



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

APRIL 2026



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

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



Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter Sunday Schedule



**March 29—Palm Sunday: 8:30 am and 10:30 am
(with procession with palms)**

April 2—Maundy Thursday: 7:00 pm Holy Communion & Stripping of the Altar

April 3—Good Friday: 12:00 pm & 7:00 pm (Tenebra Services)

April 5—Easter Sunday: 8:30 am & 10:30 a.m. Festival Communion Services

(Continental Breakfast to be served in Fellowship Hall, following the 8:30 service)

Dear Friends In Christ,

We have had a full Lent here at Good Shepherd. There's been soup suppers and Evening Prayer, the music and prayers of Sunday worship have taught us about discipleship, and Holy Week's sharp focus on truth have given us much to consider in our lives of faith.

I also recall something we've been studying in our Bible studies (Monday evenings and Thursday afternoons). At some point in the gospels, the disciples are confronted with Jesus's true identity as the Messiah. In three of the gospels, Jesus asks, *who do you say that I am?* Like us, sometimes the disciples understand and sometimes they don't.

Lent has taught us that each of us must at some point answer the question, *who is Jesus?* Once we know, we can follow better, understand our baptisms fully, and bring hope to the world.

Naturally, the Resurrection gives us the answer as to who Jesus is. He is the risen one! He is the one who atoned for humanity's sin and now showers us with grace. In his Resurrection he connected us with God forever. That is who Jesus is, the savior, the living word of God who is God's love for all people.

As we had a full Lent, I am sure we will have a full season of Easter! We will sing our Alleluias joyfully. Let's together savor the strengthening sun of Spring, and the everlasting Son of God, Jesus Christ the risen one.

A joyous season of Easter to you, for Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Mossi

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

112 North Main Street
Pearl River, New York 10965

WORSHIP

Sundays: 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.
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 Mossl
Kristen Hanifin, 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 Fararoni—Sexton



APRIL 22ND

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: 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.

2026 CHURCH COUNCIL

Kristen Hanifin, President
Kim Arcidiacono, Vice President
Michael McCambridge, Treasurer *
Alana Rodrigues, Secretary
Werner Boecker, Financial Secretary*
Sue Baumeister
Jeff Bergman
Jennifer Burns
Carol Hoerter
Carole Meehan
Jenn Santucci-Spero
Rob Vatter
(*non-voting)

BOILER FUND UPDATE

Thank you for you generosity.
So far we have collected \$22,852 in
donations toward our boiler bill of \$31,690,
leaving \$8,838 to go!



**Bible Study - Thursdays @ 2PM
Pastor's Office**

**We are studying the Gospel of Mark
Bring a Bible you are comfortable using. All are welcome!
(NO BIBLE STUDY HOLY WEEK)**

BIBLE STUDY TELECOM RESUMING FEBRUARY 2ND

Pastor Mossi is holding a telephone Bible Study on Mondays at 8pm, resuming on the first Monday in February. Contact him at emossi@yahoo.com or 845-430-2025 for details. We are studying the gospel of Mark. Please use this info to dial into Bible Study:(605)313-9633, Access Code: 3572754

(NO BIBLE STUDY HOLY WEEK)

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.

Men's Group Monthly Breakfast

We typically meet on the third Saturday of the month, at 9am, IN Fellowship Hall. Next meeting will be April 18. At 9:00 am.

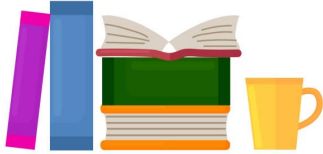
All men of Good Shepherd are welcome. If you have any questions, I would welcome your giving me a call (201-664-1235). Hope to see you soon.

Best to you all, Herman (Mensing)



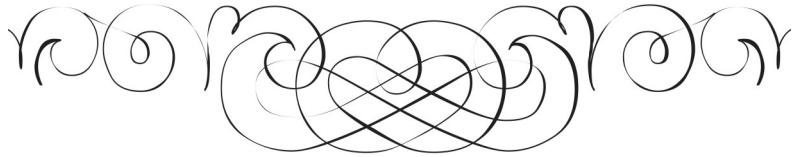
BOOK CLUB WILL MEET ON SUNDAY APRIL 12, IN THE YOUTH ROOM TO DISCUSS THE REMAINDER OF "TRAVELING MERCIES BY ANNE LAMOTT

• BOOK CLUB •



THANK YOU...THANK YOU!!!

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATED BLOOD. WE HAD A TOTAL OF 43 DONATIONS!



**APRIL COLLECTION FOR PEOPLE TO PEOPLE
PAPER PRODUCTS FOR PEOPLE TO PEOPLE**

People need products besides foods...let's fill the shelves with women's personal care products, paper products: paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, napkins, etc.



AND FOR MAY...CINCO DE MAYO MONTH

Let's fill the shelves with some good Mexican food...rice, canned and dry beans, canned tomatoes, canned chiles, taco shells



Spring Clean-up is Saturday, May 16th, at 10:00, following the Men's Breakfast. We could really use the extra hands to help with weeding, trimming, and some indoor cleaning. This will help not only with GS's appearance but also with building new friendships! Please join us, even if it's only for an hour or two - any help will make a big difference and be much appreciated!



Calling all helpers with a heart for kids! We are looking for someone to lead our Vacation Bible School this summer! Come be a part of the fun! Please reach out to kristenhanifin@yahoo.com, or any member of council if you are interested in leading VBS or would like to help out.
Thank you!



EASTER CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Easter Services will be held at 8:30 and 10:30. Please join us for a continental breakfast following the 8:30 service, and before the 10:30 service. Thank you to the Men's Group for providing the food, but we still need people to set up and clean up. Please reach out to any of the members of council or the men's group if you are willing and able to help.



CREATIVE PLAY NEWS



April showers bring May flowers, hopefully by the end of this month we will see flowers blooming all around our building! Creative Play will be on Spring Break from March 30th – April 6th. This is a beautiful time of year to celebrate the renewal of not only the season but of ourselves.

We are excited about the arrival of our caterpillars this month. The students will be observing the life cycle of a butterfly in their classrooms and learning one of Creative Play's all-time favorite classic songs, "If I Were a Butterfly."

The dinosaurs once again will roam Creative Play halls the week of April 13th. Watch out for these incredible animals and excited children. This program is one for the ages!



Classes will emphasize Earth Day this month; we hope to encourage the students and their families to help care for the environment that surrounds them. "Keep the Earth Clean and Green"



Our registration is still ongoing with approximately 124 applications already processed for the 2026-2027 school year. We have limited availability. Our 3 day a week 3-year-old classes, our 2 day a week Toddler class as well as our 5 day a week 4-year-old class are all filled and gathering a waitlist. Please continue to share information about our program as we grow our community.

We will not be hosting Summer Camp this coming summer due to changes in our classrooms and limited staffing. It was a hard but necessary decision.

We continue to look at areas of our building and playground that need beautification. We will be scheduling for our windows to be washed, and we are still gathering funds to have the educational building painted. To implement our goals, we once again, will host a Bingo night fundraiser on Friday, September 25th, 2026 – please save the date and join us for a fun night!

Be well, be safe and be HAPPY,

Renee Bucci, Director of Creative Play

Save the Date

125th Anniversary Celebration

April 19, 2026

12:00pm-4:00pm

Pearl River Saloon



*Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church*

*125 Years with
Good Shepherd:
Honoring Our Past,
Embracing Our Future*

Watch for
upcoming details

INVITATIONS HAVE BEEN MAILED.

GET YOUR RESERVATIONS IN!

QUESTIONS? CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE 845-735-2243,

125th Anniversary Celebration

Service of Holy Communion

Sunday, April 19—9:30 a.m.

Join us for worship
and then head down to the Pearl River Saloon
for lunch and fellowship.

COUNCIL CAPSULE

Your Church Council met on March 17th.

Among the topics discussed were the following:

Pastor's Report – Pastor Ernie directed us to his report. Pastor thanked Gina for covering the Ash Wednesday afternoon service. He mentioned that he was able to be present for the 7pm, but was very thankful that Gina was able to be there in the afternoon, enabling him to attend a doctor visit with Theresa. He highlighted the visits he has made and noted that he is working on starting a bereavement group. Pastor mentioned he had chapel service with Creative Play, and has an upcoming story time with them this week. One Confirmation class was cancelled due to illness, but otherwise, the class continues to meet twice a month. He highlighted that there was a family/youth group bowling event this past Sunday, which was a fun and successful event. He shared that the Transition Team began filling out the

Ministry Site Profile (MSP), and it was found we do not have to get an auditor if we provide the needed documents and send them to John Litke (synod representative), who will review them. Pastor said he has agreed to be Chaplain of the Pearl River Fire Department, in response to a request by Rob Vatter.

Financial Report – Total fiscal year receipts through February 2026 were \$103 thousand. Total fiscal year expenses through February 2026 were \$100 thousand, resulting in net income for the fiscal year of approximately \$3 thousand. The largest expenses year to date, apart from personnel-related expenses (which are approximately 60% of expenses), were for gas and electric services, grounds maintenance and the annual payment for property taxes.

First Family Outing – A bowling outing took place this past Sunday with about ten youth, along with parents. Additional events will be planned. Pastor sent the Council the portions of the “Safe Church Policy” that apply to youth and asked members to review the document and provide feedback at our next meeting, as to whether anything modifications should be made.

Ramp Update – The recommendation from Pearl River is to start with a portable ramp. This project consists of two portable ramps, one going up the red carpeted steps in the back of the church (into the coat room), and then another for the few steps up to the parlor. The reason for this project is to make the upstairs accessible for those unable to navigate steps. It was agreed that we would also need to get something to block the steps to the left, that go down to the education building, to ensure a ramp could safely be used. Rob is working on getting drawings made of this, and also possible ideas to accommodate wheel chairs in the sanctuary, which information would then be shared with the congregation.

Easter Services - will be at 8:30 and 10:30 service on Easter this year. The Men's Group will host a continental breakfast in between the 8:30 and 10:30 services.

Council Capsule continued...

Vacation Bible School – We are looking for someone to spearhead the summer VBS program.

Coat Room Radiator – Radiators in the coat room were leaking, DB Heating and Cooling (the same company that replaced the boilers) was contacted. Rob Hoerter ordered new parts that will hopefully be coming in next week so the repairs can be made.

Pastor's Contract – Pastor Ernie's contract, for another year, was signed tonight. This will be sent to the Synod and also filed at the church.

Spring Clean-up – It was decided to do weeding and other spring clean up after the Men's Group breakfast on May 16th.

Around the Table –

The Anniversary Committee reminded everyone to please RSVP for the 125 th Anniversary Party. There are about 40 people signed up so far. There will be one service at 9:30am that day, and the party to follow.

We received a letter from the town of Orangetown inviting Good Shepherd to participate in a 4 th of July parade celebrating 250 years as a country. It will be held on the 4th. It was suggested that we see if any congregants would like to participate, for which we would get a generic banner, possibly with a notation of our 125 th Anniversary.

It was asked if we will be participating in the Nyack Pride Parade this year. Everyone was in favor, as long as we have volunteers to do it. More information will be gathered.

It was asked if we wanted to have a booth at Pearl River Day again. The application will be mailed in for the church to participate, but again we will need volunteers to be there.

It was shared that the Diaconal program, now known as Growing in Faith, will be holding a retreat at Huntington, Long Island, on June 5, 6, & 7. Council was asked to pass the information along. There will be a flyer in the back of the church with more information.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of your Church Council

Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief



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

- March 1st **Towels** (light-weight bath-sized towel between 20"x40" and 52 x27") **dark color preferred**
- March 8th **Bath-sized bars of soap** in original wrapping
- March 15th **Toothbrush** in original packaging
- March 22nd **Metal nail clippers** (attached file optional)
- March 29th **Sturdy combs**
- **If you don't want to shop, you can make a cash or check (earmarked for Personal Care Kits) contribution, and we will do the shopping for you.**

We will continue collecting through Easter and invite the congregation to assemble the kits shortly thereafter. Thank you, as always, for your generosity.