



News of the Flock

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
February 2024

From the Pastor's Desk:

"Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you.

My heart is glad to say the words: You are Holy, God." ELW 473

It's February, and that generally turns our minds to hearts and flowers as all the stores begin to set out their Valentine's Day supplies. Whether that is a secular holiday that you celebrate or not you can't escape its presence in our society. This year the beginning of Lent, Ash Wednesday, falls on February 14th. While this might seem like a strange combination, I see it as an opportunity to enter into the Lenten season remembering the greatest love you will ever experience: the love of Christ. Lent begins our season of reflection as we journey toward the Cross. During this journey we often participate in the tradition of fasting where we deny ourselves something that we normally have every day or as an indulgence. This practice is supposed to increase your spiritual awareness and enhance your prayer time. It's a detachment from wants to create more self-discipline. If this is something that you practice that enhances your prayer life and relationship with God, I encourage you to continue to engage with it. If it is something that you struggle with, I'd like to offer an alternative suggestion. Instead of giving something up, I would encourage you to add something. For 40 days I would like you to add a spiritual practice to your daily lives that helps you to learn more about God's love for you and God's work in your life. This can be as easy as keeping your Bible on your nightstand and every night before you go to sleep read from it. You could choose to read a Gospel all the way through a little each night. You could also choose to work through a devotional book that has readings and questions to ponder each day. You could try a new prayer practice such as a centering prayer or lectio divina. Often what can happen after 40 days is that you continue this new practice because you found a profound connection to God through it. You found more love in God's presence through it. Whether you fast or add something new I encourage you to engage in some kind of new spiritual practice during this Lenten season. It is a sacred time in our church year where our hearts are touched and often changed by God's abundant grace and mercy and by how far God is willing to go in God's love for us, God's beloved.

- Pastor Jamie



Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

3099 Chapel Hill Road
Douglasville, GA 30135

770-949-9522

MyLCGS.org

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

Pastor Jamie Witt

pastor@mylcs.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
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	Pastor Jamie	pastor@mylcs.org
Secretary*	Charles Craton	ccraton@comcast.net
Treasurer*	Steve Pulver	sjpulver46@gmail.com
* not a voting member		



Our Adult Education Class on the By Heart Book meets after worship on Sundays

Council Corner:

Hello Good Shepherd,

I hope you all got through the cold weather of January and are hopefully ready for things to finally warm up!

Speaking of warming up, February 7th we have our First-Wednesday-Night dinners starting up again. We will also have youth Sunday School again after worship on February 18th!

Praise the Lord! We now have cleaners coming to clean the church! We want to thank all of the volunteers for doing such an amazing job these last months and making sure our church was as beautiful as ever!

This year, we will have an Ash Wednesday Service at 11 a.m., in addition to our usual 7 p.m. service. Our midweek Lenten services we be Wednesdays during lent at 7 p.m.

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

God Bless Good Shepherd
Council President,
Alison Webb

Next Council Meeting

The next Council Meeting is February 12 at 7 p.m. via Zoom
The Finance committee meets at 6 p.m. via Zoom



Our next dinner will be an Italian Potluck on February 7th at 6:15.

Daily Bread Ministry needs your plastic grocery bags.



Services at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. February 14th

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Please be aware there are many scams that prey on people's goodness and willingness to help. There has been a repeated scam that has hit many churches, including Good Shepherd, where scammers text congregation members while pretending to be the pastor of their church and asking for gift cards to be purchased and the numbers texted back to them. If you receive any text or email from "Pastor Jamie," please check with her or the church before making any purchases or sending any money. Do not reply to any such texts or emails and ask if you are unsure.

Ash Wednesday and Midweek Lenten Services:



We will have Ash Wednesday Service, with imposition of ashes, at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. on February 14th. For the following weeks of Lent, midweek Lenten services will be Wednesdays at 7 p.m., with the theme of "Open My Life, Lord."

Wednesday Night Dinners and Fellowship Hour:



Our next First-Wednesday-Dinner is an Italian Potluck. Bring your favorite Italian dish! Dinner is **Wednesday, February 7th** 6:15 pm. Come join in for good food and fellowship.

Our next after service Fellowship Hour will be February 18th.

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.



Adult Education Class:



Our Adult Education Class meets after our worship service. You can join in anytime. The books can still be purchased for \$13.99. Please write your check to the church and indicate "book."

Youth Sunday School:

We will be starting a new, monthly Sunday School class for children and youth starting February 18th after the service. Come join the fun!





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End-of-the-Year Offering Statements and Financial Report:

You should have received your end of the year offering statements for 2023 via email (this saves us postage). If we don't have an email address for you, your statement was sent regular mail. You should receive it soon. Please email Anne Stephens at annestephens@mylcs.org if you have any questions about your statement.

Copies of the end of the year financial report from our Treasurer will be available in the Narthex as soon as they become available.

AC/Parking Lot Fund:

The AC/Parking Lot Fund had reached \$40,691.66, of the \$100K goal, by the end of 2023. So far this year, an additional \$200 has been donated to the fund. The next goal is to cover cost of a new unit for the bathroom/nursery side of the hallway. The other two older units are still working. The current balance in the fund is \$2563.66 after the purchase of the three units that have been installed.

Daily Bread Ministry:

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

Matthew 25:35



We Currently have 20 residents at the camp. We are full! This month we were able to help three residents obtain their birth certificates and we obtained Georgia ID and/driver's license for three and a Social Security card for one. These documents allow them to apply for jobs, receive services, and drive to work.

We would like to thank you First United Methodist Church for opening the warming center during all those brutal, cold days. Many people, organizations and ministries provided food for those who stayed at the warning center. It is absolutely amazing how Douglasville comes together to serve those in need.

We had a wonderful surprise this month with a donation of more than 50 coats for the less fortunate in our community. Hadassah Cox, Chisa Ihekwereme, and Sehr Hussain, of the Douglas County High School, International Baccalaureate Program did an amazing job initiating this coat drive. This effort made a difference to those in need!



Our needs this month are canned protein and fruit. Thank you to all those who serve and donate to this ministry. You make a difference!

-Leila

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2024 Hunger Walk/Run:

Did you know that 13% of children in Georgia don't have enough to eat? That 8% of Georgia's senior citizens don't have enough to eat? You can help! Sign up to be on the **Daily Bread /Good Shepherd, Douglasville** team, captained by Don Larsen, or donate to support the efforts of the team in the 2024 Hunger/Walk Run. The In-Person and Virtual Event is Sunday, March 10, 2024. The In-Person Event starts at The Home Depot Backyard at 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM. For more information and to sign up or donate go to:

http://engage.acfb.org/site/TR?fr_id=2144&pg=entry.



Lois Waldmann, Don Larsen, and Joan Larsen participating in last year's Hunger Walk/Run



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ELCA Southeastern Synod News:

All GA Youth Gathering 2024:

Spirit of Peace

Romans 15:13

ALL GA YOUTH
GATHERING 2024
FEBRUARY 23-25, 2024

NEW LOCATION! CAMP GLISSON
DAHLONEGA, GA

SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

REGISTER AT SESYOUTH.ORG BY
FEBRUARY 9

Every year youth (6th-12th grade) and adults gather for faith formation in a fantastic retreat atmosphere that helps us to connect with God and with one another. The entire Synod is welcome and invited to participate.

We are very excited to be gathering for All Georgia 2024 at a **NEW location: Camp Glisson in Dahlonega, Georgia**. This year's theme is "Spirit of Peace" (Romans 15:13) and there will be special guest presenters. We will discuss what love for self, creation and others looks like in today's world. We look forward to spending time in fellowship and community with you all!

For 6th - 12th graders

Cost: \$175.00 (includes t-shirt)

THEME: Spirit of Peace

Register at <https://se-reg.brtapp.com/AllGA2024>.

The registration deadline is Friday, February 9th.

(Young adults - 18-30 years old - may attend for FREE, if serving as a small group leader)



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Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church (CRLC) Listening Session: Monday, February 5, 2024 at 7:00-8:15 pm ET / 6:00-7:15 pm CT, via Zoom.

The Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church (CRLC) was formed by the action of the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. The assembly action directed the Church Council to develop a CRLC "comprised of leaders of diverse representation from all three expressions that, working in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council, shall reconsider the statements of purpose for each of the expressions of this church, the principles of its organizational structure, and all matters pertaining thereunto, being particularly attentive to our shared commitment to dismantle racism, and will present its findings and recommendations to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly in preparation for a possible reconstituting convention to be called under the rules for a special meeting of the Churchwide Assembly." As a foundation for its work, the CRLC is hosting various listening sessions, collecting data from a wide range of constituents in order to inform the work of the CRLC. During this listening session, members of the Southeastern Synod will participate in a facilitated group discussion addressing questions prepared by the CRLC and asked at all listening sessions.

This session will be facilitated by Rev. Tiffany Chaney, Pastor Developer of Gathered by Grace in Montgomery and member of the CRLC. This listening session is designed to center the voices of people in the Southeastern Synod. You can register at:

<https://se-reg.brtaapp.com/CLRCListingSession>

The Southeastern Synod Assembly will be held from Friday, May 31, 2024 to Sunday, June 2, 2024 at the Columbus Georgia Convention and Trade Center.

Our January Birthdays and Anniversaries:



Happy Anniversary

Mary Graham	02/07	Leonard Murphy	02/20
Lynn Shick	02/14	Philip Welch	02/25
Kevin Bauch	02/19	Amanda Parker	02/26
LeAndra Douds	02/20		