

**SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION  
OF GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
190 South Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701

**May 6, 2018**

The Semi-annual Congregational Meeting will be held Saturday, May 6, 2018.  
This book of annual reports is printed to help you prepare for the meeting.

**CHURCH STAFF**

*The Rev. Peter D. Kuritz, The Rev. Janell D. Wigen, Co-Pastors*

*Music Director: Ms. Sandra Keator*

*Parish Secretary: Ms. Mollie Rance*

*Sexton: Mr. Delwin Parsons*

Phone: Church Office--- 570 824-2991 Fax—570 825-3508

e-mail: [churchoffice@goodshepherdwb.org](mailto:churchoffice@goodshepherdwb.org)

Website: [goodshepherdwb.org](http://goodshepherdwb.org)

**CONGREGATION OFFICERS**

Daren Bernecker – President

Christopher Casazza – Vice President

Kay Korb – Secretary

Libby Yeager – Treasurer

James Parks – Financial Secretary

**THE MISSION STATEMENT OF THE CONGREGATION OF  
GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*This congregation learns, celebrates, and proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ and engages in a vigorous ministry to its members and to all people.*

**OUR VISION**

*Build a strong community of faith — actively sharing God's abundant grace  
to improve the world in which we live.*

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\*Memorials will be available as a supplement at May 6, 2018 meeting.

This annual report was compiled with information provided to the church office at the time of printing. Please report any errors or omissions to the church office or the president prior to acceptance of the reports at May 6, 2018 Semi-Annual meeting. The church office may be contacted at (570) 824-2991. Comments can also be emailed to [churchoffice@goodshepherdwb.org](mailto:churchoffice@goodshepherdwb.org) or [gslepresident@goodshepherdwb.org](mailto:gslepresident@goodshepherdwb.org).

## CONGREGATION COUNCIL

### Term Expires 5/31/2018

Daren Bernecker (First Term)  
Lynn Muchler-Stash (First Term)  
Harry Heck (Fill Vacancy)  
Vacant

### Term Expires 5/31/2019

Kay Korb (First Term)  
Mollie Rance (Fill Vacancy)  
Chris Casazza (First Term)  
Gary Smith (First Term)

### Term Expires 5/31/2020

Debbie McGuinness (Fill Vacancy)  
Tammy Ioanna (Fill Vacancy)  
Guy French (Fill Vacancy)  
Vacant

## MINISTRY TEAMS

### Worship Ministry Team

Liz Keator  
Jane Newman  
Kay Korb  
Sandy Keator

### Property Ministry Team

Brooke Yeager (Team Leader)  
Gary Smith  
Jane Hensley  
Guy French

### Faith Formation Ministry Team

Guy French (Team Leader)  
Donna Smith (VBS Coordinator)  
Melody Hawkey  
Wilma Gardner  
Maggie Yeager  
Libby Yeager  
Chris Casazza  
Debbie Dervinis

### Finance Ministry Team

Libby Yeager  
Dan Jacobs

### Administrative Ministry Team

Kay Korb (Team Leader)  
Gary Smith  
Donna Smith  
Chris Casazza

### Connection Building Ministry Team

Gary Phillips  
Debbie Habib  
Lynn Muchler-Stash (Team Leader)  
Adrienne French  
Darlene DeRonde  
Carol Phillips  
Dawn Gallagher

### Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Mission District Council

Jim Parks  
Lynn Muchler-Stash

### Wilkes-Barre Free Clinic Board

Beverly Kuprionis

### Witness & Service Ministry Team

Debbie McGuinness (Team Leader)  
Tammy Ioanna  
Molly Rance

### Nominating Committee

Gary Phillips  
Dan Jacobs

### Outreach Ministry Team

Guy French (Team Leader)  
Chris Casazza

**MEMBERS AND FRIENDS SERVING ON**  
**MINISTRY TEAM GROUPS**

**Altar Guild**

Lisa Cardoni  
Betty Derr  
Kay Korb  
Charlene Moules  
Donna Yaple  
Carol Phillips  
Tammy Ioanna  
Debbie Habib  
Sandra Gorr  
Wilma Gardner  
Susan Patsko  
Mary Alice Patsko  
Bea Bryan

**Chancel Choir**

Joan Cardoni  
Lisa Cardoni  
Gary Phillips  
Chris Burton  
Kay Korb  
Liz Keator  
John Daley  
Christopher Casazza  
Lynn Muchler-Stash  
Dick Myers  
Michelle Saxe  
Ariana Saxe  
Pamela Snarski  
Samantha Williams

**Worship Coordinators**

Lois Myers (Communion Assistants 8:30)  
Kay Korb (Communion Assistants 11:00)  
Helen Johns (Lectors 8:30)  
Melody Hawkey (Lectors 11:00)  
Debbie Dervinis (Acolytes)  
Diane Martin (Greeters 8:30)  
Betty Derr (Greeters 11:00)  
Evelyn Jones (Ushers 8:30)  
Brian Yekel (Ushers 11:00)

**Family Faith Journey**

Peg Wyda (Nursery Roll)  
Wilma Gardner  
Melody Hawkey  
Daren Bernecker  
Libby Yeager  
Brooke Yeager  
Fran Yekel  
Debbie Dervinis

**Fellowship**

Bea Bryan  
Lois Myers  
Lynn Muchler-Stash  
Harry Heck  
Guy French  
Wilma Gardner  
Emma Lipfert  
Melody & Barry Hawkeye  
Wilma Gardner

## **AGENDA**

### **SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING**

**May 6, 2018**

1. Devotions
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Minutes of Congregational Meeting November 2017\*
4. Council Elections
5. Nominating Team Elections
6. Printed Reports
7. Financial Reports
8. For the Good of Good Shepherd
9. Adjournment

## **The 2017 Annual Report for Pastor Peter Kuritz and Pastor Janell Wigen**

It is with heavy hearts that we are submitting our final annual report for the year 2017 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Pastor Peter and Pastor Janell are announcing officially that we are resigning from our respective calls as the co-pastors of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church effective August 31, 2018. Our last day at Good Shepherd will be Sunday August 12<sup>th</sup>, and then we will be taking our three weeks vacation.

It has been an incredible privilege for us to serve you as your co-pastors for the past eighteen years. Though a long pastorate, we have always been challenged in our calling to this dynamic parish. For Good Shepherd is constantly embracing new and creative ministries so as to share the good news of God's abundant grace here at the corner of South and South Main Streets in downtown Wilke-Barre. We have always been energized through the Holy Spirit as we have labored with you, side by side, in the realization of the vibrant ministries that characterizes the life of Good Shepherd. Such ministries have included Vacation Bible School, Incredible Creations Kids' Club, The Family Faith Journey worship experience as well as outreach ministries like the Fellowship Fest. We have been encouraged to see how the members of Good Shepherd are hungering for the truth that comes through God's Word as reflected in the on-going participation in the Adult Forum, WELCA Bible Study, and yearly Lenten Bible studies.

Over the past eighteen years, we have strived to serve you faithfully as your co-pastors. We have taken seriously our call to Word and Sacrament by being prayerfully conscientious in our preparation for leading worship. It has been a particular privilege to journey with you through the various life stages, from birth to death, prayerfully embracing with you the gift of life that God has given you. We have marveled in both the profound joys and unbearable sorrows of these crossroads of life. We have been particularly diligent in our visitation with the homebound members of Good Shepherd, bringing home communion to those members who, for whatever reason, are not able to make it to worship at Good Shepherd.

As written in the book of Ecclesiastes, *"For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven."* There was a time for us to respond to God's call and serve you at Good Shepherd as your co-pastors for the past 18 years. It is now our time to leave Good Shepherd and St. John's Lutheran Churches. Pastor Peter is turning 65 and Pastor Janell is turning 62 this year. After leaving Good Shepherd and St. John's Lutheran Churches, we will be moving into a new chapter of service to the church that will afford us the opportunity to spend more time to be with our respective families.

As Jesus lifts up in His great dialogue in John's Gospel, *"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me."* For, in the big picture, what's important here at Good Shepherd is not us as your pastors but the incredible gift of God's all giving love that as the body of Christ we are entrusted to share with our community here in Wilkes-Barre and the world.

This is not a time to shy away from all that God is calling Good Shepherd to do and be as His people at the corner of South and South Main Streets. This is a time to generously share your God given talents, trusting your future to the One who will be faithful and will guide you toward its realization. For by keeping your eye upon our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, God will guide you boldly to embrace His vision for Good Shepherd. For, as lifted up by Jesus in the Gospel of Mark, *"All things are possible for the one who believes."*

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Janell Wigen and  
Pastor Peter Kuritz

## PASTORAL ACTS



### BAPTISMS

Adam Sharif  
Ethan Sweet  
Aaliyah Patts  
Aaiden Leake  
Joshua James Ward  
Aprillia Daigh Mazzoni  
Finnegan Ryan Snyder  
Landon Vandermark

### FIRST COMMUNION

Kathryn Buczynski  
Samantha Harry  
Connor Heck  
Samantha Rynkiewicz  
Sawyer Scaramstro  
Skye Ultsch



### CONFIRMATION

Erik Tomkins  
Gianna Valenti

### MARRIAGE

Anthony Wade & Toniann Fuggetta  
Jason Hawkey & Shelby Fromel  
Megan Casazza & William Hampson



### DEATHS

Jean Fretti  
Rudy Yekel  
Inger Miller  
David Hoats  
Joy Purcell  
Patricia Rawls

## MEMBERSHIP

**New Members:** Aubrey Wynn, Pam Snarski, George Horenski, Tom & Becky Nallon, Bob & Gloria Ward

**Members Removed by Council Action:**

### MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

	12/31/12	12/31/13	12/31/2014	12/31/2015	12/31/2016	12/31/2017
Baptized	606	591	609	676	637	609
Confirmed	372	362	364	394	394	367
Communing *	323 (72)	319 (71)	325 (74)	275 (40)	243 (36)	237 (32)
Active Confirmed **	197	247	249	214	200	160
Associate members***	4	4	4	3	3	

### ATTENDANCE STATISTICS

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Average Weekly Worship	103.25	104.77	104.937	107	96.96	94.31
Sunday Church School	35.41	37.46	38.95	30.6	29.41	30

### SPECIAL SERVICES

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Palm Sunday	158	121	143	154	151	120
Easter	306	266	290	265	264	240
Christmas Eve	304	310	322	227	255	296
Christmas Morning	17	24	17	10	27	10

\*Communing membership is the number of confirmed members who communed during the calendar year. The figure in parenthesis is the number of unconfirmed members who communed during the year.

\*\* Active Confirmed Membership is the number of confirmed members who communed **AND** contributed during the calendar year.

\*\*\* Associate members are persons holding membership in other Christian congregations who wish to retain such membership, but desire to participate in the life and mission of this congregation. They have all the privileges and duties of membership except voting rights and eligibility for elected offices or membership on the Congregation Council of this congregation.



## **WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM**

Another year gone already. Where *does* the time go?

Four liturgical settings returned this year - # 1, 4, & 5, plus setting 5 from *With One Voice* (the blue book).

During the past year, we saw a variety of special services, on Sundays and during the week: • Ash Wednesday, March 1st – worship services at noon and 7:30 p.m.

- Maundy Thursday, April 13th – worship service at 7:30 p.m.
- Good Friday, April 14th – worship service at 7:30 p.m. th
- The Vacation Bible School program, “God’s Promise”, on June 25 .
- The Sunday School Christmas program, on December 17th.
- Christmas Eve, December 24th (Sunday) – worship services at 3 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. (plus normal Sunday worship at 9:30 a.m.)
- Christmas Day, December 25 (Monday) – worship service at 10 a.m.
  - o After review of the 2016 attendance, it was decided to discontinue the 10:30 p.m. service on Christmas Eve, but the Christmas Day service was retained. These will continue to be evaluated year by year.
- A variety of Gospel Dramas and other presentations, with Sunday School children, older youth, & various adult participants

Other schedule changes included holding just one Sunday service at 9:30 a.m. on January 1st, December 24th, & December 31st, as well as during the Sunday School’s summer hiatus.

As part of the ongoing measures to “go green”, we continued to re-use and recycle the bulletins and the associated inserts from the various worship services.

The Family Faith Journey is the transformed Sunday School Program that began in the Fall of 2014. An important component of this Christian Education program is the Family Faith Journey Worship service, which happens on the first Sunday of the month at 9:45 a.m. (the same time as the Family Faith Journey). This worship experience is child-centered, as reflected through the interactive sermon and music. The Family Faith Journey Worship also incorporates youth who play the music during the service.

I would like to extend a word of thanks to our Director of Music, Sandra Keator, the members of the Chancel Choir, the instrumentalists, and to all of our worship volunteers, for helping to make our worship services such a rewarding experience, both for our congregation’s members and for our visitors.

As always, we invite members of the congregation to come to our meetings and share in the planning of future worship services and events, but especially now as we explore new ways to Renew and Grow Together.

Respectfully submitted, Elizabeth Keator

## **FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY TEAM**

Family Faith Journey is a continuing ministry involving families. During the past year, each Sunday, families read and discussed a bible story or verse. They also created a craft related to the discussion of that day. A small snack was provided after for the children.

Incredible Creative Kids, a new ministry, was introduced in 2017 coordinated by Matt Buckman and Becky Phillips. This is a youth group geared to children aged 5-10. Dinner was provided each Wednesday followed by activities involving art, drama, music, and dance. The original program started July 12<sup>th</sup> and met once a week for 7 weeks. After the group met once a month for the rest of the year.

The ministry team continues to evaluate and explore ways to help our families grow in their faith.

## **PROPERTY MINISTRY TEAM**

**Members:** Jane Hensley; Guy French; Gary Smith; Pastor Peter; Brooke Yeager (Chair)

The GSC 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor apartments have been rented for the full year.

Mary Ann Saylor continues to use a room in the GSC for string lessons on Thursdays or Fridays.

The Storefront of the GSC is being used by the NA groups. This seems to be working well.

The aging church computers are being replaced one a year. "Computer Information System Policy" was updated to cover remote access.

Mother Theresa Haven used the Fellowship Hall the first two weeks in November.

The collapsed sewer line from the GSC was repaired in July. Sidewalk has to be replaced.

The Church Property became "Smoke Free".

Air Handlers for the church were repaired.

A new refrigerator was donated to the church.

The Property Committee would like to thank all volunteers who helped with snow removal, cutting the grass, weeding the garden and generally helping to keep the church property in good repair.

Maintenance of the Church and its property requires many hours of volunteer labor and all volunteers are welcome. If you have skills and are willing to volunteer some time to the upkeep of the Church Property, please contact Pastor Peter.

Brooke Yeager

**CONNECTION BUILDING MINISTRY TEAM/  
FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY TEAM**

The Fellowship Ministry Team is an ad hoc ministry team of the Connection Building Ministry Team. Originally, this group of committed volunteers planned the yearly Fellowship Fest, the outdoor street fair that took place in the fall each year when Good Shepherd received permission from the City of Wilkes-Barre to close down South Street for this outdoor street festival. After coordinating over fifteen Fellowship Fests, the Fellowship Ministry Team decided to take a break by splitting up the key components of the fest and have the events happening throughout the year as a way to raise money for worthy causes within the community.

On Saturday, October 14, 2017, The Fellowship Ministry Team planned a Spaghetti Dinner to raise money for the Wilkes-Barre Free Clinic. The dinner served over a hundred eat-in or take-out dinners and was a great success by raising \$1085.80 for the Wilkes-Barre Free Clinic. Of that total, the following was raised in each of the three following areas:

1. Spaghetti Dinner \$658.00
2. Crafts \$284.00
3. Bake Sale \$143.80

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Total raised for the  
Wilkes-Barre Free Clinic \$1085.80

The Fellowship Ministry Team received a \$250.00 Action Team Grant from Thrivent Financial that covered the cost of the food that was purchased for the dinner so that all the money raised through dinner ticket sales was able to be directed to the Wilkes-Barre Free Clinic.

Harry Heck purchased all the supplies for the dinner and he and his brother, Mike Heck, did all the cooking which included preparing the delicious sauce and meatballs as well as the Texas Toast. Paul Reese provided the salad. The servers for the dinner were coordinated by Marilyn Zimmerman and Wilma Gardner. The servers included Brooke Fisher, Dionne Fisher, Deb Dervinis, Gabby Gregoire, Cheyenne Zyskowski, A.J. Gribble and Alex Gribble.

Emma Lipfert coordinated the Bake Sale. She was assisted by Jane Hensley, Joyce Rutherford and Lynne Brensha.

Lois Myers and Bea Bryan coordinated the Craft Sale. There were many talented members of Good Shepherd who created and donated beautiful seasonal and holiday crafts for this sale.

The other activity that the Fellowship Ministry Team began coordinating in 2017 and is continuing into 2018 is a Good Shepherd Cookbook. Recipes began to be gathered in 2017 and will be organized into a cookbook that will be ready for sale by Christmas time in 2018. The idea for a church cookbook came from Lois Myers who made over 50 phone calls so as to invite members to submit recipes. The cookbook organizational team consists of Wilma Gardner, Kay Korb, Charlene Moules, Karen Figel and Dick Myers.

Active members of the Fellowship Ministry Team include: Harry Heck, Bea Bryan, Wilma Gardner, Emma Lipfert, Lynn Muchler-Stash, Lois Myers, Marilyn Zimmerman

Respectfully Submitted,

Pastor Janell Wigen

### **ALTER GUILD**

Excerpts taken from S. Anita Stauffer's Altar Guild Handbook

#### **The ministry of the Altar Guild**

In response to all of God's mighty acts, we are called to offer ourselves to God's service. The basic motivation for serving in the altar guild - or in any other work of the church - is gratitude.

**Members of the altar guild are grateful servants:** servants of God, servants of God's people, servants of the liturgy, and servants of the worship space.

#### **Joy is the cardinal attribute of the servants of God**

Whether it is preparing the altar, polishing vessels, removing wax from linens, arranging flowers, or pressing vestments, the work is never a burden but is always a privilege.

It is a privilege to be a part of this guild. Thank you to all of our faithful servants. May we continue to serve well and be joyful in doing so!

Respectfully submitted,  
Wilma Gardner and Kay Korb

## TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report, each year, is a struggle. I debate with myself what message I want to present to you the members of congregation and how much my report should be or perhaps must be a challenge to each of you. If you are reading this report, you probably are involved in the life and ministries of the congregation. And I will anticipate seeing you at the May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The Treasurer's Report this year is for all the members who typically do not read the annual report. For the congregation of Good Shepherd to be successful, we need everyone to be actively involved by sharing their TIME, TALENT and TREASURE to do God's work here at the corner of South and South Main Streets. It is only when the entire congregation works together as the body of Christ do we succeed in meeting our mission and vision.

As I have said before, Good Shepherd stands at a crossroad. The decisions the congregation makes at this point in time will very clearly determine our future. And our future is ours to determine. The external environment is changing and it will continue to impact us; however, our response to the changing environment is ours and ours alone. Working together, as the body of Christ, we can make a difference right here, right now. It is our choice. What choice will we make?

The financial statements of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church are presented on the following pages. The following notes provide additional information about our financial statements. This report highlights items that have been identified for which additional explanation should be provided.

### **Balance Sheet**

We ended the year with a \$41,195.38 deficit.

The individual fund balances that make up the church's equity are presented on the balance sheet. The Congregation must determine where to take the deficit from for 2017 and the future.

### Income Statement

#### Income

- White Envelope Giving for the year totaled \$109,988 which was under budget. At mid-year, White Envelope Giving would meet the budget; however, end-of-year number was both under budget and less than 2016.
- Holiday envelopes/folders (Christmas, Easter, Lenten Denial, Thanksgiving, Advent) income totaled \$6,081, which was under budget.
- Thrivent Income was \$1,702 for 2017.
- Rental Income was \$16,900.
- Shared Ministry was \$21,008 and it continues to have a positive impact on income.

#### Expenses

In general, all of the major expense categories were either under their budgets or very near to the total budgeted.

For the most part, programs of the Congregation operated within the budget guidelines. The financial results of the church show the continued good stewardship of all of those involved in managing the church's various activities.

Respectfully submitted,  
Libby Yeager

## 2017 INCOME STATEMENT

### **Revenues**

White Envelopes	\$ 109,988.55
Communion Envelopes	3,021.05
Plate	2,303.50
Thrivent	1,702.00
Holiday	6,081.60
Christian Education	1,079.61
Other Income	11,943.90
Investment Earnings	11,058.73
Rent Income	16,900.00
Shared Ministry	21,008.00
 Total Revenues	 \$ 185,086.94

### **Expenses**

Benevolence	\$ 11,400.00
Professional Ministry	131,410.95
Salaries & Taxes	25,387.46
Worship & Music	3,865.05
Social Ministry	0.00
Christian Education	555.24
Parish Ministry	201.09
Evangelism	595.32
Stewardship	44.43
Parish Administration	5,417.30
Church Property	10,194.89
Rental Property	16,049.31
Insurance	13,301.00
Service Contracts	7,860.28
 Total Expenses	 226,282.32
 Net Income	 (\$ 41,195.38)