

February 2025

Annual Meeting ✦ Souper Bowl! ✦ Farewell to Kathy ✦ Looking ahead to Lent



Christmas 2024

Thanks to everyone helped make our Christmas celebrations fantastic! The pageant was great and Christmas Eve worship was holy and spirit-filled.



"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 ✦ 518-458-1562

A note from the Pastor

Happy Candlemas dear church,

I love learning things! Just this week (last week of January), I learned that in many French and Italian Catholic areas, eating pancakes is a tradition on Candlemas, February 2. I had no idea this was a thing until I made a joke to a friend about her workplace holiday party this Sunday being a “Candlemas Party” and she immediately replied, “So, pancakes?” and the learning began.

February 2, 40 days after Christmas, is celebrated as The Presentation of Our Lord, or Candlemas. It marks the day when Jesus, as the first born of his family, was taken to the temple to be presented to God as an offering. In Luke’s Gospel, the Simeon, a priest in the temple, sings the song known as the *nunc dimittis*, or “now you are dismissing.” This is a song about how Simeon can now go in peace, for he has seen God’s promises fulfilled in this child, who will be a light to the nations. Because of the light language, and because it’s a good time of the year for this, in many parts of Europe candles would be blessed in worship to be used to bring light into your home all year long, hence Candlemas.

I’m still not totally sure why pancakes became a thing, but they are, and it’s a cool thing to know. So, this Candlemas, eat some pancakes and light a candle. Remember that Christ is the light, and we are bearers of that light into the world around us, even (especially) when the days seem dim, and fear abounds. May light and joy abound even brighter.

Amen and amen.

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

Farewell to Kathy Flynn

On January 26 we said farewell to Kathy Flynn, our Administrative Assistant. After 6 and a half years in the position, her last day in the office was January 29.

What’s next?

The Personnel Committee is taking a little time to evaluate the role, and we hope to be posting a job listing later in February or in early March.



Pastor and Staff

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

Kevin Wertman *Custodian*

2025 Church Council

Colleen Ward Danny Patrick, *President**

Jeff Emptage, *Treasurer* Kathy Westerholt

Mark Brenneman Meg Winters

Michelle Wiegert Mike Serge, *VP**

Patti Kopach, *Secretary** Susan Spofford

**Officers for 2025 will be elected at the February 15 Council Retreat. Danny, Mike, and Patti continue in their 2024 office until the successor is elected (which could be them).*

Administration

Marjorie Raymond *Financial Secretary*

Vince Pasqualino *Assistant Treasurer*

Danny Patrick *Bldg. Use Coordinator*

Annual Meeting Update – January 26

Elections

We elected Danny Patrick, Meg Winters, Mark Brenneman, and Michelle Wiegert to 3-year terms on the Congregation Council and Kathy Westerholt to a 2-year term. We elected Kiran Dean and Marjorie Raymond to be Synod Assembly Voting Members. Atif Dean is a member of Synod Council and is automatically a member of the Synod Assembly. We elected Marc and Christine Kleinhenz, Nancy Serge, Kathy Silo, Maryanne Sangiacomo, and Jeanette Harding to be the 2025 Nominating Committee. We elected Susan Spofford to a second term on the Endowment Committee.

We thank Maryanne Sangiacomo for her three years on the council, completing her term at the conclusion of the meeting.

2024 Treasurer's Report and Spending Plan

The 2024 Treasurer's Report was received with special attention and celebration of the fact that we ended 2024 with a surplus of \$14,072.85. Thank you for your generous giving in 2024 and for the hard work of all our fundraising efforts. In the January council meeting, we voted tithe on this surplus, supporting the Martin Luther King, Jr., Scholarship Fund, managed by the Capital Area Council of Churches, with \$500 and giving \$1000 to Lutheran Disaster Response.

During the meeting we adopted a spending plan for the mission and ministry of the congregation for 2025.

Hybrid Meeting Resolution

We adopted a continuing resolution of the congregation to make full remote participation in congregation meetings permitted by default. This means that all congregation meetings moving forward can have voting members connect remotely to the meeting and vote and count for quorum. We could already do this at the discretion of the council, but this resolution makes it the default option, rather than the council having to choose to offer it each meeting.

Thank you to John McGrath

We also recognized John McGrath for serving as Assistant Treasurer for 30 years. Thank you, John!

New Assistant Treasurer Vince Pasqualino

We failed to mention in the meeting that Vince is stepping into the role of Assistant Treasurer. Thank you, Vince.



Breakfast with the Wisemen - Thanks!

We would like to thank the three men that were the kings this year at our Breakfast with the Wisemen and they were Mark Silo, Mike Serge and Kevin Wertman. Also, many thanks to our volunteers who set up, cooked, served, and helped cleanup. We had about 20 to 25 people that came and mostly from the community. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and liked hearing the story about the Wisemen as well as the Epiphany House Blessing. The costs of this breakfast was defrayed totally by a Thrivent Action Grant. We had a lot of pancakes, sausage and apple sauce left over and we donated the food to the Capital City Rescue Mission at 259 South Pearl Street in Albany. The Mission staff are always very grateful to receive food donations as they serve folks who are homeless and in need of a good meal.



Souper Bowl Sunday February 9

Vote for your team with your donation!



This year we will be collecting cans of soup for our Little Pantry on Souper Bowl Sunday which is on February 9th. You can start this Sunday February 2 to bring soup in and there will be a table in the narthex (front hallway) to put your soup on. You can place your soup behind your favorite Super Bowl Sunday team that you would like to see win (i.e. Kansas City Chiefs or the Philadelphia Eagles). On Souper Bowl Sunday we will announce in Fellowship how many cans of soup we collected and who most of us think will win the Super Bowl later that evening. We thank you for your support and anticipated donations of soup.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



The Outreach and Evangelism and Fundraising Teams are overseeing the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on **Tuesday March 4, from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm**. The meal will consist of pancakes, sausage, and applesauce with beverages of coffee, tea, milk and orange juice.

The cost for adults is. \$7, children 6-12 is \$4 and children 5 and under free. Credit and debit cards are also accepted.

A portion of the proceeds will be going to the food pantry at the St. Peter's Family Health Clinic in Albany's South End neighborhood. This is where we did our God's Work. Our Hands. project last year, painting and reorganizing their food pantry.

Please put this date on your calendar and invite your family, friends, and neighbors to come out for some great pancakes, fellowship and to support a great cause. **If you could help in the kitchen, serve or help clean-up please speak to Danny Patrick.** See you all at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.

Ash Wednesday is March 5

Spoken worship at First Lutheran at noon, sung worship at Good Shepherd at 7 pm.

Lent begins March 5 with a simple service of Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes in the middle of the day at First Lutheran and a sung service of Holy Communion at Good Shepherd in the evening. Both services are joint services with First Lutheran.

Looking ahead to Lent

March 12 Holy Spirit ✦ March 19 Good Shepherd ✦ March 26 First ✦ April 2 St. John's ✦ April 9 Good Shepherd

Wednesdays in Lent Albany Lutherans Together congregations again gather for supper and evening prayer. Our shared Lenten appeal is once again for Global Refuge, formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services.

The April 9 service will be at Good Shepherd, but the meal will be a potluck with all congregations bringing food for hosting the meal.



Note: There is not an ALT Collection for February. We resume our shared collection during Lent.

Overflow Homeless Shelter – Shelter Meals Update

We are so happy to report that the Overflow Homeless Shelter will be opening on Monday February 3. The shelter is now located at 110 N. Pearl Street near the Palace Theatre. As we have for years, Albany Lutherans Together will be preparing meals for the shelter on Tuesdays, and we have the first Tuesday of the month and the last Tuesday in April.

The meal needs to be prepared for 12 people and consists of an entree, vegetable or salad, and dessert. The shelter is requesting no fish or pork, and it is not necessary to provide a salad dressing with the salad. It has worked out well when three people prepare a meal so that no one is doing the whole meal.

Thank you to Kathy and Mark Silo for providing a meal on February 4. We need dinners for: **March 4, April 1 and April 29**. Additionally, there are many dates that still need meals beyond the ALT Tuesdays.

If you would like to help with this special ministry by providing a meal, please speak with Danny Patrick and he can be reached at (518) 477-5355. As always thank you for your anticipated help.

Little Food Pantry

Good Shepherd's Little Food Pantry has turned into a big part of our community outreach. It allows members of our congregation to leave non-perishable food items for those in need. 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 – i.e., snack bars or candy
- ❖ No cleaning products – they may contaminate food
- ❖ Diapers, dry formula, powdered milk, toilet paper, are always in need. Please do not attach receipts to formula or diapers.

Please check to make sure the food is not spoiled or out of date.

Mitten Tree Thanks

Once again, thank you to Marie and Kevin Wertman for donating the mitten tree for the narthex. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this ministry In December 2024. Because of your generosity and talents, we were able to donate 51 pairs of mittens, and 25 scarves and hats, as well as two bags of clothes, to the Sister Maureen Joyce Center. The staff at the Sister Maureen Joyce Food Pantry was very grateful for these items that were collected. They came right in time before the latest cold snap that we all experienced.

Fundraising Team Update

The next meeting of the Fundraising Team will be on February 3, 2025 at 6:30 PM and will also be available on zoom! Please mark your calendars and thanks to all!

Technology Report

We believe that our AV microphone issue has been fixed. We are always looking for feedback on our Sunday Worship Zoom so that we can improve our performance. Please contact Steve Layne with your feedback.

Our Hearing Loop that was installed back in June 2019 stopped working and needed to have the main unit replaced which has been completed.

News from Women of the ELCA



The Good Shepherd unit of the Women of the ELCA (WELCA) held their Annual Meeting on January 12, 2025, with nine participants in attendance. Secretary Chris Wiegert shared WELCA's Annual Report, and Treasurer Colleen Ward provided the Treasurer's Report. The group discussed proposed amendments to the WELCA constitution and discussed plans for 2025. It was the consensus of the group to have the officers and Marie Wertman serve on the Program Planning Committee. The following officers were re-elected to a second term: Marjorie Raymond, Unit Coordinator; Chris Wiegert, Secretary; and Colleen Ward, Treasurer. WELCA is an independent women's ministry program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. All women in the congregation are invited to participate in the group's meetings and activities. For more information, check out WELCA's website at www.womenoftheelca.org or contact Marjorie Raymond at 518-424-6043.

Annual Contribution Statements

Annual Contribution Statements were sent out in mid-January to everyone who made a contribution of record in 2024. If you have any questions about your statement, please contact Marjorie Raymond, Financial Secretary, at 518-424-6034. Special thanks to all who supported our ministries in 2024 with their financial contributions!

"My Offering" Envelopes

Pre-printed and numbered offering envelopes are used by Good Shepherd as a convenience to regular donors and to simplify the process of recording charitable donations to the church. If you would like a set of numbered envelopes, please contact Marjorie Raymond, Financial Secretary, at 518-424-6043.

Online giving

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

The 2025 set of envelopes includes an envelope for each Sunday, along with other envelopes to support Good Shepherd's ministries. An "Initial Offering" is included in the set for January, and a "Building Fund" envelope is included for February. *Thank you for making a difference with your generous donations!*

Advocacy in the name of God has power

Members of First Lutheran Church and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church signed letters to our State Governor, Senators and Assembly Members asking for the approval of the Climate Change Superfund Bill to require companies that are polluting our environment to help pay the cost of repairing the damage. The impact is expected to curtail pollution and support green energy production, while sharing the cost fully paid by New York taxpayers.

Our appeal was based on our belief that God gave us creation to support our livelihood but to also care for this gift to sustain its health. It is likely that this message had influence on our elected officials to pass and sign the legislation. It was signed into law on December 26, 2024.

Advocacy Opportunities in February and March

On February 4, join Pastor Chilton and faith leaders from across the state at the capitol to advocate for the Faith Based Affordable Housing Act, which will make it easier for churches to build affordable housing on their property. Let Pastor Chilton know if you can join him.

On March 3 and 4, join our friends in the NYS Council of Church for their annual lobby days at the State Capitol. Monday evening is worship, learning, and fellowship at Westminster Presbyterian and Tuesday is training at the church and a press conference and lobby visits at the capitol.

Register here: <https://secure.everyaction.com/CdotEPWyJUebq0sJHYEvlg2>

Worship and Music Corner

What happened to the brass candlesticks and cross?

They are with F. C. Ziegler & Co. in Oklahoma being refurbished to shine like new. Thank you to Paul Spofford for doing the heavy lifting of dismantling them and packing them up for shipping. The refurbishment is being paid for through the memorial gifts given in honor of Carol Phelps and we anticipate having them back before Holy Week. Thanks also to Paul Spofford for building the rough wooden cross that we are using in the meantime.

Music Director and Organist Search

We are still seeking a candidate for the permanent position. We have been very well served by David Vredenburg and Mark Huffman in the interim. David is with us through the Sunday before Palm Sunday, and we're looking for coverage for Holy Week through Pentecost.

January Worship Attendance

Date	In-Person	Zoom	Total
1/5	34	4	38
1/12	43	3	46
1/19	38	2	40
1/26	50	2	52



Lynn Best
Steve Layne
Lou Reiss

Fellowship Hosts Needed

Thank you to all who have generously signed up to host our gatherings following worship. Please consider providing coffee and some small snacks 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.

Altar Flowers

Please! Don't forget to sign up to donate flowers for the sanctuary. Sign-up on the bulletin board in the narthex.

American Red Cross Blood Drive!



Good Shepherd's American Red Cross Blood Drive will be held again this spring. The specific date will be announced soon. Currently the Red Cross has a limited blood supply, so we are encouraging participation from as many donors as possible. Anyone 18 years of age or older in good health is eligible to donate. 17-year-olds with parental permission are also eligible. Rapid Pass can be completed on your phone or computer on the day of donation before coming to the drive which saves you time. If you have any questions or wish to sign up contact Jeannette Harting at 518-423-0333.

Digital Message Board

Thanks to an anonymous donor, we have a new digital message board installed inside the frame of the church sign. This will help us advertise our events and get people's attention on the road.



Many thanks to our worship servers & volunteers!

February 2

Opener	Steve Layne
Greeter	Vicki LaFrank
Usher	Marc Kleinhenz
Acolyte	Brielle Johnson
Lay Reader	Mark Silo
Communion Assistant	Kathy Silo
AV Tech	Steve Layne
Closer	Steve Layne

February 16

Opener	Emmie Knobloch
Greeter	Maryanne Sangiacomo
Usher	Paul Spofford
Acolyte	Matthew Brenneman
Lay Reader	Danny Patrick
Communion Assistant	Colleen Ward
AV Tech	Emmie Knobloch
Closer	Atif Dean

February 9

Opener	Bill Wiegert
Greeter	Patti Kopach
Usher	Bill Wiegert
Acolyte	Naz Karageozian
Lay Reader	Meg Winters
Communion Assistant	Bertie Cole
AV Tech	Elizabeth Strohbeck
Closer	Danny Patrick

February 23

Opener	Marie Wertman
Greeter	Dick Walker
Usher	Rob Beach
Acolyte	Matthew Brenneman
Lay Reader	Jill Brenneman
Communion Assistant	Patti Kopach
AV Tech	Marie Wertman
Closer	Meg Winters

(Re)Introducing All Creation Sings

A Workshop with Julie Grindle

All Creation Sings is now almost five years old! Published during the pandemic, it is a resource that looks to fill musical and liturgical gaps in our ELCA liturgies. Join us for a brief overview of the book, and then we will sing! Come with your heart and voice and let's explore it together.

Sunday, February 2 at 1:00 p.m.

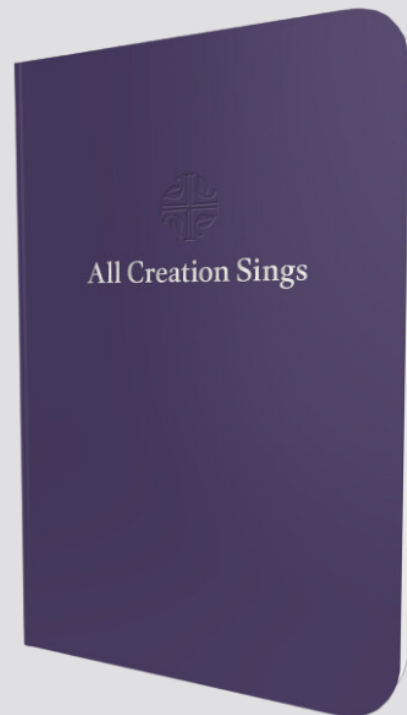
**Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit
57 Hurlbut Street, Albany, NY 12209**

~preceded by Holy Spirit's Hot Soup Lunch at 11:45~

RSVP here:



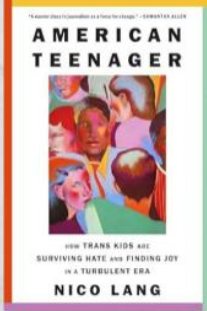
Sponsored by:





Around town...

Activities of interest hosted by friends in ALT and beyond.



FIRST LUTHERAN BOOK CLUB

American Teenager
How Trans Kids Are Surviving Hate and Finding Joy in a Turbulent Era

by Nico Lang

FEBRUARY 27 (WEDNESDAY) - 6 PM
 JUNIOR'S BAR & GRILL
 (2080 WESTERN AVE., GUILDERLAND)

Join Pastor Chilton at First Lutheran's Book Club on Wednesday, February 27, for a discussion of Nico Lang's book *American Teenager: How Trans Kids Are Surviving Hate and Finding Joy in a Turbulent Era*. Award-winning journalist Nico Lang observed that most of the national conversation about trans kids was talking about and around trans kids, and not to them. So, Lang went and listened to them. Each chapter is a portrait of the experience of an individual person and their family and community. Lang spent weeks each with seven different trans and nonbinary youth and their families in seven different states and presents their stories with compassion and grace. *Books are available now at a discount on the book club shelf at The Book House at Stuyvesant Plaza.*







Come join us at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
 Saturday, February 15th, 2025

**Free movie showing of
 A Case For Love**

**2:30 PM
 Carmichael Hall
 10 N Main Ave
 Albany, NY 12203**

**Refreshments and Popcorn provided
 Discussion to follow with director Brian Ide**

This feature-length documentary examines the question of whether or not love, specifically —unselfish—love, is the solution to the extreme societal and political divide facing the world.

Faith on Tap
 Wednesday, February 5 • 6:30 PM
 The Warbler Brewery
 155 Delaware Ave. • Delmar



~ February 2025 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 8:45 Worship 9:45 Fellowship	3 6:30 Fund-raising	4 12:30 FH Colonie Srs.		6 12-3 BR Colonie Srs 4:00 Drama Kids	7 8:45 BR Colonie Srs 5 pm Dance Assembly	8
9 8:45 Worship 9:45 Fellowship	10	11 12:30 FH Colonie Srs.	12	13 12-3 BR Colonie Srs 4:00 Drama Kids	14 8:45 BR Colonie Srs	15 Church Council Retreat
16 8:45 Worship 9:45 Fellowship	17	18 12:30 FH Colonie Srs.	19	20 12-3 BR Colonie Srs 4:00 Drama Kids	21 8:45 BR Colonie Srs	22
23 8:45 Worship 9:45 Fellowship	24	25 12:30 FH Colonie Srs.	26 9 am Colonie Srs. Exec. Board 7 pm Property Comm	27 12-3 BR Colonie Srs. 4:00 Drama Kids	28 8:45 BR Colonie Srs.	

Looking ahead to March and April

March 2 – Worship for the Transfiguration of our Lord – ALT Pulpit Swap.

March 3 -4 – Ecumenical Advocacy Days with the NY State Council of Churches

March 4 – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 4-6 pm

March 5 – Ash Wednesday – Worship at First at Noon. Worship at Good Shepherd at 7 pm.

March 12 – ALT Lent begins. See page 4 for all the dates.

April 1 – Food & Faith @ UAlbany hosted by WELCA

April 13 – Palm Sunday

April 17 – Maundy Thursday

April 18 – Good Friday

April 19 – Holy Saturday – ALT Easter Vigil at Good Shepherd.

April 20 – Easter Sunday.