



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

The Shepherd's Scroll

P r e a c h i n g , T e a c h i n g , a n d R e a c h i n g i n J e s u s ' N a m e

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:



UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Recently, Paul and I have been going through a kitchen remodel. Not because we really wanted to remodel our kitchen, but because we could no longer get things fixed or replaced in the current kitchen the way it was built. As we watched one after another appliance die, we went from not having a reliable microwave (inconvenient) to not having a dishwasher (annoying, but a lot of folks wash dishes by hand). Once the refrigerator started to go and couldn't be replaced by a modern one because the space was an odd size, we found ourselves having to make some big decisions. Do we continue to work around the problems – and essentially lose significant functionality in the kitchen? Or do we redo everything, fixing problems for both current and future use?

We decided to remodel. And, if you've ever been through a kitchen remodel, you know that that transition is not without pains of its own. For several weeks, we were washing dishes in the laundry tub, keeping our cold things in a small refrigerator in the basement, and doing a lot of eating out or bringing in! As I write this, the remodel is still ongoing. There've been delays along the way and some unexpected issues. We can cook and prepare meals again, and we have a dishwasher and a brand-new refrigerator, but we're still working around some construction debris. We can glimpse a point at which all the boxes currently in the garage are unpacked and everything in its new place, but we're not there quite yet.

Often in life, we find ourselves going through transitions. Sometimes we choose those changes – like a resolution at the beginning of a new year; sometimes those changes are thrust upon us – like diet and exercise after a heart attack. Sometimes those shifts are easy and smooth; sometimes they take time and effort and intentional navigation. But no matter what the change might be, there comes a point when we can glimpse a new reality beyond the current mess. And often we find that we can work through that transition anyway – maybe not to the same level as before – but still doing what needs to be done. Or, to go back to the kitchen remodel metaphor: It will still be a while before I'm baking Christmas yule logs or making pasta

from scratch again, but in the meantime, I will still put good, healthy meals on the table that will feed and nourish all in my home.

Speaking of kitchens, I remember seeing a magnet on a friend's refrigerator: "Be Patient. God isn't finished with me yet." The fancy theology word for that idea is "sanctification". Put simply, it's the idea that we are being made holy or have been made holy through what God is doing in and for us. And that sanctification will be complete only when we are living in God's eternal kingdom. In the meantime, we live as saved, redeemed, holy sinners – people who are both made right by Jesus' gift to us and at the same time getting it wrong. As Christians, we live in the both/and: we have great capacity to hurt ourselves and each other AND at the same time, we are beloved, loving parts of holy community. We have God's constant, continuing presence and strength; and we have the call to remember our baptism and to die daily to sin and rise daily to new life.

On January 14, we will celebrate Baptism of Our Lord Sunday. On that day, we remember Jesus' baptism in the Jordan by John, but we also have the opportunity to remember our own baptisms. It's a chance to start over in that daily dying and rising of confession and forgiveness, sin and grace. But it's also a chance to remember our continuing identity as God's beloved children. Or, to go back to that kitchen remodel metaphor – it's the opportunity to take stock of what's not working in our lives, to open ourselves up to transformation, and at the same time, to keep doing what we need to be doing without worrying too much about everything being completely done exactly right before we dive in.

The truth of the matter is that we'll never be "done" in this life – either when it comes to our homes or to our sanctification. To some extent, we'll always be in transition from who/what we are to who/what we're meant to be. The good news is that 1) God is with us through it all, and 2) we can still keep serving and growing and becoming, feeding and caring, and blessing others even in the midst.

Peace be to you this new year – and in all the transitions that it might bring.

Pr Lynette Chapman

WORSHIP NEWS

January 7 – Epiphany of our Lord Celebration: we're going to sing (almost) every song we have in our hymnals about the magi and the star! There will be a short homily, but lots of hymns and carols we haven't already sung during Christmas yet (We Three Kings, There's a Star in the East, The First Noel, etc.). Come celebrate!

January 14 – Baptism of our Lord Celebration: we'll remember our baptisms by getting a little bit wet as water is spritzed on us from the baptismal font using evergreen branches. The branches are a symbol of eternal life. We can 'yell at the devil' a bit, sing some wonderful baptism songs, and celebrate Holy Communion.

January 28 – Deacon Jason will preach and we'll have a very special children's time.

Mark your calendars: Lent starts Wednesday, February 14. Ash Wednesday service will be held at 7 PM that evening. We'll also offer drive-thru ashes (weather permitting) noon-2.

INTERESTED IN TEACHING SUNDAY SCHOOL?

Sign-up at this link: [Sunday School Teachers](#)



Cross+Gen
January 7, 10:15AM
Fellowship Hall

– Heart, Feel Love! –

We'll explore Mary's visit to Elizabeth with activities, discussion, games and more! Come join us!



PARISH WORKER RESIGNATION

Marilyn Dudley has given us her resignation effective December 31, 2023. Ongoing health concerns have made continued work here difficult for her, but she intends to keep volunteering as her strength allows. We will certainly keep her in our prayers for health and strength! She has been (and continues to be!) a blessing to Good Shepherd, inspiring us all with her generosity and enthusiasm. We will find a time to celebrate and honor her in the next few weeks. Please watch for an announcement to that effect. In the meantime, if you would like to send her a note of thanks, you can write to her at: 65 Autumn Fields, Apt 211, Savoy, Illinois 61874.

SMALL GROUPS @ GSLC



DWELLING TOGETHER

"To dwell" means "to spend time in".

Our group spends time in supportive conversation, in scripture, and in prayer. **Join them 2nd**

through 5th Sundays in the Fellowship Hall.
All are welcome!



CANCER PRAYER & SUPPORT GROUP

Thursday
January 25, 6PM
GSLC Choir Room

All are welcome! Feel free to invite anyone who may be battling, recovering from, or has family or friends living with a cancer diagnosis.



GSLC PIECE MAKERS

Tuesdays
Noon-3PM

What's new?

Calling all hands! No sewing, ironing or cutting skills required. The only skill you need is the ability to sit, tie knots and enjoy fellowship!

The Piece Makers quilting group of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church has been busy creating quilt tops for worldwide distribution through Lutheran World Relief (LWR). These quilt tops bring Jesus' love to people in need as well as physical comfort and warmth. There are now several quilt tops that are "fit to be tied."

The group has set aside two dates to gather in the GSLC Fellowship Hall to accomplish this important task:

Tuesday, January 16: Noon - 3:00pm
Sunday, February 11: 1:00 - 3:00pm

Please consider joining us on either (or both) dates for fellowship and to help us accomplish this important and rewarding mission!

For questions about this mission or the Piece Makers group in general, please contact Jodi Davis or Lois McConomy.

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS



The next Fellowship Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, January 9 at 6:30 pm in the choir room. The Zoom link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82220829003?pwd=c3JVQ0JORMdHTFRIUmINK2FsUDQ5dz09>



TRIVIA IN THE AFTERNOON
Sunday, February 25, 3-5PM
GSLC Fellowship Hall

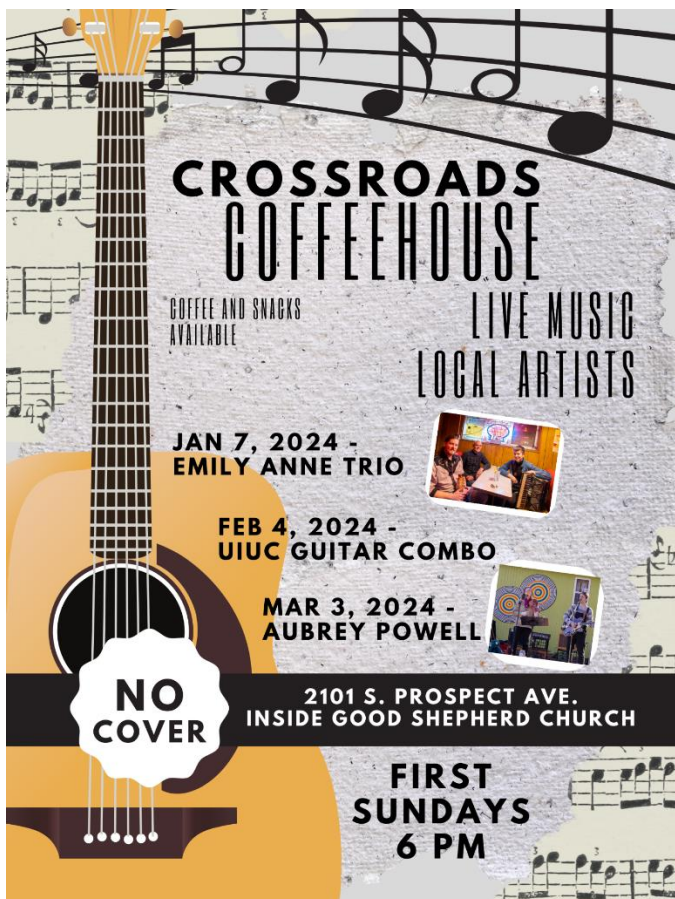
Mark your calendars to join GSLC members, and members from St. Matthew's, St. Andrew's and Grace Lutheran Church, for a fun afternoon of trivia. All ages are welcome; childcare will be provided. Jason Fisher will be our emcee. Sign up at: <https://gslc.breezechms.com/form/2c7bf561> so we know how many are attending (you can sign up for childcare there also).

You can get together with your friends and family members to form a team of up to 6-8 people or join a group that afternoon. No fee except we ask you bring a snack to share. Soft drinks, lemonade, iced tea, and coffee will be provided. Hope to see you there!



JANUARY MEET-UP
Friday, January 12, 11:45AM
Aspen Tap House

Get together with other Good Shepherd members for lunch and fellowship. This is an informal meet-up with a chance to chat and get to know other members better. Look for Michelle Rome and Gail Block who will be hosts and will save some tables for our group.



CROSSROADS COFFEEHOUSE

COFFEE AND SNACKS AVAILABLE

LIVE MUSIC
LOCAL ARTISTS

**JAN 7, 2024 -
EMILY ANNE TRIO**

**FEB 4, 2024 -
UIUC GUITAR COMBO**

**MAR 3, 2024 -
AUBREY POWELL**

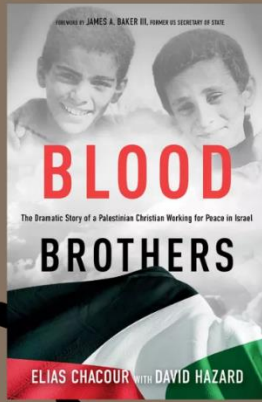
NO COVER

**2101 S. PROSPECT AVE.
INSIDE GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH**

**FIRST SUNDAYS
6 PM**

Good Shepherd Book Group

March Book



The war in Gaza raises all sorts of questions about relationships between Israel and Palestine. Elias Chacour is a Palestinian Christian who has been working for peace in Israel for decades. In this book, he tells his story and we gain some insight on the current conflict. Pick up your copy of *Blood Brothers* by Elias Chacour at the library or your favorite bookseller.

Discussion tentatively set for Sunday, March 10, 6 PM at SunSinger Restaurant.

SAVE THE DATE!

GSLC Book Group for March is tentatively set for Sunday, March 10, 6PM @ SunSinger Restaurant, Champaign

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

OPERATION TURKEY SANDWICH UPDATE

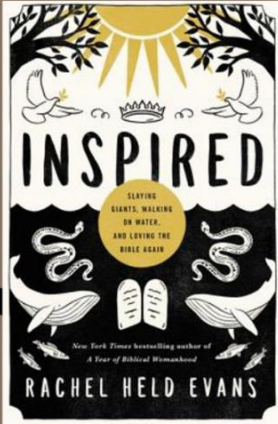
Thank you to all who donated food items or made monetary donations to Operation Turkey Sandwich this year! Roughly half of the 200 sack lunches were delivered to pre-arranged stops including Carle Hospital, University of Illinois Vet Med, University of Illinois Police, and other University of Illinois employees. The remainder of the lunches went to employees of convenience stores, hotels, etc.

CU @ HOME

One Winter Night, CU @ Home's annual fundraising event, is scheduled for February 2nd-3rd. Watch for more information.

Good Shepherd Book Group

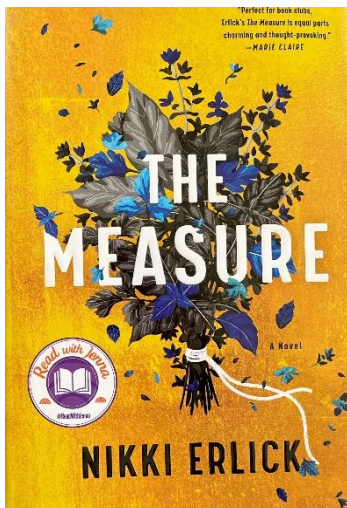
January Book



Pick up your copy of *Inspired* by Rachel Held Evans at the library or your favorite bookseller.

The author takes a new look at the scriptures, along the way learning to love the Bible again. This book is thought-provoking for anyone who is trying to make an ancient text full of misogyny, mythology, and even violence make sense for their life today. Discussion tentatively set for Sunday, January 21, 6 PM at SunSinger Restaurant.

The next GSLC Book Group is set for Sunday, January 21, 6PM @ SunSinger Restaurant, Champaign.

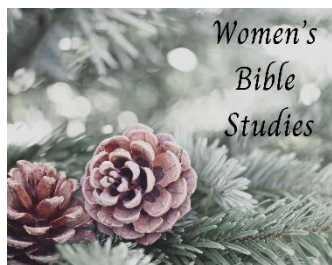


WELCA BOOK CLUB

Thursday
January 11, 9:30AM
GSLC Choir Room

The Measure
By Nikki Erlick

A story of love and hope as the characters display how all moments big and small can measure a life. Mysterious wooden boxes appear outside every door on earth, each holding a length of string corresponding to the exact number of years you will live. Would you want to open it? The book encourages us to live life to the fullest. Contact Jan Nuss if you have any questions.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

All groups meet in the
Choir Room

Anna Bible Study:

Monday, January 8, 4:30PM

Ruth Bible Study:

Tuesday, January 16, 9:30AM

Rachel Bible Study:

Monday, January 22, 2:30PM

We use the WELCA magazine *Gather*. Copies are available near the WELCA bulletin board.



GSLC KITCHEN SHOWER FOR NEEDED ITEMS

In January, we're having a Kitchen "Shower" for the kitchen at Good Shepherd. We noticed this past year as we reorganized the cabinets and drawers in the kitchen that there were a number of items we needed for cooking for our events. If you would like to help, please consider donating an item listed below - you can purchase it new or donate a used item in very good condition. Monetary funds to cover the purchase of that item are also welcome. **We will have a box in the Narthex from January 7 to January 30 to collect items.** Please contact Nancy Holm to let her know which item you would like to donate so we don't get duplicates or if you have questions. Thank you very much!

Wish List:

- One 6 or 7 qt. crock pot with lid (\$35-40)
- One 1.5 qt. crock pot with lid (\$12-15)
- Electric hand mixer (\$20-25)
- Three thermal stainless 40 - 48 oz coffee carafes (\$15 - 20 each)
- Two large (14 inch) aluminum/stainless steel fry pans

(NOT non-stick) with covers - such as Cuisinart or Farberware (\$40-50 each)

- Trivets for hot dishes (4 to 6 needed)
- Dish towels (about 8 to 10 needed)
- Drawer dividers (expandable 13" to 22") - such as Rapturous brand on Amazon - Two 3-packs - 2.5 in. tall, expands 13" to 22" long. (\$15)



WELCA MEETING
Monday, January 29, 7PM
GSLC Choir Room

All women members of Good Shepherd are automatically part of WELCA and are invited to attend the next WELCA meeting. For those wishing to join remotely, the Zoom link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86495476964?pwd=WDRhUG9KeXNDdEhoWU1HV0ZZSXQwQT09>

We will continue the discussion from the Christmas brunch about which organizations to donate our fall bake sale funds to this year. Also, we will talk about plans for Bold Women's Sunday, our Lutheran World Relief personal care kit collection that we will start in the spring, and any new ideas that members are interested in WELCA pursuing. Please contact Nancy Holm if you have any questions.



WELCA BRUNCH THANK YOUS

Thank you to Laurie Johnson, Carol Manley, and Nancy Olson for organizing this year's Christmas brunch which took place on December 9 in the Fellowship Hall. And thank you to all those who pitched in to help decorate, set up, and clean up.

It was a great time to get together with family and friends and share in the holiday spirit.

THANK YOU COOKIE BAKERS!

A very big Thank You to all of you for your cookie donations for our 80 and over members! We have many wonderful bakers!

Thanks to all of you that helped fill the tins and to those that delivered the tins as well.

FROM THE DEACON'S DESK:



The passage from Matthew 2:1-12 is the primary text for Epiphany, which falls every year on January 6th. What follows are my notes from the bible study I took part in during my sabbatical stay in Taizé France.

The very first verse of Matthew 2 reads *‘after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, during the time of King Herod, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”*

- **The bible text does not describe the motivation nor the background of the wise men, and yet they say they have come to worship the king of the Jews. Why do you think they go out in search of this king?**

Herod was seen by many Jews in his day as successful because he had overseen the rebuilding of the Temple. Some rabbis even considered Herod a messiah for literally paving the way for the return of the Lord. With that kind of fame and power I would imagine Herod was quite shocked when these magi from foreign lands came not to see him, or his accomplishments, but instead a child who is called ‘king of the Jews.’ This would explain Herod’s covert meeting with the wise men to determine the exact time the star had appeared so that he could do some research of his own and root out this potential threat to his rule.

- **In the text Jesus is given various titles like king, ruler, messiah, and shepherd. Which of these are titles and which are missions? How do you typically react when you are given a responsibility or mission?**

Magi was a general term used to refer to any person from the east introducing some strange new superstition or practice. In their day most people believed the stars to be living beings. In fact, it is interesting that the phrase Matthew uses; *“and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them,”* is the same phrase Matthew uses later in the gospel to describe Jesus going ahead of the disciples. Jesus becomes that guiding star. In modern western thinking we might find this following of stars in the sky and reading of signs in nature to be strange.

- **Can you think of a situation where something felt a bit strange or ‘out there’ in the context of logical thinking, but that made perfect sense to the eyes of faith?**

Mesopotamians were brilliant at astronomy and back then astronomy and astrology were one in the same. Interpreting the signs was part of the science. But how did the Magi come to study the Torah and know that this star referred to a king from an obscure people living miles away? I love in Matthew 2:4 that after the Magi share this news with Herod, he scrambles his chief priests and teachers of the law to search the scriptures so they can tell him where the messiah is to be born. These foreigner magi challenge Herod to read his own scriptures!



- **When has someone outside your faith tradition challenged you to dive deeper into your own faith?**
- **How would you define your own search in life? Would you say that you are looking for something?**

Matthew 2:10 - *“When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.”*

- **When was the last time you were overjoyed? How would you describe the way you felt?**

The thing that stuck out to me the most in the bible study was the realization that the Magi FIND JESUS through their best gifts of astrology and their passion for astronomy! One Orthodox hymn sings, *“those who worshiped the stars were taught by a star to adore You,”* In what ways might we encounter the Christ child if we allow our gifts and passions to guide us on the journey of learning more about the world God has created? I believe that in those encounters with the divine, when we are using our gifts, we will be overjoyed.

In the message **Inner life and Solidarity for 2023**, Brother Alois writes:

“Christ continues to walk alongside every human being today, to communicate to all people the unconditional love of God. By the Holy Spirit, the breath of God, he enables us to take a stand, conferring on every person a fundamental dignity. Let us be guided not only by what comes to us from without, but let us also welcome that inner light, that trust which bears the name of faith.”

- **What inner and outer light have you received in life as a guide for your path?**
- **What inner and outer light would you like to receive? Ask the Creator for that now.**

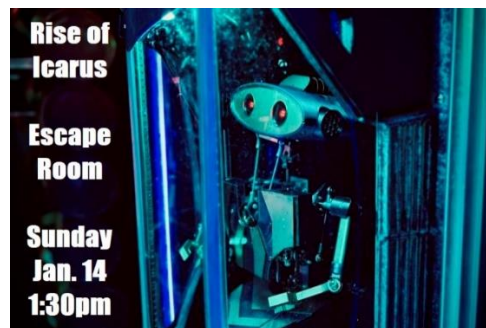
Yours in Christ,
Deacon Jason

YOUTH EVENTS

BROOMBALL TOURNAMENT

Methodist Vs.
Lutheran
U of I Ice Arena
Sunday, January 7
3:30-5:00PM

Our annual Broomball Tournament is coming up and we need all the help we can get to win our trophy back from the Methodists! Broomball is played in your regular shoes but we will also have ice time for those wishing to just ice skate as well. Cost is \$5/person and covers both broomball equipment and ice skates. GSLC members of ALL AGES are welcome to come cheer us on at no cost.



Rise of
Icarus

Escape
Room

Sunday
Jan. 14
1:30pm

ESCAPE ROOM EVENT

Sunday, January 14, 1:30PM

All High School & Middle School youth are invited to join us at CU Adventures in Time & Space. (302 N Broadway Ave, Suite 100 in Urbana.)

An alien spaceship has just been discovered deep beneath an Antarctic glacier. Government officials are calling the site "Project Icarus." We are tasked with discovering the secrets of the Icarus before it's too late. **Cost is \$5/person and there are only 8 spots so RSVP with Jason if you are interested.**

CANTEEN RUN

Tuesday, January 9
6-8PM

Meet Jason at

Country Fair Storage (619 Country Fair Drive in Champaign) by 6pm to join us as we distribute clothes, food, and hope to those in need.

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT

Friday, January 12
5-8PM

Things get wild at Parents Night Out! Jason will host games and activities for kids 5th grade and younger at Good Shepherd so parents can have a date night. Dinner will be provided, R.S.V.P. with Jason if interested.

COMMUNITY GAME NIGHT

Friday, January 19
5-9PM

Come on out for another evening of

board games and card games, or just hang out for the fellowship and snacks. Whether it is competitive, cooperative, or party games we have lots to choose from. Jason will have games for all ages and skill levels but bring some of your favorites as well.

JANUARY SERVING SCHEDULE

	01/07/2024	01/14/2024	01/21/2024	01/28/2024
Acolyte	Dylan Keene	Declan O'Connell	Zechariah Fisher	Andrew Todd
Communion Assistants	Becky Fisher Jenelle Keene Carol Steinman	Tim O'Connell Dean Olson Dan Corkery	Jim Manley Samantha Fisher Cinda Brucker	Marla Todd Joe Chamley Nancy Holm
Reader	Julia Hartman	Nancy Olson	Rebecca Nef-Heffernan	Agatha Barnes
Chancel Care	Tori Corkery	Tori Corkery	Gail Block	Gail Block
Food Delivery	Rick & Cindy Marrs	Jodi Davis & Vickie Wilson	Gail & Don Block	Agatha Barnes
Flower Delivery	Carol Steinman	Laurie Johnson	Patty Hart	Gail Block
Nursery	Maria Dewing	Sadie Bruggman	Carol Manley	Jeremiah Todd
Coffee/Donuts	Samantha Fisher & Becky Fisher	Nancy Olson & Don Block	Patty Hart & Don Block	Laurie Johnson & Don Block
Usher	Sue Plisch	Amber Bruggman	Don Block	Nancy McCowen

If you are interested in serving as a volunteer on Sunday mornings, please contact Traci in the church office at staff@gslc-cu.org to be added to our volunteer list.



SING ALONG AT AUTUMN FIELDS



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

WELCA CHRISTMAS BRUNCH





LIVE NATIVITY





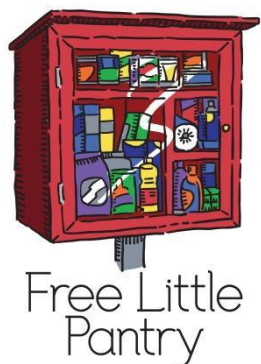


Just a reminder that lovely **prayer shawls** are on a rack in the Narthex which are just waiting to find a home. If you know of anyone who is in need a warm fuzzy reminder of God's love, please take a shawl to give to them. Blessings and prayers are attached for you to use when giving the shawl to a friend, family member, or stranger! Thanks to the folks who keep knitting and crocheting!



LOST AND FOUND

If you happen to be missing any items, please check our Lost and Found Box located on the bottom shelf of the table by the office door!



GSLC LITTLE FOOD PANTRY

Please remember the GSLC little food pantry this winter. It has been used daily this past month and any non-perishable items that can handle freezing temperatures are appreciated. Items can be added to the little food pantry anytime daily, or dropped off into the basket inside the back doors across from the church office before 2pm (M-F).

The little pantry is located outside on church property between the front of the Fellowship Hall's brick wall and the sidewalk facing Prospect Ave. Thank you for helping!

Join the Choir

Everyone is welcome!

**Choir
Rehearsal**

**Every
Wednesday
7:00PM**



Pastor	Lynette Chapman
Pastor Emeritus	Edward D. Schneider
Deacon	Jason Fisher
Parish Admin. Asst.	Traci Shepherd
Treasurer	Bob Clark
Organist	Linda Pein
Choir Director	Julia Hartman
Accompanist	Fenella Theodore
Custodian	Dennis Lage
Parish Nurses	Sandy Reifsteck
	Elizabeth Kakoma
	Celeste Coverdill

Office Hours
Monday– Friday
8:00AM – 2:00PM

Deadline for Scroll is the 15th of every month.

Bulletin / Announcement / Shout Out Deadline is Wednesday at noon each week.

If you would like to receive a printed copy of the Scroll, please contact Traci at staff@gslc-cu.org. Paper copies are also available at the church.

