



THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE - JANUARY 2020

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 300 Union Ave., Somerville, NJ,
908-685-1660 www.gslutheranchurch.com
www.facebook.com/GoodShepherdLutheranChurchSomervilleNJ
Pastor: Rev. Chelsea Miller



Epiphany Sunday, January 5

We celebrate this as a season of light and are reminded of the star that led the wise men to Jesus and the light of Christ in our midst.



- ✙ 9:30 AM Join us at Worship as our choir presents a cantata "The Wondrous Story."
- ✙ 10:30 AM Undecorate the church
- ✙ 10:45 AM Jr. Youth Group (Gr. 3-6)
- ✙ 12:00 PM Go Green! Go Hike!
- ✙ 10:45 AM Dwelling in the Word
- ✙ 10:45 AM Stewardship Team Mtg.
- ✙ 5:30 PM Youth Group (Gr. 7-12)

Star Words for Epiphany.



A star word is a word to guide and lead your year, like the star that led the wisemen to Jesus.

If you would like a star word to guide your year, email pastor Chelsea with a number between 1 and 163.

Youth Lock-In (Grades 7-12)

Saturday, January 18, 7:00 AM
thru Sunday 19, 9:30 AM Worship

Join Pastor Chelsea and Kevin for GAME NIGHT! We'll have everything from Checkers to Candy Land to Uno and lots of things in between!

Sign up in Narthex or [online](#)—permission slip required!



Sunday, January 12

- 9:30 AM Worship, Prayers for Healing, Sending of Communion Ministers
- 10:45 AM Visit the Caring Ministries Corner by the Library
- 10:45 AM Guest Speaker: Naeem H. presentation on "Hospice Care Chaplaincy" and the importance of providing spiritual care during the end-of-life process.
- 11:00 AM Grief Support Group
- 10:45 AM Family Worship



Faithful Conversations

DWELLING IN THE WORD with Pastor Chelsea. **Sunday, Jan. 5, 10:45 AM** No prep, just show up ready to enter the Word.

WEDNESDAY AT NOON: This weekly Bible Study will resume **Jan. 8**. Join Pastor Chelsea as we take time to look at the next Sunday's texts and wonder what they mean for us today.

THURSDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: This weekly Bible Study resumes **Jan. 16** at 1:00 PM—an opportunity for women to gather for Scripture study using a study guide. Please speak to Pastor Chelsea if interested in potentially joining this group.

GSLC BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP: **Sat., Jan. 11 and 25, 9:30 AM.** We will discuss "If the Church Were Christian: Rediscovering the Values of Jesus" by Philip Gulley. All are welcome to attend discussion of this book—a challenging and thought-provoking examination of the author's vision for today's church. Contact Lee W.

Any questions about opportunities for Faithful Conversation and Bible Study at GSLC?
Feel free to chat with Pastor Chelsea!

Annual Congregation Finance Meeting

Sunday, January 26

9:30 AM Worship
10:45 AM Congregation Meeting. Of course, there will be coffee available. Childcare provided all morning.

In preparation for this meeting:

- Please pick up a copy of the Annual Report which includes the proposed 2020 Spending Plan—available **Sunday, January 12** in the Narthex.
- A review of the Spending Plan and Q&A will be offered on **Sunday, January 19** at 10:45 AM.
- As always questions about the plan may be submitted to askcouncil@gslutheranchurch.org



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Sundays at Good Shepherd

Professional Nursery Care Sunday mornings
Our worship services are livestreamed, click on

Facebook

JAN. 5, SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

- ✚ IHN Guests Arrive
- ✚ 9:30 AM Worship with Choir Cantata "The Wondrous Story"
- ✚ 10:30 AM Undecorate the church
- ✚ 10:45 AM Dwelling in the Word
- ✚ 10:45 AM Jr. Youth Group (Gr. 3-6)
- ✚ 10:45 AM Stewardship Team Mtg.
- ✚ 12:00 PM Go Green! Go Hike!
- ✚ 5:30 PM Youth Group (Gr. 7-12)

JAN. 12, BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Mark 2:1-22 *The healing of a paralyzed man/Eating with tax collectors*

- ✚ 9:30 IHN Guests Depart
- ✚ 9:30 AM Worship, Prayers for Healing, Sending of Communion Ministers
- ✚ 10:45 AM Family Worship
- ✚ 10:45 AM Caring Ministries Corner
- ✚ 10:45 AM Guest Speaker : Naeem H. presentation on "Hospice Care Chaplaincy"
- ✚ 11:00 AM Grief Support
- ✚ Spending Plan Available for pickup

JAN. 19, SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

Mark 4:1-34 *Parables of the sower and mustard seed*

- ✚ 9:30 AM Grace Alive! Worship
- ✚ 10:45 AM Family Faith Formation
- ✚ 10:45 AM Spending Plan Review
- ✚ Newsletter Articles Due

JAN. 26, THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

Mark 5:1-20 *Jesus heals the Gerasene Demonic*

- ✚ 9:30 AM Worship
- ✚ 10:30 AM Annual Financial Meeting

**The 2020 Altar Flower Chart**

If you wish to dedicate flowers for a Sunday worship. Signup on the Narthex Bulletin Board or online at **FLOWERS**

For your contribution, please use the Altar Flower donation envelopes located on the Narthex Welcome Table and place in the offering plate or online.

Our Christmas Gifts To Others**THE ANGEL TREE**

A very special thank you to everyone whose generosity purchased over 110 gifts that were distributed to Visions and Pathways (assisting at-risk youth); Safe + Sound Somerset (empowering domestic abuse survivors); Social Services supporting Roosevelt Elementary school and other local families in need. This ministry helped make the holiday special for the agencies and families we supported.

Supported by Thrivent Action Team
Laura N. Carol W., Angel Tree Coordinators

FOOD BASKETS

Thank you to all those who helped bring food baskets to 21 families from Thanksgiving to Christmas. Your generosity of time and food to help those who needed our support is greatly appreciated.

Richard A., Carol W. and Sharon S.
Supported by Thrivent Action Team

LIVING NATIVITY

Our annual Living Nativity on Dec. 21st was as beautiful as ever this year! There were over 300 people in the audience and 70 in the cast crew. Special thanks to all the volunteers who made the evening so special!

Ellen P., Coordinator

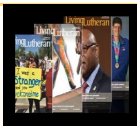
The Living Lutheran Group Subscription.

This publication is your source for news, reflections and stories from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and its local and global companions. It covers religious news, social issues, congregational life, global and domestic mission, family matters, spiritual practices and resources, and more.

Order your one-year subscription through Good Shepherd and the cost is only **\$11.75** (a 40% saving). To subscribe:

- Sign up on the kiosk. A subscription will not be ordered without your check.
- Make check payable to GSLC. Place in Laura's mail slot.

Deadline: Checks must be received by Sunday, March 8.



CALL
For Articles

Newsletter Articles Due Sunday, Jan. 19 For the February 2020 issue.



IMPORTANT! This calendar is subject to change! To double-check a meeting time, please use the website at [calendar](#) Always contact the church office before scheduling meetings or events.

January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>"When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'" John 8:12</p>			1 NEW YEARS DAY Church Office Closed	2 7:45pm Choir	3	4 8:30am Council Spending Plan Meeting 8:30am Food Bank Staffing
5 IHN Guests Arrive 9:30am Worship Can- tata "The Wondrous Story" 10:30am Undecorate church 10:45am Dwelling in the Word 10:45am Stewardship Team Mtg. 10:45am Jr. Youth Group Gr. 3-6 12:00pm Go Green! Go Hike! 5:30pm Youth Group Gr. 7-12	6 EPIPHANY DAY IHN 4:15pm Daycare Team 6:30pm Stitchers 8:00pm AA	7 IHN 9:30am ESL 1:00pm Stitchers	8 IHN 11:00am Crafters 12:00pm Bible Study 6:00pm Cross Roads Mtg. 7:00pm Confirma- tion 7:30pm Grace Alive! Rehearsal	9 IHN 9:30am ESL 1:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:45pm Choir	10 HN 7:00pm Daughters of Eve Game Night	11 IHN 8:30am Food Bank Staffing 9:00am Chaplaincy to the Elderly 9:30am Book Dis- cussion 10:00am Comfort Creators
12 IHN Guess Depart 9:30am Worship - Prayers for Healing/ Home Comm. Ministry 10:45am Caring Min- istries Corner 10:45am Guest Speak- er - Naeem Harry 10:45am Family Wor- ship 11:00am Grief Support Spending Plan Avail.	13 7:00pm Finance Team 8:00pm AA	14 9:30am ESL	15 9:30am Crafters 12:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Fill My Cup for Gr. 7-12 at Starbucks 7:30pm Grace Alive! Rehearsal	16 9:30am ESL 1:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:45pm Choir	17 9:00am Spiritual Direction	18 7:30am LMM 8:30am Food Bank Staffing 9:30am Book Dis- cussion 7:00pm Youth Gr 7- 12 Lock In
19 9:30am Grace Alive! Worship 10:45am Spending Plan Review & Q&A 10:45am Family Faith Formation Newsletter Articles Due	20 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY Church Office Closed 6:30pm Stitchers 8:00pm AA	21 9:30am ESL 1:00pm Stitchers	22 9:30am Crafters 12:00pm Bible Study	23 9:30am ESL 1:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:45pm Choir	24	25 GSLC Team Retreat 8:30am Food Bank Staffing
26 9:30am Worship 10:30am Annual Fi- nancial Meeting	27 1:00pm Somerville Elks Blood Drive 7:00pm Faithful Ecology 8:00pm AA	28 9:30am ESL	29 9:30am Crafters	30 9:30am ESL 1:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:45pm Choir	31	

The Congregation Council November 10, 2019 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

- GSLC financial report. We continue to fall behind in offerings, primarily due to over estimation of non-pledged income during the spending plan development. Expenses were aligned with the spending plan. Overall, YTD loss is about \$10,753 greater than in the spending plan. All ministry teams are reviewing their budgets and will report planned expenses or savings as we approach end of fiscal year.
- Day Care Nov. financial report. The YTD net income is \$34,000.
- Average weekly worship attendance in Nov. was 158, lowest Nov. avg. attendance in past 6 years.
- Heard about the Jean E. Weidner Endowment Fund from Tim W.. Council will be seeking members to form a subcommittee of the Finance Team to provide oversight.
- Heard updates on the upcoming capital projects. The heat exchanger on the Sanctuary HVAC unit has been replaced and the remaining work will be scheduled. Project Managers/Coordinators for projects were identified: Bill S. volunteered for Solar Project and Skip F. volunteered for HVAC/Roofing projects
- Heard that search continues for either a sexton or a qualified property management replacement for Nick. **We continue to seek volunteers to assist with set-up/take-down, trash/recycling removal and midweek restroom cleaning/restocking while this position is vacant**
- The annual Council Spending Plan Meeting is scheduled for Sat., Jan. 4, beginning at 8:30 AM. All Council members and ministry team chairs are expected to attend. Annual Congregation Meeting on Jan. 26.
- Pastor Chelsea shared that Leadership for Faithful Innovation is proceeding as planned and the team is meeting monthly.
- Pastor Chelsea will be on vacation 12/27/19-1/1/20 and 1/28/20-2/1/20. Deacon Jamie D. will provide coverage.
- The Council approved an annual housing allowance for Pastor Chelsea.
- The Council approved recommendations to renew the current medical, life and disability insurance coverage for non-rostered employees

The church received thank you letters from:
Lutheran Social Ministries
US Dept. of Veterans Affairs
Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs
Somerset Jail Chaplaincy
Laura Meerovich
Michael Schaeffer



Over 61 families have made pledges indicating their financial support of Good Shepherd for the 2020 ministry year - thank you!

If you haven't pledged yet, it isn't too late. Pledging your support enables our church leaders to plan for the coming year. Please consider making your pledge online at [COMMIT](#) or by placing your pledge card in Financial Secretary Eric W.'s mailslot.

Remember, Good Shepherd's ministries can't happen without each member's support.

Here Comes the Sun! From our special congregational meeting on November 24th

Voted "That GSLC initiate a capital campaign with a goal to raise \$60,000 for the solar implementation and to start implementation when \$30,000 has been raised."

While the formal capital campaign for solar will not begin until February 2020, a line has been opened for any financial gifts received before that time. If you would like to make a 2019 end-of-year gift for the solar project, please be sure your offering indicates such request either on a giving envelope and/or on your check memo line. If your gift is coming via ACH transfer, stock donation, etc., please be sure to contact Ed G. (treasurer) and Eric W. (financial secretary) to be sure it gets applied correctly.



CARING MINISTRIES CORNER: SUNDAY, JAN. 12, in the library following worship with Deacon Jamie D. and Janice R. Resources, help and suggestions for any of your health, caregiving or grief support needs are available.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP: SUNDAY JAN. 12, 11:00 AM ROOM D

If you've lost someone close to you or know someone who has, support is available. We offer valuable information and small group discussion to help you through this difficult time in your life. You do not have to be members of GSLC. Contact Brenda L. for information.

ELCA Advocacy

In our Baptism rite, our purpose is to work for justice and peace. **For 2020, let us remember** that in the liturgy for the Affirmation of Baptism it describes the faith practices that grow out of our baptism (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, page 236): We are to "...[live](#) among God's faithful people; [hear](#) the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper; [proclaim](#) the good news of God in Christ through word and deed; [serve](#) all people following the example of Jesus; and [strive for justice and peace in all the earth.](#)"

God's Word. Our Voice.

If interested in receiving monthly advocacy notifications—sign up at WASHINGTONOFFICE@ELCA.ORG
Visit the NJ Facebook page—<https://www.facebook.com/LutheranEpiscopalAdvocacyMinistry/>

Somerset County's Annual Point-in-Time Survey of homeless individuals and families is being held in January. Point-in-Time volunteers will interview the homeless as part of **Project Homeless Connect**. Social service organizations will be on hand to screen clients for relevant services and distribute donated items.



Among the items being collected for distribution that day, the Social Ministry team has identified that we could have the most impact by donating new clothing items. Needed are following items for both men and women :

NEW hats, scarves, gloves, mittens, socks, underwear, T-shirts, sweatshirts and sweatpants.

Please place in Narthex "Project Homeless Connect" collection bin by **Jan. 12**.

Thank you, Lynn W.



Come and Serve

It only takes a few hours to serve our neighbors in need and you will see first-hand the benefits of your support.

Be a volunteer from GSLC at the local distribution site.

Each Saturday in January, 8:30 AM to noon

Shiloh Pentecostal Church

139 Davenport Street, Somerville, NJ

Use entrance on Green Street at back of building.

Once inside proceed down the stairs.

Sign up in the Narthex. We need:

- Receptionists, baggers and go-betweens.
- The bagger role has changed to help selection and bagging of their items directly from the tables.
- Extra help is needed to handle heavy items especially during set-up and take-down.

Your continued support and donations are greatly appreciated. The non-perishable food collection box is located in the Narthex.

Thank you for all who helped in December.

If you have any questions, contact our coordinator:
Walt B.



Support the Food Bank!

SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits do not cover things like toilet paper, soap (bath and dish), laundry detergent, feminine products or personal care items (like toothpaste).

These tend to be items the Food Bank has very little of and they go quickly. Consider picking up one of these items the next time you do your grocery shopping!

Contributions can be dropped off in the wooden box at the church and items are used to stock our pantry and are delivered each week to the Somerset County Food Bank. Thank you for your generosity to our neighbors!



Monday, Jan. 27

1:00-7:00 PM at the Somerville Elks,
375 Union Avenue, Bridgewater

It's in your blood to save a life.



Somerset County Food Bank Backpack Bags A Year-Round Need for Children

Hundreds of children in Somerset County rely on school lunches for their daily meal. When the weekend comes, they would go hungry, if not for the Somerset County Food Bank Backpack Bags program. Bags of food that children can easily make themselves are sent home with them in their backpacks at the end of the week.

Good Shepherd has joined the effort to ensure our community's children are fed. Suggested items:

- Easy Mac (individual cups)
- Applesauce (individual cups)
- Pretzels (snack size bags)
- Peanut Butter (individual serve size)
- Gallon-size Ziploc Bags
- Ramen
- Fruit Snacks
- Juice Boxes
- Granola Bars

We will assemble our gifts at the Feb. 23 Social Ministry Intergenerational Service Project.

This is an ongoing project, so drop off your gifts inside the church doors at any time! Please continue your generous contributions.

Interfaith Hospitality Network—IHN

IHN is a non-profit organization serving homeless families with children in a 3-phase approach to combat homelessness



GOOD SHEPHERD HOSTS IHN GUESTS

Our next opportunity to help will be

Sun. Jan. 5 thru Sun. Jan. 12

Guests stay at the church evenings & overnight, Sat.-Sun.

HOST VOLUNTEERS for 3 shifts are always needed. Sign up in the Narthex for :

- 5–7 PM: Cook, serve and eat with our guests.
- 7–10 PM: Read, play games and watch videos with the children or sit and talk with the parents.
- 10 PM–6 AM: sleep in a spare room (cots provided by IHN for guests and volunteers.)

Bill J., Coordinator

IF YOU BUY THINGS ON AMAZON FOR IHN

Please consider using Amazon Smile.

A few pennies will be donated to IHN—go to <http://smile.amazon.com>.

- Select Charitable donations.
- Then Search for Interfaith Hospitality Network of Somerset County.



60 PLUSSERS enjoyed a variety of programs in 2019.....exercising; music for all ages; community education, and learning about how Santa Claus evolved! And best of all, enjoying fellowship!!



Please note: There will be no meeting in January, as it is so soon after the holidays this year.

Next meeting will be **Wed. Feb. 12, at 1:00 PM**, featuring church member, Jack Farmer, who will share his experiences of working in NYC theaters. All are invited to share this time together. Coordinator, Sandy A.

GO GREEN! GO HIKE!

Provides a healthy activity while enjoying fellowship.

SUNDAY, JAN. 5, MEET NOON AT CHURCH
A walk along a paved path from Rte. 206 to Raritan. If deep snow and ice will cancel.
Photo from Feb. 3, 2019—Bill J., Leader



ALL MEN ARE WELCOME
Saturday, Jan. 19, 7:30 AM in Luther Hall

Come for breakfast, fellowship and interesting discussions.

Dean L., Coordinator

DAUGHTERS OF EVE. (DoE) Informal gatherings for all women and their friends. **ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED TO**

Annual Game Night

Scrabble, Boggle, Rummikub anyone?
FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 7:00 PM AT CHURCH



- We will play games you already know and maybe learn some new ones!
- Bring a few quarters for one of the games benefiting Ronald McDonald House.
- Light refreshments will be served.

Hosted by Nancy D. and Pat W.

Please sign up in the Narthex or [online](#) at church website

The Daughters of Eve support the Ronald McDonald House. Please participate in this ministry by donating to their Wish List:

Plastic utensils; Plastic food storage containers (quart-sized or larger); Air freshener spray; Bleach; Window Cleaner; Dryer sheets. Monetary donations also welcome.

Please keep filling the little red house container in the Narthex with aluminum can pull tabs for them.

Upcoming dates TBA February: Beat the winter doldrums with a potluck supper.
March: African Travalog presented by Charlene W.
Stephanie M., Coordinator



Our cookie bakers for the Living Nativity—Dec. 2019

CREATING FOR OTHERS—3 OPPORTUNITIES YEAR ROUND

All Welcome to Participate—NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY—ALL Supplies & Instructions Are Provided



Knit and crochet



Quilting



Needlework

Sat. Jan. 11 at 10:00 AM (note date)

Knitting and crocheting for the sick, grieving, homebound and those in need.

Comfort Creators offer **FREE** crochet lessons. If you are interested, contact

Roxanne P.

**Mon. Jan. 6 & 20 at 6:30 PM and
Tues. Jan. 7 & 21 at 1:00 PM**

Create quilts and projects to share with congregation members and non-profit organizations.

Coordinator: Janice B.

Wed. Jan. 8, 15, 22 & 29 at 9:30 AM

Create a variety of gifts celebrating events in our church family and art to decorate the church. Kits available.

Coordinator: Roxanne P.



CHRISTIAN PRE-SCHOOL AND DAYCARE

Follow us on Facebook: www.Facebook.com/GSdaycareandpreschool
Check out our new website: www.gsdaycare.org

- ♥ We collected and distributed many hats & mittens to the Safe & Sound Program. We also ran a food pantry collection. Thank you to all who donated!
- ♥ Our Christmas Pageant was wonderful. The children did a great job re-enacting the Christmas Story and singing songs. We had great attendance!
- ♥ This month the teachers will be talking about hibernation, snow, winter, winter animals. We will celebrate National Penguin and Martin Luther King, Jr. Our Value of the Month is "Forgiveness" and the related Bible story is The Prodigal Son.
- ♥ Registration for Summer and Fall 2020 enrollment will begin in February for currently enrolled children and church members and open enrollment beginning in March.
- ♥ We have limited, ongoing enrollment for our regular daycare and preschool program, as well as our Before And After School program.

If you have any questions about our programs, please contact us at
908-704-0080 or email us at daycaredir@gschurch.org



Diakonia An educational program that provides spiritual formation for those desiring to deepen their faith. To learn more about diakonia visit <http://www.diakoniausa.org/>

- Diakonia offers a 12-course curriculum online class using the ZOOM meeting app. You participate in the class in real time and will be able to see and hear the instructor and other participants.
For info contact Joan G., Secretary, NJ Diakonia Steering Committee.



Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center

Pleasant Grove Rd. Port Murray, NJ
For info call 908-832-7264

<http://crossroadsretreat.com> OR
www.facebook.com/CrossRoadsRetreat

Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center is a place where youth and adults alike can come to be themselves and have fun in God's creation. They are located on 250 mountaintop acres in beautiful highlands of northwestern NJ. It is an ecumenical camp of the NJ Synod of the ELCA and the Episcopal Diocese of Newark NJ.



Free English Language Acquisition

Tues. and Thurs., 9:30 AM—Noon, at Good Shepherd
Registration for 2020 is on Jan. 7

For information contact Somerset County 908 541-5781 ~ Hunterdon County 908 237-5000





GSLC YOUTH NEWS



Sunday, January 5
5:30pm-8:00pm
Grades 7-12
All are welcome!
Friends too!

Junior Youth Group

January 5
Grades 3-6
10:45am-11:45am



Family Worship

Sunday, January 12
10:45am
Family-friendly worship in
Luther Hall!

Family Faith Formation

Sunday, January 19
10:45am-11:30am
For Infant—Grade 2 with parents



Wednesday,
January 15
7:00pm

For Grades 7-12
Starbucks in Somerville



Youth Lock-In

Saturday, January 18-Sunday, 19
7:00pm Through 9:30am Worship on Sunday
Grades 7-12

Join Pastor Chelsea and Kevin for GAME NIGHT!
We'll have everything from Checkers to Candy
Land to Uno and lots of things in between!
Sign up in the Narthex or online—permission slip
required!

Confirmation Corner

Confirmation Class
Wednesday, January 8 at 7:00pm