



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

JUNE 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,

April 24 is the feast day of the Descent of the Holy Spirit, also called Pentecost. We know the account well (Acts of the Apostles: 2). But there are two important events that occur in Acts chapter 1, one of which has to do directly with you.

After the Resurrection of Jesus, he spent forty days continuing to teach the disciples. He then ascended to the Father (Acts 1:9). The disciples then had to complete an important task; they had to fill Judas position as a disciple (Judas had betrayed Jesus and then Judas died as recounted in Acts 1:18). The striking thing about this event is that there were two candidates: a man named Joseph who was also known as Barsabbas and also had the name Justus. Then there was Matthias. The lot fell on Matthias, a comparative no-name. He was added to the group of disciples and the church continued its mission.

This account holds an important lesson for all congregations. The disciples had to ensure that there were leaders in the church. They prayerfully and intentionally tended to the well-being of the church by ensuring there were steady hands at the helm.

As the disciples of today, we need to do the same thing. We are each named Matthias. We are the apostles who are called to prayerfully run the church by the direction of the risen Christ.

Each year in our congregation, several church council members reach their term maximums and must leave church council. We then must find new leaders, just like was done in Acts of the Apostles. Committee

members who have been in their roles for years need a break. Our congregation needs new leaders; we need to refresh the ranks. The health of our congregation hangs in the balance.

The first step is prayer. In Acts 1:24, the disciples prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us whom you have chosen." Our personal responses can't be, "Let Jesus call someone else." He is calling you. To something.

Welcome, Matthias, to your new role. You are loved and appreciated. We need your steady hand at the helm so the mission of the church can continue.

In Christ Jesus, Pastor Moss

**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

LIFE STATIONS

Deaths

Charles Bonheur

4/24/26



**SUMMER SERVICE
SCHEDULE**
Starting June 28th
One Service on Sundays
9:30 a.m.

BOILER FUND UPDATE

Thank you for you generosity.
So far we have collected \$28,197
in donations toward our boiler bill
of \$31,690, LEaving \$3,493to go!



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
Jennifer Santucci-Spero
Rob Vatter
(*non-voting)

Bereavement Group: Anyone grieving the death of a friend or family member is invited to join our bereavement group. We meet in faith to pray, consider a Bible verse from that Sunday's readings, and mutually uplift one another through listening and discussion. We will meet the second and fourth Sunday of the month, at 12 noon, in Pastor Mossl's office. All Good Shepherd members are invited as are your family members or friends. Questions can be directed to Pastor Mossl at emoss1@yahoo.com

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!



Saturdays
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Central Avenue
Field
May—November

BIBLE STUDY TELECOM

Pastor Mossl is holding a telephone Bible Study on Mondays at 8pm. Contact him at emoss1@yahoo.com or 845-430-2025 for details. We are studying the gospel of John. 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 Mossl 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 June 20th, at 9:00 am. (we will not meet in July and August).

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.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2026 GRADUATES



Ava Hahn—Graduating from Clarkstown North High School. She is the captain of her HS golf team, which won both League and County Championships for 5 consecutive years. Ava will be attending SUNY Cortland in the fall to study Early Childhood Education.

Dylan Martini—Graduated from Michigan State University College of engineering, earning his B.S. in environmental engineering. He will be continuing his education while remaining an internship at Atwell LLC to achieve an M.S. in environmental engineering, with a focus on sustainable energy at Michigan State University. His parents, Michael and Sharon, and siblings, Katie and David, are extremely proud of him!

Aaron Spero—Graduating from Suffern High School and will be attending Seton Hall University in the fall, studying Physics.

James Ryan—Graduating from Clarkstown North High School; will be attending Virginia Tech in the Fall.

Tommy Ryan—Graduating from Clarkstown South High School; will be attending RCC in the Fall.

Chris Ryan—Graduating from Quinnipiac University.

Transition Update

In my 14 months as your interim pastor, as I have visited members and had discussions with our Transition Team and church council, it seems that Good Shepherd may not be ready to proceed toward the call process. It has become clear that there is work to be done in healing and rebuilding. These should be focused on before we complete the Ministry Site Profile, which is the document candidates will read through to learn about Good Shepherd. There is pastoral and community work to be done, which have taken much of my time and have shown me that these areas need to be strengthened before we consider calling a new pastor. If we think there is a fit between us (congregation and interim pastor), I am agreeable to staying with you for up to three years to work on rebuilding our congregation. My formal agreement with the congregation will be up for renewal, each year as it is now.

I am available to answer any questions you might have. My email address is emoss1@yahoo.com. Or stop by my office during the week and we'll chat!

In Christ, Pastor Ernie

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

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.



CREATIVE PLAY NEWS....

“Play gives children a chance to practice what they are learning.” – Fred Rogers

If children feel safe, they can take risks, ask questions, make mistakes, learn to trust, share their feelings, and grow. We strive to create an atmosphere where not only our students, but their families as well as our staff, feel safe here at Creative Play. We hope they feel safe to express themselves, to be heard, to gain confidence through their challenges.

In June, Creative Play is winding down from our 57th school year. The last week of classes for our youngest students is June 13. On Monday, June 15th our 4-year-old Creative Play students will celebrate their graduation in the Church, Our UPK students will celebrate their Graduation Day on Wednesday, June 24th. These are exciting times as we cherish where the students have been and look forward to where they are headed.

Letters have been sent to the families of the participants for the 2026-2027 school year. We have limited our UPK classes to one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Our enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year is approximately 140 students. There are still limited openings if you know someone who is interested in joining our program.

Our Creative Play family wishes all of you an incredibly happy and relaxed Father's Day! Thank you to all the men who give to our children, and model for them examples of kindness, support, and love!

I once again would like to thank my incredible staff for their smiling dispositions throughout another challenging school year. These women are deserving of a relaxed, fun-filled summer, and I hope it moves slooowly for them, lol!

Creative Play will be closed from June 22nd through June 25th and will return to summer office hours.

Do not be sad that it is over, be happy that it happened!

Be well, be safe and be HAPPY,

Renee Bucci

Director of Creative Play



GOOD SHEPHERD CREATIVE PLAY
READY, SET, "RAISE"



MUSIC BINGO

Night

Tricky trays,
raffles, and other
amazing prizes

Add it to your
calendar now

Music bingo
hosted by



SAVE THE DATE

SEPTEMBER 25TH @ 7:00PM
ROCKLAND GAA

Further updates to follow

goodshepherdcreativeplay@gmail.com

Dear Friends in Christ,

As a follow up to the congregational meeting we had over the winter regarding the Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) survey results, small group discussions will be held according to the schedule below. These group discussions will focus on the areas of the survey you would like to explore in more detail. A synopsis of the CAT results will be available so you can review the overall responses. The group can also discuss how we, as disciples of Jesus today, envision growing into the future.

Each group discussion will be limited to 12 people and will be held in pastor's office. Sign up sheets are in the rear of the sanctuary. Each meeting will be facilitated by either pastor or a member of the Transition Team.

Please participate in this ongoing effort of congregational renewal. Questions can be emailed to Pastor Ernie at emossl@yahoo.com

Small Group Discussion Schedule

Sunday, June 7, 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, July 19, 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, August 16. 10:30 a.m.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Ernie

2026 VERY BIG FOOD DRIVE



Rockland Interfaith
Social Action

Good Shepherd is a member of the Rockland Interfaith Social Action (RISA) committee. RISA includes different faith congregations in Rockland County who work together to help each other and our community.

From June 1st to July 12th, we will be participating in RISA's 3rd Annual Very Big Food Drive.

Donations will be given to Proyecto Faro.

Please donate items from the list below to **Good Shepherd** by July 12th.

Thank you!

SUGGESTED NON- PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS

- Olive and canola Oils
- Vinegar or lemon juice
- Broths (low sodium or no salt)
- Chicken, Beef, Vegetable soups
- Canned tuna, chicken, sardine, salmon
- Beans (canned or dried)
- Split peas and lentils
- Whole grain pasta
- Canned vegetables, beans, corn, peas
- Black and red beans
- 100% fruit juice
- Apple juice
- Cups of apple sauce (no sugar added)
- Cups of peaches (in own juice)
- Peanut butter (18 oz plastic)
- Boxes of crackers
- Jelly
- Honey
- Hot chocolate packets
- Boxes of sugar
- Small cans/packs of coffee (no k-cups)
- Boxes of tea bags
- Breakfast cereal (corn flakes, cheerios)
- Boxes of oatmeal and cream of wheat
- Shelf-stable low-fat milk
- Canned milk
- Dry, grated Parmesan cheese
- Pasta (spaghetti, macaroni & cheese, elbow)
- Rice - brown/white, quinoa
- Spaghetti sauce and Alfredo sauce
- Canned crush tomatoes
- Canned tomato paste

Council Capsule

Your Church Council met on May 19th.

Among the topics discussed were the following:

Pastor's Report – He explained that there were some funerals, some Baptisms, First Holy Communion, and some visits. Confirmation Class is going well. Bible study is going well. A good first Bereavement Group session was held; that group will be meeting on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. A youth group outing to Rockland Lake is penciled in for 5/31.

Financial Update - Total fiscal year receipts through April 2026 were \$155 thousand. Total fiscal year expenses through April 2026 were \$164 thousand, resulting in net expense for the fiscal year of approximately \$9 thousand. The largest expenses year to date, outside personnel related expenses (which are approximately 60% of expenses), were for gas and electric services, lawn/snow removal maintenance and the annual payment for sewer taxes.

Indoor / Sanctuary Ramp Update – Rob got together with Mark. They are looking at pricing options and features, such as handles. It's all a work in progress.

Pride Parade – There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church. We also have an Amazon Wishlist to purchase “swag”. Jen shared it was a really nice event a couple years ago.

Court Case/Boy Scouts – The church is being sued because of a suit against the boy scout troop we sponsor from many years ago. We have been legally summonsed. The plaintiff is anonymous and a conference is scheduled for June 10 in Mineola, NY. Pastor Ernie received recommendations from the synod regarding law firms to represent us. Pastor spoke with Glen Feinberg of Feinberg and Gasbarro. Their rate is \$650 an hour. Since we are a church, he would give us a rate of \$410/hour and \$350/hour if any work is done by the Junior Associate. This law firm is very familiar with the plaintiffs' attorney who is Anderson Associates as well as with how to defend churches and synagogues in such matters. Pastor has spent many hours on this already and at this point we need professional guidance. Council voted to move forward with this attorney.

Naloxone Training – This is taking place on June 7 th after the 10:30 service. There is a sign up sheet in the back of the church.

VBS – We have people willing to help, but no one willing to spearhead. If anyone is willing to do this please contact the church office.

Continued....

Transition Update – Please see the following message from Pastor Ernie:

In my 14 months as your interim pastor, as I have visited members and had discussions with our transition team and church council, it seems that Good Shepherd may not be ready to proceed toward the call process. It has become clear that there is work to be done in healing and rebuilding. These should be focused on before we complete the Ministry Site Profile which is the document candidates will read through to learn about Good Shepherd. There is pastoral and community work which have taken much of my time and have shown me that these areas need to be strengthened before we consider calling a new pastor. If we think there is a fit between us (congregation and interim pastor), I am agreeable to staying with you for up to three years to work on rebuilding our congregation. My formal agreement with the congregation will be up for renewal each year as it is now. I am available to answer any questions you might have. My email address is emoss1@yahoo.com. Or stop by my office during the week and we can chat!

Half-Year Giving Statements – Council voted to stop providing half year statements, because of the expense attached to it. If anyone would like a half-year statement please reach out to the office and one can be printed for you.

Succession Mike McCambridge is resigning from the treasurer position by the summer; Werner also needs a replacement for his position of Financial Secretary. Kim and Kristen will also be coming off Council next year. We will need a President, Vice President, and Treasurer. If anyone has interest in joining Council (or serving again) and has interest in an officer position please reach out to the church office or Pastor Ernie.

Virtual Property Committee - We will be starting a text chain with a group of people to contact, via text message, when something is broken or in need of attention at the church. Whoever is available or could assess the situation and take a picture; we will then determine if it's in our skill set to fix it; if it's too big for us, we would need to call a professional. If you would like to join this group please reach out to Pastor Ernie.

Personal Care Kits - 126 personal care kits were put together last week and now need to be transported. Thanks to everyone for their donations and help with this.

Respectfully submitted, on behalf of the Council Secretary,

Kim Arcidiacono

**ROCKLAND PRIDE PARADE, SUNDAY, June 14th,
11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.. Nyack NY**

Downtown Nyack will be full of Pride for this family-friendly event featuring outdoor dining, shopping, and vendors! Good Shepherd will have a table and will also be marching in the parade. We are looking to borrow a 10' x 10' tent and also purchase some swag to give out at our table. The Amazon site to order swag is:

https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/1UEDCGELO83VT?ref_cm_sw_r_apin_ggr-subnav-shareQCJXX3Y378YANQVMAWN4&language=en-US

If interested in being involved, please contact Jenny Burns at:
Jennyburnslym@gmail.com



**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING
A MEMBER OF GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH?**

We will be holding a class for new members on Sunday, June 21st, in Pastor's office at 12:00 noon. If you are interested, please call the Church Office at 845-735-2243 or Pastor Mossi at 845-430-2025.



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

RCADD

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.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP
DURING OUR
WORSHIP SERVICES!!**

We need your help! Please contact Kristen at kristen-hanifin@yahoo.com if you would like to get more information about being an usher, lector, or a reader of the prayers.

Also, we are in need of a few more Communion Assistants. Anyone interested should email Jenn at Jalliss28@yahoo.com.