



The Shepherd's Voice

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

September 2023

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

FROM THE PASTOR...

I hope this note finds you all well. It's so hard to believe that the summer is ending and September has come crashing in on us. Hopefully, you got to enjoy some time to re-create this summer. We were certainly fortunate in this area that our summer was so beautiful. Not near as hot as some places, still wet enough for gardens ... we're so, so blessed.

I'm grateful for the time I've been able to rest this summer—the chance to visit my family, and a bit of time to slip up to Lake George for a bit. I've also really enjoyed being able to get together with lots of you, as Nancy has been scheduling visits. It's wonderful to get to know you better, to check in, to figure out how we reconnect.

Sadly, on top of these great things, it's been a summer of deaths, particularly the deaths of the young. This past Sunday, I learned of the sudden death of Christina Warner. Her funeral, scheduled for September 8th, will be the third funeral *this summer* that I've done for a young woman under the age of forty.

I wish I was better at brushing off the grief that I inevitably pick up from funerals. It is not my loss to grieve. I can only walk beside others as they grieve. But, I have this way of holding the pain of others. Of course, there's a part of me that is grateful for that part of me. I'd hate to get numb to the grief of loss and the many complicated feelings that come along with mourning the loss of loved ones. But, it is something that I really do struggle with. Funerals for the particularly young certainly weigh even more than most.

Those deaths also just really make me stop. Life is so short. Time is no guarantee of anything. It makes me wonder about the time I've been given and if I'm being a good steward of the time I have been blessed with. A regular refrain of almost all of us is, "I want to do that, but I just don't have the time." This lingering regret of not choosing what we most want to do ... It just makes me think and want to commit more deeply to living the life I'm called to live.

It makes me think of that quote from Mary Oliver, "Tell me, what are you going to do with your one wild and precious life?" Obviously, the answer for the poet was not to have a more traditionally "productive" or "successful" life. She spent a lot of days walking in the woods and watching the natural world. She did not move with hurry and rush, but with intention and reflection, being caught, on occasion, by wonder and holiness.

I don't think that's so different than what Jesus invites us to when he says, "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." I'm more than sure it's not an abundance of busyness that Jesus calls us to, but an abundance of life. Of noticing the infinite preciousness of the moment. Of being surprised by the wild abundance of life. Of exploring and wondering at the mystery of the holiness of God in this and the next and the next breath...

I hope these aren't too erratic things to reflect on and that I make some sense. I pray that you maybe get to stop a bit to notice, to rethink, to reflect. Your life is too very precious to have it run away blind to the wonder of it all. And if you need some help remembering how to touch the holy or want with some people to explore these questions of belief and death and life and all that is in between ... let's do that together.

Much love and light,

Pastor Lena

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

112 North Main Street
Pearl River, New York 10965

WORSHIP

Sundays: 8:15, 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Church School: 10:30 hour

CONTACT US

Church Office: (845)735-2243

9am—12pm Mon.-Thurs.

2:00—4:30 Tues.-Fri.

Fax: (845)735-0819

E-mail: office@gspr.org

Web site: www.gspr.org

Creative Play Pre-School: (845)735-2737

AT YOUR SERVICE

The Reverend J. Lena Warren - Pastor
George Boothby - President
Brian Burns - Director of Music
Elaina Burns - Organist
Renee Bucci - Creative Play Director
Dale Damon - Church Secretary
Gina Danialinia - Volunteer Coordinator
Lisa Filatov - Bookkeeper
Nancy DeBellonia - Admin. Asst.
Gisele Saldana - Sexton

LIFE STATIONS

Baptisms

Steven Horst Cowen 7/30/23

Deaths

Kirsten Hamre 8/6/23

Erna von Autenried 9/23/23

Memorial Fund

In loving memory of Larry Brooks, given by Brunhilde Porobija
In memory of Erna von Autenried, given by Diane & Tim Dougherty

FOOD COLLECTION FOR SEPTEMBER

Thank you to everyone who contributes to our food bin for *People to People*.

FOR the month of September, we will be collecting PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY or any non-perishable food.



The bin is located at the entrance to the Education Bldg.

We will be delivering food every two weeks. Food delivery can be after church on Sunday, or during church office hours. Sign up at volunteersignup.org/BECRW, then call/text Gina at 845-587-0904 to arrange pick-up & delivery time.

2023 CHURCH COUNCIL

J. Lena Warren, Pastor
George Boothby, President
Jeff Bergman, Vice President
Kim Arcidiacono, Secretary
Michael McCambridge, Treasurer *
Werner Boecker, Financial Secretary*
Wendy Gates, Asst. Financial Secretary*

Anne Baumann
Sue Baumeister
Kristen Hanifin
Linda Hecker
Carol Hoerter
Carole Meehan
Mark Olson
Lulu Paolini
Christopher Ryan
Becky Tom
Tom Vislocky
(*non-voting)

Voice Publication Deadline

Items to be included in *The Shepherd's Voice* must be submitted by September 15th for the October issue.

Electronic submission (e-mail) is preferred. Articles submitted after the deadline may not be published, due to space and time restrictions. Please e-mail articles to: Dalegspr@gmail.com. Thank you!

FALL WORSHIP RESUMES

Starting September 10th, we will have worship on Sundays at 8:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m., with Sunday Church School at the 10:30 a.m. hour.



HOMEcoming SUNDAY HOT DOG SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 10TH

Join us following the 10:30 service, for some fellowship and a HOT DOG...with all the fixings! It's a wonderful opportunity to reconnect after the summer.



The Orangetown PBA will hold their Annual 9/11 Memorial and Remembrance on Monday, September 11th, at Veterans Park in Orangeburg (the field near the Pond off Hunt Rd), beginning at 5pm. The entire community is welcome to come remember all the heroes of 9/11 and the heroes we have lost over the years. Gone but never forgotten.

Blessing of the Backpacks



During the children's sermon on Sept. 17th, there will be a blessing of backpacks.

Children of ALL ages are invited to bring their backpacks (and/or briefcases, etc...) to worship and receive a blessing.

MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

Our next breakfast is scheduled for **Saturday, September 16th, @ 9am**, in Fellowship Hall. All men of Good Shepherd are invited for a wonderful breakfast and good fellowship.



Good Shepherd's Confirmation Orientation for parents of children in 6th-8th grade will take place on two different dates. This is a meeting for PARENTS and their Confirmation children. Please attend ONE of the following meetings:
Thursday, September 14^h at 7pm
Wednesday, September 20th at 7pm
We will be meeting in the Church Parlor.



**2023 ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE
INTO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY
OCTOBER 15th
dalegspr@gmail.com**



CREATIVE PLAY HAPPENINGS...



Even though summer feels very present, the new school year is approaching quickly in our future!. The month of July, Creative Play hosted Summer Camp! The month flew by with a full building of campers enjoying each themed week. The Creative Play summer camp staff was exceptional. We had many 1st time participants, and they went above and beyond in creating a loving, fun and unique experience for the campers.

We are always learning, growing, and adapting as individuals, as well as a program. We will continue doing so this coming school year. This year we will have a record number of Toddler students, as well, as we are facilitating a 5 day 3-year-old class for the first time. We try to adapt our program to the needs of our families.

As we approach the start of the school year, September 5th, Creative Play is excited and looking forward to welcoming 158 students and their families to our program. If you know of anyone interested, we have a couple of 3- as well as 4-year-old placements available; please ask them to give me a call. We are well prepared and ready, well almost (haha) to open our doors once again to welcome some of the youngest members of our community.

We have been busy cleaning up the Education Building over the summer: We had the floors all waxed and buffed; our clean-up committee scrubbed down each classroom, as well as all the materials, over the course of 2 days, with close to 25 volunteers. We also had the playground area weeded and freshened up. We will be decorating the hallways and sharing the energy that is provided to us by the students.

I wish everyone well as they say "so long" to summer. I hope everyone is able to hold onto their sunny dispositions as the days shorten.

Be well, be safe and be happy,

Renee Bucci
Creative Play Director

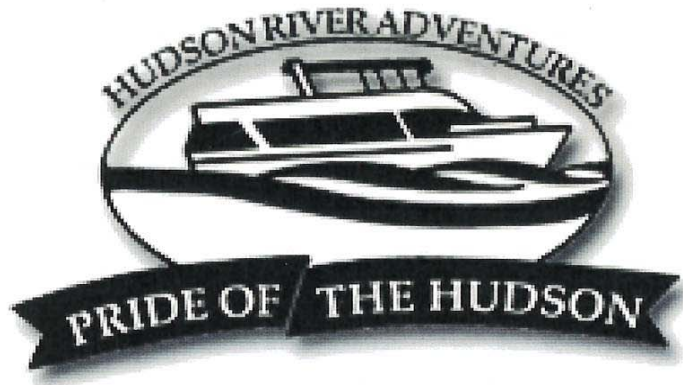
CREATIVE PLAY PRE-SCHOOL—OFFICE HOURS: M-F 8AM-4PM
845-735-2737



CRUISE THE HUDSON RIVER

ABOARD THE PRIDE OF THE HUDSON

Saturday September 30, 1pm-3pm.



We thought it would be fun to go on a guided sight-seeing cruise on the Hudson! So, we've reserved ourselves some spots on the **Pride of the Hudson** for September 30.

The cruise leaves out of Newburgh and is about 2 hours in length, 1pm-3pm. We thought we might get something to eat together afterward. A family-friendly event!

If you're interested in reserving a spot, please contact

Karin O'Keefe.

845-664-1484 or okkc64@gmail.com

HUDSON RIVER SIGHTSEEING CRUISES

Cruise through the majestic Hudson Highlands aboard the luxurious *Pride of the Hudson!*

Your adventure will begin at Pride's Landing in Newburgh, NY and your captain will narrate the sights along the way, including:

- **Washington's Headquarters** – established as a historic site in 1850 because George Washington spent so much time here during the Revolutionary War!
- **Mount Beacon** – the highest point between the Catskills and the Atlantic Ocean. Beacon fires were built here during the Revolutionary War.
- **Bannerman Island** – this historic Island is known for its warehouse, built to resemble a Scottish Castle.
- **Breakneck Mountain** – legend has it that the mountain was named for a farmer's bull that fell down the cliff and broke its neck. A granite quarry at its base supplied material for the towers of the Brooklyn Bridge, the base of the Statue of Liberty, and sidewalks in New York City.
- **Cold Spring** – a quaint town known for its restaurants and antiques.
- **World's End** – the deepest point of the Hudson River. Explorers believed that the river stopped there, but eventually realized that after the sharp "S" bend it continued
- **Constitution Island** – during the Revolutionary War, chains were run from here to West Point.
- **West Point** – the United States Military Academy at West Point boasts beautiful & historic buildings including Eisenhower Hall, their chapel, field house, & more.

Bask in the open air on the **spacious sundeck** or enjoy the comfort of our **climate controlled main salon** featuring huge wrap-around windows. Our friendly and professional crew will respond to all of your needs.

We look forward to welcoming you aboard!

– 3 & under complimentary, but NOT wheel accessible. Must be able to navigate 2 steps.

All departures from Pride's Landing; Newburgh, NY.

Rain or Shine.

A fully stocked bar and light snacks are available.

Drive up Movie

***FREE!

Saturday September 23, at
sunset approximately 7 pm
Rain date September 30.



On September 23rd (rain date September 30th), we'll be setting up the screen in the parking lot to see a production of Noah's Ark from Sight and Sound theater. It's a free/no charge event!☺

Cupcake Decorating & snack for kids!

The sun sets right around 7pm that day, and that is when we'll start the movie.

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COME TO OKTOBERFEST 2023

October 21st, from 6:00-9:00 p.m.

(Doors will open at 5:45 p.m.)



Come for an evening with a German atmosphere,
great food, entertainment, music,
and fellowship

Menu: Roast pork and home-made gravy, potato sides, bratwurst, sauerkraut, red cabbage, applesauce, green salad, rye bread and dessert.

Kids Menu: Hot Dogs

Drinks: Beer, Wine, apple juice, soda

Entertainment: Larry Zaidan's Tuba Quartet

Cost: Adults \$25.
Children \$10.00 (12 and under)
Family: \$60.00
Children under two are free
Wine and beer: \$5 each – limit of two per adult

Please contact Cindy Sealander if you can help with set-up, decorating, cooking/working in the kitchen, serving and/or clean-up. If you are interested in helping, email: CSealander@optonline.net .

Only 125 tickets will be sold, (NO tickets will be sold at the door). Deadline to sign up is Monday, October 16th.

Please fill out the form below and send to the church office with payment, with "Oktoberfest" indicated on the check. Make checks payable to Good Shepherd Church.

OKTOBERFEST 2023– October 21st, at 6:00 p.m.

NAME: _____

E-mail or telephone # for confirmation: _____

Adults: _____ Children _____ Family _____

Red Wine: _____ White Wine: _____ Beer: _____ (please indicate # of servings)
\$5 each; limit of two per person

Total enclosed: \$ _____

(Please make checks payable to Good Shepherd Church, with memo "Oktoberfest")



Good Shepherd
PEARL RIVER, NY

SCS STUDENT REGISTRATION FORM

2023-2024

Family Name: _____

Home phone: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail _____

Cell Phone _____

Preferred method of contact _____

Children (Grades Prek-5th)

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>B-day</u>	<u>Envelope</u>	<u>Special Needs/Allergies:</u>	<u>Sports? Month</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Parent/Guardian Information (Emergency info while children are in Sunday School)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship:</u>	<u>Cell Phone:</u>	<u>In Church?</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

To whom may your child be dismissed to or can sign him/her out early:

Is there a restraining order or anyone who cannot pick up your child?

I give permission for my child's photo to be used in Good Shepherd publications Yes No

(Please see back)

***Our Church School teachers are volunteers not trained in special learning needs. I understand that in the case that my child is experiencing learning challenges in the classroom, I will speak with the teacher and will assist in the classroom as needed. _____ (Please initial).**

Additional comments/concerns:

Registration cost

No cost, but a donation to help cover materials is appreciated!

Amount enclosed: _____

Volunteer Name _____

A lively, engaging Sunday School program requires the support of many volunteers. We ask that parents or guardians of all children participating in Sunday School that they will contribute a minimum of 4 hours during the church year (this is only if we go back to regular weekly meetings, though we will still need help with having hall monitors and help in the classrooms). Please circle one or more ways you would be interested in helping.

Substitute teach

Hall Monitor

Assist teacher in classroom

MUSIC NEWS



Dear Good Shepherd Congregants,

We hope you had a wonderful summer! We are looking forward to our upcoming program year, and we can't wait to make music with all of you!

We love to hear you sing! Would you like to join us in choir? If so, please let us know! Here are some important dates to remember!

Choir rehearsals begin:

Thursday, September 7th, 7pm

Children's Choir rehearsals begin:

Sunday, September 17th, 10am

Band rehearsals begin:

Sunday, September 17th, 11:45am

We would like to extend a special thank you to the Meyer Family for providing music for our services on August 13th! Thank you all!

Thank you, and see you soon!

Elaina and Brian Burns

Sunday School Starts on September 10th!

Sunday School registration will be in Fellowship Hall at 10am. Children will meet their teachers, then go to worship with their families at 10:30am. After the children's sermon, the children will go to their classes. It's going to be a great year of learning, faith and fun! (registration materials can be found in this *Voice*.)





112 North Main Street • Pearl River, NY 10965
Address Service Requested

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U.S. POSTAGE
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Monsey, NY
Permit No. 6212

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** with the \$ amount, then follow the instructions given.

For further assistance, you can message: **ASSIST, FUNDS, or EDIT.**

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

IN PERSON: Bring your offering to a worship service. (Sunday's @ 8:15 and 10:30 a.m.)