

Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church
521 Cypress Street
Manistee, MI 49660
231.723.7161
gslc49660@gmail.com



Dear pastors, congregations, partners in ministry, sisters and brothers in Christ,

I am writing this Christmas letter to say thanks for your good and faithful work, for your partnership in the ministry of the Gospel, and in hopes that it might serve as an encouragement to you in your witness to the saving message of Jesus during this Christmas season and into the new year.

This past year has been like no other in our shared history. The year 2020 will be remembered for many reasons. A worldwide pandemic, the ups and downs of the stock markets, the loss of jobs, the closure of businesses and schools, the death of loved ones, racial tension, political divide, masks and social distancing and lockdowns like we have never seen before.

Add to those culture challenges the ones faced in the Church and it is no different. Pastors have been struggling to serve their people, even as they have been limited in how they are able to be with their people. Churches have had to close; some of them for many months. Even as things begin to reopen, it is never fully clear how and when and in what ways we should begin to move forward.

We were all surprised by the advent of the coronavirus. We have all been working to adjust to the changes that have become ever so real in our world. This past year is one, in many ways, that we lament. We pray that the coming year will be one in which some of these past and present difficulties will be truly in our past.

At the same time, we need to remember that our surprise was not God's. The things that were difficult for us were not hard to navigate for Him. God is sovereign. He is in control. And even though we cannot see the future and the way out, we trust in the One who knows all and who is all.

The promise of the Christmas message to those shepherds in the fields is as needed and relevant today as it was back then. “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11 NIV84). Those two little words “to you” are at the heart of the Christmas message. Those two little words “to you” are at the heart of what’s in the heart of God. God loved this world so much that He was willing to send His Son. God loves you so much that He was willing to offer Him on the cross as a sacrifice for your sin.

You and I are privileged to be among the ones called and chosen by God to carry and proclaim that Good News to the world. In spite of the pandemic, independent of the social and cultural challenges we find and face in the world, we trust and believe and follow the One who has redeemed it all in Jesus.

As I reflect on the events of this past year, in particular within the NALC, I cannot help but give thanks to the God who has been with us from the start. We are now more than 10 years into our life together as a church body. We have missionaries and ministries in more than 10 countries around the world. We have a vision for our future. We have a new and renewed focus and energy for our work. We have the guidance of God’s Holy Spirit. We have the gift of forgiveness and life eternal in God’s only Son. And we have the promise of Emmanuel, “God with us” in all things.

I look forward to the year ahead and to the events of this past year being in our past. At the same time, I do not want you and I to wish our lives away. For now, we find ourselves in a challenging chapter in our world’s story. We cannot see, nor predict, what the chapters ahead might bring. We do, however, know how the story ends and where and in whom we find hope. His name is Jesus. He was born into our world more than 2000 years ago. And He is still with us, through His Holy Spirit, to lead us and to guide us into a future that belongs to Him.

Thank you for your faithful witness and work. Thank you for the partnership we share in Christ. Thank you for persevering in what has been a challenging year. I look forward to the year ahead and to continuing the work and the witness we share.

We are a privileged people. We carry a message our world needs to hear. Let us be bold in our witness and confident in the words we speak.

It continues to be a joy and an honor to serve as your bishop. Know that my prayers are with each of you. Have a blessed Christmas!

In Christ,
Bishop Dan

AROUND THE PARISH

Note: all dates on the Good Shepherd calendar, in the newsletter, and in the announcements are subject to change. If you have any questions about the calendar or scheduling, feel free to call or email the office for the most recent information. Thank you for understanding!

OFFICE HOURS: The Parish office is open from **9 AM - 3 PM, Monday through Thursday**. The office is **closed on Friday**. Although the entrance to the Church is locked, you are always welcome to call the office at 231-723-7161 during office hours or email us at gslc49660@gmail.com for assistance.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY: In the event of inclement weather, the Church office closes when the Manistee Area Public Schools close.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Good Shepherd will be gradually phasing out the use of a P.O. box over the next few months. Please send all mail to the Church at **521 Cypress Street** where mail will be delivered to a secure mailbox.

SERVICES: We are pleased to announce that Reverend Jody Bambas will be officiating both recorded and in-person services at Good Shepherd through the month of **January**. However, as much as we'd like to continue two in-person services every weekend, it has simply become too complicated and impractical to do so and to do it safely. So, **JUST FOR THE TIME BEING**, Good Shepherd invites you to join us at in-person **10:30 AM Sunday morning services beginning Sunday, January 3**. We expect to resume Saturday services after regrouping and replotting a bit. Masks and social distancing are required and there will be no group singing.

COMMUNION: Contactless communion will continue to be available on **Saturdays between 11 AM and noon**. Beginning in **January**, Pastor Jody will share this blessing with the Good Shepherd Eucharistic Ministers who will alternate with her to provide you with the Blessed Sacrament.

OFFERING ENVELOPES: You can pick up your 2021 offering envelopes on Sundays. If you'd like to pick them up on another day or would like them delivered to you, please call the office.

E GIVING: Electronic giving is available on the Good Shepherd website, <https://www.gslcman.org/>. Click on the "Support God's Work at Good Shepherd" box and follow the instructions. You are also welcome to mail your offerings to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 521 Cypress Street, Manistee, MI 49660.

NOTICE TO ALL COMMITTEES, GROUPS, & CONGREGATION MEMBERS: The Church building is now open to small groups of ten or less congregation members. Please sanitize your hands when you come in. Masks are required as is social distancing. There is also a sign in sheet at the entrance where you should sign in and state the room(s) you are using. All congregation members are asked to sanitize the areas they've used. Also, Good Shepherd now has its own Zoom account if you would like to set up a virtual meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING: The annual meeting of the congregation is scheduled for **Sunday, January 31** after service.

PARISH PRAYER CONCERNS

Manistee County Medical Care 1505 Parkdale Avenue
Leona Amerell

Green Acres Retirement Community 1835 12th Street
Audrey Ann Amburgey, Lois Rosenow, Bob Tobey, Al Kukla

The Solberg Family Home 2028 Kemmer Road
Martha Brown

Prayers for those in the military
Alana Bergstrom, James Dutkavich, Thomas Dutkavich III, Spencer Linke and all those who are serving or have served.

Prayers for Parish members, family, & friends

Allan & Louise

Austin

Olive Baker

Jack Bauman

Kelly Bjorkquist

Bob

Keith Brown

Jackie Burmeister

Aiden Chambers

Cora Brinkley Cook

Dave

Diana Dutkavich

Tom Dutkavich

Tom Dutkavich, Jr.

Marc Edmondson

AJ Epperson

Jane Fortier

Jim Friesner, Sr.

Pat Garber

Terry Guthridge

Marion Hilliard

Lea Illig

Eric Johnson

Rick Kaminski

Carol Krull

Betty Lytle

Jon Madsen

Debra McCann-Thomas

Pat McGinnis

Anthony Metiva

Phyllis Miller

Pat Murdock

Nicole

Norm Olson

Terry & Rose Pierson

Jane Reeves

Vickee Sawhill

Benjamin Schultz

Dale & Laura Shoemaker

Karen Skiera

Randy Skiera

Bill Smith

Dale Sparks

Laura Stefanski

Mark Steigenga

Steven

Melissa Taylor

Robert (RT) Williams

The family of Shirley Blakeslee

The family of Pastor Jim Friesner

The family of Joan Jensen

The family of Robert Johnson

The family of Ed Knaffle

The family of Tammy Metiva

The family of Donna O'Rorke





Rest in Peace

*"We have once again been reminded that
we have not here an abiding city."*

The Reverend Dr. James L. Friesner, Jr.

Passed away on December 15, 2020. A memorial service was held on December 22, 2020 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Memorials can be directed to the Manistee Senior Center.

Robert Johnson

Passed away on December 21, 2020.
A private family service was held on December 28, 2020.

Tammy Metiva

Passed away on December 27, 2020.
A memorial service will be determined for a future date.

*"May God grant peace to their memory, comfort to their families, and
grace to us all as we seek to live our lives to God's glory."*

*In December, memorials were given to
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
in the name of*

Pastor Jim Friesner

PARISH BIRTHDAYS & ANNI-

January Birthdays

1 Norma Friesner

2 Judy Pefley

2 Ed Peterson

9 Paul James Illig, Jr.

12 Shane Linke

12 Candice Shields

14 Dawn Brown

15 Susan Brown

16 Fred LaPoint

18 Keith Illig



20 Ayden Bladzick-Garber

21 Meredith Dalke

24 Judie Shively

26 Cathy Fickes

27 Britny Lange

27 Al Vasquez

31 Paul Illig

January Anniversaries

1 Tom & Marilyn Dugall

18 Dale & Laura Shoemaker



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Minutes of Tuesday, November 24, 2020 Council Meeting

Approved 12/22/20

Meeting called to order by Jackie Harms at 6:34 PM.

Present at the Church: Dennis Mikula, Carl Loftis, Debbie Hansen, Jackie Harms

Present on Zoom: Linda Young, Beth Schlinkert, Sharon Hayden, Missy Amor, Paul Bosschem, Pastor Jim Friesner

Absent: Walt Seidelman, Ruth Skiera

Prayer by Pastor Jim Friesner

Missy would like to add "Church Closure" to the agenda under New Business. Sharon Hayden would like to add subjects the Finance

Committee wants the Council to think about. Carl Loftis would like to add the donation of a boat to Old Business. Motion by Debbie Hansen to approve the agenda with additions. Second by Carl Loftis. Agenda approved.

Motion by Sharon Hayden to approve the proposed minutes of October 27, 2020 meeting. Second by Denis Mikula. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report: the November Finance Committee meeting was cancelled. The 2021 budget will be presented at the December Council meeting. Kirk Hayden would like the Council to think about benevolences and payroll. Five Council members agreed they would like to see the budget items stay the same during the current uncertain times. Motion by Missy Amore to accept the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Deb Hansen.

Carl Loftis motioned to pay the bills. Second by Missy Amor.

Dr. Knauff's Final Activity Report: Thank you, Dr. Knauff.

Old Business:

Beth Schlinkert and Carl Loftis need their photos taken. This will be done when Mark Steigenga, photographer, feels comfortable.

Mailbox/drop box has been ordered.

Covenant between dart ball league & Good Shepherd: Kirk Hayden states that dart ball games aren't likely to happen due to the ongoing pandemic.

The sale proceeds of a boat will be donated to Good Shepherd. The sale will take place in the spring.

New Business:

John Anderson sent a letter of resignation from the Council due to difficulties attending virtual meetings and attending in person gatherings in the Church. Motion by Missy Amor to accept John's resignation. Second by Beth Schlinkert. The Council regrettably accepted his resignation and formally thanks him for his service.

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 31, 2021, the last Sunday in January. Decisions about when and how to hold the Annual Meeting will be made as we approach that date. The budget, tuition assistance, and information on the endowment will be on the agenda for the Annual Meeting.

Currently, the end-of-the-year reports & information for the Annual

Report are due on Monday, January 4, 2021.

Church Closure: It was stated that when schools are closed because of inclement weather, Good Shepherd is closed. Service cancellations on Saturdays and Sundays are typically called the Pastor and Council president. Pastor Jim Friesner would like Council to have involvement in the decision to close or open services during the pandemic. It was also stated that while the Church is closed due to the pandemic, the Church is closed to outside groups. Committee meetings and gatherings of 10 congregation members or less are allowed. Masks are required, social distancing is required, and all are required to sanitize the area they used. There will also be a sign-in sheet on a clipboard at the entrance table to aid in contact tracing. Congregation members should sign the sheet when entering the Church. This information will be put in the newsletter. Liaisons are to inform committees. Susan will look in to sharing Good Shepherd's Zoom information with those congregation members that want to hold virtual meetings. Missy Amor will speak with Scott Brown about changing the information on the electronic sign.

Correspondence/Communication: Letter from Lighthouse Pregnancy Care Center.

Committee/Ministry Reports:

Property Committee: The boiler received its 3-year inspection by the State of Michigan. All was well except a CSD-1 test needed to be performed before the certificate from the State of Michigan could be issued. Custom Sheet Metal was called and subsequently performed the test. The State of Michigan will send us a letter, we'll reply with the test results, and a certificate will be issued thereafter.

Public Comment: The Council was informed that, with their approval, there would be a Christmas mailing by a collaboration of the Altar Guild, Social Ministry Committee, and the Outreach Committee. There will be no poinsettias this year. Information on the Christmas service(s) will be available later.

Action Items from this meeting:

Susan to include information of groups of 10 or less meeting in the Church in the newsletter and announcements.

Susan to put a sign-up sheet at the entrance of the Church for purposes of sanitizing and contact tracing.

Council liaisons are to inform committees of their ability to meet at the Church.

Missy Amor to contact Scott Brown bout changing the information on the electronic sign.

Susan to get the boilers certified by the State of Michigan.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 with Our Lord's Prayer.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Monday, December 7, 2020
Minutes of Special Zoom Council Meeting
Approved 12/22/20

Meeting called to order at 7:04 by Jackie Harms

Virtually Present: Jackie Harms, Walt Seidelman, Beth Schlinkert, Deb Hansen, Carl Loftis, Paul Bosschem, Missy Amor, Dennis Mikula,

Sharon Hayden, Linda Young, Pastor James Friesner

Virtually Present Guests: Mark Steigenga, Kasey Briske, Rev. Jody Bambas

Certification of a quorum

Spiritual Reflection/Prayer by Pastor Jim Friesner

Motion by Jackie Harms to approve agenda. Second by Sharon Hayden.

Approval of Proposed Minutes: None

Old Business:

Jackie Harms asked for a motion to either resume in-person services or continue the suspension of in-person services at Good Shepherd. Linda Young motioned to continue the suspension of services. There was a second by Dennis Mikula. Each Council member was offered an opportunity to comment on the motion. Comments were then taken from the public. A vote on the motion then ensued with a count of ten against and one for the motion. Motion failed. Suspension of in-person services will not continue. In-person services will resume on Saturday, December 12, 2020.

New Business:

Motion by Pastor Jim Friesner schedule one service on Christmas Eve at 8 PM. Council members were offered he opportunity to comment on the motion as was the public. The vote was unanimous to conduct one service on Christmas Eve at 8 PM.

Committee/Ministry Reports: None

Public Comment: Mark Steigenga asked if there will be in-person services on the weekend after Christmas. It was agreed that in-person services will take

place on that weekend. The question as to who will make the decision to remain open or close after a notification by the health department of a possible exposure at the

Church was raised. It was determined that the president of the Council will be notified & the Executive Board will make that decision.

Action Items from this meeting

Susan to email congregation and inform them of the resumption of in-person services on Saturday, December 12.

Susan to inform Clarence Schultz, who will be sanitizing the Church after in-person services.

Walt Seidelman motioned to adjourn at 8:05. Second by Beth Schlinkert. Our Lord's Prayer was led by Pastor Jim Freisner.

THANK YOU NOTES

Thanks to Oak Grove Funeral Home of Manistee and Herbert Funeral Home for supplying our congregation with 2021 calendars.

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Thanks to Habitat for Humanity's Vanessa Buhs and Crystal Buck for cleaning the Fellowship kitchen in December.

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Thanks to Ed Mallison for donating the beautiful white nativity set he made with his own hands to Good Shepherd.

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Thanks to all of you who gifted me with cookies, candies, cards, salmon, flowers and other gifts during the holiday season. The gifts are wonderful but it is your generosity and thoughtfulness that touches me most - *Susan*

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Many thanks to everyone below who contributed to this year's Christmas Cheer program. Because of your generosity many people had a merrier Christmas.

Terry & Debbie Anderson

Mary Gossett

Nancy Holstadt

Sandy Kuenzli

Karen Larson

Carl Loftis

Elaine McWatt

Donna Meduna

Sandy & Denny Mikula

Elaine Ritola

Char Roossien

Jean Schwerin

Judie Shively

Bob & Ruth Skiera

Chris & Cindy Sobaski

Sheila Wittmer

Linda Young

In memory of Dorothy & Martin

Fredericksen and

June Fredericksen Elms from their family.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church



Real God, Real Presence, Real People

Our Mission:

To be followers of Jesus Christ by sharing God's grace and forgiveness through our loving witness and service to all.

Our Vision:

To be a congregation where God's grace and forgiveness are experienced, where all gather in love to serve the Lord, and where all witness to their faith in Jesus Christ.

Sunday Morning Service

at

10:30 AM