



The Shepherd's Voice

July 2025

439 E. Norvell Bryant Hwy, Hernando, FL 34442



PASTOR'S DEVOTION

Dear Members and Friends in Christ Jesus,

The date, Fourth of July –Independence Day –usually conjures up in one's mind visions of American flags, parades, picnics, fireworks, and all types of festivities that help us celebrate our American Heritage –a heritage of freedom. It is a day when we reflect upon how the American Colonists in the year 1776 secured the freedom that we now enjoy. 2025 will be no exception when it comes to celebrating and reflecting upon our heritage of freedom.

We as Christians place a high value on the personal freedoms that Americans hold dear. We give thanks to God for our country and pray to better understand the rights and duties attached to being a free people who are also Christian.

We as Christians also hold onto and celebrate a different sense of Independence and Freedom. It is an Independence and Freedom we can celebrate each day as we have been made free in the Lord Jesus Christ in a way only the believer can understand. Jesus spoke about "being, free" when he said, ***"If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."*** (John 8:31b-32).

We should never substitute the concept of freedom which is ours' in Christ Jesus with the concept that we now can do anything we please. Rather, in our Christian freedom, we take every opportunity to joyfully serve God. St. Peter encourages us to do this when he writes: ***"As servants of God, live as free people, yet do not use your freedom as a pretext for evil. Honor everyone. Love the family of believers. Trust God."***

Honor one's country" (1 Peter 2:16-17). We, also have the freedom to "Love our neighbors as we love ourselves. (Matthew 22:39) as God calls us "To act justly and love kindness, and to walk humbly with God" (Micah 6:8).

Let each one of us, then, celebrate Independence Day in such a way that we give thanks to God for our beloved country with its freedom and at the same time reaffirm our dependence upon God who alone **by "the truth of his Word" sets us free.**

***A Happy and Blessed July 4, 2025,
Pastor Bob***

Church Council News

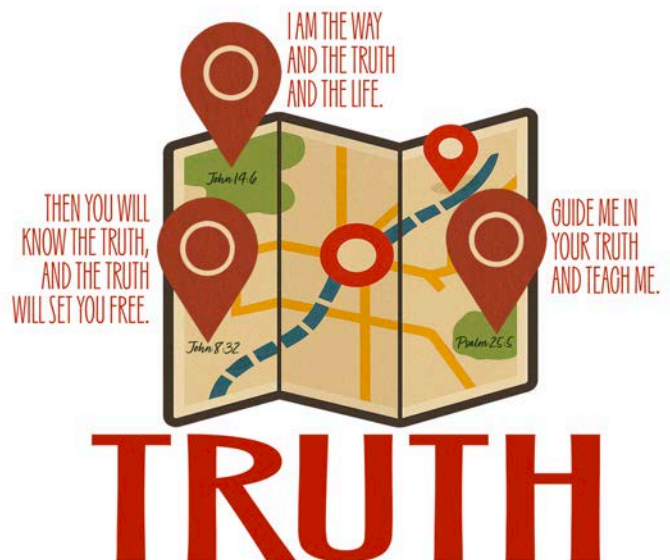


Executive Council Meeting

July 3rd @ 9:30 AM

Council Meeting

July 10th @ 3:00 PM





President's Message

As we turn the calendar to July, I want to take a moment to reflect on the month we've just concluded.

June is recognized worldwide as Pride Month, when LGBTQ+ individuals are affirmed, supported, and celebrated. This year, as in the past, our church has shared a few messages on Facebook that are in line with our denomination's beliefs. I've received several complaints about those posts. This is a first for me, but I want to respond openly and lovingly as your Council President.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has welcomed LGBTQ+ individuals into the full life of the church for over 30 years. That includes ordination, marriage, and membership in the Body of Christ, without exception. The Facebook posts we share reflect that reality: our commitment to love and inclusion. We also honor Black History Month and other times of remembrance for groups who have been historically marginalized and excluded.

I understand that not everyone sees these affirmations as necessary. But I ask you to consider this: white, straight people like me get to live twelve months of the year without wondering if a church will accept us. Many others don't have that luxury. LGBTQ+ people—just like people of color, immigrants, and the poor—face real fear and rejection, even from faith communities. We post affirming messages, so they know Good Shepherd is a safe and loving place.

Some say the Bible condemns homosexuality. While I am not a theologian, what I do know is that Jesus never once mentioned it. Homosexuality is referred to only six or seven times in the Bible. On the other hand, the poor, the hungry, the sick, and the outcast are mentioned thousands of times. So why do we so often focus our energy on judging LGBTQ+ people while remaining silent when our government cuts food aid, healthcare, or housing assistance? As Christians, we should all be enraged.

Jesus said: "Feed the hungry. Heal the sick. Welcome the stranger." He did not say: "Only if they're here legally, only if they're straight, only if they're just like you."

Let us live as Jesus did—boldly, compassionately, and without conditions. That's the kind of church I believe God is calling us to be.

Grace and Peace,

Joe



**BE LOVING IN
EVERYTHING
YOU DO!**




CHURCH TREASURER

Must know and use **QUICKBOOKS** software. This position only requires a few hours a week and must attend staff, executive, and council meetings. Contact Joe Adams, Council President, for more information at joseph.adamssr@gmail.com.

?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

For years, King David showed special kindness to the son of King Saul's son Jonathan, because David and Jonathan had been dear friends. Which of the following statements is not accurate?

- A. The name of King Saul's grandson was Mephibosheth.
- B. He was lame in both feet.
- C. His feet had been injured when he was 5.
- D. He was injured while playing with his brothers.



Answer: D (See 2 Samuel 4:4; 9:1-7; 21:7.)

Serving Our Savior

Update from May 2025

Families served: 670

People served: 1,729

Pounds of Food: 32,325

Average pounds per person: 18.7

Editors note: June Newsletter had the updates from April



SCAN TO
DONATE



352-462-0901
SOS Food Pantry
PO Box 640774
Beverly Hills, FL 34464
email sos4food@gmail.com



JULY 2025
Vacation Bible School



I am so thankful that this year's Vacation Bible School is in the books, as they say. I cannot express enough gratitude to everyone involved for their hard work and dedication in ensuring the kids had fun and learned to "Swim with God". Ericalyn Nations, you worked hard to develop a concept and the corresponding lessons. It was a pleasure to watch you teach the lesson to the children each day. Nancy Justiniano, your creativity really shown through, from the decorations to the daily crafts. Elaine and John Giammasi, as always, you are a treasure to work with. You were truly inspiring in your daily food creations. The kids enjoyed the snacks and the visuals you created. Renate Williams, what can we say...you always create a wonderful atmosphere with the songs. You are always positive and passionate in what you present to the children. Marty Zacharczyk, you were there every day helping in all capacities. Yolanda Jacobs, you can see you loved being there and working with Elaine, John, and the children. Cindy Gaertner, thank you so much for showing up, working with the children, and being so positive. Vera Swade, I thank you for being there this year and for the idea of sharing with the children the sea animals that live right here in Florida that are endangered. The children established an awareness of animals in their backyard. This will be a lifetime connection for them. Maggie Kivat, thank you for being here every day and ensuring your daughter was here, too (ha, ha). If I missed anyone, I am sincerely sorry. I would like to thank the congregation for your continued support. You amaze me that when I put out a wish list, you are right there to provide for the children. Lastly, I thank the children. Watching you all learn and participate in the different areas of VBS brings a smile to my face and warmth to my heart. I am grateful to God for granting me the opportunity to work with everyone this year for a VERY successful Vacation Bible School.

Sue Fowler

Christian Education Chair



WELCA NEWS



As a community of women created in the image of God called to discipleship in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.

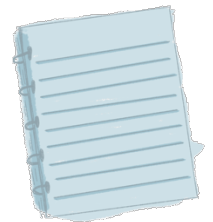
W/ELCA stands for Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. All women who share our purpose are welcome and encouraged to participate in any W/ELCA activities.

Good Shepherd WELCA has not held regular Bible discussions or activities during the summer months, but we'll begin sharing news of planned activity again in the October newsletter. If you have any suggestions of activities or of times that are best for getting together with other women in the church, Cindy Gaertner, Nancy Gomes, and Anne Storan would love to talk with you. You can see us in church or use the contact information in the church directory to share ideas or ask questions

You are invited to gather with your sisters at the Florida-Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization Fall Gathering November 7-9, 2025 at Warren Willis Conference Center in Fruitland Park. The theme of this year's gathering is "All God's Children," *Romans 8:14*. We share encouragement, support, and acceptance as we journey together. We join in fellowship, workshops, and worship while enjoying the beautiful grounds. We pray for all to experience God's grace, healing, and love. Get more information and a registration form online: www.flwelca.com, Fall Gathering 2025.

Summer is here and the Women of Good Shepherd invite everyone to donate school supplies to our school supply collection the last two weeks in July. Donations will be taken to the Lecanto Walmart "Stuff the Bus" event on August 2, 2025. The Citrus County Education Foundation makes your donations available throughout the school year to meet the needs of the students of Citrus County. The list of needed supplies is listed below and available to pick up on the WELCA bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

Anne Storan



School Supplies

Spiral Notebooks - Wide-ruled Loose Leaf Paper 9x11
 Black & White Composition Notebooks
 Post-it Notes
 Pocket Folders
 3-Ring Binders
 Ballpoint Pens
 #2 pencils
 Pencil Sharpeners

Colored Pencils
 Pencil Boxes
 Pink Erasers
 Crayola Crayons (Must be Crayola)
 Colored Markers (Washable)
 Dry Erase Markers
 Highlighters
 Scissors (Child-sized)
 Glue Sticks



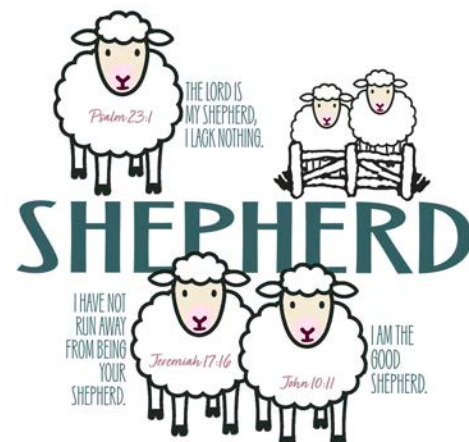
A loose definition of the word “may” is “can but don’t have to”. “Rubric”, in the religious context, refers to guidelines regarding the liturgical order of worship. “May rubrics” are elements of worship that may be done, or may not, depending on the season, the congregation, etc. Examples of “may

rubrics” are confession and forgiveness, remembrance of baptism, or recitation of the creed. One element of worship that is **not** a “may rubric” is the offering; it is not optional. It should not be omitted. The offering is an opportunity for the worshipping community to respond to the good news of the Gospel as heard in hymns and songs, encountered in Scripture readings, and preached in the sermon. It is a moment of grace when we get to – that is, when we have the privilege of, not when we have to – give thanks to God. Sometimes this takes the form of providing monetary resources. Still, it can also be a testimony from someone whose life has been changed by God, or a station where people can offer written prayers of thanksgiving, or a moment when people sign up to volunteer for an outreach opportunity, or give an offering to a special project. At Good Shepherd and many other congregations, a musical offering is presented during the collection of the offerings. This piece of music is itself an offering by singers and/or instrumentalists, something they have spent time and effort on to glorify God and add beauty to the worship service.

Passing of the plate was eliminated in many churches during the pandemic. It isn’t *wrong* to put the plate somewhere instead of passing it, as long as it’s done with intention rather than as an afterthought or for convenience. But it *is* important to provide space in the liturgy for people to respond to God’s grace.

Are there other opportunities we could offer, in addition to giving money, for people to give thanks to God during the offering time?

If you would like to order a magnetic name tag please contact Donald Marchetti at (401) 568-8017 or 11thhoursigns@gmail.com
Cost is \$5.00.



Call Committee



Call Committee Q&A

Q: It's been almost a year since Pastor Koch retired. Why don't we have a new pastor yet? What is the holdup??

A: The Call Committee takes its charge very seriously and discerning the needs of GSLC, related to a pastor, has been a labor-intensive process. We all want to make the right choice and we need everyone to have patience with the process.

Q: Has the Call Committee already turned down candidates?

A: Before the Synod provides candidates for consideration by the Call Committee, the committee must present the Mission Site Profile (MSP) to the Church Council for approval, which will then be passed to the Synod for review and approval. We hope to receiving potential candidates for consideration. So, no, the call committee has not rejected any candidates, because we have not received any candidates to review.

Q: If the Synod sends us only one candidate, do we have to call them as our Pastor?

A: While the Synod MAY send GSLC one candidate for consideration at a time, they will send us the candidate they feel is the best fit at the moment. The Call Committee will evaluate and decide whether to recommend the candidate to the Council for consideration. Then, the Council will evaluate and determine if the candidate should be recommended to the Congregation. At this point, it is the decision in the congregation's hands as to extend a call to the candidate or not.

This process is important not only to GSLC right now, but also 5, 10, 15 years, and beyond. If you have questions, please let one of us on the call committee know and we will endeavor to answer them..

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

John Lepore, ZoAnn Weimer, Mel Pease, John Reichert, Lenore Deck, Nina Giglio

Worship and Music

Meeting - July 1st at 1 PM



Eucharistic Ministry

Volunteers are always needed to assist at Services held at assisted living facilities. Compass Rose is the first and third Mondays. Superior Memory Care is the second Monday. The Reserve is the fourth Monday. All services start at 10 AM and volunteers are needed before service to assist those needing help. Contact Rick Mainster.



BE joyful in hope,
patient in affliction,
faithful in prayer.
Romans 12:12, NIV

Health Ministry

Your Faith Community Nurse is Kathy Metz, she can be reached @ 352-746-1911 and the Health Team members are: Barb Lauer, Donna Pease, John Colson, and Leith Masters. We will provide blood pressure screenings on the last Sunday of the month after worship.



We will always take donations for Hygiene Kits.



Quilters

Everyone is welcome to stop by. We meet the first and third Wednesday of the month.

Ten AM, bring your lunch.

So far in 2025, we have made twenty Lutheran world relief Quilts.

This summer we are working on local quilts.

Please call Judy Teague with any questions.

352-344-4944

written by Cindy Gaertner



Special Dates

4 - Independence Day



Publix Bread Pick-up :

Sign up in the Narthex

Deliveries to:

CUB

July 2025



Wednesdays @ 9 AM

A Time for Prayer

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Every Tuesday @ 7:30 AM Breakfast at Mama's Kuntry Kafe First Thursday @ Noon Lunch @ Angelotti's		1 9A - Weight Watchers 11A - Call Committee 1P - Worship & Music Meeting	2 7:30A - SOS 9A-1P- Citrus County Quilters 1:00P - Newcomer's Club	3 7:30A - SOS 9:00 A Executive Council 1P - Outreach	4 8:00A – Workday on Grounds OFFICE CLOSED 	5
6 10A - Worship	7	8 9A - Weight Watchers	9 7:30A - SOS	10 7:30A - SOS 3:00 P Council Meeting	11 8:00A – Workday on Grounds 	12
13 10A - Worship Equal Exchange Coffee & Tea	14 1:30P - Fellowship		16 7:30A - SOS 11A - 3P- Citrus County Quilters	17 7:30A - SOS 	18 8:00A – Workday on Grounds	19
20 10A - Worship	21	22 9A - Weight Watchers	23 7:30A-SOS	24 7:30A - SOS 10A Christian Education 	25 8:00A – Workday on Grounds 	26
27 10A - Worship 	28	29 9A - Weight Watchers	30 7:30A-SOS	31		

ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAYS



Walter & Nancy Johnson

07/19/53

Michael & Angela Busler

07/30/04



2 - Cathy Stetson

11 - Jack Gomes

21 - Tina Cespedes

3 - Gladys Steele

12 - Cassandra Swartz

30 - Don Schroeder

10 - Robert Moll
Shelly Fortin

20 - Kimberly Swartz

31 - Stacey Johnson



**SHINE YOUR
LIGHT.
SHARE GOD'S
LOVE!**





Let us remember:

Benefiel, Karen	Costa, Denise	Landfried, Bob	Meltesen Family
Brit-Busler, Elizabeth	Hassinger, Doug & Donna	Lauer, Barbara	Mongardi, Eloise
Cashman, Dan	Jimenez, Jeanette	Lepore, Linda	Page-Wood, Jeremy
Clark, Dawn	Krenauer, Linda	Masters, Leith	

Those who are shut in or residing in assisted living homes:

Earl, Jim	Frost, Joann	Hartsfield, Sylvia	Lowe, Faye	Moll, Bob
Peterson, Gloria	Philipp, Dick	Pufahl, Jean	Whitcomb, Ray	

All who serve our country in the military:

Burba, Jake	Jackson, Brad	Radloff, Steven
Ceballos, Jason	Johnston-Garcia, Christian	Radosevitch, Eric
Corsino, Mykael	Luchay, Alan	Springer, Dennis
Harrington, Bryan	McCann, Jim	Stroble, Jeramy
Hickman, Richard	Miller, Tyler	Swain, Jr., Terry
Hicks, Nathan	Much, Jason	Thomas, Peter
Holman, Evan	Piott, Trenton	Thompson, David
	Posa, Codymicheal	Timpe, Chris



Relatives and Friends:

Arbuckle, Amy & Matthew	Campano, Thomas	Fratto, Joseph	Hertel, Karl
Balastieri, Casey	Cato, Cecelia	Garling, John	Hunt, Jim
Barber, Steve & Kitty	Cipollone, Elaine	Gifford, Judy	Iudiciani, Georgia
Beeftink, Paul	Crooks, Candi	Goetter, Lisbeth	Johnson, Jim
Bluver, Linda & son	DeVenuto, Lisa	Goetter, Thomas	Kraft, Carter
Blyth, Ruby	Dortin, Rachel	Goforth, Jeffrey	Koch, Dennis & Linda
Brace, Quin	Drake, Matthew	Goodloe, Ernestine	Lahera, Andy
Brugger, Tristan	Eckloff, Dennis	Granger, Jeff	Lavaja, Jim
Burkhardt, Faith & Dina	Farmer, Tom	Graves, Janice & Declan	Lewellen, Emily Anne
Cahoone, Bill	Fidwell, Eloise	Hart, Jim	Lobenthal, Jean

Loftin, Tracy	O'Keefe, Chris	Robertson, Jeanine	Vulkelich, Alejandra
Longworth, Kathy	Pach, Barbara	Rothmeyer, Heidi	Welch, George
Lublemon family	Page-Wood, Jake	Sbani, Carol	Wells, Emmarie
Lundsford, Victoria	Pulcrano, Sandra	Scheetz, Cathy & Family	Wierzel, Rosalee
Magrum, Corbin	Parruche, Linda Ama	Sillen, Rita	Williams, Dorothy
Maidhof, Dexter, Gary, Jeremiah	Pope, Jeff	Small, Brenda & Steven	Wilson, Karen
McHugh, Mark	Pope, Rick	Smrdel, Terri	Wizard, Joe & Dana
Meidl, Nancy	Queen, Max	Stuart Family	Wolff, Jack
Mena, Steve	Rajotte, Keith	Thatcher, Jean	Wood, Harper
Nickerson, Mike & Beth	Ralph, Bruce	Thompson, Lori	Woods, Donna Jean
Nine, Tim	Rambaldini, Jim	Traywick, Edward	Woolf, Nick
O'Berry, Darlene	Riccio, Gino	Tuegel, Chuck	Wright, Matthew

Please take this prayer list and use it in your private or family devotions in the coming month. You can see that our congregation has a great many people who are in need of our prayers. Please let us know if your loved one is no longer serving in the military. Contact admin@gslchernando.org for any updates.

Newsletter Editor

This will be my last newsletter as the editor. I stepped in to help out when I was asked. Now, the duties will go back to the church admin as they were before me. Thank you for your support through the years.

Please send anything newsletter related to admin@gslchernando.org. Anything related to the church website use webmaster@gslchernando.org.



July 19th

Click to
follow



SUNDAY SCHOOL/NURSERY

Susan Fowler

USHERS

Please be there at 9:15 AM

6th & 13th

Dave & Peg Bocker

July 20th & July 27th

TBD

MEDIA CENTER

Fran Stetson

John Gifford

Joe Adams

Dan Cashman

Donate QR code
Click for Link

LECTORS

July 6th

Vera Swade

July 13th

Margot Berger

July 20th

John Giammasi

July 27th

Brenda Landfried

DEACON in Training

John Colson





CHURCH STAFF
Pastor Bob Yankovitz

Office: 352-746-7161

Fax: 352-746-5013

Email: pastor@gslchernando.org

Administrative Assistant
Lucia Bertrand

Phone: 352-746-7161

Email: admin@gslchernando.org

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Building / Property

Harv Johnson 352-270-3391

Christian Education

Sue Fowler 352-464-0571

Enduring Gifts

Dan Cashman 352- 400-6024

Evangelism (Outreach)

Tom Stickler 610-659-5553

Fellowship

John & Elaine Giammasi 352-527-8706

Finance

Gail Sotrines 352-860-1765

Social Ministry

Vera Swade 352-637-5308

Stewardship

TBD

Technology

Fran Stetson 352-419-7227

Worship & Music

Renate Williams 352-228-7809

COUNCIL LIAISONS

Building /Property

John Colson 352-634-5470

Christian Education - YOUTH

John Giammasi 352-527-8706

Enduring Gifts

Ann Serafin 973-713-2528

Evangelism (Outreach)

Sue Buldiger 908-303-2021

Fellowship

Gladys Kean 352-514-6998

Finance

Kathy Swartz 352-422-6717

Social Ministry

Karen Monsen 727-858-0265

Stewardship

TBD

Technology

Fran Stetson 352-419-7227

Worship & Music

TBD



WEBSITE

gshernando.org

Webmaster: Stephanie Adams

webmaster@gslchernando.org



Kid's Corner



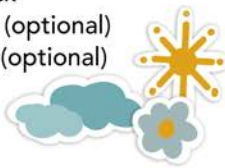
SHINE FOR Jesus



This easy and colorful craft helps kids remember that Jesus is their light—no matter where they go!

What you need:

- Clear plastic cup
- Battery tea lights
- Tissue paper squares (pre-cut)
- Glue stick
- Markers (optional)
- Stickers (optional)



What you do:

1. Use the glue stick to press colorful tissue paper squares around the outside of the cup.
2. Add a simple phrase like "Jesus is my Light" or use fun stickers to decorate.
3. Turn on the tea light and place it inside the cup.
4. Turn off the lights and let your lantern glow!

The Lord is my light
and my salvation—
whom shall I fear?

— Psalm 27:1, NIV



TINY TEAMWORK

The focused teamwork of ants is astounding! How can we learn from them?

Directions: Answer the clues. Then write the words in order below to complete Proverbs 6:6-8, NIV.

- This 6-legged arthropod can carry 20 times its own weight. _____
- A sleepy, sloth-like and slow-moving person. _____
- Having deep understanding and sound judgment. _____
- A person in charge of military troops. _____
- A person in authority. _____
- The season when daylight hours are longest. _____
- A substance you eat for nutrition. _____
- When farmers reap the rewards of hard work. _____



Go to the _____, you _____;
consider its ways and be _____!

It has no _____, no overseer or _____,
yet it stores its provisions in _____
and gathers its _____ at _____.

Proverbs 6:6-8, NIV



Answers: ant; slug/gard, wise, commander, ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest. be wisel! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.

