

# THE SHEPHERD GAZETTE - February, 2024

## VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE (Thank You!)

### Liturgists

Feb. 04 Dianne Mota  
11 Dee Hughes  
14 T.B.A. (Ash Wed.)  
18 Betty Bartlett  
25 Doug Obermeier

### Acolytes

Feb. 04 Liana Rikli  
11 Stef Warrick  
18 Alayna Bailey  
25 Levi Rikli

### Ushers

Feb. 04 Lyle Bender  
Brad Rikli  
Asst.  
11 Gary Heusel  
Myles Dymacek  
Carson Mousel  
Shawn Mousel  
14 T.B.A. (Ash Wed.)  
18 Wayne Worm  
Paul Bartlett  
Betty Bartlett  
25 Frank Schmal  
Eli Schmal  
Heidi Schmal  
Kim Moeller

### Children's Message

Feb. 04 Joni Calkins  
11 Gary Heusel  
18 Rhonda Obermeier  
25 Joani Szudlo

### Greeters

Feb. 04 Myles & Rose  
Dymacek  
11 Gary & Janet Latimer  
14 T.B.A. (Ash Wed.)  
18 Dianne Mota & Asst.  
25 Gary & Alyce Ray  
Willey

### Counting Offering

Feb. 04 Rose Dymacek & Gary Heusel  
11 Dawn Bonness & Janet Latimer  
18 Kitty Fynbu & Sheryl Hudgins  
25 Lyle Bender & Ed Schnabel

### Deacon on Call

Jan.21-Feb. 3 Shannon  
Dickenson  
Feb. 4-17 Gary Heusel  
Feb.18-Mar. 2 Paul Bartlett

*Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church:*  
*A welcoming, Christ-centered, community.*



## **GREETINGS FROM PASTOR JEFF**

**Isaiah 43:19** "*Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?*"

Greetings,

If you are reading this, thank you, you are one of the few who read Gazette articles! We, in the office, have known for some time that the Gazette is not read, at least in its entirety, by many. Some time

ago I planted a secret message in my article asking those who read it to let me know by email or phone, so I could see how many read my articles. I received fewer than ten responses! That and other evidence has pointed to the Gazette as an overall ineffective means of communication. Some have shared that they have good intentions to read it but just don't get to it. That is not to say that some have read it and enjoyed it regularly.

However, finding an effective way to share information and use our time wisely as good stewards of God's gift of time is important. So, we are going to try something new. Perhaps, if we send out information in bite-size chunks, instead of all at once, more people will read the news.

So, here is what we will try and see how it works. We ask for your patience and prayers! This will begin following this last regular Gazette. **(For the homebound and those who have requested mailed Gazettes, Carole will print out the information that has been emailed out for the month including the latest bulletin and send it out in paper form.)**

**1<sup>st</sup> Full Week of the Month** – "*The Good Shepherd's Staff*" will come out by email (and be available on the website). The Pastor and Youth Director's Articles, plus any other staff reports will come out by email. Articles will be placed on the website under publications so a link can be posted on Facebook as well.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Week of the Month** – "*The Good Shepherd's Plans*" – Part 1" Ministry Team Announcements plus any general announcements or thank you's will be sent out, any that have been submitted to Carole.

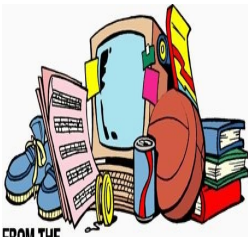
**3<sup>rd</sup> Week of the Month** – "*The Good Shepherd's Plans*" – Part 2" Ministry Team Announcements plus any general announcements or thank you's will be sent out, again, whatever has been submitted.

**4<sup>th</sup> Week of the Month** – "*The Shepherd's Charts.*" The volunteer schedule, Birthdays for the upcoming month and a 1 month "look ahead" calendar.

Please note that prayer requests already go out as we receive them on the email prayer chain and/or are available in the bulletin. Also note that the calendar is updated on the website, updated in the bulletin, and sent out weekly as a Gazette Extra.

Beloved members and friends of Good Shepherd, as we embark on this new method of disseminating news within our church, let us be reminded of what the Apostle Paul said, *"I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some."* Paul was a master at adapting to changing circumstances and attitudes, all to help spread the Gospel. And our God does new things, **Isaiah 43:19** *"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"* In the spirit of this divine guidance, I encourage each of you to approach this change with an open heart and a spirit of unity. Just as the early church in the Acts of the Apostles, embraced innovation and the Holy Spirit's guidance to spread the Good News, let us too, work to share the news, love and ministries of Christ in new and impactful ways. This fresh approach to communication is not just a change in method, but a reaffirmation of our commitment to adapt and grow together in faith, ensuring that the light of our church shines brightly in this demanding world, where time is at a premium





FROM THE  
**YOUTH DIRECTOR**

## YOUTH NEWS

With Dee Hughes, Student Ministries Director

**Sunday, February 4** – 11:30 - 2:30 Snowman Golf returns along with a **LOVE** themed event for our Wave youth. After all, God is love and it is February, the month of Valentines and love. Following worship, we will set up the snowman golf course and then Westminster Presbyterian youth will join us at noon for lunch and fun. Each youth will be asked to bring a small love/Jesus/Christian/Valentines themed wrapped gift (\$5 - \$10) for a gift exchange. If you would like, you may purchase a gift card for this exchange.



**Sunday, February 11** – **Souper Bowl of Caring Skit and Donation Collection**, and the Super Bowl Party. We will have soup pots with the logos of the two teams competing in The Big Game. The collection of donations will begin before

worship and conclude following worship. Please plan to take turns holding a soup pot to collect money. Our amazing youth will put on the Souper Bowl of Caring Skit ("The Return of Souper Can") during worship. Let's raise money to help Tackle Hunger right here in Lincoln. All our donations will be given to Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach.



The **Super Bowl** party will take place starting at 5:00 PM. We'll pick up some Papa Murphy's pizzas ahead of time and bake them at church. We'll show the game on the big screen. Plan to bring snacks to share and any preferred beverages for you and your family. You are also welcome to bring games to play and friends. Please RSVP to the church or Dee.

**Sunday, February 18** – Westminster has extended an invite to Good Shepherd Wave youth to a **Murder Mystery** Party. Lunch will be included. More details to come. Please let me know if you are interested in participating in this mysterious event.

**Sunday, February 25** – We will have **Ripple Sunday School** on the fourth Sunday of February instead of the third. We will meet from 9:00 – 10:00.



**PLEASE NOTE:** Please turn in the following 2023 annual reports from Session Chairs, Deacons & Financial, Foundation & Financial, Youth Ministry Director, Presbyterian Women & Financial via email to the church office no later than February 17th.

The Annual Congregational Meeting to accept the reports is scheduled Sunday, February 25th following the worship service.

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### **COMING UP - THE SEASON OF LENT**

Lent holds a central place in the worship of many Christians. After the joyful celebrations of Christmas and Epiphany, it is vital for Christians to set aside time to repent, meditate, and reflect on the fact that Jesus' life was a buildup to the ultimate sacrifice of Himself on the Cross for our sakes. Please mark your calendars now and join us for the

**Ash Wednesday Worship Service, February 14, 6:45 - 7:30 p.m.**



\* \* \* \* \*



### **INTERESTED, PERHAPS, IN MEMBERSHIP AT GOOD SHEPHERD?**

Pastor Jeff is scheduling a new members' orientation to meet before worship services from 9:10-10:10 a.m. (dates to be determined). During these sessions, we will cover some history of Good

Shepherd as well as what we are up to for the Lord right now (including our vision and mission statement). There will be opportunities to hear from the chairs of our various ministry teams. This is an excellent chance to get a lot of information in a relatively short time about the church so you can make an informed decision about membership. Already a member and just want to sit in? Go ahead and sign up! - Sign-up located on the table at back of church sanctuary.



## - FROM THE RUTH BLECHA LIBRARY -

Clara Ruth Ransom donated three large print books.  
Gary & Karen Heusel donated ten books. Thank you all for the library book donations.

Additions to the Children's Library follow: The Homemade Cake Contest, Over the Moon,

### One Big Heart.

There are numerous DVDs available for check out in the Parlor and Children's Libraries.

There are a variety of magazines available for quick winter reading including the following:

- |                       |                                 |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| • <i>Nebraskaland</i> | <i>Nebraska Life</i>            |
| • <i>Horizons</i>     | <i>Reminisce</i>                |
| • <i>Decision</i>     | <i>Golf</i>                     |
| • <i>Guideposts</i>   | <i>Better Homes and Gardens</i> |
| • <i>Threads</i>      |                                 |

**All magazines are donated. Magazines do not need to be returned.**

*"If minds are truly alive, they will seek out books, for books are the human race recounting its memorable experiences, confronting its problems, searching for solutions, drawing the blueprints of its futures."* – Harry A. Overstreet

\* \* \* \* \*

## Presbyterian Women News

### Future Events of Presbyterian Women:

**March 21st** – Circle meets at 1:00 p.m. in the Parlor. We will study Lessons 5 & 6 from our study book, "Sacred Encounters – The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke and Acts".

**August 8-11** – Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women - "Do Everything in Love" 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 16:14 – St. Louis, MO.

The bulletin board near the entry to the parlor contains updated information for Presbyterian Women.



\* \* \* \* \*



*The family of Don Calkins would like to honor him with a card shower in celebration of his 90th birthday, February 6. Birthday wishes may be sent to Don Calkins, 4947 S. 78th Street, Lincoln, NE 68516.*

*Thank you for your kindness in remembering Dad on his special day. Vonnice and Paul Wood and family,*

*Kenny and Kelly Calkins and family, Tim and Joni Calkins and family*



## - WORSHIP TEAM NEWS -

As we launch into 2024, are you looking for **new** ways to connect and serve with your GSPC community? Have we got the opportunity for you!

**Join a ministry team!**

Each of our GSPC teams are vibrant and important parts of our Christ-centered community. Every team is open to new members, unique ideas, and fresh energy. Whatever team fits with your interests or your skill set, you will be welcomed, and included in the ministry to glorify God.

**Building and Grounds, Christian Education, Congregational Outreach, Faith in Action, Personnel, Stewardship and Budget, Worship**

Reach out to the church office to find out more information on each of the teams and how to get involved.

## **Sunday morning worship wants you!**

**Ushers, greeters, liturgists, welcome center attendants, activity time leaders, and children's message presenters are needed. (Everyone serves approximately 6-8 times per year.)**

**"Many hands make light work"**



## **Do you have a green thumb?**

Live plants and flower arrangements not only provide fragrance and beauty to their surroundings, they also create a more comforting and inviting space. GSPC is the home of the LIVING Christ, not the plastic Christ!

## **GSPC is in need of a Botanical Facilitator!**

This person (or persons) would coordinate plant life for the interior of our church. For more information, or to place your "thumb" in the ring, please contact Carole in the church office, or Joni Calkins (jdcalkins66@gmail or 402-580-2826





**GOOD SHEPHERD  
PRESBYTERIAN**

2024 February Pantry Report



## Changing Lives, One Donation at a Time!

**Your Support Means the World to Them...**

Going into the New Year, many households in Lincoln continue to experience food insecurity issues. The continuing support from **Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church** helps *so much* to serve a large number of individuals. The **Eastridge Pantry** welcomes any additional support from the **Good Shepherd Congregation**, including additional help with volunteers who could spare some time on Wednesday or Sunday afternoons to help with food distribution - or on Thursday afternoons, to help with filling of boxes. There is a SignUp Genius account for volunteers; just **CLICK** on the Link(s) below: Distributions: <https://bit.ly/FPDistFood> Filling: <https://bit.ly/FPFillingBoxes>

Of course, what the Pantry needs most, is food! They can accept any shelf-stable food items but, their biggest needs remain pretty much the same -- food donations, including oil and flour, snacks, breakfast cereals, and cleaning products, and of course volunteer help, or cash. These are things they can *always* use.

**And, Don't Forget!** *You can always place a check in the offering plate, or mail it to:*

**GSPC**

c/o Food Pantry Donation  
8300 East Pointe Road  
Lincoln, NE 68506

Place Donations in the Pantry Box  
by the Elevator.

To the many volunteers who have helped out at the  
Eastridge Food Pantry - you **ARE** making a difference  
right here in Lincoln! **THANK YOU!!!**

\* \* \* \* \*

### Activity Time Restart



Following the Children's Message your 3-5 year old is invited to meet our Activity Time volunteer at the back of the sanctuary and head to the Preschool Sunday School classroom located in the NW corner of the church's lower level.

Activity Time is a safe fun, and spiritually enriching time for your little ones while you enjoy the worship service.

Please plan to pick up children from the preschool

classroom following the worship service.

Thank you to the Christian Education Team for getting this ministry started again. Contact Alicia Schuller with questions.



# FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



**05 SARAH WENSEL**

**06 BILL BAKER**

**DON CALKINS**

**12 LINDA BITNEY**

**13 DENISE KIRKLAND**

**14 JOHN MOUSEL**

**ISAAC MOUSEL**

**18 SERGIO RIKLI**

**19 SHANNON DICKENSON**

**20 TIM CALKINS**

**GERRY SZUDLO**

**25 RONA NEWBY**

**26 JANET HARTLY**

\* \* \* \* \*

## - FAITH IN ACTION NEWS -

**Hello Friends & Family of GSPC,**



As we continue to serve as a Church World Service Year Round Depot, donations are collected throughout the year for disaster kits from many different churches.

However, our 2024 personal goal for GSPC is to create 900 School Kits.

Each kit needs a fabric bag, so we are in great need of fabric donations or gift cards to help off set this ministry goal.

Here are some fabric suggestions:

1. Colorful Cotton fairly firm
2. Can use flannel
3. Animal or Children's prints are welcome

**No military, religious, or holiday themed or light weight, such as silk or polyester**

Will welcome money donations or gift cards, such as Joann's or Hobby Lobby or any fabric store or have people willing to shop for the fabric.

If you are interested in helping this ministry project, please contact Tammy Rikli or Betty Bartlett. Thank you!

# WHAT SHOULD I GIVE UP FOR LENT? MEAT? SWEETS? CHOCOLATE? ICE CREAM? BEVERAGES ?

(Author Unknown)

Many of us try to be more disciplined for Lent and give up something that we really like. That's great! Fasting has always been an important tradition of Lent. This year however, let us also consider other things that we can give up.

## **\*Give up complaining\* – Focus on gratitude**

**Philippians 2:14-15** – *“Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure...”*

**1 Thessalonians 5:18** – *“Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Jesus Christ.”*

## **\*Give up bitterness\* – Turn to forgiveness**

**Ephesians 4:31** – *“Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.”*

**Ephesians 4:32** – *“Be kind and compassionate to one another forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”*

## **\*Give up worry\* – Trust in God**

**Matthew 6:25** – *“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life... who by worrying can add a single hour to his life?”*

**Matthew 6:33** – *“But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”*

## **\*Give up discouragement\* – Be full of hope**

**Deuteronomy 31:8** – *“The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you: he will never leave you or forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”*

**Isaiah 40:31** – *“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”*

**\*Give up hatred\* – Return good for evil**

**1 John 2:9** – *“Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness.”*

**Luke 6:27** – *“But I tell you who hear me; Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you.”*

**\*Give up anger\* – Be more patient**

**Matthew 5:22** – *“But I tell you that **anyone** who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment.”*

**Proverbs 15:18** – *“A hot tempered man stirs up dissension, but a patient man calms a quarrel.”*

**\*Give up gossiping\* – “Control your tongue”**

**Psalms 34:13** – *“Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking lies.”*

**Proverbs 21:23** – *“He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from calamity.”*

\* \* \* \* \*

*A Prayer for Lenten Grace*

Loving God,

During the sacred season of Lent, bring me closer to you.  
Prepare a place in my home and heart for silence and solitude, so that I may re-discover the grace of a prayer-full life.

Enlarge my heart so that I give to those in need and, in so doing, re-discover the grace of gratitude and generosity.

Help me to fast from those things that threaten the well-being of body and soul, remind me of the grace and simplicity.

May this season be grace-filled time to rekindle my love for and faith in you.

*Amen.*



## **Did You Know? Good Shepherd Supports the Eastridge Food Pantry Year-round!**

In the spirit of love, compassion, and community outreach, we collect food and monetary donations for a noble cause. The

Eastridge Food Pantry has been a beacon of hope for many in our community, providing sustenance to those in need and ensuring people do not go to bed hungry.

In these challenging high inflation times, the demand at the Eastridge Food Pantry has grown, and they need non-perishable food items. Our church has for many years been a pillar of support and love for this ministry, in which we exemplify the teachings of Christ by lending help to those in need. GSPC folks regularly donate over 1,000 pounds of food, in some years exceeding 1,500 lbs. GSPC folks also give generously regularly exceeding \$1,000 in donations. GSPC had also lent a hand though volunteer hours.

**Why Non-Perishable Items?** Non-perishable food items have a longer shelf life, ensuring that the pantry can distribute them over time without the risk of spoilage. Such items can range from canned vegetables, grains, pasta, and rice to canned meats, soups, and more. Staples like flour and sugar can make a significant difference in the lives of families who rely on the food pantry.

**Making a Difference, One Can at a Time.** Every single donation, no matter how small, contributes to a larger purpose. By donating even a single can of food, you're playing a part in alleviating hunger in our community and showing God's love in a tangible way.

**Drop-Off Details:** We have a designated drop-off container in the upper level hallway, by the elevator for your convenience. Feel free to drop your donations whenever you come for the worship service or any other church activity.

Let's come together as a church family and make a significant impact. Let our generosity be a reflection of Christ's love and kindness. **Proverbs 19:17**, "Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed."

**Praises & Prayer Requests**  
**Deacon on Call (Feb. 4-17th - Gary Heusel;**  
**Feb. 18-Mar. 2nd - Paul Bartlett)**

**. . . . For those with cancer**

- \* **Bill & Beth Rainey** wish to thank the deacons for the dinners they have brought over, others for acts of kindness and everyone for your prayers. As Bill battles liver cancer he has also struggled with general weakness, tiredness, and a sore throat due to thrush. He has an upcoming procedure on the 29th. Please keep the prayers coming.

Please continue to lift up **Lori Jones** in comfort and healing as she deals with a cancer diagnosis. Thank you for your prayers

**. . . . For those with other health concerns**

- \* Please pray for **Don Calkins** who was in the hospital following an episode early Saturday. He is home and feeling well but we are awaiting further testing and the input of more doctors.

**....Tim & Joni Calkins and Family**

Thank you for all your prayers lifting **Logan** up. She got through her first test and the results showed she did not have any seizures. While we are so happy that she does not have those, the question still remains what might be happening. We are waiting for further guidance from the doctor. Thank you for your continued prayers. ....**The Schuller & Szudlo Families**

Thank you for the prayers for **Ron Hostetler, brother-in-law of Terry Hostetler and uncle of Heidi Schmal**, who is recovering at home.

Continued prayers for **Mike DeVries** as he deals with ALS progression. He uses a brace to support his neck when he drives and needs a ventilator at night while he sleeps. Thanks. ...**Sally Docter**





# FEBRUARY,

Sun	Mon	Tue
<b>Communion</b> 4 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship - Souper Bowl of Caring Donations 1:00 Communion to Homebound	5     6:30-8:30 Boy Scouts 7:00 Christian Ed. Team	6 12:00 Lunch Bunch Bible St.    7:00 Cong. Outreach Team
<b>Cookie Sunday</b> 11 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship  5:00 Super Bowl Party (Sanctuary)	12    6:30-8:30 Boy Scouts	13 12:00 Lunch Bunch Bible St.
<b>1st Sunday in Lent</b> 18 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	19 11:30 Church Lunch Ladies (Stauffer's Café)   6:30-8:30 Boy Scouts	20 12:00 Lunch Bunch Bible St.   7:00 Session Meeting
<b>2nd Sunday in Lent</b> 25 9:00 Sunday School 9:00-10:00 Ripple Sunday School 10:30 Worship  2:00-3:00 April Barnes Piano Performance Class (Sanctuary)	26    6:30-8:30 Boy Scouts	27 12:00 Lunch Bunch Bible St.

2024



Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1  6:00-8:00 Lions Club Meeting	2	3
7 10:30 Staff Meeting   6:00 Evening Bible St. 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	8  7:00 Bldg. & Gr. Team	9	10
Valentine's Day 14 Ash Wednesday 10:30 Staff Meeting   6:45 Ash Wed. Service 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	15  6:00-8:00 Lions Club Meeting	16	17
21 10:30 Staff Meeting Deadline to Submit Articles to be Included in March Gazette 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	22	23 8:30 Men's Breakfast Fellowship (Stauffer's Café)	24
28   7:00 Choir Rehearsal	29		



## THE SHEPHERD GAZETTE

Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church  
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Lincoln, NE 68506  
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www.goodsheppc.com

***Return Service Requested***



*The Shepherd Gazette* is published monthly as a service to the members & friends of Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church, Lincoln, NE.

If you would prefer not to receive this newsletter,  
please call or email the church office.

**The Reverend Jeff Warrick** - Pastor  
**Dee Hughes** - Student Ministries Director  
**Carole Beach** - Administrative Assistant  
**Terry Hostetler** - Treasurer  
**John Bailey** - Choir Director  
**April Barnes & Jen Bailey** - Pianists  
**John & Bethany Goossen** - AV Techs

**February, 2024**