

June Newsletter

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
510 ALBANY SHAKER ROAD
LOUDONVILLE, NY 12211



| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Office | 518-458-1562 |
| Pastor Joyce Fiore | 518-588-3149 |
| Kathy Flynn | Admin. Assistant |
| Kevin Wertman | Custodian |
| <u>Church Council:</u> | |
| Danny Patrick | President |
| Mike Serge | Vice President |
| Jeff Emptage | Treasurer |
| Patti Kopach | Secretary |
| Atif Dean | |
| Kathryn Ingalls | |
| Nancy Layne | |
| Carol Phelps | |
| Maryanne Sangiacomo | |
| Elizabeth Sickler | |
| Susan Spofford | |
| Marie Wertman | |
| Meg Winters | |



Mission Statement

“We are a community of God’s faithful people called by Christ to love, welcome, and care for all.”

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Contacts

| | | |
|---|--------------|------------------|
| Kathy Flynn, Admin. Asst. office@gsicl.org | 518-458-1562 | Mon. – Wed. 10-4 |
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| <u>ADMINISTRATION</u> | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Financial Secretary | Marjorie Raymond |
| Assistant Treasurer | John McGrath |
| Bldg. Rental Coordinator | Danny Patrick |



Kathy Ingalls
Carolyn Wolfe
Keith Kelly
Betty Cadwallader
Carlos Sanchez



June Birthdays

- 2 - Kyle Beach
- 4 – Azariah Chohan
- 9 - Kayla Olsen
- 10 – Karen Quinn
- 11 - Susan Brant, Meg Winters
- 14 - Madelyn Terry
- 15 – Kathy Crouse
- 16 - Shannon Terry
- 18 – Stephanie Conklin
- 22 - Aidan Beach
- 24 - Kathy Silo
- 28 - Cliff Brant

PASTOR JOYCE'S MESSAGE



God's Open Door Policy

PENTECOST has come and declares an open door policy. There is a new banner at the front door (the other one fell apart) declaring that we greet everyone. The areas all around the church ave been cleaned, refreshed, mulched due to the direction of the Weigerts. Danny Patrick has posted a request to support a new sign for the road which posts our worship times...all are welcome. We continue worship sharing with the other Albany ELCA churches allowing us to broaden our message of welcome and worship.

Opening the door, of course, is challenging for opening means change. The WELCA group will lead worship this summer, we plan to have a worship service using Reconciling in Christ materials which means all are welcome to participate and lead. The Sunday School children are always invited to join in leading worship and three of them did just that at worship on Pentecost Sunday. The Eucharistic Mnisters continue to bring the worship out of the building and into the community: there are 12 people being visited that are unable to join us in the sanctuary. Also, a major ability to reach out, allowing people in the community to worship is offered through electronic means. All of this and more reflect the work of this Good Shepherd commnity in the past three years. Our doors are open to come in and go out in His Name!

We are now thoughtfully planning the next step as the call committee has prepared the paper work requesting a pastor to be called to serve GSLCL: an open door for the newly called pastor is just waiting. Keep tuned as that process takes place by the fall.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours,
no hands but yours, no feet but yours...
Yours are the feet with which he is to go
about doing good,
and yours are the hands with which he is to
bless us now.

St Theresa of Avila 1515-82

This is a picture of the four Albany ELCA pastors at a recent four church gathering. It is such an enriching experience to work with the other three clergy members: Pastors Rahel, Josh, and Lowell. Recently, as you have seen, we have joined together to offer worship experiences at the three other churches and soon we will look to doing the same at GSLCL. Each pastor writes the service and assigns the readings to each of the other clergy. We also meet for a lunch meeting once a month as a planning and bonding ministry exercise in the Lord's work. Clearly you see, there is a sense of mission and humor which is essential to the pastoral office. We welcome Pastor Josh as he prepares for his installation at St. John's.



The summer offers a challenge as each pastor looks to have some time off and there is a lack of supply pastors to fill the pulpit. It is very time consuming to search for pulpit supply preachers and I am very grateful for their willingness to serve. Pastor Jo Page, who was on the list of supply pastors, has accepted a call to serve as the interim pastor at Our Redeemer in Scotia so is now off the list. Each of us knows how important it is to have a time of rest and that includes all of you, dear ones. Take time to renew and rest! Pastor Joyce

All are invited to join in a celebration of ministry for the installation of the Rev. Josh Evans as pastor of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, on Saturday, June 10. The liturgy will begin at 2:00 p.m., with a reception to follow. Dean Jo Page of the Hudson Mohawk Conference of the Upstate New York Synod will preach and preside.

Rostered ministers are invited to vest and process. The color of the day is rainbow or green. The service will also be livestreamed on St. John's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@StJohnsAlbany>



Sunday School News

May was a busy month for our Sunday School. We had several of the children make their First Holy Communion. Brielle was baptized with the class there to celebrate with her. We planted flowers and vegetable seeds for the community garden, sang to the congregation for Mother's Day and gave flowers to all the women of the congregation for Mother's Day.



Mother's Day was, also, our last Sunday School class until God's Work our Hands Sunday in September. The teachers had such a wonderful time with the children this year. They are a delight and they inspire us to want to do better. Thank you to all the parents and grandparents that helped this year. We look forward to seeing the children during the summer and back in Sunday School in September.

Best wishes to all for a wonderful summer,
Nancy Layne, Nancy Serge, Julie Van Sickle & Marie Wertman

Eucharistic Ministry

GSLCL Eucharistic Ministers bring consecrated communion elements to homebound, hospitalized, and nursing home residents. Dick Walker, Betty Suarez, and Bertie Cole recently attended a full day conference on visiting the homebound. They also meet with Pastor Joyce to allow conversation and updating on people in need of visitation. We keep a list of who we visit and ask, if you know of someone in need of regular visitation, please let the office know. It is very important that they keep confidentiality if the visited people request our not sharing information. We are looking for one more person in the congregation who may wish to join the team. Any candidate is interviewed first by Pastor Joyce



Altar Flowers –

Please be sure to sign up to honor or remember your loved ones.



The Worship and Music Corner

We have been fortunate to have the opportunity to work with Mary Frances Miller a talented professional vocalist who joined us in music celebration on Palm Sunday and Mother's Day and I am sure will add to the service as she and Jeff Emptage collaborate on that day.

I have been fortunate to work with a group of people who prepared and performed anthems on Easter and most recently for last Sunday's service of Holy Communion for our Sunday School students. I am grateful for their guidance in getting me acquainted with some of the music that the congregation is familiar with and supporting me in my transition to the role of church organist.

Thanks go to Atif Dean, Kiran Dean, Meg Winters, Patti Kopach, Emmie Knobloch and Elizabeth Strohbeck. I thank you all for your flexibility and dedication. I take pride in what we have accomplished so far as a small group in bringing musical offerings to service.

Thank you also to the congregation for your words of encouragement to me as I have been getting to know all of you within my role of organist. Much musical talent yet to be discovered.

In gratitude,
Anita Andersen

FIRST COMMUNION

Eight children made their First Communion on Sunday, May 7th. Many thanks to Betty Suarez, Steve Layne, and Pastor Joyce for organizing the preparation and classes, and to the parents and families for their support, and to everyone who helped make this such a beautiful ceremony.



Church Council Update

The next Church Council meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 13th at 6:30 pm

The Call Committee



The Call Committee and the Executive Church Council had a meeting on May 1 with Rachel Sosebee from Synod to receive an update on our Call process i.e., what we have done so far, realities at hand and what is being done.

Rachel stated that most rostered ministry profiles are pastors searching for full time calls. Those that are searching for part time calls are typically found by proximity and relationships. Rachel suggested we reach out to Dean Jo Page to talk about local partnership options with nearby ELCA and full communion partners.

I have been in contact with Dean Page and we are going to discuss in early June what needs to be done and the next steps.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Layne, Chair

Technology Team

Please take a few minutes to review the Church website. The background colors are changed to follow the colors of the church calendar. New pictures are replacing some of the old ones and the monthly newsletter, calendar and You Tube videos of the weekly Worship service can also be found there. You can access it at <https://www.gslcl.org>



Sometime between Good Friday and Easter Sunday the church network suffered a power surge and it knocked out our internet which prevented us from being able to zoom and record our Easter Worship Service. This has been fixed and everything is back up working. The Wi-Fi password has been changed so if you need it, I can provide it to you. I am in the process of add a guest internet which will not require a password.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Layne

Summer 2023 Newsletter Deadline:
Wednesday, June 21st

Fund Raising Team Meeting – June 12, 2023 at 6:30 PM

We are going to have the next meeting on June 12, 2023 at 6:30 PM. If you can't be there in person, you can always join by Zoom!

Unfortunately, the Primary Day event was cancelled for June 27, 2023, so there will be no event in June. That is unless someone else comes forward to sponsor an event!



At this time, the next event will be the Berry Festival in July sponsored by Danny Patrick.

WE NEED ALL OF YOU - ALONG WITH YOUR IDEAS AND HELP!!!!



**SAVE THE DATE!!!!
SATURDAY, JULY 15TH
ANNUAL BERRY FESTIVAL**

The Outreach and Evangelism Ministry Team will be hosting our **17th Annual Berry Festival on Saturday July 15th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

So some of you might ask, what is the Berry Festival? It is a fun time when we serve strawberries, raspberries and blueberries over biscuits topped with either vanilla ice cream or whipped cream. Also, we will be serving coffee and homemade lemonade.

We do a free will offering and the proceeds are going to the ministries of Good Shepherd, as well as a portion to our WELCA group. Not only is it a fun time but it gives everyone the chance to meet and greet some of our neighbors who come to the Berry Festival every year.

If you come every year or if you never have come to our Berry Festival, please join us and invite your family, friends, and neighbors for some delicious berries and great fellowship. **See you all at this year's Berry Festival!**

WELCA

The members of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Women of the Evangelical Church of America (WELCA) are excited to share Unit leaders and news! Elected as Unit Coordinator, Unit Secretary and Unit Treasurer at our last meeting are Patti Kopach, Marie Wertman and Marjorie Raymond, respectively.



When we met in April, our Unit members decided to use information from the book "Gather & Give" by Amy Nelson Hannon as a springboard for our activities in the next 12 months. Based on the concept that "now more than ever, the world is hungry to gather and thirsty for connection," our WELCA unit will be engaging in activities that will enable us to **Love, Welcome, and Serve**. We will be doing this in a number of ways such as practicing random acts of kindness toward church staff and congregants, hostessing fellowship, actively participating in worship services, holding quarterly "ladies night out" events, holding our annual Cookie Walk, and generally being more visible to the congregation and our community at large. All of our activities will enable us to "embrace the simple hospitality of the Bible that values connection more than perfection and people more than presentation." We welcome any female member of the congregation to join us! We meet on the third Thursday of every other month.

Our next meeting will take place on Thursday, June 15 at 7:00 p.m. at church. Please consider joining us! If you have any questions about WELCA, feel free to ask any of our unit leaders when you see them or reach out to them by phone or email. We hope to see many of you at our next meeting!

Financial News

| Financial Report for April 2023 | | | |
|--|------------|-------------|--|
| | April | YTD | |
| Expenses | \$9,492.71 | \$44,522.31 | |
| Revenue | \$9,545.90 | \$39,142.88 | |
| <u>Surplus +</u> | | | |
| Deficit - | | -\$5,379.43 | |



Save your Athletic Sneakers

Do you have athletic sneakers that don't fit or are old but still in decent condition? Don't throw them out – save them to donate for our GotSneakers fundraiser which will be held in the early Fall.

****What's accepted?***

Athletic sneakers in any condition will be accepted. They must be paired, intact with shoes laces and inner sole support in place.

****What's not acceptable?***

Please - only athletic sneakers! We cannot accept dress shoes, heels, rain boots, sandals, slip-on sneakers, water socks, wedges, and work boots of any kind.

****What do you do with the sneakers?***

We ship the sneakers in shipping bags provided to GoSneakers. Those that are in excellent and fair condition are refurbished and provided to people worldwide who don't own shoes. For those in poor condition –rather than the sneakers being discarded to a landfill where it takes 30-40 years to decompose while releasing CO2 into the environment (which has a serious effect on climate and global warming) – they recycle them into products such as playground cushion material.

****How can I help with this fundraising initiative?***

- Save those sneakers for our upcoming drop off days!**
- Spread the word to family, friends, neighbors, and other organizations you are affiliated with. We'll provide you with handouts regarding this event.**
- Sign up to assist with pickup days, reviewing sneakers, and packaging them into shipping bags.**

Look for further information to come on this recycling partnership that has a global impact! Please feel free to contact Nancy Serge with questions.

There's a collection box in the narthex for you to deposit your sneakers!



Outreach and Evangelism - Homeless Shelter

It is so hard to believe but another homeless shelter season has come to an end. We cannot thank all of you enough who have provided meals for this past season.

The next Outreach and Evangelism Ministry Team meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday June 6 18 at 7:00 pm** via in person or zoom.

Wednesday Bible Study

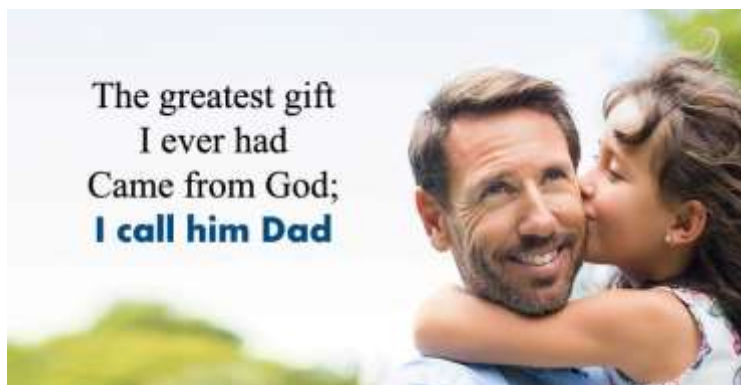


Join us for the Wednesday Bible Study 1:00 pm – 2:15 pm as we study Scripture and grow in God’s word. Men and women are invited! Each week we begin in prayer, and then discuss the lessons relating to the upcoming Sunday worship service.

You are invited to attend in person at Good Shepherd or by calling in. Contact Bertie Cole at 518-626-0657 for current information about joining the group!

March/April Cluster Collection

The Cluster collection for March and April will be items for the St. John/St. Ann’s Food Pantry that **cannot be purchased** with SNAP benefits (aka: food stamps). Items that are especially helpful are diapers, baby wipes, feminine hygiene products, and general hygiene products like soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes and toilet paper. Other good choices are laundry detergent, dish soap, cleaning products and paper towels.



Father’s Day

Sunday, June 18th is Father’s Day

The Earliest History Of Father's Day

According to scholars, celebrating Father's Day is not a new tradition but one that can be traced as far back as to the ruins of Babylon. Scholars note that in the ruins of Babylon, they have found a message that was left by a boy named Elmesu. The boy had apparently carved a message for Father's Day on a card that was made out of clay. The message has been recorded to be dated more than 4,000 years ago. In the card, the boy had wished a long life and [good health](#) for his father.



Freedom finally came on June 19, 1865, when some 2,000 Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas. The army announced that the more than 250,000 enslaved black people in the state, were free by executive decree. This day came to be known as "Juneteenth," by the newly freed people in Texas.



A very special thanks to Chris and Bill Wiegert for all their dedication to making our church landscaping look so beautiful.

Once again, we send a huge thank you to Laura Szesnat at Constantine's for everything she donates to us every season and, most recently, the mulch that the Wiegert's were hoping for!

Many thanks to everyone who brought flowers for Pentecost Sunday, and it must be said...thank you to Constantine's for supplementing the flower containers.

A big thanks goes out to all of you who have been bringing in food and making monetary donations for our Little Pantry in the parking lot. Another big thanks goes out to you who have made donations towards our April/May Cluster collection to St. John's/St. Ann's Food Pantry and for our new road sign. See the cluster collection endeavor for June in this newsletter.

Little Pantry – Social Ministry

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church responds to the needs of our community by stocking our Little Pantry every day with needed items for those struggling to make ends meet and feed their families. Consider donating to this amazing cause. Blue envelopes designated for this appeal are in the narthex. BE SURE TO NOTE ON THE ENVELOPE **"LITTLE PANTRY"**.

. A few guidelines though:

- No glass - Accidents happen and we don't want glass in the parking lot.
- No liquids - these tend to freeze and will spoil food in the cabinet
- No ready to eat items - snack bars or candy.
- No cleaning products - again they may contaminate food.
- Diapers, dry formula, powdered milk, toilet paper, are always in need. But please do not attach receipts to formula or diapers.
- Please check to make sure the food is not spoiled or out of date.
- Very few canned goods will freeze.

Please remember you have the option of conveniently donating through tithely.com, not just for this special donation but for your regular donations as well. It's so easy and convenient!

OFFICE NEWS

The Executive Council comprised of Mike Serge, Jeff Emptage, Patti Kopach, Danny Patrick have been working with Pastor Joyce, Kathy Flynn and Steve Layne on getting bids for a new copier that will do black/white and color copies.

We have had three very good presentations and have selected one in which has to go before the Finance Ministry Team and approved by the Church Council at our June meeting. When it is approved, we will have more information to share with you about our recommendation.



Over 150 people signed in to walk with the group starting at First Lutheran, and dozens of others have walked or will walk at other times and in other places. Checks (made out to CWS/CROP) may be mailed to the CACC office, 646 State St. Albany NY 12203. The treasurer and I met today to process the envelopes turned in since the walk. As of today, our income stands at **\$85,514.96**. That includes \$47,834.40 of online income posted as of May 12, walk day cash of \$2,944, walk day checks of \$26,801.50, and additional checks processed this week of \$10,879.

Peace,

Atif Dean, Team Captain, Good Shepherd



Blood Drive October 25th – 1:00-6:30 pm

For questions or to sign up please contact Carol Phelps 518-355-3901.



Donations to Building Fund Requested

The Building Fund is used for maintenance and repairs of the church building. Please consider making a donation to this fund. Envelopes for "Designated Gifts" are available in the narthex. Donations to the Building Fund are separate from the annual pledge. All donations are included on the annual contribution statement for tax purposes.

We would like to replace the movable road sign with another one and it would cost about 355 dollars. If you would like to make a monetary donation towards this item on our wish list please take a green envelope for designated giving that is in the narthex by the entrance into the sanctuary and put your donation in this envelope and mark on it for Roadside Sign. We want to thank you for your anticipated support of this very effective outreach tool.

MANY THANKS TO OUR WORSHIP SERVERS & VOLUNTEERS!

THOSE WHO SERVE 6/4

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Opener | Patti Kopach |
| Greeter | Patti Kopach |
| Usher | Mark Kleinhenz |
| Lay Reader | Maryanne Sangiacomo |
| Communion Assistant | Christine Kleinhenz |
| Closer | Atif Dean |
| AV Tech | Elizabeth Strohbeck |
| Fellowship | Paul and Susan Spofford |

THOSE WHO SERVE 6/11

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Opener | Nancy Serge |
| Greeter | Maryanne Sangiacomo |
| Usher | Mike Brennerman |
| Lay Reader | Jill Brennerman |
| Communion Assistant | Dick Walker |
| Closer | Danny Patrick |
| AV Tech | Emmie Knobloch |

THOSE WHO SERVE 6/18

| | |
|---------|---------------|
| Opener | Steve Layne |
| Greeter | Dick Walker |
| Reader | Patti Kopach |
| Usher | Paul Spofford |
| AV Tech | Marie Wertman |
| Closer | Meg Winters |

THOSE WHO SERVE 6/25

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Opener | Mike Serge |
| Greeter | Marie Wertman |
| Usher | Rob Beach |
| Lay Reader | Danny Patrick |
| Communion Assistant | Nancy Serge |
| AV Tech | Maryanne Sangiacomo |
| Closer | Rob Beach |

~ June 2023 ~

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|---|--|--|--|--|--|-----------------|
| | | | | 1 12pm Colonie Srs 5:30–Drama Kids | 2 SYNOD CONF 9:30 Colonie Srs | 3 SYNOD CONF |
| 4 HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY WORSHIP: 9:30AM 10:30am: Fellowship Hour | 5 | 6 12:30 Colonie Srs 6 pm Endowment 7 pm Outreach & Evangelism | 7 1:00pm - Bible Study | 8 12pm Colonie Srs 5:30–Drama Kids <u>IN</u> <u>SANCTUARY</u> | | 10 |
| 11 WORSHIP: 9:30AM 10:30am: Fellowship Hour | 12 6:30 Fundraising Team | 13 12:30 Colonie Srs 6:30pm– Church Council | 14 1:00pm - Bible Study | 15 12pm Colonie Srs 5:30–Drama Kids 7:00 - WELCA | 16 9:30 Colonie Srs | 17 |
| 18 WORSHIP: 9:30AM 10:30am: Fellowship Hour | 19 JUNETEENTH FREEDOM DAY 7 PM Worship & Music | 20 12:30 Colonie Srs | 21 1:00pm - Bible Study | 22 12pm Colonie Srs 5:30–Drama Kids | 23 9:30 Colonie Srs | 24 |
| 25 WORSHIP: 9:30AM 10:30am: Fellowship Hour | 26 | 27 12:30 Colonie Srs | 28 9am Colonie Seniors Bd 1:00pm - Bible Study 7:00pm Property | 29 12pm Colonie Srs 5:30–Drama Kids | 30 9:30 Colonie Srs | |