



GOOD SHEPHERD STAFF

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Newsletter October 2023

XLVII, ISSUE X

<i>Good Shepherd Fall Fest</i>	1 & 3
<i>A Word from Our Pastor The Power of Parables</i>	2
<i>From GSLC Council President</i>	3
<i>New Members Welcomed</i>	4
<i>October Learning Opportunities</i>	5
<i>Congregational Retreat</i>	6
<i>Thank You</i>	7
<i>Calendar</i>	8-9
<i>GSLC Celebrates Staff Anniversaries</i>	10
<i>Fun Fridays</i>	10
<i>Social Ministry Monthly Emphasis</i>	10
<i>Noisy Offering</i>	10
<i>POGS North Myrtle Beach Trip</i>	11
<i>POGS Talk of Tanzania</i>	11
<i>Worship Volunteers</i>	12
<i>Food Pantry Update</i>	12
<i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	12
<i>October 2023 Meetings</i>	12
<i>Tuesday Morning Bible Study</i>	13
<i>Wednesday Zoom Bible Study</i>	13
<i>GSLC Foundation</i>	13
<i>Birthdays</i>	13
<i>Lectionary</i>	14
<i>Prayer Lists</i>	15
<i>Staff and Council Members</i>	16
<i>Calendar: Upcoming Events</i>	16

GOOD SHEPHERD FALL FEST October 29, 2023 from 4:00-6:00 p.m.



Planning is still underway for Fall Fest. If you have not been approached, let the committee know you want to participate. Please consider helping with set-up, hosting a trunk, hosting a game or craft table, parking/logistics help and clean-up. We are also looking for volunteers to reach out to our neighbors in the apartments and housing close to the church to invite them and also let them know about the increase in traffic and possible street parking during Fall Fest. Can't help out on the 29th but want to give in another way? Feel free to drop off Halloween candy, small toys or party favors at the table in the Narthex.

We will be in need of lots of help to make this a great event not only for our Good Shepherd children but Forest Acres and greater Columbia children and parents. Please sign up in the Narthex to help.

We will have promotional materials in the Narthex for you to take and share with family and friends. Please also check out the GSLC Facebook page for updates and a post to share on your page.

Trunk or Treat Volunteers:

We are looking for folks (i.e. families, friends, circles, usher teams) to deck out their trunks with Halloween decorations and let the kids walk from car to car collecting candy. Are you hesitating because you don't have an idea of what to do with your "trunk?" Please do not let that discourage you from hosting a trunk. You can decorate and come as your favorite children's book character or TV character. Got a blue car...great...make some cardboard cookies and add some big googly eyes and you have Cookie Monster from Sesame Street. Love to decorate for Easter and not Halloween...great...decorate your car with flowers and baskets and be a "flower child." Do you decorate your porch or mantle at home and think oh gosh I can't do another thing...ok just pull those things and decorate your trunk. A google search for Trunk or Treat Ideas will produce many articles and pictures. In

(Continued on page 3)

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

THE POWER OF PARABLES



Last month we looked at some of Jesus' "unfair" teachings and parables. This month we continue to be challenged by Jesus' parables. The term "parable" is the English rendering of the Greek word *parabole*, meaning "to cast alongside." The ancient Greek mathematician Appolonius of Perga coined the term "parabola" to describe a curve laid against or cast alongside a straight line. Likewise, Jesus' parables are stories or teachings cast alongside the concept of the kingdom of heaven.

Sometimes the parables are best interpreted by comparing elements of the story with elements of the kingdom of heaven. In this way, the kingdom of heaven is shown to be like something people would be familiar with in the real world. Other times, the parables are best interpreted by contrasting elements of the story with elements of the kingdom of heaven. In this way, the kingdom of heaven is shown to be different than what people are familiar with in the real world. Sometimes the parables are simply intended to be attention-grabbing. They shock or disrupt our normal mode of thinking in order to draw our attention to some point Jesus is making. In fact, when we over-interpret or over-allegorize a parable, making each thing in the parable fit neatly with each thing in the real world, we can sometimes rob the parables of their punch and power. Any time we assume we already know what Jesus is trying to teach us, we put ourselves in danger of being unaffected by his powerful message.

In our gospel lessons this coming month Jesus is mainly speaking with and trying to teach the Pharisees. These religious insiders often missed the point of Jesus' teachings and ministry and they needed particularly powerful parables to shake them out of their complacency. Most of the parables we will look at in the next month will be parables that cause those who are religious insiders to reconsider whom God will choose and accept.

In the church we have a tendency to read ourselves into the story as anyone other than Pharisees, yet we often have much in common with the Pharisees. We are the ones who are often religious insiders. We're the church members, the servant leaders, the ones who study scripture and try to apply it to our lives. We can sometimes be those who stand in judgment of others who are not living out their faith. Truth be told, we are often pharisaic in our way of living and thinking.

If we can place ourselves into these stories as those with something new to learn about ourselves and about God, perhaps we will be surprised and shocked and shaken up by these radical teachings of Jesus. Perhaps we will begin to see anew that God's love and favor doesn't just flow where we expect it to or where we think it is deserved. Rather, God's blessings are meant even for those whom we look down upon. May we, in all of our pharisaic tendencies, not miss the message of God's love and salvation for all. I invite you to join me to be shaped and moved by these parables this coming month in our worship services in person and online. See you in church!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Andrew

FROM GSLC COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Dear Good Shepherd:

As the first day of fall approaches, I wanted to communicate to you a brief summary of what the year has seen so far and what to expect for the remainder of 2023.

This year has seen worship numbers averaging 100 each Sunday. Contributions are short of what was predicted by last year's stewardship campaign, but staff and council have been able to operate successfully by spending money only on what really needs to be done. Those things include closing the Day School and refurbishing the rooms it formerly occupied; sealing and restriping the parking lots; steadily updating the website; digging a well for irrigation; successfully operating youth programs; recognizing and honoring our senior members; and forming and training the First Responders of Good Shepherd ("FROGS".)

Still to come are the joys of Advent and Christmas, Fall Fest, and the stewardship campaign. Your council is going to do the budget process with an eye toward accurately predicting its needs for 2024. This process has been significantly aided by the new bookkeeping software which is now fully operational.

What I would urge you to think and pray about is what might seem obvious. The new year is the future. There is no going back to the "good old days." The future is a fresh page upon which to write the next chapter of Good Shepherd. We still need to reinvigorate the nursery during worship, hire a music director, and to reach out to those young families that are increasingly moving into the neighborhoods near the Good Shepherd campus. All of these activities will be aided by an increase in giving of time, talent, and treasure. No church can remain static. It is either growing or shrinking. Good Shepherd has weathered Covid and is poised to grow if its members desire and act to achieve that growth.

On October 2, your time and talent, and financial commitment cards will be mailed. The time and talent brochure will include opportunities for worship, learning, and serving in various roles within our congregation and community.

October 15 is commitment Sunday when you are asked to present your commitments during worship service or you may drop them off at the church office or mail them.

Ed Woodward
2023 Council President



(Continued from page 1)

addition, Party City has partial and full premade kits for purchase. We do ask that your trunk be kid friendly and not too scary. And adults in costume are encouraged too!

Game Host for Fall Fest:

Do you want to interact more with our kids and community? Great! Consider hosting a game either at a table or in your trunk. In the FAB craft room, we have some themed bean bag toss boards, fishing game, bowling, ring toss and corn hole. Got another idea? Great, we would love to hear it!

NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED

Four new members have been welcomed into the Good Shepherd Congregational Family.

Received into membership at the September 17 worship service were the following:



Deborah (Deb) Bodie

Deb previously was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Aiken. She was introduced to Good Shepherd by Mike Weaver.



Steven (Steve) Bowden

Steve learned about Good Shepherd through his sister Cathy Milejczak and her work with the Tanzania Mission Project.



Jan DeRoner

Jan previously was a member of Christ Church in Coral Springs, Florida. She looked at a number of churches in our area and was drawn to Good Shepherd by the "welcoming" nature of our pastor and congregation.



Virginia Morris

Virginia was previously a member of Our Savior Lutheran Church in West Columbia. Good Shepherd was recommended to her by a friend after her move into Forest Acres.

All four of these new members have been regular Sunday morning worshipers with us in recent months and have gotten involved in congregational life in various ways. When you see them on Sunday mornings or at other congregational activities, please introduce yourself and continue to make them feel welcomed.

OCTOBER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

We invite you to join us for Sunday School each week following the Worship Service. We offer a variety of adult classes and learning opportunities to help you grow your faith and fellowship.



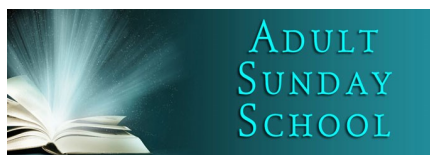
Sunday School Schedule

10:45-11:25 Children's Sunday School for grades Kindergarten-6th grade

11:25-11:45 Children's Music for grades kindergarten-6th grade

10:45-11:45 Youth Sunday School in Youth Room

10:45-11:45 Adult Sunday School



Around The Corner Adult Class: Classroom 2

The Around the Corner class will be a discussion-based class that utilizes various resources, such as podcasts, books, music, or television shows, to inspire talking points and areas of interest. ***This class starts a little closer to 10:55, as several members need time to sign children into their Sunday School classes.*** All are welcome to join this lively class!

Come and See Adult Class: Classroom 1

Bible Study Facilitators: Bruce Shealy, Mark Lovern, Ed Woodward

This class focuses on studying the Scripture and bible readings for the upcoming Sunday service.

Fellowship Adult Class: Classroom 5

The Fellowship Class, led by Don Caughman and Ben Haigh, will continue with the Augsburg Adult Bible Studies series. The topic for the fall session is "God's Law Is Love." Scripture for these lessons will come from the Gospels of Luke and John and from Acts, Romans, 1 Corinthians, Galatians and Colossians. Everyone is invited to join us at any time for these informal, discussion-based classes.

ADDITIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Weekly Bible Study

There are two weekly opportunities for Bible Study with Pastor Andrew. Please join us Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. in the Conference Room or virtually on Wednesdays at 8:00 a.m. for a Zoom meeting. A Zoom ID and password is sent in a weekly email.

Faith 5

Each week Pastor Andrew will send a Faith 5 Study email that includes a recommended scripture reading to guide and nurture your spiritual development through the following 5 steps.

Share your highs and lows of the day/week

Read a bible verse or story

Talk about how your Bible verse or Bible story might apply to your highs and lows

Pray for one another's highs and lows

Bless one another



CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT

February 2-4, 2024
Lutheridge

Guiding Bible Verse: Galatians 6:10

“So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.”

Guest Speaker – Dr. Amy Montanez
Programs, Activities, Fun & Fellowship

REGISTRATION OCTOBER 1 – DECEMBER 17
Forms will be available in the Narthex and in the Church Office.

We will have programs, events, and activities for all ages including chill time for those who choose that option.

Dr. Amy Sander Montanez, D.Min, (prefers to go by Amy) will return as our keynote speaker and spiritual leader. Amy received high marks from those attending our last retreat for her inspirational message on renewal & respond – the last part of our “Renew – Respond – Reach Out” theme. We look forward to her follow up message on “Reach Out.”

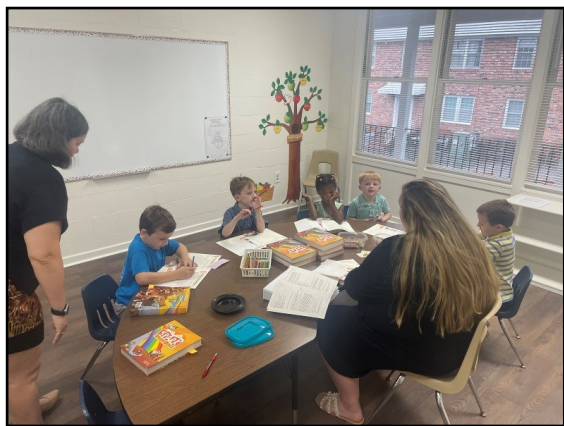
Amy is a graduate of Furman University. She is a licensed professional counselor, licensed marriage and family therapist, and spiritual director. She has a private psychotherapy clinic in Columbia, where she specializes in working with clergy and seminarians. Amy is the author of several books.

Saturday evening, we have our traditional cook out and social event including campfire and s’mores.

Our retreat will conclude Sunday morning with worship service.

Plan to enjoy the fresh mountain air at Lutheridge and fellowship with other retreat attendees as we explore ways to reach out for the good of all.





THANK YOU

A BIG thank you to everyone who worked to get the new youth Sunday School rooms ready. Our children loved kicking off the Sunday School season in their new rooms!

Thank you to Good Shepherd!

Sunday, September 10, was indeed a special day for those of us who are 90 years or older. We appreciate so much your remembering us and thank you for this kindness.

Blessing!

Raymond & Julie Hendrix

Good Shepherd Family:

Thank you for the donations of school supplies. We delivered a car load to Bradley Elementary School and another car load to Forest Lake Elementary School. We also received \$440 in cash contributions which we used to buy gift cards for the schools to purchase additional supplies as needed. We're grateful for your generous participation in the school supply drive each year.

Janet Lockhart and Anne Rush, Social Ministry Committee

It is always a blessing to stay at Good Shepherd and worship with you on our way North. We had a great week at LutherRock and you helped make that happen. Thanks!

Peace

Salem Lutheran Church in Orlando, Florida

Pastor, Jeri, Thomas O., James, Jay, and Thomas N.

Dear Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,

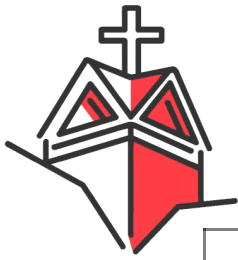
Thank you for your gift of \$554.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response. Your Spirit-filled generosity helps families and communities reeling from disasters. No matter the variety of disaster, no matter the variety of need, your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response enable people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods now and far into the future.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God shines through you.

In Christ,

Amanda White

Director, Congregational Generosity



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30 am Worship Service (Sanctuary) & Live-Stream
 10:45 - 11:45 am Adult Sunday School Class (CL 1, 2, & 5)
 10:45 - 11:45 am Youth Sunday School (Youth Room)
 10:45 - 11:25 am Children's Sunday School (E-106 & E-114)
 11:25 - 11:45 am Children's Music (E-115)

October 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue
<p>1 SUNDAY SCHEDULE TIMES ABOVE</p> <p><i>WELCA Retreat at Lutheridge</i></p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p><i>11:30 am Bible Study (Conf Rm)</i></p> <p><i>6:00 pm Finance Committee meeting (Conference Room)</i></p>
<p>8 SUNDAY SCHEDULE TIMES ABOVE</p>	<p>9</p> <p><i>6:00-8:00 pm [private event] Beta Sigma Phi (Conference Room)</i></p>	<p>10</p> <p><i>11:30 am Bible Study (Conf Rm)</i></p> <p><i>3:00 pm Executive Committee meeting (CL 2)</i></p>
<p>15 SUNDAY SCHEDULE TIMES ABOVE</p> <p>Food Pantry Sunday</p> <p>COMMITMENT SUNDAY</p> <p><i>6:30 pm Council meeting (CL 2)</i></p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p><i>11:30 am Bible Study (Conf Rm)</i></p> <p><i>3:30 pm Fall Fest planning meeting (CL 2)</i></p> <p><i>5:00-8:00 pm [private event] Williamsburg HOA meeting (FAB)</i></p>
<p>22 SUNDAY SCHEDULE TIMES ABOVE</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p><i>11:30 am Bible Study (Conf Rm)</i></p> <p><i>5:30 pm Worship Life Committee meeting (CL 2)</i></p>
<p>29 SUNDAY SCHEDULE TIMES ABOVE</p> <p>Reformation Sunday</p> <p>Noisy Offering</p> <p><i>4:00—6:00 pm Fall Fest (FAB parking lot)</i></p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p><i>11:30 am Bible Study (Conf Rm)</i></p>



*Please see an updated church calendar
and the calendar for other months at
<http://www.gslc.com/>.
Click "See the Current Calendar" at the
bottom of the page.*

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>4</p> <p>8:00 am Zoom Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:00 am Mary Group meeting (FAB)</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>11</p> <p>8:00 am Zoom Bible Study</p> <p>12:00 pm POGS (FAB)</p> <p>7:00 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>12</p> <p>set up for Fun Fridays (FAB)</p> <p>6:00 pm Communication Committee meeting (Conf Rm)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:00 pm Fun Fridays (FAB)</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>18</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>8:00 am Zoom Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:00 am—4:00 pm [private event] PEO meeting (FAB)</p> <p>5:30 pm Dorcas Group meeting (FAB)</p> <p>6:30 pm Tamar Group meeting (off site)</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>25</p> <p>8:00 am Zoom Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:00 pm Learning Committee meeting (Conf Rm)</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>



GSLC CELEBRATES STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

During October, we are observing the anniversary of two staff members. Pastor Andrew Isenhower celebrates his 4th year of ministry and Susan Sturkie celebrates her 35th year of musical service with us. As a congregation, we are grateful for Pastor Andrew's leadership and pastoral care and for Susan's talents and dedication. We give thanks for their commitment to serving with us here at Good Shepherd!



FUN FRIDAYS OCTOBER 13, 2023

Participants of Fun Fridays will visit Good Shepherd again on Friday, October 13, from 6-9 p.m. in the FAB for their bi-monthly event. Activities will feature a Halloween theme this month. Thanks to the members of Good Shepherd who have been Fun Fridays helpers for years. All members of Good Shepherd are welcome to be helpers at this event designed to give a night out to caregivers of individuals with lifelong disabilities while our guests have fun with their friends. If you can help or would like more information, please contact Susan Sturkie at sloopystur@aol.com or 803-788-6807 or just come to the FAB on October 13 any time from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. to see what we do at Fun Fridays.



SOCIAL MINISTRY MONTHLY EMPHASIS

The monthly emphasis for October is the AC Flora High School Food Pantry. Organized and overseen by the school Social Worker, this emergency food pantry provides food to students and their families who find themselves in need of emergency assistance.

Donations from GSLC will go toward continuing this important assistance project for our neighbors. To support this local project, please make checks payable to GSLC and designate for October Emphasis in the memo line.

NOISY OFFERING

Start saving those coins! Noisy offering is coming on October 29. Some of the GSLC children will be in the Narthex before and after service that day with their buckets to accept your coins, bills and checks! You can also send your contributions to the church office any time in October. Make checks payable to Good Shepherd and designate for noisy offering. The children's Sunday School classes will be selecting the recipient charity in the coming weeks. We will announce the selected charity later in the month.



PATHFINDERS OF GOOD SHEPHERD (POGS)

**North Myrtle Beach Trip
December 4-5 to North Myrtle Beach
to see the Alabama Christmas Show!**

The trip package includes one night's lodging at Beach Cove Resort-Single \$200 per person; Double \$150 per person (includes one breakfast voucher, ticket to Alabama Theatre, dinner at Chesapeake House.)

Church bus transportation will be available for first come first serve registrations.

Registrations can be made with a \$75 deposit per person (checks payable to Pathfinders of Good Shepherd.)

Total is due October 25, 2023, if not paid in full when reservation is made.

I (We) wish to make _____ reservation(s) for the December 4-5 trip.

\$_____ attached-\$200 single; \$150 double per person (\$75 deposit per person)

Name(s) _____

Email(s) _____

Cell phone(s) _____



POGS

PATHFINDERS OF GOOD SHEPHERD

TALK OF TANZANIA

BY CATHY MILEJCZAK

Wednesday
October 11th, 2023
12 noon
In the FAB
Moe's Taco Bar \$15

Come and hear Cathy talk about Tanzania and see how GSLC has been involved with this Companion Synod.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR OCTOBER

COUNCIL PERSON OF THE MONTH: David Lucas

DATE	10/1	10/8	10/15	10/22	10/29	11/5
USHERS	David Lucas, Karen Lucas, Mike Brown Jason Fowler	David Lucas, Karen Lucas, Mike Brown Jason Fowler	David Lucas, Karen Lucas, Mike Brown Jason Fowler	David Lucas, Karen Lucas, Mike Brown Jason Fowler	David Lucas, Karen Lucas, Mike Brown Jason Fowler	Jeff Inabinet Team
WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	Lector & Communion Assistant: Becky Shealy	Lector & Communion Assistant: Don Caughman	Lector & Communion Assistant: Charlene Fink	Lector & Communion Assistant: Stacy Gross	Lector & Communion Assistant: Bruce Shealy	Lector & Communion Assistant: Cathy Quinton
ACOLYTE & CRUCIFER	A: Anna-Marie Plyler C: Don Caughman	A: Natalie Ferlauto C: Lucas Ferlauto	A: Amanda Snodgrass C: Becky Shealy	A: Adam Ortiz C: Evelyn Ortiz	A: Savannah Gross C: Blake Gross Banner: Matthew Herrmann Torches: Callen Gilbert & Anna-Marie Plyler	A: Blake Gross C: Stacy Gross
ALTAR GUILD	Nancy & Don Hyatt, Bobbie & Rick Storey	Nancy & Don Hyatt, Bobbie & Rick Storey	Nancy & Don Hyatt, Bobbie & Rick Storey	Nancy & Don Hyatt, Bobbie & Rick Storey	Nancy & Don Hyatt, Bobbie & Rick Storey	Gaye Tucker, Debi Powell
TABULATORS	David Lucas, Donna Foster	Mike Sanchez, Becky Shealy	Jim Tucker, Mary Margaret Hoy	Karen Lucas, Steve Steck	Mary Stallings, Lavina Chandler	Mike Sanchez, Lavina Chandler



FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

GSLC's Food Pantry packed 44 bags of food serving 134 participants in August.

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES
Oct 18

OCTOBER 2023 MEETINGS

Please call the church office to reserve a room for any upcoming meetings.

- October 3 Finance Committee (6:00 p.m.)
- October 10 Executive Committee (3:00 p.m.)
- October 12 Communication Committee (6:00 p.m.)
- October 15 Council (6:30 p.m.)
- October 17 Fall Fest planning meeting (3:30 p.m.)
- October 24 Worship Life Committee (5:30 p.m.)
- October 26 Learning Committee (6:00 p.m.)

Come Join Our
BIBLE TUESDAY IN-PERSON
 **BIBLE STUDY**

Meet in the Conference Room on Tuesday mornings at 11:30 a.m. for a Bible Study.

WEDNESDAY
ZOOM BIBLE STUDY



Zoom Bible Study will be led by Pastor Andrew each Wednesday at **8:00 a.m.** A reminder with a meeting link will be sent by email each week.



GSLC FOUNDATION

November 1, 2023, is the deadline for submitting applications to the Good Shepherd Foundation for grants.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS (ACCORDING TO CHURCH RECORDS)

1	Donna Vaughn	10	Ava Cohl	17	Evelyn P. McQuage
2	Melissa Shukla	12	Hilde Jakiela		Pat Roche
	Susan Faith Ellington		Alicia McFarland		Juli Calhoun
	Karin Culp		Valerie Evans	20	Libby Slice
5	Jennifer Ross	13	Lib Quattlebaum		Amy Kemp
	Marie Currie		Elizabeth Whitlow	21	Carolyn Adams
6	Mackey Robinson		Eric Whitlow		Kerry Stubbs
	Lauren Chandler	14	Drew Green	23	Mark Whitlow
7	Katie Fessler		Nancy Hubert	25	Jordan Herrmann
	Dan Wuori	16	Trae Dent		Charlie Calhoun
	Dale Richardson		Minot Stanton	27	Savannah Gross
9	Cindy Taylor		Don Wuori	29	Gwen Barnes
10	Abel Ferry		Steve Steck		Sam Smith
	Mary Allen	17	Sylvia Anne Derrick		

LECTIONARY FOR OCTOBER 2023

October 1 – 18th Sunday After Pentecost

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

First Reading – Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.

Psalm – Psalm 25:1-9

Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love. (Ps. 25:6)

Second Reading – Philippians 2:1-13

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

Gospel – Matthew 21:23-32

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

October 8 – 19th Sunday After Pentecost

In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a vineyard parable, which serves as an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread so that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.

First Reading – Isaiah 5:1-7

The prophet sings a sad, parable-like love song about the relationship between God and Israel. In this song Israel is compared to a promising vineyard. Despite God's loving care, the vineyard that is Israel has brought forth "wild grapes" of injustice and distress, when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected.

Psalm – Psalm 80:7-15

Look down from heaven, O God; behold and tend this vine. (Ps. 80:14, 15)

Second Reading – Philippians 3:4b-14

Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.

Gospel – Matthew 21:33-46

Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.

October 15 – 20th Sunday After Pentecost

In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

First Reading – Isaiah 25:1-9

After a hymn of praise acknowledging God as a shelter for the poor, the prophet portrays a wonderful victory banquet at which death—which in ancient Canaan was depicted as a monster swallowing up

everyone—will be swallowed up forever. The prophet urges celebration of this victory of salvation.

Psalm – Psalm 23

You prepare a table before me, and my cup is running over. (Ps. 23:5)

Second Reading – Philippians 4:1-9

Though writing from prison and facing an uncertain future, Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what the circumstance. God's peace is with us and binds together our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ, especially when things around us do not seem peaceful.

Gospel – Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.

October 22 – 21st Sunday After Pentecost

In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.

First Reading – Isaiah 45:1-7

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the LORD has anointed to end Israel's exile. The LORD makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this LORD as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the LORD claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

Psalm – Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]

Ascribe to the LORD honor and power. (Ps. 96:7)

Second Reading – 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

Gospel – Matthew 22:15-22

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

October 29 – Reformation Sunday

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

First Reading – Jeremiah 31:31-34

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

Psalm – Psalm 46

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (Ps. 46:7)

Second Reading – Romans 3:19-28

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

Gospel – John 8:31-36

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

WITH PRAYER

<i>John Allen</i>	<i>Lavina Chandler</i>	<i>Bonnie Hammond</i>	<i>Sara Loyd</i>
<i>Rev. Russ Anderson</i>	<i>Cheryl Christian</i>	<i>Helen Hanayik</i>	<i>Mary Clare McAbee</i>
<i>Gwen Barnes</i>	<i>Dot Correll</i>	<i>Pat Hazle</i>	<i>Michele Morrison</i>
<i>Trisha Benson</i>	<i>Helen Derrick</i>	<i>Trisha Holman</i>	<i>Tim Mueller</i>
<i>Grace Boozer</i>	<i>Sylvia Anne Derrick</i>	<i>Kitty Howard</i>	<i>Frances Plyler</i>
<i>Steven Bowden</i>	<i>Marianne De Werdt</i>	<i>Judy Hoy</i>	<i>Cathy Quinton</i>
<i>Victoria Brown</i>	<i>Lena Duncan</i>	<i>Sara Hydrick</i>	<i>Barbara Sutton</i>
<i>Rosemarie Brown</i>	<i>Larry Evans</i>	<i>Jeannine Jameson</i>	<i>Bubba Willis</i>
<i>Charles Buckner</i>	<i>Violet Fetner</i>	<i>Billie Jones</i>	<i>Peter Zornow</i>
<i>Joanna Carpenter</i>	<i>Jon Frew</i>	<i>Lisa Lehman</i>	

PLEASE UPDATE THE PRAYER LIST

Those who have requested friends and loved ones to be included on the prayer list, please contact Deborah Mitchell in the church office at parishadmin@gslc.com or (803) 787-4413 to **renew your request or add prayer concerns by the newsletter deadline of each month.**

You may call or email anytime to remove a name.

Please do not assume that we know the name should be renewed or removed.



RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

- | | |
|--|---|
| <i>Richard Andrews—a close friend of Wade Wingard</i> | <i>Joanne Schweitzer—sister of Mary Clare McAbee</i> |
| <i>Robin Boggs—daughter of Anne Rush</i> | <i>Marise Shumpert—friend of Rosemary Nance</i> |
| <i>Allie Clark—friend of Betty Cox</i> | <i>Bob Stearn—friend and neighbor of Frances Plyler</i> |
| <i>Betty Cox—former member</i> | <i>Harry Swindler—father of Penny Sox and grandpa of Stacy Gross</i> |
| <i>Landon Derrick—friend of Amanda Snodgrass</i> | <i>Beth Price Tisdale—former member & daughter of Leonard Price</i> |
| <i>Lynn Derrick—son of Sylvia Anne Derrick</i> | <i>Phyllis Tollison—mother of Phil Tollison</i> |
| <i>Idona Erwin—friend of member</i> | <i>Robin Traufler—friend of the congregation</i> |
| <i>John Flitter—friend of Leigh Tondini</i> | <i>Joey Turner—college friend of Trisha Benson</i> |
| <i>Sarah Harmon—friend of Anna Lawson</i> | <i>Gayle Watts—friend of Leigh Tondini</i> |
| <i>Lamar Harper—brother of Gwen Barnes</i> | <i>Terry Weaver—mother of Mike Weaver</i> |
| <i>Forrest Hinebaugh—father of Elaine Zornow</i> | <i>Danny and Joey Wheeler—cousins of Jason Fowler</i> |
| <i>David Hinshaw—Deb Embrey's nephew</i> | <i>Shirley Zornow—mother of Peter Zornow</i> |
| <i>Frank Hinshaw—Deb Embrey's nephew</i> | |
| <i>Greg Lehman—brother of Lisa Lehman</i> | |
| <i>Sylvia Livingston—mother of Cheryl Beaman</i> | |
| <i>Jesse McAllister—friend of Meals on Wheels volunteers</i> | |
| <i>Marie Starnes Rabon—Daughter of Pat Hazle</i> | |
| <i>Barbara Reese—friend of Justine Parker & Joyce Mobley</i> | |
| <i>Jack Reynolds—brother of Margaret Hill</i> | |
| <i>Henry Richardson—father of Amanda Snodgrass</i> | |
| <i>Sharon Schulze—friend of Sandy Gundlach</i> | |

Office Information

http://www.gslc.com

Hours: Mon–Thurs. 9 AM-4:30

PM;

Fri. 9 AM-2:00 PM

Phone: (803) 787-4413

Day School: (803) 787-4148

Pastor

Reverend Andrew Isenhower

Parish Administrator

Deborah Mitchell

Organist/Music Associate

Susan Sturkie

Sexton

Joey Allison

Financial Secretary

Deb Embrey

Council President

Ed Woodward

Council Vice-President

Debi Powell

Secretary

Anna-Marie Plyler

Treasurer

Jan Haigler

Committee/Council Member

Communication/**Carole Sox**

Evangelism/**Jason Fowler**

Finance/**David Lucas**

Gifts/**Ed Woodward**

Learning/**Heather Gilbert**

Parish Life/**Debi Powell**

Property/**Mike Weaver**

Social Ministry/**Suzanne**

Sanders

Worship Life/**Becky Shealy**

Youth & Children/**Amy Kemp**

****Non-Council Member****

Property/**Rod Kent**

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

3909 Forest Drive

Columbia, SC 29204

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org

U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit #957

Columbia, SC

DELIVERY REQUESTED BY

September 29, 2023

DATED INFORMATION ENCLOSED



Sunday Schedule

9:30 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)

10:45 – 11:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School (CL 1, 2, & 5)

10:45 – 11:45 a.m. Youth Sunday School (Youth Room)

10:45 – 11:25 a.m. Children’s Sunday School (E-106 & E-114)

11:25 – 11:45 a.m. Children’s Music (E-115)

- October 1 WELCA Retreat at Lutheridge
Sunday Schedule above
- October 5 10:00 a.m. Mary Group meeting
- October 8 Sunday Schedule above
- October 11 12 noon POGS
- October 13 6:00 p.m. Fun Fridays
- October 15 **Food Pantry Sunday**
Sunday Schedule above
- October 18 **October Newsletter Deadline**
- October 19 5:30 p.m. Dorcas Group meeting
6:30 p.m. Tamar Group meeting
- October 22 Sunday Schedule above
- October 29 Sunday Schedule above
Reformation Sunday
Noisy Offering
4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Fall Fest