

Biographies for Council Candidates 2024-2026

Name:	Ruth Clark	Years at GSLC:	14
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Personal History:

- Baptized and confirmed Catholic, became Lutheran in 1975
- Actively involved in St. Andrews's Lutheran Church in Smithtown, NY
- H.S. teacher for 34 years
- Built retirement home in Georgia
- Became members with husband Ken, in 2009



Church Involvement (list 3 – 5):

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usher • Greeter • Endowment Committee | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empty Nesters • Outreach • VBS • Nominating Committee |
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Brief statements on your impact on council:

- Just recently, I was asking God what should I do to be more involved with the church? God's response was swift. I was asked to help with the Nominating Committee and was told at a meeting that my name was next in line to be asked on the Council.
- It has been my calling to serve. I have been volunteering at MUST since 2010.
- I will serve GSLC with God's help

Name:	Karen Epstein	Years at GSLC:	18
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Personal History:

- Relocated to Georgia from New York in 2004
- Formerly the Director of International Sales at a NYC Hotel
- Currently I am a substitute teacher in Cherokee County

- Married to Michael 28 years, have two children who grew up at GSLC – Taylor and Carlie



Church Involvement (list 3 – 5):

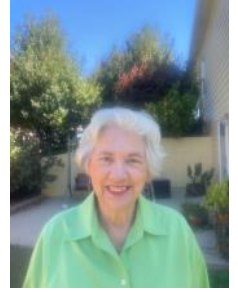
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Served previously on Council for 3 terms, including serving as Secretary • Taught Sunday School & Led FX 3 for 10+ years • Served as a member, chair, and Council Liaison for the Faith Formation committee and also served as a member of the Fellowship committee | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently Co-Leader of Theology on Tap • Attend Adult Sunday School, as well as assist with youth Sunday School • Participate in the Taste of Habitat, volunteer for VBS and along with my family have been very active with youth programming, special events, and meals at GSLC |
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Brief statements on your impact on council:

- I am honored to be considered for a position on Council and will faithfully serve the members of the congregation if elected.
- I believe my background, my passion for service, and my years of service to GSLC will assist me in helping to lead the congregation forward.
- Good Shepherd has been an integral part of my family and I am dedicated to seeing it and its members thrive.

Biographies for Council Candidates 2024-2026

Name:	Barb Kidder	Years at GSLC:	10
Personal History: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After retiring from teaching elementary school, Ken and I moved here from Ohio to be near our daughter and grandchildren. • We enjoy traveling and just returned from a trip to Italy. Over the last several years, we took each of our four grandchildren on memorable trips at home and abroad. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We enjoy walking, live entertainment, and short trips to North Georgia wineries. • I am somewhat active as an activist in causes that speak to me. 	
Church Involvement (list 3 – 5): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I enjoy singing in the Chancel Choir • I am active in the Faith Stories Sunday School class as well as Thursday Bible study. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am involved in several church committees including Fellowship, Caring for Creation, Social Justice Task Force, and Outreach • I am finishing up my first term on Council. 	
<p>I have faithfully attended and participated in nearly all Council meetings. I have worked as liaison and active member of the Fellowship Committee and reported regularly to the Council on Fellowship activities.</p>			



Name:	Sharron Ryan	Years at GSLC:	14
Personal History: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Originally from Huntsville, Alabama, Attended UA • Moved to Georgia 46 years ago; moved to Woodstock 26 years ago • Raised 3 amazing daughters in Cobb County • Grandmother of 4 wonderful grandsons and 3 beautiful granddaughters and 1 great-granddaughter 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retired From William M. Mercer as an Employee Benefit Consultant, Major Accounts • Member Services Manager for Kaiser Permanente • I like spending time with my family, friends and puppy. I also love to read and watch all kinds of sports. 	
Church Involvement (list 3 – 5): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lifelong Lutheran • Church Council, President, Vice-President, Secretary, Financial Secretary • Call Committee, Chair 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fellowship & Congregational Care, Chair & Member • Stewardship, Caring for Creation, Mutual Ministry & Empty Nester Member • Sunday and Bible School Teacher, Youth Advisor • Altar Guild, Usher, Prayer Chain participant. 	
Brief statements on your impact on council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When I was first asked to serve on Church Council, I wasn't sure if this was something I wanted to do again. I spent a lot of time praying and asking God to guide me. Then I thought of something a member of our Stewardship Committee said: "He said God has given us so many blessings and it is our responsibility to give back." I have had a variety of wonderful opportunities to serve, and I feel this experience can be used as a member of the Church Council to help write the next chapter of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. • I assure you if I am elected I will work hard to represent all areas of our church family, always keeping our Lord and Savior as the focus of this work. 			



Biographies for Council Candidates 2024-2026

Name:	Janice Swinford	Years at GSLC:	24
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Personal History:

- Married to Patrick for 27 years
- Two daughters: Alexis, 21 and Courtney, 19
- Graduated Berry College with a double major in International Studies and Spanish



Church Involvement (list 3 – 5):

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked for twelve years on staff at GSLC, as Sunday School Superintendent and Inreach Coordinator for eleven years • Served as Secretary on GSLC Council | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall Fair committee for eight years • Organized and scheduled nursery • Faith Formation committee chair |
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Brief statements on your impact on council:

- Since I was on staff for years and worked closely with all of the committees and kept in regular contact with members, I have a unique understanding of both inside the office as well as the member perspective. If elected, I would strive to use my best discernment to help Good Shepherd into the next chapter of our part in God's story.

Biography for Youth Council Candidate 2024-2026

Name:	Brooke Myers	Years at GSLC	14
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Personal History:

- * Junior at Etowah High School
- * National English Honor Society member and Academic Letter recipient
- * Daughter of Heidi and Mark Myers
- * Competition Clogger



Church Involvement (list 3 – 5):

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baptized and confirmed at Good Shepherd • Helped with VBS several years | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of the Children's Choir and kids' bell choir • Attended youth gatherings and mission trips with Good Shepherd |
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Brief statements on your impact on council:

- I have been going to Good Shepherd and been active in the Youth programs for many years, and I would love to share the Youth's voices in council. The Youth are an important part of the church because they are the future of Good Shepherd!