



March-April 2025

A Newsletter of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Loudonville, NY

LENT + HOLY WEEK + ADVOCACY + OUTREACH + COMMUNITY EVENTS



Thanks to all who attended our Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 26. Pictured here are our elected leaders being installed. Left to right: **Jeannette Harting** (Nominating Committee); **Marjorie Raymond** (Synod Assembly Voting Member); **Pastor Chilton**; **Mike Serge** (Council Vice President); **Kiran Dean** (Synod Assembly Voting Member); **Colleen Ward** (Congregation Council); **Patti Kopach** (Congregation Council); **Danny Patrick** (Council President); **Meg Winters** (Council Secretary); **Jeff Emptage** (Council Treasurer); **Mark Brenneman** (Congregation Council); **Maryanne Sangiacomo** (Nominating Committee). Behind Maryanne is **Susan Spofford** (Congregation Council and Endowment Committee). Not pictured but elected at this meeting: Congregation Council: **Michelle Wiegert** and **Kathy Westerholt**; Nominating Committee: **Marc Kleinhenz**, **Christine Kleinhenz**, **Nancy Serge**, and **Kathy Silo**. Officers for 2025 were elected at the February 15 Council Retreat.



Come Journey to the Cross with Us!

- March 5 • Ash Wednesday
- March 12-April 9 • Lent Wednesdays
- April 13 • Palm Sunday
- April 17 • Maundy Thursday
- April 18 • Good Friday
- April 19 • Easter Vigil
- April 20 • Easter Sunday

See inside for all we have in store this season, then join your faith family as we make our journey to the cross ... together!



"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.gsclcl.org + 518-458-1562



A Note from Your Pastor



Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.

Grace to you and peace from God on the move...to the cross, out of the tomb, into the world.

One of my seminary professors, Father Michael Raschko, defined the human condition as “living in the creative tension between finite existence and infinite self-transcendence.” We live with the knowledge of death and the knowledge of death generates new life and new energy. How we live with the knowledge of death is the question: do we pretend like we won’t die? Do we try to defeat death? Do we live knowing that we have already died the only death that matters, our death with Christ in the waters of baptism, trusting that God has overcome the power of death for us?

On Ash Wednesday, we receive a mark on our forehead that is a mark of God’s love and a mark of our death. In a world that keeps death as far away as possible, it is both jarring and reassuring to receive the mark of the cross in ash and oil and hear that we are going to die, and in fact have already died with Christ in baptism. In a world that ignores death, it is comforting to acknowledge the fact that we die, that our worldly bodies will fail.

The knowledge of death frees us to go with God beyond that which traps us. When we focus on survival, when we focus on avoiding death, we close ourselves and our community off from the fullness of what God is doing and where God calls us to go. This is the beauty of Ash Wednesday – we are told directly and physically “you too will die” – and God moves in us to overcome the fear of death and live into the promise of new life.

Sundays in Lent, we call back to this proclamation and promise. We remember that we are dust and unto dust we shall return, and we encounter God on the move conquering the power of death. God is on the move in our hearts, in our congregation, and in our lives.

Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.

Amen.

Peace,



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

Church Leaders

Pastor and Staff

The Rev. D. Lowell Chilton, *Pastor*

pastor@gsclcl.org

cell: 518-285-0441

Kevin Wertman, *Custodian*

2025 Church Council

Danny Patrick, *President* *

Mike Serge, *Vice President* *

Meg Winters, *Secretary* *

Jeff Emptage, *Treasurer* *

Mark Brenneman

Patti Kopach

Susan Spofford

Colleen Ward

Kathy Westerholt

Michelle Wiegert

Meg Winters

* *Elected at Council Retreat
on February 15, 2025*

Administration

Marjorie Raymond, *Financial Secy.*

Vince Pasqualino, *Asst. Treasurer*

Danny Patrick, *Building Use Coord.*

**See pages 3-4 to learn all
we're offering this Lent and
Holy Week ... then join us
for the journey!**



Ash Wednesday Services March 5 @ Noon & 7 pm

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 5. Join us for a simple spoken service of Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes at noon at First Lutheran and a sung service of Holy Communion at Good Shepherd at 7 pm. Both services will be joint services with First Lutheran Church.



See more details on Holy Week services on page 4, then join your Good Shepherd family and the larger ALT community!

Sermon Series for Lent “God is On The Move”

Join Pastor Chilton for his Sunday Sermon Series during Lent, “God is on the Move.”

Jesus’s ministry wasn’t fixed in a church or temple, he was always on the move. He encountered people in their daily lives, in joy and sorrow, struggle and success. Sundays in Lent, we encounter God on the move...

...into the desert
...past all obstacles
...over the fence
...down the road
...to the cross
...out of the tomb

Join us Sundays in worship during Lent for this special sermon series.



Midweek ALT Supper & Worship During Lent



During Wednesdays in Lent, Albany Lutherans Together (ALT) congregations again gather for

supper and evening prayer. Our shared Lenten appeal is once again for Global Refuge, see page 7.

Each Wednesday in Lent, supper will be served beginning at 6:00 pm (vegetarian and gluten-free options available), followed by Holden Evening Prayer at 6:45 pm (in person and on Zoom*).

March 12

Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit
57 Hurlbut Street, Albany

March 19

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
510 Albany Shaker Rd, Loudonville

March 26

First Lutheran Church
181 Western Avenue, Albany

April 2

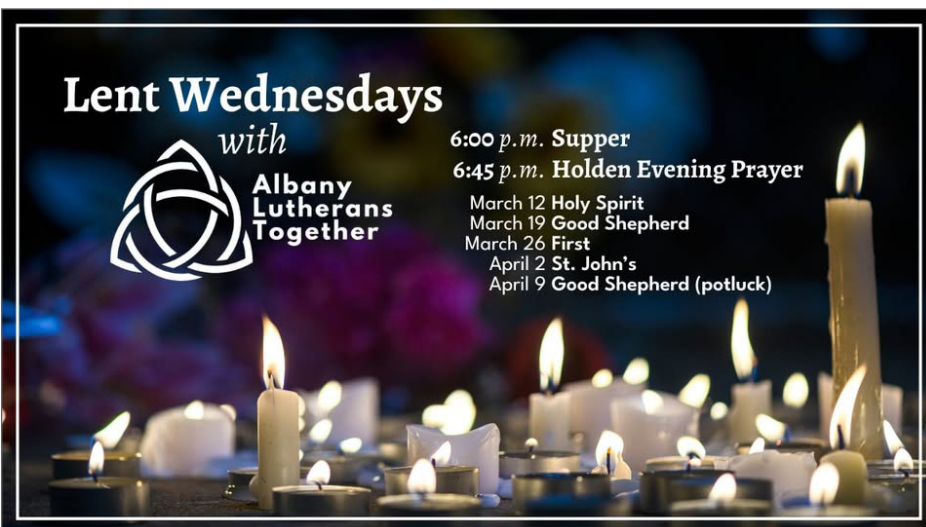
St. John’s Lutheran Church
303 Sand Creek Road, Albany

April 9

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
510 Albany Shaker Rd, Loudonville

*Connect to worship on Zoom at firstlutheranalbany.org/zoom or by phone at 929-436-2866 (input meeting ID 518-463-1326 and passcode 1 when prompted).

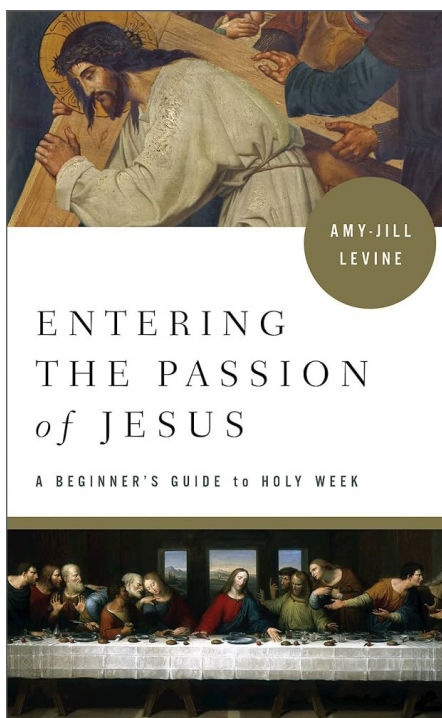
The April 9 service will be at Good Shepherd, but the meal will be a potluck with all congregations bringing food for the meal.



Lent Book Study Begins on March 9

We're excited to restart after-worship Adult Faith Formation with a video and book-based series, *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week* by New Testament and Jewish Studies professor Dr. Amy-Jill Levine.

Sundays in Lent beginning on March 9, join us after worship in the library and on Zoom for this discussion, facilitated by Patti Kopach. You can purchase the book in paperback [HERE](#) or on Kindle [HERE](#).



In *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week*, Dr. Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the Passion story. She shows us how the text raises ethical and spiritual questions for the reader, and how we all face risk in our Christian experience.

Finish Your Lenten Journey Strong; Join Us During Holy Week: April 13-20

Palm Sunday ~ April 13 @ 8:45 am ~ Held at Good Shepherd



God is on the move to the cross. We sing hosannas with the disciples entering the city, and then go with Christ to the Cross.

Maundy Thursday ~ April 17 @ 7 pm ~ Held at Good Shepherd



We again celebrate Maundy Thursday with Dinner Church style worship with First Lutheran. We hear the story of Jesus' last meal with his friends and his command to love one another while we have a meal in our fellowship hall. After the meal, we process into the sanctuary to linger with Christ in the garden as the altar is stripped.

Good Friday ~ April 18 @ 7 pm ~ Held at First Lutheran



We stay with Christ at the cross. We stay with God in the place where God meets us, God's death on the cross of Christ.

Easter Vigil ~ April 19 @ 7 pm ~ Held at Good Shepherd



Last year's ALT Easter Vigil was a fantastic gathering, beginning at the fire outside, processing by candlelight into the dark sanctuary, and staying in the tomb with Christ until we turned around to discover the lilies and trumpets of Easter. **This year, we again host the Albany Lutherans Together Easter Vigil at Good Shepherd.** We'll gather at the fire and light the paschal candle, hear the stories of God's salvation through time by candlelight, and celebrate the first communion of Easter together, ultimately culminating in a toast to the risen Christ and dessert potluck.

Easter Sunday ~ April 20 @ 8:45 am ~ Held at Good Shepherd

Join us for festive worship celebrating God on the move... out of the tomb! Stay after worship for the annual Easter Brunch. Look for a signup sheet in the Narthex soon.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on March 4

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. Cost is \$7 (\$4 for ages 6-12, free younger than 6). Credit and debit cards are also accepted.

A portion of the proceeds will go 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 (photos below and on page 7). 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 contact Danny Patrick at 518-477-5355 or dannypatrick83@gmail.com.

We hope to see you there!



Eucharistic Ministry Team: Training Day on March 22

We will hold a Training Day for our Eucharistic Ministry Team on Saturday, March 22, from 10 am to Noon. Have you noticed on Sunday morning the prayer Pastor Chilton prays after communion that invokes God sending angels to Jesus in the desert? That prayer liturgically extends our gathering into the homes and hospital rooms of homebound and hospitalized members of our congregation. This is an important ministry of the church, and one which could use a few more people involved.

On March 22, join Pastor Chilton to learn more about what this involves, role play a visit together, and see if this is for you. If you think you're interested, come to the training. If it isn't for you, it's okay to decide after trying it out!

Adult Faith Formation: Member-Led Discussions

An area of investment and priority for the Council this year is deepening our adult faith formation activities. **We're going to try out a member-led discussion group on Sundays during fellowship time, beginning with the "Entering the Passion of Jesus" program during Lent (see page 4).**

If you're interested in leading a future series, please contact Patti Kopach (patti.kopach@yahoo.com), Colleen Ward (c1955ward@yahoo.com), or Pastor Chilton (Pastor@gsllc.org).

Celebrating Our Members and Their Birthdays

Wishing a very Happy Birthday to our members! (Names didn't appear in our February newsletter, so we're passing along our belated wishes here.)

February Birthdays

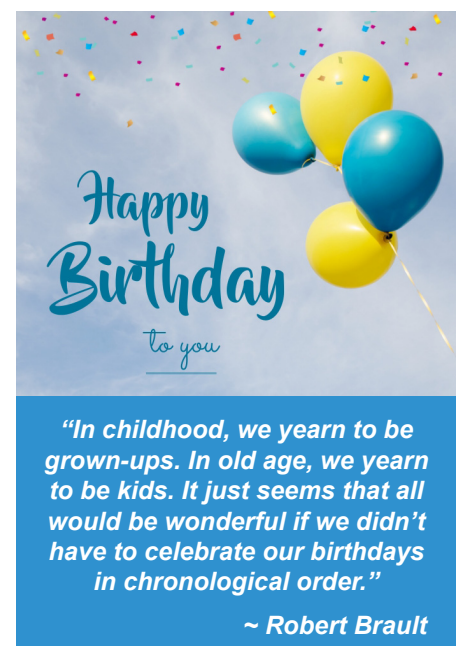
February 1	Carol Arnold
February 2	Brian Rhodes
February 4	Michael Serge
February 8	Easton Ahl
February 13	Jack Stubbs
February 17	Peter Crouse
February 26	Charles Rhodes

March Birthdays

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

April Birthdays

April 6	Elizabeth Sickler
April 12	Sarah Reichard
April 28	Bertie Cole
April 30	Julie Van Sickle



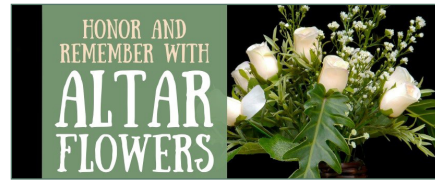
Fellowship Hosts Needed Following Worship

Our fellowship gathering following worship each week is a great time to meet and chat with your friends, families, and fellow congregants. **Please sign up to provide a snack on a Sunday that is convenient for you.** If you need more info, contact Meg Winters at megwint@gmail.com. This is such a simple, welcoming way to bring others together and encourage them to linger at church. Be a part of that! **Please Note: Hosts are still needed for March 9, April 6, April 13, and April 27.**



Altar Flowers: Sponsors Are Needed

Please sign up to dedicate the altar flowers in memory of, or in honor of, a loved one or special occasion. There are two altar arrangements each Sunday, each one costing \$18. Any questions? Contact Flower Coordinator Laurie Pasqualino at lauriepasqualino@gmail.com. We don't have altar flowers during Lent. Sign up on the flower chart in the narthex today for the Easter Season and beyond. Thank you! **Please watch the bulletin and Midweek Message for Easter Flower orders soon!**



Searching for Music Director and Organist

We are still seeking a candidate for the permanent position of Music Director and Organist. 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 currently looking for coverage for Holy Week through Pentecost. Please contact us if you know anyone who might be interested, or have them reach out to us directly.



Remember in Prayer

Always keep in prayer our friends who are Shut-Ins:

- Lynn Best
- Shirley Kroll
- Lou Reiss
- Dorothy Wimple
- Carolyn Wolfe



Please keep in your prayers:

- Lynn Best
- Carolyn Wolfe
- Lou Reiss
- The Family of Thomas Hoyt
- The Family of Kevin Colwell
- The Family of Rebecca Kench
- The Family of Betty Suarez, whose stepdaughter Becca passed away on Sunday, February 18.



A Heartfelt Thank You!

Thank you! Thank you! And ... thank you! We want to thank all of you who brought in items for the **Sister Maureen Joyce Food Pantry** and the **Overflow Homeless Shelter**. Everything was greatly appreciated by both groups. Again, thank you for your generosity! You are a blessing to so many in our community.



Thanks to an anonymous donor, we now have a new digital message board installed inside the frame of the church sign. This is a great way to get people's attention and advertise our events!

Advocacy Opportunity on March 3 & 4

On Monday, March 3 and Tuesday, March 4, join our friends in the NYS Council of Churches 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.

March 4: Advocacy Day Tentative Schedule

- 9:00 am: Gathering: Coffee & Connections (Chapel & Welles)
- 9:30-11:15 am: Lobbying Training & Policy Ask Session
- 11:15 am: Grab Box Lunches & Depart for the Capitol
- 12:30 pm: Press Conference at the Capitol
- 1:00–4:30 pm: Legislative Visits

Registration fee is \$30 but no one is turned away! **Register [HERE](#).**



ALT Lent Offering Appeal: Global Refuge



This year, ALT will again support the vital work of Global Refuge (formerly Lutheran

Immigration and Refugee Service). Give directly to Global Refuge [online](#) or by check (payable to Global Refuge) to P.O. Box 17467, Baltimore, MD 21297.

Since 1939, Global Refuge has provided welcome and hope to more than 750,000 refugees, witnessing to God's love for all people, advocating for immigrants and refugees, and transforming communities through ministries of service and justice. Learn more at globalrefuge.org – and thank you for your generosity.



Overflow Homeless Shelter Meal for April 29

We are happy that the Overflow Homeless Shelter has opened 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. **Good Shepherd has the first Tuesday of each month and the last Tuesday in April. We still need dinner for April 29.** Thank you to Kathy and Mark Silo for providing a meal on February 4.

The meal needs to be prepared for 15 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.

If you'd like to help provide a meal, contact Danny Patrick at dannypatrick83@gmail.com or 518-477-5355. Thank you!

Pride Center Advocacy Day on March 11

Join the Pride Center of the Capital Region on Tuesday, March 11, in the fight for policies that protect trans and queer lives! We begin at 9:30 am at the NY State Museum with training on how to share stories effectively, followed by meetings with legislators to demand action for LGBTQ+ rights in upstate communities. **Register [HERE](#).**

Shrove Tuesday: Serving Pancakes, Serving Others



A portion of the proceeds from our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will go to the food pantry at the St. Peter's Family Health Clinic.

Souper Bowl Sunday Scored Big for Pantry

This year for Souper Bowl Sunday we collected cans of soup for our Little Food Pantry. Donors were invited to place cans by the Super Bowl team they wanted to win (Chiefs or Eagles). Since the final collection occurred February 23 due to weather the previous weekends, we're assuming the cans were placed by preferred teams.

Thanks to your generosity, we collected 50 cans of soup!



Little Food Pantry has a Big Impact on Others

Please be a blessing to our neighbors in need! The Little Food Pantry helps with food insecurity in our community by filling it with non-perishable food items for people that are in need of food. We fill this food box on a DAILY basis so you know there are many folks who are in need of food for themselves and their family.

These are greatly needed items:

- Rice
- Pasta
- Cereal
- Crackers
- Boxed Milk
- Rice A Roni
- Dried Beans
- Dried Soup
- Canned Soup
- Canned Tuna
- Canned Salmon
- Canned Stew
- Chef Boyardee
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Toilet Paper
- Dog Food
- Cat Food
- Kitty Litter

*"There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread."
~ Mahatma Gandhi*

Blood Drive in Spring; Please Donate!

Good Shepherd's American Red Cross Blood Drive will be held again this spring; the date will be announced soon. Currently the Red Cross has a limited blood supply, so we encourage 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 the day of donation before coming, which saves you time. If you have questions or wish to sign up, contact Jeannette Harting at 518-423-0333.



American Red Cross

Together, we can save a life

FUNDRAISING EVENTS!

Mark your calendars for this year's fundraising events! If you would like to sponsor an event, please contact Steve or Nancy Layne at slayne0320@gmail.com or 518-727-1410. *Thank you!*

Special Events:

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper • Tuesday, March 4 • 4-6 pm

Community Yard Sale • Saturday, May 31 • 9 am-3 pm

Berry Festival • Saturday, July 12 • 4-6 pm

Election Day Bake Sale • Tuesday, November 4 • 9 am until Sold Out

Holiday Boutique • Saturday, November 22 • 9 am-2 pm

Cookie Walk • Saturday, December 13 • 9 am-11 am or until Sold Out

Ongoing Events:

Clynk Can Collection

Hoffman's Car Wash Tickets:
Order your tickets online [HERE!](#)



BLOOD DONATIONS: DID YOU KNOW...?

- Less than 38% of Americans are eligible to give blood or platelets; of those, less than 10% actually donate each year.
- The Red Cross needs to collect about 12,500 blood donations and more than 2,700 platelet donations each day.
- The blood collected by the Red Cross helps millions of patients in approx. 2,500 hospitals and other facilities across the country.
- 82% of blood donations are given at Blood Drives hosted by organizations like ours.

“Considering Matthew Shepard” on March 9

Albany Pro Musica proudly presents the Capital Region premiere of “Considering Matthew Shepard” on Sunday, March 9, at 3 pm at Troy Savings Bank Music Hall.

This transformative work, by acclaimed composer Craig Hella Johnson, reflects on the life, death, and legacy of Matthew Shepard, a young man whose brutal murder in 1998 became a catalyst for social change and a pivotal moment in the fight for LGBTQIA+ rights. Through deeply moving music and thought-provoking storytelling, *Considering Matthew Shepard* explores themes of inclusion, resilience, and hope. It invites us to reflect on our shared humanity and challenges us to imagine a more compassionate and just world. [Get details HERE](#); [buy tickets HERE](#).

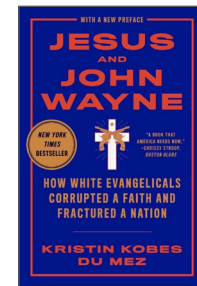


Next Faith on Tap on March 12 @ 7:45 pm

St. John’s and Holy Spirit invite you to join us for good conversations about faith and life, as well as delicious local brews. **This month, we’ll gather on the SECOND Wednesday after our first midweek Lent supper and worship at Holy Spirit on March 12.** If you’re coming to supper and worship, walk over with us to **Delaware Supply** (292 Delaware Ave., Albany), or meet us there around **7:45 pm. Note: April’s Faith on Tap will be on April 2 at 7:45 pm, following supper & worship at St. John’s.** Location TBA; near St. John’s.



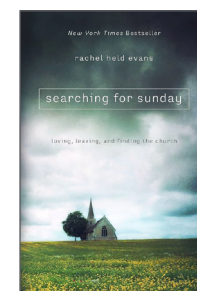
First Lutheran Book Club: Tues. March 25 @ 6 pm



First Lutheran Book Club will meet on Tuesday, March 25, at 6 pm to discuss *Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation* by Kristin Kobes Du Mez. Watch for location to be announced soon.



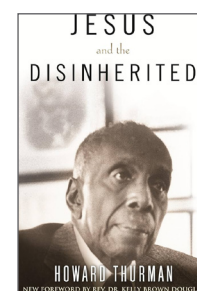
First Lutheran Book Club: Tues. April 22 @ 6 pm



First Lutheran Book Club will meet on Tuesday, April 22, at 6 pm to discuss *Searching for Sunday, Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church* by Rachel Held Evans. Location TBA soon.



First Lutheran Book Club: Tues. May 27 @ 6 pm



First Lutheran Book Club will meet on Tuesday, May 27, at 6 pm to discuss *Jesus and the Disinherited* by Howard Thurman. Watch for location to be announced.



Collaboration for Christ's Sake: Six Opportunities with Others in the Upstate NY Synod

In response to requests for more time to be together, our Synod has created in-person events at six locations throughout Upstate New York this spring. Read their invitation below to join with local congregations and community partners to be inspired by local ministries, network with other attendees, learn together, and bring specific ideas back to our congregation!

2025 Pre-Assembly In-Person Events: SIX opportunities to Collaborate for Christ's Sake with others in the Upstate NY Synod

Who is invited?

- Everyone! We invite all lay and rostered folks to come together around collaboration, with other ELCA congregations, ecumenical and interfaith partners, and area agencies.
- We would love to see teams from congregations, as well as rostered ministers, and lay voters for our online Synod Assembly.
- Do not feel restricted by your conference – all are welcome at any event.

What can I bring?

- Your insight and imagination!
- Non-perishable food and other pantry items for a local outreach ministry.

What is happening at each event?

- Fellowship
- Words from Bishop Miller
- Presentation from Local Collaborative Partner
- Open Forum on Collaborative Opportunities
- Live-streamed Communion Service with Affirmation of Baptism and Vocation

Where and when are the events?

- Saturday, February 22 • 9:30 am-12:30 pm • Holy Trinity, Buffalo
- Saturday, March 8 • 1 pm-4 pm • Good Shepherd, Glenville
- Saturday, March 15 • 2 pm-5 pm • Incarnate Word, Rochester
- Saturday, March 29 • 9:30 am-12:30 pm • St. Paul's, Liverpool
- Saturday, April 5 • 10 am-1 pm • Bethany, Elmira
- Date and Time TBD • Zion, Frewsburg

Annual Shred-It Day to Be Saturday, May 3

The Annual Free Shred-It Day event will be Saturday, May 3, from 9-12 at Ameriprise (located at 80 Wolf Rd. in Albany). Some things to know before you go:

- Documents will be shredded on-site;
- Attendees can pull into the front parking lot;
- Attendees are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items for the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York. For more information, call Jeff Emptage at 518-280-4942.



Cultivating a GRACE Mindset: Collaboration



Collaboration
for Christ's Sake



Updates From Church Council

Below are the latest updates from your Church Council:

- Betty Sickler resigned from Church Council and we thank Betty for serving and the many gifts that she has shared with Good Shepherd over the years.
- A small Ad Hoc Ministry Team is working on making some revisions to the Building Use Policy which has not been updated since 2018.
- The Church Council Retreat was held on February 15, 2025, at which time Council elected the following officers for 2025: Danny Patrick, President; Mike Serge, Vice President; Meg Winters, Secretary; and Jeff Emptage, Treasurer. A big thanks to Patti Kopach who has served as Secretary for the past two years.
- Meg Winter was elected to the Partnership Committee, replacing Maryanne Sangiacomo who is no longer on church council and the Covenant for Shared Ministry with First Lutheran defines the Partnership Committee as the pastor and the president, treasurer and two council members from each congregation. We thank Maryanne for serving in this role and her many contributions on Church Council over the last three years.
- Colleen Ward was appointed by Church Council to be a counter, replacing Kathy Ingalls who has resigned. We thank Kathy for serving as a counter over the past couple of years.
- Approved proposal for Newsletter Service. (See article on page 12.)
- Our next two meetings will be held on Monday, March 10, at 6:30 pm and Monday, April 14, at 6:30 pm.

We thank ALL Council members who so willingly give their time to our congregation!

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”
~ Margaret Meade

WELCA News: History of Bold Women’s Day

Bold Women’s Day was established by the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in American (WELCA) in 2007. This annual Celebration, observed on the first Sunday of March, honors Lutheran women who act boldly in their faith through various forms of service, advocacy, and hospitality. WELCA was formed in 1987, bringing together three predecessor organizations: the American Lutheran Church Women, the Lutheran Church Women, and Women in Action for Mission. Since its inception the organization has been dedicated to empowering women to grow in faith, affirm their gifts, support one another, and engage in ministry and action.

Bold Women’s Day encourages congregations to recognize and celebrate the contributions of women who live out their faith in impactful ways. The celebration includes special liturgies, worship services and community events providing resources to help congregations honor the bold women in their midst. **This year, Bold Women’s Day is celebrated on Sunday March 2.**

The Good Shepherd Chapter of WELCA has chosen Cornerstone Mutual Ministries at SUNY Albany again this year to support with our ministry. We are providing dinner on Tuesday, April 1, for Food & Faith. This is a wonderful event where the students congregate for a mid-week service along with a well-appreciated home cooked meal. We will be inviting them to our Easter Vigil and donating a portion of our proceeds from our Cookie Walk to help them continue their mission.

We also meet at local restaurants a few times a year for a social event and at members’ homes for a short meeting and socialization. **The group will have an evening “Get Together” on Thursday, March 20, starting at 6:00 pm at Swifty’s on Everett Rd. in Albany.** The restaurant will provide separate checks. Reservations are required. Please call Marjorie Raymond at 518-424-6043 to reserve your spot.

If you’re interested in learning more about WELCA or our events, reach out to: Marjorie Raymond, Coordinator; Chris Wiegert, Secretary; or Colleen Ward, Treasurer



Message from Personnel Committee ~ Good Shepherd Newsletter: Announcement of Changes

With the retirement of Kathy Flynn, our Administrative Assistant, coupled with planning for managing the office workload in the short term, the Personnel Committee has been exploring various options. These options were focused on effectively maintaining a high level of communications, streamlining the office work process, and being mindful of costs.

We have recommended instituting a bi-monthly newsletter instead of the more familiar monthly issue. We have additionally recommended to outsource the publication of the newsletter to a highly recommended church publishing concern called SamePage Communications. St. John's has been using SamePage with excellent results. SamePage produces a document which we will be proud of, and which will enhance Good Shepherd's communication and outreach. We are pleased to announce that the Church Council approved the Personnel Committee's recommendation.

SamePage will produce for us in the near term three bi-monthly newsletters this year (March/April, May/June, July/August) as we continue to look at the longer term of how to manage the Church office and how we will staff the Administrative Assistant position. The cost of each outsourced bi-monthly newsletter is \$450. The cost is within the approved budget in lieu of not having the expense of the Administrative Assistant at this time. If we decide to continue to outsource the newsletter to SamePage beyond the first three issues, we will look at funding those costs when that decision is made.

Beyond improving communications and streamlining the office process, instituting these changes with the newsletter will lessen the administrative burden on Pastor Chilton so he can focus on spiritual leadership and enhancing our ministry.

The retirement of Kathy has offered us the opportunity to evaluate not only the publication of the newsletter but the necessary long-term staffing of the office as we look to become more efficient and cost effective. Additionally, we are excited that this change will enhance our ministry and spiritual life. The Personnel Committee is eager to hear congregant feedback on the newsletter. Please contact us or Pastor Chilton with any positive reflections or any concerns.

~ **Personnel Committee:**

Dave Ferrill, Nancy Serge, Steve Layne, Danny Patrick

Making a Difference with Your Offering

The set of offering envelopes includes an envelope in March for the Little Pantry and Special envelopes in March and April for Ash Wednesday, five Wednesdays in Lent, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Please be generous! All donations are used to support the ministries of Good Shepherd. Help us make a difference in our congregation and in the community!

ONLINE GIVING

To securely give online with
Tithe.ly, please visit
www.gslcl.org/#make-donation

A recurring gift is a great way to
support our ministries!

Worship Attendance

Date	In-Person	Zoom	Total
Feb. 2	27	0	27
Feb. 9	Snow Day; No Worship		
Feb. 16	Zoom: FLC; not recorded		
Feb. 23	29	2	31

Pastor Chilton Away at The Bridge: Apr. 30-May 3

Pastor Chilton is participating in a yearlong preaching continuing education program through United Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, VA, called *The Bridge for Early Career Preachers*. Funded by a grant from the Lilly Foundation, it is designed to help preachers in their first seven years of ministry grow as preachers. Most of the program is online and is already a great experience for him. **Lowell will be at this in-person retreat in Virginia April 30-May 3.**

As mentioned in the article above, please let the Personnel Committee know if you have any feedback regarding the newsletter.

Your input into all-things-Good Shepherd is important to the life of our congregation, and we value your opinion!

Sunday, March 2

WELCA Bold Women's Day (See p. 11)
 8:45 am: WORSHIP: Transfiguration;
 Guest Preacher Pr. Rahel Hahn
 9:45 am: Fellowship

Monday, March 3

*Ecumenical Advocacy Days with the
 NY State Council of Churches*

Tuesday, March 4

*Ecumenical Advocacy Days with the
 NY State Council of Churches*
 12:30 pm: Colonie Seniors (Fellow. Hall)
 4:00 pm: Shrove Tuesday Pancake
 Supper at Good Shepherd

Wednesday, March 5 ~ *ASH WED.*

12:00 pm: WORSHIP at First Lutheran
 7:00 pm: WORSHIP at Good Shepherd

Thursday, March 6

12:00 pm: Colonie Seniors (Blue Room)
 4:00 pm: Drama Kids (Full Building)

Friday, March 7

8:45 am: Colonie Seniors (Blue Room)
 5:00 pm: Dance Assembly

Saturday, March 8

Turn Clocks Ahead 1 Hour before Bed
 1:00 pm: Synod Event at Good
 Shepherd, Glenville

Sunday, March 9

Daylight Saving Time Begins
 8:45 am: WORSHIP
 9:45 am: Fellowship
 10:00 am: Lent Book Study in Library
 3:00 pm: *Considering Mathew Shepard*

Monday, March 10

6:30 pm: Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 11

9:30 am: Pride Center/Capital Advocacy
 12:30 pm: Colonie Seniors (Fellow. Hall)
 6:30 pm: Fundraising Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 12 ~ *LENT WED.*

6:00 pm: Midweek ALT Supper &
 Worship at Holy Spirit
 7:45 pm: *Faith on Tap: Delaware Supply*

Thursday, March 13

12:00 pm: Colonie Seniors (Blue Room)
 4:00 pm: Drama Kids (Full Building)

Friday, March 14

8:45 am: Colonie Seniors (Blue Room)

Sunday, March 16

8:45 am: WORSHIP
 9:45 am: Fellowship
 10:00 am: Lent Book Study in Library

Tuesday, March 18

12:30 pm: Colonie Seniors (Fellow. Hall)

Wednesday, March 19 ~ *LENT WED.*

6:00 pm: Midweek ALT Supper &
 Worship at Good Shepherd

Thursday, March 20

12:00 pm: Colonie Seniors (Blue Room)
 4:00 pm: Drama Kids (Full Building)
 6:00 pm: WELCA at Swifty's

Friday, March 21

8:45 am: Colonie Seniors (Blue Room)

Saturday, March 22

10:00 am: Eucharistic Ministry Training

Sunday, March 23

8:45 am: WORSHIP
 9:45 am: Fellowship
 10:00 am: Lent Book Study in Library

Tuesday, March 25

12:30 pm: Colonie Seniors (Fellow. Hall)
 6:00 pm: *First Lutheran Book Club*

Wednesday, March 26 ~ *LENT WED.*

9:30 am: Colonie Seniors (Fellow. Hall)
 6:00 pm: Midweek ALT Supper &
 Worship at First Lutheran

Thursday, March 27

12:00 pm: Colonie Seniors (Blue Room)
 4:00 pm: Drama Kids (Full Building)

Friday, March 28

8:45 am: Colonie Seniors (Blue Room)

Sunday, March 30

8:45 am: WORSHIP
 9:45 am: Fellowship
 10:00 am: Lent Book Study in Library

Tuesday, April 1

12:30 pm: Colonie Seniors (Fellow. Hall)
 6:00 pm: *Food & Faith @ UAlbany*

Wednesday, April 2 ~ *LENT WED.*

6:00 pm: Midweek ALT Supper &
 Worship at St. John's
 7:45 pm: *Faith on Tap: Location TBA*

Thursday, April 3

12:00 pm: Colonie Seniors (Blue Room)
 4:00 pm: Drama Kids (Full Building)

Friday, April 4

8:45 am: Colonie Seniors (Blue Room)
 5:00 pm: Dance Assembly

Sunday, April 6

8:45 am: WORSHIP
 9:45 am: Fellowship
 10:00 am: Lent Book Study in Library

Tuesday, April 8

12:30 pm: Colonie Seniors (Fellow. Hall)

Wednesday, April 9 ~ *LENT WED.*

6:00 pm: Midweek ALT Supper &
 Worship at Good Shepherd;
 with Potluck Meal; See page 3

Thursday, April 10

12:00 pm: Colonie Seniors (Blue Room)
 4:00 pm: Drama Kids (Full Building)

Friday, April 11

8:45 am: Colonie Seniors (Blue Room)

Sunday, April 13 ~ *PALM SUNDAY*

8:45 am: WORSHIP
 9:45 am: Fellowship
 10:00 am: Lent Book Study in Library

Monday, April 14

6:30 pm: Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, April 15

12:30 pm: Colonie Seniors (Fellow. Hall)

Thursday, April 17 ~ *MAUNDY THURS.*

12:00 pm: Colonie Seniors (Blue Room)
 7:00 pm: DINNER & WORSHIP at
 Good Shepherd w/First Lutheran

Friday, April 18 ~ *GOOD FRIDAY*

7:00 pm: WORSHIP at First Lutheran

Saturday, April 19 ~ *HOLY SATURDAY*

7:00 pm: ALT Easter Vigil at
 Good Shepherd

Sunday, April 20 ~ *EASTER SUNDAY*

8:45 am: WORSHIP

Tuesday, April 22

12:30 pm: Colonie Seniors (Fellow. Hall)
 6:00 pm: *First Lutheran Book Club*

Thursday, April 24

12:00 pm: Colonie Seniors (Blue Room)
 4:00 pm: Drama Kids (Full Building)

Friday, April 25

8:45 am: Colonie Seniors (Blue Room)

Tuesday, April 29

12:30 pm: Colonie Seniors (Fellow. Hall)
 TBA: Overflow Homeless Shelter Meal

Wednesday, April 30

9:30 am: Colonie Seniors (Fellow. Hall)

MARCH: Worship Servers						
	March 2	WED. March 5	March 9	March 16	March 23	March 30
Opener	Marjorie Raymond	TBA	Steve Layne	Emmie Knobloch	Mike Serge	Marie Wertman
Greeter	Vicky Gizzi	TBA	Vicki LaFrank	Maryanne Sangiacomo	Nancy Serge	Patti Kopach
Usher	Mark Silo	TBA	Danny Patrick	Dick Walker	Mike Serge	Rob Beach
Acolyte	Matthew Brenneman	TBA	Cam & Charlie Rhodes	TBA	TBA	TBA
Lay Reader	Meg Winters	Danny Patrick	Atif Dean	Susan Spofford	Maryanne Sangiacomo	Mark Brenneman
Comm. Asst.	Bertie Cole	Colleen Ward	Kiran Dean	Paul Spofford	Marie Wertman	Patti Kopach
AV Tech	Maryanne Sangiacomo	Marie Wertman	Steve Layne	Elizabeth Strohbeck	Emmie Knobloch	Marie Wertman
Closer	Marjorie Raymond	TBA	Danny Patrick	Rob Beach	Mike Serge	Atif Dean

APRIL: Worship Servers						
	April 6	April 13	April 17 *	April 19 *	April 20	April 27
Opener	Jeannette Harting	Maryanne Sangiacomo	TBA	TBA	Emmie Knobloch	Marie Wertman
Greeter	Vicky Gizzi	Kathy Ingalls	TBA	TBA	Nancy Serge	Patti Kopach
Usher	Marc Kleinhenz	Bill Weigert	TBA	TBA	Mark Silo	Mike Serge
Acolyte	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Lay Reader	Mark Silo	Meg Winters	TBA	TBA	Patti Kopach	Marjorie Raymond
Comm. Asst.	Kathy Silo	Bertie Cole	TBA	TBA	Nancy Serge	Kiran Dean
AV Tech	Maryanne Sangiacomo	Maryanne Sangiacomo	TBA	Elizabeth Strohbeck & Emmie Knobloch	Elizabeth Strohbeck & Emmie Knobloch	Marie Wertman
Closer	Meg Winters	Danny Patrick	TBA	TBA	Mike Serge	Mike Serge

* NOTE EXTRA SERVICES AT 7 PM: Thursday, April 17 (Maundy Thursday) & Saturday, April 19 (Easter Vigil)

2025 COUNTERS SCHEDULE	
Month	Counters
January	Chris & Bill Wiegert
February	Colleen Ward & Marjorie Raymond
March	Jeannette Harting & Meg Winters
April (Easter)	Colleen Ward & Marjorie Raymond
May	Chris & Bill Wiegert
June	Jeannette Harting & Meg Winters
July	Colleen Ward & Marjorie Raymond
August	Chris & Bill Wiegert
September	Jeannette Harting & Meg Winters
October	Chris & Bill Wiegert
November	Colleen Ward & Marjorie Raymond
December	Jeannette Harting & Meg Winters

