

# March 2024 Newsletter

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**The choir singing**  
*When it seems the day will end*  
More singing opportunities inside!



**Cottage Meetings with  
Pastor Chilton**  
Sign up for a future meeting!



**February 13 Pancake Supper**  
Thanks to all who made it a great event!



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

510 ALBANY SHAKER ROAD  
LOUDONVILLE, NY 12211  
[www.gslcl.org](http://www.gslcl.org) ☎ 518-458-1562

## A word from the pastor

Grace and peace to you from the one who was and is and is to be. Amen.

When I was a youth in Nashville, we had an Associate Pastor, Laura Hocker, now Laura Barbins, who instilled in me a love of the Easter Vigil. Pastor Laura invited the middle school and high school youth to the church for a lock in on Holy Saturday. But unlike a normal youth group lock in, this one was a prayer vigil. We began outside with a fire and moved into the darkened sanctuary to pray. Throughout the night, every few hours we would gather in the sanctuary to remember God's liberating love as told through the Hebrew Scriptures and to pray together. In between the prayer and reading, we did the usual lockin activities, like board games and too much soda, but every few hours, whoever was still awake went with Pastor Laura to the sanctuary to read and pray. We kept the vigil through the night for the congregation, and in the morning we celebrated the first Eucharist of Easter and had a huge breakfast. Between the fire, the solemnity of the readings, and the liberating love of God proclaimed, I was hooked. I even started a similar tradition as a youth group leader in Seattle before seminary.

Historically, the Easter Vigil has been a time of celebration and of remembering; of telling of what God has done, of noticing what God is doing, and of praying for God to do it all again. Since the early days of the church, Christians have gathered to keep watch at the tomb and to celebrate the discovery of the empty tomb. Often, the Vigil was to culmination of an extended period of preparation for baptism and for joining the church.

This year, the four congregations of **Albany Lutherans Together** are coming together to begin a new local tradition, a shared celebration of the Easter Vigil, hosted by us at Good Shepherd! Don't worry, we aren't staying up all night. We'll begin at dusk around a fire on the patio. We'll process through the building by candlelight and tell

### Pastor and Staff

The Rev. D. Lowell Chilton Pastor  
(pastor@gslcl.org, cell: 518-285-0441)

Kathy Flynn Admin. Assistant  
(office@gslcl.org, 10am – 4pm, Mon. – Wed.)

Kevin Wertman Custodian

Anita Andersen Music Director

### 2024 Church Council

Danny Patrick President

Mike Serge Vice President

Jeff Emptage Treasurer

Patti Kopach Secretary

Colleen Ward

Kathryn Ingalls

Nancy Layne

Carol Phelps

Maryanne Sangiacomo

Elizabeth Sickler

Susan Spofford

Meg Winters

### Administration

Marjorie Raymond Financial Secretary

John McGrath Assistant Treasurer

Danny Patrick Bldg. Rental Coordinator

stories of God's liberating love in a darkened sanctuary.

Then we'll stand and hear the Gospel of the Resurrection, the lights will come up, the flowers will be uncovered, and we'll celebrate the first eucharist of Easter.

I encourage you to come out for this service, join in the shared choir, process from the fire in to the sanctuary by candle light, and celebrate the risen Christ with a dessert reception and champaign toast (with festive non-alcoholic options too) after the service.

Peace in Christ,



The Rev. D. Lowell Chilton, Pastor  
pastor@gslcl.org ☎ 518-285-0441 (cell)



## **Albany Lutherans Together Lenten Vespers**

*Wednesdays in Lent: Vespers at 6:45 PM; meal beforehand at 6:00 PM.*

This Lent, Albany Lutherans Together (ALT) congregations gather on Wednesday evenings to journey to the new fire of the Easter Vigil together with worship and fellowship.

At 6 PM, we gather for a simple meal and a time of conversation and fellowship between congregations.

At 6:45 PM, we transition into worship with Holden Evening Prayer. During vespers, we include readings and reflections that prepare us for celebrating the first eucharist of Easter at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday.

**March 6**

St. John's Lutheran Church

**March 13**

Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit

**March 20**

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

*Signup for in the narthex to help  
with the meal*

**Connect remotely**

<http://FirstLutheranAlbany.org/zoom>

or call 929-436-2866.

The meeting code is 518-463-1326.

The passcode is "1".

## **Albany Lutherans Together Easter Vigil**

*7:00 PM, Saturday, March 30 at Good Shepherd  
Lutheran Church, Loudonville*

The four congregations of ALT are coming together to celebrate the Great Vigil of Easter.

Beginning outdoors around a new fire, we bless and light the paschal candle, process by candlelight into a dimly lit sanctuary, hear and sing of God's deeds for God's creation throughout time, and then, with great joy and celebration, raise the lights, uncover the flowers, and proclaim the good news of the Resurrection of our Lord and celebrate the first eucharist of Easter.



The Great Vigil of Easter is one of the oldest traditions of the church and we are hoping to build it locally into a new tradition shared by the four congregations of Albany.

After the service, the celebration continues with a dessert reception and ***champagne toast to the risen Christ***. It's going to be great!

*There is a signup sheet in the narthex to bring dessert for the reception.*

## **Book Club**

No book club in March.

Watch the Midweek Message and bulletin for the April book and date.

# Holy Week at Good Shepherd

## **Palm Sunday / Sunday of the Passion: March 24**

*Worship at 8:45 AM at Good Shepherd.*

## **Maundy Thursday: March 28**

*Dinner Church at 7 PM at Good Shepherd*

With our partners, First Lutheran Church, we gather on Thursday of Holy Week for worship around a meal. We'll hear of Jesus' last meal with his friends as we dine with our friends. Receiving the Great Commission, we'll sit in prayer as Jesus is arrested and taken away by the powers of the world that defy God. We'll go forth in silence, to reconvene at the foot of the cross on Good Friday.

*Sign up in the narthex to help with the meal.*

## **Good Friday: March 29**

*Solemn worship at 7 PM at First Lutheran Church*

The Paschal Triduum continues with the solemn contemplation of the cross of Christ and facing the reality of what God has done for us in Christ. We travel to First Lutheran, Albany (181 Western Ave.) for this service.

## **Great Vigil of Easter: March 30**

*7 PM at Good Shepherd – See page 3 for details.*

## **Easter Sunday: March 31**

*Worship at 8:45 AM at Good Shepherd*

Easter Brunch after worship! Signup in the Narthex to bring something!

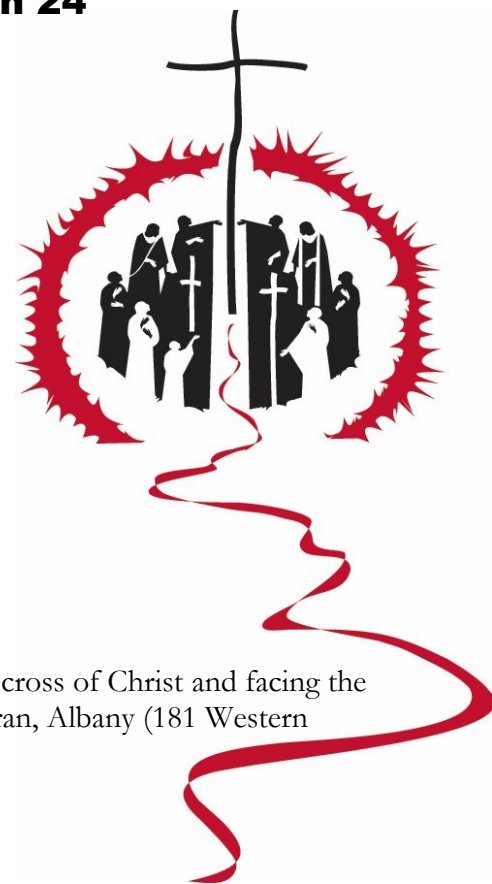
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## ***Baptized We Live* – Living Lutheran Today**

Pastor Chilton is hoping to offer a 5-6 session class using Daniel Erlander's *Baptized We Live* to dig into the core of being a Lutheran Christian. *Baptized We Live* takes an engaging look at core concepts of the Lutheran tradition, as defined in the Augsburg Confession, the core document that defines a Lutheran way of reading scripture and interpreting God's action in the world. We'll open this class up to our friends at First Lutheran as well. Specific dates and times will be determined later in March. Speak to Pastor Chilton if you are interested in participating.

## **Interested in Joining GSLC?**

The *Baptized We Live* class also serves as a new member class! The last week of the class will touch on local customs and history. We hope to welcome new members in worship on Pentecost Sunday (May 19).



## Easter Vigil Choir!



The **Albany Lutherans Together Easter Vigil** gives us the special opportunity to collaborate with local congregations in a festival choir for this service. We plan to prepare two anthems and go over the service music to lead the assembly song. We will have two rehearsals, and possibly a third, to prepare.



The first gathering of choir members and musicians is **Sunday, March 10** at 12:30 PM at Holy Spirit (57 Hurlbut Street, Albany). At this gathering we will review and begin to prepare the music for the Easter Vigil.

We'll follow this up with a rehearsal on **Wednesday, March 20** following the midweek worship at Good Shepherd. If you can't make it to supper and worship, please be here by 7:15 for the rehearsal.

Ideally, participants could make the above-mentioned rehearsals, one more potential rehearsal date that is yet to be determined, and the Easter Vigil service on March 30<sup>th</sup>. If you are only able to make one rehearsal, you are still encouraged to participate.

Please let Anita Andersen know if you are interested in joining us. We anticipate the ALT Easter Vigil being a highlight of the year and we hope you'll consider joining the choir.

## First Communion Class – Saturday, March 23

Pastor Chilton will lead a one day First Communion Class on Saturday, March 23, time to be coordinated with those participating. Email him if you would like your child to participate. Those in the class will celebrate their First Communion on Palm Sunday, March 24.

## Outreach and Evangelism

There will not be an Outreach and Evangelism Ministry Team Meeting in March. The next meeting will be on Tuesday April 2 at 7:00 pm in the library. If you have any interest in being a part of this ministry team please speak to Danny Patrick, Carol Phelps, Bertie Cole, Colleen Ward, Kirsten Andersen or Betty Sickler.

## Church Envelopes

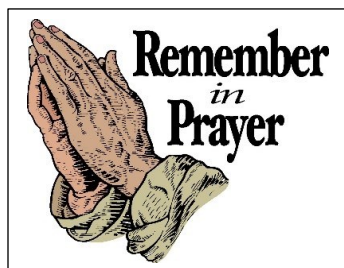
Pre-printed church envelopes and "Designated Gift" envelopes are used to maintain an individual record of donations during the church year. In January of each year, a statement of contributions is provided to all donors for tax purposes.

For the month of March, the set of envelopes includes an envelope for each Sunday, along with "Special" envelopes for the three Wednesdays in Lent, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter.

Please be sure to select the correct envelope for Sunday, March 31. Donations for "Regular Offering" are applied to the donor's 2024 financial commitment. Donations in "Special" envelopes are recorded in a separate budget category. These contributions are included in the donor's statement of contributions and are used for the ministries of Good Shepherd.

For more information about envelopes and donations to Good Shepherd, please contact Marjorie Raymond, Financial Secretary, at 518-424-6043 or by e-mail at [marjorieraymond84@gmail.com](mailto:marjorieraymond84@gmail.com).

## Prayer Concerns



Keith Kelly	Carlos Sanchez
Carolyn Wolfe	Kelly Powell
Lynn Best	Kathy Ingalls
Lou Reiss	Kevin Ferrill

## March Birthdays

3 – Michelle Wiegert  
12 – Donna Constantine  
18 – Atif Dean  
20 – Steve Layne  
22 – Susan and Sara Kelly

## “Souper” Bowl Sunday – Thanks!

We want to thank all of you who brought in cans of soup for Souper Bowl Sunday. We collected 55 cans of soup that we will be using for the Little Pantry. Did you know that we must fill the Little Pantry every day? This shows that we have food insecurity right in the neighborhood of Good Shepherd and we are happy to be able to meet this need for the families that get food from the Little Pantry. Again, thank you everyone for your generous donations of soup and your ongoing support of food and monetary donations to this special ministry.

## Pancake Dinner

The Outreach and Evangelism Ministry Team would like to thank all of you who came to the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Out of your generosity we made over \$500 and a portion of this went to the ELCA Hunger Appeal. The event could not have been such a great success without our wonderful volunteers and they are follows: Nancy and Steve Layne, Chris and Bill Wiegert, Betty Suarez, Maryanne Sangiacomo, Colleen Ward, Kathy and Mark Silo, Chris and Marc Kleinhenz, Ute Buff, Michelle Wiegert, Betty Sickler, Patti Shook, Kathy Ingalls, Nancy and Wayne Smith, Marie Wertman and Danny Patrick. A special thanks to our piano player, Sam. Piccolino. Again, many thanks to everyone who made the event such a success and volunteers commented that it was also a fun time and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

## March/April ALT Outreach Ministry

The Schuyler Inn, located in Menands, is an emergency housing shelter for families. Many of these families are there as a result of severe financial difficulties or natural disasters (such as fire or flood). They often arrive with nothing but the clothes they are wearing and are in great need. Please consider donating: Packages of diapers (all sizes), baby wipes, diaper rash ointment, socks for adults, body wash, shampoo toothpaste and toothbrushes.



## Hillenbrandt Scholarships

Applications for the 2024-2025 academic year are online at Good Shepherd's website ([www.gslcl.org](http://www.gslcl.org)). Necessary instructions will be located on the form.

When all necessary requirements have been completed, return the applications to the church office **no later than April 1, 2024**

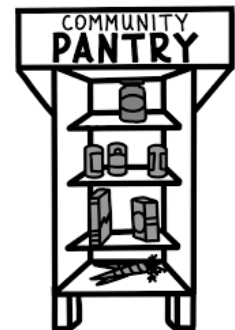
**The Worship & Music Team** is very busy in the midst of all the various Lenten activities and Easter preparations. Their next meeting is Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

## February Attendance Record

Date	In Person	On Zoom	Total
2/4	40	2	42
2/11	44	6	50
2/14 Ash Wed.	31	7	38
2/18	34	3	37
2/25	39	1	40

## Community Food Pantry

As you may know or not know, Good Shepherd for the past year has had a food box in the parking lot filled with non-perishable food items for people that are in need of food. See list of suggested food items below. Also, another way you could support the food pantry would be putting a monetary donation in a blue envelope that you will find in the narthex which is for designated giving.



Suggested items include:

- Dried beans, Canned Beef Stew, Cereal, Chef Boyardee, Crackers, Pasta,
- Powered Milk, Boxed milk, Rice, Rice A Roni, Canned Salmon, Dried or Canned Soup, Spaghetti Sauce, Canned Tuna, Canned Vegetables
- Toilet Paper, Dog and Cat food, Kitty Litter

## Fellowship after Worship

Volunteers needed: Thank you to all who have generously signed up to host our gatherings following worship. Please consider providing coffee and some small snack by signing up on the bulletin board at the front entrance. What a great time to meet each other and chat. Questions? Contact Meg Winters, Fellowship Coordinator at 518-860-4594.

## Flower Coordinator

The need for a Flower Coordinator remains a volunteer opportunity. Please talk to Danny Patrick if you would be willing to take on this activity. It doesn't take much time at all and doesn't require any meetings!

## Thrivent Grants

Did you know that thoughtful Thrivent members have directed a total of \$50 to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in 2023 by recommending where Thrivent should distribute some of its charitable outreach funds? Thrivent members have until March 31 to tell Thrivent where to send some of Thrivent's charitable giving dollars budgeted for 2023. You can find more Thrivent Choice resources on Thrivent.com using the following link:

<https://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-choice/>.

If you are not a Thrivent member but would still like to help by applying for a grant, you can become a Thrivent Associate Member. Associate membership is \$19.95 and with that membership you are able to apply for a \$250.00 Thrivent grant for our congregation's outreach projects. Contact Thrivent either by phone or at Thrivent.com for more info.

## Financial News

Financial Report for January 2024			
	Month	YTD	
Expenses	\$10,271.64	\$10,271.64	
Revenue	\$11,204.33	\$11,204.33	
Surplus + Deficit -	\$932.69	\$932.69	

## Online giving

Visit <http://www.gslcl.org/#make-donation> to securely give online with Tithely. A recurring gift is a great way to support the ministry of the congregation.



## Blood Drive April 10th

Our spring blood drive is ready for scheduling either online at American Red Cross under Good Shepherd Lutheran Church or by contacting Carol Phelps (518-355-3901). Walk-ins will be accepted if there is an available appointment when the person arrives.

We are pleased to announce that Jeannette Harting has stepped up to take over the responsibility of organizing, booking, attending, monitoring and drafting volunteers as Carol Phelps makes way to pass the baton this year as the Blood Drive Coordinator. Carol has been an amazing leader for this event each April and October and these are big shoes to fill. We all want to express our sincere appreciation to Carol for all the many things she does for Good Shepherd.

## Cottage Meetings

In an effort to get better acquainted with the members of our congregation, Pastor Chilton is having a series of "Cottage Meetings". These meetings will be attended by 6 to 10 people and will be hosted both in members' homes and at Good Shepherd. *A signup sheet is posted in the narthex now for the first set of meetings. Addresses to homes are on the signups.*

If you have been unable to attend any of the first round of meetings, do not worry. The meetings will continue until all of the congregation who want to attend have had an opportunity. If you are unable to get to the church to sign up for a meeting and would like to be included, feel free to reach out to Marie Wertman for the specifics and to be added to the list. If you have any questions about this, please reach out to Marie Wertman 518-221-6264 or Pastor Chilton.



# Easter Flowers Order Form



This year there is a choice of Tulips, Mums or Lilies. All will be 6 1/2" pots in spring colors. Each Plant is \$14.00. To order -complete this form below and deposit, with your check or cash, in the offering plate. If you prefer, send it to the church office.

***The deadline for orders is Sunday, March 17.***

Name: (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Tulips: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Mums: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Lilies: \_\_\_\_\_

Total No. of Pots \_\_\_\_\_ x \$14.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Make checks payable to Good Shepherd)

IN MEMORY OF:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please contact Colleen Ward with any questions.

## New Hymnal Supplement! *All Creation Sings*

*All Creation Sings*, Augsburg Fortress's recent hymnal supplement for *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, adds two new settings of Holy Communion and over two hundred hymns to the worship repertoire of the church. The Worship and Music Team is hoping to purchase 60 copies\* of *All Creation Sings* to add to the pew chairs in the sanctuary, and we need your help to get them. Throughout February, we're asking for contributions of \$18 per hymnal to get us to our goal\*\*. You can make the gift in memory of or in honor of someone; we'll place a bookplate on the inside cover of a copy noting the dedication. If you would like a copy for home use, you can note that below and we'll add one to the order for you.

\* 60 copies is sufficient for most regular attendees to place a copy where they normally sit and we'll have some extras. For high attendance days, like Christmas Eve, we'll print ACS hymns in the bulletin.

\*\* \$18 covers the cost of the hymnal + shipping it to us.

1. Full name : \_\_\_\_\_

2. Email address : \_\_\_\_\_

3. Phone number : \_\_\_\_\_

4. How many hymnals would you like to sponsor? \_\_\_\_\_

These are for the **sanctuary set**. If they are sponsored in memory of or in honor of someone, please indicate that on the next two questions.

5. In memory of \_\_\_\_\_ (please list each entry on a new line)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. In honor of \_\_\_\_\_ (please list each entry on a new line)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. How many **personal use hymnals** (to take home) would you like to order? \_\_\_\_\_

8. Total # ordered or sponsored (Sum of #4 and #7): \_\_\_\_\_

9. Total amount due: \_\_\_\_\_

= \$18 x Number ordered or sponsored (#8)

This completed order form & payment may be sent:

1. To the office (510 Albany Shaker Road, Albany, NY 12211)

2. Placed in the offering on Sunday

Please write "**new hymnals**" on the memo line of a check.

# WORSHIP SERVERS & VOLUNTEERS

## 3/3

Opener	Steve Layne
Greeter	Dick Walker
Usher	Marc Kleinhenz
Lay Reader	Patti Kopach
Communion Assistant	Dick Walker
AV Tech	Maryanne Sangiacomo
Closer	Atif Dean

## 3/10

Opener	Kathy Ingalls
Greeter	Kathy Ingalls
Usher	Marie Wertman
Lay Reader	Atif Dean
Communion Assistant	Kiran Dean
AV Tech	Steve Layne
Closer	Rob Beach

## 3/17

Opener	Mike Serge
Greeter	Nancy Serge
Usher	Mike Serge
Lay Reader	Betty Suarez
Communion Assistant	Bertie Cole
AV Tech	Emmie Knobloch
Closer	Danny Patrick

## 3/24

Opener	Jeannette Harting
Greeter	Jeannette Harting
Usher	Paul Spofford
Lay Reader	Sue Spofford
Communion Assistant	Paul Spofford
AV Tech	Elizabeth Strohbeck
Closer	Steve Layne

## 3/31

Opener	Mike Serge
Greeter	Maryanne Sangiacomo
Usher	Jack Ludwin
Lay Reader	Mike Serge
Communion Assistant	Nancy Serge
AV Tech	Marie Wertman
Closer	Meg Winters

~ March 2024 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> 9:30 Colonie Srs.	<b>2</b> 3:30-5:30 pm Private party in FH
<b>3</b> 8:45 WORSHIP 9:45 Fellowship 1 PM Cottage Meeting at M. Wertman's 518-221-6264	<b>4</b> 6:30 PM Cottage meeting at P. Kopach's	<b>5</b> 12:30 Colonie Srs. 4PM Audubon Society FH	<b>6</b> 1 PM Bible Study 6 PM Lenten Vespers at St. John's	<b>7</b> 12-3 Colonie Srs (BR) 4 PM Drama Kids	<b>8</b> 9:30 Colonie Srs. 4 PM Dance Assembly	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 8:45 WORSHIP 9:45 Fellowship 10:30 Cottage meeting at GS	<b>11</b> 6:30 PM Church Council 6:30 PM Audubon Board	<b>12</b> 12:30 Colonie Srs. 6:30PM Fundraising Comm meeting	<b>13</b> 1 PM Bible Study 6 PM Lenten Vespers at Holy Spirit	<b>14</b> 12-3 Colonie Srs (BR) 4 PM Drama Kids	<b>15</b> 9:30 Colonie Srs.	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 8:45 WORSHIP 9:45 Fellowship	<b>18</b> Club Scientific 6:30 pm Worship & Music	<b>19</b> Club Scientific 12:30 Colonie Srs..	<b>20</b> Club Scientific 9 AM Colonie Srs Board 1 PM Bible Study 6 PM Lenten Vespers at GS	<b>21</b> Club Scientific 12-3 Colonie Srs (BR) 4 PM Drama Kids	<b>22</b> Club Scientific 9:30 Colonie Srs. 4PM Dance Assembly	<b>23</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Communion Class Time TBD
<b>24 Palm Sunday</b> 8:45 WORSHIP 9:45 Fellowship	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9 AM Colonie Srs. Board FH 1 PM Bible Study 7 PM Property Comm meeting	<b>28 Maundy Thursday</b> 7PM Dinner Church at GSLC	<b>29 Good Friday</b> 7PM Worship at First Lutheran	<b>30 Holy Saturday</b> 7PM Easter Vigil
<b>31 Easter Sunday</b> 8:45 Worship & Potluck Brunch						



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
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