



## Showing up for Our Neighbors

Greetings in Christ!

It's February! Many of us, I think, agree that January felt like a long month, full of major changes in our society and government. Some of these changes affect our neighbors in Christ who are part of vulnerable communities and in the days and months ahead we, as followers of Jesus, will be called to show up for those neighbors. So, this month I am dedicating this space to share a recent statement by Presiding Bishop of the ELCA Rev. Elizabeth Eaton that speaks to our call as Christians in this time. May God give us courage to be the love of Christ to our neighbors.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jess

January 24, 2025

Dear church,

On Monday, our nation witnessed the peaceful transfer of power central to our democracy, followed by sweeping actions by the incoming Trump administration. Facing such changes, we receive guidance through Martin Luther's words in the Large Catechism.

In the fourth petition of the Lord's Prayer, where we pray "Give us this day our daily bread," Luther writes about the importance of praying for our leaders, asking God to grant them wisdom and strength. He also speaks to the responsibility of leaders to provide stability, sufficiency and equity, saying, "[I]t would be very proper to place in the coat-of-arms of every pious prince a loaf of bread instead of a lion, or a wreath of rue, or to stamp it upon the coin, to remind both them and their subjects that by their office we have protection and peace, and that without them we could not eat and retain our daily bread."<sup>1</sup>

## PASTOR'S PAGE CONTINUED

This past week has been one of rapid and cascading change, from the inauguration of a new president and vice president to the flurry of activity in government orders and regulations. The policies and decisions reflected in this week's executive orders and regulatory changes have the potential to profoundly impact our lives, the well-being of our neighbors and the future of the planet. Therefore, I am concerned about the ways that many of the executive actions have created uncertainty and fear in our communities among neighbors struggling to survive, neighbors struggling to provide for their children, and neighbors struggling to be seen.

As a church, we are called to speak up when the government distorts or denies the image of God in each person by endangering access to protection, peace and daily bread. Where harm or inequity occur, we are called by God to respond with love and advocacy.

Luther also writes that in asking for daily bread, we are to pray for our leaders. We should pray that they act wisely and justly, protect all people and not cause harm.

Prayer is not passive; it's an act of hope. Prayer reminds us to ground ourselves in God's promise. We pray for strength, to love unconditionally and to serve one another. As we lift up our petitions, we must also act—advocating for policies that affirm the dignity of every person and standing against actions that demean or exclude.

This church is committed to upholding the humanity of everyone, regardless of who we are or where we come from. We are a church called to love our neighbors and accompany all people in their joys and struggles. We must remain steadfast in this calling. As the ELCA, we will continue to proclaim the radical inclusivity of Christ's love. And we will deepen our local and global partnerships with those working to build a just and compassionate society, especially through our ecumenical and interreligious networks.

I commend to you the social message "Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy," which states on page 7: "To evaluate how well agencies of government are doing their proper work of providing for the safety and well-being of those within their borders and/or jurisdiction, Lutherans ask one simple but all-encompassing question: Is the neighbor being served?"

I encourage our congregations to use the resources of the ELCA Witness in Society Team with advocacy networks on the state and federal level. And get involved with AMMPARO, the ELCA's strategy toward just and humane policies affecting migrants.

As we move forward, let us hold fast to our faith and to one another. Let us be bold in our witness to the gospel, steadfast in our prayers for those in authority and tireless in our efforts to seek justice for all.

May God grant us courage, wisdom and peace in these days.

In Christ,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## 2025 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



### Annual Congregational Meeting.

The Annual Meeting is Sunday, February 23, 2025  
at 11:15 am, directly following the service.

We will elect new council members and new voting members to attend the 2025 Synod Assembly, hear reports from the committees and Pastor Jess, and approve the 2025 budget. Please plan on attending.

## CARE FOR CREATION TEAM



### Solar Power and Energy Proposals

Our Care for Creation Team has been diligently researching alternative energy options for Good Shepherd. At the last council meeting, Mike Mahalak presented findings from that research and some preliminary proposals to consider including solar power options.

Thank you Mike for your time and talents. More to come as research is completed and proposals refined.

## LWR QUILTS AND SCHOOL KITS



In 2024, Lutheran World Relief handed out 370,818 quilts and 140,117 school kits around the world.

School kits went to: Angola, Honduras, Lebanon, Mali, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, the US and Zambia.

Quilts went to: Angola, Georgia, Lebanon, Mali, Moldova, Nicaragua, Niger, Peru, South Sudan, Tanzania, Turkiye, Ukraine, and the US.



Thank you to everyone who participated in any way to make 2024 another successful year.

# PRAYER PARTNERS MINISTRY

## Your Signature Needed! Prayer Partner Cards

As described by Synod, the Prayer Partners Ministry:

"...invites congregations and rostered ministers in our synod to pray for each other."

Each week, a different congregation and rostered minister is highlighted and congregations across the North/West Lower Michigan Synod include them in their weekly prayers. You can find the recipients in the Prayers sections of the Yellow Pages or the Newsletter.

Along with our prayers, Good Shepherd sends a short note to each congregation signed by Pastor Jess, Good Shepherd members, and attenders. In past years we have received notes thanking us and telling us how much the prayers meant to that particular congregation.

We need your signature! Over the last few years, the number of signatures has dwindled to less than 10. We would like to increase that number and fill the cards inside and out. The prayer cards are found on the desk in the Commons.

Please sign today!



Dear Rev. \_\_\_\_\_ and Congregation,  
\_\_\_\_\_ Lutheran Church,

God's peace and joy be with you! We are grateful for your service and ministry in the name of Jesus Christ! We pray that God will bless you with every good thing, guide you in God's truth, and sustain you through any struggles. Please know that your siblings at Good Shepherd in Holland, MI are praying for you!

In Christ,  
Your friends at Good Shepherd

## END OF YEAR GIVING STATEMENTS



2024 Giving Statements have been sent

For those receiving hard copies, you will be receiving them soon.

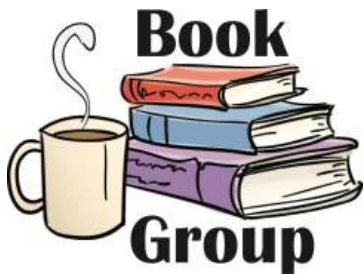
*If you have not received a copy of your  
2024 Giving Statement by Feb. 15, 2025,  
please let us know.*

Questions? Contact Vicki Russell or Elliott Eisaman.

## BOOK GROUP NEWS

February Selection:

*The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes



This historical novel tells the story of the Packhorse Librarians of Kentucky. Under Eleanor Roosevelt's new traveling library program during the Great Depression, five women are highlighted who sign up to deliver books to remote Kentucky communities. "What happens to them—and to the men they love—becomes an unforgettable drama of loyalty, justice, humanity and passion."  
(from the publisher)

Everyone is responsible for acquiring their own copy, (borrow from Herrick or purchase through Amazon or Barnes & Noble). If you have difficulty locating a copy contact Corinne Becker, 616-283-2089.

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at 4:30 pm

## PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING



### *The Measure of Our Love*

Computers connected via internet = Families

Total Sunday Attendance: 198

Families: 9

Average Sunday Attendance: 49

# NOISY OFFERING

## January/February Noisy Offering

### Community Action House

In particular, we will be collecting Winter Gear and Food Items. See the lists below.

In addition, we will focus on raising money for the Financial Wellness Program. Community Action House provides courses, services, and counseling at no cost to community members for home buying education, financial capability, and foreclosure intervention. Everything from the basics of saving and building a budget to the knowledge of how to buy a home.

Mission and Outreach Committee

Carolyn, Suzanne, Branden, Julie, and Pastor Jessica



#### Winter Gear:

- Adult-sized hats, gloves and mittens (waterproof and durable materials preferred).
- Adult-sized tall socks (thicker material preferred).
- Adult-sized coats and snow pants (waterproof and durable materials preferred).
- Twin-sized or larger blankets (cotton and fleece preferred).
- Sleeping bags.
- Emergency thermal blankets.
- Hand Warmers (regular or 72 hour).

New and gently used items are appreciated. Please ensure that used items are in good condition, with working zippers and fasteners.

#### Food Items:

- Dried beans (pinto or black)
- Healthy cooking oil (olive, coconut, canola or grapeseed oils)
- Red Lentils
- Broth
- Whole wheat pasta
- Gluten free pasta
- Flour
- Spices (salt, cinnamon, cumin, ginger, chili powder)
- Corn masa
- Basmati rice
- Canned fruit in 100% juice
- Tea or coffee
- Canned coconut milk
- Canned beans
- Juice (low-sugar/no sugar added)
- Ensure or protein drinks
- Alternative nut butters
- Unsalted nuts

Low Sodium or Low Sugar items Preferred.

## SUNDAY SERVANTS

### Sunday Servants Needed for February

Please help us fill the spaces. Volunteer to be a Sunday Servant

Use the form in the Commons or contact Deb in the office.

616.772.4075 or [gslc.office@icloud.com](mailto:gslc.office@icloud.com)

Date	Worship Leader/ Communion Assistant	Reader(s)	Usher	Communion Set-Up/ Clean-Up
<b>February 2 4th Sunday of Epiphany</b>	WL- CA- Mary Sue Dawsey	Mary Sue Dawsey		Vicki Russell
<b>February 9 5th Sunday of Epiphany</b>	WL - CA-	Branden Bacon		Vicki Russell
<b>February 16 6th Sunday of Epiphany</b>	WL - CA-			
<b>February 23 7th Sunday of Epiphany</b>	WL - CA -			

## FELLOWSHIP SIGN-UP - FEBRUARY

*Fellowship Sign-up.*



Treats and Set Up & Clean Up	
<b>February 2 2025</b>	Corinne Becker & Mary Sue Dawsey
<b>February 9, 2025</b>	Bacons
<b>February 16, 2025</b>	
<b>February 23, 2025</b>	

# FEBRUARY

## Birthdays

Steve Johnson 1  
Caroline Lindsley 1  
Chuck Thor 2  
Gigi Howard 14  
Kylie Lindsley 17  
Naomi Wahl 20



## Anniversaries

No Known Anniversaries  
This Month

## SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Sunday Services are also on-line.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87525508195?pwd=MmtjVENGaUg3ODFuaXhhUHR1TVR3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 875 2550 8195

Passcode: 022399

Sunday Services, 10:00 -11:00 am, also available via Zoom  
Choir Rehearsals, Mondays at 6:30 pm, September - May  
Quilter's Meet, Tuesdays, 11:00 am on site. No Quilting in December.  
Women's Bible Study, Wednesdays, 10:30 am, September - May  
Book Group, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 4:30 pm. September - May

## PASTOR JESS' SCHEDULE



Pastor Jessica is available Monday - Thursday  
via phone, text, email and Facebook messenger.

Phone: (616) 403-4660

Email: [pj.gslc@gmail.com](mailto:pj.gslc@gmail.com)

To view Pastor's weekly in-office hours, look on the Breeze  
calendar on our website at [goodshepherdhollandmi.com](http://goodshepherdhollandmi.com)



## COUNCIL MEMBERS

### Church Council Members:

Branden Bacon, (Sec)	(920) 889-8707, <a href="mailto:branden.bacon@gmail.com">branden.bacon@gmail.com</a>
Dylana Eisaman	(616) 953-0603, <a href="mailto:dylana.pinter@gmail.com">dylana.pinter@gmail.com</a>
Steve Johnson	(616) 212-6833, <a href="mailto:sgjcfp@gamil.com">sgjcfp@gamil.com</a>
Brian Underhill (Pres)	(616) 292-7194, <a href="mailto:underhillbrian@yahoo.com">underhillbrian@yahoo.com</a>
Julie Wolff (VP)	(616) 566-6251, <a href="mailto:wolffwife@gmail.com">wolffwife@gmail.com</a>
Pastor Jess	(616) 403-4660, <a href="mailto:pj.gslc@gmail.com">pj.gslc@gmail.com</a>

## IN OUR JANUARY PRAYERS

### *In Our January Prayers...*

- **Our Sympathies:** on the passing of Rose Heckle, on the passing of Richard Russell, Dec. 25, 2024 (Mike Russell's bro.) Please pray for his sons Scott, Chris & Nathaniel and his brothers Michael & Greg and their families, also to the family and friends of Nancy Blair, (Ellen and Sally's sister) who passed on Friday, Dec. 20, 2024.
- **Ministry of the Month, January:** Community Action House and Pastor Jess.
- **Healing/Peace:** Kirk & Roberta Addis, (decades long friends of Norvells), Kirk's treatments for liver and bone cancer causing severe side effects, Andrew (Cathy Sytsma's nephew), dealing with neurological condition, Lucas Barton, diagnosed with Dushanes Muscular Dystrophy (son of friends of Julie Wolff), Zach Bergland (Beckers' nephew), Greg Bolton, (friend of Julie Wolff), Gary Bowman, Patricia Bradfield, Tom & Elizabeth Brookover, (friends of the Wentz') Tom has a rare form of ocular cancer, Dylan Brophy, age 26, (nephew of Kris Norvell's friend), stage 4 melanoma, Bret D'Agostino, Mark DeGraaf, stage 4 cancer, Diane (close friend of Kris Norvell) for new cancer treatment success, Steven Dwyer (Lynda Parrott's cousin), John & Amber Fanthorpe (friends of Russells) John is recovering from brain surgery, Jayce Genzinger (Tammy Walter's step-niece's son) born preemie in July, twin died, needs our prayers, Jessie George (Deb P-G's daughter), Rick House, Tessa Hurt (out-of-town member) diagnosed with Myelofibrosis, Jan (Cathy Sytsma's sister), cancer diagnosis, Steve Johnson, foot surgery recovery, Beth Lefever (friend of Tammy Walters) for housing and employment as she returns to the Holland Area. Tiffany Letourneau, being treated for breast cancer, Jan Mahalak, back surgery, will take several weeks for recovery, Iris Mears, (PJ's godmother), Richard Mueller (Terry Grossman's dad), surgery, Diane Oberlin (former attendee) has cancer, Nathan (Sally Ponstein's grandson), surgery complete, healing well, pray for continued recovery, Perry Pearson, ankle surgery recovery, Melissa Redding (grdaughter of Lois Robinson) lower back surgery, Roland Rivera, Casey Rosel (Norvell in-law relation) diagnosed with cancer in her skull, surgery occurred July 9, Greg Russell (Mike's brother) diagnosed with cancer, Janice Russell (Mike's sister-in-law) cancer diagnosis, Jerry Shoup, Kathy Shoup, surgery for broken femur, Katherine Slee (friend of Beckers), Claire Smith (Norvell's grandniece) recovery from transplant surgery, Stella, 6 yrs old, (Sally Ponstein's friends grdaughter) needs a kidney transplant, Suzanne (Ellie's daughter) prayers for resolution of gastrointestinal problems, Rick Taylor, (Julie Wolff's cousin), heart surgery at the Mayo Clinic, Russ & Rita Taylor (Julie Wolff's parents), Sara Thompson (Corinne's friend) cancer diagnosis, Justin Walker (Pastor's husband), Julia Wentz, chemotherapy treatments,.
- **Healthy Pregnancy:** Madison Visser, (Norvell's granddaughter).
- **Assisted Living/Nursing Home/Homebound:** Christopher St. John (Son of Bonita Zielke), Bonita Zielke,
- **Serving Our Country:** John Bounthapanya (Som's nephew), Ryan Felgenhauer, William Felgenhauer, and Evan Felgenhauer (great-nephews of Kerry Johnson), Cortney and Konstantin Ivanov (Gigi Howard's daughter and son-in-law), Mitchell Johnson (Parrott's nephew), Zachery Wiesner (Gigi Howard's son-in-law).
- **Prayer Partners:** Trinity Lutheran Church, Rev. Kjersten Sullivan, Battle Creek; Messiah Lutheran Church, Rev. Timothy Jahn, Bay City; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Supply Pastors, Big Rapids; St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Rev. Diane Sponheim, Bridgeport.