

Newsletter for the month of June

STEPPING INTO SUMMER WITH HOPE AND JOY



As we step into the beauty of early summer, we are reminded of God's steady presence in every season of life. June brings longer days, new opportunities for fellowship, and continued moments of growth in faith and community here at Good Shepherd.



May this season renew your spirit, refresh your heart, and draw you closer to God and one another. We invite you to stay connected, get involved, and take part in all that is unfolding in the life of our church this month.





"FAITH IN FULL BLOOM"

Today, June 1st, is the first anniversary of my installation as Pastor at Good Shepherd. It is also the 57th anniversary of my baptism. I was baptized by my newly-ordained cousin at St. Patrick's Church in Galveston, TX. I passed by that church almost every day when I was a vicar in Galveston, driving back and forth from First Lutheran Church, where I was also ordained. I find it interesting when dates correspond like that. It makes me think that maybe God was up to something. (Like the fact that I was confirmed on my pastor's ordination anniversary.)

It also makes me pause to remember what a gift baptism is. Truly it is the gift that keeps on giving. While I have no memory of it, other than a re-issued certificate and a few snapshots (with teeth marks by our old schnauzer), that singular event has transformed me, and continues to transform and shape me to this day. Every time I confess my sins, I am reminded of the love of God, and that I am covered in God's grace. Every time I make the sign of the cross, I am reminded that I bear the death and resurrection of Christ in me. I was baptized into that death and resurrection, just as we all are. And God claimed me and named me as His child. What a true gift it is to know that we are so beloved of God!

As we consider that, how does that change our lives? I do believe it gives us an entirely new framework for how we live and how we see others and the world that God made. In many ways, baptism gives us new eyes and new perspective, enabling us to see others as Jesus does. I pray that it gives us new hearts to love as Jesus loves. Sure, we fail miserably. But we return to the fact that we are baptized, and we repent and move forward.

In this month, I invite you to consider your baptism and what it means. It is ultimately the greatest event of our lives. I am reminded of a quote that I read years ago in seminary that still sits in my heart. It is by Saint Louis IX, King of France [1214-1270]:

"I think more of the church where I was baptized than of Rheims Cathedral where I was crowned. It is a greater thing to be a child of God than to be the ruler of a kingdom."

He saw everything, even being a King, as secondary to his primary identity as a Child of God. May we be thankful for that gift of Holy Baptism!

Pr. Joe+





A Joyful End to a Wonderful School Year



Dear Good Shepherd Children and Families,

It's hard to believe that the school year is already coming to a close. We want to take a moment to sincerely thank each one of you for your continued support and dedication to your child's education and growth here at Good Shepherd.

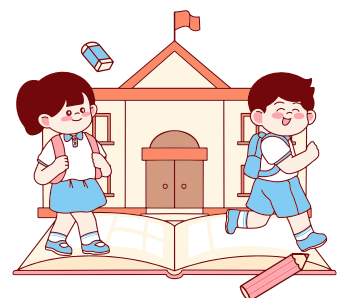
Over the past several months, our calendar has been full of enriching events and memorable activities. Now, as we approach the end of the school year, we look forward to celebrating our students' achievements at the upcoming Moving-Up and Pre-K graduation ceremonies on June 17th and 18th at 6:00 pm.

Looking ahead, we're excited to kick off our summer SPLASH program on Monday, June 29th! The program will run through August 21st. This season will be filled with fun activities and learning experiences for all campers. If you haven't yet registered your child, we encourage you to reach out to the school office for more details.

Our summer SPLASH program is designed for children 18 months to 12 years of age. The program features engaging themes and hands-on activities that make every day a new adventure. We would love to have your child join us for an unforgettable summer experience!

Wishing all the graduating children the very best as they take their next big step. Congratulations, and good luck in all your future endeavors! We are so proud of you and can't wait to see all the wonderful things you will accomplish.

Warmest regards,
Vanessa Bigam
School Director





PRESIDENT'S REPORT

CONGREGATION MEETING

JUNE 28, 2026



Since our Congregational Meeting two years ago, we've come a long way—spiritually – socially – and physically.

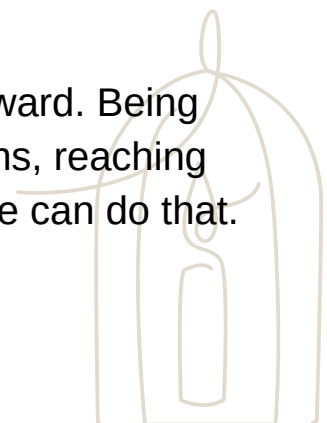
Good Shepherd Church has moved past some troubling times. We've now successfully embarked on The Growing Forward in Faith Campaign to help invigorate, refresh, renew, and grow our congregation again, creating opportunities for every member to get involved.

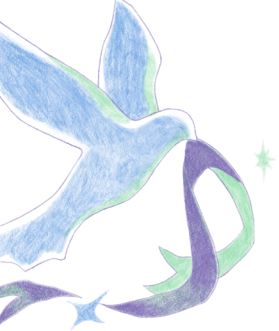
We've spent the past two years repairing broken roofs, broken relationships, and broken systems. Your Church Councils have worked diligently to rebuild trust with extreme care given to transparency and conducting business “by the book”. Every form of communication has been utilized to keep members informed about what is going on at their church.

Now is the time to turn our energy into building again. Sometimes it may feel like we're starting over, and in some respects we are. Let's not be discouraged by that. Rather, look at it as opportunities to be creative and try new ideas, concepts, and be open to new and different ways of doing things.

I wish the budget you're being presented with was not in the negative. Be assured that every effort is being made to save money and increase income. It's important that every member of Good Shepherd supports our mission as they are able, with their time and talents.

Increasing our membership is really the only meaningful way forward. Being part of our community, letting people know about us by our actions, reaching out through social media, and inviting people to join us, is how we can do that.





I truly believe that God has a purpose for Good Shepherd. We can harness His power thru prayer – by praying for our Pastor that his ministry is strong, for our leaders that they discern wisely for us, for all our members who serve our church in all the ways that make it work, for all members and their families, and for our school, that it's mission continues to be fulfilled.

It has been an honor to serve as the President of our Church Council for two years. Being elected to this honor, and duty, came at a very critical time of my life. I was able to devote my full time, attention, and love, to fulfilling the responsibilities of the office to the best of my abilities. I hope I made a positive difference in the life of Good Shepherd.

I've had the privilege of getting to know and working with some amazing people at our church. This I know, working together, we can Grow Forward.

Yours in Christ,
Anne Rickmeyer
Church Council President





Giving GARDEN



What started with just a few dedicated gardeners has blossomed over the past several years into a thriving Community Giving Garden. Through the commitment and hard work of Anne Rickmeyer, Lori DeFilippis and Alison Carey, the Good Shepherd Plainview Giving Garden has donated more than 1,000 pounds of fresh produce to help neighbors in need.

Our garden grows fresh fruits, vegetables, and herbs specifically for donation to Island Harvest, where the produce is distributed to local families facing food insecurity.

What began as a small project has continued to grow and improve little by little each year. This season, with the tremendous support of Cassidy Kirch from Island Harvest, Elizabeth D'Imperio, agricultural agent and AP at MSU, William Hoang, an Eagle Scout, Rachel Klein of Engage Long Island and The Mid-Island Y JCC, the garden has expanded significantly with the addition of a fence, gates, and raised beds. Thanks to these improvements, generous donations from our wonderful church members, and God's hand over us, we expect to provide as many fresh vegetables in a single growing season as we previously donated over three years combined.

By growing fresh produce and sharing it with neighbors in need, we are doing more than growing food, we are growing compassion, community, and commitment while spreading the mission of our church – Loving, Living, and Sharing Christ.

Please join us for a very special Ribbon Cutting and Garden Cocktail Celebration as we mark the completion of our project and give thanks for the generosity and support that made it possible. During the evening, all church members who contributed financially to the project will be honored with their names displayed on a commemorative brass plaque.



A decorative border of pink roses with green leaves frames the entire poster.

RIBBON CUTTING & GARDEN COCKTAIL PARTY

JUNE 11TH AT 5:30 PM

Join us at the Good Shepherd
Giving Garden for a special
ribbon cutting ceremony
and cocktail party to celebrate
the completion of our project!

Cheese &
hors d'oeuvres

99 Central Park
Rd, Plainview

Wine &
Cocktails

Presented By
The POB Chamber Of Commerce
&
Church Of The Good Shepherd Plainview

Join Us For

Burgers & Berries



Saturday, June 13th

Invite Your Family & Friends!

4 pm

Good Shepherd
Lutheran School Gym

Will You Be Attending? _____

How Many Guests? _____

Please call the church office or return this flyer by June 7th

Free Will Offering



Entertainment



All Ages Welcome

SHOE DRIVE



WE NEED YOUR SHOES !!

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
in Plainview is having a shoe drive for less
fortunate people around the world.

Please drop off your slightly worn or new
shoes at Good Shepherd Church or School
99 Central Park Rd. Plainview NY 11803.

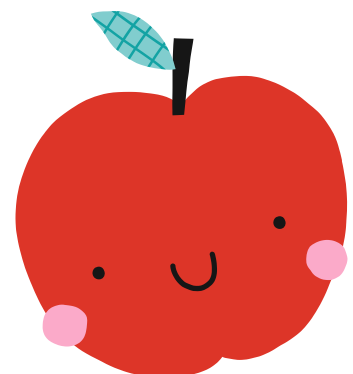
*If you have any questions, please call
Tom @ 516 996 4445*



You can help a child in need this school year through the New LIFE Center – Long Island by donating any of the school supplies listed below. Many children do not have the basic supplies necessary for beginning their school year and your donation will help a child start their year off right!

Please have items delivered to New LIFE Center – Long Island no later than the week of July 27th as we begin distributing the supplies on August 3rd.

- Sturdy Backpacks *must be able to fit a laptop
- 2 inch 3 Ring Binders & Subject Dividers
- Loose Leaf Paper-College Ruled and Wide ruled
- Composition Notebooks
- Spiral Notebooks
- Plastic 2 Pocket Folders
- Colored Pencils
- Box of Colored Markers
- Black & Blue Pens
- Mechanical Pencils
- Pencil Sharpeners
- Pencil Pouches
- Erasers
- Glue Sticks-Small & Jumbo size
- 12 inch Rulers
- Scissors-Child Safety Size
- Index Cards
- Post It Notes-3"x3" & 1 ½"x1 ½"
- Highlighters





FOOD TRUCK WEDNESDAYS

JUNE 24, JULY 29, AUGUST 19

5 - 9 pm

GOOD SHEPHERD SCHOOL PARKING LOT



GREAT FOOD - ALL ARE WELCOME - LIVE MUSIC

In Case Of Rain
Indoor Seating
Available!

Cousins Maine Lobster
All American Wontons
Angie's Empanadas
Woody's Wieners
Mobile Iron Chef

Telia Greek
Donna's Italian
Pop Out Kitchen
Sweet Mouth Jamaican

Serpico Pizza
Little Sicilian
Royal Elite BBQ
Sweet Love Desserts
Ello Gelato



99 Central Park Rd Plainview

FREE ADMISSION!

Follow us on  [@gsplainview](https://www.instagram.com/gsplainview) for more info!

Good Shepherd's DIAMOND JUBILEE



Good Shepherd's 75TH ANNIVERSARY is coming up in 2027,
and we want to celebrate in a big way!

We are inviting members who would like to help plan and
organize this special occasion to join the Anniversary Committee.

Please contact Pr. Joe (pastorjoe@gsplainview.org) or Nick
(church@ourshepherdlives.org) at the Church Office if you are
interested in being part of this exciting effort.



Celebrations & Care Corner

BIRTHDAYS - CONGREGANTS

Callum Bristol, 06/01
Kathy Blewett, 06/02
Roy Steinhilber, 06/02
Pat Fiedler, 06/06
Paul Wenger, 06/07
Lynn Carlson, 06/09
Kathleen Matullo, 06/10
Hugh Whitenack, Jr. 06/11
Kristopher Ocker, 06/11
Kaitlyn Whitenack, 06/12
Luca Pecora, 06/14
Lindsay Giacobbe, 06/17
Barbara Nelsen, 06/18
Galen Jansky, 06/18
Gregory Balos, 06/18
Saueracker, George 06/20
Logan Moran, 06/20
Emily Miccio, 06/21
Janet Schwaninger, 06/23
AJ Jin, 06/24
Brittany Wanko, 06/24
Samantha Strack, 06/25
Teagan Bristol, 06/25
Melissa Milhim, 06/26
Audrey Bodeker, 06/26
Annmarie Brown, 06/29
Jack Saueracker, 06/30



SCHOOL STAFF & STUDENTS

Sara Kajitani 06/08
Gwen Eddings 06/10
Antonio Funes 06/11
James Serra 06/11
Dina DiGiorgio 06/12
Danielle Pappas 06/17
Adam Makar 06/18
Eileen Shapiro 06/22
Jonah Kuriakose 06/23
Logan Tang 06/23
Prashanna Gurung 06/25
Clara D'Astolfo 06/26

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Mackenzie and Galen Jansky 06/05
Ronald and Diane Maisch 06/05
RoseAnn and Roger Mueller 06/12
Gail and Stephern Haupt 06/16
Michael and Nicole Steinert 06/21
Marcus and Cataryna Ubertini-Pitts 06/24
Christine and Andrew Haupt 06/25



"We also continue to pray for all those on our May prayer list, especially for those who are ill, grieving, anxious, or carrying heavy burdens. We also lift up in prayer all whose needs are known only to God, trusting in His mercy, comfort, and abiding love."

Raymond Tarnock, Paul Burfeindt, Debi, Aiden, Carol Berardino, Ivan and Mary Spaleta, Elise Gahagan, Christen (Moyse) Jacobsen, Fred Ruff, Angela LaBarbera, Elisabeth Carr, Diane O'Connor, Neil, Laura Lanning, Patricia Fiedler



June Schedule Worship Team



Date	Service Time	Presiding Minister	Assisting Minister	Lectors	Ushers	Altar Care
June 07	08:00 am 10:15 am 5:00 pm (Healing Service)	The Revd. Joseph E. Summerville III	Deacon Jim Blewett Ronn Hall	Deacon Jim Blewett Donna Summerville	John Bird Joan Vanecek, Roger Mueller	Anne Rickmeyer , Kim Whitenack, Donna Hickey
June 14	08:00 am 10:15 am 5:00 pm (Contemporary Service)	The Revd. Joseph E. Summerville III	Deacon Jim Blewett Lori DeFilippis	Deacon Jim Blewett Carol Koenig	Roger Mueller Dick Carr & Carol Koenig	Anne Rickmeyer , Kim Whitenack, Donna Hickey
June 21 (Father's Day)	08:00 am 10:15 am	The Revd. Joseph E. Summerville III	Deacon Jim Blewett Anne Rickmeyer	Deacon Jim Blewett Ava Sounia	John Bird, Roger Mueller Jim Jansky, Mary Anne Cercy, Roger Mueller, Tom O'Connor	Anne Rickmeyer , Kim Whitenack, Donna Hickey
June 28 (Congregational Meeting)	09:15 am	The Revd. Joseph E. Summerville III	Deacon Jim Blewett	Anne Rickmeyer	Donna Hickey, Roger Mueller, Karen Faucera	Anne Rickmeyer , Kim Whitenack, Donna Hickey

- Our vocalists, Veronica Nguyen St. John, Alison Carey and/or Lois Fassino, will share their musical talents with us at each service listed above.
- Our videographer, Ryan Carey, will record the 10:15am and the 5:00pm service for viewing on each Sunday.
- Anne Rickmeyer organizes and tends to the flowers that beautify our church each week.

As always, we would LOVE to welcome additional congregants to join our team of worship assistants. Please consider becoming an assisting minister, an usher or a lector. We need everyone's help to continue the ministry of Good Shepherd. If you would like to become a part of this most special team, please contact Roger Mueller @ rogmueller1@gmail.com or Jessica Irfan @ church@ourshepherdlives.org

SUN MON TUES WED THURS FRI SAT

1

2

2:30 - 5:30pm
POB JFK Choir
Concert

6:30pm School
Board Meeting
in Room 6

7:00 - 9:00pm
Voices of Rock
practice in church

3

10:00am Sainly
Sewers & Nifty
'Nitters in West
Cottage

7:00pm
Magician's Guild
in Gym

4

5

6

7

8

Pentecost 2
8:00am HC Service
9:15am Christian
Education
Programmes
10:15am HC Service
11:30am Peanut
Butter & Jelly Posse in
East Cottage
5:00 pm Healing
Service with HC

9

7:00 - 9:00pm
Voices of Rock
practice in church

10

10:00am Sainly
Sewers & Nifty
'Nitters in West
Cottage

11

12:30pm Ladies'
luncheon at Jackie
Reilly's

5:30pm Ribbon
Cutting & Garden
Cocktail Party

7:30pm Boy Scouts
Troop #423 meets in
gym

12

13

4:00 pm
Burgers &
Berries in
Gym

14

15

Pentecost 3
9:15am Christian
Education Programmes
10:15am HC Service
5:00pm Contemporary
Service w/ HC

16

7:00 - 9:00pm
Voices of Rock
practice in church

17

10:00am Sainly
Sewers & Nifty
'Nitters in West
Cottage

6:00 pm Moving-
Up and Pre-K
graduation
ceremonies

18

1:00pm Men's
luncheon at Jackie
Reilly's

6:00 pm Moving-Up
and Pre-K graduation
ceremonies

7:30pm Boy Scouts
Troop #423 meets in
gym

19

School is
closed

20

10:00am -
1:00pm
Voices of
Rock practice
in church

21

22

Pentecost 4 / Father's Day
8:00am HC Service
9:15am Christian
Education Programmes
10:15am HC Service

23

7:00pm EC
Meeting via Zoom

7:00 - 9:00pm
Voices of Rock
practice in church

24

10:00am Sainly
Sewers & Nifty
'Nitters in West
Cottage

Last day of
School

25

7:30pm Boy Scouts
Troop #423 meets in
the Gym

26

27

28

29

Pentecost 5
9:15am HC Service
10:30am Congregational
Meeting
5:00pm Concerts,
Compline & Cocktails

30

7:00pm Church
Council Meeting
in East Cottage

7:00 - 9:00pm
Voices of Rock
practice in church

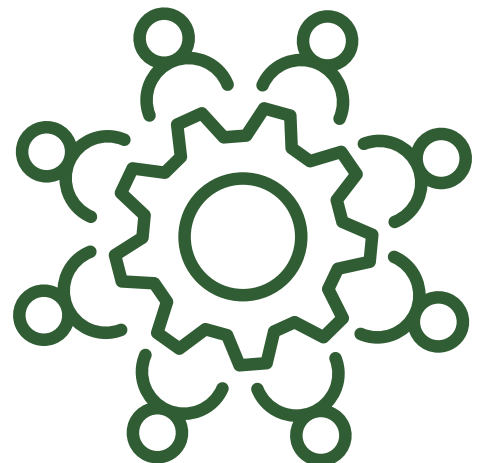
JUNE

weekly schedule

Motions Approved

The motions from our Church Council meeting held on May 19th are:

- A motion was made by Anne Rickmeyer and seconded by Roger Mueller that the liquid funds in our bank accounts not be invested in a Schwab brokerage account at this time. Motion approved.
- A motion was made by Hugh Whitenack and seconded by Anne Rickmeyer to recommend Dave Figlo to serve on Council commencing June 2026. This will be brought to the Congregational Meeting on June 14, 2026 for a vote. Motion approved.



Come Sing With Us!

Our choir welcomes anyone who loves to sing—no experience needed.

Rehearsals are held once a month after the 8:00 a.m. service, and the choir sings at the 10:15 a.m. service the same day. Interested? Contact Veronica Nguyen St. John at veronicalinh7@gmail.com.



Faith & Fellowship



Host Coffee Hour!



Hosting Coffee Hour is a simple way to serve our church community. Volunteers are needed for upcoming Sundays—feel free to team up with a friend or another family.

Sign up in the Narthex. Thank you for helping make our church a welcoming place!

We're rebuilding and renewing our ministries—and we need you! Together, we can create meaningful opportunities for service, fellowship, and outreach that bless our church and our wider community. Volunteering can be truly rewarding—please consider joining one of the ministries below:

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Plans and supports worship services, maintains worship supplies, and helps provide meaningful musical experiences.

Contact: Roger Mueller

PROPERTY & GROUNDS

Oversees care, maintenance, and improvements of church buildings, grounds, and equipment.

Contact: Hugh Whitenack

PARISH LIFE

Plans special events that bring congregants and friends together in fellowship.

Contact: Ronn Hall

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Provides assistance to those in need within our congregation, neighborhood, and global community.

Contact: Loretta Ruff

YOUTH MINISTRY

Organizes events and programs for middle-school youth and older, encouraging participation in worship and education.

Contact: Anne Rickmeyer

Contact information for our ministry liaisons can be obtained by calling the church office at 516.349.1966.



Gracious God,

As we enter this season of sunshine and renewal, we thank You for the many blessings You have poured upon our church family.

Refresh our spirits, strengthen our faith, and guide us in Your love.

Help us to be a light in our community, sharing kindness, compassion, and hope wherever we go. Watch over our families, grant rest to those who are weary, and bring peace to every heart.

May we continue to grow together in faith, rooted deeply in Your grace.

In Jesus' name we pray,
Amen.

- Pastor Joe, Deacon Jim and the Church Council