



The Shepherd's Voice

NOVEMBER 2021

Serving Rockland County, NY, and Northern Bergen County, NJ



***“Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”
- Hebrews 10:23-25***

It's been really wonderful in worship lately. I keep seeing people I haven't seen in ages. The refrain from everyone has been, "I forgot what this meant to me."

I'm glad they had a chance to remember.

There's so many reasons not to come back to worship. Anxiety about the virus, getting busy, falling out of practice, engaging in church and community in other ways.

But there's a few really good reasons to try to make it to worship. I know you have your own reasons to come. Maybe you come for the space to pray once a week. Maybe you come to see people you only see on Sunday. Maybe you come to sing. Maybe you come to receive communion or the proclamation of forgiveness or a word of grace in the texts and sermon.

The author of Hebrews suggests a couple of other reasons to gather together: to help each other love and to keep our priorities straight. When we come together to worship, we are reminded of the love of God for the world and ourselves. We are reminded of God's call for justice in the world. We are reminded of the way that God is hiding (or sometimes not hiding) in the face of our neighbor. We are reminded there is grace for us. And when we are reminded of those things, I think it's a little easier to remember what is worth doing with our time. We all have far too little time

I was reading in a book called Time Management for Mortals by Oliver Burkeman about the classic visual example of time management of the jar with large rocks, gravel, and sand. And you fill the jar with the large rocks first, then the gravel, and then the sand. If you do it in that order, then everything fits. The large rocks being really worthwhile things, the gravel being less important stuff, and the sand being the busy things that tend to fill our lives but don't mean much. Burkeman calls this whole model a deceptive trick. Because in reality there's far more large rocks than will fit in the jar. There are far more important things to accomplish than we can ever fit in our lives. And so, we make choices about what is most important out of a lot of really important things. And other things we have no choice but to set aside. And that is the reality and grace of being mortal.

I think being a part of a faith community can help give clarity to what we set aside. And I think that being a part of a faith community can also help give us the grace we need to let go of things that we know are "really good" to do, but we just can't.

So, there's a few good reasons to come and worship. Maybe you have more?

Know, when you get a chance, there's a place for you at the table. I hope to see you soon.

Peace,

Pastor Lena



Reaching out in inclusive love and
generosity so that all may know the
love of Jesus.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
112 N. Main Street Pearl River, NY 10965

Life Stations

MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Irmgard Oelkers, given by Werner and Maria Boecker.

DEATHS

Irmgard Oelkers September 28, 2021

Vicki Biehl October 5, 2021

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Irmgard Oelkers October 30, 2021

AT YOUR SERVICE


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

2021 CHURCH COUNCIL


Rev. J. Lena Warren, Pastor
Jake Daniels, President
George Boothby, Vice President
Michael McCambridge, Treasurer*
Werner Boecker, Financial Secretary*
Wendy Gates, Assistant Financial Secretary*
Kim Arcidiacono, Secretary
**Non-voting*

Anthony Armenio Anne Baumann Sue Baumeister
Jeff Bergman James Cleary Kristin Hanifin
Linda Hecker Mark Olson Lucy Pinedo
Christopher Ryan Debra Thaler Tom Vislocky
Don Widmayer

CHURCH OFFICE

845-735-2243 | (FAX) 845-735-0819
secretary@gspr.org | www.gspr.org
@GoodShepherdPR 

CREATIVE PLAY

845-735-2737 | renee@gspr.org
www.goodshepherdcreativeplay.com
@GoodShepherdCreativePlay 

Please send your articles for the December 2021 *Voice* issue to Katy@gspr.org by **Thursday, November 18**. If you have any articles or photos you'd like to see, or share, on our social media pages, or weekly E-newsletter, feel free to email Katy. As always, you can call the Church Office if you have any questions.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

I've been thinking a lot about "time" lately. Maybe it's the season, where the shorter days make me feel pressed for time. Maybe it's my age. As a kid, when the teacher would say in June, "See you next year," I thought that summer was literally a year long, as the time seemed to stretch forever. Now, days, weeks, months, and years seem to fly by in the blink of an eye. I'm sure all of you have probably experienced this at one time or another.

I've been thinking a lot about how Time is one of the gifts that God has given us, and how I choose to use that gift. I have realized that when I use this gift to help others, I feel better myself. That's not to say that I don't play games on my phone when I should be doing something else, like writing this Temple Talk. I just mean that even if I am tired or feeling overwhelmed, I sometimes feel an internal nudge to do a given thing. At those times, when I allow myself to be guided and be truly present in service to others, I walk away feeling at peace. You may be wondering if this is when I make my pitch to have you usher. I won't. I promise. Instead, I have three requests to make of you. These requests all have to do with Stewardship.

Stewardship, at its best, most perfect, is a way of life. It is how we use all of the gifts that God has granted us, trusted in us, and how we use them to love God and love our neighbor. Think about that for a minute. What would the world look like if we all lived a life truly in service to one another? Where we all found joy in being a community and at peace, at the end of the day, knowing that we accomplished what God had set for us to.

Stewardship encourages us to look Down, In, and Out. We see how God has come down to us, we look in to discover the gifts that we have been entrusted with. We then look out of ourselves, to our neighbors, to see and understand their needs.

I somehow missed this full meaning of Stewardship until a few months ago. I knew that it had to do with giving, but thought solely in monetary terms. My guess is that I am not alone in this misunderstanding. One part of Stewardship is about money. I mean, without money, we wouldn't have staff, or lights, or heat, or a myriad of other things. Treasure is definitely one of the gifts that God gives. But, there are actually three "T"'s when we think about Giving. This treasure, or money, is definitely important, but no more important than the other two T's. These are the gift of Time and the gift of Talent.

In a week or so, you will be receiving in the mail a list of all of the events that we would like to hold here at Good Shepherd. There are check boxes next to each where you can let us know if you would like to volunteer at that specific event, or if you would like to just attend. So, here is my first request. Before you look at the list, take a moment or two to take a deep breath and ask God to come down to help you see where he would like you to be on those dates. As you slowly read each event, look in and wait to see if there is that internal nudge. There may not be, as God needs you elsewhere on those days. Or it may be that God wants you to come as a participant and not a volunteer. That's okay. Who am I to argue with God?

My second request is that we all commit to physically coming to church once a month. Just come. We miss you. You are needed here, just by being you and being here. We are enriched by your presence and I think you will find yourself enriched by the others here.

My third request is that you look Down, In and Out. Commit to an hour a week to seek where God has come down, what gifts he has given you, and then use those gifts in service to others. I know that an hour seems like a lot, but fortunately God has also given us the gift of minutes that an hour can be broken into. Maybe you pray for 5 minutes a day, seeking guidance. And then 15 minutes on the phone to someone who is lonely. Maybe you buy some extra food for that homeless person you pass every day on the way to work, and sit and eat with them.

There are so many needs out there, but you are not meant to solve them all by yourself. If we trust in God, stewarding the bountiful gifts that He has given us, listen for that nudge, we will be exactly where we are supposed to be, using the exact right gifts, helping those that we were meant to.

Gina Danialinia, Volunteer Coordinator
gina@gspr.org



WELCOME BACK!

JOIN US FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP

SUNDAY WORSHIP
8am & 10:30am

No sign-up necessary.
Please wear a mask!

**Watch the 10:30am service livestream  YouTube*

The 10:30 service will continue to be livestreamed on our YouTube channel. The social distancing marks have been removed from the pews, and hand sanitizer will be available throughout the church building. We look forward to seeing you! If you'd like to volunteer to be a worship leader, contact the Church Office. There will also be a signup sheet in the back of the Sanctuary, during each worship service.

SUNDAY HOST SCHEDULE

Below is the schedule of council members who will be hosting our Sunday worship services, for the next two months. We hope you will join us! If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer, please contact Gina@gspr.org.

November 7, 8am: Ann Baumann | **10:30am:** Sue Baumeister

November 14, 8am: Kim Arcidiacono | **10:30am:** Jeff Bergman

November 21, 8am: George Boothby | **10:30am:** Tom Vislocky

November 28, 8am: Mike McCambridge | **10:30am:** Jake Daniels

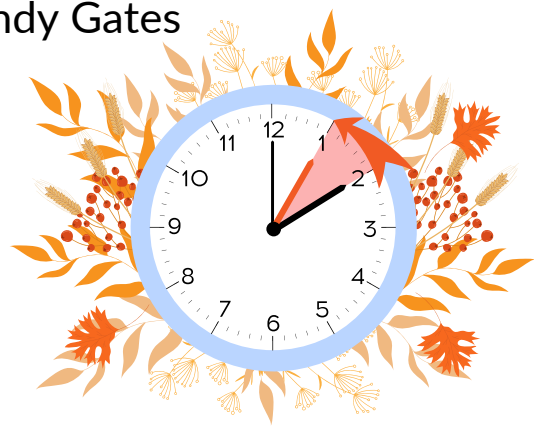
December 5, 8am: Don Widmayer | **10:30am:** Kristen Hanifin

December 12, 8am: Linda Hecker | **10:30am:** Mark Olson

December 19, 8am: Lucy Pinedo | **10:30am:** Chris Ryan

December 26, 8am: Werner Boecker | **10:30am:** Wendy Gates

Don't forget to fall back! Daylight Savings ends on Sunday, November 7.



Our Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, November 21, following 10:30 worship, in the Sanctuary

CHURCH OFFICE Hours of Operation

MONDAY	2:30 PM - 4:30 PM
TUESDAY	12 PM - 4:30 PM
WEDNESDAY	12 PM - 4 PM
THURSDAY	12 PM - 4:30 PM
FRIDAY	12 PM - 4 PM

We recommend calling before your arrival (845.735.2243). Thank you for your cooperation!

MASKS REQUIRED WHEN CREATIVE PLAY PRE- SCHOOL IS IN SESSION, REGARDLESS OF VACCINATION STATUS. STRONGLY RECOMMENDED AT ALL OTHER TIMES!

Stay Connected YouTube

- To subscribe to our Thursday evening weekly E-newsletter, "By The Way," email communications@gspr.org.
- Visit our website at www.gspr.org, and follow us on **Facebook and Instagram**, @GoodShepherdPr, for the latest, up-to-date information!
- Subscribe to our YouTube channel and receive alerts when new videos are posted! We will continue to livestream the 10:30 worship service, from the sanctuary. Go to www.youtube.com/c/GoodShepherdPearlRiver

Prayer Chain

If you, a loved one, or friend experience difficulty and desire prayer support, activate the Good Shepherd Prayer Chain by contacting **Ione Mensing, at 201-664-1235, or Carol Westphal, at 845-624-5732**. The Prayer Chain will be activated, and many will be praying with, and for you.

Go digital!

Having trouble receiving *The Shepherd's Voice* on time? Opt for our digital newsletter, instead. Email communications@gspr.org to sign up for our E-Voice.

Join Us!

Coffee & Conversation

Thursdays, 3pm, 39 E Central Ave.

Warm up with a great cup of coffee at Dean's Coffee Co. in Pearl River. Meet Pastor Lena on Thursday afternoons and support our local coffee shop. Feel free to bring a friend!



Adult Bible Study

Thursdays, 7pm, Zoom



Pastor Lena will be leading us through a look at the *Book of Hebrews*. To quote N.T. Wright, "The letter of Hebrews is one of the most bracing and challenging writings in the New Testament. People often find it a bit difficult, because it uses ideas that are strange to us. But, like meeting a new friend, we will find as we get to know it that it is full of interest and delight, with a powerful message that comes home to today's and tomorrow's church as much as it did to yesterday's." So come and join us! No experience necessary and feel free to invite a friend!

Log on to www.zoom.us and type in the **Meeting ID: 839 8897 7895 & Passcode: 204403**

Adult Forum

Sundays, 9:30am, Church Parlor

Join our Adult Forum on Sunday mornings, after 8am worship, in the Church Parlor. We will be starting with a seven-part series exploring the Bible called *Animate: Bible*. It is for beginners! If you have questions about what the Bible is about, and how we make sense of this ancient text for today's faith, this is a great forum for you. Feel free to attend any sessions even if you can't make the others!

Men's Breakfast Group

Saturday, November 20, 9am

All men of Good Shepherd are welcome to join in for a great breakfast, fellowship, and opportunities for service, in Fellowship Hall. Contact Herman Mensing (himensing@gmail.com) if you wish more information.

WELCA

Tuesday, December 7, 1:30pm

All ladies of Good Shepherd are welcome to our upcoming WELCA meeting. We will decide if we are moving back to the Church Parlor for the remainder of the season. Please be on the lookout for updates in *Cross Connections*. If you have any questions or need a ride, please call **Barbara Bow at 845-521-2611 or Mary Iseman at 845-623-7638**. God's peace to all.

Be a Volunteer!

Looking for ways to get involved? Whether it's delivering meals, running errands for our neighbors, or helping out with worship services, a little help goes a long way! We are always looking for volunteers at Good Shepherd. Check out our community events or contact Volunteer Coordinator, Gina@gspr.org, to find out how you can lend a helping hand.

FOOD BANK

We are donating to *People to People* throughout the year. **For the month of November, we will be collecting Thanksgiving fixings. Donate boxed stuffing mix, instant mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, canned veggies, and more! There will be a box at the entrance of the Education Building for your non-perishable donations. You can also bring your fixings to our Annual Turkey Run! (More info on page 9).**



As we are receiving an abundance of donations for our monthly food bank, we will be delivering food to *People to People*, every two weeks. Food delivery can be after church on Sunday, or during church office hours. Call **Gina at 845-587-0904** to arrange a time. If you'd like to volunteer, sign up at volunteersignup.org/BECRW.

CARD DRIVE



Be a bright moment in someone's day! Join our card drive for *Meals on Wheels*. All you have to do is write a quick note of encouragement to a meal recipient. Get your own greeting card, or pick up blank cards at the church office. We will also have some available after service on Sundays! Drop them back off to us at anytime and we will deliver them to *Meals on Wheels*.

MAGNOLIA MEALS

Magnolia Meals at Home is a meal delivery program that provides nourishing meals to households affected by cancer, so that loved ones can spend quality time together. We have partnered with St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Teaneck, and Trinity Lutheran in Bogota, to transport *Magnolia Meals* from *Meals on Wheels* in Nanuet, and bring them to St. Paul's. From there, they will be delivered to those undergoing cancer treatment.



Thank you to our November volunteer, Abby Hanifin. We are looking for help on Saturday, December 18th, at 9:30am. If you're interested in helping out, sign up online at volunteersignup.org/XRRJQ.

PHONE REASSURANGE PROGRAM



Meals On Wheels
Meals are just our first course!

Meals on Wheels has just launched an initiative called the Telephone Reassurance Program, which provides older adults who live alone, or who have limited ability to leave their homes, with regularly scheduled telephone calls. The goal is to alleviate feelings of isolation among our seniors. We are currently looking for volunteers to regularly call and check in on the health and well-being of our seniors. You will be assigned contacts to make calls once a week, or once every other week, depending on the client. The last step is to complete a response form. You will have an opportunity to hear their stories, and the conversation will be a gift to you both. If you'd like to help out, contact **Marie Louis at mlouis@mowrockland.org or call 845-624-6325.**

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2021!



Patrick Jameson Coyle
Sofia Lauen
Christopher Lee Pond
Kevin Carl Riker

The Rite of Confirmation was received by four of our young people, on Reformation Sunday, October 31st. In Confirmation, we affirm the promises made on our behalf at Holy Baptism.

Ways to Give

If you are able, please consider signing up for online giving. Even a one-time special gift would be helpful. Thank you for your generosity in supporting the work of Good Shepherd!

ONLINE: Go to our webpage, www.gspr.org/give and click the "give" button.

GIVE+ TEXT: Text 877-771-4850, then follow the instructions.

MAIL: Send your offerings to 112 N. Main St. Pearl River, NY 10965.

IN PERSON: Bring your offering to a worship service.

AMAZONSMILE: Use AmazonSmile to buy your personal gifts, while also giving to Good Shepherd! Agree to support us at <https://smile.amazon.com> and 0.05% of the profits will automatically be donated to us. Remember to use AmazonSmile, instead of Amazon, in order for Good Shepherd to receive the donation. Any questions, contact Cindy Sealander at csealander@optonline.net.

SHOPRITE GIFT CARDS: 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.

11th Annual Turkey Run



Saturday, November 20, 8:30-11:30am

BRING A FROZEN TURKEY
& non-perishable Thanksgiving fixings
*stuffing mix • instant mashed potatoes • gravy
canned veggies/sweet potato • cranberry sauce*

Together Our Unity Can Heal, Inc.



**Rockland Community
Against Hunger**

Donations for Bronx, NY

Church of the Epiphany, Pastor Larry McFarland

FOOD TOWN GIFT CARDS, CASH & CHECKS

Collecting through November 20

Drop off in our mailbox or at the Church Office in a sealed envelope labeled "Turkey Run." Please make checks payable to Good Shepherd.

~

BE A VOLUNTEER! Sign up online at
www.volunteersignup.org/EWDCJ

112 N Main St. Pearl River, NY | 845.735.2243

Creative Play News



“Piglet noticed that even though he had a Very Small Heart, it could hold a rather large amount of Gratitude.”

- A.A. Milne in Winnie-the-Pooh

The children and staff are comfortable in their classrooms and routines, as they settle into the month of November. This year has led to different experiences, as we all acclimated to one another. There have been more challenges faced; however with the rise of challenges, also came the rise of compassion, community, and dedication.

We began offering additional classes in the afternoon called Creative Creations. These classes enhance what the students learn during their traditional classroom time. Pastor Lena collaborated with Creative Play in the return of these classes. Our hope is to continue bridging the Church and Creative Play's communities. Pastor Lena has become a guest reader as well, sharing time with each of the classes on a monthly basis.

All of our students, at this point, have been formally or informally assessed, and recommendations have been for students who could be more successful with additional support and strategies.

As the children create their Creative Play classic Thanksgiving placemats, we will discuss what it means to be thankful. I laugh at the memory of my daughter, 19 years ago in class, shouting out “I am thankful for mozzarella!” Listening to and seeing pure joy in our students is something I am truly thankful for. I am grateful our children are in a classroom learning what it means to be a part of a community, and are learning how to be kind to one another, and appreciate their surroundings. They might only be thinking about mozzarella, but we know the lasting impact that is being made.

May you all feel gratitude and blessings this month of Thanksgiving!

Renee Bucci

Renee Bucci, Creative Play Director
Renee@gspr.org



INTERFAITH Thanksgiving Service



***Tuesday, November 23,
7pm, in the Sanctuary***

We are planning to meet in person, this year! More details TBA in "By The Way" and Cross Connections. Be on the lookout for more information, in the coming weeks.



Dear Good Shepherd Families,

We have been enjoying our rehearsals with the Sanctuary Choir, Children's Choir, and Bell Choir. No experience needed. Please join us! All are welcome!

- **Thursdays**
 - **Bell Choir Rehearsals in the choir room, from 6:15-7pm**
 - **Choir Rehearsals in the choir room at 7pm**
- **Sundays**
 - **Choir Rehearsals in the choir room from, 9:30-10am**
 - **Children's Choir Rehearsals in the choir room, from 10-10:20am**
 - **The band will rehearse immediately following the 10:30 worship service on Sunday, November 7, in the Sanctuary**

Elaina and Brian Burns, music@gspr.org

GOOD SHEPHERD YOUTH

Youth who are currently in Grades 8 through 12 are eligible to attend the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Good Shepherd will be sending youth and adult leaders to the gathering from Saturday, July 23, to Thursday, July 28. This gathering takes place every 3 years, and provides our youth with opportunities to participate in community service, study, worship, fun, and meaningful faith-based life experiences. This year's theme is BOUNDLESS, celebrating God's boundless love, creation, forgiveness, invitation, and promise!

We encourage our youth to participate in this amazing, life-changing event. If you are interested in having your youth attend, please let us know as soon as possible, by contacting **Pastor Lena at the Church Office (845-735-2243)**, or the Youth Gathering adult leaders, **Rich Bowman or Greg & Cindy Sealander**.

ELCA Youth Gathering Volunteer Team

Rich Bowman, Greg & Cindy Sealander

rbpb@yahoo.com, csealander@optonline.net



Sunday School is in full swing! Each month we will be highlighting a teacher. This month's teacher spotlight...

Linda Hecker

I've been co-teaching the first and second grade classes since 2016. I love helping the kids to understand the ways they can serve God and connect with our church. We spend time talking about being kind, helping others, being thoughtful, and sharing the gifts God gave them. I love watching their faith grow. Being a Sunday School teacher is one of my favorite ways to give back to the Good Shepherd community.



+ Stewardship 2022 +

Early November is typically the time of year when we reexamine our stewardship lives, and determine our commitments for the upcoming year, in serving others, in DOING GOD'S WORK in lives of service to others.

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 of Good Shepherd for the coming year.

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, thank you for DOING GOD'S WORK, and wishing you and yours a blessed Thanksgiving.

The Stewardship Committee

SEARCHING FOR LEADERSHIP!

We are searching for leadership and volunteers for these potential upcoming events. If you'd like to see these events happen, please contact Gina@gspr.org. Thank you for your help as we plan for a busy season!

- **Spaghetti Dinner Saturday, November 13**
- **Tappan Zee Bridge Walk Friday, November 26**
- **Advent Wreath Making Sunday, November 28 (LEADER: Trish Habas)**
- **Creche Set-up Sunday, December 12**
- **St. Nicholas Event Sunday, December 12**
- **Adult Christmas Caroling Friday, December 17**
- **Christmas Pageant Sunday, December 19**
- **Christmas Caroling Sunday, December 19**
- **Christmas Fair Friday, December 24**
- **Christmas Luminaries Friday, December 24**



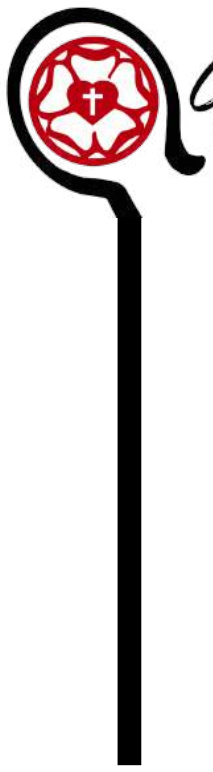
We had a great time at this year's Oktoberfest! Thank you to Cindy Sealander for organizing the event, the Baumeisters for the photos, and all of our amazing volunteers.





Thank you for all of your help in our Afghan Refugee Clothing Drive. Volunteers picked up 193 boxes of donations from us and they couldn't be happier! A huge shout out to Gina who helped to organize our involvement.





*Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church*

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ORDER FORM
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DEADLINE TO ORDER: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2021

In memory of: _____



In honor of: _____



Given by: _____

Enclosed: \$ _____

(Suggested donation \$10)

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

