

*We are a community of all ages gathered by God's grace
for worship, learning, loving and service to all.*

**MINUTES - Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Council Meeting
Sunday January 17, 2021**

Before Council Called to Order:

Lauren Chandler provided a briefing to the incoming Council members of the procedures to lock up the Good Shepherd campus after worship services and campus events as well as payment authorizations and requests for reimbursements.

Present: Pastor Andrew Isenhower, Marcia Woodward, Don Caughman, Anna-Marie Plyler, Lauren Chandler, Cathy Milejczak, Eden Rowell, Jamie Sanders, Janet Lockhart, Karen Lucas, Katie Bostic, Leigh Ford, Peter Zornow.

Absent: Emily Whitlow

Call to Order and Devotion: President Woodward called the meeting to order at 6:22 pm. President Woodward also gave the devotion and offered prayer.

Adoption of Agenda:

A change to the agenda was pointed out by the Council Secretary with regard to the wording of the Finance Committee Motion. The correct motion should read *"The Finance Committee moves that Council approve transferring \$75,000 from the Checking Account to the designated Money Market account FF-23 Excess Cash from Checking Account."* Agenda **Adopted by Acclamation.**

Adoption of Minutes:

1. December 17, 2020 Council Minutes: Motion to approve by Don Caughman, second by Leigh Ford.
Minutes Unanimously Approved.

Attendance and Membership for December 2020

SUNDAYS

<u>2020</u>	<u>8:30</u>	<u>SS</u>	<u>10:45</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>2019</u>	<u>8:15</u>	<u>SS</u>	<u>9:30</u>	<u>Total</u>
12/6/2020	DRIVE IN SERVICE			94	<i>COVID 19</i>	12/1/2019	47	48	101	148
12/13/2020	DRIVE IN SERVICE			79	<i>COVID 19</i>	12/8/2019	66	48	105	171
12/20/2020	DRIVE IN SERVICE			71	<i>COVID 19</i>	12/15/2019	55	64	129	184
12/27/2020	DRIVE IN SERVICE			55	<i>COVID 19</i>	12/22/2019	46	52	93	139
						12/29/2019	N/A	N/A	109	109
Average				75		Average	54	53	107	150

No Wednesday Advent Services due to COVID-19.

No In-Person Christmas Eve Service due to COVID-19, Streaming Service was offered on Youtube.
As of January 12, 2021, the Christmas Eve Service had 399 views.

Total Membership 12/31/2020: 694

Total Active Members 12/31/2020: 398

Current active membership at the time of the December 2020 Council Meeting: 397

Members Added since the December 2020 Council Meeting: 1

Leo Arden Van Duys baptism

Members Removed since the December 2020 Council Meeting 2020: 0

Current active membership at the time of the December 2020 Meeting: 398

Reports:

1. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's Report Submitted. Lauren Chandler informed Council that he was still working on making sure all charges, memorials and deposits are posted to the correct accounts.
2. Pastor Andrew's Report: Pastor's Report Submitted.

Standing Committees:

1. Communication – Leigh Ford Council Liaison with Wade Wingard, Contact: No Written Report Submitted.
2. Evangelism Committee: Peter Zornow: No Written Report Submitted.
3. Finance Committee – Janet Lockhart: November 4, 2020 and January 7, 2021 (draft) Written Report Submitted.
4. Gifts Committee – Marcia Woodward Liaison with Gaye Tucker, Chair: No Written Report Submitted.
5. Learning Committee – Katie Bostic: No Written Report Submitted.
6. Parish Life Committee – Karen Lucas: No Written Report Submitted.
7. Property Committee – Marcia Woodward Liaison with Lauren Chandler Chair: No Written Reports Submitted.
8. Social Ministry Committee – Don Caughman: No Written Report Submitted.
9. Worship Life Committee – Cathy Milejczak: No Written Report Submitted.
10. Youth & Children Committee – Emily Whitlow: No Written Report Submitted.
11. Other Committee Communication Time
 - a. Restart Task Force: DRAFT Letter (handout)

Cathy Milejczak, Chair of the Restart Task Force provided Council with the draft of the letter that is to be distributed to the congregation. Cathy briefed Council on the Restart Task Force's progress, fielded questions about the work, and provided background information as to why certain decisions were made. During her briefing Ms. Milejczak mentioned that she was considering providing a COVID Vaccination Clinic at Good Shepherd if permission from government authorities could be obtained. As a result of that news and the following discussion, Leigh Ford offered the following motion:

I move to have Cathy Milejczak investigate the possibility of holding a COVID Vaccination Clinic at the Good Shepherd Fellowship Activities Building. Second: Katie Bostic. Motion **Approved by Acclamation.**

Old Business:

- 1) Council Person of the Month Assignments were completed and will be distributed to Council.
- 2) The Council Contact List was verified and updated for distribution to Council.
- 3) Church and FAB/Educational Building Keys Needed.

- a) One request for keys was received. The Sexton will be notified.
- 4) Change in Council Retreat date: The rescheduled date is Saturday, January 23 from 9:00 am until 12 noon in the FAB.
- 5) The final results on email vote to allow Cody Jones, Music Director to teach music lessons to children in the GSLC Choir Room: 10 Yeas, 0 Nays, 1 No Response. Request **Approved**.

New Business:

- 1. Virtual Council Notebook will be forthcoming.
In the meantime, the following documents were handed out at this meeting:
 - a. Council Contact Information
 - b. Council Dates and Council Person of the Month
 - c. GSLC Organizational Chart
 - d. Council Administrative Procedures
 - e. Approved Procedural Motions
 - f. GSLC Constitution
 - g. Reimbursement Voucher
 - h. Committee Chair Financial Responsibilities
 - i. Building Closing Procedures
 - j. GSLC Property RegimePresident Woodward addressed specifics of several of the handouts.
- 2. Council members were instructed to notify Anna-Marie Plyler if they needed a hard copy of the Council Package each month.
- 3. Mrs. Woodward requested that, if they had not done so already, Council should contact the people who signed up for their committee.
- 4. Staff Support Vacancy : Jeff Inabinet has agreed to serve on the Staff Support Committee for a term ending 2023. Council **Approved by Acclamation**.
- 5. President Woodward read the Pastor Housing Allowance aloud to Council. The Resolution was **Approved by Acclamation**.
- 6. Motion from Finance Committee:
The Finance Committee moves that Council approve transferring \$75,000 from the Checking Account to the designated Money Market account FF-23 Excess Cash from Checking Account.
Motion **Unanimously Approved**.
- 7. Council members were instructed to notify Anna-Marie Plyler if they needed a copy of their committee expenditures each month.

Petitions and Communications:

- 1. Mrs. Woodward requested that Council check their email at least once a day.
- 2. Council was reminded to stay in touch with your committee.
- 3. COVID-19 Tracking information for South Carolina was provided to Council.
- 4. President Woodward requested that outstanding Committee Annual Reports be submitted immediately.
- 5. Mrs. Woodward reminded members to get in touch with members who designated their committee on their Time and Talent results.
- 6. Don Caughman asked why the Council Meetings were not all scheduled for the third Sunday in each month. A discussion was held and the following motion was presented by Janet Lockhart.
I move to hold the 2021 Council Meetings on the third Sunday each month with the exception of

June (2nd Sunday) and December(3rd Thursday) and thereby moving the dates of the Executive Committee Meetings to Tuesday before Council Meetings. Second by Leigh Ford. **Motion Unanimously Approved.**

Looking Forward:

Mrs. Woodward reminded Council of upcoming February dates of interest.

The Pulse:

N/A

Executive Session (if needed):

N/A

Adjourn:

Meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm. with Council Members joining in the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted: Anna-Marie Plyler

Pastor's Report
Rev. Andrew Isenhower
January 15—February 17, 2021

Pastoral Acts

- No funerals
- No baptisms
- No weddings

Worship and Music

- I preached, presided, and led worship for 5 drive-in services and for 5 streamed services.
- I preached and led worship for Ash Wednesday worship online.
- I planned and implemented distribution of ashes in the FAB parking lot for Ash Wednesday.
- I have planned Lenten reflections for the Wednesdays in Lent.
- I participated in worship planning.

Education

- I have continued leading the mid-week bible studies via Zoom twice a week.
- I have provided Faith 5 resources each week for members and families.
- I have continued teaching in-person Bible study in the FAB Tuesdays at 11:30 AM.

Pastoral Care

- I made no hospital/rehab visits as these facilities remain closed to visitors.
- I made 17 Pastoral Care phone calls.

Social/Fellowship/Community Events

- None this month.

Church Business

- I planned and led the council retreat.
- I have continued supervising our seminary student Aaron Spangler.
- I attended the following committee meetings:
 - Learning Committee
 - Finance Committee
 - Evangelism Committee (x2)
 - Property Committee
 - Youth and Children Committee
 - Social Ministry Committee
 - Executive Committee
 - Restart Task Force
 - Lutheran Men in Mission

Synodical Business

- I submitted my annual report to the Bishop.
- I assisted the staff with our congregation's reports to the ELCA.

Continuing Education

- I met with my clergy group. We meet with a counsellor once a month to discuss life and ministry and support one another.

Self-Care

- I took time each day for devotional reading and prayer.

Respectfully submitted,



Pastor Andrew Isenhower

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Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2021

Attendees: Peter Zornow, Pastor Andrew Isenhower, Pat Quattlebaum, Karen Lucas, Mary Stallings, Don Hyatt (via Zoom).

Peter welcomed everyone and discussed the plan for the meeting. The question was asked, "what is Evangelism" and the members shared their definitions and thoughts. Also considered was "what Evangelism means to you". Some responses were that Evangelism is spreading the Good News and that Evangelism needs to be based on the Gospel. It was brought up that sometimes we think of Evangelism as converting people or selling religions. Evangelism is also developing relationships outside of church.

The discussion moved to what we could do at Good Shepherd to spread the Good News. Peter asked for any and all ideas, no matter what, and he wrote them on the flip chart. The following are some of the things that were discussed. Plan events that no one wants to miss, include good music and food. Living Springs Lutheran has a computerized sign with messages. Is that something Good Shepherd could do? Host events and invite neighborhood. Plan events to let people know what Good Shepherd is about. Put some information online about our church. Use YouTube to share Good Shepherd with others. Could we host others somewhere to show our Service on YouTube? After Covid-19 is gone, host a huge celebration and make it all about getting back together, to get people back into church. Get several Lutheran churches together and let the combined choirs present a program or sing-along or just sharing songs. Have it at different locations so different communities will hopefully come.

The discussion turned to keeping in touch with the members of Good Shepherd. It was brought up that we need to tend to our current members. We need to work on membership retention. We need to know if members are watching the Service, listening to the sermons, reading the sermons, or attending the drive-in Service. We need a way to record who is attending, since we do not have the friendship registers or attendance sheets. We all understand how hard it is to get back to church when you have not been attending. We need to make sure we are communicating with all members. The drive-in Service normally runs 75 to 90 members. We send weekly emails and send mailings to those without emails. All churches have been in a membership decline and Covid-19 just added to that. We need to keep our members connected. We need to know what keeps our members coming and why others are not attending or leaving.

Don had sent Peter a list of questions that we need to know from our members. Peter will forward that email to the members of the committee. The committee will review and comment on the questions. The committee will then return their comments back to Peter who will compile a questionnaire. We want to send these questions to the congregation and get their responses. The plan is to email the questions to those with email, to mail it to those without email. It was also considered to have copies available at the drive-in Service to hand out. We should also see if we could put the questionnaire on the website and maybe the Newsletter.

The next Evangelism committee meeting is February 14th at 2:30 in the FAB. Zoom will also be available.

Respectfully Submitted by Karen Lucas

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**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Finance Committee Minutes - Draft
February 4, 2021, 6:00 PM**

Members present: Lauren Chandler, Deb Embrey, Rod Kent, Janet Lockhart, David Lucas, Jamie Sanders, Becky Shealy. Excused: Jerry Vaughn. Visitors: Pastor Andrew, Marcia Woodward.

Devotion: Lauren Chandler

Approval of Minutes: Minutes for January 7 meeting were distributed by e-mail. Deb Embrey moved to approve as submitted. Motion was seconded by David Lucas and passed.

Updates:

Treasurer: Lauren Chandler reported the checking account balance is \$135,178.49. The money market account balance is \$183,286.93. He will transfer \$75,000 excess cash from checking to money market account once he has reviewed pending expenses.

This was discussed and approved at last Committee meeting.

The Treasurer and Bookkeeper continue to work on closing 2020 account records. Lauren will report on issues and progress at February Council meeting.

Lauren distributed a corrected list of the 2021 Budgeted Accounts. I-05 was renamed to Information Technology Expenses to include both IT hardware and software. E-09 was renamed to Scholarships and Continuing Education to include continuing education for Worship and Music staff as well as seminarian scholarships.

Financial Secretary: Deb Embrey handed out 43 statements to members at the drive-in worship service, Don Caughman delivered 8 statements along with the members offering envelope boxes and 117 statements were mailed out to members.

There are 40 offering envelope boxes remaining that need to be picked up. Deb will move them to her office, and Janet will check with Emily Whitlow about plans to have youth deliver them to members' homes.

Tabulators: David and Karen Lucas continue to tabulate offerings each week. Becky Shealy has two back-up teams ready to relieve them when needed.

Technology Subcommittee: Jamie Sanders fixed the elevator phone line; it is now connected to the Spectrum land line.

Jamie and Deborah Mitchell met with Carolina Business Equipment to hear their proposal for IT management. Cost would be about \$600 a month. No action recommended at this time.

Old Business:

Correction of Worship Life Budget: Susan Sturkie questioned the omission of continuing education funds from Worship Life budget; \$300 has been budgeted in past years. This was an oversight in the budget process. The correction to E-09 will be presented to Council as information.

Transfer of excess cash from checking to money market account: The motion to transfer \$75,000 was approved by Council at January meeting. Council determined cash transfers are within the Treasurer's authority and do not require Council approval. Future transfers will be discussed in Finance Committee and reported to Council.

New Business:

Insurance coverage: Multi-peril property protection and liability insurance policy with Church Mutual is up for renewal on March 4th. The umbrella liability policy is also due for renewal on March 4th. Bus insurance policy renews on June 5th.

Church Mutual proposal for Multi-peril coverage is \$18,508. Property values have increased by \$136,000 to \$6,600,000. The Education Building and FAB roofs will be covered at Actual Cash Value instead of replacement cost due to age of shingles (over 15 years). Optional terrorism coverage and cyber security coverage are included in cost.

Lauren Chandler recommended increasing the liability limits from \$1 million to \$2 million per occurrence; this will increase cost by \$111. He also recommended maintaining the \$3 million umbrella liability policy at cost of \$1,500. Committee concurred with these recommendations. Lauren will contact Michael Barwick, Church Mutual to confirm coverage. Council President will sign policy endorsements; policy to be filed in church office.

Committee agreed to consider other insurance providers before next policy anniversary.

Payroll Protection Program: Good Shepherd received loan for \$31,093.40 in first round and obtained loan forgiveness. The Second Draw PPP application deadline is March 31. Eligibility requirement is a 25% reduction in annual gross receipts for 2020 compared to 2019 or a 25% reduction in quarterly gross receipts for any quarter of 2020 compared to same quarter of 2019. Good Shepherd does not meet the annual requirement; Deb Embrey will check the quarterly figures. The Committee consensus was not to apply.

Discussion: Rod Kent questioned if we have proper separation of fiduciary duties since Lauren Chandler is signing off on expense items as both Property Chair and Interim Treasurer. This is a potential audit issue. Committee discussed separation of Treasurer and Bookkeeping duties and Council President oversight of Property Committee and signing of all checks. Committee concluded that the current arrangement is not ideal, but there are adequate safeguards in place.

Closing: Next meeting is March 4; Jamie Sanders has devotion. The meeting closed at 6:55 PM with the Lord's Prayer.

01-21-21 Learning Committee Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Katie Bostic, Bruce Shealy, Amanda Snodgrass, Anna-Marie Plyler, Lisa Sanchez, Stacy Gross

Members Absent: Mark Lovern, Mitch Uehling, Don Caughman

Staff Present: Pastor Andrew

Called the meeting to order 6:31pm

Devotion: Faith Lens Blog Gospel Reflection for 02-17-2021

Learning Opportunities We are currently offering:

Pastor Andrew is still holding in-person Bible study on Tuesdays at 11:30am in the FAB. He has at least 10 people in attendance every week. He also is still doing Zoom bible study on Wednesday mornings and evenings. Between the 2, he averages around 7 participants a week. Bible Study resources are also sent weekly through email for people that are not attending the in-person, or virtual study. Faith 5 weekly emails are also still being sent for families to utilize.

Lent Resources

Katie ordered 100 A Story To Tell Lenten devotionals. She will pass them out when people arrive for Drive-in worship on 2/7, and 2/14. Augsburg has provided a flier that gives ideas on ways you can use the devotional. She will include that in the devotional when it is passed out. We will give one per household. Extras will be located outside of the business office. She wrote in the Newsletter that if anyone needed to have one delivered to them, to call the church office. There is a group of shut-ins that are going to be getting their offering envelopes delivered; we will make sure they receive a devotional as well. We want to reach as many of our members as we can.

We discussed purchasing Gratitude Journals for the middle and high schoolers to start using during the Lent. Katie found some on amazon for \$6.95 each. She will order 12. Those also will be available on 2/7, and 2/14, and outside of the church office.

Family Spark

Katie ordered 25 spark family devotionals. They are issued quarterly, and geared towards Preschool-5th graders. They offer many activities, and bible stories to help keep children engaged. Katie will also pass these out to families on 2/7 and 2/14.

Confirmation

Confirmation is still paused at this time. Pastor Andrew is working on updating material that he has used previously. He thinks the new material will be more engaging than what we are currently using. He is also looking into cutting the program down to 2 years instead of 3. Matthew Hermann is the only one that was going to be confirmed this past year. He has chosen to wait until we are worshipping again in the sanctuary. Pastor Andrew will reach out to families about when confirmation class will begin, and what date and time would work best. Due to Covid, we think Zoom will most likely be how class will be attended.

2021 Meetings

Due to childcare, Katie can only meet on the days Brett is off of work (Sundays, and Thursdays). The committee decided to have meetings on the 1st Thursday of every month starting March 4th.

*Update: After speaking with Deborah, Finance committee is already schedule to meet in the FAB the first Thursday of every month. Katie will ask committee via email if the 2nd Thursday will work for monthly meetings.

Closed Meeting at 7:00pm with the Lord's Prayer

Next scheduled meeting: **March 11 if Committee approves**

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**Property Committee Report
February 21, 2021**

The Property Committee met on February 3, 2021 with Pastor Andrew, Joey Allison, Ed Beaman, Lauren Chandler and Kappy Steck in attendance. The meeting was called to order with an opening prayer. Because of the Covid pandemic, we have not been able to meet in person until now. The following Agenda items were addressed:

Old Business:

1. The Narthex roof repairs have been completed at no cost to the church, including the additional problems discovered by our roofing contractor, CE Bourne. Our original warranty remains intact.
2. The stained glass gable wall project was reviewed. The replacement of the broken glass panes, painting, vinyl siding (covering old gaps in brickwork) and backlighting has been completed. All that remains is the landscaping, cross and outside lighting.
3. The Education Building HVAC project has been completed, resulting in cost saving zones of operation, allowing for a smaller unit to operate as needed rather than running the entire system.
4. With completion of the campus buildings schematics, all rooms have now been assigned numbers. The next step is to agree on a design and order the signage. At the same time, directional signage and emergency exit schematics need to be completed, ordered and posted. Copies of the completed schematics will be updated to show fire alarm zones and shared with the Fire Department.
5. The Sexton's performance evaluation will be completed upon receipt of the evaluation form and anniversary dates from the Staff Support Committee.
6. Office Windows Replacement Fund, approved by Council, has received donations. Pending sufficient funds, we will first replace the window bays facing the parking lot.
7. The cost to the church to pay for remediating the damage caused by the December 25, 2019 lower Sacristy flooding and to install a new water line was over \$29,000.
8. The Sanctuary rail will be moved before we can have services in the Sanctuary.
9. The basketball goal has been installed in the upper parking lot. The committee approved painting a half-court layout on this non-parking area. We will look for a vendor to do this.

New Business:

1. The annual inspection of the four sewer backflow valves has been completed and certification sent to the City of Columbia.
2. The LED lighting upgrade for the FAB will be started this year thanks to a \$2,000 grant from the Foundation. Plans call for renting a lift and making the upgrades in a 1-2 day period.
3. There are also several leaks in the FAB roof. The Sexton will contact Burgin Roofing to look at this issue.

New Business (continued)

4. The FAB ceiling tiles have become discolored since their replacement about 5 years ago. It appears that the type of insulation used is leaching into the tiles, causing the discoloration. A member of the committee is going to research replacement with a non-porous type of tile.
5. The water fountains in the Education Building are leaking and are the same age as the building. The cost of replacement is approximately \$2,000. The committee voted to proceed with the replacement.
6. The Education Building breezeway condensation hazard is still an issue. This continues to be a problem when there is either a significant rainfall or when there is a change from very cold air to very warm and humid air. The best permanent solution is to diamond grind the old fashioned slick concrete surface to provide better traction. The committee is looking into the feasibility and cost, including the possibly of requesting a \$2,000 Foundation grant.
7. The catalytic converter that was stolen from the bus has been replaced. A locking system was ordered and has been installed. Until we can add better security to the bus barn, the bus will continue to be parked under the street light in the lower parking lot. The committee approved installing special fencing to secure the back of the structure and a gate for the front. Lighting and other measures are also being considered.
8. A cover for the camera wiring in the Sanctuary is needed and was approved by the committee.

Projects on Hold:

1. The Classroom 4 leak at the Sexton's office door was discussed, as the problem occurs with significant rainfall. There is a settlement issue between two foundations. One is the foundation of the old church, below the old Sacristy. The other is the foundation of the Narthex, expanded after construction of the new sanctuary. This expansion created Classroom 4, also known as the bomb shelter. Sufficient waterproofing was done with the Narthex expansion but, over time, this foundation has settled slightly. This leak problem is minor and will be resolved pending further study and resources.
2. The FAB to Education Building covering is needed to provide a breezeway between the FAB and the rest of the campus buildings. The original flat roof, tar and gravel cover deteriorated a number of years ago. It was removed due to safety concerns. Two types of replacement covers are possible, either an awning or a traditional roof. Aesthetic and cost considerations will be part of the replacement decision.
3. There are a number of plans for campus landscaping, developed and then put aside over the years. A long term plan is needed, but is not a high priority at this time.

There being no further business, the meeting adjournment with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Lauren Chandler, Property Committee Chair

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Social Ministry Committee Minutes

February 11, 2021

The Social Ministry Committee met Thursday, February 11, 2021, with the following persons present: Don Caughman (Chair), Cheryl Beaman, Sid Havird, Pastor Andrew Isenhower, Rod Kent, Janet Lockhart, Cathy Milejczak, and Anne Rush.

After welcome and devotions by the chairman, the committee reviewed 2020 social ministry activities and the 2021 budget. Committee members agreed 2020 was a very good year for social ministry, despite the trying times caused by the COVID pandemic. Congregational response was outstanding, both in terms of financial support and volunteer response where appropriate. The 2021 budget is the same as for 2020; however, we do not anticipate needing to spend much from the budget.

The committee was updated on these ongoing activities:

Food Pantry Anne Rush has done an outstanding job getting the pantry up and going again after limited activity for much of 2020. She reported that in January, the pantry provided food for 26 requests representing 100 persons. She thanked Verna Sawyer and Marion Eargle for their help during these challenging times.

Fun Fridays This activity is still on hiatus because of the pandemic. When things eventually return to "normal," Susan Sturkie will lead the effort to see how we might be able to resume Fun Fridays.

Ramp Ministry Volunteers are ready to resume the ramp ministry when requests are made, subject to COVID restrictions. Mike Weaver and Rod Kent continue to guide this ministry. Rod suggested a newsletter article seeking more volunteers to help with projects.

Transitions Meal Project We have not been able to serve meals during the past year because of the pandemic. The meal scheduled for January 31 had to be canceled because of COVID. Susan Weaver does a masterful job of coordinating the project, and she is hopeful we will soon be able to resume this activity.

Meals On Wheels Good Shepherd volunteers continue to deliver meals each weekday to recipients on our regular route. We had 10 volunteers now providing this much needed service, and there are 11 recipients on our route.

The committee decided what organizations or activities would be our monthly social ministry emphases during the second quarter. Information about the emphases will be provided to the congregation, and financial support will be encouraged. These are the monthly emphases: In April, **Unumb**, an organization which provides a variety of services for persons dealing with autism (Note: Melissa Ellington of our congregation has offered to write a newsletter article telling of her family's experiences.); In May, **Project HOPE**, an activity of the Richland County Sheriff's Department which offers services to elderly persons in the county. Our contributions are designated for buying fans for needy elderly persons during the summer heat; In June, **Big Red Barn Retreat**, which provides services for military veterans dealing with PTSD and other issues.

The committee also discussed plans for several other future activities. Since we have not been worshipping in the sanctuary, our quarterly "noisy offerings" have been suspended. Janet Lockhart recommended we do a noisy offering at an upcoming drive-in service. The committee agreed that this is a good idea, and we will have the noisy offering March 28. A bucket will be available at the parking lot entrance for attendees to deposit coins as they arrive. Don will check to see if several children might be available to be there for the collection. The money will be donated to the **Happy Wheels** organization, which provides games, toys, books, movies, etc., for children in Children's Hospital at Prisma Richland.

Since we were not able to have a full-fledged "Angel Tree" in December, the committee decided to sponsor a "Christmas in July" activity for residents of the **Newberry Boys Farm**. The congregation will be given the opportunity to do gift bags (or make financial donations) for the residents. Don will ask Susan Weaver to get in touch with her contact at the Farm to see how many boys live there and what would be appropriate items for the gift bags.

The committee discussed our annual school supply drive, which has been held each year in July for many years. In light of the plans for "Christmas in July" and the fact that we now give supplies directly to Bradley and Forest Lake Elementary Schools rather than going through the Cooperative Ministry, it was decided to have the school supply drive this year throughout the month of August.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, April 22, at 6:30 in the FAB.

Don Caughman, Chair

Worship Life Council Report

February 21, 2021

The Worship Life committee has not met. I have contacted numerous members and many are reluctant to have an in-person meeting during the Covid-19 pandemic. Giving that there is not any planning to be done at this time it was decided to not have a meeting until it is time to plan for the In-Sanctuary service.

Restart Task Force Council Report

February 21, 2021

The Restart Task Force last met December 29. At that time it was decided that the Task Force chair would send out a letter to the congregation with details about when the Sanctuary would be open for In-Sanctuary worship. It was decided that the benchmark for reopening would be a 10% positive rate or lower in the state.

Shortly after the letter was mailed to the congregation, the SCDHEC changed its way of calculating the percent positive. This resulted in our benchmark not being valid. The Task Force is investigating a new benchmark that will be realistic for our congregation. We are waiting for data from SCDHEC now. A newsletter article for the March Newsletter explains percent positive and the need to make this change. As soon as the information is obtained and a new benchmark is set then a letter will be written to the congregation.