



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

September 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

FALL SCHEDULE....We will have one service at 9:30 on September 6th. On September 13th, we will have one service at 10:30 am, followed by our Annual Hot Dog Sunday. On September 20th, we will begin having two services each week, at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

In Every Season

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we head back to school and work schedules, as I personally clear my 20th anniversary of ordination, with Theresa and I having celebrated our 15th wedding anniversary, I think about the passage of time and the cycle of parish life. A line from Compline, the last prayer office of the day, references *the changes and chances of life*. The gospel readings through the summer took us with Jesus in his earthly ministry across plains, hills and waterways. The one abiding thing in all the changes in all our lives is that the mission of the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ, endures. It must endure for the world to have hope.

That brings me to our life together. In the swirl of a vastly shifting society, we have the great blessing of having community, regular worship, social ministry, Christian education, and other things that ground us in our faith. I am grateful to be among you, as we pray and try to ascertain where the Spirit is calling us now in our lives of faith.

Congregational ministry, inside and outside our church building, needs faithful leadership. That the church is managed well is vital to our future. That means we need church council members, a treasurer, Sunday School teachers, and those able to help with property repair and maintenance. Mission means you.

We give thanks for the many years Werner Boecker has served as financial secretary, and for Mike McCambridge who likewise, has given his all in the position of treasurer for a long time. We give thanks that Dagmar Klein and Kristen Hanifin will now manage the financial secretary tasks, and that Rob Vatter will serve as council president next year after Kristin's (and Kim's!) term on council reaches the maximum allowed in the congregation's constitution.

For our mission to continue, we need a treasurer, a council vice president, and church council members. For us to ensure we continue to bring hope to the world, the workings of the church need to, well, work. All the parts need to be there and contribute to the workings of the church. You can do your part to ensure that our mission continues by filling one of these roles. Please pray and listen for Christ's voice.

The seasons roll by. The changes and chances of life continue. But so does hope, because the message of Christ is ours to share. It is a privilege to do so. Join in this important, life-giving work.

In Christ, Pastor Mossi

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 Mossi
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

BEREAVEMENT GROUP

The Bereavement Group will meet Sunday, September 6 at 11 a.m., and on Sunday, September 20, 12 noon.

All sessions meet in pastor's office. The group usually meets on the second and fourth Sundays of the month but due to other parish events we've had to change the September dates.

Meeting dates for October will be announced mid-September. The sessions are open to anyone experiencing loss. Questions can be directed to Pastor Mossi, emossl@yahoo.com

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.

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)

SEPTEMBER COLLECTION FOR PEOPLE TO PEOPLE

For the months of September , we will focus on collecting cereal and shelf-stable milk (powdered, Parmalat), but we will accept any non-perishable food. There is a box for your donations at the entrance to the Education Building.

Thank you for your donations!

HOT DOG SUNDAY...SEPTEMBER 13TH

Please join us for a hot dog and all the fixin's immediately following the 10:30 service on Sunday, September 13th. It is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect after the summer.

If you would like to help with this event or provide some of the side dishes, please contact the Church Office at 845-735-2243. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the church for items needed for the lunch. Thank you for your help.

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.

UPCOMING OUTLINGS! Details will be posted soon but wanted to get the basic Info out:

Hike: Saturday, September 12, late morning. Probably at Harriman State Park starting from the Anthony Wayne Parking Area.

Autumn Evening Campfire: Sunday, September 27, 7:30 p.m. at Theresa and Pastor's house.

Walk: Walkway Over the Hudson, Highland side (Ulster County, off rt. 9w): Monday, October 12, 4 p.m.

Stay tuned! - Pastor Mossi



Welcome Back to School!



The air turns crisp, the leaves turn gold, a brand-new story to be told.
With a shiny new backpack and shoes so neat, Preschool adventures are such
a treat! We'll sing a song and learn to share, With falling leaves upon the air.
September days have just begun, And learning is going to be so much fun!

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 Karen Sack; she is trying to retire, but we are holding on to her as a UPK consultant. We said goodbye to Bridget Quinn, who is growing up with her daughter and moving on to a new experience. We also welcome some of our current staff members in their new roles. We feel fortunate to have so many amazing women supporting our families and our program!

As we approach the start of the school year, September 2nd, Creative Play is enthusiastic as we look forward to welcoming 141 students and their families to our program. If you know of anyone in need, we have availability in our 2-day a week 3-year-old class and our Tuesday and Thursday 1-day a week Toddler classes, 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 25 volunteers; we also had the playground area weeded and the windows on the education building cleaned inside and out. The hallways are decorated filling them with warmth.

Creative Play will be hosting its second annual off-premises 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 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.

With children, the days are long and the years are short. We hope we create many happy memories throughout what will most likely be another quick school year.

Be well, be safe and be happy,

Renee Bucci

Creative Play Director

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

CONFIRMATION CLASSES BEGIN SEPTEMBER 10TH...

Confirmation classes for 6th, 7th and 8th graders will begin on Thursday, September 10th at 5:45 pm (a pizza dinner & drink will be provided).

The first session will be a semi-comprehensive review to get our biblical brains going again! The topic for this semester is worship. I envision most of the instruction will be done in the sanctuary after we finish eating.

More info to follow.

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.

We look forward to seeing everyone.

Hi Sunday Church School Families!

Classes start on September 20th. 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 13th, 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. Worship on the 13th is at 10:30 a.m.

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 9-19, at 9am, in Fellowship Hall. All men of the church are welcome. Spend an hour or so enjoying good food and conversation.



**2026 ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE
INTO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY
OCTOBER 11th
dalegspr@gmail.com**

**Sunday September 20th
BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS
8:30 am & 10:30 am**



If you're a child (or college student of any age!), a teacher, or a user of a backpack for any purpose – bring your backpack to church and receive a special blessing!



Good Shepherd
PEARL RIVER, NY

SCS STUDENT REGISTRATION FORM

2026-2027

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



COME TO OKTOBERFEST 2026

October 24th at 6:00 p.m.

(Doors will open at 5:45 p.m.)

Come for an evening with a German atmosphere,
delicious German food, drink and great fellowship!

Entertainment: Larry Zaidan's Tuba Quartet

Cost: Adults \$25
 Children \$10 (12 and under)
 Family: \$60.00
 Children under two are free
 Wine and beer: \$6 each – limit of two per adult

We are looking for “many hands to make light work,” so watch for sign-up sheets to: set up, decorate, cook/work in kitchen, serve, and clean up.

Please fill out the form below and send to the church office with payment, with “Oktoberfest” indicated on the check. Confirmation will be by e-mail or telephone.

Only 125 tickets will be sold, and the deadline is October 11th.

OKTOBERFEST 2026– October 24h at 6:00 p.m.

NAME: _____

E-mail or telephone # for confirmation: _____

Adults: _____ Children _____ Family _____

Red Wine: ____ White Wine: ____ Beer: ____ (please indicate # of servings)

\$6 each; limit of two per person

Total enclosed: \$ _____

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!



RECENT HIKE AT NYACK BEACH STATE PARK

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 & Sunday mornings at 9:30am beginning September 17th

Children's Choir rehearsals begin:

Sunday mornings at 10am beginning September 20th

Band rehearsals begin:

Sundays at 11:45am beginning September 20th

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

Thank you,

Elaina and Brian Burns

Social Ministry Throughout The Year....

Come Join Us on Sunday, September 13th, at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor to see what Social Ministry does throughout the year...Turkey Run, Project Joy, Souperbowl Sunday, Blood Drive, Personal Care Kits, Food Drives, Backpack Collection, Prayer Shawl Ministry, and much more. Find out ways you can experience joy and fulfillment by participating in helping our members, our community, and the world.

