



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 2021

A publication focused on the journey ahead for  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Woodstock, GA

## CALL COMMITTEE NEWS

December 1, 2021

Dear members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,

Lots of good things are happening here this fall. We are worshiping in-person as well as participating in Bible studies and Sunday School classes. We welcomed eight confirmands on Reformation Sunday, celebrated the baptisms of two babies (with another yet to come), and are looking forward to receiving new members in December. We are active in ministry in the community, with abundant donations to Must Ministries, Papa's Pantry, Timothy Lutheran, and other food ministries. A new ministry of food and supplies for local schools began in October. Participation in worship and activities is increasing, and we are interviewing candidates for the Youth and Family Ministry position.

Good Shepherd also has begun the process of searching for a new pastor. This is an exciting time and we are eager to gather input from all of the members who have shared in this great community of faith over the years. Members of the Call Committee, the Congregation Council, and Committee Chairs have undertaken to interview all members of Good Shepherd over the next several weeks. We hope this will provide an opportunity for your voice to be heard as we move into the next chapter in the life of Good Shepherd.

Sincerely,  
The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Call Committee:  
Trina Hutchison, Bill Alderfer, Marc Duclos, Sebastian Escamilla,  
Mike McCoy

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## Council Highlights November 2021

- Our semi-annual meeting was successful with the congregation unanimously approving the changes to the proposed constitutional amendments.
- We elected 4 new adult members and 1 youth member to council. Those elected are: Alena Ezell (youth), Holly Jones, Barb Kidder, Matt Provost, and Sharron Ryan.
- Thank you to Deborah Ezell, Will Jayroe and Lily Schwartz for your willingness to serve.
- We thank the council members finishing their terms: Gina Crittenden, Jamie Escamilla, Sebastian Escamilla, Cathy Mattocks.

## Call Committee Contacts

If you need to reach a member of the Call Committee, an e-mail address has been set up at:

[callcommittee@gslutheran.org](mailto:callcommittee@gslutheran.org)

**Sending an e-mail to this address will include every member of the Call Committee.**

## CALL COMMITTEE NEWS

At its meeting on November 11, the Call Committee elected Trina Hutchison as its chair and selected Mike McCoy as its secretary.

The committee also reviewed the process for interviewing GSLC members so that they can provide input to the Call Committee. They made recommendations for contacting members who have not been attending recently. Those letters were subsequently sent. Separate gatherings for junior high, high school, and college-age youth were planned for the Christmas holidays in order to provide them with opportunities to make their voices heard.

At its November 30 meeting, the committee reviewed the ELCA's Ministry Site Profile, which is the key document provided to prospective candidates for pastor. Marc Duclos has begun gathering the required demographic data about the congregation and its community context. The committee also set January 2 as a time for talking with high school and college students to receive their input into the call process. It also discussed possible candidates for filling a vacancy on the committee.

### What Happens Next?

Questions about members' experience at Good Shepherd that will be asked during the interviews were distributed via the November newsletter and at the November 14 semi-annual meeting. The same questions are also in this December newsletter.

Trained interviewers from the Call Committee, the 2020-21 Congregation Council, the 2021-22 Council, some committee chairs, and other congregation leaders have been assigned members to interview. More interviewers will be trained on December 5. They all will be contacting all active members for interview appointments shortly. Within the next week, interviewers will receive a reminder notice about scheduling interviews.

In-person interviews are preferred because they will produce the best information and input. Because of Covid-19 concerns, however, interviews can take place via Zoom or phone. Each interview should take about 30 minutes.

We hope that the majority of interviews will take place during December. If someone does not contact you for an interview by December 15, please let Trina Hutchison or Pastor Ruth know. We look forward to the participation of every member of Good Shepherd.

The next meeting of the Call Committee is scheduled for December 20. At that meeting the committee will review progress on the congregational interviews and begin discussion of responses to some of the sections of the Ministry Site Profile.

Please continue to pray for the Call Committee and its work. The process leading to identifying a new pastor for Good Shepherd is well underway. Thanks be to God!

## QUESTIONS GOOD SHEPHERD MEMBERS CAN EXPECT FOR THE INITIAL ACTIVE MEMBER INTERVIEWS

*All active members will be interviewed in a face-to-face format by either a Call Committee member or a Council member sometime during December. In order to make the best use of your time and the time of the interviewer, please look over these questions so you will be prepared with answers when you are interviewed. Thank you.*

- ♥ Reflecting on your entire experience at GSLC, when has the congregation seemed to be at its best? Describe what it was like. How or why did it occur? What happened? How did it feel?
- ♥ What are the central characteristics or ways of life that make GSLC unique?
- ♥ Reflecting on your entire experience at GSLC, remember a time when you felt the most engaged, alive, and motivated. What did you do? Who was involved? What happened?
- ♥ What contributions has the congregation made to your life? When have you known the most significant growth for yourself? Tell how this has happened. What made a difference? Who was most helpful?
- ♥ Don't be humble; this is important information: What are the most valuable ways you contribute to GSLC? Give some examples.
- ♥ Make three wishes for the future of GSLC. Describe what the congregation would look like when these wishes come true.

### A season of waiting

Our oven recently bit the dust, and the needed replacement part is no longer manufactured. Due to an appliance shortage, we had to wait eight weeks for a new oven! Yet even amid inconvenience, I see God's purpose. We were thankful to have a grill and slow cookers in the meantime. We creatively attempted to cook favorite meals in different ways. And though we craved anything baked in an oven — cookies, casseroles, even chicken nuggets — we realized that waiting eight weeks for an oven isn't truly a trying time.

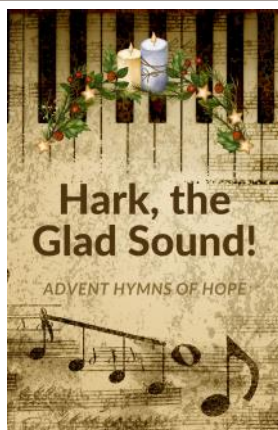
Many of us wait for much greater milestones and miracles: physical healing, the return of a prodigal child, an end to financial struggles. Paul offers us hope as we wait: "May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had" (Romans 15:5, NIV).

When you're in a season of waiting — including Advent! — consider what you're thankful for and what you crave. Tell God how you're feeling and ask for endurance while you wait.

—Janna Firestone



## THE BACK PAGE ANNOUNCEMENTS



**H**ark, the Glad Sound!  
Advent Hymns of Hope  
Wednesdays at 7:30  
PM

*Dessert and coffee will be served  
before each service in Fellowship  
Hall,  
from 6:45 – 7:30 PM.*

Have you ever noticed how many Advent hymns encourage us to break out into song? Similar to the more familiar Christmas carols, many Advent hymns urge us to rejoice and get ready because Christ is coming.

Here's one example:

*Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long;  
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne and ev'ry voice a song.*

And another:

*Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.  
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! The Child of our longing.*

During Wednesdays in Advent 2021, we will worship using the familiar Holden Evening Prayer. We also will talk about the history, themes, and message of four Advent hymns.

The first Wednesday in Advent (December 1) we will sing and focus on two hymns written by Ambrose of Milan in the fourth century, *O Splendor of God's Glory Bright* (ELW 559) and *Savior of the Nations, Come* (ELW 363). On the second Wednesday (December 8), as we sing *People Look East* (ELW 248), we look for Love, which the hymn promises is on the way. Finally, on December 15, the third Wednesday in Advent, we are reminded that time is short, so we are urged to *Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying* (ELW 436).

Through all these hymns we remember Jesus, who came once as a baby in Bethlehem, who continues to come to us today, and who at the end of all time will come again. We rejoice at this good news and live in hope and expectation.

*Come Home  
For  
Christmas*



## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES With Holy Communion

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

- † Service of Lessons and Carols at 3:00 PM
- † Family Service at 5:00 PM
- † Candlelight Praise Service at 7:00 PM
- † Traditional Candlelight Service at 9:00 PM

## CHRISTMAS DAY

Worship Service w/ Holy Communion (casual attire)  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25 AT 11:00 AM

## SUNDAY WORSHIP First Sunday of Christmas

Lessons & Carols  
DECEMBER 26, 10:30 AM

## LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

**LOVE**  
YOUR neighbor  
AS YOURSELF.  
*Mark 12:31*

There are many of you ... who think to yourselves: "If only I had been there! How quick I would have been to help the Baby! I would have washed his linen. How happy I would have been to go with the shepherds to see the Lord lying in the manger!"

Yes, you would! You say that because you know how great Christ is, but if you had been there at that time, you would have done no better than the people of Bethlehem. ... Why don't you do it now? You have Christ in your neighbor. You ought to serve him, for what you do to your neighbor in need you do to the Lord Christ himself. —Martin Luther