

# October 2024 Newsletter

Blessing of the Animals ✦ Halloween Party ✦ Reformation Sunday ✦ All Saints Sunday & German Dinner



*The church sign recently received a little “sign lift”. The Property Team gave it a power washing, replaced some rotting wood and gave it a fresh coat of paint. Many thanks to Bill Wiegert, Paul Spofford and Mike Serge and a special thank you to Chris Wiegert who painstakingly did all of the lettering and edging.*



*The Blessing of the Animals for St. Francis Day was a great success! Many dogs and stuffed animals came to worship in the morning and six dogs and a cat(!) came to the community blessing in the afternoon.*



*We had a great Chicken and Biscuits dinner on September 28. Some of the fantastic crew!*



*“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

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*Ecclesia Semper Reformanda – the church must always be reformed*

Since the beginning of the church, we have been constantly reforming and renewing the church. The earliest days of Christian assembly modified existing practices of Jewish, Greek, and Roman gatherings. As witnesses of the resurrection carried the gospel to the ends of the earth, the church continued to reform, adapting to the current place and time.

Over the next two months, we are celebrating the ongoing reformation of the church in worship, fellowship, and service. On October 13, we are having Breakfast Church, a style of worship that is a callback to the supper clubs of early Christian worship. We gather around a meal, talk about faith and life, and celebrate communion all together.

On October 20, the **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Faith Formation** meeting is all about praying with beads to focus our prayer, and then on October 27, we celebrate **Reformation Sunday** and say **farewell to our Music Director**, Anita Andersen. We give thanks for her years of service to the congregation and wish her well.

On **November 3**, we are gathering with First Lutheran for a joint worship service for All Saints Sunday followed by a German Dinner themed potluck. During this meal, we'll also have the opportunity to sign letters to legislators advocating for climate policy changes to support wholeness for all creation. Later in November, the **annual prayer vigil**, on November 26, will be adjusted a little to start with Morning Prayer at 7 am and conclude with sung Compline (Night Prayer) at 7pm, led by St. John's Collegium and followed by a pie social (more on this next month).

The church is always reforming, reorienting ourselves toward God in new ways, may it always be so.

Peace in Christ,



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

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## Contemplative Prayer with Beads (like the rosary)

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Familiar with praying the rosary? Wondered “is that something Lutherans’ can do too?” Well, yes, it is!

Praying with beads can help guide our minds and hearts into quiet and focus that opens us to notice the Holy Spirit speaking to us. **On October 20<sup>th</sup> after worship, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Faith Formation** will be all about praying with beads. We'll make our own set of prayer beads and then practice praying with them together.

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### Pastor and Staff

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The Rev. D. Lowell Chilton	Pastor
<i>(pastor@gslcl.org, cell: 518-285-0441)</i>	
Kathy Flynn	Admin. Assistant
<i>(office@gslcl.org, 10:30am – 4pm, Mon. – Wed.)</i>	
Kevin Wertman	Custodian
Anita Andersen	Music Director

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### 2024 Church Council

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Danny Patrick	<i>President</i>
Mike Serge	<i>Vice President</i>
Jeff Emptage	<i>Treasurer</i>
Patti Kopach	<i>Secretary</i>
Maryanne Sangiacomo	Elizabeth Sickler
Susan Spofford	Colleen Ward
Meg Winters	

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### Administration

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Marjorie Raymond	Financial Secretary
John McGrath	Assistant Treasurer
Danny Patrick	Bldg. Rental Coordinator



## Sunday School News

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We welcome children of all ages to Sunday School to spark their interest in the Bible! The Sunday School has a new look and feel this Fall! We are using the SPARK curriculum which introduces a bible story over a period of 3 to 4 weeks. Each week we will introduce the story in a different manner through games, crafts, acting, science, music and storytelling. This has so many benefits for the children and most importantly, they will enjoy each learning activity while reinforcing the Bible stories they will remember for many years to come!



For the first 6 weeks of Sunday School, we have focused on **Creation**. We have used instruments, taken a nature walk, incorporated science activities on wind, stars and moon, been singing and dancing to “He’s got the whole world in his hands”, and as part of our music week, Emmie Knobloch has been teaching our older youth the bell chimes! (The youth shared this song with us in worship on September 29!).



**Sunday School is off on October 13<sup>th</sup>** due to Indigenous Peoples’ Day / Columbus Day Weekend. We’re back on October 20<sup>th</sup> with a three-week unit exploring **Noah’s Ark**. We can’t wait to share new learning activities associated with this unit.

**To members our congregation-** come be part of this exciting new method of teaching our children. It is a limited commitment on a rotating basis. A lesson plan will be provided as a resource. Each of us has talents to share and you can decide whether you’d like to introduce the lesson through reading the Bible or playacting ...or storytelling, do music, science or lead a game or craft. To learn more about how you can support the spiritual growth of our children, contact Pastor Chilton, Nancy Serge, or Marie Wertman. If you’d like to see what this involves, come join us for a few minutes during the Sunday School time. Be prepared - it will bring a smile to your face!

## Little Food Pantry

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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.



## Birthdays

4 – Jordan Kirker  
4 – Trenton Kirker  
4 – Madison Kowalski-Hughes  
5 – Mason Kirker  
5 – John Ludwin  
8 – Marcus Pasqualino  
9 – Olivia Yarter  
21 – Aakash Chohan  
25 – Mark Silo  
26 – Brandon Spofford  
27 – Laura Szesnat

## Prayer Concerns



Carolyn Wolfe  
Lou Reiss  
Sarah Palmer  
Lynn Best  
Sandi Weir  
Sierra McCann  
Steve Layne  
Kathy Ingalls  
Gayle Walker

## Breakfast Church – Sunday, October 13

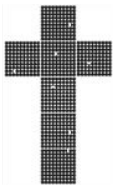
We are trying out gathering around food on Sunday morning with Breakfast Church. We're going to have a breakfast potluck and worship service all in one. The worship service is similar to what we already do on Sundays but modified to encourage conversation and dialogue during the service. There's a sign-up sheet in the narthex for food to bring.

### Breakfast Church!

October 13, 2024 - 8:45 AM

## Stewardship

BECAUSE OF  
GOD'S GREAT MERCY  
*a stewardship program for our congregation*



“Because of God’s Great Mercy” is the title of our stewardship emphasis this year.

We begin by proclaiming all that God has done for us, hence the title “Because of God’s Great Mercy.”

On October 13, we will focus on stewardship at our first “Breakfast Church.” This will be a potluck breakfast, and a sign-up sheet is posted in the narthex by the front entrance. If you are bringing a dish to share, please arrive 15 minutes early so we can begin serving breakfast before worship begins at 8:45 a.m. Letters and commitment cards will be distributed at the breakfast and mailed to those who are unable to attend.

On October 20, we will celebrate Commitment Sunday when all of our financial commitments for 2025 are received and blessed. If you are unable to attend church that day, please mail your commitment card to the church office.

“Because of God’s Great Mercy,” we have the time, talents and resources to make a difference in our congregation, the community, and the world. Generous giving is an important part of every Christian’s life, and our combined generosity can make even greater things possible through our congregation. Please make a special effort to watch for material and make a financial commitment for 2025 during this important time in our congregation’s life.

The Stewardship Team  
Marjorie Raymond, Chair  
Pastor Chilton, Kathy Ingalls, Danny Patrick, Mike Serge, Maryanne Sangiacomo

# Making a Difference with Your Financial Contributions

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For the month of October, the set of offering envelopes includes an envelope for the Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund was established in 1985. Disbursements are made annually for capital improvements, debt reduction or building programs of Good Shepherd; scholarships to members for church-related study; community needs; or for missions of the Lutheran Church at home or overseas. In 2023, the Church Council approved the Endowment Fund Committee's recommendations to donate \$1,200 to the following organizations: Good Shepherd Building Repair Fund - \$300, Good Shepherd Little Food Pantry - \$300, Animal Protective Foundation - \$300, Lutheran Immigration Refugee Service \$300. The Fund has distributed over \$31,000 to many local charities and missions of the Lutheran Church and has a current balance of approximately \$61,000. A donation to the Endowment Fund is a gift that keeps giving. Thank you for making a difference with your financial support!

## ANNUAL COMMUNITY HALLOWEEN PARTY



On Saturday October 26 at 2:00 pm the Outreach and Evangelism Ministry Team will be hosting our Annual Community Halloween Party. We will be holding the event outside and will do a trunk or treat, which is where you open your trunk and have treats for the children. Also, you will decorate your car for Halloween. We will also be having games, treats, a Halloween Parade and Halloween Costume contest. Please save this date and bring your children and their friends and relatives. This is an event when all of the children and parents have a fun time.

## Joint Worship + German Dinner Potluck – November 3



On **Sunday, November 3**, we are hosting a joint service with First Lutheran at 10:30. Following worship, we'll have a German themed fellowship meal. We're providing sausages and inviting German cuisine inspired sides and deserts as a potluck. These can be things like braised red cabbage, German potato salad, spätzle, asparagus, and all sorts of yummy dishes. There's a signup sheet in the narthex.

While we hope most folks attend the 10:30 service and dinner, we will also have a spoken service at 8:30 am.

**November 3** is also **All Saints' Sunday**. If there is someone close to you who has died this year that you would like to include in the Remembrance of the Saints, please send their name to Kathy by October 28.

## Climate Policy Advocacy Opportunity

ELCA Statement on Environment has called for us to care for Creation because we are full participants, and we should imitate the way God cares for Creation. We can carry out this responsibility by influencing and supporting the work that our local, state, and federal governments have employed to protect the earth's resources and meet the basic needs of all creatures.

On Sunday, November 3, we will offer an opportunity to sign letters to our elected officials who have a role in institutionalizing protections for all creation. The letters will specifically address the programs each of them must decide to support.

The service that day will be a joint service of First Lutheran and Good Shepherd Churches, followed by our traditional German dinner. Plan to spend a few moments signing letters prepared by FLC's Social Ministry Team to send to all those elected to serve us.

## Election Day Bake Sale

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This year Election Day is Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. As a polling site, we anticipate many visitors to Good Shepherd. Our Fundraising Team will be holding a Bake Sale in the narthex that day, starting at 8 am. The sale will last as long as the baked goods last! We need all our wonderful bakers to provide their amazing sweets as this is a great fundraising opportunity. Please sign up in the narthex to help in any way you can!

## Sanctuary Open for Prayer on Election Day

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On November 5<sup>th</sup>, the sanctuary will be open for prayer all day. We'll have some reflective music playing softly on the speakers, the lights on low, and maybe some LED candles on. Stop by for a moment of calm and prayer.

## Property Team Update

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The Property Team has been busy this fall season, cleaning up and preparing things for the upcoming winter months. Many thanks to Mike and Nancy Serge, Bill and Chris Wiegert and others too many to mention for all their help with the gardening and keeping the church's "curb appeal" better than it has ever been. The roadside sign was also updated, repaired, and repainted. This took many hands! We are so grateful to all the property team: Brian Rhodes, Mike Serge, Nancy Serge, Paul Spofford, Jeff Emptage, Kevin Wertman, Kathy Ingalls, Bill Wiegert, Chris Wiegert, and Marjorie Raymond.

## WELCA

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The September "get together" of the Good Shepherd Unit of Women of the ELCA has been rescheduled to October 16 at 6:30 p.m. at the church. Sarah Gelfand, Ministry Vice President at Cornerstone Campus Ministries, will join us to share information about the Cornerstone organization and the services provided to students at the University at Albany. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, please contact Marie Wertman at 518-221-6264 or by e-mail at [marie.wertman@americannational.com](mailto:marie.wertman@americannational.com).

Ministries. All other items of business will be referred to our Program Planning Committee. If you have other items of business for our WELCA Unit that need attention, please let me know.

WELCA's Annual Cookie Walk will be held on December 14. Marie Wertman is chairing this event. Start thinking about the cookies you can bake for this popular event and tell your friends and neighbors to "Save the Date"! Proceeds from this event will go to Cornerstone Campus Ministries and the ministries of Good Shepherd.

The Hudson Mohawk and Foothills Conferences of the Upstate New York Synod are hosting a WELCA Retreat at the Kateri Tekawitha Shrine in Fonda, New York on October 5. This will be a day-long retreat honoring the ways of the Native American people in relation to creation, based on the book, Braiding Sweetgrass, by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Marjorie Raymond and Chris Wiegert are planning to represent the Good Shepherd WELCA Unit at this event. For more information about the Good Shepherd Unit of WELCA or the retreat, please contact Marjorie Raymond, Unit Coordinator, at 518-424-6043 or by e-mail at [marjorieraymod84@gmail.com](mailto:marjorieraymod84@gmail.com).

For more information about WELCA, please contact Marjorie at 518-424-6043 or [marjorieraymond84@gmail.com](mailto:marjorieraymond84@gmail.com).

# Worship and Music Corner

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**Acolyte Training began in September!** Reach out to Pastor Chilton ASAP if you're interested and not already contacted. We introduced having a **crucifer** weekly to lead us into worship and into the world following the service. If this sounds like something you'd like to do, call or text Pastor Chilton (518-285-0441).

Our **Eucharistic Visitation Team** would love to expand. We have a small group of people who bring communion and a kind ear to ill and homebound members about once a month. Please prayerfully consider joining this group and signup in the narthex or speak to Pastor Chilton, Dick Walker, Betty Suarez, or Bertie Cole.

## September Worship Attendance

<u>Date</u>	<u>In-Person</u>	<u>Zoom</u>	<u>Total</u>
9/1	29	5	34
9/8	48		48
9/15	41		41
9/22	41		41
9/29	47	3	50

## Fundraising Team

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We are coming into our busy season for Fundraising for Good Shepherd! And anyone who is interested in helping with either baking or manning the events, please jump on board. All are welcome!

The next event is the Election Day Bake Sale which will be held on **November 5, 2024**. Due to this being a presidential election, it is felt that it will be a very timely and successful event. We will be looking for more volunteers to help man the tables, etc. And as always, any donations of baked goods by our expert bakers will be greatly appreciated.

The Holiday Boutique will be held on **November 23, 2024** and the first planning meeting will be **October 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm**. Once again, we will have vendor booths, a silent auction, a bake sale, as well as some crafts available for sale. This is always a great event and does very well.

WELCA will once again sponsor the Cookie Walk on **December 14, 2024** and Marie Wertman has agreed to chair that event. *As always, we will once again need our bakers!*

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy and Steve Layne

# Many thanks to our worship servers & volunteers!

## October 6

Opener	Emmie Knobloch
Greeter	Dick Walker
Usher	Paul Spofford
Lay Reader	Kathy Westerholt
Communion Assistant	Nancy Serge
AV Tech	Emmie Knobloch
Closer	Atif Dean

## October 20

Opener	Mike Serge
Greeter	Nancy Serge
Usher	Dick Walker
Acolyte	Brielle Johnson
Lay Reader	Maryanne Sangiacomo
Communion Assistant	Patti Kopach
AV Tech	Steve Layne
Closer	Steve Layne

## October 13

Opener	Jeannette Harting
Greeter	Vicky Gizzi
Usher	Marc Kleinhenz
Acolyte	Matthew Brenneman
Lay Reader	Danny Patrick
Communion Assistant	Betty Suarez
AV Tech	N/A
Closer	Marjorie Raymond

## October 27

Opener	Kathy Ingalls
Greeter	Kathy Ingalls
Usher	Jack Ludwin
Acolyte	Marcus Pasqualino
Lay Reader	Atif Dean
Communion Assistant	Kiran Dean
AV Tech	Maryanne Sangiacomo
Closer	Meg Winters

## 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.

## Holiday Boutique – November 23, 2024!

Mark your calendar and plan to attend Good Shepherd's Holiday Boutique on November 23, 2024 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



The Boutique will feature a Vendor Craft Fair, a Pie and Bake Sale, a selection of new and “previously loved” items for holiday gifts, a “Share the Wealth” (50/50) drawing, and a Silent Auction with a variety of gifts, gift baskets and gift certificates. Soup, subs and soda will be available for dining in and take-out.

Check out the poster in the narthex to sign up to make soup, pies and baked goods and to get ideas for Theme Baskets that you can donate for the Silent Auction. A planning meeting for this event will be held on October 8 at the church at 6:30 pm. All are welcome to attend. To volunteer or to request more information, please contact Nancy Layne at 518-727-1408 or Marjorie Raymond at 518-424-6043.




# Around town...




Activities of interest hosted by friends in ALT and beyond.

**First Lutheran's Book Club** is reading *The Monastic Heart* by Sister Joan Chittister during October and November. We are meeting in-person at a TDB location on Thursday, November 21. Email Pastor Chilton for more information.



**In Honor of  
LGBTQIA+ History Month**  
Join us for  
a **Special Concert** by the  
**Albany Gay Men's Chorus**  
**Saturday, October 19th**  
**2:30pm** at the  
**Pine Hills Public Library**  
**517 Western Avenue**  
**Albany, NY**  
**Admission is Free!**



## September - October Collection

Paper products (plates, cups, bowls, paper towels, and toilet tissue) and laundry detergent for the **CACC Emergency Overflow Shelter.**



The CACC Emergency Homeless Overflow Shelter is getting ready to open in their new home and welcome guests this winter. Through September and October, ALT churches are collecting paper products (10" paper plates, 6 oz and 8 oz hot and cold cups, bowls, paper towels, and toilet tissue) and laundry detergent to get them stocked up and ready to open. Drop items off at your congregation and we'll get them to the shelter!

You may also purchase any of these items from Amazon and ship to First Lutheran (646 State Street, Albany, NY 12203) or drop them off at GSLC. You can also make a monetary donation marked "shelter supplies" and we'll get it to the right place.

Thank you for your continuing support of the shelter. Your generosity is appreciated.

## Blood Drive at Faith Lutheran, Troy

50 Leversee Rd, Troy, NY 12182

Tuesday, October 15, 1:30-5:30 p.m.

To schedule an appointment, please contact the American Red Cross at 1-800-RED CROSS, visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org), or download the Free Blood Donor App. Use sponsor code: troycommunity

~ October 2024 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <b>12:30 BR</b> Colonie Srs.	2 1:30-6pm  BLOOD DRIVE	3 <b>12-3 BR</b> Colonie Srs <b>4:00</b> Drama Kids	4 <b>8:45 BR</b> Colonie Srs	5
6  <b>8:45</b> Worship <b>9:45</b> Fellowship  1pm Blessing of the Animals	7  <b>9 am</b> Tovah Kitchen  6:30 Worship & Music	8  <b>12:30 BR</b> Colonie Srs.  <b>6:30 BR</b> Holiday Boutique Planning mtg	9	10  <b>12-3 BR</b> Colonie Srs  <b>4:00</b> Drama Kids	11  <b>8:45 BR</b> Colonie Srs	12
13  <b>8:45</b> Breakfast Church  No Sunday School	14	15  <b>12:30 BR</b> Colonie Srs.	16  <b>6:30 BR</b>  WELCA gathering at Church.	17  <b>12-3 BR</b> Colonie Srs  <b>4:00</b> Drama Kids	18  <b>8:45 BR</b> Colonie Srs	19
20  <b>8:45</b> Worship <b>9:45</b> Fellowship	21  <b>November Newsletter Deadline</b>	22  <b>12:30 BR</b> Colonie Srs.  <b>6:30 pm BR</b> <b>Church Council</b>	23	24  <b>12-3 BR</b> Colonie Srs  <b>4:00</b> Drama Kids	25  <b>8:45 BR</b> Colonie Srs	26  2-4 pm  <b>Halloween Party</b>
27  <b>8:45</b> Worship <b>9:45</b> Fellowship	28  <b>6:30 pm</b> FLC Book Club (Zoom)	29  <b>12:30 BR</b> Colonie Srs.	30  <b>9:00 FH</b> Colonie Sr Board  <b>7 pm Library</b> Property Comm	31  <b>12-3 BR</b> Colonie Srs		