



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

March 2024

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

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

HOLY WEEK & EASTER AT GOOD SHEPHERD

March 24
Palm Sunday **8:15 & 10:30 am** Services of Holy Communion,
Blessing/Procession with Palms

March 28
Maundy Thursday **7:00 p.m.** Dinner Church—Fellowship Hall

March 29
Good Friday **2:00 p.m.** Tenebrae Service
 7:30 p.m. Tenebrae Service

March 31
EASTER SUNDAY **6:30 a.m.** Sunrise Festival Eucharist Service
 9:00 a.m. Festival Eucharist Service
 11:00 a.m. Festival Eucharist Service



DINNER CHURCH

This year, we will again gather on Maundy Thursday (March 28) around a meal as we remember Jesus' last supper with his disciples. The service will be at 7:00pm and will be

catered by *Bella's Kitchen*. We hope that you can attend!

Due to the cost of catering, we are setting a "suggested donation" of \$20 per adult to cover the costs. It is not an entry fee. Please come as you're able. We just want you to be aware of costs.

WEDNESDAY'S IN LENT

HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER SERVICE
WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30 PM

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13TH
SOUP SUPPER AT 6:30PM
HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER AT 7:30 PM



**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
Jeff Bergman - President
Brian Burns - Director of Music
Elaina Burns - Organist
Renee Bucci - Creative Play Director
Dale Damon - Church Secretary
Lisa Filatov - Bookkeeper
Nancy DeBellonia - Admin. Asst.
Gisele Saldana - Sexton

Voice Publication Deadline

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

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 Articles submitted after the deadline may not be published, due to space and time restrictions.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!

LIFE STATIONS

DEATHS

Trish Habas

2/6/24

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
BEGINS MARCH 10TH
TURN YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD
ONE HOUR**

SHOPRITE GIFT CARDS



BUY A GIFT CARD

and Good Shepherd receives 5% from each gift card purchase. The cards can be purchased in the Church Office. Cards can be used at any ShopRite location. We have \$25, \$50, or \$100 cards. CASH and checks will be accepted.

Any questions, please contact the church office: 845-735-2243

2024 CHURCH COUNCIL

J. Lena Warren, Pastor
Jeff Bergman, President
Kristen Hanifin, Vice President
Kim Arcidiacono, Secretary
Michael McCambridge, Treasurer *
Werner Boecker, Financial Secretary*
Anne Baumann
Sue Baumeister
Linda Hecker
Carol Hoerter
Carole Meehan
Lulu Paolini
Christopher Ryan
Becky Tom
Tom Vislocky
(*non-voting)

**PEARL RIVER
ST. PATRICK'S DAY
PARADE**

SUNDAY, MARCH 17TH, 1:30 PM



THANK YOU!!!

The Men's Breakfast Group has come to an end. The number of members has declined over the years, making it unworkable.

All things must pass, but we should thank this group for the impact they have had on the life of Good Shepherd since 2004, when a vicar, Greg Shreaves, started the breakfasts. For twenty years, the men have not only enjoyed delicious breakfasts, but also a sense of community and fellowship. From these relationships came a group that enjoyed taking on cooking at various functions at Good Shepherd...the Oktoberfest, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner, Soup Suppers, the Easter Breakfast, and cookouts. Each month, when they met, they passed a basket, which was generously filled. With that money, the Men's Group has faithfully given to various Social Ministry projects like the Turkey Run, Project Joy, the Personal Care kits, etc. They also sponsor two Haitian children, providing money for their education, which they plan to continue. Community programs, such as *Meals on Wheels*, and, have also benefited from their contributions.

So, we thank all those who were involved and made it such a positive influence on our lives at Good Shepherd.

BLOOD DRIVE

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR
MARCH 10TH

From 9:00 am to 3 pm

At Good Shepherd



PRAYER CHAIN

If you, a loved one, or a friend experience difficulty and you desire prayer support, the Good Shepherd Prayer Chain may be helpful.

When you have a request or a thanksgiving to share, please call: Ione Mensing at 201-664-1235; email: himensing@gmail.com or Carol Westphal at 845-624-5732; email: carolwestphal9@gmail.com

The Prayer Chain will then be activated, and many will be praying with and for you.

MARCH CALLS FOR SOME COMFORT FOOD!

So, let's fill the shelves of *People to People* with the makings of Macaroni and Cheese, and also shelf stable or powdered milk in order to make it.

Warm some tummies
and some hearts.



The council requested that I include my monthly report to council in the Voice for a while. This is a sampling of what I do during the month, including some questions and updates on ministry around the church that don't generally find voice at council in other ways. If you have questions about this report, I encourage you to speak to me. Thank you.
Pastor Lena

***Pastor's Report
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
February 20, 2024***

January 25 - Reading to Creative Play classes (2)
January 28 - International Potluck
January 30 - Movie Night, "Entertaining Angels"
February 7 - Reading to Creative Play classes
February 13 - Snow Day/ Film Crew
February 14 - Ashes to Go, Ash Wednesday Services
February 15 - Funeral, Trish Habas

Visits: 11
Pre-baptismal Meetings: 3
Phone Calls: 25
e-visits: 28
Baptisms: 2
Funerals: 1

"e-visits" - This is a part of ministry that is super hard to capture that I really want you to know about. I never thought, when I started ministry or when I went to seminary, that I would do so much pastoral care via text message. These are just the threads of texts this past month with people. Some of them are short, some of them months long. They are not related to the "administration" of the church, but about faith and life and processing grief. I feel like this is a really big part of my ministry here and want you to understand that.

FBI/filming/new request - On the snow day, I ended up opening the church for the FBI crew. They are planning on paying us for the use of the Fellowship Hall. In addition, I received a request to maybe use the outside of our building for a scene shoot from another "FBI Drama TV series" (self-described). I told them we would be happy to work with them but have heard nothing more.

Lent - Lent has begun! Ashes to Go was well received. Lulu Paolini and I were at the train station super early and handed out ashes, flyers with prayers (and our name and info), and valentines, too. A couple of thoughts from this experience: It might be really cool to hand out things randomly from the church every once in a while. Like, go up and down Central Ave and hand people Valentines just because. Or, for Shrove Tuesday, give out free donuts to Creative Play parents or at the Train station. Just a way to get us out the door and giving out something more fun than a reminder that you're going to die.

RISA - Rockland Interfaith Social Action (or Spirit Arising) is meeting once a quarter or so. It's remarkably popular and there are a number of exciting projects coming up from that. One is a summer food drive. Also, every group is passing around things that they are up to, so our blood drive has been passed along, so hopefully, we'll get a few more people than previous years.

Men's Breakfast - Group I'm sure you've heard, but it has been decided to discontinue the Men's Breakfast group. It has a lot to do with them not being able to get consistent numbers so the cooks would know how much to cook. They had not met in the last three months due to erratic attendance.

Gina's Setting Apart - Huntington Station, April 20 - Gina has been approved as a Synodical Deacon (pending our call). The service is on April 20th in Huntington Station on Long Island. Thanks, dear synod.... Obviously, this location will make it difficult to celebrate with her on that day, and so I was hoping we might do something special here? The Sunday, April 21, we could do something in the service and celebrate with a meal after? Or, what are your thoughts??

Pastor's Report continued....

Soup donations - Just wanted to let you know that this year's "Souperbowl Sunday" netted a total of 608lbs of soup donated by the preschool and congregation.

Personal Care Kits - This Lent, we are again collecting items for personal care kits. I've been a bit slow at getting the information out to people, but I think we can still get lots of things in. This past Sunday and next, we're collecting towels. There has been some conversation about maybe next year, we could be a site for an "Ingathering" in the spring, since there is no site in the area that does this in springtime. Basically, all the area churches could bring their donations to us and a truck from Lutheran World Relief would come up to us and bring all the donations back to Delaware, where their main storehouse and offices are for distribution from there.

Every member visit - the every member visit continues. Nancy has been calling people and getting them on my calendar as she's able. It's turning up that some people just don't want visits, we have a lot of inaccurate phone numbers, people don't return calls, and scheduling is an adventure. But, we're getting there. We're in the "M"s at this point.

Continuing Education - I signed up to do some continuing education through a Benedictine Coaching program. At the end of this (in two years), I'll be a certified leadership and life coach, but my first reason for signing up with this is to improve my one-on-one visits with people. And, I thought, perhaps it might be a valuable addition to working with the youth.

Maundy Thursday - We have, for the last few years, done a catered dinner church for Maundy Thursday. Anyone who has attended can attest to the beauty of the service and I believe that it is worth continuing this way. A concern has been raised about the cost of the service and I'm wondering about brainstorming a few solutions. I really don't want to charge a cover price for people to come to worship, but I don't know what else to do, since donations have consistently not covered the cost.

Upcoming Dates:

February 21, 28, March 6, 20 - Holden Evening Prayer @ 7:30pm

February 25 - New Member class, Brunch for Social Ministry

March 10 - Blood Drive

March 13 - Soup supper w/ Holden starting at 6:30pm

March 24 - Palm/Passion Sunday

March 28 - Maundy Thursday

March 29 - Good Friday

March 31 - Easter

DR. SEUSS, DINOSAURS AND THE LUCK OF THE IRISH. VISIT CREATIVE PLAY ..and EASTER MAKES AN APPEARANCE TOO!!

"March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb" We have been fortunate the lion has not roared too loudly! We are all excited to welcome spring!

We begin this month celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday! "Your mind is a garden; your thoughts are the seeds. You can grow flowers or you can grow weeds." ~Dr. Seuss

We celebrate the literature he has written for the children and parents to enjoy endlessly!



The week of March 4th if you hear a big ROAR, it may be the children, but it just may be coming from a DINOSAUR! Creative Play staff along with the committee parents present our Dinosaur program for all the classes. Fellowship hall transforms into the pre-historic Mesozoic period. The hands on exhibit excite the children as they learn about different dinosaurs that roamed the earth, their habits and habitats. Every child arrives back to present day with either a dinosaur egg or a fossil.

We hope the luck of the Irish is with our program as we help our wee leprechauns create the magic of rainbows ~ cheers to finding the gold at the end of one! Stop by the front entrance of the school



and try your luck at our scratch off fundraiser!

We wrap up the month with our 4 year olds students showing off their fashionable hand crafted Easter hats in Creative Play's annual spring parade! The last two days of March will be filled with Easter egg hunts, egg dyeing and fun filled stories. hippity, hoppity Easter is on its way...! Who else is egg-cited for Easter?

Blessings of renewal,
Renee Bucci ~ Director of Creative Play



PERSONAL CARE KITS FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Today, as you take a shower, wash your face, comb your hair, and brush your teeth, think of how we take these things for granted, and think of all those who have no access to these basic needs. We are constantly seeing images of refugees, fleeing or in the midst of war and violence, and those left homeless after natural disasters all over the world.

It's impossible for us to get our heads around these situations and the millions of people affected, but we must try to put faces on them, these fathers, mothers, children, grandparents...just like you and me, who want to survive and have a better life. A towel, some soap, a comb, toothbrush and nail clipper sound so mundane, and yet to those who only have the clothes on their back, it is a gift...a sign that someone cares... and that makes a big difference. It is a chance to wash, to comb one's hair, maintain some of one's dignity, and feel hope.

Once again, we will be collecting the items for the personal care kits during Lent.

February 18th and 25th - **Towels** (light-weight bath-sized towel (between 20"x40" and 52" x27") dark color preferred

March 3rd - **Bath-sized bars of soap** in original wrapping

March 10th - **Toothbrush** in original packaging

March 17th - **Metal nail clippers** (attached file optional)

March 24th - **Sturdy combs**

April 9th - **Easter**

We will continue collecting through Easter and invite the congregation to assemble the kits together in April.

Thank you, as always, for your generosity.



[We need your help to make worship happen!](#)

Go to our website: gspr.org

Click on "What We Do" (at the top of the page)

There you will find a drop down menu — choose "worship" and then click on "worship schedule."
(or, you can just click here: [Worship Leader Sign-ups](#))

There you will see the two services for each regular service for the **whole year!**

We are always looking for new voices and helping hands during the services to ensure things run smoothly.

Your help is **greatly** appreciated!



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Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
112 N. Main Street
Pearl River, NY 10965
Address Service Requested

**NON-PROFIT ORG
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**ORDER FORM
EASTER LILIES & FLOWERS**
Deadline for order: March 18, 2024

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

Given by: _____

Enclosed: \$ _____ **(suggested donation – \$10)**

