

JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2024

A word from our Pastor!

Siblings in Christ,

Another new year is dawning and another new year of the pressures that inundate us to make changes in our lives. Did you make your resolutions? Are you going to work on your health? Is this year to finally prepare for retirement? Will you go back to school so you can get that new job? Are you working on decluttering? Have you read the latest trends? Are you getting back to what you once were/did? Don't wait, because after January, it's not new anymore so it doesn't count! (As if making a change for the better in July is somehow less impressive)

Personally, I don't make resolutions. I don't get caught up in the hype of having to make changes just because the calendar says a different year. I don't begrudge anyone who does, it's just not for me. It's too much pressure to publicly state some goal that seems trendy or societally acceptable. Because what if _____ happens/goes wrong/etc.?? So, if you're like me, I'd like to suggest an alternative path forward. Instead of change or trying to return to an old normal, rebuild.

For Christmas this year, one of the things I did was to rebuild a very old wheelbarrow. We found this in my in-law's barn and it was cool and destined to be a featured garden planter. With the metal wheel and old barn wood; it was a cool piece. But it was in sad shape after just a few months outside. So, I had to reverse engineer it, guessing at some of the measurements, in order to rebuild it out of new wood. All of the hardware was reused except what rusted away; but even then, I replaced it with similar looking fasteners. And honestly, it turned out great. It wouldn't work well for hauling rocks or anything, but as garden art, it's perfect and will last for years to come in its new role.



Which is why rebuilding can be so fun and useful. We may not be able to return ourselves, our job, our relationships, or our health to what they were before. But that doesn't mean we can't rebuild them to a new normal. A new place of equal value, even if it looks and functions differently. The temptation is that, in making resolutions to change something or get back to where we were, if we don't meet those exact metrics, then we feel like a failure. But if we're rebuilding, we tend to expect things to be not the same, maybe with a new design, but just as useful. So, as we begin this new year, maybe think about rebuilding something instead of just changing. Who knows, along the way you may find a new way of being that you like better than what you had before.

God's peace and blessings to you all,
Pastor David

Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 4th following worship. The annual meeting booklets, with 2023 in review, will be available for you to pick up on Sunday, January 28th.

A potluck is planned following the meeting. Watch for the sign-up sheets on the table in the fellowship hall. We will be looking for help in the kitchen as well as volunteers to cleanup; and of course, our usual yummy recipes to enjoy!!

Please plan to attend the meeting and enjoy the fellowship after!

Red Cross Blood Drive Jan. 15th from 12-5pm



We will host our next blood drive on Monday, January 15th. Please sign up to give at redcross.org.

If you are interested in providing bars or sandwiches for this community outreach there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Thank you!



Rebekah Circle will meet for their Christmas celebration at Brown's Supper Club on Wednesday January 3rd, at 5:00pm.

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The January meeting is on Monday, the 22nd, at 5:30pm (note new time) with Kathy Cisar as hostess and Teri Kelly leading the bible study.

The February meeting will be on Monday, the 26th, at 5:30pm with Teri Kelly as hostess, and Nancy Crevier leading the study.

Rebekah Circle is open to all women of the congregation. If you have any questions, you may contact Teri Kelly at 715-938-1009.

Joint Lenten Schedule



This year's Lenten services and soup suppers will be in partnership with Our Savior's. We will be alternating between the churches beginning with Ash Wednesday worship here at Good Shepherd on February 14th at 6:30pm.

On February 21st, a soup supper will be held at Our Savior's at 5:30pm with the Holden Evening Prayer service to follow at 6:30pm. Then on February 28th Good Shepherd will host, and we will continue to alternate hosting responsibilities. Please watch for information in the weekly bulletin.



Thank You to everyone who so generously donated to our Angel Tree drive this year! Seven children and youth from two families in the Peshtigo area received a nice selection of gifts thanks to your support of our local community.