



# The Shepherd's Voice



NOVEMBER 2020

SERVING ROCKLAND COUNTY, NY & NORTHERN BERGEN COUNTY, NJ

**“Listen here, mortal: God has already made abundantly clear what 'good' is, and what [the LORD] needs from you: simply do justice, love kindness, and humbly walk with your God.”**  
- Micah 6:8 (*The Inclusive Bible translation*)

Well, it's November.

We've almost made it to the end of a year that most of us will be happy to put behind us. The year 2020 has been anything but a fun one. And this month, with this rather contentious election, and the weather pushing us inside, and the looming concerns about a second wave ... ugh.

I want you to know that no matter what happens that God is near. Even on the cross, for heaven's sake (Actually, it was for earth's sake, for our sake), God was there! That's the promise of the good news, the gospel of Jesus. God does not abandon God's creation to death. God wraps our hurting world in love and leads us toward transformation. Often in ways and times and places that we don't expect. With people we'd rather forget (because God excludes no one). Most often God does this by taking us straight through hell itself (that's where the church figures that Jesus was busy at work on the day between the crucifixion and resurrection ... rending the gates of hell).

Why does this matter? Because while we are living in uncertain times, there is something certain, real, definite, that we can hold on to: a God who leads us, who pours out grace upon our hurting world, who cries for justice in wild places, who promises to make deserts bloom.

And if we can hold on to that God in the midst of this, it is a lot easier to let go of all the much less certain things around us. Things we tend to hold on to in fear and self protection. Things that really don't last and cannot guide us.

If we let go of those things and trust that God has got us, I think we actually have a chance. A chance to turn off the anxiety-laden conjecture pundits online and on the news. A chance to let the anxiety go. A chance to ground ourselves in truth rooted in the holy earth on which we walk. A chance to walk in ways of mercy and healing. A chance to listen to others and find common ground. If we find a little faith in the God who breathes creation into being, I think we actually have a chance to take a breath, look around us, and see who needs a hand and some heart. And then to reach out to our neighbors in need.

This is how we will make it through this time. It is how people have made it through all the hard times that humanity has survived. By letting go of certainty in the things that rust and rot away and turning in love to God and our neighbor, finding life and healing for the moment there. And, of course, moment by moment, we live out a lifetime and experience eternity.

With you in this moment,

*Pastor Lena*



## THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

112 N. Main Street Pearl River, NY 10965

### OUR MISSION

"To reach out in inclusive love and generosity so that all may know the love of Jesus"

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## LIFE STATIONS

### OBITUARY

Joseph Treutle April 17, 2020      Alan Landgren September 30, 2020  
Constance Daniels August 15, 2020      Joan Delia October 6, 2020  
John McAvey September 28, 2020      Robert Nissen October 13, 2020

### BAPTISM

Cameron Rafael Acevedo November 1, 2020

### FLOWER FUND

In memory of Boris Wiik, given by Audrey Balison & Diana Henriques  
In memory of Bob Nissen, given by Audrey Balison

### CHURCH FUND

In memory of Boris Wiik, given by the Men's Group

## AT YOUR SERVICE

The Reverend J. Lena Warren, Pastor  
Jake Daniels, President  
Robert Bergman, Treasurer  
Brian Burns, Director of Music  
Elaina Burns, Organist  
Renee Bucci, Creative Play Director  
Dale Damon, Church Secretary  
Lisa Filatov, Bookkeeper  
Timothy J Chew, Coordinator of Faith Formation  
Katy Wong, Communications Coordinator  
Gina Danialinia, Volunteer Coordinator  
Gisele Saldana, Sexton

## 2020 CHURCH COUNCIL

J. Lena Warren, Pastor  
Jake Daniels, President  
Anthony Armenio, Co-Vice President  
Donald Widmayer, Co-Vice President  
Kim Arcidiacono, Secretary  
Robert Bergman, Treasurer\*  
Jeff Bergman  
Werner Boecker, Financial Secretary\*  
George Boothby  
James Cleary  
Wendy Gates  
Kristin Hanifin  
Linda Hecker  
Deanna Lauer  
Carole Meehan  
Mark Olson  
Lucy Pinedo  
Christopher Ryan  
Debra Thaler

\*Non-voting



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## C O N T A C T U S

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The Church Office is now open at half-staffing! Please call before your arrival so we know to expect you. Masks are required for entry, for your safety as well as the staff. There will be mandatory temperature checks along with a sign-in sheet. Hand sanitizer will be available at all entry ways.

### CHURCH OFFICE

Phone: 845-735-2243 | Fax: 845-735-0819 | Email: office@gspr.org  
www.gspr.org | @GoodShepherdPR    
Hours: Tues-Fri 10am-4pm, Closed Mondays

### CREATIVE PLAY PRE-SCHOOL

845-735-2737 | www.gscreativeplay.org | @GoodShepherdCreativePlay 



On October 25th and November 15th, twenty four of our youth received the Rite of Confirmation. Due to COVID-19, the 10:30am service was held in the Sanctuary, and the 2pm was held in the parking lot. The last service was held on Sunday, November 15th. Congratulations to our 2020 Confirmation Class! Please keep our youth in your prayers.

**Alex Richard Balison**  
**Christina Rose Reineke**  
**Heather Hardt Collins**  
**Theodore James Ryan**  
**Caitlin Rose Cooke**  
**Christian Josef Sealander**  
**Alexander Michael Gallet**  
**Brian Christopher Smellegar**  
**Sean Edward Habas**  
**Katherine Elizabeth Sneath**  
**Sarah Grace Hoffman**  
**Rylie Christina Sneath**

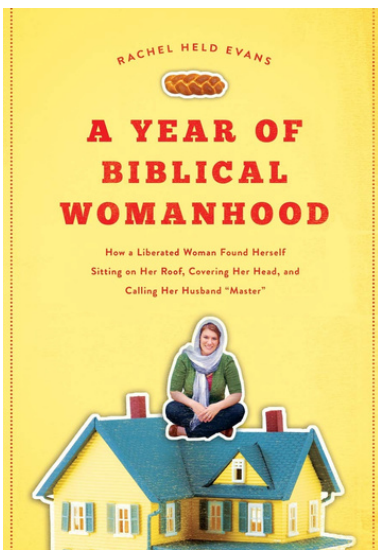
**Isabelle Cayley Lai**  
**Rianna Angelina Spero**  
**Dominic Michael Marzec**  
**Colin Robert Stemmerman**  
**Jayme Elizabeth Metz**  
**Logan Ryan Stemmerman**  
**Addison Jaye Moss**  
**Liam Charles Ventry**  
**Mark Lorenzo Padilla**  
**Ryan Timothy Worms**  
**Olivia Giselle Pinedo**  
**Alayna Grace Young**

## COFFEE & CONVERSATION



On Thursdays at 3pm, I'm going to get a cup of coffee at Dean's Coffee Co. in Pearl River, weather permitting. There are tables outside Dean's, which are nice and shady, and comfortable, too. I'll be there for an hour or longer if we're having a good conversation. I invite you to join me! + Pastor Lena

# ONLINE BOOK GROUP



Join our book group on **Wednesday evenings at 7pm, beginning November 18th, via Zoom**. We'll be reading Rachel Held Evan's book, "A Year of Biblical Womanhood."

This is a lighter read, but also brings up some very challenging scripture about the role of woman in society and how women can live faithfully when the text that we ground our faith in so often contains and even seems to advocate violence against women. If you're interested in reading with us, please let Pastor Lena ([pastorlena@gspr.org](mailto:pastorlena@gspr.org)) know and she can get you a book along with the weekly log-in information for Zoom!

# Worship

We are meeting in the Sanctuary for worship on Sundays at 8am and 10:30am! There will be drive-in services every second Sunday of the month at 10:30am (no indoor services on these days.) Please remember to wear your mask and practice social distancing. Hand sanitizer will be available. As always, stay home if you are not feeling well.

Thank you to all the volunteers who have been helping us set up our services! If you are planning on joining, please sign up online at the links provided below, as attendance will be limited. You can also register online to lead worship or help with set-up.

November 8th 10:30 Drive-in

<https://volunteersignup.org/PH3K9>

November 15th 8:00

<https://volunteersignup.org/L7ABR>

November 15th 10:30

<https://volunteersignup.org/JCA97>

November 22nd 8:00

<https://volunteersignup.org/EALLR>

November 22nd 10:30

<https://volunteersignup.org/RJXQL>

November 29th 8:00

<https://volunteersignup.org/PBKQX>

November 29th 10:30

<https://volunteersignup.org/7CQQT>

December 6th 8:00

<https://volunteersignup.org/8XDWM>

December 6th 10:30

<https://volunteersignup.org/M7HC4>

December 13th 10:30 Drive-in

<https://volunteersignup.org/LDFJF>

## + DRIVE-UP CHURCH +



Join us for an outdoor, socially-distanced worship in our parking lot on the second Sunday of every month. Stay in your car as we broadcast the service right to you over the radio. No sign-up necessary; all are welcome! If you can't make it, this service will also be livestreamed on our YouTube channel and available to watch anytime after. **The December drive-in will be on Sunday the 13th, at 10:30am.** Contact [Gina@gspr.org](mailto:Gina@gspr.org) if you have any questions.

**THE SANCTUARY IS OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER!**

**Tuesday 4pm-7pm**  
**Thursday 10am-2pm**

Come and pray as you like during these hours. Masks are required to enter the building - hand sanitizer will be available. Please sign in upon your arrival! Any questions, contact the Church Office at 845-735-2243

This year on Sunday, November 15 at 2pm, we will have our Annual Congregational Meeting via Zoom.

## STAY CONNECTED

During this time of social distancing, we have made it easier to stay connected online! Subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter, "By The Way," sent on Thursday evenings. Email [communications@gspr.org](mailto:communications@gspr.org) with your name and email address to be added to our list.

Find us on Facebook and Instagram.



[www.facebook.com/GoodShepherdPR](https://www.facebook.com/GoodShepherdPR)  
[www.instagram.com/GoodShepherdPR](https://www.instagram.com/GoodShepherdPR)



Both apps can be downloaded on Android and iPhone operating systems. As always, you can visit our website at [www.gspr.org](http://www.gspr.org).



We are now on YouTube! While we are having in-person services, they will still be livestreamed on our YouTube channel. Once the video is uploaded, it will be available to watch anytime after! Pastor Lena also uploads regular reflections throughout the week. Visit [www.youtube.com/c/GoodShepherdPearlRiver](https://www.youtube.com/c/GoodShepherdPearlRiver)

### Sundays at 10:30am

*So you can follow along, the bulletin for the service is available via a link below the YouTube video. A digital copy of Cross Connections will be sent in our weekly email, "By The Way." You can also join us in-person! (More info on our "Worship" page.)*

### Mondays at 9:30am

*Start your week with Monday morning prayer. Pray wherever you are!*

### Thursdays at 9pm

*We will be streaming Compline - an evening prayer with beautiful, ancient roots, and a wonderful way to calm your soul before bed.*

*By the Way*

Stay in the know and subscribe to our email list! "By The Way" is our E-newsletter sent weekly on Thursday evenings. Email [katy@gspr.org](mailto:katy@gspr.org) to be added to our list.

# A LETTER FROM OUR TREASURER

## **Good Shepherd Serves Our Community and the World**

Although our doors were shut for a time and gathering remains limited, the work of Good Shepherd continues without pause. Food drives, blood drives, hurricane relief, national youth gathering fundraising, continued support through the national church, and food collections for our sister churches in the Bronx have continued, and even increased. This is the mission of Good Shepherd. This is your mission as well. We continue to be the hands of Christ in the world and COVID has not stopped it. Whether you have continued to attend services or are safely watching on YouTube from home. Whether you remain nearby or have relocated far away, your work continues. As you plan your charitable giving, please remember this work is ongoing, and desperately needs support to continue. God Bless and Stay Safe.

Bob Bergman, Treasurer



## *Ways to Give*

***This time of uncertainty has been, and continues to be very hard not just for our community life, but also for the financial health of the congregation. If you are able, please consider signing up for online giving. Even a one-time special gift would be helpful. Here are some easy ways to give:***

**ONLINE** Go to our webpage, [www.gspr.org/give](http://www.gspr.org/give) and click the "give" button. Then, follow the instructions on how to give.



**GIVE+ TEXT** Text **877-771-4850**, click on the registration link and enter your cardholder name and credit/debit card information. You will receive a text verification and a receipt of your donation via email. For future giving, send a text with the amount you wish to give, and it will process automatically! You can even text "repeat" to make it a recurring donation.



**MAIL** Send your offerings to our mailbox at **112 N. Main St. Pearl River, NY 10965**, or stop in during our office hours.



**♥ Thank you for your generosity in giving to Good Shepherd! ♥**



Currently, 20 people from the church are contributing to Good Shepherd through Amazon Smile. We have been issued a \$12 donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity.

The holiday season is practically around the corner! Christmas shopping can give twice; use AmazonSmile to buy your personal gifts, while also giving to Good Shepherd! Go to <https://smile.amazon.com> and agree to support us! Remember to use Amazon Smile instead of Amazon in order for Good Shepherd to receive the donation. For more information, contact Cindy Sealander at [csealander@optonline.net](mailto:csealander@optonline.net). Thank you for your generosity!

Buy a ShopRite gift card and Good Shepherd receives 5% from each gift card purchase, in support of our Youth. Cards can be purchased in the church office and used at any ShopRite location. \$25, \$50, \$100 card amounts available - cash & checks accepted. Any questions, contact Cindy Sealander ([csealander@optonline.net](mailto:csealander@optonline.net)).



# Creative Play News

“Autumn is the season to find contentment at home by paying attention to what we already have.”

As the weather gets cooler, we'll spend more time keeping warm in the classroom. While the fun of summer may fizzle out, we remind the children to embrace the blessings they have with the ones they love at home and in the classroom!

Students will have their voices heard during the Creative Play Election! The students and staff members had an opportunity to vote for their favorite fairytale: “The Three Little Pigs” or “Goldilocks and the Three Bears” - the winner was announced on November 4th. “Goldilocks and the Three Bears” was the winner! All voters received an “I voted” sticker and an American flag.

The children are creating many autumn crafts, going on nature walks, and continuing to build on their fundamentals, as they are now comfortable in their routines and with their peers.

We will end the month reminding the children (and adults) how to appropriately express their gratitude and appreciation as we talk and learn about Thanksgiving. The children will create a personalized Creative Play traditional placement to be brought home, and learn the “Thanksgiving Song.”

We at Creative Play are thankful for this time of in-person learning and to be able to continue our mission of early education as an outreach for Good Shepherd.

Wishing you all a month of smiles. just like the ones that light up our school!

Renee Bucci, Director ([renee@gspr.org](mailto:renee@gspr.org))



## Greetings from Brian and Elaina!

Would you like to sing or play a solo during one of our in-person services? If so, please email [elaina@gspr.org](mailto:elaina@gspr.org) and we will plan a date for you to offer your music in worship. Thank you!

Unfortunately, due to the cold temperature in Fellowship Hall, WELCA will not be meeting in person anymore for the remainder of the season. We will reevaluate in April when it is hopefully safer (and warmer) to meet. Thank you for your understanding and we hope to see you in the spring! If you have any questions, please call **Barbara Bow at 845-521-2611** or **Mary Iseman at 845-623-7638**. Have a happy Thanksgiving. God's peace & blessings to all!



## PRAYER CHAIN

If you, a loved one, or friend experience difficulty and desire prayer support, the Good Shepherd Prayer Chain is helpful. When you have a request or thanksgiving to share, contact: **Ione Mensing at 201-664-1235, [himensing@gmail.com](mailto:himensing@gmail.com)** or **Carol Westphal at 845-624-5732, [carolwestphal9@gmail.com](mailto:carolwestphal9@gmail.com)**. The Prayer Chain will be activated and many will be praying with and for you.



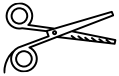
**We are planning to have an online Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. Stay tuned for more information!**





Early November is typically the time of year when we reexamine our stewardship lives, and determine our commitments for the upcoming year, in serving God here at Good Shepherd. Earlier in November, we all received the annual stewardship mailing, providing us the opportunity to pledge a portion of what we have been given, in returning to God a fair portion of our time, our abilities, and our financial support for 2021. Hopefully most of us have already responded to that appeal, as we reach out in lives of service to others. If

you have not yet, it is, of course, not too late to do that. If you need another commitment card and/or Time & Talent form, please call the church office (845-735-2243) or stop by during the week. Thank you for your continuing generosity, and wishing you and yours a blessed Thanksgiving.



## ANNUAL BOY SCOUT WREATH SALE

Boy Scout Troop #36, sponsored by Good Shepherd Church, will be selling Christmas Wreaths and Grave Blankets. The wreaths and blankets are beautifully decorated with natural evergreens, pine cones, seasonal decorations, and completed with a bow. This year, due to COVID, we will be delivering and having in-person pickup on **December 5th & 12th**. Wreaths are \$25 and Grave Blankets \$30. You can preorder now on the order form below. We want to thank the congregation for their past generous support. If you have any questions, please contact **Cindy Sealander at 201-951-5715 or [csealander@optonline.net](mailto:csealander@optonline.net)**.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Wreaths (\$25) quantity: \_\_\_\_\_

Grave Blankets (\$30) quantity: \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_





The ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis has been postponed to 2022. More information to follow.



**PLEASE NOTE:** The poinsettias for the Youth Gathering Fundraiser are for personal and household use, NOT for the altar in the Sanctuary.

## Youth Gathering 2022



# Poinsettia Fundraiser

Pot Size	Quantity	Cost	Total
10"		\$30.00	
7 1/2"		\$20.00	
6"		\$10.00	
<b>Grand Total</b>	Cash	Check#	

**Deadline to Order: Monday, November 30, 2020**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Pick up or Delivery - **Sunday, December 6**  
**8:30 am - 12:00 pm** at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Delivery Address: \_\_\_\_\_

To place an order, contact Cindy Sealander at  
email: [csealander@optonline.net](mailto:csealander@optonline.net),  
call/text: 201-951-5715

Mail order to: 112 N. Main St., Pearl River, NY 10965

# 10TH ANNUAL GOOD SHEPHERD TURKEY RUN



This year we will be collecting turkeys for Rockland Community Against Hunger, founded on the idea of bringing members of the community together to collaborate in addressing the issues of hunger in Rockland County and helping those in need. Watch for more information in *Cross Connections* and "By the Way." Any questions, please contact **Dagmar Klein at 845-624-3216 or at [dklein1120@gmail.com](mailto:dklein1120@gmail.com)**.

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## BOY SCOUTS TROOP #36

Our Troop managed through a year of change and new normals with the help of our leaders, parents, and an amazing group of young men. We needed to plan group activities differently, as well as design campouts, hikes and meetings with a new vigor revolved around safety as outlined by the CDC and scouting.

We also had a year of change in our leadership. We thank Mike Martini for his years of service and guidance as our Committee Chair and look forward to his continued involvement in the future. Alex Pittignano, our current Scoutmaster, will assume Committee Chair as of January. We are pleased to have former Cubmaster, John Fanshawe, take the helm as new Troop #36 Scoutmaster. John brings years of experience in Scouting and has been an integral part of Pack #36 Cub Scouts smooth transition into Troop #36 Boy Scouts.

Our current membership is 37 Scouts, up from the previous year. We had 12 new Scouts from Cub Pack #36, based out of Franklin Avenue, join our Troop this year. We congratulate our two Eagle Scouts: Zach Spiegel and Michael Duignan III, for completing their Eagle Scout awards. Zach's project was a hardscape feature at the Nanuet Hebrew Center and Michael's project was landscaping and creating a walking path at Anderson Field, in Pearl River.

Our Troop was able to continue our support and activities in a limited fashion and we want to highlight a few of our activities below:

- WELCA survival kits: The Troop donated 36 kits to support this worthwhile cause
- Participated and supported Interfaith Service and Boy Scout Sunday
- Property support: Mulching of flower beds and property, as well as assisting in set up of native creche
- Christmas wreaths and grave blankets
- Ski weekend at Wyndham Mountain with a German flair at Riedbauer Resort
- Klondike - A Hudson Valley winter event at Camp Bullowa, building and racing their own sled as a team
- Hiked 15, 10, and 5 miles in Bear Mountain, Harriman State Park and along the Palisades.
- Trashcan Turkey - Overnight campout on Clausland Mountain and cooking a real Thanksgiving feast, which included a creative trashcan oven for the turkey - it was very good!

We appreciate the congregation's continued support for all the Troop 36 activities and fundraisers. Scouting has such a powerful impact on our young boys' lives now, and for years to come.

Yours in Scouting,

**Greg Sealander, Charter Organization Representative ([csealandar@optonline.net](mailto:csealandar@optonline.net))**



# Tim Chew



## ATLANTIC CITY MARATHON 2 0 2 0

For the past three years I have run a half or half marathon along the Jersey Shore. In 2017, it was the Ocean Seaside Heights half marathon; in 2018 and 2019 the Atlantic City Marathon and this year the first-ever virtual Atlantic City Marathon!

Steeped in tradition and history, the Atlantic City marathon is the third longest running marathon route ever in the United States. Normally I would be running 26.2 miles along the Boardwalk in Atlantic City, with one run from the end of the route to another, including the infamous Atlantic City casinos, restaurants, bars and entertainment. However, this year, due to precautions and statewide sanctions on all long distance running events, we had to coordinate our own route, water stations, and race preparations.

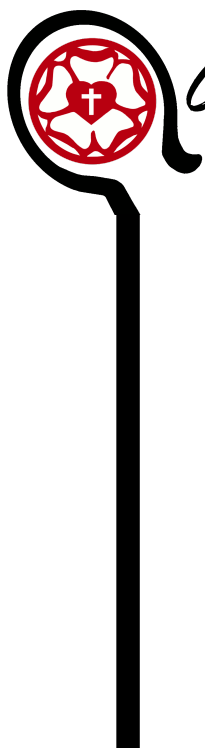
Without being able to run in Atlantic City as a formal race, rather than try to run along the Boardwalk during the elements of fall and struggle to tread on the unusual surfaces of wood, rather than road, I decided to run in Long Beach Island, just up the road from Atlantic City. My family, mother, and aunt-in-law, have a family home there and they very kindly allowed me to stay there for the weekend. Some of them even came along and supported me along the route!

My wife, Liza, very faithfully drove along my route providing water, snacks, love, and support, all the way around. Thank you, Liza! It was a grueling run from 16 miles to the finish line as I had severe cramp and was carrying an injury on my hips from continuous running, exercising, and strain on both my legs. As reality set in, I soon realized I would not be able to achieve my goal of beating my personal record time of 3:02. This was not something that sat well with me and caused me to have even more of a mental battle with the outcome of the race as I was running so slowly. When you train for a marathon you always train hard, long and endure many miles in preparation for the big race day. As people normally would race with you, cheer you on, or support from the sidelines, it was quite lonely, given the reduced number of people in LBI, lack of crowds to cheer the runners on, and the realization I was the only person running the race along this route.

Then, as the race ended, I reached Holgate, stretched off, checked my time and then hours later wanted to check my race placing. In the previous two years, I had finished in the top ten percent and wanted to see how I did this year considering there were only around 150 runners. However, I wasn't too hopeful of high placing given that my time was slower than my two previous marathons. Yet, here we are in the middle of a global health crisis and anything can be possible, due to so few people entering. In the end, only 47 people entered their times and the third place gave their time as 3:29, second as 3:23 and then, somehow, with absolutely no credit to myself my time of 3:10:54 was enough to win! To my shock and undeserved response, I had finished first in the first ever Atlantic City Marathon. What an achievement, what a race and what an accomplishment just to finish.

However, the main person who deserved the credit was my wife for helping me get around the course, my in-laws for providing us with accommodation, and our God for humoring me enough to realize that in my own strength I will lose by not recording a good time, but in his strength I will be able to achieve more than I could ever hope or imagine, and win the race! Thank you Lord, thank you Atlantic City, thank you Liza, and thank you Linda and Linen!

**Tim Chew, Coordinator of Faith Formation**



# Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

112 N MAIN ST. PEARL RIVER, NY 10965  
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## ORDER FORM CHRISTMAS GREENS & CHRISTMAS TREES FOR THE ALTAR



Deadline for order: December 13, 2020

In Memory of:

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In Honor of:

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Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (suggested donation \$10 per memorial)

Due to Covid 19 and having to leave the windows open in the sanctuary during services, we will not be ordering Poinsettia plants this year. We will, however, have trees and greens decorating both inside and outside the church.

**Please make checks payable to Good Shepherd. Thank you for your donations!**