



News You Can “Ewes”

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 14

NOVEMBER 2015

HAPPENING NOW

- Two-Can Sunday, Nov. 1
- Yarn Angels, Noon, Nov. 1
- Confirmation, 12:30 p.m., Nov. 1
- Acolyte Training, 12:30 p.m., Nov. 1
- Executive Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., Nov. 3
- Men in Mission, 7 p.m., Nov. 4
- Finance Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., Nov. 5
- Pastor Paul at Candidacy Committee, Nov. 5-7
- Return the Blessing with Service Sunday, Nov. 8
- Annual Meeting, Noon, Nov. 8
- Faith Formation Committee, 7 p.m., Nov. 9
- Church council Meeting, 7 p.m., Nov. 10
- Staff Meeting, 10:30 a.m., Nov. 11
- Needlework Friends, 11 a.m., Nov. 14
- Confirmation/FX3, 12:30 p.m., Nov. 15

Pay It Forward Gift Cards are Back

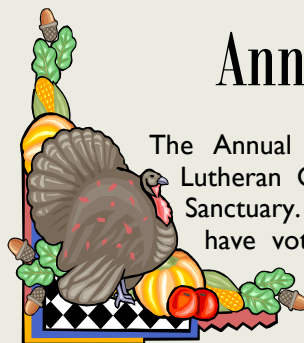
Planning on Buying Gift Cards for the Holidays? Never fear, the “Pay it Forward” Gift Card program is returning to Good Shepherd to help make your holiday shopping easier!

When you buy gift cards from Good Shepherd not only do you buy a great gift for someone, but you also raise money for Good Shepherd’s Outreach and Mission endeavors. Once again, GSLC has partnered with Great Lakes Scrip Center to provide gift cards to nearly 400 retailers. When you purchase these gift cards through Good Shepherd we receive a portion of the purchase price to keep for our use. Scrip turns everyday shopping into cash for Good Shepherd when you buy retail gift cards to pay for purchases or give as gifts. Scrip has negotiated with retailers to buy gift cards at a reduced price ranging from 2 – 14%. They then pass that discount on to us. When you purchase a gift card at face value through Good Shepherd, we pay the discounted price. The difference is an instant rebate for Good Shepherd. It’s that simple!

Beginning in November we will offer gift cards to some of the country’s largest and best known brands, including grocery, department stores, restaurants, home improvement stores, and more. We even have Amex Gift Cards to be used anywhere American Express is accepted.

There will be representatives from the Outreach Committee in Fellowship Hall between services to take orders and answer any questions you may have. We will begin taking orders on November 1 throughout the holiday season. If you have any questions please contact Kristin Brenneman, GSLC Outreach Coordinator at outreach@gslutheran.org or Carrie Escamilla, GSLC Scrip Giftcard Coordinator at carrie.escamilla@yahoo.com.

Annual Meeting & Dinner



The Annual Meeting of the Congregation of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church takes place **Sunday, November 8** in the Sanctuary. All active, confirmed members of the congregation have voting privileges at the meeting and are expected to attend. The agenda includes: Presentation of Annual Reports, Approval of the 2016 Budget and Election of Council Members.

The Fellowship Committee invites you to a Thanksgiving Gathering following the meeting. Turkey, gravy, rolls and beverages are provided. Sign up at Sign-Up Central to bring a dish to share or to help with set-up, serving or clean-up.



Sunday School is studying the story of Ruth for four weeks - with a focus on loyalty and trust. Here our 1st / 2nd Grade Sunday School class is playing a game called "Blind Trust" where one student leads another student who is blindfolded around an obstacle course. Pictured left to right: Carter Hutchison is leading Vincent Morris and Sydney Sordelet is leading Matthew McBroom.

Mission Trip Update

If you missed the Summer Mission Trip meeting here are a few important details:

- The Middle School youth (grades 6-8) will go to Savannah June 19-24. The cost for the trip is \$250. We will serve those who do not have adequate housing or food. You might end up working with the Union Gospel Mission, a food bank, the Boys and Girls Club, or the YMCA. During our evenings we will visit River Street, Forsyth Park, and spend some time on the beach at Tybee Island.
- The High School youth (grades 8-12) will serve in Washington D.C. from July 2-10. The cost of the trip is \$325. This trip is an extra day in order to celebrate July 4th in our nation's capital. During the week we will work with non-profit organizations around the district as we address the hunger and poverty needs of this city. We hope to spend some time working with the ELCA Advocacy Office located in D.C. Our evenings will be filled with trips to the Martin Luther King Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument, the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum, and more local sites.

For more information or to sign up for either of these exciting trips contact Pastor Justin.

Time to Fill the Shoe Boxes!

The Christmas Shoebox campaign benefiting the Lutheran Services of Georgia Refugee Program has begun. Pick up a shoe box NOW, fill it and return by **November 15**. Thank you!

Under 18...

Confirmation meets **November 1** for pizza lunch at 12:30 p.m. followed by individual groups. Confirmation and FX3 meet November 15 and November 29 as well.

Acolyte Training takes place **November 1** at 1 p.m. for all youth in grades 3—5 . This training will take the place of the FX3 meeting. All are welcome, even if you don't regularly attend FX3. For details, contact Karen Epstein.

Advent at "The Bridge"

Don't miss Advent at the Bridge! On **November 29th** we will jump into the Advent season with "A Social Media Christmas". Come and help us imagine what Mary, Joseph, The Angel Gabriel, and others might have written on their Facebook and Twitter accounts as they waited for the birth of Jesus. On **December 20** we will wrap up Advent with a service devoted to all of our favorite seasonal songs. Throughout all four Sundays in Advent we will prepare for Christmas and examine the different ways John, Herod, Mary, and God viewed the coming of Jesus.

Advent Soup & Salad Suppers

Wednesday evening Advent services begin **December 2**. Join us before each Advent Service at 6 p.m. for Soup and Salad! Different church committees host the suppers each Wednesday. If you are on one of the committees, bring soup on your committees' designated date. Host committees set up and cleanup on their evening. Everyone else in attendance is asked to bring a salad, simple side dish or dessert. The Fellowship Committee will ensure bowls, utensils, crackers and lemonade are available for each week.

December 2:
Outreach, Congregational Care, Personnel,
Fellowship

December 9:
Facilities and Maintenance, Faith Formation,
Worship and Music, Mission Endowment

December 16:
Finance, Mutual Ministry, Stewardship

Stewardship Update



As of October 23 we have received 126 pledges totaling \$451,486. The goal of the committee is to get 100% participation or 233

pledges. Last year we received 138 pledges; let's beat last years' number!

If you have already submitted your offering pledge for 2016 – thank you!

How Udderly Fantastic!

This year the Sunday School classes are again collecting money to donate to the ELCA's Good Gifts God's Global Barnyard. Our goal is to raise at least \$500 so we can purchase a cow. We currently have received \$66.69. If you have a child in Sunday School, please remember to send them with an offering, if possible. If you do not have a child in Sunday School, but would like to help us reach our goal, please see Janice Swinford, Sunday School Superintendent. If we raise more than enough, we will purchase whatever other farm animals we can. Please go to the ELCA website to look into all the wonderful things provided by donations to ELCA Good Gifts as well as the other important endeavors our church is doing in the world.



FX3, Good Shepherd's group for 4th and 5th graders, recently went hiking. Above, the group takes a break on the shore of Lake Allatoona at Red Top Mountain. Left to right: Olivia Myers, Courtney Swinford, Anna Freeman

Starry Night with the Empty Nesters

Join the Empty Nesters at **Starry Night Atlanta** on November 7. Starry Night is an 8.5K walk/run that benefits the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation. We will be a big part of a special team, “**Remembering Ryan**”, in memory of Good Shepherd member **Ryan Bonds**, who lost his life at 15 years old to a brain tumor. Ryan is the son of our own **Susan Bonds** and the grandson of **Vernee Zagel**. The goal for the team is to raise \$2,200 because Ryan was known to many as #22, which was his basketball number! Join us to walk, run, attend, and/or donate!

Starry Night takes place at Centennial Olympic Park on **Saturday, November 7th**. The race is 8.5K, but there is a shorter course of about 2.6 miles for walkers. Registration is from 3 pm to 4 pm and the race/walk starts at 4:30 pm. There will be entertainment and food available at the event and there is a lantern lighting ceremony after the race. A lantern will be lit for Ryan and for all of the children represented at the event that are living with a brain tumor, have survived one, or have lost their life to one. Last year was the inaugural year and the lighting ceremony was very moving.

For more information on the event, see the link at http://pbtfc.org/convio.net/site/TR?fr_id=2293&pg=entry

To contribute to or register for team Remembering Ryan, go to http://pbtfc.org/convio.net/site/TR/2015StarryNight/General?team_id=10951&pg=team&fr_id=2293

If you have any questions about the event, please contact Susan Bonds at susan200@comcast.net or 678-770-5209. Thank you for your support!

Attn: Please don't take the Altar Flower Liners

Everyone who donates altar flowers is welcome to take them after services on Sunday. But, we have to purchase special plastic liners for our altar flower vase and these liners cost \$50 each! So, in order to help save the congregation money, if you take the altar flowers, please **LEAVE THE LINER**. Thank you!!

Council Minutes

October 2015

Discussion

- As of October 13 a total of \$10,905 had been received towards the Budget Challenge
- September's Giving was the best September in the past 5 years
- An air conditioning unit had to be replaced at a cost of \$2000 that was not anticipated
- Updated Wedding Guidelines were approved to reflect the recent decision to celebrate same gender marriages
- The council approved a new copier lease that will have significant savings in printing costs
- GSLC will support the SES with their annual appeal. A special offering will be collected in November and January

Accolades

- Everyone who participated in God's Work Our Hands Sunday
- Marci Heintz and her family for the wonderful sweets and set up for Brooklyn Ask's Baptism
- The Finance Committee for their hard work in preparing the budget for 2016
- Steve Frink for all the work in getting the new equipment for the praise service ready
- Anonymous donors and everyone in the congregation who made the extra effort to make the Budget Challenge a reality
- Jennifer Taylor, Elaine White, and Susan Epling for creating the Confirmation Banners
- Michael Epstein, Karen Epstein, Jaime Escamilla, Al Reynolds, Patrick Swinford, Classic Brumley, and all who helped with the Confirmation Banquet



GSLC Celebrates Confirmation

Eleven 9th graders professed their faith before the Good Shepherd Congregation on Confirmation Sunday, October 25. We welcome these young people into membership! Thanks to everyone who makes confirmation such a special event at GSLC — from banner makers to meal preparers and everyone in between!

Above, the 2015 Confirmation Class. Front Row, left to right — Carter Maczko, Tatum Torres, Delaney Duclos, Sammie Corley and Jacob Kish. Back row, left to right — Kevin Homer, Pastor Paul, Peyton Brenneman, Taylor Hillhouse, Pastor Justin, Austin Porter, Madison Jones and Kaitlyn Hovda. Right, Pastor Paul dons his chef uniform to help serve up a fabulous confirmation banquet.



Hanging of the Greens...

The holiday season is just around the corner. The Worship and Music Committee is seeking help in putting up the large tree in the sanctuary and hanging the greens above the windows. Mark your calendars for **Sunday, December 6** immediately following the 11 a.m. worship service. No decorating experience necessary!

MUST

Thanksgiving

In November GSLC will collect canned goods for MUST Ministries to provide a Thanksgiving bounty for those less fortunate in our community. MUST will be providing turkeys to 982 families this year and have recently lost one of their largest turkey donors. Per MUST's request we are again concentrating our giving on canned yams and cranberry sauce but will also be accepting monetary donations to help provide turkeys that MUST can purchase from local retailers at a negotiated discounted price. The collection bins for the canned goods are in the Fellowship Hall and the collection box for turkey donations is in the entryway. We will be collecting these items through **Sunday, November 15**. Please designate MUST Ministries Thanksgiving on the envelope or tag line. If you want to make a contribution while also benefitting Good Shepherd you can purchase a gift card through Good Shepherd to either Walmart or Target and then donate it to MUST Ministries for the purchase of turkeys OR why not purchase a gift card at Kroger? After you have linked your Kroger Plus card to Good Shepherd, of course.

Fall for these Events...

Blood Drive on Saturday, November 7 from 8 a.m.—1 p.m. Because 10 units were given over our goal at our last drive, we were awarded 2 gift cards to randomly give out!! You never know what you might win if you come give blood!! Maybe even the satisfying sensation of supreme service!

Daylight Savings Time ends, Sunday, November 1. Turn your clocks back one hour.

Two Can Sunday, November 1. Bring your two cans of food for local hunger initiatives.

Yarn Angels will meet Sunday November 1 after the 11 a.m. service in Room 116.

Needlework Friends Join us on Saturday, November 14 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the home of Jennifer Taylor (223 Orchards Circle, Woodstock) for needlework and fellowship. Bring your projects, learn something new, teach or help another friend. Knit, Crochet, Cross-stitch, Embroider, Sew, etc. Refreshments provided. Contact Jennifer at 678-880-2842 or jennifer3094@windstream.net.

Ladies Night Out will meet at the Fire Stone Wood Fired Pizza and Grill in downtown Woodstock on November 17 at 7 p.m.

Piano Lessons at GSLC

Is your child musically inclined? Do you wish there was a more economical alternative to private lessons? Did you ever wish you studied music, but think it's too late? It's never too late! Piano class is coming to Good Shepherd.

Piano class is a fun, low pressure, way to begin music studies. We will work in a small group to study the theory and practice of playing piano. This format is designed to maximize your growth while you decide if it's right for you.

The ability to play music is a gift for a lifetime. Treat yourself! Contact Thomas Eisnor at music@glutheran.org for more details.



Blessing of the Animals

Sixty-one people and 21 dogs attended GSLC's Blessing of the Animals service in October. As part of The Bridge worship, Pastor Paul and Pastor Justin gave each pet a special blessing—despite the cold!

Left, Pastor Justin, often known as "a cat person", bestows a blessing on Chocolate while owners Janice and Courtney Swinford look on.



Far left, Chandler Adams serves as communion assistant while Erin and Jarrod Brown take part with their dog Bella. Left, Pastor Paul shares a blessing with Jennifer Taylor's dog Bandit.

Kroger Plus Card Benefits GSLC

Attention all Kroger shoppers you can now shop at Kroger and give back to GSLC! Good Shepherd is now recognized as a community rewards partner of Kroger. This means all Kroger Plus cards linked to Good Shepherd will earn a percentage of their purchase price for our church. This is a great and easy way to help Good Shepherd outreach and missions program earn much needed extra cash. Directions on how to link your Kroger Plus card to Good Shepherd can be found in the information rack in the entryway or online at gslutheran.org. If registering your card online is just too high-tech for your liking, you may contact Outreach Coordinator Kristin Brenneman and she will be glad to register your card for you.

HAPPENING LATER

- Ladies Night Out, 7 p.m., November 17
- Cherokee County School Break, November 23-27
- Thanksgiving Eve Service, 7:30 p.m.,
- Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 26, Office Closed
- Office Closed, Nov. 27
- Confirmation/FX3, 12:30 p.m., Nov. 29

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

1208 ROSE CREEK DRIVE
WOODSTOCK, GA 30189
770-924-7286
GSLUTHERAN.ORG

AN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (ELCA) CONGREGATION SERVING NORTH COBB AND CHEROKEE COUNTY COMMUNITIES. JOIN US!

8 A.M. TRADITIONAL
9:30 A.M. PRAISE
11 A.M. TRADITIONAL
6 P.M. "THE BRIDGE" - CONTEMPORARY, LAID-BACK
SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:30 A.M.

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"WELCOME ONE ANOTHER, THEREFORE,
AS CHRIST HAS WELCOMED YOU."

ROMANS 15:7

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH WARMLY WELCOMES PEOPLE OF ANY AGE,
RACE,
NATIONALITY, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, LIFE CIRCUMSTANCE,

Office Closed

Please note that Good Shepherd offices will be closed on Thursday, November 26 and Friday November 27 for Thanksgiving. In addition, Jubilate Ringers, Shepherd's Choir, Saints and Sinners, Tuesday Lunch Bunch, Word on Wednesday and Thursday Bible Study will not meet Thanksgiving week. Confirmation and FX3 WILL meet on Sunday, November 29.

God's work. "God's Work. Our
Our hands. **Hands."** in November

Good Shepherd will offer a day of service opportunity on **Saturday November 21** to benefit the Family Resource Center in Cobb County. We have partnered with the CFR to provide volunteers to help distribute boxes of food to families in need of a warm Thanksgiving meal. The distribution will take place at Jim Miller Park in Marietta from 8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. Volunteers will help deliver boxes to cars, load boxes into carts, add loaves of bread to boxes, or man a coloring station for children. All volunteers must be 14 years of age or older, and should be able to lift about 40 pounds. Although you won't necessarily lift boxes alone, we do need people who can lift with the assistance of another person. If you are interested in joining us in this outreach endeavor please sign up at Sign-Up Central. For more information contact GSLC Outreach Coordinator, Kristin Brenneman at outreach@gslutheran.org



GOOD SHEPHERD
LUTHERAN CHURCH