

THE GOOD NEWS

"Called and sent into the world, we seek to be the living expression of God's compassion, forgiveness and love"



Worship Schedule

Sundays at 8:30 A.M.
and 10:30 A.M.

10:30A.M. online and
in-person

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Congregation Council

President

Merritt Wichner

Vice President

Chris Zechman

Secretary

Deb Botkin

Co-Treasurers

Diane Timmons

Terry Rust



2026 Council Members:

Janis Bell, Deb Botkin, Marcia
Morris, Terry Rust, Sharon
Slusher, Diane Timmons,
Merritt Wichner, Chris
Zechman



Good Shepherd's Staff

Vicar

Don Humphreys

Choir Directors

Nancy Davis, Mike Morris

Handbell Director

Nancy Davis

Organist

Sharon Safley

Secretary

OPEN POSITION

Find us online at the
links below:

Website:

jointheflock.org

Facebook:

facebook.com/GoodShepherdSpringfield

YouTube:

Good Shepherd Springfield Ohio

The Good News is a monthly publication from
Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church
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The Minister's Musings

This past month has been an interesting experience for me because I have been filling in for our recently departed church secretary. Who knew how much work the office of a small church does??? I sure took it for granted. Of course, as always, the people of this congregation have stepped up and helped me in every possible way. Throughout my business career, I had several opportunities to hire an administrative assistant. I never did, preferring to keep my own calendar and use the open position to hire another graphic designer, web designer, or other critical staff member. Filling in this month has given me a new appreciation for the position. So, we are DEFINITELY in the market for a new church secretary. If you know of someone who might be looking for a job, here are the particulars:

- Part time (about 29 hours a week) with no health care benefits
- Person should be good at computer stuff - it would be great to have someone with some graphic design capability, as well.
- Person should be efficient, friendly, and organized - they are the face of the church!
- Person should be discreet (able to maintain confidentiality) - this person may see and hear things that should not be shared.
- Person should be a good collaborator - this person will have to work with the Vicar and various members of various church committees every week.

Do you know someone who might “fit the bill?” Pass this along to them and have them get in touch with me, Merritt, or Chris! We will be posting the job officially soon on various job boards.

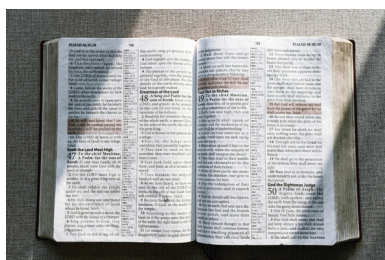
~Don

Life at Good Shepherd

WORSHIP

Join us for **in person** worship, Sunday mornings at **8:30 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.** Watch our late service live stream at **10:30 A.M.** on Facebook or anytime just by going to our page!

(Click the Facebook icon to be taken directly to our page.)

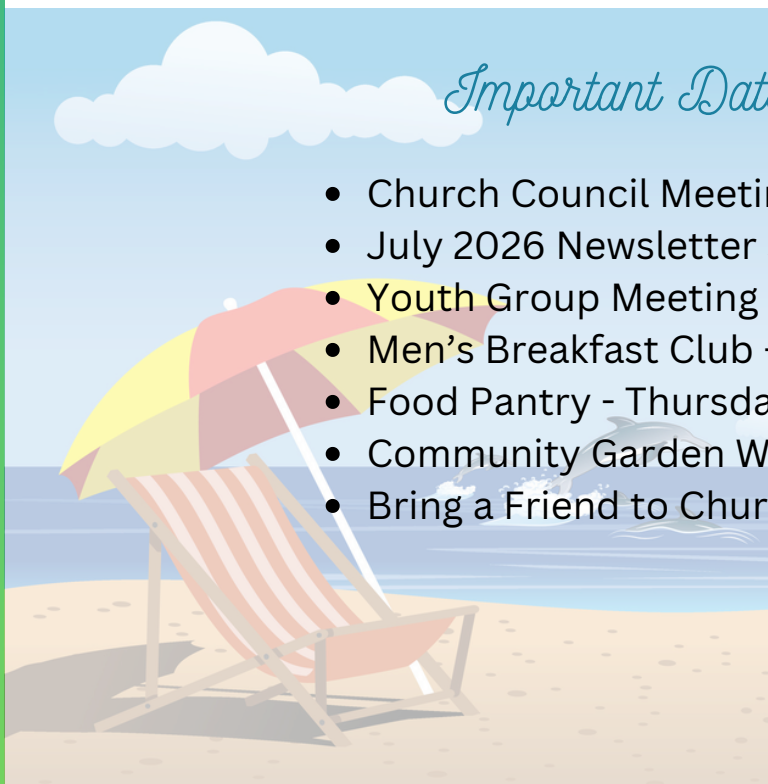


Bible Study at Good Shepherd

Join in Bible study, **Tuesday mornings at 9:00 A.M.** each week, for in-person class. The materials for each week are sent out via email on Monday, and paper copies are available at each class. Everyone is welcome!

Important Dates to Remember in July

- Church Council Meeting - Tuesday, July 14
- July 2026 Newsletter Submission Deadline - Monday, July 13
- Youth Group Meeting - Monday, July 20
- Men's Breakfast Club - Thursday, July 16
- Food Pantry - Thursday, July 16
- Community Garden Workday - Saturday, July 18
- Bring a Friend to Church Sunday - Sunday, July 19





THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

Our prayers are with the family of Judy Heil who recently passed to the Church Triumphant. God has won the battle, and this loved one now resides in the presence of Jesus.



Congratulations Graduates!



Congratulations to all of our graduates. We had a great celebration with them during and after the service on June 14th. Check out the pictures! Our graduates were Christopher Finnegan, Braden and Seth Malone, Georgia Rigsbee, and Hailey Zehring.



Community Garden



Our Good Shepherd Community Garden is planted, growing and producing. We have green tomatoes and peppers popping out, and soon the Swiss chard will be ready for cutting. We made our first produce harvest and delivery of radishes, arugula, and spinach to the Springfield Soup Kitchen two weeks ago.

We have added an herb bed this year, as well as two pots of mint. Need a specific herb for a recipe? We are most likely growing it and you are welcome to use it.

This year we are blessed to have the continuing help of our Iranian neighbor, Safa. She has been active in planting, weeding, and ‘suckering’ the tomatoes. At her suggestion, we are trying to grow artichokes this year. Be sure to stop and say ‘hi’ if you see her in the gardens with her adorable son Arta ‘helping’.

Thanks to Susan Kogler for all of her time hard and work spent in our community garden. Garden workdays for this month will be Saturday July 18th and 25th and we could really use your help. Contact Deb Botkin at dkbotkin@outlook.com or 937-271-7688 if you have any questions. Peace and blessings.



Every third Sunday is Bring-a-Friend-to-Church Sunday. Becky Dunn and others always have a great spread of cookies and other sweet treats to celebrate the day. Of course, you don't have to wait until the third Sunday to bring a friend ... invite someone to join us for worship EVERY Sunday!



Peace. So Knot and Quilt

The "Quilt of the Week" display has been up in the overflow room for a few weeks now. Did you look at the quilts? The weather has been good for outdoor activities, but there are still very hot afternoons and showers to come inside and piece quilts. There are not many quilts downstairs ready to be knotted yet. I think we are below our average this year. There is a good Singer sewing machine to sew on, there is plenty of material to select to put your colors and designs together. Don't be shy! Step up and expand your talents. God's work is waiting to be done. This year shipping the kits will cost \$4.00. That increase in price is a lousy excuse not to make as many as we are able. On Facebook, go to LWR quilts and see other churches making quilts, displaying quilts, comments and hints. Lots of information there. Let's get busy and catch up to last year's number of finished quilts--57 or so. We have a ways to go.

Peace. So Knot and Quilt.
Mary Parsons

Good Shepherd



Food Pantry

We had an early site visit from our Second Harvest supervisor and passed with flying colors! Our food heroes passed out wonderful groceries to 210 grateful neighbors. Here are the people that made it happen:

Mike Acton, Susan & Richard Kogler, Dianne Kress, Barb Hairston, Karen Beckett, Chris Zechman, Edie Vrooman, Mary Parsons, Skip Warner, Pastor Don & Becky Humphreys, Jacob Humphreys, Linda Orum, Terry Rust, Doug & Nancy Davis, David King, Merritt Wichner, Deb Botkin, Barb Strawsburg, Pam & Phil Winchell, Mark Roberts, Jason Lovitt, Sandy Falkner

Special thanks to Barb & Fred Shuirr and Edie Vrooman for their generous food donations! Deb Santiago sent special grocery bags that she sewed from Buckeye themed fabric, sent all the way from Damascus, Oregon. Thank you Deb! Our next pantry is Thursday July 16th at 5:30pm. What could be more important?

God's work. Our hands!
denise roberts

Shop at Kroger? Sign up for the
**Kroger Community Rewards
Program!**

This gives our pantry a check at least three times a year. On the internet go to the Kroger Community Rewards Program, link your Kroger rewards card to our pantry (Organization Code: AS731) and then every time you shop at Kroger, you help our pantry!

Pantry Needs

Tomato sauce, breakfast
Items, & crackers



Congregational Meeting: July 19



As you may have noticed, our parking lot is in major need of repair. The Property Committee sought and received 3 Estimates for paving the existing paved parking Lot, the gravel parking lot, and alley. A paving & Seal Coating Company was selected by Church Council. The following detailed estimate is found in newsletters sent to church members, and will be discussed and voted on by the congregation on July 19. Don't miss it!

See your GSELC members July Newsletter sent to your email for info on the parking lot costs and selection recommended by the church council.



We are in the middle of our summertime music ministry. *If you would like to participate in vocal or instrumental solos, duets, or ensembles, please see Nancy Davis. You may also request favorite hymns for summer - look for the bulletin insert for more information!*



Fellowship Committee

Wow, it's hard to believe that we are now in the second half of 2026. And boy was the first half of 2026 filled with love, laughter and fellowship, A quick overview for your reading pleasure.

- Feb – Super Bowl Sundaes, Fat Tuesday (our first evening event including the gentlemen from the 12 step program, and Lenten soup supper.)
- Mar – Pie Sunday for Pi day (3/14), Lenten Soup Suppers, and a St Patrick's Day meal was provided to the gentlemen from the 12 step program.
- Apr – Easter Breakfast
- May – An evening taco party with our friends from the 12-step program, and the Memorial Day parade (with goodies and coffee) supplied to visitors by our awesome church council.
- June – Graduation Sunday, we actually had 5 young people complete a big step in the future endeavors. We applaud each of them and wish them much success and God's guidance in the future.

We truly are a family that loves to gather together in fellowship, love and laughter; all the things that are good for the soul! Refer to the schedule below for more exciting events!

7/5 – Independence Day floats

7/19 – Bring a friend to church

8/9 – Church Picnic (after the 10:30 service)

8/16 – Bring a friend to church



Yarners: Offering comfort and care to those who need it most!



Often, when natural disasters strike or when war drives families from their homes, our hearts ache with compassion, but we don't know how to help. Good Shepherd's Yarners have a way that each of us can offer comfort to those in need.

The Yarners are once again seeking your help to prepare Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits. These kits consist of a bath towel, bath soap, a comb, a nail clipper and a toothbrush. They are specifically designed to help people coping with poverty, disaster, conflict and more, and they provide dignity and hope in the direst situations. Last year, through your generosity, we completed 115 kits.

Our goal this year is to prepare at least that many and hopefully more! We will be collecting these items during July and early August. In the Fellowship Room, there are instructions as to size and type of each item needed along with a box for your item/s. Or, you may choose to make a monetary donation and let us do the shopping for you. Just mark that your gift is for the Personal Care Kits. Each kit cost approximately \$11 for the items and then \$1.50 for mailing.

These simple gifts are a tangible way to offer comfort to those suffering and to express love to our neighbors around the world. Please consider helping with this worthwhile project.

Questions: Contact Marcia Morris, Barb Bendure, or Diane Timmons



Have you ever wanted to be a Communion Steward?

Here at Good Shepherd, we have a very dedicated team who helps all of us prepare for this important sacrament each week. Our “communion stewards”, as we call ourselves, work before and after each service to make sure that the table is prepared properly for communion. We have some great members who volunteer to bake the bread that is served using a recipe that has been handed down for a while as I understand.

We make sure there is a supply of wine, grape juice and gluten free wafers. We follow very detailed instructions on how to properly set everything up from filling the trays with both empty cups and cups filled with grape juice, to placing the bread and wine chalices in the proper locations, having trays available for the used cups, making sure we have cups available for the Pastor and assistants and making sure we have enough communion linens on the altar. After each service, everything is cleared off, washed and put away for the next service. It’s not difficult, it doesn’t require a huge amount of time and there are always two or more members helping.

Our team members usually serve about twice a quarter, and we all pitch in for festival Sundays and other special services. If you feel called to help with this important ministry, please contact the office, talk to Sandy Falkner or any of the other team members. We would love to have you join us!

Special Offerings

Each month, Good Shepherd highlights one of our outreach programs, and asks the congregation to remember them with gifts to continue their missions.

These programs include, Habitat for Humanity, the Community garden, the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, and the Food Pantry.

By featuring these, it will be a gentle reminder of the work that your generous contributions make in helping others.

To make a donation, use an Special Offering envelope, found in the back of the pew, and mark it with the charity's name. You may also mail your gift to the church, be sure to note the program your donation is designated for on your check or in a note.

The outreach for July will benefit the **Pastor's Discretionary Fund**.

In Christ,
Merritt Wichner

Groups, Gatherings and Constant News



Announcement Page Prayer Chain

The list of names for prayer concerns is included on the announcement page. If you would like to add someone to this list, please contact the office by Thursday of the current week. You may fill out the Members of the Flock insert under Prayer Requests, call the church office, or email the church office. Once the prayer concern has passed, please contact the office to have the name(s) removed.

Altar Flowers

Would you like to give altar flowers to brighten the sanctuary on a special Sunday? You can now check for open altar flower dates, each week, in the announcement page. We do not limit the number of vases so feel free to order for any special occasion!



Audiovisual Center

We're excited to share that our streaming capabilities have never been better! Many of you have enjoyed our services online thru Facebook, whether live or on demand in the days that follow. Now, our equipment has a new, dedicated home —replacing the old folding table with a professional, organized and very beautiful Roll Top desk. This upgrade enhances security plus the quality and reliability of our streams, ensuring a seamless experience for everyone tuning in. Please feel free to stop back by the organ and check it out!



Coffee Hour

Volunteers are needed for this **every Sunday event**. A sign-up calendar and instructions are in the Fellowship room. Volunteers for Coffee Sundays can bring cookies or sweets to share on Cookie Sunday. We appreciate all of our volunteers and look forward to a little warmth for all who gather to worship! - **The Fellowship Team**



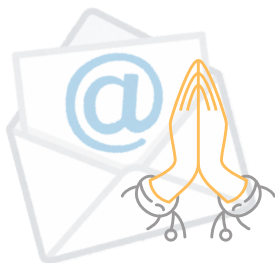
Hot beverage menu:
Coffee (decaf and regular),
Hot water for tea and cocoa



Digital Outreach

Please go to jointheflock.org to see our website, it is open for viewing to all, share it with your friends. Help get the word out about Good Shepherd, and have a look if you haven't already seen our website.

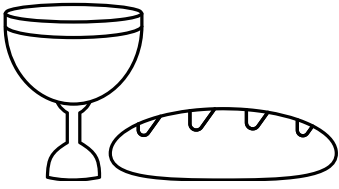
Also please "like" our page on Facebook; search "good shepherd Springfield." Our late Sunday services are available to view online during the service and any time afterwards, as streaming video.



Email Prayer Chain

Would you like to be a part of the Email Prayer Chain? Call or email the Church office and we will put you on that list.

Holy Communion



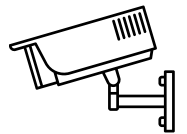
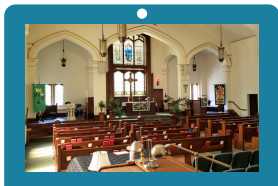
We are blessed to commune together with the Community of Saints in the Eucharist! God's grace abounds! We will commune at the communion rail (come to communion rail, kneel or stand, and elements will be brought to you) for the foreseeable future.



Homebound Communion

It is time to renew our homebound communion ministry! If you would like to be a part of this important ministry, by taking the consecrated elements from our worship service to those who are unable to be with us in person, please contact the office. We Share in God's grace by building relationships!

Invitation to Join the A/V Team



Good Shepherd has a wonderful online presence now! With the new audio/visual system we are able to provide a welcoming and more pleasing visual experience for those watching on Facebook. We would love for you to be a part of the A/V team! Please contact Nick Lubbers at (937) 408-0104, if you would like to be a part of this important outreach ministry.

Men's Breakfast Club

Please consider joining us for good conversation, fellowship, and breakfast. We meet at IHOP on Bechtel Ave., the third Thursday of each month. Our next meeting will be **Thursday, July 16, at 9:00 A.M.** Questions? Contact Don Bendure: dbendure136@gmail.com





One Call Now is a platform for sending voice, text, and email messages to a large group. Good Shepherd is using One Call Now to notify congregants of things like unexpected closings and special messages, as well as weekly Bible verses provided by the church leader. One Call Now is up and running and you should have received messages if you have signed up in be included in One Call Now. If you want to sign up for One Call Now, be taken off the “Call” list, or change your mode of contact (message or email), please contact Deb Botkin at dkbotkin@outlook.com or (937) 271-7688.



The Good Shepherd WiFi connection is named: GSELC_WIFI_Guest. For security, the password is available on signs posted at the back of the sanctuary or in the Fellowship room near the television. If you are connecting to the WiFi for the first time, be sure you enter the password exactly as it is shown on the signs, so that you are able to access the WiFi guest network.



Yarners

Yarners is a group of women who meets **every Wednesday** at various homes for crafting, fun and conversation. Everyone brings their own craft, be it knitting, sewing, drawing, crocheting, and works at their own pace while sharing life. We’d be happy to have you join us, no need to be a church member. Contact Barb Bendure (bbendure136@gmail.com) or Marcia Morris (mmorris937@aol.com) for more information.



Prayer Coloring: Take some time to color and pray.
Meditate on the message. Spend some time alone with God.