



# Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

January 2025



.Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This is the time of year that I normally ask that people consider where they are on their journey of faith and to consider how far they will be at the end of the coming year. But instead of talking about what we have to gain I wish to talk about what we have been given. I sometimes think that the blessings of our lives and what we receive can be overlooked and even taken for granted. And I say that knowing that many of us have been raised in this country and countries in the “west” that have been abundantly blessed. Our quality of life is something that many parts of the world do not know. And the simple luxuries that we have from day to day are unknown.

*continued pg. 7*



## Mark Your Calendar

Good Shepherd will be hosting a blood drive **January 16, 2025 from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm**. We are asking for volunteers to help check people in, hand out snacks, and don't forget to give blood. We are looking to collect at least 25 good pints. Please spread the word to your neighbors, co-workers, and friends.

### NOTICE!

All reports for the Annual Meeting must be submitted to Pat Morgan, no later than **JANUARY 26**. This is the absolute deadline!!

**Annual Meeting February 9!**

*We are Christ's hands and voice in the world*

# THE SHEPHERD'S HORN



A publication of

## GOOD SHEPHERD Lutheran Church [ELCA]

1489 Laskin Road  
Virginia Beach, VA 23451-6047

Ph—757-428-4052

Fax -757-425-8503

Direct to Pat Morgan—757-319-4847

Direct to Pastor Faron—757-319-4840

Direct Karen Parthun—757-319-4875

### Office Hours

Monday - Wednesday

9 am - 3:00 p.m.

Thursday—Remote

Friday — Closed

Pastor- The Rev. Faron H. Johnson,  
[pastor@goodshepherdvb.org](mailto:pastor@goodshepherdvb.org)

Patricia R. Morgan  
Administrative Coordinator  
[office@goodshepherdvb.org](mailto:office@goodshepherdvb.org)

Dr. Karen Parthun  
Director of Music  
[musicr@goodshepherdvb.org](mailto:musicr@goodshepherdvb.org)

### Officers

Chris Welch, President  
Roger White, Vice President  
Jacqueline Rosendahl, Secretary  
Donna White, Treasurer  
Melissa Lake, Financial Secretary



**Thank You!** As you can see we had a phenomenal month of giving towards our ministries for December, and we finished the year ahead of what we anticipated. Thank you to those who stepped up to help fill the gap.

### DECEMBER AND YEAR TO DATE

	Month	YTD
Support	\$59,365	\$ 324,099
Expense	\$27,491	\$ 315,462
Over/[short]	\$31,874	\$ 8,637

WE ARE  
*grateful*  
FOR YOU!

Good Shepherd offers electronic giving for those who appreciate the convenience of online payments. Whether it is a one-time gift, or automated regular giving. Visit us online at [www.goodshepherdvb.org](http://www.goodshepherdvb.org) to find out more, or TEXT TO GIVE at 1-844-970-2662. You may also send your gift by regular mail to: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 1489 Laskin Rd. Virginia Beach, VA 23451.

### Congratulations to our newly elected council members:



Mary Ann Beard, Sunny Hollenbach, Kevin Jones, Roger White.

The officers for 2025 are:

President	Chris Welch
Vice President	Roger White
Secretary	Jacqueline Rosendahl
Treasurer	Donna White
Financial Secretary	Melissa Lake

# Serving In January

## **January 5**

Assisting Minister	Skip Banner
Communion Assistant	Sunny Hollenbach
Reader	
Usher	Jim Van Slyke, Buddy Anderson
Altar Guild	Ruth Crews, Jim Owens
Coffee Hosts	Parish Life
Food Pantry	Carlin Bachrach, Denise Haag, Marilyn Berge 1/8

## **January 11**

Food Pantry	Mary Ann & Norm Beard
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## **January 12**

Assisting Minister	Steve Jackson
Communion Assistant	
Reader	Debbie Risotto
Usher	
Altar Guild	Sunny Hollenbach
Coffee Hosts	
Food Pantry	Sunny Hollenbach, Robin Patrick, Sandy Lindstrom 1/15

## **January 19**

Assisting Minister	Jackie Rosendahl
Communion Assistant	
Reader	
Usher	Sunny Hollenbach, Mark Rosendahl
Altar Guild	Sunny Hollenbach
Coffee Hosts	
Food Pantry	Gwyne Van Slyke, Carlin Bachrach, Marilyn Berge 1/22

## **January 25**

Food Pantry	Ruth Crews, Jim Owens
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## **January 26**

Assisting Minister	Karen Welch
Communion Assistant	Chris Welch
Reader	Debbie Risotto
Ushers	Brad & Cheryl Tennant
Altar Guild	Sunny Hollenbach
Food Pantry	Sunny Hollenbach, Robin Patrick, Sandy Lindstrom 1/29

# January 2025

Sun    Mon    Tue    Wed    Thu    Fri    Sat

			<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Office &amp; Food Pantry Closed</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>
<p><b>5</b></p> <p>9:30 Worship Installation of Church Council 10:45 Children's Choir</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>7:00 pm Church Council In person</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>10:30 Food Pantry 11:00 Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>Office Work Remotely</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>10:00 am Food Pantry</p>
<p><b>12</b></p> <p>9:30 Worship 10:45 Children's Choir</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>10:30 Food Pantry 11:00 Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>Office Work Remotely 1-6 pm Blood Drive</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p><b>18</b></p>
<p><b>19</b></p> <p>9:30 Worship 10:45 Children's Choir</p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>10:30 Food Pantry 11:00 Men's Bible Study 12:30 pm Food Pan- try Staff Lunch 7:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Office Work Remotely</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>10:00 am Food Pantry  TKH Reserved from 12pm— 5pm</p>
<p><b>26</b></p> <p>9:30 Worship 10:45 Children's Choir</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>Office Work Remotely</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>Office Closed</p>	

## Chrismon Tree 2024



- 1 Joyce Walsh
- 5 Rosie Solhaug
- 7 Linda Radix
- 9 Lesli White
- 10 Gregg Flick
- 14 Dorothy Williams
- 21 Gwyne Van Slyke
- 22 Mary Addison
- 24 Will Tennant
- 26 Riley Fulmer
- 28 Michaela Wilson-Leavell

### ANNIVERSARY

- 1 Geri & Jim Smiejan
- 2 Jean & Ray Ingold
- 31 Cynthia & Jon Shochet



**Michael & Sylvia Solhaug**  
1 Colley Ave Apt 1407  
Norfolk VA 23501-1057

Thank you to all who helped decorate our Nave for the Christmas season. The Chrismon Tree received a makeover with seven new strand of lights and a star topper.

Additional little trees were added to the Narthex and the Nave.

Thank you to all the musicians for their hours of practice and dedication to provide us with a mini concert prior to the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

## Good Shepherd Sisters

This group of ladies working diligently to fill the Christmas Stockings for the children at Samaritan House. Also delivered were sheet sets, towels and washcloths.



## Advent 2 -The Lake Family Lighting



## Advent 3 –Josephine Farley Lighting



## Angel Tree Gifts



Twenty children at Seatack Elementary School woke up Christmas morning to find gifts under their tree because of your generosity. Sibling gifts were also provided.

## Advent 4 -The Patrick Family Lighting



I remember years ago when someone mentioned that most people in this world live on less than two dollars a day. It is difficult for us to even imagine that reality. Then through working with the Church I have been blessed to meet many missionaries like Brian Palmer who serves the people of Liberia. My congregation hosted him some years ago and I had some time to spend with him personally, talking about his work and the challenges that our lives had brought. We bonded over the fact that both our wives had left because of the challenges of ministry. And Brian, who was terribly thin, chose to live like the people he served.

People were amazed when he wired his house with 12-volt dc current so he could work and use a computer. This is his way of keeping in touch with the outside world. They were also amazed that he could cure people with malaria and other maladies with pills. They saw him as someone with special powers because of this. And each day he pays his neighbor to cook for him. This lady cooks for her family every day for their one meal I am told and she did this at ten in the morning. Brian would pay her more than the standard pay as a way to help them, and she would provide one bowl of rice. He would eat half in the morning and the other half in the evening. A bowl of rice is the most that people would hope for in that place. So, my friend Brian lives on twenty-five cents a day. We had to be careful when he visited us as the congregation naturally wanted to feed him abundantly. After all, that is the way of hospitality. But for Brian, he had to be careful because his body was not accustomed to consuming so much food and it could make him sick.

This congregation has shown me that they remember others through their giving, especially in this season of giving. I think of the pigs that were provided and how many families around this world will be blessed by your giving.

Years ago, there was a Christmas tradition in my life. Every year the movie White Christmas would come on one of the three networks. It was a favorite of my granddaddy Westmoreland. I would sit at his feet as a toddler and watch it with him. We did it so many times before he left this world in 1973. And there is never a time that I watch it that I cannot feel his presence. Even as I write this, tears come to my eyes.

In that movie, Bing Crosby sings, "When I'm worried and I can't sleep. I count my blessings instead of sheep. And I fall asleep counting my blessings. When my bankroll is getting small, I think to when I had none at all and I fall to sleep counting my blessings." I invite you to enter this year, taking the advice of Irving Berlin, to count your blessings.

Several years ago, I had a visitor teaching our congregation about healthy boundaries in our lives. They had participated and paid attention during the two hours there and you could tell they were ready to wrap the session up. But the presenter did a most interesting thing. She said that they would not be ending the session until something happened. She asked them to say fifty things that they were thankful for about their church. People began to respond with the ways the church had been a blessing to them. And yes, they did come up with more than fifty things.

It's a good exercise to help us focus on the blessings of God. It's a good way to focus on the good things in our lives. I invite you to think of your blessings both at Good Shepherd and in your lives. What a wonderful positive way to enter another year of our Lord!

Shalom,

Pastor Faron

**Please join us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/GoodShepherdLutheranChurchVB>.** Find live streamed services, bulletins, and other news about events.



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*Lutheran Church [ELCA]*  
*1489 Laskin Road*  
*Virginia Beach, VA*  
*23451-6047*

**Address Service Requested**

