



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

September 2025



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

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

FALL SCHEDULE....We will have one service at 9:30 on September 7th. On September 14th, we will have one service at 10:30 am, followed by our Annual Hot Dog Sunday. On September 21st, we will begin having two services each week, at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

HOT DOG SUNDAY...SEPTEMBER 14TH

Please join us for a hot dog and all the fixin's immediately following the 10:30 service on Sunday, September 14th. It is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect after the summer.

The 125th Anniversary Committee will be providing the baked goods. If you would like to help with this event or provide some of the side dishes, please contact Dagmar at dklein1120@gmail.com. Thank you for your help.

Change of Season But Same Focus...

Dear Friends in Christ,

Psalm 104: You have made the moon to mark the seasons, the sun knows its time for setting

Psalm 104 rings true this time of year as school and civic activities resume their normal schedules. The season of vacations and travel comes to an end, our children start a new year of education as sure as the sun and moon rise and set. Having vacationed on the ocean in Cape Cod this year, I saw how the ebb and flow of the tides illustrate the passing of time.

At Good Shepherd our program year begins anew too. Creative Play's first day of classes is Sept. 8th, Sunday School registration is September 14, Confirmation Classes get back to its first and third Thursday schedule, to name just a few segments of our life together. I am grateful for all the ways Good Shepherd has to make connection with our neighbors.

In our lives of faith however, even while seasons change, our focus is the same: faith. Through all we do as the church -- music and worship, administration, property, Christian education, social ministry -- we keep our focus on Christ, we follow him to serve others. The sun and moon rise and set, summer will wane, schedules get full again, but through it all it is Christ who is our center, our focus, the one clear path for us to follow.

Join the flow of energy that is Good Shepherd! In this community you will find something that fits your interests and calling. We need what you can offer!

The ultimate good news inspired by Ps 104 and made real in Christ is that while time moves on, the sun will never fully set on us. The light of Christ shines on because hope never fades.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Ernie

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

Pastor Ernst Moss
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

LIFE STATIONS

Baptism

Reeve Aerin Kim	8/03/25
Logan Michael Floss	8/03/25
Emma Brianne Floss	8/03/25

Deaths

Beverly Winter Stoughton	7/13/25
Lorraine Hutter	8/06/25

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



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.

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)

SEPTEMBER COLLECTION FOR PEOPLE TO PEOPLE

For the months of September , we are collecting cereal and shelf stable milk (powdered, Parmalat). There is a box for your donations at the entrance to the Education Building. Thank you for your donations!

BOILER FUND UPDATE

Thank you for you generosity.
So far we have collected approximately \$18,022 in donations toward our boiler bill of \$31,690, leaving approximately \$13,556 to go!



Bible Study - Thursdays @ 2pm

We meet weekly in Pastor's office. Bring any version of the Bible that you are comfortable with. Comments and questions can be directed to Pastor Mossi at emossi@yahoo.com.

BIBLE STUDY TELECOM

Pastor Mossi is holding a telephone Bible Study on Mondays at 8pm. Contact him at emossi@yahoo.com or 845-430-2025 for details. We are studying the gospel of Mark.

SANCTUARY OPEN FOR PRAYER

Our Sanctuary will be open for prayer on Thursdays from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm. Pastor Mossi will be there to welcome you.

Welcome Back to School!



We are always learning, growing, and adapting as individuals as well as a program. We will continue doing so this coming school year especially as we look into the future for our program.

With every season comes change, we have some changes in our staffing here at Creative Play. We said goodbye to Angela Carle; we wish her happiness as she retires! It is our hope Angela receives all the smiles and laughter she brought to the children of Creative Play. We said goodbye to Brooque Moolick, who is growing up with her children and moving on to a new experience. We welcome three new and excited staff members; Kristine Shivers, Danielle Manganiello, and Rebecca Raimone, we also welcome some of our current staff members in their new roles. We feel fortunate to have so many amazing women support our families and our program!

As we approach the start of the school year, September 3rd, Creative Play is enthusiastic as we look forward to welcoming 144 students and their families to our program. If you know of anyone in need, we have a couple of 3 as well as 4-year-old placements available, I would be happy to answer any questions they or you may have.

We have been busy preparing for the school year. Our Building and Maintenance committee cleaned up the Education building over the summer: our clean-up committee scrubbed down each classroom as well as all the materials with close to 24 volunteers; we also had the playground area weeded and new mulch blown in. The hallways are decorated filling them with warmth.

Creative Play will be hosting its first off premise fundraiser! If you are able, come join us for a night of fun, laughter, music, games, and prizes while supporting a worthy cause! With the funds, we are hoping to implement beautification and safety projects inside and outside of the Education building of the Church. If you cannot attend but would like to contribute to our fundraiser open the link and you will be able to do so. Thank you in advance.

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

Be well, be safe and be happy,

Renee Bucci

Creative Play Director

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.

GOOD SHEPHERD CREATIVE PLAY

BEAUTIFICATION & SAFETY FUNDRAISER



MUSIC BINGO *Night*

Tricky trays,
raffles, and other
amazing prizes



Music bingo
hosted by



SEPTEMBER 26TH @ 7:00PM

ROCKLAND GAA

\$40 ENTRANCE PER PERSON

SCAN THE QR CODE TO RESERVE OR VISIT
[TINYURL.COM/GOODSHEPHERDFUNDRAISER](https://tinyurl.com/goodshepherdfundraiser)

goodshepherdcreativeplay@gmail.com



CONFIRMATION CLASSES BEGIN SEPTEMBER 4TH...

Confirmation classes for 6th, 7th and 8th graders, will begin on Thursday, September 4th at 5:45 pm (a pizza dinner & drink will be provided).

At 6:00 pm there will be an orientation for new students. Returning students will have class from 6:00 to 6:45 pm.

If you are a new student, please contact the church office at 845-735-2243 or Pastor Mossi at emossi@yahoo.com or **845-430-2025 for details.**

Classes will be held twice a month on the first and third Thursdays, from 5:45 to 6:45 pm.

Hi Sunday Church School Families!

Classes start on September 21st. Parents, grandparents, guardians: please bring your Sunday School Students to worship at 10:30 a.m.. After the Children's Sermon, they will be released to their classrooms in the education Building.

Registration is Sunday September 14th during Hot Dog Sunday!
Registration forms can be found in this issue of the *Shepherd's Voice*, and will also be available the day of registration.

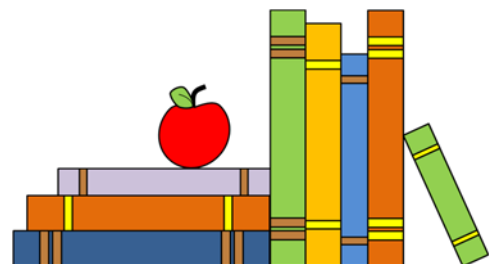
If anyone is willing to volunteer to help out, please let us know by calling the church office at (845)735-2243 We are looking forward to a great year!

Men's Group Monthly Breakfast

Join in for the Men's Group September breakfast on 9-20, at 9am, in Fellowship Hall. All men of the church are welcome. Spend an hour or so enjoying good food and conversation.



**2025 ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE
INTO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY
OCTOBER 12th
dalegspr@gmail.com**



Back To School



SCS STUDENT REGISTRATION FORM

2025-2026

Family Name: _____

Home phone: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail _____

Cell Phone _____

Preferred method of contact _____

Children (Grades Prek-5th)

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

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

Name	Relationship:	Cell Phone:	In Church?
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

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

Social Ministry FAQ

Q: Are you the group that plans our social events?

A: Planning the kinds of fun social events that we have at Good Shepherd is a wonderful and important form of service to our congregation (and we do love a good get-together!) And while the planning of these congregation-focused gatherings and the activities of the Social Ministry are both forms of service, each has a different focus and goal. That said, snacks are definitely known to appear when we're packing bags or sorting donations!

Q: Are you the group that goes out to share the Gospel with the community?

A: Spreading the Good News is at the heart of every Christian's mission in the world. But, if you're thinking of things like public outreach, testimony, or inviting others to church, Social Ministry's tendency to do more showing than speaking doesn't exactly align with the needs of those activities.

Q: So... what exactly is Social Ministry?

A: Great question! Social Ministry is all about living out our faith by serving others. We focus on extending Christian compassion to those in need—both in our congregation and beyond. That can mean collecting food, clothing, or hygiene items, supporting local organizations, visiting the homebound, or simply showing up with love and kindness.

We believe in caring for the whole person, both body and spirit, and see service as a joyful way to respond to God's grace. We don't serve to earn God's love; we serve because we already have it, fully and freely, in Christ.

Q: What kinds of things does Social Ministry do at Good Shepherd?

A: Here's what's on our calendar

- **August:** Lunchbox Drive for a local elementary school
- **Oct/Nov:** Food Drive for the Turkey Run
- **Nov/Dec:** Project Joy – Christmas gifts for local children
- **January:** Souper Bowl – Soup drive for People to People
- **Lent:** Personal Care Kit Drive for Lutheran World Relief
- **Winter/Spring:** Interfaith Blood Drive
- **June:** Interfaith Food Drive (partnering with Rockland Interfaith Social Action)
- **Year-Round:**
 - o Visitation Ministry
 - o Prayer Shawl Ministry
 - o Monthly Food Drive for People to People

Q: Do you need help?

A: Always! Whether you want to join the team, donate supplies, knit a prayer shawl, pack some bags, or help out for an hour—we'd love to have you. No experience required, just a willing heart.

Gina K Danialinia

Synodical Deacon

ENJOY THE CONVENIENCE OF ON-LINE GIVING...

We invite you to consider our electronic giving program as a way to easily automate your weekly church offerings. If you wish, you will also have the opportunity to make “other” donations electronically, such as for special events like Christmas, Easter, Benevolence Support, Music Outreach, etc.

Connect to the Good Shepherd website at GSPR.ORG and select “GIVE”, then follow to establish an account and make donations to accounts selected.

You can now make a contribution to Good Shepherd by TEXT! Simply send a text message to Good Shepherd Church, 10-digit GivePlus Text Number: 877-771-4850 with the amount you would like to contribute. Within a few minutes, you will be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your cardholder name and credit or debit card information. Once your registration is complete, 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.

We hope you find this new way to share your generosity, useful, and we thank you for supporting Good Shepherd Church!

CONGREGATIONAL ASSESSMENT TOOL (CAT)

WE NEED YOUR CURRENT AND UPDATED E-MAIL ADDRESS...

We want to email out the Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT), which will provide key indicators of our congregational health, along with areas of challenge and potential growth. The tool, which is user-friendly, will help us gather and understand the range of views that exist at Good Shepherd, and the possibilities, willingness, capacity, and energy for moving our ministry into the future.

If your current email address is on file with Good Shepherd, a unique web link will be sent to you in the next few days, enabling you to complete the assessment online. If we do not have your address on record, the link is: surveymonkey.com/r/GOODSHEPHERDLCPEARLRIVERNY.

Thank you.

Dear Good Shepherd Congregants,

We hope you will consider joining us in the music ministry this fall!

Adult Choir rehearsals begin:

Thursday evenings at 7pm and Sunday mornings at 9:30am beginning September 18th

Children's Choir rehearsals begin:

Sunday mornings at 10am beginning September 21st

Band rehearsals have already begun:

Sundays at 11:45am

(The Band will generally lead worship on the second Sunday of every month)

Good Shepherd's 125th Anniversary Year

If you have been asking yourself, "How can I contribute this coming year as we plan to celebrate Good Shepherd's 125th anniversary?" a wonderful way to do that would be to participate in the music ministry! Join the choir, play with the band, play the bells, invite your children or grandchildren to sing with us! Another way to support the music ministry as we celebrate Good Shepherd's 125th anniversary would be to attend a concert and bring a friend!

As we look forward to celebrating Good Shepherd's 125th Anniversary, we are pleased to share plans from the Music Ministry along with a goal set for this special occasion. The Church Council has approved a proposal from Elaina to acquire a new piano for the sanctuary in celebration of this momentous occasion.

If you are wondering, "How can we help?" Your help can come in many ways. While financial gifts are welcomed, we are not expecting the congregation to take on the majority of this financial project. This way, the congregation can contribute towards the A/C and parking lot while the greater community contributes towards the piano. You can help by inviting friends and family to concerts and by spreading the word about the music ministry at Good Shepherd. You can help by sharing events on social media. You can help by letting us know if you have questions so that we can clarify these for you and make this a positive impact for all involved. You can help by being hopeful about the future of Good Shepherd and by reflecting on the past 125 years and looking toward the next with a strong sense of Good Shepherd's mission and role in the community.

Our first 125th Anniversary concert will be Bachtoberfest on Sunday, October 5th at 2pm.

Suggested donation of \$20 to help fund our 125th Anniversary Grand Piano Goal.

Thank you,

Elaina and Brian Burns



Council Capsule

Your Church Council met on July 22nd and August 19th.

Among the topics discussed were the following:

Pastor's Report – Pastor Ernie directed us to the report he had emailed and reviewed it with us. He highlighted some of the visits he has made and he shared information about a recent death and funeral. Pastor also shared that he performed a baptism at a home, enabling the grandmother, who is on hospice, to attend. There will be a public recognition of the baptism on an upcoming Sunday. Bible study is going on through the summer. Confirmation Class is not meeting during the summer, but Pastor and Kristen continue to be in contact with the Confirmation families; some of the students have been participating in worship services. Confirmation class will resume the first Thursday in September.

Financial Update - Total fiscal year-to-date receipts through July 2025 were \$194 thousand. Total fiscal year-to-date expenses through July 2025 were \$233 thousand, resulting in net expense for the fiscal year of approximately \$39 thousand. The largest expenses year to date, outside personnel related expenses, were for supply pastors, gas and electric services, grounds maintenance and attempted boiler repairs. Total expenses were approximately \$6 thousand over budget.

Parsonage – Jeff provided an update on the parsonage situation, explaining that while a Pastor and his family had shown an interest, uncertainty about the Pastor future role in the church he is in now has made their potential move less likely. The Council agreed to see how things progress over the next week or two, but if they fall through, to continue seeking other options for a parsonage tenant, acknowledging the need for careful screening of potential candidates.

125th Anniversary Burns Proposal – In June, Council reviewed a proposal presented by Brian and Elaina regarding raising funds for a new piano for the sanctuary in celebration of the 125th Anniversary. Kristen and Kim drafted a letter to them, that was then approved by Council, outlining the discussion and explaining that the money would be put in a fund, with the caveat that if the cost was not met, other options would have to be looked at. The importance of clarifying to the congregation, that this is separate from other capital campaign type expenses we have been talking about, was stressed. We expressed this to Brian and Elaina and they pointed out that the majority of their target audience is actually outside the church in the music community.

Sunday School – Sunday School registration will take place on Sunday 9/14; the first actual day of Sunday School will be Sunday 9/21, when we return to two services. We will have one 9:30 service for 9/7 and one 10:30 service on 9/14, so all will have the opportunity to join in for Hot Dog Sunday (9/14.)

Sunday Services – Council had an in-depth conversation as to whether we should we go back to two services or stay with one. Everyone agreed that it is nice to see everyone at the one service, but offering two times has its benefits, as well. It was decided to do a survey to see what the congregation prefers. For now, until we collect more data, we will return to an 8:30am service and a 10:30am service starting on Sunday, September 21st. It was also brought up that if we are going back to two services, we need to have more people agree to volunteer.

Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) – This is the online survey that will be sent out the entire congregation as a part of the transition process. This provides a way for everyone's voice to be heard. The CAT is a custom-built survey for the congregation. It is sent out and then the data is collected over a four-week period, and will be part of our ministry site profile (MSP.) The MSP is what pastoral candidates look at when they are looking to interview at a church. Questions are answered online. For those who don't have computers, a PDF will be printed for our members/worshippers to fill out. We also hope to have laptops available on Sundays (TBD) for those without computer access. Additionally, we are also trying to arrange to have volunteers available to sit with anyone who would like help, if their anonymity is not important to them. *Holy Cow Consulting* is the company that conducts the survey and Pastor Ernie said they have been great to work with. After the data comes in, the company will put it into charts and graphs, and will hold a teleconference to interpret the data with the Transition Team. A letter will be sent to the congregation around Labor Day, introducing them to the CAT, and will include the access link.

Server Migration and Windows 11 – The Council reviewed a proposal from Eagletech for upgrading the church's IT systems, including replacing old desktops, migrating to a new server, and upgrading various church systems. Jeff presented the \$4,545 total cost, which includes \$2,500 in labor. After considering the local nature of Eagletech, the critical importance of the update taking place, and the included annual backup service, the Council agreed to move forward with the proposal.

Synod Giving – Pastor shared that he is aware that we stopped giving to Synod due to money concerns. Two things concern him regarding that action. First and foremost, it is biblical to give, to express our faith. We ask our members to give, and therefore, we as a church are also expected to give. From a more practical standpoint, we are going to be asking the Bishop's office for pastoral candidates. Carole added that the synod has been supportive of us through what we have been going through. Everyone agreed that we have to try to give something.

Coffee Hours – An email was sent to Council sharing that Social Ministry had taken over coffee hours this past year to start it up again, but it falls more appropriately into Fellowship, so they are looking for other people to take over. Pastor Ernie committed to continuing to put coffee on each Sunday. If someone brings something to eat, that's great, but if not, that's ok too. The group agreed to explore having different groups host coffee hours monthly and considered stockpiling simple snacks to ensure availability. If anyone would like to host a coffee hour please let us know.

Property – The need to restripe the parking lot was discussed and it was decided that it will be done on Saturday, September 6th, at 9:30 AM, with Rob coordinating the effort using the church's equipment. It was also agreed to organize an outdoor clean-up day on Saturday, September 13th, at 9 AM, to address overgrown weeds, trimming bushes and hedges, and cleaning the gutters.

Mark Olsen has been working on filling cracks in the church ramp this week. Thank you to Mark.

Kim shared that there was a lot of rain a few weeks ago and a couple inches of water accumulated at the bottom of the Fellowship Hall ramp; it was coming in around and under the door. Jeff suggested replacing the bottom part of the door. Rich and Sue Baumeister had reported that the lock on the door had been sticking and may be in need of maintenance, as well. It was suggested to price out a new door, or repairing the current one.

Volunteers – Kristen addressed the need for more hosts and ushers, proposing each Council member ask another church member to help. Jeff confirmed that he and the Communion Class students will host once a month, starting in October. Anyone interested in volunteering please let us know.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of your Church Council