

# 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.  
in person**

**10:30 A.M. Live stream  
on Facebook**

### IN THIS ISSUE

The Yarners - Special Request  
pg. 7

Fellowship Committee  
Updates  
pg. 9

Music Department News  
pg. 11

## Congregation Council

### President

Chris Zechman

### Vice President

Merritt Wichner

### Secretary

Edie Vrooman

### Treasurer (Temp.)

Diane Timmons



## 2025 Council Members:

Janis Bell, Deb Botkin, Terry Rust, Sharon Slusher, Diane Timmons, Edie Vrooman, Merritt Wichner, Chris Zechman



## Good Shepherd's Staff

### Pastor

Don Humphreys

### Choir Directors

Nancy Davis, Mike Morris

### Handbell

Nancy Davis

### Organist

Sharon Safley

### Secretary

Maria Taylor

### Director

**Find us online at the  
links below:**

### Website:

[jointheflock.org](http://jointheflock.org)

### Facebook:

[facebook.com/GoodShepherdSpringfield](https://facebook.com/GoodShepherdSpringfield)

### YouTube:

Good Shepherd Springfield Ohio

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937-322-7222  
[gsefcflock@gmail.com](mailto:gsefcflock@gmail.com)

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# *The Minister's Musings*

Greetings, all! In my first musing, I introduced myself a bit. Allow me to continue that introduction and say a bit more about what it means for me to be your Synodically Approved Minister. At the most basic level, it means that the Bishop of the Southern Ohio Synod has appointed me (entrusted me) to be your minister as I work toward ordination. Since I went to a non-Lutheran seminary, and since I am coming to Good Shepherd from another faith tradition (Baptist), I have entered a program sponsored by the Synod called TEEM (Theologically Educated Emerging Ministers). In this program, I will attend some seminary classes to shore up my “Lutheranism.” In the meantime, the Bishop has given me the blessing and authority to run the worship services, officiate Communion, Baptisms and Funerals, and lead our congregation (since Marriage requires state licensure, I am not able to officiate a wedding until after my ordination). How long will it take to get ordained? We are still figuring that out! I will let you know once the Synod program leaders decide how much training I need.

For now, I want you to know that I am available to meet with you, to visit the sick at home or in the hospital, to serve on the Executive Council, and, most importantly, just to get to know you. See the bulletin for my contact information or call the church office and ask Maria. At this time, I am still employed by S4 NetQuest, a Learning Services Firm in Columbus, Ohio, as the VP of Operations and Instructional Design Lead. I will be working with our Executive Council to determine when and how I should be transitioning out of that role.

One final thing . . . what should you call me? The title of pastor in the Lutheran Church is reserved for those who are ordained and called to serve a church. So, technically, I am working towards being your official pastor. Until then, you can call me whatever you are comfortable calling me (“Hey you!” or “Don” or “Your most High and Eminent Holiness” (just kidding)). I am honored and humbled just to be here, walking, running, stumbling, on this journey we call life with God and His people.

Until next time, keep praying and keep growing in faith.

Don



## From the Council President

Dear Good Shepherd Friends,

It doesn't seem possible that another summer is slipping by. This has been a very busy summer at Good Shepherd. Many of our congregants have been working diligently to supply some of the needs of the community. The Community Gardeners have been hard at work weeding and watering and the garden looks wonderful. It will soon be providing yummy vegetables for the tables of members of both the church and community. As I look over the garden, I see signs that certain things are not ready to pick, yet. As we impatiently wait for the maturity of onions and zucchini, we must remember that no vegetable shall be picked before its time. Thank you, Susan Kogler and Deb Botkin, for spearheading that vital ministry.

Likewise, it seems the Food Pantry is busier than ever. It is wonderful to see so many volunteers working to supply the needs of our neighbors with food insecurities. It is not an easy task in the climate we are experiencing. Federal budget cuts mean fewer federal dollars to help support this cause, and so it is up to us to dig deep into our pockets to help with the shortfall. Denise has bags out for members to take to the grocery that have food pantry needs spelled out on them if you are interested in assisting.

It has been so nice to see our pews filling with people on Sunday mornings. We've been seeing the return of some old friends as well as new faces to add to our friendship list. I feel a new energy at worship services, and I hope you can feel it as well. Don Humphreys has certainly been giving us somethings to consider on Sunday mornings. This summer he has been focusing on how we may be a blessing to our neighbors. There is certainly much opportunity there.

Under the leadership of Deb Botkin, your council is busy planning for Rally Day, to be held on September 21st. At that time, we hope to give you an opportunity to see the various ministries at work in our church. In the meantime, we do have a need for volunteers on Sunday mornings. One area that has a current vital need is ushering. This is not a difficult job. Handing out bulletins, assisting with the offering and communion are some of the tasks in ushering. We are currently very low on ushers, so if this is a job you think you could do, please call the office and let Maria know. Please take a moment this week in your daily prayers to discuss with God how He would like to see you use your talents to Glorify our Lord.

I also would like to thank Nancy Davis for the wonderful job she does of getting musical talent to assist with the 10:30 worship service during the summer. It always amazes me the number of talented people we have, and Nancy is so good at getting individuals to share their talents for the glory of our Lord. We are the lucky recipients of the wonderful musical offerings on Sunday mornings.

I had lunch with a friend of mine this week who was telling me about a moving mass she had attended. The mass was to pray for our immigrant neighbors who are facing deportation. The priest presented mass in three different languages, English, French Creole and Spanish. Her eyes lit up as she told me of the out pouring of love during this wonderful church service. She explained that she had never been to such a powerful service before, and she felt tingly all over again as she thought about it. God is certainly working in powerful ways in Springfield, Ohio.

Yours in Christ,  
Chris Zechman  
Council President



# 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 the right to be taken directly to our page.)



### *Important Dates to Remember in August*

Quilt Knotting Party - Monday, August 11

Church Council Meeting - Tuesday, August 12

Summer Church Picnic/Cookie Sunday - Sunday, August 17

September Newsletter Submission Deadline - Monday, August 18

Men's Breakfast Club - Thursday, August 21

Food Pantry - Thursday, August 21

Music Rehearsals for God's Work, Our Hands Sunday - Sunday, August 24 & 31



*From the Office: Please ensure that your email inbox is cleaned and checked regularly and that the email address on file with the office, is kept current, this way emails from the office have a better chance of reaching you. Recently there have been instances of emails not being delivered. If the office receives a message stating an email is undelivered for any reason, 2 resend attempts will be made. The best solution is to keep your inbox clean so that emails from the office (and everyone else you want to hear from!) reach you. Thank you for your attention to this matter!*



# Community Garden



July 11, 2025

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Community Vegetable Garden & Pollinator Garden

The access to water has been greatly improved with the installation of a retractable water hose & reel.

The new watering hose system consists of a lightweight hose with a rewinding reel, which has been mounted on a wooden post. This new approach is designed to make watering the garden easier for our watering team members, Denise Roberts and Deb Botkin.

This latest gardening improvement was envisioned and installed by Skip Warner and Terry Rust. Thanks to both of them for their willingness to do these projects to improve upon the Community Garden ministry at Good Shepherd.

Thanks to all of our Community Garden volunteers!  
Sue Kogler





# Fellowship Committee

July 17, 2025

*This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. – Psalm 118:24*

So what is fellowship all about anyway! It is the fun and sad times God has blessed us with to celebrate with one another. For when we gather together in His name, He is present with each of us, and our laughter, encouraging words and love that we have for each other lifts us up and fills us with His presence.

And that is exactly what our congregation did on July 6<sup>th</sup>; we gathered after the 10:30 service and continued the celebration of Independence Day with ice cream floats. The conversations were fun filled and laughter was in abundance. We prepared over 30 floats that day which kept our spirits light and airy on such a warm sunshiny day!

If you missed this celebration, please mark your calendars for upcoming future events. Our next big event is scheduled for **August 17, 2025**. You won't want to miss our summer picnic! Watch for upcoming events and sign-up sheets in the weekly bulletin!

Cookie Sundays are always a fun time to visit with congregation members and visitors. They are schedule for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month. If you have not had the opportunity to join, please do, as it is a time to share and get to know one another better! A big shout out and thank you, to Andy and Carolyn Shuirr, Barb Bendure, Chris Zechman, Deb Botkin, Edie Vrooman and Becky Dunn for the awesome tasty cookies!

Bringing back the warm beverages between services every Sunday is doing okay, but we do not seem to have as many people stopping by for a quick sip and chat. Also, in an effort to stop waste, I have noticed every week we pour out the entire pot of decaf coffee. So, after we use up the decaf coffee, we will no longer be brewing decaf coffee but will have instant decaf on hand if needed. We still need more volunteers to assist; if you want a little something to do, consider volunteering. A big thanks to Diane Timmons for always having the coffee pot ready to go (it takes 20 minutes to warm up), it is a big help knowing it is ready for coffee making when the volunteer(s) arrive. Thanks to all who volunteered to help thus far; Don and Barb Bendure, Janis Bell, Deb Botkin, Melinda Judd and Chris Zechman!

Fellowship is also an important time to welcome and celebrate our new members, confirmation, graduation and even having to say goodbye sometimes. Please watch your bulletin for any special events.

Your friend in Christ Jesus,  
Becky Dunn

Good Shepherd



# Food Pantry

Our food angels were EXHAUSTED! We served 342 grateful people on a hot muggy evening. We could use some more folks that can carry boxes weighing less than 20lbs. up our stairs!

Many thanks to Barb & Fred Shuirr who again donated 8 beautiful shopping bags filled with food! Also First Lutheran Church collected lots of food for our pantry, Thank you!

Thanks to the anonymous person that left 2 huge bags of food at the food pantry doorstep!

Please know that we appreciate your donations of food & dollars!

Here are this month's angels: Mike Acton, David & Jakob Roberts, Dan & Dianne Kress, Edie Vrooman, Susan & Richard Kogler, Pastor Don & Becky Humphreys, Mary Parsons, Nick Lubbers, Sandy Falkner, Skip Warner, Nancy & Doug Davis, Mark Roberts, Linda Orum, Nancy Finke, Richard Meeks, Terry Rust, Susan Foley, Kennedy Humphreys, Chris Zechmen, Barb Hairston, Phil & Pam Winchell, Deb Botkin

I truly appreciate your commitment to helping others!

Our next pantry is **Thursday, August 21st at 5:30 P.M.** Please join us!

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. Just log on the internet to the Kroger Community Rewards Program and every time you shop at Kroger, you help our pantry!

## Pantry Needs

Breakfast Foods  
Canned Vegetables  
Pasta  
Tomato Sauce  
Soup  
Shopping Bags





## Music Department

*News &  
Updates!*



Invitation to all instrumentalists to play on God's Work, Our Hands Sunday, **September 7 at the 10:30am service**. Song is hymn tune, "Joyful, Joyful". See Nancy for the music and Sharon for an instrument, if you no longer have yours. \*\*Rehearsals will be Sundays August 24 & August 31 at 9:30 A.M., and September 7 at 10:00 A.M.\*\*



### UPCOMING MUSIC EVENTS:

Music Party and potluck on **Thursday, September 4, 6:00 P.M.** at Pastor Don and Becky Humphreys' home. Please see Nancy (or the directory) if you need their address.



First Choir rehearsal **Thursday, September 11 at 7:00 P.M.**  
Choir's first Sunday to sing is **September 14 at 10:30 A.M.**

First bell rehearsal will be **Sunday, September 14 at 9:30 A.M.**



Everyone is invited to come to the party and rehearsal and sing!!!





# The Quilting Room

It is always darkest before God opens a new day of sunshine! When I whined that there was not enough time to sew more quilts this summer, Barb Bendure brought in 5 quilts she made, Donna Wilson brought in 5 quilts she has made, and Marcia Morris is making a quilt top. There are two more women who SEW that could be recruited to help this mission. Nehemiah Foundation has a need for single-bed size quilts for some of the children in their group, so we now have a local stated need for quilts. Lots of activity, all for God's work.

There will be a knotting party **Monday, August 11 at 1:30 P.M.** at Good Shepherd, to tie the quilts made with batting. They require more knots per directions from LWR, so will take a little longer to finish. Anyone able to sew is welcome to join us. Anyone able to tie 3 knots can help finish the quilts.

Come join us in God's Work, Our hands.

Again, the knotting party will be **Monday, August 11 at 1:30 P.M.**

Any questions, contact Mary Parsons 937-323-8870.

**New  
Info!**



# 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 and August will benefit the **General Fund**.

In Christ,  
Christine Zechman



# 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 remove the name(s).

## 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!







## Bible Study

Bible study classes are being held at **First Lutheran** from 10:30 A.M. - noon each Tuesday of the month. Everyone from Good Shepherd is welcome to continue attending. Bible study materials are included in the weekly "Worship Materials" email.

## Coffee for Commuters

Coffee for Commuters continues throughout the summer. We meet at 7:00 A.M. to prepare and spread joy from 7:30 A.M. - 9:00 A.M., followed by minor cleanup. Contact Nick Lubbers with any questions: (937) 408-0104.



## 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



## Communion Stewards/Servants of the Lord

Would you like to be a part of our team of communion stewards? We set up the communion bread, wine and grape juice each Sunday and do a small amount of clean up after the service. Our group is organized so that most teams just serve every other month and there are plenty of us who would be happy to show you how it works. If you're interested in being a part of this important ministry, please contact Sandy Falkner at (937) 215-2956 or [mom\\_falkner@hotmail.com](mailto:mom_falkner@hotmail.com).





## Communion Update

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.



## Cookie Sundays

Cookie Sundays are the **3rd Sunday** of each month. You are invited to join in community and share some coffee and cookies!



## Church Website/Digital Outreach

Good Shepherd website-

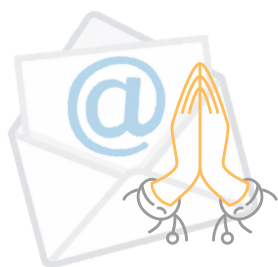
Please visit our website [jointheflock.org](http://jointheflock.org), for church info and a link to electronic donations. Join in!

- We are also looking for motivated individuals to help keep the website updated!

Our website is hosted on the Wix website platform, & updated using their user friendly tools. Please contact me with your interests.

- Also looking for ideas, improvements and materials for website updates. Accepting church announcements and events, in pictures or text.

Thanks,  
Merritt Wichner



## Email Prayer Chain

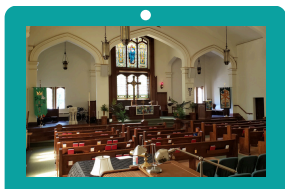
Would you like to be a part of the Email Prayer Chain? Call or email the Church office and we will put you on that list.



## 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 will continue to meet at Studebaker's on Troy Rd, the third Thursday of each month. Our next meeting will be **Thursday, August 21, at 9:00 A.M.** Questions? Contact Don Bendure: [dbendure136@gmail.com](mailto: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), contact Deb Botkin at [dkbotkin@outlook.com](mailto:dkbotkin@outlook.com) or (937) 271-7688.



The Pilot Club of Springfield is a member of the Kentucky-Ohio9 West Virginia Region of Pilot Club International, an organization of service clubs around the world, and is grateful to use the facilities at Good Shepherd for their regular monthly meeting. The local Pilot Club supports a variety of nonprofit organizations in and around Springfield. The Pilot Club does a seasonal craft project every month for the local Hospice program to cheer up the care givers. They raise funds to support the Alzheimer's Association and Pet Assisted Therapy. Pilot Club meets at **5:30 PM on the second Monday of the month** at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Anyone interested in joining the club should contact Sharon Slusher (937) 308-1599.

**Do more.**

**Care more.**

**Be more.**



The Good Shepherd WiFi connection is named: **GSELC\_WIFI\_Guest**. The password is available on a sign 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 you receive it, so that you can access the WiFi.



## The 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](mailto:bbendure136@gmail.com)) or Marcia Morris ([mmorris937@aol.com](mailto:mmorris937@aol.com)) for more information.

**12-Step Program**  
**Tuesdays at 4:30 P.M.**  
**Call Dan at 937-206-2372**  
**Al-Anon**  
**Fridays at 8:00 P.M.**



*But God will redeem us from death, and we will live in  
God's presence forever.*

*Psalm 49*



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