



The Shepherd's Voice

September 2025

439 E. Norvell Bryant Hwy, Hernando, FL 34442

Pastor's Devotion

Our
Interim
Pastor



Dear Members and Friends in Christ Jesus,

With September our Autumn schedules begin with an ever-growing number of things on our "to do" list. For some people, it may seem there wasn't even a summer hiatus from all the hustle and bustle of life as our world has become a place of instant demands. In such a world, many people even desire an instant spirituality ---like the sending of an e-mail or text message or preparing an air fryer or microwave dinner that can be done in an instant. But spiritual growth and development do not occur that way even in this age of Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. It takes time, commitment and energy as we open our lives to God's ways and God's Word. It takes time and patience to grow in our discipleship and follow the discipline of our Lord Jesus.

When James A Garfield was President of Hiram College, a father brought his son to the college for admission. The father questioned President Garfield: "Can you arrange a shorter course of study for my son?" You see, he could never take all the information in, and he does want to get through quickly." Mr. Garfield replied: "Oh, yes, he can take a shorter course of study --it all depends on what you want to make of him. When God wants to make a Great Oak He takes a hundred years, but it takes only two months to make a squash."

There are no short cuts! Our Spiritual growth will come in taking time out of our hectic schedules to open ourselves up to God through daily prayer, worship, the reading and contemplating of scripture, sitting in silence in the presence of God and by loving service in Jesus' name.

St. Paul reminds us of how faith develops and grows. **"Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of Christ.** (Romans 10:17).

St. Peter looked forward to our Spiritual Growth when he wrote: **"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."** (2 Peter 3:18).

Most importantly, though, as we strive toward disciplined spiritual growth we need to **"Keep in mind that Jesus Christ has died for us, and is risen from the dead. He is our saving Lord; he is joy for all ages."**

God's Blessings in Your Spiritual Journey,
Pastor Bob

Church Council News



The Council met on August 14th and approved the following items:

- Set October 26th for Trunk or Treat
- A future Comfort Dog Ministry
- A Building Use Request for use of Fellowship Hall as a precinct for the Special Election
- Primary election is September 30th. General election is December 9th
- A Building Use Request from Kensington Estates to use Fellowship Hall on October 14th from 7:00 – 9:00 PM
- Cub Scout yearly schedule. This includes their spaghetti dinner fundraiser on September 9th and Shrove Tuesday pancake supper on February 17th
- Pasta with Pastor on October 12th immediately after worship service
- Sue Fowler as Treasurer
- Tabled Kathleen Swartz for Assistant Treasurer
- Stephanie Adams as Financial Secretary
- The Mission Site Profile created by the Call Committee
- Enduring Gifts to fund the purchase of Bluetooth speakers and cover for a cost of \$680
- Set November 15th for the Holiday Craft Fair and Farmer's Market
- Approved the Finance Committee recommendation to split the \$100k CD into a \$50k six month CD and a \$50k one-year CD due to expected lower interest rates.

Executive Council Meeting

September 4th @ 9:30 AM

Council Meeting

September 11th @ 3:00 PM

President's Message



I want to take a moment and recognize the Outreach Committee for all the things they have been working on. While all the committees are working hard, it was only a few years ago that this committee only existed on paper. They didn't even have a Chair until Deacon, now S.A.M. Bob Bonomo agreed to be the Chair. That made it a committee of one. It has grown since then and they recently submitted a Vision 2 Action (V2A) grant to the Synod office. A lot of work went into this grant and they deserve a huge thank you! The grant submitted was for the pre-packaged Building Bridges (Latino Ministry). The purpose of V2A is to place an emphasis on innovative, new ministries that form new communities of faith. If approved this grant will start in 2026. For more information I've included two links below.

https://www.v2agrants.org/uploads/1/4/5/2/145236263/pre-packaged_grant_options.pdf

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ugCnLah7-B0>

There is excitement among the other committees too while they discuss new ideas and creating new events. Seeing some new faces on these committees is exciting, but please keep in mind that every committee still needs volunteers. I have never heard a committee chair tell me they have enough volunteers. Please consider joining a committee or volunteering when you are able.

Speaking of volunteering or serving, every Council member has received a copy of a book I highly recommend you read. It is titled "I Am A Church Member" written by Thom S. Rainier. It is a short book consisting of 79 pages but is packed full of very impactful messages. See a Council member and see if you can borrow their book after they have finished reading it. Copies may be found in the library too.

Finally, The Cub Scouts are planning their first fundraiser of the year. On September 9th starting at 5 PM, they will have a spaghetti dinner in Fellowship Hall. Please try to attend as you are able. This is a great way to show support for our Scouts!

Grace and Peace,

Joe

Christian Education



We began our Sunday School year on August 10th following our service.

This year, we are working on making our personal connection with God. As part of this journey, we have begun discussing how the Bible is a group of “Love Letters” from God to us. Instead of going through book by book of the Bible, we will be taking various stories from the “Letters” that will help us gain how God’s love has been shown, and how we can accept His love and pass on the message to others.

Starting on September 3rd, the Bible study with Rick Mainster will begin again at the 11 am time. We will also be starting a few other studies throughout the year. Please continue to look out for other opportunities to “grow” in your faith and love.

We would like to thank John Giammasi for taking over the library responsibilities. We will be highlighting various books of interest by placing a picture of the book cover, along with a synopsis of the book in the Narthex. We are working on having definite library hours where someone will be available to help you find what you may be looking for or interested in. The days and hours are being determined soon.

I thank all of you who are working on our study of how to “grow” a church young. I appreciate your hard work and dedication to this course.

Yours in Christ,

Susan Fowler

Christian Ed. Chairman

Outreach

Called to Serve, Sent to Love

Outreach is the living expression of Christ's command: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19).

It's how we embody "faith working through love" (Galatians 5:6), reaching hearts beyond our sanctuary.

Whether through acts of kindness, prayer, or service, we are Christ's hands and feet in the world.

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40).

Let us go boldly, not just to give, but to connect, uplift, and share the hope we have in Him.

Thanks ,

Tom Stickler

Fellowship

Our Fellowship Committee meeting will be held on Monday, September 8, at 1:30 PM. We are asking our committee members to attend if their schedule allows.

I would like to thank our congregation for providing beans, salads and desserts for our Rally Day celebration. Thank you, Good Shepherd for providing hot dogs, hamburgers, etc. and our grill masters who did a fantastic job in the heat of the morning. Our Fellowship ladies are the best and extra help with set-up and clean-up was much appreciated.

If you would like to help with serving coffee, tea, or with cleaning up after worship, please sign your name on the volunteer sheet near the coffee bar in the Fellowship Hall. Please consider helping when you can. It will take about an hour of your time once a month and will be greatly appreciated. We are asking our congregation to occasionally help with bringing a dessert. It does not need to be homemade. Anything from a bakery whether it is gluten free, sugar free, or a regular dessert will help with making our coffee hour special for our members. Thank you in advance. **NOTE: Volunteers are needed in the Fellowship kitchen with serving coffee after worship service!**

Elaine Giammasi, Chair
John Giammasi, Co-chair



Property Committee



The Property Team has inherited another job now that the Weight Watchers Group is gathering every Tuesday morning in the Fellowship Hall.

As shown in these two pictures, we take down seventeen tables, set up over eighty chairs on Monday mornings, then on Tuesday mornings we put all the tables and chairs back in place after the Weight Watchers meeting.

It would be nice if we could share some of these extra duties with other members of our church.

When Property started, the basic duties were to cut the grass, replace light bulbs do minor repairs and change the Sanctuary Banners. Now Light the Seven Day candle, hang and steam the banners by the season, change the Paraments on the Altar, check the restrooms that all is working and any repairs that we can do without hiring outside workers.

We have a great four-person team but would like some additional help with **special projects** that could use a few more hands. Future projects coming up will be prepping and installing fifty-six acoustic ceiling panels in the Fellowship Hall and replacing thirty-two fluorescent light bulbs with LED bulbs and eliminating the ballasts.

Consider helping if you like working with others. Also, if you would like to be a "back-up" for cutting the grass when one of the team is off, sick or traveling, we appreciate the help.

Harv Johnson
GSLC Property Chair



Call Committee



As previously mentioned in our monthly newsletter update, the Call Committee has been making progress on the Mission Site Profile (MSP) paperwork that we are required to submit to the Florida-Bahamas Synod prior to receiving a list of potential candidates. Feeling that we were nearly complete, a draft of the document was submitted to the GSLC Council for review. Members of the Call Committee met with the Church Council at the Council meeting on August 14th, to discuss the profile. The Council and Pastor Bob made some recommendations for the Call Committee to consider as we finalize the document. The Council voted to approve the MSP and for the Call Committee to continue to move forward. By the time the September newsletter is published, the paperwork will be submitted to the Synod.

We aren't done yet... In the time after the submission of the paperwork and as the Synod gathers candidates for us to review, we will be working on how the interview process will work. A quick outline of next major steps:

Call Committee receives a candidate list – which may have one or more names

Call Committee evaluates and determines whether to move forward or not with a candidate on the list.

Call Committee presents candidate to GSLC Council that we believe meets the needs of GSLC, and is a good fit.

Church Council performs their due diligence and upon approval, the candidate will be presented to the congregation for a vote.

*Please understand our work going forward will be confidential. We **will not** be talking about who is on our candidate list, or who we have interviewed or rejected. This is for the benefit of both the candidate and GSLC. If you have questions, please ask a member of the Call Committee or the Council.*

The call committee thanks you for your continued prayers and support.

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

Worship and Music



Arts and Craft Fair

November 15, 2025

9AM-2PM

*Please get in touch with Renate Williams Event Organizer,
at 352-228-7809 or email to renate@play88keys.com to get an application.*

! Vendors wanted!

If you are interested in showing and selling your handmade Art and Crafts,
this is the place!

We also want Food Vendors and Food Trucks!

Indoor vendors will be provided with an 8-foot table and 2 chairs for \$25.

Outdoor vendors will be provided with 10X10 space for \$15 and bring
your setup.

Apply as soon as possible. Deadline for applications will be October 15th. The
application will ask for your details, what you will be selling and your payment.
The sale will be juried so there are some rules to follow and no refunds after the
deadline. Hope to see you there! 😊



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
439 E Norvell Bryant Hwy, Hernando, FL 34442

Eucharistic Ministry



Volunteers are always needed to assist at Services held at assisted living facilities. Compass Rose is the first and third Mondays. Best Care is on 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 or Sharon Maxwell.

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 provide blood pressure screenings on the last Sunday of the month after worship.

We always take donations for Hygiene kits.

Publix Bread Pick-up:
Sign up in the Narthex
Deliveries to: CUB



Serving Our Savior



352-462-0901

SOS Food Pantry

PO Box 640774
Beverly Hills, FL 34464

SOS JULY DISTRIBUTION REPORT

WEEK	FAMILIES	PERSONS	FOOD	WEIGHT
ENDING	SERVED	SERVED	WEIGHT	PER FAMILY
7/3/25	137	377	6,165	45lbs
7/10/25	144	388	7,200	50lbs
7/17/25	139	372	6,950	50lbs
7/24/25	138	387	4,830	35lbs
7/31/25	119	314	5,355	45lbs
TOTALS	677	1,838	30,500	



Memorials and Special Gifts

Nancy Gomes in Memory of Anne Storan

Ferry Family in Memory of Michael Koch

Diame Melteson in Memory of Peter Krol

ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAYS



John & Elaine <u>Giammasi</u>	9/11/87
John & Lisa Nelson	9/11/87
Fran & Cathy Stetson	9/23/96



4 Laura Nichols	17 Elin <u>Bendsten</u>
6 Elaine Giammasi	19 John Colson
11 John Lepore	20 Dylan Schortemeyer
Derek Nelson	23 Maggie Breger
12 Linda Cashman	24 Ryan Towne
14 Sylvia Hartsfield	27 Hope <u>Schortemeyer</u>
15 Amy Gilbert	30 Abigail Swartz

SEPTEMBER



As we had 90 plus names listed on our ***“Relatives and Friends”*** prayer list in our “Monthly Newsletter” instead of listing all the person(s)’ names, we offer the following “Options” so that you/we can regularly lift up your/our ***“Relative and Friends”*** in prayer.

We invite you to raise up the person(s) name silently or aloud at our Sunday Morning Worship Service during the “Intercessory Prayer” as we pray “*The Prayer for Healing*” as we give the congregation the opportunity to lift up our name(s) of concern “*aloud or silently in our hearts.*”

We invite you to share your prayer concern(s) by writing the person(s)’ name and concern on the back of the “Welcome”/Prayer Request” card found in the pew rack and then place it in the offering plate. Your prayer request(s) will be specifically lifted up during our “Wednesday Morning Prayer Service.

We invite you to attend our “Wednesday Morning Prayer Service” beginning at 9:00 am. It is a simple prayer service at which you can personally raise up the person(s)’ names and concern either “silently or aloud.”

We invite you to place your “Relative or Friend” name(s) on our “Prayer Chain” by contacting Marcia Reichert at mareichert55@gmail.com

We offer the following “General Prayer” that you may regularly use as you pray for your “*Relative and Friends*” for the Lord’s blessing, compassion, healing and wholeness:

“Compassionate God, look with favor upon those who are sick, suffering, grieving or have any need (especially.....INCLUDE NAME(S) and grant them healing, comfort, wholeness and your peace that surpasses all human understanding. In Jesus’ name. Amen

God’s Blessing Always!

“The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in Truth.” (Psalm 145:1)

SUNDAY SCHOOL/ NURSERY

Susan Fowler

USHERS

Please be there at 9:15 AM

7th & 14th

Lois Lenhart,

Ann Serafin

Sue Buldiger

21st & 28th

Cherie Earl,

Maggie Kirkeby

Leith Master

MEDIA CENTER

Fran Stetson

John Gifford

Joe Adams

Dan Cashman

Donate QR Code

Click for Link

LECTORS

September 7th

Vera Swade

September 14th

Pat Mainster

September 21st

Brenda Landfried

September 28th

Ann Serafin

DEACON in Training

John Colson



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

gshemando.org

Webmaster: Stephanie Adams
webmaster@gslchemando.org



Newsletter Editor

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the warm welcome and kindness shown to me.

I have big shoes to fill regarding the newsletter, after having Ms. Stephanie doing it for so many years.

I greatly appreciate your help and cooperation in having your articles send to me on or before the deadline, which will allowed to complete the monthly newsletter in a timely manner without any rush.

The October deadline will be October 19th.

Thank you,



CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Bob Yankovitz

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Email: pastor@gslchernando.org

Administrative Assistant

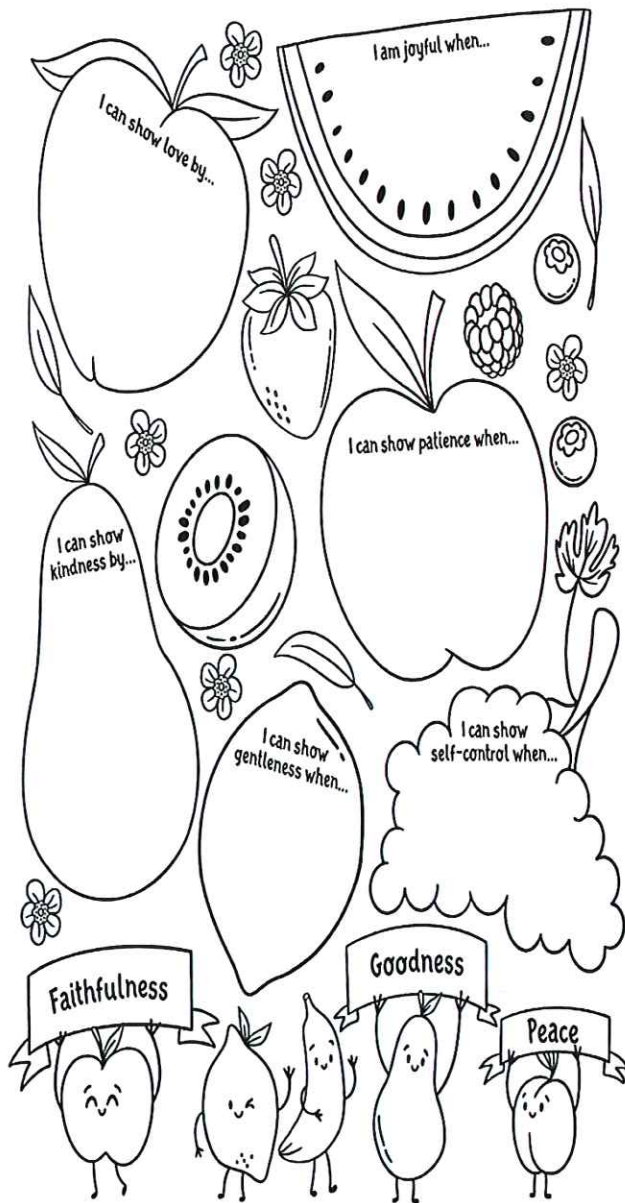
Lucia Bertrand

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Email: admin@gslchernando.org

Kid's Corner

september



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JESUS TRAVELED TO MANY PLACES

Jesus traveled to many regions, cities, towns and villages to preach the Good News. In the puzzle below, find and circle the names of some of the places. Can you find the names on the list?

Words can go left to right, up, down or diagonal—so look carefully in all directions!

BETHANY	EPHRAIM	MOUNT OF OLIVES
BETHLEHEM	GALILEE	NAZARETH
BETHSAIDA	JERICHO	PEREA
CAESAREA PHILIPPI	JERUSALEM	SAMARIA
CANA	JORDAN RIVER	SIDON
CAPERNAUM	JUDEA	TYRE
DECAPOLIS	MAGDALA	WILDERNESS
EGYPT		

B	M	L	E	T	C	U	S	G	O	T	O	B	T	H	E
E	J	O	R	D	A	N	R	I	V	E	R	E	M	N	S
T	U	E	U	E	N	A	R	B	Y	V	I	T	A	L	S
H	D	L	R	N	A	Z	A	R	E	T	H	H	G	A	E
S	E	G	E	I	T	S	S	S	G	Y	O	L	D	I	N
A	A	C	J	A	C	O	N	I	Y	R	P	E	A	R	R
I	D	E	E	A	C	H	F	D	P	E	H	H	L	T	E
D	E	H	R	E	R	E	O	O	T	A	L	E	A	S	D
A	C	O	U	T	H	P	A	N	L	T	I	M	S	W	L
C	A	E	S	A	R	E	A	P	H	I	L	I	P	P	I
H	P	P	A	A	Y	R	I	H	A	V	V	E	C	O	W
M	O	H	L	E	M	E	S	O	H	E	T	E	R	A	V
E	L	R	E	L	E	A	D	T	H	R	O	U	S	G	H
O	I	A	M	U	T	G	R	A	B	E	T	H	A	N	Y
L	S	I	I	L	G	A	L	I	L	E	E	E	E	F	R
O	M	M	C	A	P	E	R	N	A	U	M	M	A	R	K











SEPTEMBER 30th



SEPTEMBER 2025



WEDNESDAYS A TIME FOR PRAYER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED 10:00 AM E.M** Compass Rose	2 8:30 AM Weight Watchers 11:00 AM Call Committee 1:00 PM Workshop & Music	3 9:00 AM Prayer 10:00 AM Quilters 11:00 AM Bible Study 2:00 PM Newcomers 6:30 PM Choir Practice	4 7:30 AM SOS 9:00 CFQG** 9:30 Executive 1:00 Outreach 2:00 Stewardship 	5 8:00 AM 	6 10:00 – 2:00 Sp. Lang Church
7 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Sunday School	8 10:00AM E.M Best Care 1:30 PM Fellowship 1:30 Social Ministry	9 8:30 AM Weight Watchers 11:00 AM Call Committee 6:30 PM Cub's Spaghetti Dinner	10 9:00 AM Prayer 11:00AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Choir Practice	11 7:30 AM SOS 	12 8:00 AM 	13 10:00 – 2:00 Sp. Lang Church
14 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Sunday School	15 10:00AM E.M Compass Rose 1:00 PM Fellowship	16 8:30 AM Weight Watchers 11:00 AM Call Committee 6:30 pm Bells Choir	17 9:00 AM Prayer 10:00 AM Quilters 11:00 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Choir Practice	18 7:30 AM SOS  11:00 AM CFQG**	19 8:00 AM 	20 10:00 – 2:00 Sp. Lang Church 
21 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Sunday School	22 10:00AM E.M - Reserve	23 8:30 AM Weight Watchers 11:00 AM Call Committee 6:30 PM Bells Choir Cub's Scouts	24 9:00 AM Prayer 10:00-2:00 Craft & Share 11:00 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Choir Practice	25 7:30 AM SOS  10:00 AM Christian Ed	26 8:00 AM 	27 10:00 – 2:00 Sp. Lang Church
28 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 – 12:00 Flu Shots	29	30 OFFICE CLOSED  6:30 PM Bells Choir				
	Breakfast at Mama's Kuntry Kafe Every Tuesday @ 7:30 a.m.			Lunch at Angelotti's First Thursday @ Noon		
	** EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY			** CITRUS COUNTY FRIENDSHIP QUILTERS GROUP		