

News From The Good Shepherd



Dear Friends in Christ:

Lately several folks have asked for a copy of the final blessing I've been using at our liturgies. I thought I'd take October to provide a copy and include one of my favorite Celtic blessings I've found meaningful and sustaining.

Life is Short

by Henri Frederic Amiel and Elizabeth H. Cottrell

*Life is short,
and we do not have much time
to gladden the hearts of those who
make the journey with us.
So. . . be swift to love,
and make haste to be kind.
And the blessing of God,
who made us, who loves us,
and who travels with us
be with you now and forever. AMEN*

A Celtic Blessing (author unknown)

*May God be with you to give you peace, and comfort and strength,
May God always be before you to gently guide you,
May God be around you to protect you,
May God be above you to richly bless you,
May God be beneath you to ever hold you up,
And the Blessings of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be within
you weaving you into wholeness.*

AMEN

Faithfully, 

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Good Shepherd Webster



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GOOD SHEPHERD VESTRY

By Kathy Stokes, Senior Warden

Here are some highlights from the September Vestry meeting:

As of August, our year-to-date budget was about \$5,100 on the plus side. This is good news! Unfortunately, we expect that our utility bills will be increasing as the year closes, and they will probably exceed our budgeted amounts. Please keep your pledge current so that we can manage our resources through the end of the year. Thanks!

Speaking of pledges, our stewardship campaign is underway. We value the time, talent, and monetary gifts of all our parishioners. So many people offer their support to run our building and programs, and everyone benefits! If you are able, even a small increase in your annual monetary pledge could help the Vestry to plan for next year's budget.

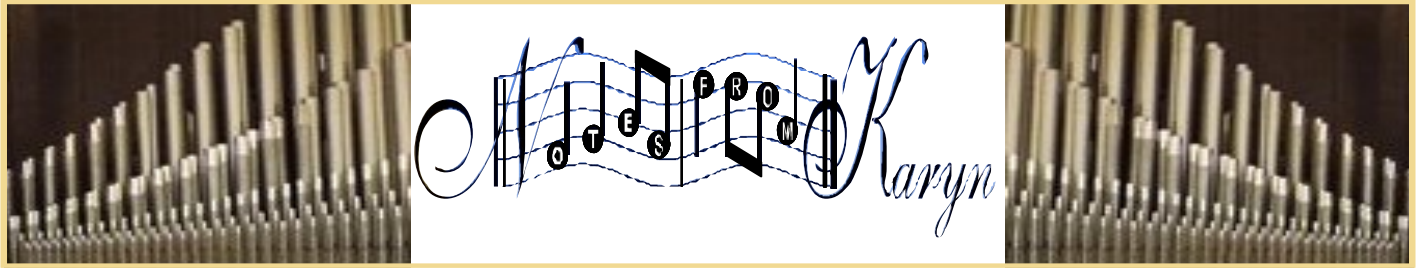
We are still looking for a parish Treasurer. Please contact Dick Robinson if you would like to see a description of the duties. Our current Treasurer, Bruce Dunn, has done a fantastic job for the past few years, and he is willing to train the incoming person.

The church offices have new computers. This updated technology has been needed for a while. The funds were procured from the Capital Campaign.

The Vestry would like to invite you to a meal to give thanks for all of our blessings! On Saturday, November 22 at 2 PM, your Vestry will serve up the traditional foods for a Thanksgiving meal. After the meal, we will have take-out containers on hand so that people can take home another meal for a later date. We are looking forward to hosting this time of fellowship!

Our next Vestry meeting is scheduled for October 21.





I had a good conversation with a parishioner about the music of our church. She said she likes to spend time with the hymns and anthems because so many of them are prayers. Reading, marking and ingesting the words turns the lyrics into meaningful prayers. I thought I would share some of the lyrics from the music of October.

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell everyone what He has done.
Let everyone who seeks the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy.
With shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia! Amen!*

A Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

*Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred let me bring your love.
Where there is injury your pardon, Lord. And where there's sadness ever joy.
O Master, grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand, to be loved, as to love with all my soul.
Make me a channel of your peace, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned.
In giving of ourselves that we receive and in dying that we're born to eternal life.*

A Prayer from Micah 6:8

*We are called to act with justice; we care called to love tenderly.
We are called to serve one another.
To walk humbly with God.*

A Prayer for Healing

*Healing river of the Spirit, bathe the wounds that living brings.
Plunge our pain, our sin, our sadness deep beneath your sacred springs.
Weary from the restless searching that has lured us from your side.
We discover in your presence peace that world cannot provide.*

*...Grateful for the flood that heals us, may your church enact your grace.
As we meet both friend and stranger, may we see our Savior's face.*

"Thank the Lord and Sing His Praise" © 1978 Augsburg
"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" by Sebastian Temple © 1967 OCP Publications.
"We Are Called" by David Haas © 2000 GIA Publications.
"Healing River of the Spirit" by Ruth C. Duck © Pilgrim Press.
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OUTREACH

at Good Shepherd

By Jill Daddis

"Churches Offering Meals for Everyone" (C.O.M.E.)

Pastor Wendy McVeigh, Director of Family Ministries at Webster Methodist Church, initiated the COME program after seeing the need for food in the Webster community. Starting with her church, Pastor Wendy then expanded the program to other churches in Webster. Good Shepherd joined the project in January of 2025 and we have been providing a meal once a month ever since! The outreach committee plans and provides the dinner, with help from our parishioners with baked goods for dessert. This is a true community outreach for anyone in our church as well as the entire community. We have seen participation grow, with this past September being our largest dinner to date. To quote Pastor Wendy,

“When people are facing food insecurity, their neighbors are often also facing the same or similar challenges. It can be difficult to ask a friend or neighbor for help or advice since they may also be in need of the same type of assistance. A benefit of a Community Dinner is that all persons from our Webster Community are invited to attend. This helps to better integrate and connect our community, which can only serve to make Webster stronger. ... We hope that Webster can become known as a town where neighbors are connected and cared for.”

Usually we host our dinners on the last Friday of the month, but due to Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas, we have moved our dinners to the following dates:

Oct 24th
Nov 14th
Dec 15th

Beginning in January, we will move back to the last Friday of the month, Jan 30th. Anyone who would like to join us with this outreach activity, please contact Jill Daddis. Jilldaddis63@gmail.com

Lastly, thank you for your support of the Back Pack program! Your donations help decrease food insecurity for Webster school students over the weekends.



Almost everyone in our parish community has become involved in the program through volunteering, donating food, gift cards, and specific item drives. Sunday school teachers have taught the students about food insecurity. Outreach has generously contributed financially and with Christmas baskets to the program. And 4 out of 8 of the Board of Directors come from our church. You can also participate in events like the Grocery Run (I will let you know when it is time) or donate through the United Way. Grocery lists have been distributed at church services, too, for our parish family to contribute to the pantry at A Meal and More.

HOW CAN I ASK STILL ASK FOR MORE?

Some of our older volunteers have worked hard for many years serving at the meal services at AMAM. They have moved on to help AMAM in other ways. We need to replenish our volunteers with those just retiring (for Wednesdays) or still working (for Sundays). Even if you are just curious, please call me to talk about becoming a volunteer on the Good Shepherd AMAM Team. It is a lot of fun and the time commitment never exceeds what YOU choose to contribute.

he A Meal & More, Inc., “Wish List” includes:

Food Donations:

- Tuna/chicken salad packets
- Fruit snacks
- Cheese/peanut butter crackers
- Individually wrapped spoons and forks
- Andes candies or other mint chocolates
- Pasta Sauce – alfredo and red sauce
- Large containers of tomato products
- Large cans of chicken or tuna
- Olive oil
- Coffee
- Powdered Creamer
- Pasta - lasagna noodles, ziti, elbows, rotini
- Large cans of fruit
- Large bottles of apple sauce
- Canned vegetables: green beans, corn, carrots, and peas
- Italian & ranch salad dressings
- Chicken, vegetable and beef broths

Personal Item Donations:

- Wipes
- Dental care items
- New hairbrushes, combs

Gift Card/Donations: this gives us the flexibility to buy what we need:

Wegman's BJ's Price Rite Visa/MC Gift Cards Walmart

Call Debra at (585) 261-9570.

Conversations on Stewardship

By Kris Murray

Leadership is forward thinking. Transparent and accountable leadership is essential in driving stewardship.

Good Shepherd has goals for the future.

We have programs in place to find, encourage and nurture new membership.

We are finding new ministries that align with our community's needs. And we are strengthening what's good and what works at GS.

Soon, we will be faced with the search for not only a new Rector, but a new Director of Music which is so important to our parish. While this is something no one is looking forward to, it is a reality we must prepare for. Our parish must be strong and healthy as this approaches.

Our church is a strong example of The Jesus Movement. We love each other, we rally to support our needs, and we step **up** to provide the funding we need to keep the lights on. This year **let's** really think about volunteer opportunities, and new talents that we can bring on board. Let's consider, if able, increasing the pledge we can commit to Good Shepherd.

This year with the encouragement of Mary who rejoiced to realize the son of God dwelled in her womb, we are asking you to once again to prayerfully consider how you can be good stewards of Good Shepherd. Rejoice in knowing that GS is needing of our support and strengthening as we prepare for 2026 and what it will bring.





"Nevertheless, I will bring health and healing to it; I will heal my people and will let them enjoy abundant peace and security" (Jeremiah 33:6).

During the times when those closest to us are sick or hurt, sometimes we walk in circles wondering what overwhelming task to tackle first. Many a time, just the thinking is overwhelming. God promises that He will bring health and healing, peace and security. God has called our meal ministers at Good Shepherd to help Him help you with this task.

Sometimes cooking is the best way to help when a member of our parish family is house-bound due to an accident, surgery, or illness. We use an on-line organizational service www.takethemameal.com to set up a schedule for meal preparation and delivery. First, an email comes from buttler1@hotmail.com to the volunteers introducing the recipient, describing their situation, and outlining a calendar. Then, volunteers respond by choosing a date and recording the meal they plan to make. An automatic reminder to the volunteer arrives from Take Them A Meal. Be careful to check the box so you will not receive advertisements from the website.

The families who are receiving the meals can also access their meal schedule using a password. That way, they always know what food will be delivered each day. They can also contact the cooks with questions or write a brief note of gratitude via email, if they are able. Since their phone number is included, often the cook calls the recipient before they come over with the meal.

Please give me a call or text if someone you know needs this resource OR if you would like to join us and volunteer your help! Thank you!

Debra Nelson: (585) 261-9570

LIFT-Living In Faith Together

By Pam Meyris

The LIFT group meets on the first and third Mondays of the month, formally known as Meditation Monday, in person at Good Shepherd and on Zoom.

After 14 years together it was clear that we were doing much more than meditation and our title needed a change. During our start up meeting a year ago, the group decided to change its focus and format. Currently there is not just one leader for the group, different members lead and facilitate the meetings. Topics, discussions, and experiences are decided on collaboratively.

At our September meeting, the group was able to set an agenda for upcoming meetings through 2025. All are welcome.

Oct. 6 The group did a session on Forest Bathing at the Webster arboretum. Nancy Weise from Mercy Spirituality Center was the guide and leader of this program. Pam Trompeter was the facilitator from LIFT.

Oct 20 Annie Bishop will lead a discussion from a chapter in the book My Neighbor's Faith. If you would like to attend, you do not need to purchase this book. The information and discussion questions will be available prior to the meeting. This discussion will focus on one story from the book that Annie will choose and she will lead the discussion.

November: The events are planned but specific dates for each are not set due to the fact we do not know when the Abbey is open.

Visit the Abbey of the Genessee -date to be determined

Spiritually and the Wisdom of Aging-Sharon Therkildsen and Pat Lawlor, facilitators-date to be determined.

The dates are November 3 and 17 however we are not sure when the Abbey is open so one date may be better than the other for the visit.

December 1 – we will watch the movie “Joshua” on Netflix at Sharon Therkildsen’s house. The movie is on Netflix.

December 15-baby shower for Jesus – we will bring baby gifts and have an actual baby shower. Debra and Annie will oversee this joyful event. Please bring a gift just like you were going to a baby shower. And of course, there will be games and food. The gifts will be donated, place to be determined.

All LIFT meetings are scheduled to start at 10:00 AM. We meet at Good Shepherd in the library in person and by Zoom unless otherwise stated.

An agenda for each meeting is sent out prior to the meeting. If discussion questions are available, they will also be included.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Pam Meyris pmeyris@myyahoo.com or 585-967-4670 Thank you.

Mission Statement

We will expand our spirituality through collaboration using multi-dimensional resources and shared experiences to deepen spiritual friendship and become stronger women of faith.



Hello Sunday School Families!

We're so glad to welcome you back after the summer break! Our younger kiddos' Sunday School will be a bit sporadic over the next few weeks. A teacher will be present on **9/28**, and we'll officially restart regular sessions on **10/19**.

If possible, please text or call **Ashley at 585-727-0496** to let her know if you'll be bringing your younger children to Sunday School — this will help us plan accordingly.

Lastly, if anyone in our parish is interested in volunteering with either the younger children or teen Sunday School, we'd love to hear from you. We're always grateful for extra hands and happy to have others join in supporting our kids!



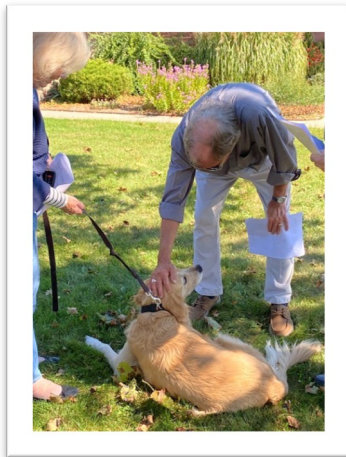
SHEPHERDESS GATHERING

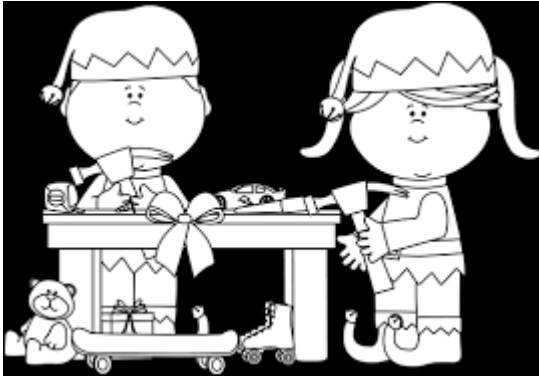
On the last Tuesday of every month, a group of Good Shepherd women calling themselves the Shepherdess meet for dinner or lunch.

All women who live alone and would like this opportunity to meet and socialize with other members of Good Shepherd are invited to join us. We provide rides when possible. Please join us. Speak to me at church or feel free to call me at 585-545-4224.

At this time, during October, November and December, we meet on the last Tuesday of the month in the evening for dinner. In January, February and March we meet for Lunch because it is very dark for those who do not drive at night. The rest of the year we meet for dinner. Fr. Lance joins us about every 2nd or third time that we meet. We try to stay in Webster or near the Webster area.

We Welcome all ladies who live alone and would enjoy this social time.





ADVENT WORKSHOP

By Annie Bishop

Please come and join us on Saturday December 6 at 10:00 in the parish hall for our Advent Workshop. There you will make a variety of Christmas ornaments of your choice. In the month of November, I will display the ornaments in the narthex where you can choose which ones you would like to make. There will be a signup sheet to the ornaments you would like to make.



BLESSINGS ON YOUR BIRTHDAY

Patti Curtin	10/01
Lenore O'Sullivan	10/01
Ellen Ralston	10/02
Pat Sweeney	10/04
Trish Giudice	10/06
Jack McKelvey	10/08
Jeffrey O'Neil	10/10
John White Sr.	10/10
Robin Hess	10/14
Logan Lorenzo	10/15
Sharon White	10/17
Aimee Allen	10/17
Chelsea Yourch	10/18
Brian Markovitz	10/19
Mailani Brennick	10/20
Patrick Murray	10/24
Laura Youngman	10/24
Matt Daniels	10/24
Meghan Martin	10/25
Payton Yelle	10/26
Robert Semmler	10/26
Peter Dakin	10/26
Kara Curtin	10/28
Bruce Dunn	10/29
Richard Orbaker	10/29