# November 2024 Newsletter

Election Day Bake Sale 💠 Prayer Vigil 💠 Holiday Boutique 💠 All Saints Sunday & German Dinner









"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

Grace to you and peace in the name of Jesus the Christ, who was and is and is to be. Amen.

On Reformation Sunday, after worship in which we remembered that we are first and foremost claimed as beloved by God in our baptism and called to live out that baptism for the sake of the world, I exercised my baptismal vocation as a citizen of the City of Albany, Albany County, the State of the New York, and the United States of America. After worship, I traveled to an early voting site, and, alongside many other people, voted in the fall election.

Claimed by God through water and the Word, we are called into the mission of the church: giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming love to all the world. (*ELW* Holy Baptism). Bearing God's creative and redeeming love is exercised in direct actions we take, through feeding and housing people and marching in the Pride Parade, and in advocating for policy change. Advocating for policy change includes voting for candidates who will advance peace, justice, and mercy, locally and nationally. This is affirmed by the ELCA Social Message on Government and Civic Engagement, which teaches that civic engagement, including informed and regular voting, is part of our baptismal vocation.

### **Pastor and Staff**

The Rev. D. Lowell Chilton Pastor

(pastor@gslcl.org, cell: 518-285-0441)

Kathy Flynn Admin. Assistant

(office@gslcl.org, 10:30am - 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
Maryanne Sangiacomo Elizabeth Sickler
Susan Spofford Colleen Ward
Meg Winters

### Administration

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

Advocacy is another aspect of civic engagement, and, on November 3, we have the opportunity at the shared service with First Lutheran to write letters to our legislators advocating for climate policies that will support the health of all creation. During the German Dinner potluck we'll have a table with letters to sign for local, state, and national climate justice initiatives.

In addition to voting and advocacy, the ELCA Draft Social Statement on Civic Life and Faith teaches:

Religion can create divisions in civic life or can contribute to mending the torn social fabric and reconciling divided peoples. This church urges all people of faith to seek a constructive role that counters growing polarization, distrust, and ill will. Religious traditions can offer particular gifts of moral vision, inclusion, and compassion sorely needed in U.S. civic life. (Articles 13)

As we exercise our baptismal vocation for informed and regular voting and our vocation for advocacy for policy change, we also exercise our baptismal vocation as people of inclusion, compassion, and moral vision. As we look to Election Day and beyond, may we prayerfully discern the votes that we cast, and may we prayerfully engage our neighbors who may vote differently than we do. May we speak the truth in love, even when truth in love is hard to speak. May we live our baptism out loud, with lives that share the good news of God with all the world through direct service and through civic engagement, including voting and advocacy.

Peace in Christ,

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

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# 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.

Please don't feel compelled to bring anything, come and eat – there will be plenty of food for all. **We'll have a donation collection for the CACC Emergency Overflow Shelter during the meal.** 

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

# **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 Fundraiser**

This year's 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

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.



# God's work. Our hands.

# Day of Service - November 16, 2024

On Saturday, November 16, 2024, we will have an opportunity to perform much needed community service at St. Peter's Family Health Center, 326 South Pearl Street in the City of Albany. This Family Health Center is the oldest continuing clinic in the St. Peter's health care system and serves over 7,000 patients every year, most of whom are low income and reliant on this center for health and social services.

We will have an opportunity to paint 5 small examination rooms, a hallway and a nurse's station as well as organize an existing food pantry at the Center. We will meet at the Health Center at 9:00 a.m. All materials will be provided, but if you have a favorite paint brush or paint pan, please bring those along. You don't have to be an expert painter, but neatness counts! Not interested in painting? You can help Danny Patrick clean up and organize the existing food pantry at the Health Center. If you have any questions, please speak with Patti Kopach. Sign up sheet is available in the narthex. We can use all the help we can get, so please sign up soon! Thank you!

## **Christmas at Sea**

Every year the Albany Maritime Ministry provides Christmas boxes to the seafarers who come to port here in Albany. For those who will not be home for Christmas these Christmas boxes mean so much to them. It shows them that people care. We would like to support the "Christmas at Sea" program again this year.

We have a couple of ways that you can help with this service project. You can fill a shoebox with the following or similar items: toothbrushes, men's knit caps, gloves, pens, dental floss, shaving cream, razors, AA or AAA batteries, lip balm with sunscreen, deodorant, and Post-it notes. Most items can be purchased at the Dollar Store. If you just want to bring in some of these items listed above we will have a bin in the narthex that you can put these things in. Please return the wrapped shoe boxes to the table in the narthex by Sunday November 17th.



On **Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, during Fellowship Hour**, we will be putting together boxes from the items that are received. We will bring all the Christmas boxes down to the Port of Albany that afternoon. If you have empty shoe boxes or small plastic tubs to donate, please bring them to the church.

As always, we thank you for your generous support in this endeavor.

# **Third Sunday Faith Formation - Hospitality Ministry**

November 17, 1 PM, at the Port of Albany Seafarers' Center, 109 Smith Blvd., Albany.

Sunday, November 17, we have a field trip to the Port of Albany Seafarers' Center. We'll deliver our Christmas-at-sea boxes and talk together about "Hospitality Ministry" – what is it and what is it not? What are different forms hospitality ministry can take in different places? How does a hospitality ministry to seafarers differ from hospitality ministry at a congregation (does it?)? Let Pastor Chilton know if you're coming.

# 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.

Members and friends on Facebook - to help spread the word about the Holiday Boutique, please "share" the posting from Good Shepherd's Facebook page!

# **Annual Prayer Vigil**



November 26, 2024 - 7 AM until 7 PM

Since 1992, the members of Good Shepherd have held an annual prayer vigil on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. This is a time for reflection, calm, and connection with the divine as the world around us shifts gears for the hectic holiday season. You can sign up for a specific time slot in the Narthex, by calling the Good Shepherd office, or just come by anytime during the day and pray for a bit.

New this year: Morning Prayer at 7 AM, Responsive Prayer at Noon, and Choral Evensong at 7 PM

This year we are augmenting the tradition of the vigil with three moments of corporate prayer. We begin with spoken Morning Prayer at 7 AM. We mark the middle of the day with Responsive Prayer at noon, and the vigil concludes with Evening Prayer at 7 PM, sung by the St. John's Collegium. Following Evening Prayer, we'll have a simple pie social in the fellowship hall.

### **News from Women of the ELCA**



The Good Shepherd Unit of Women of the ELCA will have its Annual Christmas Party at the church on December 10 at 6:30 pm. The evening will feature a potluck dinner and a "Re-Gift Exchange." The group will also host a dinner for Cornerstone Campus Ministries at SUNY-Albany on December 3.

WELCA's Annual Cookie Walk will be held on December 14. Start thinking about the cookies you can bake for this popular event and tell your friends and neighbors to "Save the Date"! A portion of the proceeds from this event will go to Cornerstone Campus Ministries. For more information, contact Marie Wertman, Chair, at 518-221-6264.

Watch for more details about WELCA events in the midweek message and the Sunday bulletin or contact Marjorie Raymond, Unit Coordinator, at 518-424-6043 for information.

# **Fundraising Team Update**

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!

It should be noted that the September Chicken Parmesan dinner was cancelled. However, it was replaced with a **Chicken and Biscuits Dinner on Saturday, September 28, 2024**. Danny Patrick and Marie Wertman chaired the event. We were pleased to once again have music played during the dinner. It was a delightful and successful evening!

The next event is the **Election Primary 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 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. 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.

So far this year, our hard work with the events has brought in a total of \$5542.15!

### **Ongoing Fundraisers**



Bring cans and bottles to church or take a bag home from the Narthex. The barcode on the bag connects to our account to get credit. If you are not familiar with Clynk, an instruction sheet is available as well.



Get your carwash tickets or print an order form to take to your friends & coworkers: <a href="https://www.hoffmanhelpinghands.com/fundraiser.cfm?id=28712">https://www.hoffmanhelpinghands.com/fundraiser.cfm?id=28712</a>

### Got Sneakers? Sneaker Collection

Bring excellent to fair condition athletic sneakers to GSLC. Must have insoles and shoelaces, and only athletic sneakers. Questions: contact Nancy Serge at 518-542-8808.

### **Clothing Recycling Bin**

American Clothing Recycling has a Clothing Bin in our parking lot just waiting for your clothing donations. We receive 5 cents per pound for of donations from our bin, which we can then use for our various ministries.

### **Financial News**

	September	YTD
Expenses	\$8,665.26	\$91,509.07
Revenue	\$10,498.39	\$92,567.84
Surplus +		\$1,058.77
Deficit -		\$1,056.77



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

# **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**

After Thanksgiving we will be setting up our new and improved Mitten Tree in the narthex generously donated by Marie and Kevin Wertman. Crafters – get your knitting needles out of the closet and get started! If you are not "crafty" feel free to purchase something new. You will have the opportunity to bring in gloves, mittens, hats and scarves to hang on the tree. We will collect these items for the families that go to the Sister Maureen Joyce Food Pantry down on Sheridan Avenue in Albany.

1 – Jeannette Harting	14 – Marjorie Raymond	
1 – Barbara Rasmussen	16 - Kathy Flynn	
2 – Marie Wertman	17 – Iftikhar Dean	
3 – Judy Ahl	21 – Patti Olsen	
4 – Nancy Serge	23 – Bill Wiegert	NOVEMBER
5 – Richard Kleinhenz	25 – Cassandra Halpin	INUVLIVIDLE
6 – Vicki LaFrank	29 – Shahnaz Dean	BIRTHDAYS
12 - Matthew Brenneman	29 – Barbara Emptage	
	29 – Kathy Ingalls	



# **Prayer Concerns**

Carolyn Wolfe Lou Reiss

Lynn Best Sandi Weir

Ann Howland Steve Layne



# **Stewardship**



Generous giving is an important part of every Christian's life, and our combined generosity can make even greater things possible through our congregation. If you have not already done so, please submit a financial commitment card for 2025. Commitment cards were mailed to active members and friends of the congregation in October. Additional cards are available in the narthex.

If you have any questions about your donations to Good Shepherd, please contact Marjorie Raymond at 518-424-6043.

With many thanks from the Stewardship Team, Marjorie Raymond, Chair Pastor Chilton, Kathy Ingalls, Danny Patrick, Mike Serge, Maryanne Sangiacomo

# **Endowment Fund Update**

Recently, the Endowment Fund Ministry Team met to review the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Thrivent Endowment Fund Account. The fund has increased in value by \$8,454.44 so far this year. The total current value of the Endowment Fund is \$69,344.06. Since the GSLC accounts are currently in a positive territory, we decided to distribute a portion of the growth of the fund to outside causes.

We decided to give \$2,800 to help various organizations in our community near and far. We recommended to the Church Council that we give \$700 to the following four organizations, some which you are familiar with and others you may not. They are as follows: Lutheran Disaster Fund, Family Promise of the Capital Region, South Colonie Backpack Program and the Wizards Wardrobe. The Council voted unanimously to approve the recommendations from the Endowment Fund Ministry Team.

The money going to the Lutheran Disaster Fund would go to where it is needed most, which would go to those affected by the recent Hurricanes. The funds earmarked for the Family Promise of the Capital Region would help families that are currently homeless. The families are put up by local churches for a week at a time until they can get permanent housing. The families are at churches from 7pm until the morning and then they go to the Family Promise agency during the day to work on the issues to get them housed. The funds for the South Colonie Backpack Program helps children have a backpack full of food and snacks to get them through the weekend when they are not able to get breakfast and lunch through their school during the weekend. The last organizations is the Wizards Wardrobe which is a tutoring and after school program that is overseen by the South End of Albany.

The members of the Endowment Fund Ministry Team are Rob Beach, Chair, Susan Spofford, Kathy Silo, John McGrath, Jeff Emptage, Pastor Chilton and Danny Patrick.

### Men's Shelter Meals

Again this year, Albany Lutherans Together will be preparing meals for the Overflow Homeless Shelter. The shelter has recently moved to The First Church in Albany located at 110 N. Pearl Street near the Palace Theatre from First Lutheran. The meal needs to be prepared for 25 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.

Please note that this year there is a delay in the opening of the shelter and the shelter will be opened on November 15th. These are the Good Shepherd dates that we need dinners for. For 2024: December 10. For 2025: January 7, February 4, March 4, April 1 and April 29.

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

# **Halloween Party - A Huge Success**

This year's Halloween Party was held on Saturday, October 26th and was an incredible success with over 80 children attending along with their families. We usually are blessed with about 30 or 35 children. The children and their families and everyone who helped had a great time. There were trunk or treats, games, prizes, candy and pizza. A great hit of the party was our face painter who did not finish up until 5 p.m. Kathy Ingalls won first place for the best decorated trunk or treat.

Many thanks to all of the volunteers who made this party such a big success and they are as follow: Kathy Silo, Vicki LaFrank, Patti Kopach, Colleen Ward, Bertie Cole, Nancy and Mike Serge, Nancy and Steve Layne, Maryanne Sangiacomo, Marie Wertman, Kathy Ingalls, Atif and Kiran Dean, Danny Patrick and his sister Debbie and niece Lisa and her fiancé' Andrew. Also, a special thanks to Pastor Chilton, Kathy Flynn, Administrative Assistant and Kevin Wertman, Building Maintenance. Again, a great time was had by all.

# **Worship and Music Corner**

On Reformation Sunday, we said farewell to Anita Andersen. Anita has been our Music Director and Organist for the past two years, but really, she started out on the organ at Good Shepherd when she was a teenager in the old sanctuary! Anita left us to pursue an opportunity that needs more time than she can give while serving as a music director. We are sad to see her go and wish her all the best.



The search for a new music director is underway. We have excellent guest organists booked for November and December and are hopeful that we'll find a new music director before the new year.

Funded by the generous gifts received in memory of Carol Phelps, we are making plans to refurbish the altar candlesticks and processional cross. After Christmas, we'll send them off to Oklahoma to a church goods company that does that type of metal work and we hope to have them back, luster restored, in time for Holy Week.

# **October Worship Attendance**

Date	In-Person	Zoom	Total
10/6	51	1	52
10/13	41 Breakfast Church		41
10/20	37	4	41
10/27	57	1	58

### THANK YOU

### **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**

### FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR OUR RECIPIENTS!



After months of emergency room visits, 6-year-old Kinzie Frey was diagnosed with stage 4, high-risk neuroblastoma. Her tumor was collectively the size of a mini basketball and was tangled throughout her abdomen, wrapping around veins, arteries and organs. Kinzie's doctor began an aggressive treatment protocol to fight the cancer and prevent her cancer from returning.

Over 18 months, Kinzie received 46 red blood cell transfusions and 72 platelet transfusions. If it weren't for the generosity of blood donors, Kinzie wouldn't be here with us today.

Your donation matters!

On To the Results... Blood Drive Goal: 25

Collected: 18 (We'll get it next time!)

Patients Helped: Up to 54!

I would like to say a big thank you to Kirsten Andersen, Bertie Cole, Danny Patrick, and Betty Suarez for volunteering to help with the blood drive. We appreciate your help and dedication to our blood drives.

Thank you! Jeannette Harting Blood Drive Coordinator

OUR NEXT BLOOD IS SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2 MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

# Many thanks to our worship servers & volunteers!

### November 3

Opener 8:30 Opener 10:30 Greeter 8:30	Pastor Chilton Mike Serge Dick Walker
Greeter 10:30	Vicki LaFrank
Usher 8:30	Dick Walker
Acolyte	
Usher 10:30	Mike Serge
Lay Reader	Patti Kopach
Communion Assistant	Marjorie Raymond
AV Tech	Elizabeth Strohbeck
Closer	Danny Patrick

### November 10

Opener	Patti Kopach
Greeter	Patti Kopach
Usher	Mike Serge
Acolyte	Matthew Brenneman
Lay Reader	Meg Winters
Communion Assistant	Bertie Cole
AV Tech	Marie Wertman
Closer	Mike Serge

# **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.

### November 17

Opener	Marie Wertman
Greeter	Nancy Serge
Usher	Rob Beach
Acolyte	Brielle Johnson
Lay Reader	Colleen Ward
Communion Assistant	Marie Wertman
AV Tech	Maryanne Sangiacomo
Closer	Rob Beach

### November 24

Opener	Jeannette Harting
Greeter	Vicky Gizzi
Usher	Dick Walker
Acolyte	Marcus Pasqualino
Lay Reader	Susan Spofford
Communion Assistant	Paul Spofford
AV Tech	Maryanne Sangiacomo
Closer	Marjorie Raymond

# Around town...



Activities of interest hosted by friends in ALT and beyond.

### First Lutheran Book Club

November 21, 2024 - 6 PM @ Nine Pin Cider Co.

First Lutheran invites you to join our discussion of Sister Joan Chittister's book of 50 practices from Benedictine spirituality that can help ground us and center us in awareness of God, ourselves, and the world. Books are available now at The Book House at Stuyvesant Plaza (20% off if you mention the book club).

We'll meet at Nine Pin Cider Co, which has a tasty food selection in addition to their tasty beverage selection. Also, during this meeting of the book club, we'll plan books and tentative dates for the first half of 2025, so bring your suggestions!



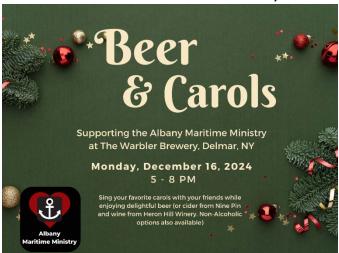
### **Albany Maritime Ministry**

### **Advent Open House**



Come to the annual event at the Seafarers' Center (109 Smith Blvd., Albany) to see what we do, connect with supporters and volunteers from other churches, and drop off Christmas-at-Sea gifts (if not dropped off sooner).

### Beer and Carols - December 16, 5-8



Join us at The Warbler Brewery in Delmar for our *Second Annual Beer and Carols* event for the Albany Maritime Ministry. We'll sing your favorite carols, enjoy tasty beers (or wine, cider, or soda), and have a great time supporting the hospitality mission of the Albany Maritime Ministry. Doors open at 5, we'll sing from 5:30 - 7:30, with a break in the middle, and the brewery closes at 8.

The Warbler sells slices of pizza from Adriano's Pizza and welcomes bringing in food from outside. There are several excellent restaurants in the same strip mall that we highly recommend.

	~ November 2024 ~					
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 8:45 BR Colonie Srs	2
All Saints Sunday 8:30 Spoken Worship 10:30 Joint Service with First Lutheran at GSLC 11:30 German Luncheon	4 9 am Tovah Kitchen	ELECTION DAY Polling in FH Bake Sale in Narthex 12:30 BR Colonie Srs. 6:30 BR Holiday Boutique Planning mtg 12	13	7 12-3 BR Colonie Srs 4:00 Drama Kids	8 8:45 BR Colonie Srs	9
<b>8:45</b> Worship <b>9:45</b> Forum	<b>6:30 PM BR</b> Church Council	<b>12:30 BR</b> Colonie Srs.		12-3 BR Colonie Srs 4:00 Drama Kids	8:45 BR Colonie Srs	
17 <b>8:45</b> Worship <b>9:45</b> Fellowship	November Newsletter Deadline	19 12:30 BR Colonie Srs.	20	21 12-3 BR Colonie Srs 4:00 Drama Kids	22 8:45 BR Colonie Srs	All Day!  Holiday Boutique
24 8:45 Worship 9:45 Special Congregation Meeting	25 6:30 pm FLC Book Club (Zoom)	26  12:30 BR  Colonie Srs.	9:00 FH Colonie Sr Board 7 pm Library Property Comm	28 12-3 BR Colonie Srs	29	30