

**GOOD SHEPHERD EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL CONGREGATION MINISTRY MEETING AGENDA
Sunday, June 14, 2020 ~ 10:00 AM via Zoom**

Call to Order – Nancy Waltermire, Congregation Council President

- a. Attendance (Quorum = **39**)
- b. Recognition of members attending for the first time.
- c. Purpose of this meeting: Review congregation's 2019-20 ministry year; elect members to our Congregation Council, and Nominating Committee
- d. Prayer – led by Pastor Chelsea Miller
- 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 9, 2019 (*page 3*)
- b) Congregational Financial Meeting of January 26, 2020 (*page 5*)
- c) Special Congregational Meeting of November 24, 2019 (*page 6*)
- d) Special Congregational Meeting of March 1, 2020 (*page 7*)
- e) Special Congregational Meeting of April 22, 2020 (*page 8*)

Nominating Committee – Jill Weidner, Convener (non-voting)

Duties of Congregation Council Members (*see page 31*)

Bios of Candidates for Congregation Council (*see pages 33- 34*)

Nominating Committee recommends:

- A. THAT THE CONGREGATION ELECT TO THE CONGREGATION COUNCIL: (*see page 32*).
 - ◆ *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 **BRIAN PITTI** TO THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR A 1-YEAR TERM ENDING MAY 2021 (*see page 32*).
- C. THAT THE CONGREGATION ELECT **CHRIS FUSON** AND **LORETTA GRACE** TO THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR A 2-YEAR TERM ENDING MAY 2022 (*see page 32*).

Statistical Reports

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

Staff and Lay Leader Reports

- Chelsea E. Miller, Pastor
- Jamie Dungey, Deacon
- Charles German, Organist/Music Coordinator
- Laura Meerovich, Office Administrator
- Nancy Waltermire, Council President
- Carrie Rieble, Worship Steward Scheduler

Committee/Ministry Teams (*Members may ask questions or make brief comments*)

- Adult Ministry Team
- Caring Ministries
- Children, Youth, & Family Ministry Team
- Daycare Ministry Team (including its Director, Iolene Hadley)
- Evangelism Ministry Team
- Finance Ministry Team
 - Financial Book Review Team
 - *Financial Secretary and Treasurer reports were received at the January Financial Meeting*
- Memorial Fund Action Team
- Property Ministry Team
- Social Ministry Team
- Stewardship Ministry Team
- Technology Planning Team
- Worship Planning Ministry Team

Affinity, Support and Task Groups

- Comfort Creators
- Crafterers
- Lutheran Men in Mission
- Military Services Support
- Shepherd Stitchers Quilt Group
- Sixty Plussers
- Women of Good Shepherd (formerly Daughters of Eve)

NJ Synod Assembly Report (verbal update) – Canceled

New Business

Thank you to outgoing members

- Congregation Council: Sabrina Eilers

Adjournment and Lord's Prayer

**GOOD SHEPHERD EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL CONGREGATION MINISTRY MEETING MINUTES
Sunday, June 9, 2019**

Call to Order – Suzanne Westberg, Congregation Council President, called the meeting to order at 10:57 AM.

- f. Attendance - 51
- g. Recognition of members attending for the first time
- h. Purpose of this meeting: Review congregation's 2018-19 ministry year; elect members to our Congregation Council, and Nominating Committee
- i. Prayer – led by Pastor Chelsea Miller
- j. Guidelines for our discussion
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 - ◆ 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 - ALL IN FAVOR.

Approval of Minutes of Congregational Meetings

- f) Congregational Ministry Meeting of June 10, 2018 - **ALL IN FAVOR.**
- g) Congregational Financial Meeting of January 27, 2019 - **ALL IN FAVOR.**
- h) Special Congregational Meeting of September 16, 2018 - **ALL IN FAVOR.**

Nominating Committee – Nancy Waltermire, Convener (non-voting)

Duties of Congregation Council Members (*see page 31*)

Bios of Candidates for Congregation Council (*see pages 33- 35*)

Nominating Committee recommends:

- D. THAT THE CONGREGATION ELECT TO THE CONGREGATION COUNCIL 3-YEAR TERM, SKIP FULLER, NANCY WALTERMIRE, SUZANNE WESTBERG, JILL WEIDNER, 2-YEAR TERM, GLEN DENYS, BILL SCHAFFER, 1-YEAR TERM RICHARD ALAGONA AND YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE SABRINA EILERS. **VOTE: ALL IN FAVOR; RECOMMENDATION PASSED.**

- E. THAT THE CONGREGATION ELECT **JULIE BURT** TO THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR A 2-YEAR TERM ENDING MAY 2021. Martin Linton made motion ADD RON THRONDSO. Jim Newton seconded. **VOTE FOR ADDITIONAL NAME: ALL IN FAVOR; RECOMMENDATION PASSED. VOTE ON ELECTION: ALL IN FAVOR; RECOMMENDATION.**

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- Laura Meerovich, Office Administrator
- Suzanne Westberg, Council President
- Carrie Rieble, Worship Steward Scheduler

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- Evangelism Ministry Team
- Finance Ministry Team
 - Financial Book Review Team
 - *Financial Secretary and Treasurer reports were received at the January Financial Meeting*
- Memorial Fund Action Team
- Property Ministry Team
- Social Ministry Team
- Stewardship Ministry Team
- Technology Planning Team
- Thrivent Financial Partnership with GSLC
- Worship Planning Ministry Team

Affinity, Support and Task Groups

- Crafters
- Military Services Support
- Comfort Creators
- Shepherd Stitchers Quilt Group
- Daughters of Eve
- Lutheran Men in Mission
- Sixty Plussers

NJ Synod Assembly Report (verbal update) – Jeff Davis and Nancy Waltermire

New Business - Council voted not to go with current finance for solar panels. The Finance and Faithful Ecology Ministry Teams are looking for other financial offers.

Thank you to outgoing members

- Congregation Council: Donna Walsh, Karen Smith, Phoebe Chen, Jim Bonastia, Bridget Eilers
- Nominating Committee: Richard Alagona, Bob Day

Announcements

- *Feel free to keep this report but if you don't need it, please hand it in so it may be given to new members joining Good Shepherd this year.*

Adjournment and Lord's Prayer - Meeting was adjourned at 11:38 AM with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Dilks, Recorder

CONGREGATIONAL FINANCIAL MEETING MINUTES

Sunday, January 26, 2020 ~ 10:45 AM

Jill Weidner, Congregation Council President- Elect, presiding, called the meeting to order at 10:55 AM.

Call to Order

- a. Attendance – 61
- b. Recognition of members attending for the first time.
- c. Purpose of this meeting: review congregation's 2019 financial year and adopt a spending plan for 2020.
- d. Prayer – led by Pastor Chelsea Miller
- 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.

1. Financial Review of 2019
 - a. 2019 Financial Secretary's Report – Eric Westberg
 - b. 2019 Treasurer's Report – Jill Weidner
2. Financial Projections for 2020
 - a. Weekly Envelopes, Special, and Plate Offerings – Eric Westberg
 - b. Presentation of the Spending Plan – Jill Weidner

Jack Deny made motion **TO CALL THE QUESTION**. Evelyn Kruck seconded. **VOTE: 56 FOR, 5 ABSTENTION; RECOMMENDATION PASSED.**

❖ Recommendation from Congregation Council:

THAT THE CONGREGATION ADOPT PROPOSED 2020 SPENDING PLAN, TOTALING \$476,157. VOTE: 57 FOR, 4 OPPOSED RECOMMENDATION PASSED.

❖ Discussion of the Plan from the Floor

3. Approval of Good Shepherd Christian Daycare Spending Plan

Jack Deny made motion **TO CALL THE QUESTION**. Stephanie Meister seconded. **VOTE; ALL IN FAVOR; RECOMMENDATION PASSED.**

❖ Recommendation from Congregation Council:

THAT THE CONGREGATION ADOPT THE PROPOSED 2020 GOOD SHEPHERD CHRISTIAN DAYCARE SPENDING PLAN TOTALING \$491,420. VOTE: ALL IN FAVOR; RECOMMENDATION PASSED.

4. Update:
5. Lord's Prayer
6. Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 11: 54 AM with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Cindy Dilks, Recorder

GOOD SHEPHERD EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Sunday, November 24, 2019 – 10:45 AM

Nancy Waltermire, Congregation Council President, presiding

Call to Order

- a. Attendance: 56 (55 voting). 35 voting members were required for a quorum – Quorum established.
- b. Purpose of meeting to vote on recommendations from Council regarding capital needs, solar installation and means to finance.
- c. Prayer – led by Pastor Chelsea.
- d. 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.

e. Overview of changes in solar and capital projects since September led by Jill Weidner:

- ◆ A donation from the GSLC Christian Day Care was accepted. Funds designated for roofing and HVAC projects.
- ◆ In addition to our original roofing bid from Shampanore Roofing, two additional bids were received. Both are significantly higher than that from Shampanore.
- ◆ The cost of the solar project has been reduced due to the recommended HVAC unit repairs and replacements that will result in more efficient heating and cooling.
- ◆ Our insurance coverage will increase by approximately \$300 if we move ahead with solar panel installation.
- ◆ Some donations designated for the solar project have been received
- ◆ By increasing our mortgage amount by \$100,000 through Thrivent, we can have a twenty-year fixed rate mortgage (no balloon). Today's rate is 4.3%. The rate has been moving between 4.2% and 4.75% over the past month. At 4.3%, our monthly payment will decrease by approximately \$120 per month because today we are making extra payments each month to offset the balloon payment that will be due with our current mortgage.
- ◆ Jill Weidner and Pastor Chelsea answered questions about the solar and capital project, and the sanctuary technology project,
- ◆ Jill Weidner reviewed funding scenarios to pay for the projects and cash flows and cost comparisons with or without solar panel installation.

f. The Congregation voted on the following recommendations from the GSLC Congregational Council:

- THAT GSLC CONTRACT WITH SHAMPANORE ROOFING TO INSTALL ROOFING ON THE DAYCARE WING, ROOMS A-D AND THE CHURCH OFFICES AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$60,000. **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**
- THAT GSLC CONTRACT WITH BELL HVAC TO INSTALL AND OR REPAIR HVAC AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$40,000. **PASSED (54 Yes; 1 No; 0 ABSTENTIONS)**
- THAT GSLC APPROVE EXPENDITURES OF UP TO \$20,000 FOR REPLACEMENT AND UPGRADE OF SANCTUARY TECHNOLOGY. **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- THAT GSLC CONTRACT WITH GREEN POWER ENERGY FOR SOLAR INSTALLATION AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$135,000. **PASSED (53 YES; 2 NO; 0 ABSTENTIONS)**
- THAT GSLC INITIATE A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN WITH A GOAL TO RAISE \$60,000 FOR THE SOLAR IMPLEMENTATION AND TO START IMPLEMENTATION WHEN \$30,000 HAS BEEN RAISED. **PASSED (54 YES; 1 NO; 0 ABSTENTIONS)**
- THAT GSLC USE \$109,000 OF GSLC UNDEDICATED CASH TOWARD THE CAPITAL PROJECTS INCLUDING SOLAR. **PASSED (52 YES; 0 NO; 3 ABSTENTIONS)**
- THAT GSLC DIRECT THE \$60,000 DONATION FROM DAYCARE TOWARD PAYMENT OF CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR HVAC REPAIR/REPLACEMENT AND ROOF REPLACEMENT. **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**
- THAT GSLC REFINANCE WITH THRIVENT FINANCIAL, THE EXISTING MORTGAGE OF \$179,170 AND ADD AN ADDITIONAL \$100,000 TO THE LOAN BALANCE FOR A 20 YEAR TERM AT A RATE NOT TO EXCEED 4.5%. **PASSED (53 YES; 1 NO; 1 ABSTENTION)**

5. Pastor Chelsea led the congregation in the Lord's Prayer.

6. The meeting was adjourned

Submitted by: Suzanne Westberg, Council Secretary

**GOOD SHEPHERD EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Sunday, March 1, 2020 – 10:45 AM**

Jill Weidner, Congregation Council President-Elect, presiding

Call to Order

- Attendance: 105 39 voting members were required for a quorum – Quorum established.
- Purpose of meeting to vote on recommendations from Council regarding mortgage rate from Thrivent.
- Guidelines for our discussion

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

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- ◆ 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.

The Congregation voted on the following recommendation from the GSLC Congregational Council:

- THAT GSLC ACCEPT THE MORTGAGE RATE OFFERED BY THRIVENT OF A FIXED RATE OF 4.375% FOR 20 YEARS. **PASSED (105 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTENTIONS)**

Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by: Johanna Scholl, Council Member

GOOD SHEPHERD EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Wednesday, April 22, 2020 – 7:00 PM via Zoom

Nancy Waltermire, Congregation Council President, presiding, called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM via Zoom.

Call to Order

Attendance: 98 members

Council has made the following motion for consideration by the congregation; **“that GSLC apply for a Payroll Protection Program Loan under the CARES act to be utilized to maintain the payroll and benefits of the daycare and church staff at pre-covid levels.”**

- The anticipated proceeds of the loan are approximately \$90,000
- This is a 1% interest loan, which 60 days after funding, we can apply for it to become a grant and not need to pay back interest or principal.
- Under the terms, for forgiveness of the loan we must maintain staffing and pay levels from February 2020.
- There are no emergency provisions in the constitution for council to take action on a loan without congregational approval.
- GSLC submitted an application for a Payroll Protection Program Loan on 4/10/20 and it is still pending review with TD Bank
- This is for daycare and church staff payroll

Jeff Davis made motion to call the question. Dan Groth seconded. **VOTE: ALL IN FAVOR RECOMMENDATION TO CALL QUESTION.**

VOTE ON MOTION: 96 FOR, 2 ABSTENTIONS; RECOMMENDATION PASSED.

5. Lord’s Prayer and Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer at 7:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Dilks

Recorder

**REPORT TO NEW JERSEY SYNOD
Calendar Year 2019**

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Baptized Membership as of December 31, 2018 | 604 |
| Members received during 2019 | |
| By baptism | 21 |
| By affirmation of faith | 22 |
| By transfer of membership | 17 |
| Total members received this year | 60 |
| Members removed during 2019 | |
| By death | 4 |
| By transfer | 0 |
| For other reasons | 16 |
| Total members removed this year | 20 |
| Baptized Membership as of December 31, 2019 | 644 |
| Confirmed Membership as of December 31, 2019 | 509 |
| Confirmed and Active Members on the Roll | 366 |

STATISTICAL COMPARISON

| Year End: | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|--------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Baptized | 743 | 743 | 732 | 704 | 718 | 721 | 677 | 687 | 692 | 686 | 558 | 574 | 592 | 587 | 604 | 644 |
| Confirmed | 519 | 528 | 523 | 514 | 529 | 530 | 512 | 541 | 557 | 533 | 466 | 481 | 499 | 478 | 486 | 509 |
| Confirmed – Active/Voting | 497 | 489 | 478 | 455 | 474 | 473 | 441 | 480 | 474 | 450 | 389 | 346 | 357 | 351 | 362 | 366 |
| Worship Attendance | 250 | 246 | 223 | 209 | 207 | 207 | 226 | 221 | 209 | 197 | 174 | 175 | 170 | 159 | 162 | 164 |

PARISH REGISTER

June 9, 2019 – June 13, 2020

BAPTISMS (15)

2019

*Adult Baptism**

| | |
|-------------|-------------------------------|
| June 30 | Julian Lorenzo Cartagena |
| July 7 | Connor David Hosie |
| July 21 | Margot Elizabeth Repetz |
| August 4 | Grace Marie Simicsak |
| August 4 | Greyson Robert Simicsak |
| August 11 | Madeline Tsai Ngo |
| August 11 | Quinton Wei-de Ngo |
| August 11 | Jonathan Victor Ngo |
| August 11 | Brian Julian Ngo |
| October 6 | Easton Richard William Scurzo |
| October 13 | Michael Ann Schulz |
| October 20 | Reece Hendrix Paknis |
| November 25 | William Kunkel* |
| November 25 | Kaiden Anthony Kunkel |

2020

January 12 Nolan Moon Bradley

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**CONFIRMATION (6)**

**Rite of Confirmation - June 7, 2020**

Meghan Caughron  
 Isabella Coppola  
 Jordan Dunn  
 Samantha Pitti  
 Piper Sterner  
 Maji Whalen

**NEW MEMBERS (8)**

**Affirmation of Faith**

**March 1, 2020**

Kristin & Dan Barlette Jr. and son Jackson  
 Christopher & Kirstie Bradley  
 Christeen Jacquish  
 Marilyn & Joseph Scalisi

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DEATHS (5)

2019

| | |
|--------------|------------------|
| September 20 | Ellen Sorensen |
| October 28 | William Holden |
| December 7 | Melvin Schroeder |

2020

| | |
|-------------|------------------|
| February 29 | Loretta Mitchner |
| March 25 | Tony Whalen |

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**FUNERALS (5)**

*Non-Member\**  
*Associate Member\*\**

**2019**

|            |                   |
|------------|-------------------|
| November 1 | William Holden    |
| November 8 | Linda Froehlich** |

**2020**

|            |                  |
|------------|------------------|
| February 8 | Melvin Schroeder |
| March 6    | Dorothy Burgess* |
| April 14   | Tony Whalen      |

## **STAFF REPORT**

### **Chelsea E. Miller, Pastor**

*“Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.” ~1 Peter 4:8*

Dear Partners in Ministry –

As I sit attempting to write this report, I’m struggling to wrap my brain around pre-COVID19 times. As we celebrate Pentecost worship this coming Sunday, our 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday of not gathering at 300 Union Avenue, I can honestly say there is nothing that could have prepared me for the realities of the last few months.

So instead of trying to rationalize what is or dwell too much in what was, I’d like to take a moment to simply reflect on one of the goals established by our GSLC leadership for 2020: relationships.

I know that when we set this goal, we had great hopes in mind of bringing our community together, of inviting those who were on the fringe or new to GSLC, of sharing in times of fellowship. As I looked back at my calendar over the last year, I reminisced about times gathered around a campfire with our young people, of families gathered around a font, of generations gathered around resources in service to our community, of being gathered around tables in Bible Study, of being gathered around one another in times of great joy and times of great sorrow. The memories brought tears to my eyes.

And then I thought about the last few months. I thought about being at my computer screen gathered – for Bible Study, for worship, for meetings of all kinds (including one of our largest congregational meetings ever!), for times of conversation and games with our children and youth. I thought about the laughter we’ve shared via technology. I thought about the tears we’ve shared over the phone. And I realized that in the midst of all of this, we have loved each other deeply.

Please know that I am so grateful to be your pastor through all these times. It is the great joy of my life to be church beside you. Thank you to the whole staff - Jamie, Laura, Charles, Iolene, Debbie, Andrey, Alba, and David - for continuing to support God’s mission at Good Shepherd in all the ways you do.

And thank you to all of you – for loving me and one another so deeply.

God’s peace,



Pastor Chelsea Miller

## **STAFF REPORT**

### **Jamie Dungey, Deacon**

*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself. Luke 10:27*

The scripture above really speaks about how God calls us to live. The members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church live out this commandment in their everyday lives. I am humbled by your steadfast love that you show to God, your neighbors and strangers, alike.

I would like to thank you for all of your support in my role of Deacon. I would especially like to thank Pastor Chelsea, Laura and Charles for all of their support. And I would like to thank the Adult and Family Ministry Team, the Caring Ministry Team and the Social Ministry Team. You all make living out my call so enjoyable!!!

As a member of the Adult and Family Ministry Team, I have led “Dwelling in The Word”, an Adult Forum on “Jesus: Countdown to Calvary” and Thursday evening worship services during Lent.

As a member of the Caring Ministry Team, I have the opportunity to visit with homebound members or members who have been in the hospital. One of my favorite ways to minister to the homebound members is to share Holy Communion with them and to remind them that they are loved by God and members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

As a member of the Social Ministry Team, I have had the opportunity to participate in outreach projects such as “God’s Work, Our Hands”, to deliver Advent wreaths to home bound members and to be involved in preparing food bags for children. We were blessed to be able to partner with the residents of Avalon Assisted Living, Hillsborough in filling the school backpacks. The residents filled the pouches and pencil boxes with the requested items.

I am so blessed to have the opportunity to participate in “Ashes to Go” on Ash Wednesday, to assist with worship for the Quiet Christmas service and to preach once a month.

My prayer is that you can continue to love God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind and to love your neighbors as yourself. May God continue to bless you so that you can be a blessing to the people that you meet on your faith journey!!!

God’s Peace,

Deacon Jamie Dungey

## STAFF REPORT

### Charles German, Organist/Music Coordinator

*King David brought together all the Israelite leaders...to praise the Lord, using the musical instruments provided by the king for this purpose; to praise and glorify the Lord every morning and evening.*

1 Chronicles 23:2, 5, 30 (GNT)

Praising God in worship at Good Shepherd comes in various forms: traditional (blended) worship, *Grace Alive!* style worship, Worship on the Lawn. *1 Chronicles 23:2, 5, 30* tells us to praise the Lord.

*Grace Alive!* worship expands our way of “giving praise to the Lord,” whether it is a contemporary song, or an older song (with new additional words) with keyboard, guitar and drum accompaniment instead of the organ or piano. *Grace Alive!* Song Leaders and instruments have included youth as well as members of the congregation that are not involved with the choir.

Traditional (blended) worship services uses the organ/piano for leading the liturgy and worship songs, along with the choir for music leadership. Festival traditional worship services also include trumpets, French horns, and trombones.

Planning worship services (traditional-blended or contemporary) takes time to plan the different elements of the worship service, to find the right music that fits with the theme and scripture readings for a particular service, and to find the best placement for the music for this service. If the music is printed in our worship bulletin, it needs to be covered by one of our two reprint licenses.

I am a member of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians (ALCM) since 1989. I go to their annual conferences in the summer to expand my knowledge in traditional and contemporary worship and to help expand Good Shepherd’s worship experience. I also attend American Guild of Organists (AGO) conferences. In June, 2019 I attended the AGO Region Conference in Cherry Hill, NJ.

I also want to thank all Song Leaders, instrumentalists, and sound techs that participate in the *Grace Alive!* worship services. I want to thank Nadine Pitti, Alexis Pitti, Joyce Jonat, Emma Grace, Julie Burt, Carrie Rieble, Susan Soldivieri, Jill Weidner, Debbie Gelormine, Jeff Davis, Adam Plaunt, James Presti, Florindo Gallicchio, Dan Groth, Alex Duque, James Thornton and others that have helped out participating in the *Grace Alive!* band and Song Leaders. We are always looking for more people to be involved. *Grace Alive!* rehearsals are on Wednesdays. Please check the *Good News from Good Shepherd* and *The Shepherd’s Voice* for rehearsal dates.

Praise the Lord!  
Charles German

- *Good News Translation*® (Today’s English Version, Second Edition).  
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## **STAFF REPORT**

### **Laura Meerovich, Office Administrator**

*“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.” Romans 12:12*

This simple verse summed up the church year 2019-20 for me. From a second surgery in as many years, to the trials of COVID-19, having patience has been difficult, but hope and prayer have sustained me.

Some accomplishments:

- Continued to update the Administrator’s Handbook, documenting procedures and training volunteers to do my job while I recuperated from surgery (during December, no less!)
- Redesigned the paper Good News Page, and then during the coronavirus shutdown, created and updated the online weekly announcements, as well as the weekly Zoom schedule, and various Constant Contact communications.
- Replaced the small event sign in the Narthex with the large “Happening Today” display.
- Reorganized and condensed the mailslots, adding the basket on the side so forms would be easy to find.
- Added new categories to the database to enable us to quickly determine church participation and track congregational meeting attendance. Reviewed data entries to ensure accuracy.
- Updated the hand-written Parish Register going back to Charter Sunday, 12/7/1952.
- Explored and evaluated a new copier possibility with Xerox, put on hold due to the pandemic.
- Other documents that I updated (or created) include the Member Directory, fall Stewardship materials, seasonal postcards, this report, and more.

I have to begin my thanks this year to those volunteers who stepped up at arguably the busiest time of year to fill in for me during my convalescence: Jill Weidner, Charles German, Kathy Kuhblank, Linda Matarazzo, and Joan Grace.

Until the pandemic hit, the regular office volunteers faithfully carried out their tasks: Mary Ann & Cindy Schwarz, weekly bulletin assembly; Sharon Krebs, communion record data-entry; Bea Allen, memorial acknowledgements; Sandy Alexander, special offerings; Carrie Rieble & Charlene Walker, MSP Scheduling; Bea Allen, Margaret Cotton, Sharon Krebs, Susie North, Roxanne Powers, Janice Reinhardt, Pam Ruggini, Carol Shutack, Barbara Stockhoff, and Connie Zylman, led by Joyce Van Vooren, holiday bulletins and special mailings; Joan Grace, newsletter editor; Bob Wollenberg, Jack Farmer, Erwin Kuhblank, property concerns; Jeff Davis, IT issues; Alice Cotton, design and creation of the ‘Happening Today’ backboard; Bill Jonat, Ed Kunkel, Ellen Parker, Lowell Reinhardt, Linda Rolando, and Lynn Weckworth, help with various things, and I am grateful for all of them.

Then there were those who continued their service throughout the shut-down, some in-person, some remotely: Dean Levin and Ed Gould paid the bills; Dean also mowed the lawn; Bonnie Gould processed payroll reports; Stephanie Meister updated the online church calendar; Jill Weidner made the deposits, applied for the PPP loan to enable us to continue to pay for our church and daycare staff, and handled many personnel-related issues.

A special thanks to my fellow staff members at this trying time: Jamie Dungey, Charles German, Iolene Hadley (thanks for getting the mail!), Debbie Gelormine, Andrey Rodriguez, David Scholl, and Alba Buitrago.

A very special thanks to Pr. Chelsea, who immediately embraced technology to continue to minister to the congregation remotely, who had tough decisions to consider, and who did it all as we grappled with a COVID-19 tragedy within our own church family, the loss of Tony Whalen.

Speaking of tough decisions, I also extend my gratitude to Nancy Waltermire, Council President, and all Council members for their willingness to rise up to the challenges presented by the coronavirus, and for their support during this difficult time.

God’s peace,

*Laura Meerovich, Office Administrator*

**CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL PRESIDENT**  
**Nancy A. Waltermire**

*For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. —I Corinthians 12:12*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Faith,

I recently read a letter from Bishop Eaton to the Church reminding us to be even more intentional in sharing with each other, easing each other's burdens, consoling each other in our fear and grief, condemning what is contrary to the gospel, and living out our baptismal covenant "to strive for justice and peace in all the earth."

As we approach the twelfth week that we have all been socially distant, I want to take this moment to thank all of you for your support of our council and Pastor Chelsea, for their continuous leadership and guidance during the pandemic and its many days of uncertainty. I thank all of you for participating in our zoom worship services and events.

You all have demonstrated that we are the church and continue to praise God and Jesus Christ no matter where we are in this world of uncertainty every day!

Our congregation is blessed to have Pastor Chelsea, President-elect Jill Weidner, Tech Committee, Laura, Charles, Debbie, and all the many volunteers that allow for us to continue to worship together and participate in the MANY zoom activities.

Thank you all for your time and talents!

Our ministry teams continue to serve us and our community in so many ways. Our Affinity/Support and Task Groups provide a wide variety of activities and services based on shared interests and abilities, and ideas for new groups are always welcome. We are blessed by the many talents our members continue to share with us and our community.

We continue to grow as a congregation and care for others throughout the community and the world. As we move forward, we will continue to focus on the vision we all have and what that looks like in our "new normal".

May we rejoice in where we have been, celebrate where we are, and marvel at the places, people, and things God will reveal to us in the days, months, and years ahead.

Stepping Out in Faith Together and Visioning,

*Nancy A. Waltermire*

Council President

*"So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" —2 Corinthians 5:17*

## WORSHIP STEWARD SCHEDULER

- Creates and adjusts service templates and worship steward profiles in the Ministry Scheduler Pro (MSP) software program for volunteer assignments throughout the year.
- Alternates with Charlene Walker to assign stewards for Sundays and special services in 3-month scheduling periods. Charlene is also the backup during my vacations and when I am otherwise inaccessible! Thank you!
- Oversees MSP on a daily basis providing approximately 185 active volunteers with automatic email reminders and a system to easily request substitutes, accept substitute requests, update contact information and ministries, and specify “cannot serve” dates.
- Ensures scheduling of each steward at frequency rates to accommodate personal preferences and “cannot serve” schedules, tweaking MSP parameters to accomplish this.
- Works in conjunction with the ministry scheduling “team” (Charlene Walker, Laura Meerovich, Pastor Chelsea, Charles German and Debbie Gelormine). Thanks to all of you!
- Works to improve volunteer experience with the MSP software program by providing email support and personal instruction to members upon request.
- Sends welcome emails and information on using MSP to new ministry volunteers, inputs their ministries and makes requested changes to existing volunteer profiles as needed.
- Enters counting team rotations provided by Lowell Reinhardt into MSP prior to schedule publication (thanks, Lowell!), and contacts other ministry leads such as Rob Shugan (ushers), Ellen Parker/Pam Ruggini (altar guild) and Jeff Davis (prayer ministers and streaming) as needed to adjust teams or for help filling open positions for the week.
- Laura Meerovich keeps me on my toes by catching some of my unintended oversights, and relaying volunteer requests and updates received by the church office to me. She prepares the easel of volunteers weekly, contacts our members who do not use the internet, and alerts me of schedule changes. Thank you!

We look forward to the time when we will be ready to worship together again as a congregation in person. We will be ready to request profile updates from everyone and will move quickly to prepare a new schedule for our worship stewards!

In God’s service,  
Carrie Rieble — Worship Steward Scheduler, on behalf of the scheduling team



## ADULT MINISTRY TEAM

**Team Members:** Deacon Jamie Dungey, Dan Groth, Janice Reinhardt, Lynn Francesconi (Council liaison), Lee Wollenberg (chair), and Pastor Chelsea Miller.

**Thank you** to the Adult Ministry team, Pastor Chelsea, our guest speakers, and small group coordinators, for their support and leadership. Without you, none of these educational, fellowship and service opportunities could occur.

**The focus of Adult Ministry** is to foster adult faith formation through a variety of opportunities for study and discussion, prayer and devotions, fellowship, and service.

This year we made some changes to our Sunday morning program, beginning with a name change from Faith Talk to the **Adult Education Hour**. We also changed our programming as follows:

On the **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday** of the month, we generally featured Dwelling in the Word, a “no-prep-required” opportunity to hear and reflect on a Bible passage. Occasionally, we also offered “Sermon Reflections,” an opportunity to listen to and discuss one of Pastor Chelsea’s previous sermons.

On the **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday** of the month, we usually welcomed a guest organization or speaker, such as The Coffeehouse Project, Somerville Area FISH, Bright Kids Uganda (Alayna Fuller), the Hospital Chaplaincy program (Naeem Harry), Thrivent (Richard Hopkins) re: Action Teams and Thrivent Dollars, and Scams and the Importance of the US Census (Lynn Weckworth).

The **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday** of the month was reserved for Ministry Team meetings, ,

The **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday** of the month featured intergenerational hands-on service projects organized by Social Ministry.

**Other Bible Study and Adult Groups:** Good Shepherd is also blessed to have leaders willing to coordinate the various adult groups that engage in study and prayer, service, and fellowship including:

- *Wednesday at Noon Weekly Bible Study* Led by Pastor Chelsea Miller
- *60 Plussers* (Sandy Alexander)
- *Book Discussion* (Lee Wollenberg)
- *Crafteers and Comfort Creators* (Roxanne Powers)
- *Caring Ministries* \* (Janice Reinhardt) \* see separate report
- *Diakonia* (Joan Grace)  
(an educational program offered by the NJ Synod)
- *Go Green, Go Hike* (Bill Jonat)
- *Grief Support* (Brenda Linton)
- *LLM-Lutheran Men in Mission* (Dean Levin)
- *Shepherd Stitchers* (Janice Brunsbach)
- *Thursday Bible Study* (Sandy Alexander)
- *Veterans Outreach* (Granville Holder)
- *Daughters of Eve* \*\* (Stephanie Meister)

\*\* Note: name is changing to *Women of Good Shepherd*

**Book Discussion Group:** For most of the year, this group met regularly from 9:30 – 11 AM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of the month. In the past two months, the group has been meeting weekly on Saturdays via Zoom. Books read and discussed this program year include:

- *The Book of Joy: Dalai Lama & Desmond Tutu* by Douglas Abrams
- *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others* by Barbara Brown Taylor
- *If the Church were Christian: Rediscovering the Values of Jesus* by Philip Gulley
- *Gratefulness, the Heart of Prayer* by Brother David Steindl-Rast (current book, begun 5/16/2020)

Because of the Coronavirus, we are living in a time of uncertainty and unprecedented change. We invite you to join the Adult Ministry team as we work to find new and creative ways to provide opportunities for adults at Good Shepherd to engage in study and prayer, service, and fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lee Wollenberg, Chair

## **CARING MINISTRIES REPORT**

I Corinthians 13: 13 “...and the greatest of these is LOVE”

The mission of GSLC Caring Ministries is to share our God given gifts of faith, hope and LOVE by caring for one another. Ways volunteers of GSLC share that love include:

- Home Communion Ministers
- Flower Delivery – each Sunday and holidays – Faith & Action sign up
- Caring for Caregivers when needed
- Grief Support Group - monthly
- Casserole Ministry – as needed
- Prayer Ministers
- Greeting Card Ministry
- Community Resource Liaison
- Driving Members to Church

Deacon Jamie Dungey has supported this ministry with weekly visits and home communion to our homebound members. Individual Home Communion Ministers also visit their assigned GSLC member.

Grief Share Support Group meets once a month, co-coordinated by Brenda Linton and Naeem Harry For those walking this journey, the group has been a blessing.

Roxanne Powers coordinates the Greeting Card Ministry and faithfully sends supportive cards to the sick and grieving as well as happy occasions such as First Communion and Confirmation.

Janice Reinhardt coordinates Caring for Caregivers and Community Resources at the Caring Ministries Corner once a month after worship. Stop by for conversation, support and more information about volunteering. Consider this ministry on your Faith in Action Form this year.

MANY acts of caring and kindness happen spontaneously within our community of faith and for this we are truly grateful. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Janice Reinhardt, Coordinator

# CHILDREN YOUTH and FAMILY MINISTRY TEAM

Members: Louise Eilers (chair), Pastor Chelsea Miller  
 Staff: Nursery Professional – Alba Buitrago  
 Youth Group: Pastor Chelsea Miller; Kevin Scholl  
 Junior Youth Group: Nadine Pitti; Christeen Jacquish; Lisa Rivera  
 Family Faith Formation: Jasmine Plaunt; Heather Lilly; David Rochow; Lesly Abril

*Our ministry team provides opportunities for our children, youth, volunteers, and staff to:*

|                      |                      |                           |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>KNOW the Word</b> | <b>GROW in Faith</b> | <b>SHARE thru Service</b> |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|

## Christian Education

We offer age-appropriate, Bible-centered, Christian Education for children and youth.

- Youth Group grades 7-12
- Confirmation Class grades 7-8
- Holy Communion Retreat Grade 3
- Jr Youth Group grades 3-6
- Family Faith Formation for families with babies – grade 2

## Worship

We encourage children and youth to participate in all aspects of worship

|           |                       |                         |
|-----------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| • Acolyte | • Worship Assistant   | • Gifts of Bread & Wine |
| • Usher   | • Communion Assistant | • Welcome Team          |
| • Reader  |                       |                         |

## Enrichment

We support and nurture children, youth and families throughout their faith journey

- Bibles--Age 3, Grade 3, Grade 7
- Fill My Cup Youth Gatherings at Starbucks - Grades 7-8, Senior High Youth
- Retreat, Fall Grades 7-12
- Lock-in, Winter Grades 7-12
- College Care packages

## Opportunities to Give and Serve

We encourage our children and youth to act in love for others.

|        |                                                        |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Summer | Food Drive at Somerset Patriots Game                   |
| Fall   | Advent Wreaths; God’s Work, Our Hands, SHIP sandwiches |
| Winter | Souper Bowl of Caring                                  |

## DAYCARE MINISTRY TEAM

**Team Members:** Gale Murphy (Chair), Nancy Davis, Suzanne Westberg (Church Council Liaison), Iolene Hadley (Center Director), Pastor Chelsea (Church Staff Liaison)

Due to the Covid19 Pandemic, the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Christian Day Care and Pre-School closed on March 17, 2020.

- Following our voluntary closure, the Governor of New Jersey ordered that all Day Care facilities not serving children of essential workers close indefinitely.
- There are tentative plans to reopen as of July 1, 2020, depending on the situation with Covid19 and lifting of the closure order by the Governor.
- Using a combination of reserve funds and a Paycheck Protection Program loan secured on May 3, 2020, all staff members have remained on payroll and will continue to do so through July 1.
- Teachers continue to provide distance learning.

Prior to our closure, the Daycare Ministry provided the following care options to members of the community and the congregation:

- Traditional daycare on a full-time or part-time basis between 7:00 AM and 6:00 PM
- Before and After Care program for Adamsville School children (currently Adamsville is the only candidate school due to transport issues)
- Pre-school
- A safe Christian environment
- Prior to closing, enrollment was at 74 children. Our school year enrollment over the past several years has been at or near capacity.
- Our highly trained staff offers engaging curriculum that includes field trips, chapel time, gardening, music, story time, cooking, summer programs and family focused activities.

We are grateful for the service of our talented and dedicated Daycare staff. Iolene Hadley is completing her first year as Director of our Daycare. Under her leadership, our enrollment has remained high, staff turnover is minimal, and she continues to work tirelessly to ensure the smooth operation of programs and facilities.

Thanks to all congregation members who donated their time including office support, nap time supervision, gardening, and story time. Thank you to all members who made donations to our scholarship program and/or allocated Thrivent funds to the Daycare. We strive to help children in need in our community and currently have several students on partial scholarships.

If you would like to join this ministry team, please contact Gale Murphy, Chair.

Submitted by Suzanne Westberg, Church Council Liaison

## EVANGELISM MINISTRY TEAM

*In light of the Gospel, we are called to invite people into the joy and life we have experienced in Christ – in Christ’s words: “COME and SEE” (John 1:38-39) and to “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation” (Mark 16:15)... “GO and TELL”*

**Team Members:** Janine Shugan (chair), Nadine Pitti (council liaison), Pastor Chelsea

**Other Contributors:** Stephanie Meister, Ellen Parker, Roxanne Powers, Brent Ritchey

### Goals:

- Create an internal awareness of Evangelism
- Work on building relationships in our church and in our community.
- Keep website current and fresh to show visitors how the spirit is alive at Good Shepherd.
- Host event(s) to increase awareness of our church in the community.
- Find new ways to advertise and spread the Word.

Below are highlights and accomplishments this past year and some upcoming events.

- ✓ Connections Magazine ads for Christmas and Easter
- ✓ Posting church events and Sunday worship on FaceBook
- ✓ Post card mailings for Christmas Eve services, Living Nativity, Holy Week and Easter services
- ✓ Hosted the Living Nativity – Approximately 400 visitors! Christmas “Believe” pins attached to business cards with worship time/address were given as gifts to visitors
- ✓ Hosted a Community Block Party last July with free food, games and outdoor evening worship
- ✓ Hosted Blessing of the Animals in October
- ✓ Follow-up cards and phone calls to visitors who sign the Guest Book
- ✓ Welcome Kits for visitors
- ✓ Maintenance of the Name Tag wall – remember to wear your name tag ☺
- ✓ Connect Cards on the Welcome Desk and in church pews to learn more about our visitors
- ✓ Co-planning with Social Ministry for God’s Work Our Hands Service Event in September

Please let me know if you have interest in helping with this ministry! We welcome new faces.  
Submitted by: Janine Shugan (chair)

## FINANCE MINISTRY TEAM

The Finance Ministry Team meets virtually as needed. Members of the team include Ed Gould (treasurer), Jill Weidner (chair), Amanda Rochow (Insurance) and Pastor Chelsea. While we are a small team, we are supported by many volunteers who help keep us moving forward. We would be glad to have others join the team!

### Accomplishments during 2019-2020 church year:

- Produced financial reports each month for the council to review and understand the operations of the church.
- Worked with council to develop the 2020 spending plan and present it to the congregation.
- Re-financed the church mortgage, adding \$100,000 to the outstanding balance for funds to implement capital projects and solar.
  - Provided financial forecasts of capital project usage and campaign receipts to ensure sufficient cash flow.
- Applied for, received and tracked usage of the Payroll Protection Program Loan of \$101,525
  - We will apply for loan forgiveness at the end of June per the government program rules.
- Produced forecasts for both GSLC and daycare to review potential impacts of COVID-19 on the operations of the organizations.
- Initiated the annual book reviews for both GSLC and daycare – currently interrupted due to closure of the church. These will resume as the church is allowed to open.

Many thanks go out to Ed and Bonnie Gould (treasurers), Dean Levin (expense payment disburser), and Eric Westberg (finance secretary) for the hours of time they donate to keep our books running and properly recorded. There are hundreds of transactions each month for expenses and income and these folks keep extremely accurate books. It is a thankless job that they all do with skill and expertise.

We are currently looking for a volunteer(s) to be Treasurer. Ed and Bonnie Gould have been working tirelessly for years keeping our books and records in order and have expressed a desire to step down. If you have the interest in helping out, please reach out to me.

Submitted by Jill Weidner

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## MEMORIAL FUND ACTION TEAM

Members: Stephanie Meister; Richard Alagona; Bill Jonat; Pastor Chelsea

The role of the Memorial Fund Action Team is to oversee the funds in the *Undesignated Gifts* line of the Memorial Fund. These funds are the result of donations given in memory of a person or in thanksgiving for a special event. As requests are received from Ministry Teams and groups within GSLC, the Memorial Committee meets to prayerfully discuss the requests. The team then makes a recommendation to Council regarding each request for their final approval. Donations to the Memorial Fund can be made using the giving envelopes found in the pews.

## PROPERTY MINISTRY TEAM

The Property Ministry Team is responsible for the following:

- Oversight, repair and maintenance of all facilities, inside and outside including review and administration of property contracts (fire and door alarm, waste management, pest control, drain cleaning, boiler testing, fire extinguishers and alarm testing), landscaping and maintenance
- Support of custodian responsibilities
- Coordinating and scheduling of congregation-wide work/clean-up days
- Any other items that come up related to non-administrative facilities

This past year has been a year of major projects, exciting changes and improvements. We still have a couple of vacancies and can always use new hands and ideas to help maintain our facilities.

There is a constant challenge to reorganize and recruit knowledgeable people to serve on the Ministry Team. Please thank each of these coordinators personally for the incredible job they have done this year. The team currently consists of the people listed below and their area of responsibility.

|                       |                               |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Martin Linton         | Exterior                      |
| Open                  | HVAC                          |
| Open                  | Cleaning Services             |
| Jack Farmer           | Plumbing/Appliances/Restrooms |
| Erwin Kuhblank        | Electrical                    |
| Bob Wollenberg        | Interior                      |
| Dean Levin            | Grounds                       |
| Bob Wollenberg        | Records                       |
| Open                  | Building Systems              |
| Open                  | Youth Coordination            |
| Andrey                | Custodian                     |
| Pastor Chelsea Miller | Staff Liaison                 |

### Some of the accomplishments this year:

- Held one workday in November 2019 with 8 - 12 volunteers. April workday was canceled.
- Resolved Fire Department violations noted by Somerville fire inspection.
- Ongoing review of outside lighting and conversion to LED
- Renewed cleaning contract with Heits cleaning service
- Treated lawns with fertilizer and weed killer
- Ongoing project of conversion to solar power. Bill Schafer heading this project.
- Continue to save electric costs by using a third party supplier
- Repaired snow blower
- Completed painting Luther Hall
- Had Arborvitae along parking lot cut back and trimmed as needed.
- Completed roof replacement in prep for Solar \*\*

### In the Works:

- Conversion to Solar \*\*
- Replacing Air Conditioning Units\*\*

\*\*\* These items are part of the Solar installation which is a special ongoing separately funded project

Please continue to donate to the Capital improvement fund so we can continue to make needed repairs and upgrades.

Personnel: We have a number of vacant positions and would welcome additional volunteers to fill these positions. If interested in finding out more please contact Jack Farmer or any member of the property team or attend one of our monthly meetings which are held at 8:30 prior to the Sunday service. Watch for specific dates in the weekly church bulletin and the monthly calendar.

Respectfully submitted by Robert Wollenberg, Property Secretary.

## SOCIAL MINISTRY TEAM

Through the power of the Holy Spirit and in response to God's love as revealed in the Gospel, the mission of GSLC's Social Ministry is 1) to serve those in our local community who hurt, who are in need, or who have limited choices; 2) to respond to crisis within our world; and 3) support ELCA social ministry initiatives.

### SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

It is through the and benevolence of volunteers in our congregation that we can serve those in need.

#### God's Work Our Hands Day:

- *First Friends Stamp Out Despair\**: packaged 250 folders with stationery and hand-written notes of encouragement for immigration detainees at Elizabeth Detention Center
- *Samaritan Homeless Interim Program (S.H.I.P)*: made 20 pans of Arroz con Pollo and assembled ~800 packs with plastic utensils & napkins for the homeless
- *Giving Network*: 2 vans-full of gently used household goods were collected for those in need
- *Safe+Sound Somerset\**: filled 25 handmade tote bags (sewn by the Shepherd Stitchers) with toiletries, an emergency phone charger and handwritten note cards of encouragement, for victims of abuse
- *Rutgers Student Food Pantry\**: \$180 and a van full of food for students with food insecurity were collected
- *Somerville Senior Housing\**: Bingo and desserts for two dozen residents

#### Feeding the Hungry:

- *Holiday Food Baskets\**: Collected and distributed food to families in need for Thanksgiving & Christmas. Easter hams were delivered to the Somerset County Food Bank
- *Food Bank and GSLC Food Pantry*: Staffed the food bank Saturday mornings for 3 months; collected non-perishable food items & 158 rolls of toilet paper
- *Souper Bowl of Caring*: 535 cans of soup collected
- *Weekend Backpack Meals\**: Assembled more than 400 backpack meals in June, September & February for children so they have weekend meals
- *ELCA World Hunger*: Collected loose change during Lent

#### Caring for the Homeless:

- *Interfaith Hospitality Network*: Hosted and fed homeless families one week at a time, 5 times during the year
- *Project Homeless Connect*: Collected 349 articles of clothing including fleece hats from the Shepherd Stitchers and knitted & crocheted hats & scarves from the Comfort Creators

#### Caring for those in Need:

- *Backpacking for Others\**: Provided LSMNJ and local school districts with 402 backpacks filled with school supplies for children in need
- *Angel Tree Christmas Giving\**: 110 Gifts collected for clients of Visions & Pathways, Safe+Sound and some local families
- *Advent Wreaths for Homebound*: Assembled and delivered Advent Wreaths for 10 homebound members
- *Somerville FISH*: Donated 50 pairs of children's socks
- *Journey Hospice of LSMNJ*: Folded 175 Origami holders for aroma therapy
- *Laundry Love*: 2 loads of laundry each for 15 families at a local laundromat

#### Caring for our Military and Veterans:

- *Menlo Park Veterans Home & Lyons Veterans Hospital\**: Provided 75 gift bags filled with clothes, personal care items, and personal notes. Thanks to the Shepherd Stitchers for 60 fleece hats.
- *Paracord Bracelets*: Made 36 quick deploy paracord bracelets and wrote notes of thanks for emergency use by US troops.

#### \*Projects supported by Thrivent grants.



Throughout the year, GSLC responds to emergency requests for food, clothing, and other necessities.

**Faithful Ecology:** We welcomed visitors from “Green Faith” who shared information with exhibits addressing ways we can help the Earth. GSLC is a member of “Green Faith” an interfaith coalition that inspires, educates, organizes and mobilizes people of diverse religious and spiritual backgrounds globally for environmental action. Green Faith believes that protecting the earth is a sacred act and that environmental stewardship is a moral responsibility.

**Faith Talks:** Coordinated Faith Talks from The Coffee House Project, Somerville FISH and a presentation by Alayna Fuller on Bright Kids Uganda.

**Advocacy:** Provided Advocacy information in monthly newsletter articles and in the narthex.

## **MONETARY SUPPORT**

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church continued to provide monetary support to S.H.I.P, Somerville FISH, Safe+Sound Somerset, Food Bank Network of Somerset County, Interfaith Hospitality Network, Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ, Somerset Chaplaincy to the Elderly, Somerset Jail Chaplaincy, Somerville Rescue Squad, Somerville Fire Department, Giving Network and Cross Roads Camp & Retreat Center.

**Extra Mile Giving** campaigns were held for Backpacking for Others; stocking the GSLC food pantry and the Somerville Food Pantry and Weekend Backpack Meals for Kids; Veterans at the Menlo Park Home & Lyons VA; Holiday Food baskets; Scleroderma Foundation of Delaware Valley (\$700); The Coffee House Project (\$750); and Bright Kids Uganda (\$2,541) (built a playground on the orphanage property).

Thanks to the many volunteers who contribute their time and talent to serving our Community Organizations and neighbors. Special thanks those who obtained Thrivent Grants and to our project coordinators: Bill Jonat, Walt Braun, Peg Bernhardt, Charlene Walker, Martin Linton, Brett Paknis, Debbie Gelormine, Joan Grace, Ellen Parker, Nancy Waltermire, Nancy Davis, Sharon Schwarz, Carol Westlund, Richard Alagona, Laura Nobile, Ed & Bonnie Gould, Dean Meister, Gail Hammond, Suzanne & Victoria Diaz, Skip Fuller, Jill Weidner, Rosemary Hoehler and Jamie Dungey.

Thanks to the Social Ministry team members Charlene Walker, Bonnie Gould, Nancy Davis, Laura Nobile, Carol Westlund, Jamie Dungey and Pastor Chelsea. And thanks to Janice Brunsbach and the Shepherd Stitchers and to Roxanne Powers and the Comfort Creators for contributing their skills to initiatives.

**Volunteers and ideas for service projects are always welcome. Let us continue in our mission of service together!**

Respectfully submitted, Stephanie Meister and Lynn Weckworth, Social Ministry Co-Chairs

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## **STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM**

**Team Members:** Bonnie & Ed Gould, Johanna Scholl (Council Liaison), Kathy Kuhblank, Lynn Weckworth, Jack Denys, Pastor Chelsea Miller and Joyce Jonat (Chair).

The Stewardship Team works to provide opportunities for people to express their faith by sharing their time, talents, skills, and pledges for the sake of strengthening the mission and ministries of GSLC.

**“Free to Live Generously in Community”** was the theme for the 2019 fall pledge campaign. Every year, the team spends time developing the stewardship message, plans how to communicate the theme’s message through letters, articles in the newsletter, and other means for several Sundays leading up to Commitment Sunday. This year, lots of pictures of Good Shepherd’s people, from the very youngest to the most seasoned, depicting the many ways we are church together in service and love, were shared in bulletin inserts and wall projections during worship. We are indeed blessed with a generous, caring spirit at Good Shepherd.

**“Here Comes the Sun”**, a capital campaign for a solar panels installation at Good Shepherd was well underway when the corona virus thwarted our plans and resulted in a pause in the campaign. Prior to the pause, members had contributed or pledged more than enough funds to get the project started. More information will be available in the coming year. Many thanks go to Ellen Parker (bulletin board), Brent Ritchey (logo and signs), and Kiley Chen (video announcement) for their extra help to the team.

**Faith in Action:** Members are invited to review their current volunteer involvements at GSLC and/or enlist for new volunteer opportunities. FIA sign-ups are postponed for now but will be brought up to the congregation again as soon as practical.

Respectfully submitted by Joyce F. Jonat

## TECHNOLOGY PLANNING TEAM

The mission of the Technology Planning team is to ensure that the staff and members of Good Shepherd have the technology tools that they need to do the work of God at and through Good Shepherd. We support the existing systems and plan for future directions.

We keep all the church's computers up and running; keep the server, network, and internet up and running; maintain the website and Facebook pages; keep all the tools used by staff and members up and running, including Church Windows, Constant Contact, QuickBooks, Ministry Scheduler Pro, etc.; and providing audiovisual tools for the church.

This has now been our second full year of streaming our worship services over the Internet. Anyone with a Facebook account can log in and be a part of our worship live on a Sunday morning or as a recording afterwards. This has been a benefit to members who are away or homebound, as well as for people who want to see what Good Shepherd is about. We have had at least 100 or more visits for each weekly recording. In our recent situation with sheltering-in-place due to COVID-19, our recorded services on Facebook have provided a resource for us to pull out recordings of songs to enhance our online worship.

As the reality of the COVID-19 situation became apparent, we quickly moved to assess options for worship and remote operations and fellowship. We implemented the use of Zoom to provide a way for members to gather for remote meetings and for fellowship and keeping in touch. Besides continuing to use Facebook Live as a way to worship remotely, YouTube provided a way to allow non-Facebook users to have access to worship as well.

While there is still much that is unknown about how our lives will be affected over the near and distant future, we will continue to look at how technology solutions can be used to keep Good Shepherd active, practicing our faith, meeting the needs of others, and providing safe and enriching worship and fellowship to all.

While we have been successful at providing a good network and services, we are looking at ways to move more of our systems and services off-site to better ensure stability and backup of data as well as relying on outside support resources. We will always need GSLC people for support, but this will enable quicker responses to staff needs.

I want to thank the members of the team for all of the support that they provide for the staff and members. This includes Ed Gould, Kevin Whitehead, Werner Kruck, Nick Dininno, Parker Lawton, Wes Thielke, Laura Nobile, and Kyle Chu. I also want to acknowledge the help that Tony Whalen provided with our streaming efforts this year along with help from Cai Whalen. Tony will be greatly missed. Thanks, too, to Dan Groth, Florindo Gallicchio, Kevin Whitehead, Parker Lawton, and Debbie Lawton for helping with streaming. Thanks, too, to Pastor Chelsea for her support and guidance for our technology directions. Her understanding of and ability to use new technology tools has been a true God-send in this time when we must be apart during these trying times.

Submitted by Jeff Davis

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## WORSHIP PLANNING MINISTRY TEAM

**Team Members:** Pastor Chelsea Miller, Skip Fuller (Council Liaison), Debbie Gelormine, Charles German, Gail Jorgensen, Denise Kozloski, Ellen Parker, Nancy Waltermire (Chair)

Worship Planning continues to work from the assumption that worship is a unifying event in the life of a congregation. As the congregations Worship Ministry Team, we are called throughout the week, both within our building and in the community, at large to enable Gods children to live out the commandment to give glory to God; to equip all of us through Word and Sacrament; and to send all of us into the world as His disciples. It is the one time when all members can join in a common purpose—to worship and thank God for God’s grace given to all in Word and Sacrament.

Altar Guild Lead Ellen Parker, Pam Ruggini and Sharon Krebs continue to do awesome work to organize the sacristy and maintain inventory of all items. This is another way we manage our budget and costs.

Worship Committee would like to thank the many Worship Stewards. Each Sunday it takes 31 VOLUNTEERS to assist Pastor Chelsea & Deacon Jamie Dungey through God’s word, water, bread and prayer nurture us in faith and send us out into the world. *“May the Lord now show you kindness and faithfulness, and I too will show you the same favor because you have done this” (2Samuel 2:6)*

**The Worship Ministry Team, in cooperation with our Pastor, Organist, & Choir Director, is responsible for worship services for the congregation that meet the diverse worship needs of the congregation and are consistent with the liturgical worship practices of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.**

In the midst of this global pandemic, Good Shepherd has continued to worship remotely, finding many ways to engage our membership, friends and neighbors in worship. We have volunteers doing the readings and prayers. Many have participated in sending photos for special projects and to brighten our presentation of worship.

We continue to look at what worship will look like as we move forward through the coming weeks and months. We will do what we need to continue to keep everyone safe and we are grateful for those who help us think creatively about what this will be for us!

### Choir Report

This had certainly been a ministry year like no other! It began as most have, with a restorative and informative conference in August (Music in the Mountains), and planning musical selections to complement the readings of the Narrative Lectionary we are now following in worship.

We prepared and shared in worship a cantata for the Christmas season, “The Wondrous Story” by Don Besig and Nancy Price, and have continued to partner with the GSGP Dancers as they offer their gifts as well.

March and the pandemic brought our gatherings to an abrupt halt. Almost as earth-shaking is Charles German’s announcement of his pending retirement. I want to thank Charles for his 49 years of outstanding service to Good Shepherd, and 20 years of support for me as choir director. Your musical talent and strong leadership are truly appreciated and will be greatly missed!

As we worship virtually for the time being, our choir continues to share God’s gift of music through recordings of our anthems made over the years. I hope this has added meaning to your worship experience in these unusual times.

It is hard to know what choir and music ministry at GSLC will look like in the near future, but we remain committed to sharing our musical gifts to praise God in any way we can!

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Gelormine

## COMFORT CREATORS

Knitting and Crocheting for the sick, grieving, homebound and to people in need of knowing that someone is praying for them. Our projects have been funded by Thrivent Action Teams and donations of yarn and supplies from members of the group and congregation. We also receive knit/crochet items from friends in the community outside of our church.

In the past year we have knitted/crocheted projects for the following:

Baby sets (sweater, hat, blanket) for NYU Lutheran Family Health Centers

Hats and scarves for the homeless

Shawls and lap blankets for residents at Avalon and friends and family of our congregation

We have also started crochet classes for all those who are interested. Classes have been taught by Peg Bernhardt with an assist from Pam Ruggini.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to the talented and dedicated members of this group that so generously share their creative gifts – Peg Bernhardt, Janice Brunsbach, Margaret Cotton, Gail Jorgenson, Joan Grace, Mai Ngo, Veronica Ngo, Roxanne Powers, Pam Ruggini, Lisa Staib, Francesca Thielke, Pat Whitehead, Lee Wollenberg, Connie Zylman and those who have dropped items off anonymously.

All are welcome to join us. We meet the first Saturday of every month in rooms B/C from 10:00am – 12:00pm. If you cannot make the meetings, but want to knit/crochet at home, we will supply everything you need to complete a project. We offer crochet classes as well, same time, same place.

Submitted by Roxanne Powers

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## CRAFTEERS

This group has been creating needlecraft mementos to celebrate life events within our church family as well as decorative items for the church since 1980.

This year we have been happy to present needlework gifts honoring many joyous occasions, including Baptisms, Weddings, Confirmation and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade First Communion. In addition, we have done small tokens for those in need of spiritual/medical healing. Small crosses have been stitched for the home communion kits. Our cross-stitch samplers appear throughout the church. Our latest project is a “Spirit” wall hanging that can be seen in our conference room.

A special thank you to the dedicated members of this group that give so freely of their time and talent: Dianna Anderson, Lynn Blenderman, Janice Brunsbach, Alice Cotton, Margaret Cotton, Mary Anne Denys, Joan Grace, Roxanne Powers, Janice Reinhardt, Linda Rolando, Pat Whitehead, and Connie Zylman.

All are welcome to join us. We meet most Wednesday mornings 9:30 – 12:00. We enjoy good fellowship, devotions and refreshments. Kits are available for those who cannot attend and wish to stitch at home. If anyone would like to learn counted cross-stitch or plastic canvas needlepoint, we can teach you.

Submitted by Roxanne Powers

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## LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION (LMM)

Lutheran Men in Mission is the men’s ministry of the ELCA at Good Shepherd. Through our ministry we strive to strengthen our Christian faith, and build relationships in our homes, congregation and community. By supporting and sharing within our group we hope to achieve our goals by study, actions and deeds.

LMM meets once a month usually on the third Saturday of each month. This is our typical breakfast meeting. The past year we have met at the “Time to Eat” diner in Somerville. In addition to our monthly meeting, we want to increase participation by having a service project.

This past year LMM has supported the Somerset County Jail Chaplaincy by collecting personal care items for the inmates. All men, young and old, are invited to attend our low key, friendly breakfast meetings.

--Dean Levin

## MILITARY SERVICES SUPPORT GROUP

We continue to keep in prayer and give thanks for the men and women who have served, and continue to serve, in the armed forces, especially the following members of GSLC:

Air Force: Bryan Davis

Army National Guard: Matthew Scholl

Navy: Christian Gallicchio, Kyle Mountney

Marine Corps: Billy Mone

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## SHEPHERD STITCHERS

*Good Shepherd Cares* – a label of love sewn on quilts made by creative hands God has given to a group known as the *Shepherd Stitchers*. Our ministry continues to grow, and this past year our gifts have been shared with:

### Quilts

- IHN Guests
- Safe + Sound Somerset
- Hennepin County Medical Center, Minneapolis, MN
- GSLC Baptized Babies
- Quilts for Kids – Fairless Hills, PA
- Homebound GSLC Members

### Face Masks

- Healthcare Workers
- GSLC Members, Family, and Friends

### Tote Bags

- IHN Guests
- Safe + Sound Somerset

### Fleece Hats

- VA Hospital, Lyons, NJ
- Project Homeless Connect of Somerset County

### **The *Shepherd Stitchers* include:**

Peg Bernhardt

Mary Lou Gorman

Elsbeth Rogaczewski

Lynn Blenderman

Bonnie Gould

Linda Rolando

Martha Brockman

Joan Grace

Lauren Shotwell

Janice Brunsbach

Peg Hauschild

Carol Shutack

Margaret Cotton

Janice Johnson-Richards

Julie Stevens

Nancy Davis

Dean Meister

Cathy Thornton

Mary Anne Denys

Peggy Reier

Pat Whitehead

Christine Duque

Please feel free to join us on the first and third Mondays of the month from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM and the following Tuesday afternoon each month from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. All you need to bring is yourself. We provide the sewing machines, fabric, quilting supplies, laughter and good conversation.

Special thanks to all the good “shepherds” for their generous contributions and support.

Janice Brunsbach – Coordinator

## SIXTY-PLUSSERS

The Sixty Plussers enjoyed a variety of guests & programs starting in September 2019!

"Coffee House Project" featuring John & Becca treated us to music for all ages & abilities. October brought latest news for Medicare in 2020 from Somerset Co. Office on Aging. November was a sing-a-long featuring piano with Mary Ann Schwarz. December Christmas lunch at Vo-Tech was followed by an enlightening program "The Americanization of Santa....from Saint to Claus".

Jack Farmer regaled us with his experiences working in theaters on Broadway behind the scenes. Our last meeting brought guest Nora Dunn to speak of her experiences as a female veteran and how it impacted her life.

Thank you to each & every one of the "Plussers" for your support and participation.

--Sandy Alexander, Coordinator

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## WOMEN OF GOOD SHEPHERD

All women of Good Shepherd and their friends are invited to informal gatherings with a focus on fellowship and outreach. The group, formerly known as the Daughters of Eve, supports the Ronald McDonald House in New Brunswick, which serves area hospitals, as their outreach ministry. The following events were held this year:

- June 13 – With the creative guidance of Joan Grace, we met at Church and made 80 beautiful hand-stamped cards for the gift bags for Safe+Sound and for the Stamp Out Despair project for *God's Work Our Hands* Sunday.
- July 10 – Our annual Potluck Picnic was hosted by Suzanne Westberg. As always, there was great food and fellowship!
- August 8 – Our annual Book Discussion was "Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker" by Jennifer Chaverini and was held at the home of Nancy Davis. Kathy Kuhblank provided the refreshments.
- September 8 – Participated in a variety of *God's Work Our Hands* projects including assembling the "Stamp Out Despair" packets and gift tote bags for Safe+Sound, both of which included hand-written notes of encouragement.
- October 11 – We gathered at Ronald McDonald House for a tour of their facility as a way of their thanking us for our support of them. Afterwards, we enjoyed lunch together at the Somerset Diner. For devotions, we all shared those things for which we are grateful.
- November 1 – Pat Whitehead hosted our Movie Night and we watched "Come Sunday." A discussion of the movie followed over pizza. Thank you to the Adult Ministry Team which provided the funds for the pizza.
- December 18 – We donated 36 dozen cookies for the GSLC Living Nativity at our Annual Cookie Exchange held at the home of Jill Weidner.
- January 10 – Nancy Davis & Pat Whitehead hosted our Annual Game Night at Church. Joan Grace led us in a group game of "Left-Right-Center" which raised money for Ronald McDonald House. We also learned how to play "Farkle" together.
- February 15 – We had an amazing turnout for our first Winter Doldrums Potluck at the home of Nancy Davis with requests that we do it again next year.
- March 9 – Charlene Walker gave a fascinating African Travelogue at the home of Joan Grace.
- At each event, items from the Ronald McDonald House Wish List were collected. Monetary donations of **\$400** were also collected. **Thank you to everyone who participated!** Thank you also to Laura Meerovich for all her efforts on our behalf.

Please help us help Ronald McDonald House by saving aluminum pull-tabs. There is a container in the Narthex. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted, Stephanie Meister

# **GOOD SHEPHERD EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 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:

**Trevor Dunn** 2020-2021

### 1<sup>st</sup> 3-year term

**Richard Alagona** 2020-2023

**Laura Paknis** 2020-2023

### 2<sup>nd</sup> 3-year term

**Nadine Pitti** 2020-2023

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Current Council Members:

Lynn Francesconi 2018-2021

Skip Fuller 2019-2022

Nadine Pitti 2017-2020

Skip Schaeffer 2018-2021 (2nd term)

Johanna Scholl 2018-2021

Nancy Waltermire 2019-2022 (2nd term)

Suzanne Westberg 2019-2022 (2nd term)

Jill Weidner 2019-2022

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## NON-COUNCIL NOMINEES

### The Nominating Committee recommends the following persons:

**Brian Pitti** – Nominating Committee – one year term – 2020-2021

**Chris Fuson**– Nominating Committee - two year term – 2020-2022

**Loretta Grace** – Nominating Committee - two year term – 2020-2022



## COUNCIL NOMINEE BIOS

### First 3-Year Term

#### **Richard Alagona**

Member of GSLC Since 1966

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

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

Current Participation:

- Communion Assistant
- Co-coordinator Holiday Food Baskets
- Counting Team

Prior Participation:

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

#### **Laura Paknis (maiden name Whitehead)**

Member of GSLC since 1983

Family: Married to Brett Paknis for 8 years. Two children: Graham (3 years) and Reece (1 year)

Occupation: Interior design/House Rehabber, Real Estate Agent and MOM!

Current Participation:

- Church Council

Prior Participation:

- ELCA Youth Gathering Chaperone (New Orleans 2009)
- ELCA Youth Gathering participant (St. Louis 2000)
- Youth Group Leader
- Children's Choir Member
- Liturgical Dance Member
- Acolyte

### Second 3-Year Term

#### **Nadine Pitti**

Member of GSLC since 1999

Family: Married to Brian Pitti. Mom to 5 young adults ranging from 14 to 21 years old and a dog.

Occupation: Surgical Scheduler for Rutgers Cancer Institute of NJ in New Brunswick, NJ.

I have held the position of Evangelism Ministry Team Liaison to Council for the past 3 years. You might have seen me singing in Grace Alive services, teaching Sunday school for the past 16 years or helping with the youth and confirmation classes. In my spare time, the little I have, I enjoy spending time with our family and friends.

## **Youth Representative**

### **Trevor Dunn**

- Confirmed at GSLC
- Sophomore in high school
- Attending Middlesex High School

Things he likes to do:

- Play video games
- Hang out with friends
- Build computers
- Go to Youth Gatherings
- Attend Church Events (North Carolina, Lock Ins, etc.)
- Talk to Friends

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE NOMINEE BIOS**

**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.

### **Loretta Grace**

I am the proud mom of Finn who is 16 and Thomas who is 11. I've been a member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for about 30 years now, and have served in a variety of capacities and positions. Among my activities, I've served as bread baker, Sunday school teacher, reader, social hour host/baker. I also do the bulletin board for the Sunday church school that you see by Luther Hall.

I returned to the workforce after 16 years of being a stay-at-home parent and I now work at Wegmans in Woodbridge helping in a variety of areas at the store.

In my spare time when I have it I enjoy reading, writing, watching movies, spending time with my kids and cats, arts and crafts, as well as playing games online. I tend to prefer small intimate gatherings where any topic goes to huge parties. I'm also an advocate for mental health awareness, autism acceptance, and LGBTQ issues. I am honored to serve on the nominating committee and I will do my best to do the best job possible.

### **Brian Pitti**

I have been a member of GSLC since May of 2017. I am married to Nadine Pitti. I have 5 young adult children ranging from age 14 to 21. I am an Assistant General Manager for Wawa. My hobbies include working on cars, helping neighbors/friends/family with Handyman tasks and I have a small DJ Business. I enjoy spending time with my family and friends.