

JANUARY 2025

FOOD FOR THE FLOCK



2016 - Pastor Olson



2015 - Tanya Bassett



2014 - Tanya Bassett



2013 - Jarrod McMinn



2012 - Edie Hintz



2017 - Bill Murray



2018 - Dan Severson



2019 - Nicole Kassulke

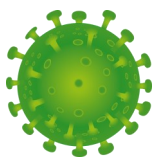
CHILI COOK-OFF

Bring your best pot of chili
and compete for the coveted
Golden Ladle award!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

12:00PM

This event is a fundraiser to help send Pastor & Kaitlyn to
their seminary Grow in Grace retreat/seminar.
Voting is done with your cash/check/coin.
Not a chili-maker? Bring a side dish or dessert to share!



2020 & 2021
Coronavirus



2022 - Petra Budde



2023 - Edie Hintz &
Anthony Scicchitano



2024 - Dan Severson



2025 - ???



“God wants his children to become mature - not physically, as if we are all adolescents in our teenage years, but to mature spiritually.”

At the start of a new year, many people set personal goals for themselves. Eat less junk food. Exercise more. Learn a new hobby. Make more friends. Perhaps you have one of the same goals or others. Setting goals is a helpful way to accomplish things that you believe are worth the time and energy.

What should the goals of the church be? At Shepherd of the Bay, we've set three goals to achieve this year.

1. Create a place to know God better

2. Create an evangelism culture

3. Create community

Why have we set these goals? If accomplished, we believe that our church will grow. We pray that we will grow with new members; but equally important is that each of us grows in our faith. God wants his children to become mature - not physically, as if we are all adolescents in our teenage years, but to mature spiritually. With the help of the Holy Spirit and each other, we will grow together in our faith.

Since we have these goals, let's examine where our motivation comes from as we read God's Word. First, through faith, we recognize that the most precious thing we have is our relationship with God. Therefore, it is

good and right that we continue to strengthen that relationship by surrounding ourselves with his Word. The gospel is “the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.” (Ro. 1:16) Writing to Christians long ago, Peter urged them to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (2 Pt. 3:18) As you and I worship together every Sunday, attend Bible studies, and devote time to reading our Bibles, we will **create a church that knows God better.**

As God's salvation is our most precious treasure, it is also the best gift we can share with others. That's why our second goal is to **create an evangelism culture.** Our Gracious God truly wants all people to be saved. Therefore, Jesus has given us the command to “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation!” (Mark 16:15) Only through faith in the message of a Savior from sin can a person be saved. It is our privilege and duty to spread the gospel to other people. We want to invite as many people as we can to come and hear about God's love! May God bless the plans we've made to evangelize to our community, and may He give us hearts that are brave to do this important work. Remember God's promise: “I am with you al-

ways.”

The third goal for 2025 is to **create community.** What do we mean by that? Simply put, we want to do life together. Do you like food? Let's eat together. Do you enjoy hiking, biking, karaoke, board games, boating, fishing, swimming, playing cards, bonfires, crafts, reading, shuffleboard ... you get the point. Now, you may not like ALL of these activities. That's ok. Our goal here is to encourage each other in Christian love as we do regular day-to-day things. Again, let's remember our motivation: “Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love.” (Eph. 5:1) In this way, we seek to reflect God's love to each other. And who knows what other blessings could come? Like inviting others to tag along, who are searching for the community we have. God praises brothers and sisters in Jesus who live together in unity. May we be worthy of that same praise.

Prayer

Lord, you know the goals we have set as a church family. May all that we do be pleasing in your sight and give you glory. Lead us to do all these things in the name of the Lord Jesus, and give thanks to our Heavenly Father. Amen.



Even the playground would love to have warmer weather and children to be back playing!



While Jacob Karnitz finished middle of the Fantasy Football pack, Dan Severson loved landing at the top of the heap this season!



The Ladies, Arts & Fellowship (LAF) group loved having Alexis Scicchitano lead them in creating 3-D animals. Her mom, Mattie, was her assistant.



There's no doubt Samuel Wong loves his daddy!



In Case of inclement Weather

If you don't hear from us, our regularly scheduled programming continues.

However, in case of inclement weather for any church service or event, please check your email box for cancellation notices. For those without email access, feel free to call Pastor Wong at 507-995-5978.

Book Club Forming!

A beginning book is being chosen and plans are in the works to begin in February. Please give Mattie a shout if you are at all curious about this venture, want to have input or will be a participant!





FINANCIAL UPDATE

BY: SEAN CASE, TREASURER

Our financial challenges continue to weigh upon us as offerings continue to fall well short of the bills of the congregation. This month alone, we have spent \$3,900 more than we brought in (average weekly shortage = \$975). The only items we paid for this month that were not on the 'Must Pay' list were for our Mission Offering to the Synod (\$1,192) and for copier paper (\$86). The net result is a decrease to our operating account, now at \$12,000. This is well below the \$15,000 needed to pay our must fund bills. As discussed at the recent voters meeting, I will recommend to the council that we move \$3,000 from our special accounts over to the operating account as well as have a discussion on our ability to pay for the mission offering.

Please continue to pray for our council to make the best decisions for the use of the funds that we do have available. Please prayerfully consider your ability to financially support YOUR Shepherd of the Bay regularly, so that we can continue to spread the Good News of Christ.

Cumulative Activity through January	Budgeted	Actual	Delta	Actual vs Budget
Offerings	\$17,714	\$11,646	-\$6,068	-34%
Expenses	\$17,714	\$15,538	-\$2,176	-12%
Net	\$0	-\$3,892		

MEET YOUR COUNCILMEN 2025



Dan Severson, President

Accountable to the members of the congregation for managing the business affairs of the congregation and for coordinating the strategic planning of the congregation via the council and congregational volunteers.



Sean Case, Treasurer

Responsible to the congregation for stewardship of the church's funds including accounting for offerings, disbursement of funds to cover debts, and allocation of incoming and outgoing funds to the proper budget line. Apprises the council and the congregation of any budgetary issues or concerns. He also establishes and leads the development of the upcoming fiscal year budget.



Anthony Scicchitano, Ministry/Fellowship

Responsible for planning and promoting opportunities for the congregation's members and friends to have fun and learn more about each other while helping to develop positive Christian relationships. Addresses special needs of members and their friends, such as prayers, cards, meals or rides, as the situation warrants through the Christian Care Committee. Seeks volunteers with time and talents for the varied activities within the church. Oversees the annual church picnic, after church fellowship, Easter brunch, and other special events throughout the year.



Travis Grah, Worship

Ensures all personnel and activities, including audio/visual and music, are in place so worship services run smoothly. Oversees the usher and greeter programs, along with the Altar Guild, which ensures the communion elements, altar paraments, banner and flowers are in place as required. Also plans and coordinates special services.



Terry Johnson, Secretary

Assists the Council President in managing official church business by organizing the Council, establishing meeting agendas, publishing meeting minutes, signing business documents, and maintaining official Council records. Oversees the congregation's sexual misconduct prevention program, including all forms and records. Additionally, ensures the Council activities are in line with the church Constitution, Bylaws, and Operating Policies.



Pat Tippet, Facilities

Overall building and property manager who is accountable to the congregation for managing the care and upkeep of the church building and land, maintaining a current inventory of the church's minor property, monitoring utilities and overseeing the liability, property and worker's compensation insurance for the congregation through three committees: Facilities, Groundskeeping and Cleaning.



Grant Williams, Outreach/Service

Establishes programs to equip the members for organized congregational evangelism and individual Christian witness. Programs for such work include collaborating with our Synod in their national and global outreach. Aids the congregation in seizing every opportunity the Lord provides to reach out with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Promotes an evangelism attitude in the congregation. Additionally, he facilitates the congregation's involvement in community events.

February 2025

Shepherd of the Bay Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																										
<div><div>Jan 2025</div><table><tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr><tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr><tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr></table></div> <div><div>Mar 2025</div><table><tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr><tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr><tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr><tr><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table></div> <div>1 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast <i>Happy Birthday Alyssa Johnson!</i></div>						S	M	T	W	T	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					
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We're on the web!
www.ShepherdOfTheBay.com

**SHEPHERD OF THE BAY
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Pastor Nathan Wong
office: 410-231-2075
cell: 507-995-5978
lusbypastor@gmail.com

**Sunday School & Bible Study
at 9:30am**

**Sunday Worship
at 10:30am (livestream)**



Shepherd of the Bay
Lutheran Church
9463 HG Trueman Road
Lusby, MD 20657

*Growing
Together in
Faith*