The Shepherd's Call



Behold the Love of the Father

When February rolls around, and thoughts of Valentine's Day and all that accompanies it comes to mind, it is perhaps a good time to be reminded of the extremely obvious: the incredible love of God for us!

I believe one of the best illustrations and reminders of this love is in the parable of the Prodigal Son, or what could be better named: The Loving Father. We are quite familiar with the account and the shocking request of the youngest son for his inheritance (basically saying he wants his father dead so he can have what is "his"), as well as his subsequent squandering of his inheritance on wild, sinful living, to where he was left in the most desperate straits of even longing to eat the slop of the pigs he was tasked with feeding (couldn't be a lower of lows for a Jewish boy than that!).

In that lowest of conditions, he comes to his senses and realizes that even the servants in his father's house are well fed and provided for. Mindful of his father's character, and though he knows that he has thrown away his sonship, and that in no way could he be considered a son, he could beg for forgiveness and perhaps serve in his father's house. He begins to rehearse what he would say to his father as he headed back home.

Yet then the startling love of the father should strike all! While the wayward son is still far off, the father sees him in the distance -- which means he was looking for him! Waiting for him, longing for and watching for his son's return.

In fact, before the son reaches home the Father RUNS to him (which no eastern man would so humiliate himself by doing so) and embraces him. The son confesses: (Luke 15:21-24) "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son." (22) But the father said to his servants, "Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on

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Special points of interest

- **CPR Training is February 1 at 10:00 AM. If you signed up, be there!**
- The Women of the ELCA are raffling off a quilt to raise funds to buy more quilting supplies!
- Tickets for the LMM spaghetti supper are free.
- The handbell rehearsal schedule has changed.

Council Members

President
Jeff Neiman

Vice President and Recording Secretary
Joanne Clark

Evangelism

Outreach
Kristin Neiman

Music and Worship
George Strunk

Christian Education
Moriah Horton

Fellowship
Claudia Ball

Property
Ricky Ball
Floyd Clark

Stewardship
Trey Ball

Continued from cover

his hand, and shoes on his feet." All signs of sonship! Though the son in his shame thought his sonship was over, his father in love shows him otherwise and restores him.

The devil can be relentless in his accusations against us – we can doubt who we are in Christ. But behold the loving character of your Father! Never does He stop watching for you. Never does He stop loving you. Even when you are far off (having wandered in your sin), He looks for you, calling you back to Himself through His Word. Behold how the Father runs to you, embraces you in His loving arms. How He has clothed you with the robe of His own Son Jesus' righteousness in your baptism and shod you with the shoes of a Child of the Father. Clothed in Christ through faith in His blessed work, you are a holy, righteous beloved child of God no matter what the devil may say, or even what you may say of yourself. Behold the Love of your Father!

Community Soup Kitchen

Have fun while serving others! Sign up for the Community Soup Kitchen. Good Shepherd volunteers on the third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 AM.

This month, that will be **February 19.**



February Volunteers

February 2		**February 16**	
Altar Guild	Barnhart	Altar Guild	Forsleff
Usher	Mike Barnhart	Usher	Trey Ball
Greeter	Lana Linker	Greeter	Sue Peacock
Assistant	Tim Hively	Assistant	George Strunk
February 9		**February 23**	
Altar Guild	Sampson	Altar Guild	Barnhart
Usher	Ron Schaible	Usher	John Reackhoff
Greeter	Carol and Arnie Sampson	Greeter	Virginia Cheatham
Assistant	Joanne Clark	Assistant	Dean Nelson

Blood Drive

Good Shepherd is hosting a Community Blood Drive on Tuesday February 11 from 1:00-6:00pm. It will be held in the Fellowship Hall. It will be open to the community and there will be marketing materials available for everyone to use on social media. There will be online scheduling available soon. More information will follow soon. I will be in need of some volunteers to help with check in and snacks and I will have a sign up sheet for that coming shortly. If you have any questions, feel free to call me.

Kristin Neiman

919-738-9674

Handbell Rehearsal Schedule

The GSLC Handbell Choir will now rehearse on Wednesday Evenings in the Sanctuary at 6:00 pm. This change will allow handbell players to attend other GSLC commitments after church on Sunday.

Important Reminder

Please remember that when the church building is empty, all doors should be locked and all lights should be turned off.
Even if you think you aren't the last one out of the building, go ahead and lock up! If someone gets locked in, some doors like the kitchen door lock when closed, so there's always a way out, and not as many ways inside.

ZOOM Bags

The latest round of ZOOM Bags is done and in the fellowship hall. Feel free to take some bags and give them out to those in need. If you have any questions, feel free to call Kristin Neiman at 919-738-9674!

Sunday Worship with Zoom

The Zoom information for Sunday worship is below:
Meeting ID: 832 3194 4866
Password: 992248
Call in (toll number): 1.646.558.8656

Giving to the Church

Your faithfulness and regular giving of tithes and offerings to the church is greatly appreciated. Mail is regularly delivered to the church. If you wish to use the secure online giving at the church you may create an account with Tithe.ly by clicking on the "Donate" link on our Web site.

February Readings

February 2: 4 Epiphany
First Reading: Jer 1:4-10
Psalm: 71:1-6
Second reading: 1 Cor 13:1-13
Gospel: Luke 4:21-30

February 9: 5 Epiphany
First Reading: Isa 6:1-13
Psalm: 138
Second reading: 1 Cor 15:1-11
Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

February 16: 6 Epiphany
First Reading: Jer 17:5-10
Psalm: 1
Second reading: 1 Cor 15:12-20
Gospel: Luke 6:17-26

February 23: 7 Epiphany
First Reading: Gen 45:3-11, 15
Psalm: 37:1-11, 39-40
Second reading: 1 Cor 15:35-38, 42-50
Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

New Church Office Hours

There are new church office hours in 2025. Maureen will be in the office each weekday (Monday through Friday) from 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM, with a lunch break from 11:30 to 12:00. The era of trying to remember the late day is over!

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submissions for the March 2025 newsletter is Thursday, February 20. Thank you for your help!

NC Synod Assembly

This year's synod assembly will be held May 29-31 in Greensboro. We are looking for one male and one female to attend as voting members from our congregation. This year, we will be voting on a new bishop in addition to the regular business of the synod. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity and let Pastor Sandra know if you would be interested.

Spaghetti Supper



The Lutheran Men in Mission will be serving a complimentary spaghetti dinner on the evening of Saturday, February 15 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. Tickets are available in the fellowship hall on Sundays and in the church office during the week. The dinner will be provided at no cost. Bring your family. Invite a friend. Dine in only.

Quilt Raffle

WELCA is holding a quilt raffle. The drawing will be February, 15, 2025 during the LMM Spaghetti Dinner. Proceeds from the raffle will be used to purchase quilting supplies that WELCA uses to make the Mission Quilts that are donated to Lutheran World Relief.

Ticket prices are: $2 each; $5 for 3 tickets; or $10 for 7 tickets

Tickets will be available for purchase after Sunday services or weekdays in the church office.



Keep up with GSLC Online

There are many ways to keep up with Good Shepherd online. Check us out at:

Our Web site:
www.goodshepherdgoldsboro.org

Our Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/GoodShepherdGoldsboro

NC Synod

Would you like to know what is going on in the NC Synod? You can sign up for the Synod E-News through:

- Facebook—NC Synod, ELCA
- Twitter—@nclutheran
- Web page—www.nclutheran.org
- E-news directly in your inbox—sign up at www.nclutheran.org

February Birthdays

2 Sylvia Stevens

11 Ned Petrak

17 Deborah Flowers

22 Kristin Neiman

Church Office Hours

Monday—Friday
8:30 AM—2:00 PM
(Lunch 11:30—12:00)

90-Day Bible Challenge

The 90-Day Bible Challenge is in full swing! We began the challenge on New Year's Day (January 1) and have weekly "check-ins" and discussions on Sunday mornings during Christian Formation time (9:00-9:45). Printed copies of the reading schedule are available in the fellowship hall for anyone who wants to join in or who needs a new copy.

The congregation with the highest percentage of people who begin the challenge and complete it will receive the coveted "Golden Bible!"

Disaster Relief

The ongoing fires in California are just one of many disasters – including hurricanes, war, and famine - to which Lutheran Disaster Response provides help. Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response equip them to respond quickly and generously, wherever and whenever disaster may strike. If you would like to contribute, send a check to the following address, or put a check in the offering plate with California fires on the memo line, and we will forward the gift to LDR.

Lutheran Disaster Response
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Prayer Concerns

Ricky Ball • Jerry Deakle • Tim and Becky Hively • Peggy Hodel • family of Charlie Hoyle • Lee Lane • family of Randy Lund • Joyce Luttenberger • Martha Nay • family of Geri Overcash • Ned Petrak • Carol Sampson • Randy Swackhammer

The church office will automatically rotate names off the prayer list after four weeks without receiving updated information.

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WORSHIP WITH US!

Sunday School with Pastor Sandra Burroughs is at 9:00 AM.
Worship is online and in-person at 10:00 AM.
Everyone is invited!

MISSION STATEMENT
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is a Christ centered community serving through word and action.

CORE VALUES
Christ Centered….Relationships….Mindfulness….Generosity