



# Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

MAY 2026

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

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

## FROM THE PASTOR...

Dear Friends in Christ,

Our 125th anniversary worship and luncheon on Sunday, April 26 was a joyous event! Many thanks to our music leaders, choir, crucifer and acolytes for designing and implementing a beautiful liturgy. A thousand thank-you's to Sharon Martini and the planning team for crafting a wonderful gathering at the Pearl River Saloon where 125 years ago Lutherans started to worship before building their own church. On April 26 we gave thanks for the faith that planted seeds which sprang to life and formed a congregation we all call home.

Naturally, during an anniversary we look back in time. At the luncheon, we looked at old photos, church directories, even yellow-paged church cook books! We marveled at the passing of time, we gave thanks for having a community of fellow faithful to walk with us as Christ walks with us (after all, the gospel reading that Sunday was post-resurrection account of the risen Jesus walking with two of the disciples!).

Our anniversary was also a time to consider the future. We want Good Shepherd Church to someday celebrate 150, 200 and even more years of ministry in Pearl River. Pastor Schwalbe's sermon, and remarks made by our members and Bishop Foster at the celebration were clear -- we intend to walk bravely into the future, to continue the work Christ has entrusted to us. My remarks at the celebration gave a basic approach to how we will do this: faith. Trusting the risen Lord will lead us forward.

But faith falters if not nurtured. Faith is fed and watered by the word and sacraments during common worship on the Lord's day. Through prayer, song, Holy Baptism and Holy Communion, we are connected to Christ and one another. Being together in worship we are strengthened to support the church, be people of prayer, and teach our children to listen to the voice of Jesus, the good shepherd!

With the joy and momentum of our anniversary pushing us forward, we together follow Christ to bring hope to the world. Joy and momentum are refreshed by the word, the sacraments, and community. Thanks be to God for these blessings, and for his loving presence with us all these years.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Mossl

**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](mailto:office@gspr.org)  
Web site: [www.gspr.org](http://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

**LIFE STATIONS**

**Baptisms**

Charlotte Elizabeth Schloss	4/26/26
Emery Rose Zannetti	4/26/26

**Deaths**

Jon Olson	4/13/26
Monica C. Boorboor	1/05/26

**Bereavement Group**

Pastor Mossl is starting a bereavement support group for anyone who needs connection with others who are grieving. The group's first meeting will be after late coffee hour Sunday, May 10 in pastor's office. Sessions will begin with prayer. Pastor will set the tone with a brief Bible verse then open the session for sharing among the participants. The focus will be on Christ, faith, and hope.. At the first meeting we will discuss how often we would like to meet and consider other details. Questions can be directed to Pastor at [emoss1@yahoo.com](mailto:emoss1@yahoo.com), or 845-430-2025.

**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](mailto:himensing@gmail.com) or Carol Westphal at 845-624-5732; email: [carolwestphal9@gmail.com](mailto: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 \$27,747 in  
donations toward our boiler bill of \$31,690,  
leaving \$3,943 to go!



## **Bible Study - Thursdays @ 2PM**

IN Pastor's Office  
We are studying the Gospel of John  
Bring a Bible you are comfortable using.  
All are welcome!

## **DO YOU HAVE A 2026 GRADUATE IN THE FAMILY?**

If you have someone in your family graduating  
this spring, and would like us to publish their  
name in the next issue of the *Shepherd's Voice*,  
please email information (name, school,  
degree, future plans, etc) to:  
Dalegspr@gmail.com Thank you!!



## **BIBLE STUDY TELECOM**

Pastor Mossi is holding a telephone Bible Study on Mondays at 8pm, resuming on the first Monday in February. Contact him at [emoss1@yahoo.com](mailto:emoss1@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

## **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 May 16th, 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)

The Rockland Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Dependence will be doing NARCAN training on Sunday, June 7th, in Fellowship Hall, following the 10:30 service. This training is for adults of all ages. There will be a sign-up sheet in the back of the church.

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!



## MAY COLLECTION FOR PEOPLE TO PEOPLE

### 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



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](mailto:kristenhanifin@yahoo.com), or any member of council if you are interested in leading VBS or would like to help out. Thank you!



We rejoice with the following young people and their families who received their Sacrament of First Holy Communion on May 3rd.

Vivienne Marie Bergman, Zachary Thomas Boecker,  
Brendan Andrew Meyer, Jesse Thomas Stensgard, Nathan Paul Witherell

Special thanks to Jeff Bergman, who was their Sunday School teacher this year! We pray that this sacrament will be a strength and comfort to them throughout their lives.



## **When our community comes together, great things happen!**

It is with immense gratitude that I share that, thanks to the congregation of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Rockland musicians and music-lovers alike, family and friends, and to the people of Pearl River, South Orangetown and our surrounding communities, we have met our 125th anniversary grand piano goal! We invite you to join us on Sunday, May 3rd at 2pm (112 N Main St, Pearl River, NY), as we sing hymns of peace accompanied by this beautiful piano and our powerful pipe organ, to celebrate this incredible instrument in our space. All contributions made at this concert will go toward the continued care and maintenance of this instrument.

We are deeply grateful to each and every individual who helped to bring this project to fruition. Our fundraiser began with our Bachtoberfest concert, featuring student performers and Elaina Burns playing works of the great Lutheran church musician, Johann Sebastian Bach. We continued in November with Spanish music and dance, featuring guest artists and their students, Anna de la Paz, Edith Ramírez, Enrique and Luis Lopez, and Rebecca Tew Curns, with students of Ballet Rockland collaborating with students of Elaina Burns.

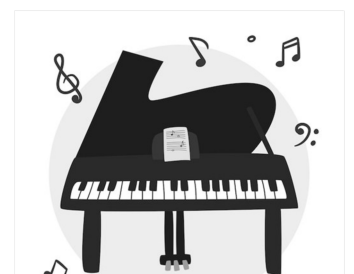
In December, we presented a recital of classical and Christmas music, culminating in an exciting piano duet called "Santa's Wild Ride."

In January and February, we presented the Burns Family Band, with folk and pop tunes to warm the weary winter soul, followed by a chamber music concert featuring violin, cello, and piano.

We are looking forward to our final concert on Sunday, May 3rd at 2pm in the sanctuary of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. We look forward to thanking you personally for your generous support of this project. If you can't make it, we hope to see you at a future concert!

Thank you,

Elaina Burns and the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Community



## CREATIVE PLAY NEWS FOR MAY



“MAY” this month bring you all sunshine and happiness!

We will be spending a lot of time celebrating the woman who love and care for us, as well as learning how to show our appreciation for those that do! To all the mothers and mother figures we wish you a beautiful Sunday spent with whomever and whatever brings you ultimate joy!

“A mother is like a flower; each one is beautiful and unique.”

“Please join us in saying Thank you!” during the week of May 4<sup>th</sup> we celebrate the Creative Play staff. We thank the office ladies, the teachers and aides that have worked diligently and happily throughout the school year. Our children have had wonderful experiences in their classrooms thanks to the dedication of our staff. This week is set aside to thank those who work with their heart each day at Creative Play!



During the week of May 11<sup>th</sup>, help us pray for sunshine as we will be spending a lot of time outdoors! Games, treats and fresh air are to be enjoyed by all as each class picnics in the playground. Each class will have a designated time to play special games on the playground for their field day and then the class will have their lunch and ice pops on a picnic blanket outside. This will be a fun day for all!



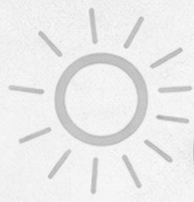
We continue this month celebrating our Earth. Many classes will be busy planting vegetables and flowers, learning about recycling, reusing, and upcycling our trash. We have been studying the lifecycle of caterpillars. Through these studies the students learn concepts and skills in literacy, math, science, social studies, and the arts.

Creative Play will be closed in observation of Memorial Day Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> and Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. We are grateful for all that gave their lives in service to our Country!

Be well, be safe and be HAPPY,

*Renee Bucci*

Director of Creative Play



# The Everyday CREATIVE PLAY



— COLLECTION —

NEW THIS SPRING

*made for every moment, every adventure, every creative heart*



FOR KIDS,  
SIBLINGS &  
ADULTS!  
♥

## For School Days & Everyday Play

A portion of every purchase goes back to our school to help support **classroom materials, activities,** and student experiences.

*Don't Miss Out!* ♥



Good Shepherd  
CREATIVE PLAY

Dear Good Shepherd Community,

We celebrated World Piano Day, the 88th day of the year (March 29th), by supporting Good Shepherd's 125th Anniversary Grand Piano Fundraiser! Our 88-Key Donor Board is available for our community members to "purchase" a virtual key by donating \$125 in remembering of our 125th Anniversary.

You may claim a key in your own name, or dedicate it in honor of a family member or mentor who has made a meaningful difference in your life. Your name, or the name of your honoree, will be recognized on our piano donor board.

We welcome you as a "key" donor this year as we work together to support our community and keep the music playing at Good Shepherd Church for the next 125 years and beyond.

**Purchase Your Key Here:**

<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZAKE/campaign/C-1033S>

We will continue this drive from World Piano Day on March 29th through August 8th.

Please encourage your friends, family, and local business partners to support this exciting community project! All funds beyond the initial piano costs will go towards the continued care and maintenance of this instrument.

Each time you purchase a key, please email [elainaburnsmusic@gmail.com](mailto:elainaburnsmusic@gmail.com) with the name of your honoree and I will place it on our piano donor board.

Thank you for your generosity and support,

Elaina Burns

## Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief



As you know, we have been collecting items for the Personal Care Kits during Lent. We will continue collecting through Sunday, May 17th.

On May 17th, the congregation is invited to join us in Fellowship Hall, following the 10:30 service, where we will assemble the care kits, and enjoy coffee, goodies and conversation.

- \* Towels (light-weight, bath-sized towel (between 20"x40" and 52" x 27") dark color preferred)
- \* Toothbrush in original packaging
- \* Metal nail clippers (attached file optional)
- Sturdy combs
- If you don't want to shop, you can make a donation (cash or check—designated Care Kits)) and we will shop for you.

Thank you, as always, for your generosity.

### **Teacher Appreciation: Planting Seeds of Wisdom**

Teachers invest daily in shaping minds and hearts. This season gives us a chance to thank those who lead, encourage and inspire with patience and care. Let us express gratitude for the seeds they plant and trust God to bring growth.

On Sunday, May 3rd, we recognized our Sunday Church School teachers and thank them for their dedication and ministry to our children. This year's teachers are:

Linda Hecker, Leigh Tuohy, Gina Danialinia and Jeff Bergman