



News of the Flock

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

January 2024

From the Pastor's Desk:

"When they [the wise men] saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." Matthew 2:10-11

We begin the new year in the season of Epiphany. Epiphany comes from the Greek word epiphaneia which means "appearance." To appear is also to be revealed. Appearance brings clarity and we see what we didn't before. This is a season that focuses on the ways that Christ is revealed to us as God's Son, the Messiah. One of the ways we celebrate this is to read about the visit of the Magi to the child Jesus as they recognized that this was no ordinary child. Matthew's Gospel does not specify how many of these "wise men" came to visit Jesus, but it does mention the gifts they brought, and we have then assumed that the number of gifts equaled the number of visitors. While the number of visitors is not important, the gifts they brought are. The meaning and significance of each item speaks to who they see Jesus as and are a foreshadowing of what will come. The gold represents Christ's deity as it meant purity and royalty; the frankincense is a type of incense that would represent priestly worship; and the myrrh represented sacrifice and death and was often used for embalming. These gifts show us that they understood that this child was a king, but also a priest, and would suffer and die for humanity. The child was God's Son, the Messiah and by his appearance among us would change everything. During this Epiphany season look for ways that you see Christ active in your life and in the world around you. How is Christ revealed in your everyday life? How do you reveal the love of Christ to others? Let's go into this New Year together walking in faith to see how Christ is going to live in us and through us in amazing ways.

- 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
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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		



Our Adult Education Class on the By Heart Book will resume after the service on January 14th

Council Corner:

Hello Good Shepherd,

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas! Here's to the New Year!

2023 has been full of amazing new things like our Pastor, Pastor Jamie and her daughter Anna! They have been the perfect addition to our Good Shepherd family and are forever grateful for them!

We also continue to sing praises to those working on the new A/C unit. We want to thank the congregation for pushing us over the top to get the two new units installed for the offices and fellowship hall. We also like to thank them for their generous donations to the Men's group that have allowed us to work away at improving our curb appeal outside the building. We'll be working to finish the hallway off soon as well as reworking the landscaping around the little tree outside the fellowship hall.

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

God Bless Good Shepherd
Council President,
Alison Webb



Our next dinner will be February 7th at 6:15.

Daily Bread Ministry needs your plastic grocery bags.

Council Meeting

**The next Council Meeting is January 8 at 7 p.m.
The Finance committee meets at 6 p.m.**



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If you have not picked up your 2024 offering envelopes they are in your mailbox. If you did not receive envelopes and would like some, please let Anne Stephens at annestephens@mylcs.org know. **Please do not use your 2024 envelopes in 2023 or 2023 envelopes in 2024 as some numbers have been reassigned for 2024.**

Wednesday Night Dinners:



Our next First-Wednesday-Dinner and Activities will be **Wednesday, February 7th**. Dinner will be at 6:15 pm. Come join in for good food and fellowship.

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.mylcs.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 will resume on January 14th, following the service. The books can still be purchased for \$13.99. Please write your check to the church and indicate "book."

Daily Bread Ministry:

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

Matthew 25:35



We currently have 18 residents. Five have jobs and one is attending college. This month we were able to provide one resident with their birth certificate and driving records so they can obtain identification.

Thank you GreyStone Operation Roundup. We were Approved to receive another grant this year for \$5000. If you are not doing it already, consider rounding up your GreyStone electric bill.... They

help so many nonprofits in our area.

We are in need of your plastic grocery bags. Please bring them to the church instead of throwing them out. Thank you for all you do for our Daily Bread Ministry.

Leila



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Thank You!



Thank you to all who donated to our Air Conditioner/Parking Lot fundraiser over the past two years! The total donated to this fund so far is \$40,191.66. We have been able to purchase and install three new AC/Heating units: one in the Sanctuary, a unit in the hall way, and one in the Fellowship Hall. We still need to replace one non-working unit for the bathroom/ Nursery side of the hallway. The other two older units are still working. The current balance in the fund is \$1863.66, so more will be needed to replace the non-working unit on the bathroom side of the hallway and for the parking lot.

Also, a great big thank you goes to Brad Dennis and Steve Austin for their work to oversee the project and repair our walls as units were replaced! Thank you!

Another big Thank You:



Another big thank you goes out to all those who have been cleaning our building weekly since May: the Dennis Family, Leila Myers, Joe and Shirley Sneddon, Susan Duke, Laurie Ritchie, and Lois Waldmann. The building has never looked so good! Your work is greatly appreciated! Council is in the process of hiring new cleaners for the new year.

ELCA Southeastern Synod News:

The Bishop's Commemorative Martin Luther King, Jr. Worship Service:

You are invited to The Bishop's Commemorative Martin Luther King, Jr. Worship Service. It is taking place on Sunday, January 14th at 4 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lilburn, GA at 1826 Killian Hill Road SW. It promised to be a wonderful service!

If you would like to participate in the Team Lutheran Choir, please call Pastor Mardy Ringer at 404-840-3892 or email stmarkchurchlutheran@gmail.com.



You're invited to join us for the 2024

**The Bishop's Commemorative
Martin Luther King, Jr. Worship Service**

"Beloved Community"

Sunday, January 14th at 4 PM
Trinity Lutheran Church - Lilburn, GA

1826 Killian Hill Road SW Lilburn, GA 30047



SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA





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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.

LGBTQIA+ Educational Workshop Via Zoom

Workshop 1: Getting to Know All of God's Children: Understanding Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity & Gender Expression: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. EST

Follow-up Workshop: LGBTQIA+ Inclusion: March 19th at 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. EST

The Southeastern Synod of the ELCA is offering a workshop to deepen and expand the holy work of welcome, inclusion, and celebration of LGBTQIA+ people in the church and society. This training is great for those who are hoping to support their faith community in ongoing education or for individuals who have an open heart and mind on learning more about God's diversity of creation. This will be a safe space to learn language and ways to extend hospitality to our LGBTQIA+ siblings.

This event is co-sponsored by the Southeastern Synod Lutheran Youth Organization (SESLYO) and the Southeastern Synod's Diversity & Justice team, in coordination with Reconciling Works (<https://www.reconcilingworks.org/>)

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

Our January Birthdays and Anniversaries:



Joanne Craton	3-Jan	Sarah Titzmann	11-Jan
Isabella Parker	3-Jan	Cliff Stephens	14-Jan
Shirley Sneddon	3-Jan	Diana Calhoun	18-Jan
Andrew Alexander	4-Jan	Susen Sanders	18-Jan
Tim Carder	4-Jan	Joan Larsen	19-Jan
Bonnie Garrett	7-Jan	Susan Murphy	20-Jan
Lisa Schad	8-Jan	Leah Titzmann	21-Jan
Steve fulton	9-Jan	Amanda Smith	25-Jan
Rebecca Kigwana	9-Jan	Jill Zuehlke	29-Jan
Chad Kelley	11-Jan	Tahryn Stephenson	30-Jan

Happy Anniversary

Anne and Randy Stephens 1/1
Gayle and James Cole 1/5

