



News of the Flock

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
December 2023

From the Pastor's Desk:

"Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." Luke 2:10b-12.

While it might not be the most theologically rich vision of this verse I can't help but hear Linus's voice from the Charlie Brown Christmas special after Charlie Brown asks him what Christmas is all about. Linus gets up and says, "I can tell you what Christmas is all about Charlie Brown" and then he quotes this Scripture from Luke's Gospel. This then becomes the "aha" moment that all the fuss over the Christmas play, the lights contest, and the perfect tree don't really matter in the end. I wouldn't go so far as to say that all those things don't matter. Our traditions matter and the warm, loving feelings we get participating in them matter. It only becomes a problem when we get lost in stress and forget what we are really celebrating, which Luke's Gospel reminds us of every year. As we enter into the Advent season of waiting and anticipation for Christ's birth on December 25 make sure you are taking time to make space for Christ to enter. In the midst of the shopping, parties, and holiday rush, make space for prayer, for taking 5 minutes of quiet contemplation, to take time to ponder all the wonderful things that surround us this time of year. After Jesus's birth and all the visitations there is a verse that says that Mary took it all in and then pondered it all in her heart. Take the memories of Christmas's past, the love of family and friends, the celebrations of this year, and the love of Christ that brings them all together and ponder them in your heart. Amen!

- Pastor Jamie



Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

3099 Chapel Hill Road
Douglasville, GA 30135

770-949-9522

[MyLCGS.org](http://mylcgs.org)

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

Pastor Jamie Witt

pastor@mylcgs.org

 Find us on
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Lutheran Church of the
Good Shepherd
Douglasville, GA



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Our Council:

President	Alison Webb	bauchalison@yahoo.com
Vice-President	Stephen Austin	autorip@aol.com
Fellowship	Johanna Welch	Skippiejo@bellsouth.net
Property	Brad Dennis	bdennis@fastenal.com
Outreach	Kevin Bauch	kbauch@bellsouth.net
Worship	Diana Calhoun	dncalhoun@gmail.com
Stewardship	Bob Schulhof	sealegal@aol.com
Education	Laurie Ritchie	dallritchie@gmail.com
	Pastor Jamie	pastor@mylcs.org
Secretary*	Charles Craton	ccraton@comcast.net
Treasurer*	Steve Pulver	sjpulver46@gmail.com
* not a voting member		

**Women's
Christmas Party
and Gift Exchange
Tuesday,
December 5th
6 p.m.
at Red Lobster**



Council Corner:

Hello Good Shepherd,

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving! But I know we all can't wait until Christmas!

We have a lot to look forward to this month, we are preparing for the Holiday season with decorations and worship!

We want to sing praise to the Dennis family for putting out beautiful work in the rock garden! We want to also shout out to Neal for supplying the rocks! We have also raised money to start work on the A/C units in half of the fellowship hall, as well as the ones that operate the office side of the hallway. Renovations will begin soon to prepare the new A/C units.

As Christmas Day lands on a Sunday this year we will have a morning and night service. The morning service will be at 9:30am and the night service will begin at 7:00pm. Join us for the beautiful celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior!

We continue to pray and keep faith in this church and its congregation.

God Bless Good Shepherd

Council President,
Alison Webb

The next Council Meeting is December 11 at 7 p.m.
The Finance committee meets at 6 p.m.



**DECEMBER 10th
Following the Service
Please plan to attend.**

**Advent Services
Wednesdays at 7 p.m. on
December 6th, 13th, and 20th**



**Christmas
Eve
Candlelight
Service
Dec. 24th at 7 p.m.**



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Women's Christmas Party and Gift Exchange:

Our Annual Women's Christmas Party and Gift Exchange will be Tues. Dec. 5th at 6 p.m. at Red Lobster. Contact Shirley Sneddon (sjsneddon@att.net) to R.S.V.P. or with any questions.



Operation Christmas:



On December 9th our church will be one of many in Douglas County to participate in the 9th annual Operation Christmas, which is the largest single outreach event in our community. This ministry provides new, unwrapped toys and gifts to children on free school meals, receiving WIC or medical services through the Health Department, enrolled in Project Head Start, or a student at Youth Villages. **If you would like to donate, please place new, unwrapped toys in the collection box by December 7th. We are in the most in need of \$20 or \$25 gift cards to Walmart or Target. If you would like to help with the gift distribution or if you can help make reminder calls to families, please let Leila know at mleila01@gmail.com.**



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Congregational Meeting:

Our annual Congregational Meeting to vote on the 2024 budget will be December 10th, following the service. Please plan to attend. To be eligible to vote in the Congregational Meeting, you must be a confirmed member of this church, and have made a contribution of record and communed in this congregation during the current or preceding calendar year.

Church Calendar:



Need a listing of church activities, meetings, and events? Want to know what time something starts? Please check out our Church Calendar on our website: <https://www.mylcgs.org/calendar>.

Prayer Team:

Our Prayer Team meets on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. Participants can bring their lunch and stay after the prayers to eat together.



Advent Services:

We will be celebrating the Advent season, using the Holden Evening Prayer, with services on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. on December 6th, 13th, and the 20th. Join us in celebrating the season of anticipation and preparation.



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Choir:



Choir will be practicing for the Christmas services after our Advent Services on Wednesdays in December and at 9 a.m. Sunday mornings. Come join us. You can join in for just the Christmas season if you would like; no long term commitment required.

Christmas Services:

We will be celebrating the fourth Sunday of Advent at our usual Sunday service time of 9:30 a.m. on December 24th. **Our Christmas Eve Worship Service will be that evening at 7 p.m.** We will celebrate the First Sunday of Christmas with a hymn sing on Sunday December 31st.



Daily Bread Ministry:

"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat."

Matthew 25:35



We currently have 16 residents at Camp Shinnah. Five residents have jobs, two 2 receive social security checks, and two residents moved into housing this month. One resident is attending college!

Praise be to God!!!!... We have electricity at the camp. They can now make coffee and warm their food.

The generosity of Douglas County has been overwhelming. Thanksgiving Dinners were delivered to most all the individuals we serve each week. Our residents at Shinnah received more food than they could handle. All were very thankful... One of the residents at Shinnah sent this text to me on Thanksgiving day. "Happy Thanksgiving Mama. May Thanksgiving and the rest of the year remind us to be grateful for what we have. This Thanksgiving, we are reminded of just how grateful we are for Daily Bread."

Our needs this month are bottled water and peanut butter ... We also have a need for plastic dinner plates, plastic bowls, and coffee mugs.

Thank you for your continued support to those in need.

- Leila

Lutheranch - 3rd Annual Christmas Open House:



Join us to kick off the holidays at the Ranch! Get your photo made with Santa and a horse! We will have free refreshments, pony rides, crafts, and more! Bring your friends and family to celebrate this wonderful time of year at the barn! December 3rd, from 2-5 p.m. RSVP at bit.ly/LutheranchChristmas23.

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ELCA NEWS:

ELCA Church Council appoints the Rev. Michael Burk as Presiding Bishop Pro Tempore

The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) appointed the Rev. Michael Burk as presiding bishop pro tempore after its Executive Committee approved Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton's request for a four- to six-month leave of absence, to begin Nov. 17. The council, which serves as the ELCA churchwide organization's board of directors and interim legislative authority between meetings of a churchwide assembly, gathered at the Lutheran Center in Chicago, Nov. 9-12.

ELCA Southeastern Synod News:

Check out this video, https://youtu.be/zEOOhTbH_Ac, which shares the vision of the Southeastern Synod as we EQUIP, EMPOWER, and ENGAGE God's people to love and serve. You might see a familiar face!



Our December Birthdays and Anniversaries:



Maddie Holzhauser	12/1
Cristina Craton	12/3
Bradlee Ray	12/5
Laurie Ritchie	12/6
Claire Craton	12/6
Stephen Austin	12/9
Sadie Shick	12/9
Justin Stephenson	12/18
Pastor Jamie Witt	12/19
Kristy Weathers	12/21
Chad Waters	12/28
John Lorenz	12/31

Happy Anniversary

Laura & Stephen Austin	12/17
Steve & Theresa Pulver	12/22

