



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 6

MARCH 2022

A publication focused on the journey ahead for Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Woodstock, GA

CALL COMMITTEE NEWS

Good News! The Call Committee has completed the Ministry Site Profile, and the Congregational Council has approved it. The Ministry Site Profile is the required profile of the congregation that describes the ministry setting, mission, and the characteristics desired in a rostered minister that Good Shepherd is seeking. The information supplied by everyone who participated in the Appreciative Inquiry interviews greatly helped the Call Committee in its task. This week the Ministry Site Profile will be sent electronically to the Office of the Bishop of the Southeastern Synod.

What Happens Next?

- Upon receipt of the completed Ministry Site Profile, the office of the bishop prayerfully discerns candidates to recommend to the congregation.
- The Call Committee develops a list of questions to be asked at all initial interviews.
- The office of the bishop meets with the Call Committee to recommend candidates.
- The Call Committee schedules interviews with the candidates recommended by the bishop's office and decides whether to interview other candidates whose profiles were forwarded to the committee from the bishop's office as a courtesy.
- The Call Committee conducts initial interviews, using both the prepared general questions list as well as specific questions tailored for each candidate.
- After all initial interviews are completed, the Call Committee evaluates the candidates, decides whether to interview any of the candidates further, and notifies the bishop's office of its decisions.
- During the interview stage of the call process, the Call Committee may request from the bishop's office names and profiles of additional candidates.
- If the Call Committee decides to interview candidates further, it develops additional questions, gathers more information about the candidates, and schedules second interviews.
- After a second interview, the Call Committee may be able to decide on a primary candidate, or it may continue with further interviews until the committee members perceive that God is calling one particular candidate to serve as pastor. Often this decision is reached by consensus; at least a two-thirds majority is advised to make the recommendation to the Congregation Council.
- The Call Committee prepares a presentation to introduce the candidate to the Congregation Council.

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CALL COMMITTEE NEWS continued

- The Call Committee recommends one candidate to the Congregation Council.
- The Congregation Council interviews the candidate and recommends by at least a two-thirds majority the candidate to the congregation.
- If the results of the interview are positive, the Executive Committee and/or the Finance Committee meets with the candidate to agree on the Definition of Compensation, Benefits, and Responsibilities.
- The president of the congregation contacts the synod office to review the process for a congregation vote on a candidate.
- The Congregational Council arranges for a background check of the candidate.
- Approval to conduct the meeting to call a rostered minister and the official Letter of Call will be mailed to the congregation.
- Notice of a congregation meeting is distributed in accordance with the congregation's constitution, along with an introduction of the candidate and the Definition of Compensation, Benefits, and Responsibilities document.
- Prior to the congregational meeting, the candidate and family may be invited to a "meet and greet" with the congregation. The intent of a meet and greet is to allow congregation members the opportunity to see whether they are comfortable with the candidate as their pastor. The candidate may be invited to give a brief devotion, engage in conversation, and/or make brief remarks about the vision for ministry in partnership with the congregation. The candidate is not to preach or lead worship, nor to engage in questioning by the congregation.
- The congregation votes by at least a two-thirds majority to extend a call to the candidate. The candidate accepts (or declines) the call.
- Throughout the process, the Call Committee keeps the congregation generally informed of its activities.

What is the Timeline?

The Call Committee anticipates receiving names from the bishop, reviewing the candidates' Rostered Minister Profile, and holding initial interviews during the month of March.

Other Important Information

- Only a member of the clergy roster of the ELCA or a candidate for the roster of ordained ministers who has been recommended by the synodical bishop may be called as a pastor of this congregation.
- Initial contact with any candidate is made first by the office of the bishop.
- The Call Committee's consideration of candidates must remain completely confidential. Only the Call Committee knows the names of candidates. Interviews and evaluations of candidates are not open to persons who are not members of the Call Committee.
- The congregation prays for the Call Committee and candidates throughout the process.

Call Committee Contacts

If you need to reach a member of the Call Committee, an e-mail address has been set up at:

callcommittee@gslutheran.org

Sending an e-mail to this address will include every member of the Call Committee.

FEBRUARY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

At the Feb. 8, 2022 meeting, the Church Council voted to approve:

- Changing the name of the Faith Formation committee to Youth and Family Ministry committee to better reflect its role in supporting the work of the Youth and Family Ministry coordinator.
- Updating the responsibilities of the Worship and Music Committee

Council received an update from Call Committee Chairperson Trina Hutchison which included:

- Work on the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) is progressing. This will be the document that prospective candidates can review to determine if they want to be interviewed for our call. Each member of the Call Committee has been assigned a portion to complete for the first draft. Tentative date for draft completion: 2/23
- Once the MSP draft is complete, Council will review it and once approved by Council, it will be sent to the Synod for distribution throughout the ELCA. Tentative date for submission to the Synod: 3/1

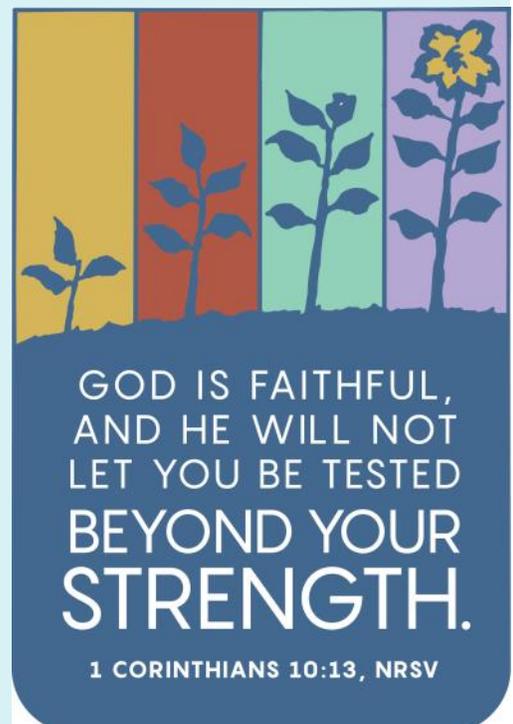
Financial Secretary Sharron Ryan reported that Simply Giving is steady, while January envelope giving was negatively impacted by missing a Sunday due to inclement weather.

Treasurer Carrie Escamilla reported that expenses continue to run under budget, but this is primarily due to programming not being back to full speed. She expects these expense numbers to increase as programs resume.

John Bost reported that the electronics recycling event, hosted by Men in Mission, was a resounding success, with TWO truckloads of electronics kept out of our landfills. The funds returned to the church from the recycling totaled just under \$900.

Special dates to Remember in March

- Ash Wednesday, *March 2, services at noon and 7:30 PM*
- Wednesdays in Lent, *March 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6 - 7:30 PM* (see back page for more details.)
- World Day of Prayer, *March 4.*
- Daylight saving time begins, *March 13.*
- Committee Sunday and First Day of Spring, *March 20.*



WEDNESDAY SERVICES IN LENT

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During Lent, we follow Jesus on the long road to Jerusalem and the cross. Along the way, we learn how to be a disciple. We discover that there are things we need to leave behind so that there is space and a desire to take up this new way of life and become who God is calling us to be. We focus on worship, reading the Bible, acts of kindness, and prayer—and through these means, the Holy Spirit transforms us.

During Lent 2022 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, we will gather on Wednesdays to hear God's word, to lift up to God our voices of praise, petition, and lament. We will pray, silently and aloud, individually and collectively for ourselves, our family, friends, and neighbors; for our country and the world; for whoever and whatever is in our hearts. Come sing, meditate, listen, light a candle, and pray as we get ready for the Good News of Easter.

Ash Wednesday Services: March 2: Noon and 7:30 PM, service will include receiving of ashes and Holy Communion.

Wednesdays in Lent: Services of Prayer & Healing –7:30 PM (services will be livestreamed on [Facebook \(gslcwoodstock\)](#) and available next day on our [website](#) & [YouTube Channel](#))

March 9: A Heart of Flesh: A prayer for renewal and mercy

March 16: Beside Still Waters: A liturgy of healing prayer with laying on of hands and anointing

March 23: Hunger for God: A liturgy of healing prayer with Holy Communion

March 20: Healer of Our Every Ill: A liturgy of healing prayer with laying on of hands and anointing

April 6: Sighs Too Deep for Words: Intercessory Prayer.

A PRAYER FOR LENT



This year, Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, falls on March 2. During worship services that day, pastors in many Christian churches dip a finger in ashes (often made by burning branches from the previous Palm Sunday) and make a cross on parishioners' foreheads.

Why ashes? Traditionally, they're a sign of mourning, humiliation and penitence. Ashes also represent the frailty and temporary nature of human life ("You are dust, and to dust you shall return," Genesis 3:19). Christians are pained because our sins led to Jesus' death. With repentant hearts, we begin the season of Lent, knowing that it leads to Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday.

For Ash Wednesday — and throughout the 40 days of Lent — ponder this prayer from an Italian sacramentary, or liturgical book: "O God, you know how fragile is our human nature, wounded as it is by sin. Help your people to enter upon the Lenten journey strengthened by the power of your word, so that we may be victorious over the seduction of the Evil One and reach the paschal feast in the joy of the Holy Spirit."