



# Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

DEC./JAN. 2024-25

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

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

## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT GOOD SHEPHERD

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| December 1  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent worship at 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.  |
| December 4* | *Advent Informational Conversation & Discussion, 1:00 p.m., Pastor's Office.  |
| December 7  | Creative Play Photo's With Santa, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.   |
| December 8  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent, worship at 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.<br>St. Nick Celebration, Pre-K thru 5th Grade 10:30-11:30 a.m.  |
| December 11 | Advent Informational Conversation & Discussion, 1:00 p.m., Pastor's Office.   |
| December 14 | St. Lucia Celebration & Christmas Party sponsored by Stenland Lodge No. 727 in Fellowship Hall & Sanctuary, 2 p.m.  |
| December 15 | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent, worship at 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.   |
| December 18 | Advent Informational Conversation & Discussion, 1:00 p.m., Pastor's Office.   |
| December 22 | 4th Sunday in Advent at 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.<br>Sunday Church School Pageant at the 10:30 service<br>Rockland County Concert Band Performance at 2:30 p.m. (in the sanctuary) |
| December 24 | Christmas Eve Services: 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.   |
| December 25 | Christmas Day Service: 10:30 a.m.   |
| December 31 | Christmas I: Sunday, 10:30 a.m.   |



### **\*An Advent Small Group Opportunity!**

Beginning Wednesday, December 4 @ 1 pm, you are invited to an informal conversation & discussion on some lesser known yet, "extraordinary people of the Christmas story." We will gather for about an hour in the Pastor's office on the 11th & 18th, as well. Please come as you can - even if only one time!

RSVP to the church office @845-735-2243 or sign the sheet on the table at the back of the church.

If you'd like to bring a favorite version of the Bible, please do; but it's not required! If you are unable to participate in person, a Zoom link can be provided!! Looking forward to sharing an hour each week as we explore this sacred Advent season.

Reverend Lauri Craig, supply minister

**The Evangelical Lutheran  
Church of the Good Shepherd**

112 North Main Street  
Pearl River, New York 10965

**WORSHIP**

Sundays: 9:00 & 10:30 am  
Sunday Church School: 10:30 hour

**CONTACT US**

Church Office: (845)735-2243

Office closed on Mondays

Tues.-Fri.: 1:30-4:30pm

Fax: (845)735-0819

E-mail: office@gspr.org

Web site: www.gspr.org

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

**AT YOUR SERVICE**

Jeff Bergman - President

Brian Burns - Director of Music

Elaina Burns - Organist

Renee Bucci - Creative Play Director

Dale Damon - Church Secretary

Gina Danialinia—Synodical Deacon

Lisa Filatov - Bookkeeper

Gisele Saldana - Sexton

**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: lone 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.

**LIFE STATIONS**

**GENERAL FUND**

In memory of Tom Vislocky, given by Kathy Berardi

**CHRISTIAN ED. FUND**

In memory of Tom Vislocky, given by Jeanette & Wayne Kunow

**Deaths**

Rosemary Deering, former member on, 11/18/24

**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**

**2025 CHURCH COUNCIL**

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



## *From Pastor Mossl...*

Dear Friends in Christ,

It was nice to be with you at your annual congregational meeting November 24. As you know, I am your coverage pastor until an interim pastor is named. I am currently pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, Newburgh, and have been since 2005. As Good Shepherd's coverage pastor, I hold office hours, visit the sick and homebound, and attend church council meetings. To be with you on the Lord's day and meet more of you was a real pleasure and I thank you for welcoming me from the day I started on September 1.

As you heard at the annual meeting, it is ours to care for the church through regular worship, giving, and helping with mission. A congregation has a two-fold nature: our internal community, and being Christ's people in our neighborhoods. Without a sense of mission, connections between us will atrophy; and neglecting internal community means the same. Just as Christ has two natures, truly divine and truly human, so the church has a dual purpose. Focusing on both is required.

I speak to you theologically because as congregations feel anxiety and have questions about the future, the tendency is to pull back in certain areas. True, some things prove to be low priority and can take a back seat for now. But community and mission cannot.

Our risen Christ is continuing to call Good Shepherd to maintain its connections and its mission. You are needed in Pearl River for a simple but profound reason: people need hope! As followers of Christ, our mission is to speak hope those inside our church and in our neighborhoods. As we do that, we hold on to the promise Jesus makes us, *I am with you always, to the end of the age*, Matthew 28.

In Christ Jesus, Pastor Mossl

## **St. Nick Celebration...**

**For children Pre-K thru 5th grade. Games, Crafts, Storytelling & Christmas Cookies.**

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 8TH**

**10:30AM - 11:30 AM - FELLOWSHIP HALL**



## **SAVE THE DATE - JANUARY 19, 2025 - INTERNATIONAL POT LUCK LUNCHEON**

We are once again planning an International Pot Luck luncheon. It will be held in Fellowship Hall after the 10:30 service on January 19th. Start thinking about your favorite International dish. Sign-up sheets will be in the rear of the Sanctuary after Christmas, so be on the lookout!



**ROCKLAND COUNTY CONCERT BAND HOLIDAY PERFORMANCE**

**SPONSORED BY THE PEARL RIVER PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**DECEMBER 22 AT 2:30 PM**

**AT GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**PEARL RIVER, NY**

## The Christmas Pageant is coming!

**ALL children are invited to participate  
December 22<sup>nd</sup>, during 10:30 worship**

Our Christmas Pageant will be a time of lessons and carols held during the 10:30am worship service on Sunday, December 22nd. Elaina will be practicing music with the children during music time at 10:05am each Sunday morning on December 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd. Again, **ALL** children are invited to participate!

Thank you,  
Elaina

## PEOPLE TO PEOPLE COLLETION FOR DECEMBER

Since we will be welcoming the Christ-child this month, we will be collecting **BABY FOOD, DIAPERS, WIPES, AND FORMULA** for *People to People*. There is a box at the entrance of the Education Building for your donations. Thank you for your support for this most important ministry.



## 2024 TURKEY RUN



Our Turkey Run on November 23rd was a cusses! We collected 48 turkeys, 4 hams, and 50+ bags of sides.

Thank you to all who donated and to all the volunteers that helped collect, sort and deliver the donations. The West Haverstraw Elementary School personnel were very appreciative and wished us all a Happy Thanksgiving!

**Stenland Lodge No. 727  
Vasa Order of America**  
an Educational, Cultural and Fraternal Organization

Invites you to their



**Annual Lucia Celebration  
and  
Christmas Party**

At Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Fellowship Hall, Saturday December 14, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Doors open at 1:30 p.m.  
Refreshments will be served

Requested Donation \$15.00 Children 12 and under are free.



Dear Good Shepherd Congregants,

We hope you all had a meaningful Thanksgiving with your families and friends. We are thankful for each and every one of you!

We are filled with hope and gratitude as we enter the Advent and Christmas seasons. We would like to thank the choir, children's choir, and band for providing such beautiful music during this season!

Please join us as we share God's word through music! See details below.

Adult Choir rehearsals (grade 9 and up!):  
Thursdays, 7pm and Sundays, 9:55am

Children's Choir rehearsals (up to and including grade 8):  
Sundays, 10:05am

Band rehearsals (all ages):  
Sundays, 11:45am

Our Christmas Pageant will take place during the 10:30 service on Sunday, December 22nd. There is room for each and every one of you! Please join us as you are able!

Christmas Pageant Rehearsals - Meet in the Choir Room  
Sunday, 12/1 at 10:05am  
Sunday, 12/8 at 10:05am  
Sunday, 12/15 at 10:05am  
Sunday, 12/22 at 10:05am - Pageant during 10:30 service!

If you would like to share special music with the congregation during the Advent and Christmas seasons, we welcome your time and talents! Whether you attend worship regularly or you have been away for college or other activities, you are always welcome! We will be happy to see you!

Thank you, and see you soon!  
Elaina and Brian Burns





## CREATIVE PLAY HAPPENINGS...

*Merry Christmas*

We hope everyone enjoyed a time of thanks and giving and that the spirit of both will continue in all of us throughout this holiday season!

The children are certainly excited that Santa will be arriving at the end of the month! They will be decking the halls, as busy elves in their classrooms, creating Christmas creations while counting and sorting their jingle bells :) The children will be creating their own gifts for their families. We love being able to help children learn the gift of giving!

Creative Play will be hosting our now annual "Photo with Santa" fundraiser. Families have an opportunity to sign-up to take their won photo with a Christmas display that is provided by Creative Play members on December 7th. This is open to non-Creative Play members as well. The stunning church doors are the main focal point...well the doors and Santa of course!

We also organized our own "giving tree." Families are encouraged to participate by purchasing new hats, gloves, and scarves to decorate our Christmas tree, in the entrance of the education building. We will be sharing our donations with the less fortunate to help warm up their winter. Donations this year will be shared with the women and children of *The Center for Safety and Change*.

Our Christmas recess will begin on December 23rd. We will return to learning on January 2nd, 2025. UPK four-year-old parent/teacher conferences will be held in person when we return in the month of January.

Registration for the 2025-2026 school year will begin as follows:

Alumni and current church members: Wednesday, January 15th.

General Registration for new members: Wednesday, February 5th.

Please visit our web site [www.goodshephercreativeplay.com](http://www.goodshephercreativeplay.com) for specific program information.

Having the children in school has been a gift to all of us at Creative Play. They are our joy and our merry! Love, joy and peace are the ingredients for a wonderful Christmas. We hope you find them all this festive season. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Be merry, be bright & be happy,

Renee Bucci

Director of Creative Play

## PROJECT JOY

It's that time of the year that we have the opportunity to reach out and bring joy into the lives of children in Rockland County.

This year, *People to People* is asking us to adopt families and donate gift cards for Kohls or Target (or a Visa card) and fill stockings with these and some items on their wish lists. So, we are asking for stockings and smaller stocking stuffers (we'll have some detailed suggestions) along with the cards. More detailed information about the children and their stocking stuffer wishes/ideas will be at the back of the church.

If you'd like to make a donation, but can't pick up cards or stocking stuffers, we'll do that for you. We will start collecting Sunday, December 1st and go through Sunday, December 8th (the DEADLINE). Just mark any donation "Project Joy."

Thank you for your continued generosity.



## CREATIVE PLAY'S GIVING TREE

Every year at this time, parents express an interest in teaching their children how to give to those less fortunate. This year we will be participating in a Giving Tree.

Creative Play will be decorating our tree, in the entrance of the school, with *new* gloves, mittens, scarves, and hats for children and woman. These items will be shared with families from the *Center for Safety and Change* here in Rockland County. We hope these items bring some comfort through the winter. Please, if you are able, have your child find a place on our tree to leave their "GIFT."



All hats, gloves, etc. can be dropped off beginning Tuesday, December 3rd. The last day for gifts to be dropped off is Friday, December 20th.

What a wonderful opportunity to show your children the true meaning of the season!

Renee Bucci, Director

## SOUPERBOWL SUNDAY February 9th LET'S FILL THE SHELVES OF PEOPLE TO PEOPLE WITH CANS OF SOUP, AND BRING WARMTH AND SMILES INTO HOMES IN ROCKLAND COUNTY



We are collecting cans of soup for People to People in January.

Bring your soup to church or drop off at any time during office hours. As we snack and feast while watching the Super Bowl, let's remember those who are hungry for the very basics, especially this coming year.



# The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

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

**ORDER FORM**  
**CHRISTMAS GREENS, WREATHS & POINSETTIAS FOR THE ALTAR**  
**ON CHRISTMAS EVE**  
 Deadline for order: December 12, 2024

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (suggested donation \$15 per memorial)