



Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

January 2026



We enter another calendar year while still celebrating the coming of our Lord. And as a pastor, I ponder what this year will bring. For I have become all too aware of unforeseen circumstances and situations as I walk alongside the people of God. But there are things that are coming that I know with all certainty, and that is the blessings in the days to come.

Just as Spring and new life awaits around the corner for us now. We know that new days and new opportunities to enjoy the life that God has given awaits us. I anticipate those reasons for joy along with the many conversations that await with those that we know and others that we have yet to meet.

I pray in the coming year that God walks with us in a way that is undeniable to ourselves and to others, that they will see the existence of God by

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Pastor's Bible Study



Pastor Faron's Wednesday evening bible study will begin the study of the **Letters of Paul** in the order they were written. Everyone is invited to join us at 7 pm in the conference room every Wednesday, beginning January 7, 2026.

We are Christ's hands and voice in the world

THE SHEPHERD'S HORN



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**GOOD SHEPHERD
Lutheran Church**
[ELCA]

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Friday — Closed

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

evidence of our lives and ministry here at Good Shepherd. And that God will give us the courage needed to invite others to come and see, to come and hear the good news of Jesus Christ. May God bless all those he loves in this coming year.

Blessings
Pastor Faron



Sacrament of Holy Baptism

We welcomed into the Christian faith and the family of Good Shepherd, *Hattie Rae Welch*, daughter of Kevin & Heather Welch. Grandparents are Chris & Karen Welch. Her sponsors are her aunt & uncle, Kelsey & Nicholas Everson.



Congratulations to our newly elected council members:

Jacqueline Rosendahl, Chris Welch, Lesli White

The officers for 2026 are:

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

The installation of Church Council is January 4th.

Serving In January

January 4

Assisting Minister	Skip Banner
Communion Assistant	Sunny Hollenbach
Reader	Chris Welch
Ushers	Sunny Hollenbach, Buddy Anderson
Altar Guild	
Coffee Hosts	Parish Life Ministry—January birthdays
Food Pantry	Denise Haag, Marilyn Berge 1/7

January 11

Assisting Minister	Steve Jackson
Communion Assistant	Chris Welch
Reader	
Usher	
Altar Guild	
Coffee Hosts	
Food Pantry	Gwyne Van Slyke, Denise Haag, Marilyn Berge 1/14

January 18

Assisting Minister	Jacqueline Rosendahl
Communion Assistant	Sunny Hollenbach
Reader	
Usher	Mark Rosendahl, Buddy Anderson
Altar Guild	
Coffee Hosts	
Food Pantry	Robin Patrick, Sandy Lindstrom, Sunny Hollenbach 1/21

January 24

Food Pantry	MaryAnn & Norm Beard
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January 25

Assisting Minister	Bobbi Skinner-White
Communion Assistant	
Reader	
Usher	Sunny Hollenbach
Altar Guild	
Food Pantry	Denise Haag, Robin Patrick, Marilyn Berge 1/28

January 2025

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1 Office & Food Pantry Closed	1 Office Closed	2 Office Closed	3
4 9:30 Worship Bishop Milton Preaching Installation of Church Council 10:45 Children's	5 Food Rescue Target Harris Teeter	6 7:00 pm Church Council In person	7 Food Rescue Food Lion 11:00 Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study	8 Office Work Remotely	9 Office Closed	10 No Food Pantry 11 am Funeral of Cynthia Olson with reception to follow
11 9:30 Worship 10:45 Children's Choir	12 Food Rescue Target Harris Teeter	13	14 Food Rescue Food Lion 10:30 Food Pantry 11:00 Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study	15 Office Work Remotely Annual Reports Due	16 Office Closed	17
18 9:30 Worship 10:45 Children's Choir	19 Food Food Rescue Target Harris Teeter	20	21 Food Rescue Food Lion 10:30 Food Pantry 11:00 Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study	22 Office Work Remotely	23 Office Closed	24 10:00 am Food Pantry
25 9:30 Worship 10:45 Children's Choir	26 Food Rescue Target Harris Teeter	27	28 Food Rescue Food Lion 10:30 Food Pantry 11:00 Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study	29 Office Work Remotely	30 Office Closed	31



January
birthdays & anniversaries

- 1 Joyce Walsh
- 5 Rosie Solhaug
- 7 Linda Radix
- 9 Lesli White
- 14 Dorothy Williams
- 21 Gwyne Van Slyke
- 24 Will Tennant
- 26 Riley Fulmer

Thanksgiving Community Meal 2025

The return of the community meal after a six year break was a big success thanks to everyone who helped with donations of food, time, and talent. We served over 52 hungry people and were blessed with their gratitude. We were definitely Christ's hands and heart to those that were served! We were even featured on ABC local news along with another church in Portsmouth. As the word gets out, we should see more attending next year.



The Sisters of GSLC would like to thank everyone who helped fill 82 Christmas stockings for the children in Samaritan House battered women's shelter. We also supplied much needed sheets, towels, and pillows. You helped those children feel Christ's love and a sense of community this season. We are truly thankful for your generous service and support.

Ruth Crews

The Angel Tree



Twenty children from Seatack Elementary School will wake up Christmas morning with gifts under the tree. Thank you to all who took a child's name and purchased gifts. Your generosity and compassion for others never ceases to amaze me,

Thank you to Jackie Rosendahl who helped transport the gifts to the school and take me home.

Robin Patrick

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

Advent 1 –Jerlin/White Families



Advent 2 -The Chandler Family



Advent 3 –Liam Archibald & Lesli White



Advent 4 –The Riley Family



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.

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.



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Address Service Requested

LIKE. COMMENT. SHARE.

Want to see more from Good Shepherd and stay up to date? The key is engagement! The more you interact with a page or friend, the more likely their posts will appear in your feed. <https://www.facebook.com/GoodShepherdLutheranChurchVB/>

Here's how you can make sure you stay connected:

- LIKE – Simply hitting the “Like” button on posts, images, and videos helps Facebook recognize that you want to see more content from Good Shepherd. This small action increases the chances that future posts will show up in your feed. And others will be able to see it in their feeds.
- COMMENT – Take a moment to leave a positive, encouraging, or engaging comment. A simple “Great message today!” or “Join us next week!”. Not only helps build a sense of community but also boosts visibility, allowing more people to see the post.
- SHARE – Click “Share” to spread the word! Add a personal message to invite others to engage, such as:
 - "Looking for a new church? Come sit with us!"*
 - "This was such an inspiring service—join us next week!"*

Sharing posts helps extend the reach beyond just your immediate friends, allowing more people—including those who may be searching for a church home—to discover Good Shepherd.

Why Does This Matter?

By consistently interacting with Good Shepherd's posts, you're not just staying informed—you're also helping to spread the word about our church's ministries, events, fundraisers, and special announcements. Your engagement makes a real difference, reaching not just your friends but their friends as well. You never know who might be searching for a faith community just like ours!

Make It a Habit!

Donna White and crew are doing an amazing job posting highlight pictures during services, upcoming events, photos of activities, and updates on the Good Shepherd Facebook Page. Plus, our live streams are getting more & more views. But we can reach and engage more. So many more. As part of your daily scrolling routine, take a moment to visit Good Shepherd's Facebook page. Like, comment, and share posts to help us connect with more people in need of a church family. Your comments might be seen by someone looking for a church home. Showing the amazing events and programs we offer at Good Shepherd, it could be the one thing that helps guide people to fill the pews.