



The Shepherd's Voice

MARCH 2026

439 E. Norvell Bryant Hwy, Hernando, FL 34442

Pastor's Devotion

Our
Interim
Pastor



Dear Members and Friends in Christ Jesus,

As we begin this Lenten season of reflection, renewal, and preparation I share with you the following words of inspiration and prayer to encourage you on your journey.



And the Spirit immediately drove Jesus out into the wilderness. He was in the desert forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

Mark 1:12-15

A “Lenten Prayer offered by “The Women of the ELCA”:

“Merciful God, accompany and bless our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

***God’s Blessings this Lenten Season,
Pastor Bob***



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.

Thank you everyone for the donations to our New Socks Project. We collected a total of 233 pairs!

The socks were shipped on February 10, 2026., to Graceway Village, in Port Charlotte, FL.; this is one of the WELCA charities.

March Events

March 7, 2026, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm - Spring Gathering at Hope Lutheran Church, located at 250 Aventura Los Angeles, the Villages.

This year we are using Matthew 6 vs. 26-34. The theme for the day is "**Do not worry**". We will have a keynote speaker about missionary work, Rev. Doctor Carolyn Schneider, who has written several books about church-wide topics.

It will be a day of learning and friendship with women from other churches in the Pine-lands Conference.

Sign up in lobby. Cost is \$10 for breakfast and lunch.

March 17, 2026, Noon Lunch at Cattle Dog
2416 Heritage Oaks Drive, Hernando FL.

Upcoming Events

May 14th lunch at noon at Amy's on the Avenue
July school supply drive.

All women are welcome to all our events.

Aagot and I are open to new ideas...

Aagot Green and Cindy Gaertner Co- Directors



Reaching Our Community with Christ's Love

Lent: A Season That Sends Us Outward

As we move through March and continue our Lenten journey, we remember that Lent is not only about personal reflection—it is also about turning our hearts outward. Jesus consistently met people where they were: in homes, on roadsides, at wells, in marketplaces. Many of those encounters happened far from the synagogue. In that same spirit, our congregation is called to meet our neighbors in the places where life is actually happening.

In every community, including ours, there are people who carry deep spiritual questions but feel disconnected from church. Some have never been invited. Some have been hurt. Some simply don't know that a faith community can be a place of welcome, healing, and purpose. Lent gives us the chance to practice a different kind of invitation—one rooted in relationship, not recruitment.

How can we reach those who don't come to church?

- **Show up where people already gather.**

Community events, school activities, neighborhood meetings, local service projects—these are natural places to build trust and friendship.

- **Lead with listening.**

Before we speak about church, we listen to people's stories, hopes, and struggles. Listening is one of the most powerful forms of ministry.

- **Offer simple acts of kindness.**

A warm greeting, a helping hand, a shared meal—these small gestures often open doors that sermons cannot.

- **Be the church outside the building.**

When our neighbors see compassion in action—feeding the hungry, supporting families, caring for the lonely—they begin to understand what the Gospel looks like lived out.

- **Extend invitations without pressure.**

"You're welcome anytime" can be more meaningful than "You should come to church." Grace grows best in freedom.

This March, let us remember that outreach is not a program—it is a posture. It is the way we embody Christ's love in everyday life. As we prepare for Holy Week and the promise of Easter, may our congregation be known not only for what happens inside our sanctuary, but for the hope we carry into the world around us.

Fellowship



Our Fellowship Committee meeting will be held on Monday, March 9, 2026, at 1:30 PM. We are asking our committee members to attend if their schedule allows.

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 to serve coffee after worship service!**

Elaine Giammasi, Chair
John Giammasi, Co-chair



Each week the call committee fields many questions... Why don't we have a pastor yet? When are we going to get a pastor? Are the candidates looking good? And then there are the rumors... and we don't need to go down that rabbit hole.

When we consider that Jesus was a man from Nazareth for the first 30 years of his life and went about his life in what we are led to believe was a quiet manner, not drawing attention to himself, we should all pause a bit and realize that rushing a decision of this magnitude may not be in the best interest of our church. Please be patient a bit longer. The following paragraph is from the Florida-Bahamas Transition Manual, and it seems appropriate to share.

The call process is filled from beginning to end with opportunities for the Spirit to lead and to inform those who are participating in the process. The Spirit works with the council, the call committee, the Office of the Bishop, the congregation and those who become pastoral candidates. All involved must be aware of the holy work that they are doing and the awesome privilege and responsibility of seeking to discern God's will.

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

Craft & Share



Greetings!!

February Craft and Share meeting was a hit. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sue B, Ann, Kathy N., Marcia and Cherrie for participating in this meeting. At the February meeting we were able to create ten Valentine crafts, which included Gnomes, wreaths, snack plates, cards, and nail files. I pray we can have the same turn out or more. We had a blast.

Craft and Share will be meeting on March 25, 2026 the day after my birthday (hint, hint) from 10am – 2pm. We meet every fourth Wednesday of the month. We will take a lunch break, so don't forget to bring your lunch.

If you can, cut, sew, glue, and do simple crafts, this is the place to be. Come Join us we will have a blast! For the March meeting we will make crafts to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. We will make some stuffed animals, paintings, decorative bottles with tea lights, and some personal notepads.

If this sounds exciting to you, don't be shy, come and share your craft skills so we can get these gifts to the sick and shut-in to show we did not forget about them. Next month we will be working on the "Clothes Protector" kits with an Easter theme. We made some kits, so if you'd like to sew some at home at your convenience, please let me know.

I look forward to seeing many new faces coming to join Craft and Share

Bonnett Washington

(718)483-5638 (please call or text)

QUILTERS



Quilters at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

We meet the First and Third Wednesday of the month.

Join us for a time of fun, camaraderie and creation.

Contact Judy Teague 352-435-5062



352-462-0901
SOS Food Pantry
PO Box 640774
Beverly Hills, FL 34464



SOS JANUARY DISTRIBUTION REPORT

| WEEK ENDING | FAMILIES SERVED | PERSONS SERVED | FOOD WEIGHT | WEIGHT PER FAMILY |
|---------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| 1/1/2026 | CLOSED FOR NEW YEARS | | | |
| 1/8/2026 | 194 | 546 | 11,640 | 60lbs |
| 1/15/2026 | 100 | 332 | 4,500 | 45lbs |
| 1/22/2026 | 160 | 448 | 8,800 | 45lbs |
| 1/29/2026 | 99 | 301 | 4,455 | 45lbs |
| TOTALS | 553 | 1,627 | 29,395 | |



SCAN TO DONATE



Memorials and Special Gifts

Thrivent

Linda M Cashman

Thomas N Okimoto

Nancy J Stephan

Fred Koch in Memory of Ann Storan



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 Minister 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. worship.

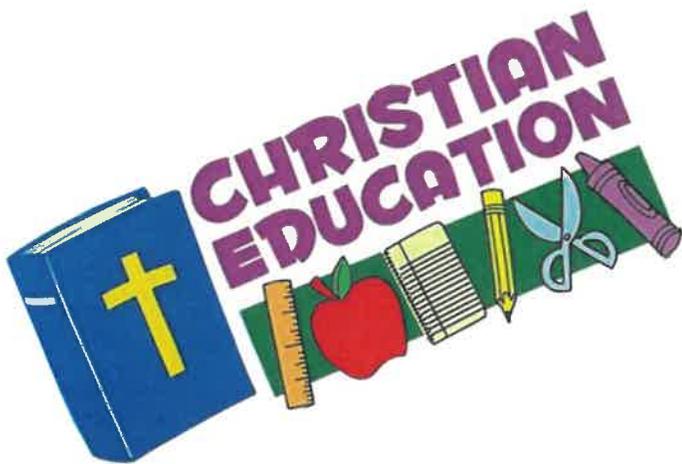


We always take donations for Hygiene kits.



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

Christian Education

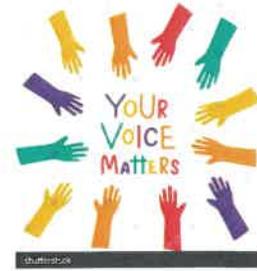


Starting this month, we will begin a new Bible Study for adults. This special way of studying the Bible is a way to gain personal, deeper understanding and interaction with the Bible. Please consider joining us for our first session on March 10th at 11 am. We look forward to seeing you there. This is an open discussion-based study.

The children are continuing to understand the parts of the 10 Commandments and what it means for us today. We are taking our time going through them one at a time.

Please consider joining our Christian Ed team. We meet on the last Thursday of the month at 10 am. We gladly open our ears and arms to all.

Yours in Christ
Sue Fowler
Christian Ed Chairman



Emi took time this past month for the “It’s All About the Cause” Walk for Hope in Crystal River, the last Saturday of February. This walk was an important one for people here in Citrus County. Any money that was donated is given directly to cancer patients here in Citrus County that cannot afford to do their treatment. The Nature Coast Cancer Crusaders help those patients in need to fight a tough fight against cancer.

Emi, we applaud all that you do for your caring for others, and we were happy to be able to support you in this latest endeavor. Keep showing all of us the way of the Lord that is in you.



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND](#)

MARCH

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)

Newsletter Editor



March 21st



God's work. Our hands.

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Bob Yankovitz

Office: 352-746-7161

Fax: 352-746-5013

Email: pastor@gschernando.org

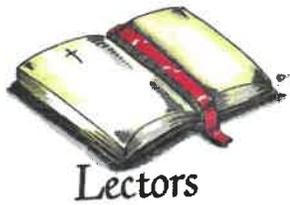
Administrative Assistant

Lucia Bertrand

Phone: 352-746-7161

Email: admin@gschernando.org

SUNDAY SCHOOL/NURSERY— SUE FOWLER



- March 1st Vera Swade**
- March 8th Brenda Landfried**
- March 15th Martie Zacharcyzk**
- March 22nd Shelly Fortin**
- March 29th Vera Swade**

Midweek Service— 6:30 p,m

- March 4th John Giammasi—**
- March 11th Ann Serafin**
- March 18th Margot Berger**
- March 25th Pat Mainster**



Please be at church by 9:15 am for 10 a.m., service

- March 1st , 08th and 15th Denny Moore, Tom Fowler and Gary Bush**
- March 22nd & 29th Tom & Cara Stickler and Susie Steinour**

Sound room



FRAN STETSON, JOHN GIFFORD, JOE ADAMS, DAN CASHMAN

DONATE QR CODE CLICK FOR LINK



STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

COUNCIL LIASONS

Building/Property

Harv Johnson 352-270-3391

Christian Education

Sue Fowler 352-464-0571

Enduring Gifts

Dan Cashman 352-400-6024

Outreach

Tom Stickler 610-659-5553

Fellowship

John & Elaine Giammasi 352-527-8706

Finance

TBD

Social Ministry

Vera Swade 352-637-5308

Stewardship

Mike Busler 860-906-8234

Technology

Fran Stetson 352-419-7727

Worship & Music

Renate Williams 352-228-7809

Building/Property

John Colson 352-634-5470

Christian Education

John Giammasi 352-527-8706

Enduring Gifts

Kathleen Swartz 352-422-6717

Outreach

Sue Buldiger 908-303-2021

Fellowship

Ann Serafin 352-973-2528

Finance

Sue Fowler 352-464-0571

Social Ministry

Cara Stickler 610-505-2409

Stewardship

TBD

Technology

Fran Stetson 352-419-7727

Worship & Music

TBD



WEBSITE
gshernando.org
Webmaster: Stephanie Adams
webmaster@gsichernando.org



Kid's Corner



WITH LOVE FROM ABOVE

The Bible is full of special words from our loving God.

Directions: Using the messages on the candy hearts, complete the Bible verses (all NIV) below.



God is our _____ and _____,
an ever-present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

“Surely I am with you _____.” Matthew 28:20

And the _____ of God ... will guard
your hearts and your minds in
_____. Philippians 4:7

Whoever lives in _____ lives in God,
and God in them. 1 John 4:16

_____ love drives out fear. 1 John 4:18

Answer: refuge, strength, always, peace, Christ Jesus, love, Perfect



First Annual Spring Fling Indoor Arts and Crafts Fair
Outdoor Flea Market Trunk Sale

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

Saturday, March 28, 2026

9 AM until 2 PM



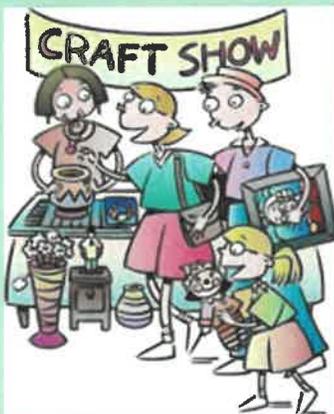
Vendor information: Indoor 8 foot tables-\$25 each
Indoor vendors will be arts and crafts only
Outdoor parking spots-\$15 each
Outdoor vendors will be arts and crafts and
Flea Market trunk sale

Food vendors-\$30



For more information and applications, please contact
Renate Williams-call or text 352-228-7809 or email at
renate@play88keys.com

Clean out your closets and fill up those trunks! Rent an
outdoor spot to sell your items.



Get to work with your artistic skills and create awesome
arts and crafts to display and sell at an indoor table!

No admission fee for the public to attend and do your
spring shopping. Bring the family! Something for
everyone!



WEDNESDAYS A TIME FOR PRAYER

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| 1 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Sunday School | 2 10:00 AM EM Compass Rose 1:30 PM Social Ministry | 3 8:30 AM Weight Watchers 12:00 Noon WELCA 1:00 PM Worship & Music 6:30 PM Bells Rehearsal | 4 9:00 AM Prayer 10:00 AM Quilters 2:00 PM Citrus Newcomers 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal |  7:30 AM SOS 9:00 AM CFQG** 9:30 AM Executive Meeting 1:00 PM Outreach 2:00 PM Stewardship | 6 8:00 AM GROUNDS  | 7 10:00 – 2:00 Sp. Lang Church |
| 8 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Sunday School | 9 10:00 AM EM Best Care 1:30 PM Fellowship | 10 8:30 AM Weight Watchers 6:30 PM Bells Rehearsal 6:30 PM Cub Scouts | 11 9:00 AM Prayer 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal |  7:30 AM SOS 3:00 PM Council Meeting | 13 8:00 AM GROUNDS  | 14 10:00 – 2:00 Sp. Lang Church CUBS Crossover Ceremony |
| 15 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Sunday School | 16 10:00 AM EM Compass Rose | 17 8:30 AM Weight Watchers 6:30 PM Bells Rehearsal | 18 9:00 AM Prayer 10:00 AM Quilters 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal |  7:30 AM SOS 10:00 AM Christian Ed. 11:00 AM CCFQG | 20 8:00 AM GROUNDS  | 21 10:00 – 2:00 Sp. Lang Church  |
| 22 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Sunday School | 23 10:00 AM EM Reserve | 24 8:30 AM Weight Watchers 6:30 PM Bells Rehearsal 6:30 PM Cub Scouts | 25 9:00 AM Prayer 10:00 AM Craft & Share 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal |  7:30 AM SOS 2:00 pm Fairview POA | 27 8:00 AM GROUNDS  | 28 10:00 – 2:00 Sp. Lang Church |
| 29 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Sunday School | 30 | 31 8:30 AM Weight Watchers 6:30 PM Bells Rehearsal | | | | |

Breakfast at Mama's Kuntry Kafe
Every Tuesday @ 7:30 a.m.

Lunch at Angelotti's
First Thursday @ Noon

****EM EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY**

**** CITRUS COUNTY FRIENDSHIP QUILTERS GROUP**