship events. I am also a diakonia graduate.

### **Barbara Schuster**

Member of GSLC since 2005

Lives in South Bound Brook

Family: Married to Ande Petrushun since 2018. We have 3 children, Isabella (17) Aden (7) Xander (5) and 2 dogs Tink and Sweetpea.

Occupation: Hairstylist/ stay at home mom.

I have enjoyed helping out at GSLC serving refreshments and helping with any activities needed. GSLC feels like home to our family.