

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

IN THIS ISSUE

Upcoming Important Events
pg. 4

The Church Triumphant
pg. 6

Fellowship Committee Updates
pg. 8

Congregation Council

President

Chris Zechman

Vice President

Merritt Wichner

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



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

Website:
jointheflock.org

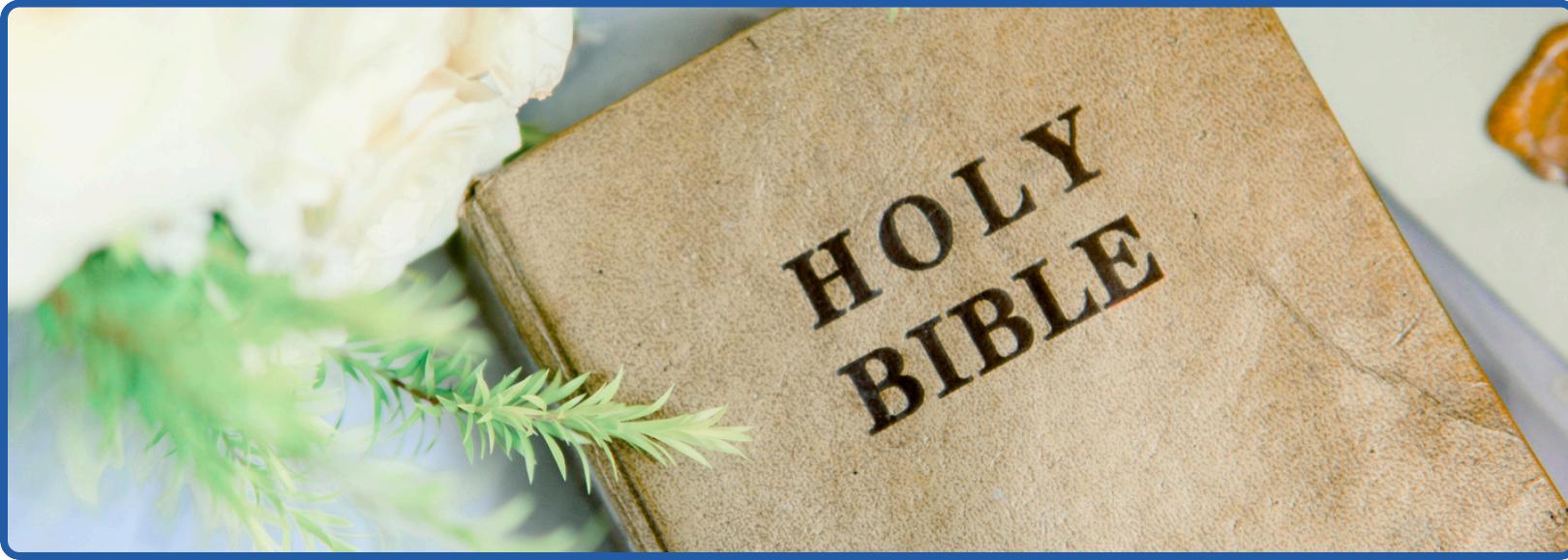
Facebook:
facebook.com/GoodShepherdSpringfield

YouTube:
Good Shepherd Springfield Ohio

The Good News is a monthly publication from
Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church
712 North Fountain Ave, Springfield, OH 45502
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Custodial service provided by: The Abilities Connection

HOLY
BIBLE



Happy New Year Good Shepherd Lutheran. I hope you all had a great Holiday Season and are ready to face the New Year with a sense of hope and optimism thanks to the Grace of our Lord. On December 9 the church council met and elected new officers for the upcoming year. Chris Zechman was reelected as President; Merritt Wichner reelected as Vice-president; and Deb Botkin reelected as Secretary. The council was also happy to welcome Marcia Morris as a member of this esteemed body. We are looking busy planning how to move the church forward. Church Council meets the **second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM** if you are interested in attending a meeting to see what it is we do.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Nancy Davis, the Singing Shepherds, Shepherd's Band, Shepherd's Thespians and the Shepherd's Bells for making this advent season and Christmas services so meaningful and lovely. It was great to see Ivy Hall make her acting debut as Baby Jesus. We have so much talent in the church body. It is a joy to hear them all share their abilities with us.

The youth group also reestablished and had a couple events. It is great to see this group being active and growing.

Yours in Christ,

Chris Zechman

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 in the Worship Materials email.



Important Dates to Remember in January

New Year's Day - Thursday, January 1 (Office Closed)

Epiphany - Tuesday, January 6

End of Year Committee Reports Due - Wednesday, January 7

Church Council Meeting - Tuesday, January 13

Men's Breakfast Club - Thursday, January 15

Food Pantry - Thursday, January 15

Bring a Friend to Church Sunday (Cookie Sunday) - Sunday, January 18

February 2026 Newsletter Submission Deadline - Monday, January 19

Congregation Meeting Pt. 2 - Sunday, January 25





Congregation Meeting Part 2

The second half of our annual congregation meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 25, 2026 at 9:30 A.M.** Committee reports are due by the **7th of January**. You are welcome to attend the meeting either in person, or via Zoom. The Zoom invitation, voting instructions, and the agenda will be sent to you by email, or postal mail in early January. Please contact the office if you do not receive them.



End of Year Committee Reports

Reports are due to the office **Wednesday, January 7, 2025**. We would like to hear from: Audit committee, Christian Education, Community Garden, Digital Outreach, Fellowship Committee, Finance Committee, Music Ministry, Property Committee, and the Worship Committee. Reports will be read at the **Congregation meeting on January 25, 2026**. Please see Chris Zechman if you need direction on completing the report.

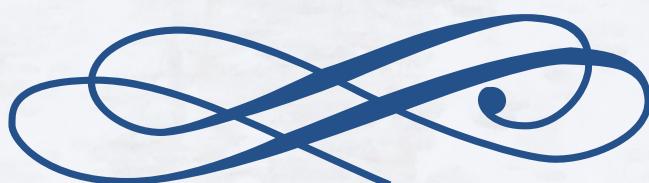


“Your small change will make a big change!” Please consider helping out again this year with the Habitat for Humanity Home for the Holidays campaign. You’ll find the little blue banks in the fellowship room. Add your spare change and change a life! The banks will be collected by the end of February. Questions? Please speak with the Koglers.



THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

Our prayers are with the families of Douglas Dye, Paul Hagelberg, and Teresa King who recently passed to the Church Triumphant. God has won the battle, and these loved ones now reside in Paradise.



Community Garden



Well done garden team! The funds from this award were added to the Community Garden fund in May of 2025.



CLARK COUNTY
Local Foods Council

One table. One connection.

Clark County Local Foods Council

May 29, 2025

Congratulations on Completing the Garden Champion Training!

On behalf of the Clark County Local Foods Council, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to you and your garden team for completing all four sessions of our Garden Champion Training Program!

Your dedication to learning, sharing, and growing community-driven food initiatives is inspiring. By completing this training, you've taken an essential step toward strengthening not only your garden but also our local food system. Your participation demonstrates a deep commitment to collaboration, leadership, and the well-being of our neighbors.

As a token of appreciation, your garden is receiving a **\$250 award**, included with this letter, to support your continued efforts. We hope these funds enhance your space, grow your impact, and inspire even more community involvement.

Thank you for participating in this initiative. We are proud to partner with passionate leaders like you and look forward to seeing your garden thrive!

With gratitude,
Clark County Local Foods Council

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter M. Young". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Peter" and "Young" being the most prominent parts.

Peter M. Young
CCLFC Treasurer



Fellowship Committee

Feeding the Multitude:

And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples, and they gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

2025 was a very busy year for fellowship and Good Shepherds' flock. The last quarter of the year was exciting but extremely busy with Rally Day, Oktoberfest and our Thanksgiving dinner celebration (we served 58 people for this event). While we certainly did not feed 5,000 people, there was plenty of food for the flock. It was a great year with food, celebration, joy and fellowship. I want to thank all who gathered together for each fellowship event, for those who helped prepare food, those who stayed to cleanup afterward and those who brought food to share on cookie Sundays and for those who showed up early to make coffee.

Now on to bigger and better things for 2026, (I know hard to believe!)

First things first, we certainly would like to see even more people at each event including cookie Sundays. Fellowship hour begins around 9:30 (after the early service) and ends around 10:20 before the late service. Our big events/dinners are always after the late service. I would love to hear your ideas on increasing our numbers! A few ideas are listed below for contemplation. Let me know what you think!

- Bring a friend to church on cookie Sundays. I would love to change the third Sunday to “bring a friend to church Sunday”, and we will feed them cookies and beverages.
- Be the lamp or light that shines: “In a certain mountain village in Europe several centuries ago (so the story goes), a nobleman wondered what legacy to leave his townspeople. At last he decided to build them a church. Nobody saw the complete plans until the church was finished. When the people gathered, they marveled at its beauty. But one noticed an incompleteness. “Where are the lamps?” he asked. “How will the church be lighted?” The nobleman smiled. Then he gave each family a lamp. “Each time you are here, the area in which you sit will be lighted. But when you are not here, some part of God’s house will be dark.” We miss those who have not been back to church since COVID, and in some cases we may have never met so I would love to meet you. Just imagine, every church pew full, the hymns and music ringing, so much joy and light overflowing into the street. Light your lamps and let God send you in a new direction today.

Hope to see you all soon!

Your friend in Christ Jesus

Becky Dunn



Food Pantry

These wonderful food angels all showed up on a rainy, windy evening and joyfully served 200 neighbors with turkeys, bologna, ground beef, hot dogs, canned fruits & vegetables, baked goods, peanut butter, mac & cheese, stuffing, tomato sauce, soup, cherries and much more!

Our lower number reflects folks having several opportunities to receive food which makes us happy!

Here are this month's pantry volunteers: Mike Acton, Richard & Susan Kogler, Mark Roberts, Barbara Hairston, Nick & Vicci Lubbers, Mary Parsons, Sandy Falkner, Edie Vrooman, Chris Zechman, Linda Orum, Merritt Wichner, Nancy Finke, Dianne Kress, Richard Meeks, Deb Botkin, Barb Strawsburg, Karen Beckett, Erin Zechman, Cindy Warrington, Terry Rust, Skip Warner, Becky & Shelby Dunn, Mitchell Humphreys, Pastor Don & Becky Humphreys, Doug & Nancy Davis, and Phil & Pam Winchell.

Our next pantry is **Thursday, January 15th at 5:30 P.M.**

God's work. Our hands!
denise roberts



Pantry Needs

Breakfast Items
Canned Corn
Pasta
Soup
Tomato Sauce
& Cloth Shopping Bags

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!



Music Department



*Choir rehearsals will resume on
Thursday, January 15 at 7:00 P.M.*

*Handbells will resume rehearsals on
Sunday, January 18, 2026 at 9:30 A.M.
Please speak to Nancy Davis if you
have questions.*



The Quilting Room



Unless things change quickly, there won't be a January knotting event. There are just not enough quilts finished yet. With this bitter cold, I wish there were 6 sewing machines humming and getting more quilts done. With God's help there will be more finished in January. Let us all pray for some inspiration and guidance to become dedicated to this mission. January is a long month and the Northern hemisphere is COLD. Quilts are needed.

*We can do our part. God's Work, our hands
- Mary Parsons*



Property Committee Updates



Terry Rust and Skip Warner completed the water damage repair of the ceiling and walls in the Old Sacristy. (Water damage was the result of a previously reported leaky flat roof immediately above the Old Sacristy). Pr. Don Humphrey's and Merritt Wichner provided a much-appreciated assist. Pr. Don helped with painting and Merritt worked his magic on cleaning and waxing the floor (the front foyer floors were cleaned and waxed plus all the floor mats were cleaned as well). Stop in and see the old sacristy for yourself—it looks beautiful!! The rooms ceiling was also insulated and exterior door weatherized.

The Property Committee also contracted with Landscaper, George Roarch--of Madison Ave Pharmacy fame—to work his landscaping magic on the Alley and N. Fountain Ave. flower beds. He did a beautiful job and has also agreed to continue working on these flower beds in 2026. If you haven't noticed please be sure to stop and appreciate his work.

In the December 2025 Newsletter the Property Committee made it known that a new “doorbell system” that would “flash a light” or “ring tones” to alert members of the church while in Sunday service or in choir practice or meetings after office hours would be installed and placed in the Sanctuary, overflow and kitchen areas. This has been accomplished. The “flashing light” is not as bright as desired but there are “ring tones” that are sufficiently loud to get one’s attention. Instructions have been posted at each station on how to turn on or silence the “ring tones” and/or utilize the “flashing light ONLY”. At this time the overflow and kitchen areas will remain set on “ring tone” mode and the Sanctuary area will be set to “flashing light” mode but please know that any church member may make changes whenever necessary. (Thus far there have been numerous church members trained on how to change the doorbell ring tones or set to flashing light mode ONLY, but, if there are any questions or issues, please do not hesitate to contact Skip Warner.)

The first week in December 2025, Terry Rust and Skip Warner addressed, i.e., fixed, the Springfield Fire Marshal’s findings of “some aspect of lighting failures” to four exit signs in the basement. For three of the exit signs all that was required was the fastening of a loose battery wire or “stuck” test button but one of the signs had a depleted battery so the entire sign was replaced. (FYI—it is cheaper to install a newer, modern Exit Sign than to replace an older exit sign battery—plus, the newer signs cost less to operate. Over the last few years Don Bendure and Skip Warner have been replacing the older model exit signs as the batteries have died).

Respectfully Submitted by,

Don “Skip” Warner, GSELC Property Committee Tri-Chair

Thursday, December 11, 2025



Flowerbeds on Fountain



New flooring in the old sacristy

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 January & February will benefit the **Food Pantry**.

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

In-person bible study is back at Good Shepherd. Come join us **Tuesdays at 9:00 A.M.** Bible study materials are sent out via email, the day prior to Tuesday's class. Everyone is welcome to attend!!

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.

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

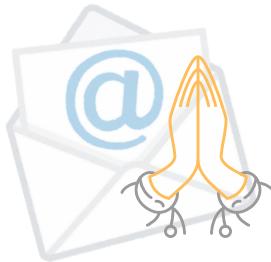
Cookie Sundays are the **3rd Sunday** of each month. You are invited to join in community and share some coffee and cookies!



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.



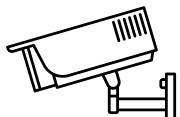
Email Prayer Chain

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.



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. Starting this month we will meet at IHOP on Bechtle Ave. Our next meeting will be Thursday, January 15, at 9:00 A.M. Questions? Contact Don Bendure: dbendure136@gmail.com or (937) 215-6129.



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 to 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 or (937) 271-7688.



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.



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.

12-Step Program
Tuesdays at 4:30 P.M.
Call Dan at 937-206-2372

Al-Anon
Fridays at 8:00 P.M.

*The Lord sends forth the word and melts them;
the wind blows, and the waters flow.*

Psalm 147: 18



Prayer Coloring: Take some time to color and pray.

Meditate on the message.

Spend some time alone with God.