



The Shepherd's Pipe



Volume 53, Issue 4

April 2022

Council Meetings

We would like to remind you that meetings are open to anyone who is interested in joining us. If you would like to be included, please call the church office and leave a message to let us know. **This month's council meeting will be on Tuesday, April 12th at 7:00 pm.**

Emergency Contact

If you have an emergency and aren't able to get in touch with anyone by calling the church office, please call or email Pastor Wil Goetze. He can be reached at 724-316-8107 or wgoetze@zoominternet.net

Additions to Newsletter

Do you have something to publish in The Shepherd's Pipe? Please have any submissions into the church office by Monday, April 25th.

Cancelled Stamp Collection

The goal is to support the Lutheran World Relief "Stamporee" project, which provided for shipping of gifts, kits and clothing to those in need around the world. Anyone can contribute by saving used envelopes having cancelled stamps on them. When trimming stamps from the envelopes, remember to allow at least 1/4" or more around each edge of the stamp. If not, they are discarded. All stamps are accepted; however, Commemorative stamps are worth more. Ask friends, relatives or co-workers to participate in this worth while project. The stamp collection box is on the counter in church library.

Pop Can Collection

A reminder that we are continuing to collect pop can tabs which are given to the VFW, who in turn process them for lodging and food for families of children that are in Children's Hospital. Any donations can be left by the main doors or in the library. They will be collected and processed appropriately.

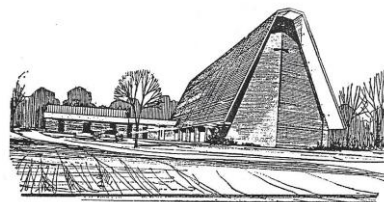
Best Wishes on Your Special Day to our Members and Friends of GSLC:

Happy Birthday!

- 1 – Darlene DeDominicis
- 2 – Brittany Andrews
- 3 – Matthew Mrozek
- 3 – David Ratvasky
- 9 – Beth Suorsa
- 10 – Stacey Phillips
- 14 – Kristen Snyder
- 18 – Scott Suorsa
- 21 – Rachael McConnell
- 26 – Kate Johns
Callie Bruno
- 29 – Shirley Boyer
Nicolas Tammaro
Jonathan Tammaro
- 30 – Jensen Vanassa

Happy Anniversary!

- 5 – David and Patti Michael
- 7 – Gordon and Betty North
- 19 – Harry and Ruth Ratvasky
- 19 – David and Heather Ratvasky



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

2323 Old Butler Road
New Castle, PA 16101
724-654-8246
www.gslcnewcastle.weebly.com

Our Mission - *We, the congregation of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, New Castle, Pennsylvania, are called by God, baptized into Christ Jesus, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Because of God's great love shown us in the gift of his Son, we are bound together in love. Therefore, we make disciples of Jesus Christ through teaching, worshipping, witnessing, and serving.*

Please Reach Out

We are asking you to please pray for, send a Thinking of You card, or contact our current homebound members:

Hahn, Linda
Rhodes Place
318 Rhodes Place
New Castle, PA 16101

Metzger, Bertha
Haven Convalescent Home
725 Paul Street
New Castle, PA 16101

Nelson, John W. & Frances
724-658-2579
1810 Morris Street
New Castle, PA 16102

Suorsa, Donald & Beth
724-654-9063
724-944-4982 cell
796 Eastbrook-Harlansburg Road
New Castle, PA 16101

For Rent

If you or you know someone who is in need of a large place to hold a party or a meeting, consider your church social hall. For non-members, the rent is only \$100. If using the kitchen facilities, it is \$125. We have had family get-togethers, business meetings and birthday parties take place in the hall this year. There is plenty of room to spread out and have some fun!

Community Prayer Walk

On Good Friday, April 15, there will be a community prayer walk starting and ending at Trinity Episcopal (212 N. Mill St.) at 11:30 am. All are welcome to attend!

Thank You

Thank you to Chuck Kennedy who has filled a vacant seat on church council for a one-year term. He was installed during church service on Sunday, March 20. This was done in accordance with the Church Constitution

Devotional Resources

Good Shepherd has pocket size copies of *Portals of Prayer* available on the information rack by the steps leading to the balcony. *Portals of Prayer* is also available electronically on Kindle and iBooks. Apps are also available for Apple and Android. Note that all these options require a subscription. Some other resources that you might be interested in:

- *Our Daily Bread* - Apps are available or you can sign up on-line for a daily e-mail at <https://odb.org/> — This is a free resource.
- A daily Bible verse can be sent to you from DailyVerses.net — You can sign-up for this to be e-mailed to you or you can find them on Facebook and Twitter. This is a free resource.
- <https://www.biblegateway.com/> — Bible Gateway is another free resource where you can look-up bible verses from a variety of translations. If you create an account, you can also sign-up for delivery of a verse of the Day or for a number of devotionals, including a 40 day Journey with Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a daily passage from the writings of C.S. Lewis, as well as a number of other devotionals geared toward men, women, or families and many others. You can see a listing at <https://www.biblegateway.com/devotionals/>

Weather Cancellations

In the event that we have would need to cancel any church services due to inclement weather, it will be communicated through WFMJ Channel 21 and KDKA Channel 2.

Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday, April 10 – Worship at 10:30 am with palms

Maundy Thursday, April 14 – Worship at 7:00 pm

Good Friday, April 15 – Worship at 7:00 pm

Easter, April 17 – Worship at 10:30 am

Invite your family and friends!

“Our Mission: To Know Christ and To Make Him Known to Others”

I don't know who placed these two white banners at the front of the church or when they were put there. I really only noticed them for the first time last week when I approached the altar to pray through our membership list, asking our Lord to bless each one of you! But they caught my eye and I began to ponder the truth which they proclaimed: yes, this is our God-given Mission and Purpose!

We can only know Christ because He has revealed Himself to us and has enabled us to respond to Him with REPENTANCE AND FAITH. We are called to continually grow in our knowledge of Him. What does the Bible reveal to us about His Character, His relationship to the Father and to the Spirit? What about His relationship with us? What is the human condition? What does it mean to be saved? What has He done for us in the past, in our Baptism? What is He doing with us, in us, and for us now...as we commune with Him through Word, Sacrament, Prayer, and mutual conversation with each other? And what of our future with Him?

Studying, pondering, meditating on the Scriptures can give us the answers to these and similar questions. Following the seasons of the Church Calendar can provide us with a curriculum for such study. In the season of Lent we focus on the sufferings, crucifixion, and death of Jesus...how this brings Glory to God and SALVATION TO US. And during the Easter season we focus on the INCREDIBLE resurrection of Jesus Christ and the impact of this greatest of all miracles upon various aspects of our walk with Jesus! I hope you are taking advantage of this curriculum to know Him better. Oh, I know that there are so many other things we need to study and know in order to be successful in this life, or even just to survive! But there is no greater need than to know God and His ways so you can see Him more clearly, love Him more dearly, and follow Him more nearly every day. This the way of eternal blessings for us and for those we bless through witness and service!

But knowing Him involves more than intellectual knowledge. To know Him involves our emotions and our wills. To know Him is to love Him is to obey Him, to share His Agenda, to be in sync with His Teachings. To be willing to step out in faith, trusting that if He leads us into new, challenging and uncomfortable situations, He will also provide what we need to overcome and bring blessing into those situations, namely His very Presence in us and with us. We also grow in our relationship with Him each time we work with Him through prayer as we do His Will in our daily interactions with others.

The more we grow in our knowledge of Jesus Christ, taking advantage of all the ways He makes Himself available to us so that we can know Him with all our hearts, minds, and souls....the Better witnesses we become, the more we want to make Him known to others!

So let us encourage one another to grow in our knowledge of Jesus by pondering together the readings for Palm Sunday, Mandy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday....

Palm Sunday, April 10: Isaiah 50:4-9/ Psalm 31:9-16/ Philippians 2: 5-11/ Luke 19:28-40

Mandy Thursday, April 14: Exodus 12: 1-14/ Psalm 116/ 1 Cor. 11:23-26/ John 13: 1-35

Good Friday, April 15: Isaiah 52:13-53:12/ Ps. 22/ Heb. 10:16-25/ John 18: 1-19:42

Easter Sunday, April 17: Acts 10: 34-43/ Ps118/ 1 Cor 15:19-26/ Luke 24:1-12

God is blessing you all continually. May He help you grow in your awareness of His Blessing presence each and every day! And to whoever put up those banners, thanks so much!

Pastor Wil Goetze

Lent & Lenten Services

Lent is meant to be a season of our lives in which we as Christians set aside extra time to focus our hearts and minds on the suffering and death of Jesus Christ on our behalf.

It is a time for self-reflection, for thinking about what it means to follow Jesus, to practice giving up stuff in order to take up our crosses so we can better see Jesus more clearly, love Him more dearly, and follow Him more nearly day by day. Whether it's giving up candy, TV shows, Twitter-time, one meal a week....forms of FASTING. Or reviewing how we spend money and deciding how we might spend less on luxuries and give more to support the works of Church or Charities....which is called ALMSGIVING. Or taking advantage of the many opportunities our three congregations are offering to get together with our brothers/sisters in Christ in order to ponder and take a closer look at those Scriptures that reveal to us how deeply human beings are effected by Sin, Death and the Devil and about how deeply our Heavenly Father has loved us, sending His only-begotten Son to suffer and die for us so that, believing in Him, we might be

saved from the power of those three Forces and instead have Eternal Life.....resulting in PRAYER.

So I invite you to give up some stuff so you can feel just enough deprivation to be reminded on a daily or weekly basis how much it cost Jesus to love and redeem you. And i invite you to make the extra effort to set aside what you would normally be doing during the Wednesday evenings in Lent so you can instead use that time to re-connect with God's Word, allowing His Holy Spirit do some Spring Cleaning in our lives!

Midweek Services: April 6

Good Shepherd: None

Trinity: 6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Service, in person and live-streamed

St. John's: 6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Service in person and via Zoom

Holy Thursday and Good Friday, April 14 and 15

Good Shepherd: Service at 7:00 p.m.

Trinity: Service at 7:00 p.m., including live-streamed

St. John's: Service at 7:00 p.m. in person and via Zoom

Mission Project

The mission project for the month of April is to collect funds for the Lutheran Disaster Response – Eastern Europe Crisis Response for the ELCA.

Spring Cleaning

Volunteers are needed on April 9 to help spring clean the inside of the church and to spruce up the outside.
9:00 am - ?

Council Highlights – Meeting held March 8, 2022

- This meeting was held virtually via Zoom.
- These minutes will be approved at the March Council Meeting.

CHURCH MATTERS:

- Chuck Kennedy would like to fill the vacant council position for the remainder of the year. Keith Kuttesch made the motion to appoint Chuck Kennedy as a council member for the remainder of the year. Jodi Tamaro seconded. The motion carried.
- Ruth Johns made the motion to allow Rachel Cox to use the fellowship hall for a birthday party on April 10th. Keith Kuttesch seconded. The motion carried.
- Ruth Johns made the motion that the memorial service of Jonathan Lepisto can be held on July 30th with the use of the sanctuary at no cost and the use of the fellowship hall at \$100. Jodi Tamaro seconded.
- Keith Kuttesch made the motion to make Lutheran Disaster Response - Eastern Europe Crisis Response for the ELCA our mission project for April, May, and June. Shirley Mazzocca seconded. The motion carried.
- We will have our highway clean up on Sunday, March 27th and set a rain date of Sunday, April 3rd.
- We will have our yard sale on July 16th tentatively.
- We will have a separate Zoom meeting to discuss the constitution Wednesday, April 20 from 6-9 PM.

WORSHIP:

- We began using the green hymnals on March 6th.

PROPERTY:

- Roof Update - $\frac{2}{3}$ of the roof has been paid for. The roof over the sanctuary has been completed, and whenever the weather gets nicer, the workers will do the flat roof.
- All hallway heaters have been fixed.
- Pastor Goetze had a conversation with Dave Michael, and he still plans on mowing the grass with Matthew, his son, depending on how he feels.

- There will be a spring clean up day on April 9th to clean the church.

INTERIM PASTOR'S REPORT:

- Pastor Goetze received a letter of transfer for the family of Curt & Amanda Johns and the family of Brian & Danielle Johns.
- Keith Kuttesch made the motion for Pastor Goetze to continue being our interim pastor for April, May, and June. Jodi Tammaro seconded. The motion carried.

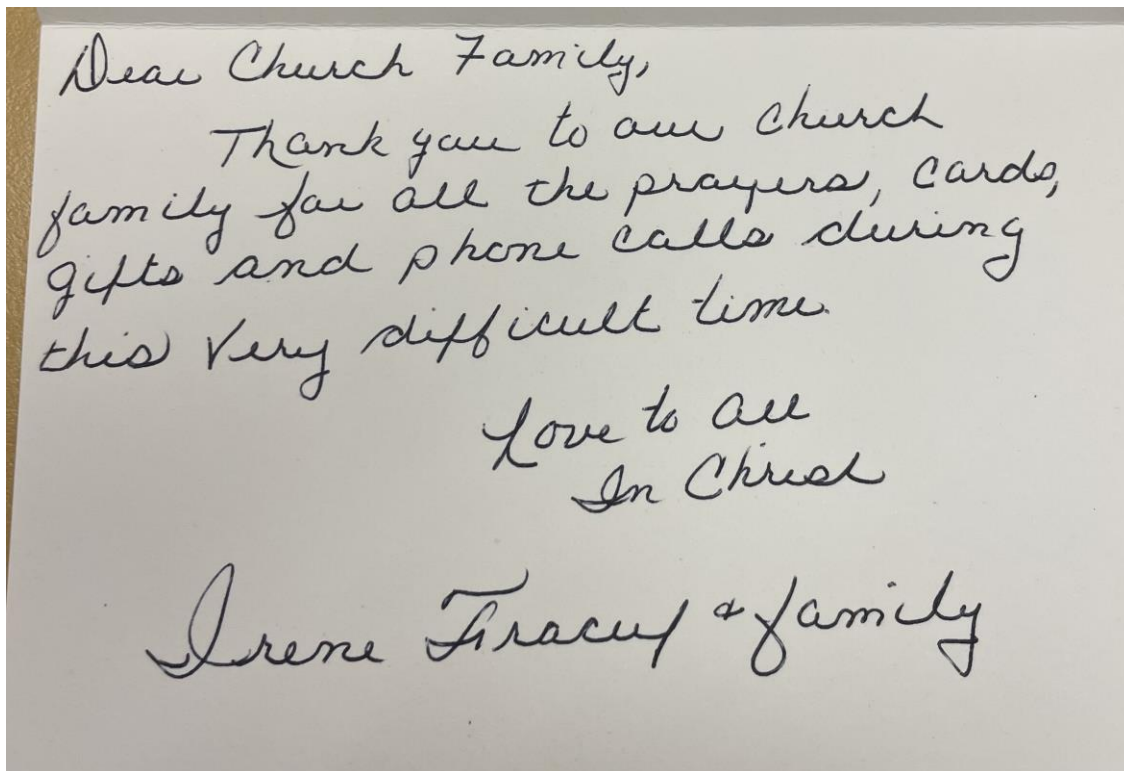
Fred DeDominicis made the motion to accept the committee reports. Keith Kuttesch seconded. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Ruth talked to Pastor Jewell from New Creation Free Methodist Church, and he would like to come see the church.
- We will add a message on our voicemail that says, "If this is an emergency, please contact Pastor Goetze at (Pastor's phone number)."
- The Shenango Township brochure with our business card will be mailed out in the summer.
- Fred fixed the vacuum cleaner at the church.

NEW BUSINESS:

- We will need to hire an organist while Evy is on maternity leave.
- The 50th Anniversary of the church will be next spring.





GOOD FRIDAY COMMUNITY PRAYER WALK

APRIL 15 • 11:30AM

**STARTING
AT
TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

JOIN US AS WE WALK IN OUR COMMUNITY AND PRAY
THE WALK IS 1.5 MILES AND WILL TAKE ABOUT 1 HOUR

ALL ARE INVITED!

WWW.TRINITYNEWCASTLE.ORG

Circles of Prayer for Mission

Please pray for the members of Good Shepherd:

Daily Prayer

- ❖ For the entire Good Shepherd family, that we may worship the Lord in Spirit and truth and grow in our relationship with him and one another.
- ❖ We pray for our interim, Pastor Wil Goetze, as he shepherds us with his many talents.

Sunday Prayer

- ❖ For Evy Amerson, pianist/organist; in her ministry of music for our worship.
- ❖ Gracious God, all people are united in your mercy. Help us to see and understand our kinship in you and to celebrate together in worship.

Monday Prayer

- ❖ For our local, state and federal government officials, especially for President Joe Biden, his staff and members of Congress, that they may lead our nation in justice and peace.
- ❖ For courage and strength for Synodical leaders, especially Bishop Kurt Kusserow and our presiding bishop of the ELCA, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.
- ❖ For an increase in ministry workers, both rostered leaders and lay, allowing God's church to grow, sharing the faith, and encouragement to those who are new to faith.

Tuesday Prayer

- ❖ For our Church Council members in their decision making for our congregation: Fred DeDominicis, Ruth Johns, Terri Lombardo, Linda Marttala, Shirley Mazzocca, Hailey Tammaro, Terri Tankersley, Jodi Tammaro, Chuck Kennedy, and Keith Kuttesch.
- ❖ Give thanks to God for ELCA members who share joyfully God-given blessings through stewardship of their resources of time, skills and money.

Wednesday Prayer

- ❖ For Kevin Green, Director, his staff and ministries of the City Rescue Mission.
- ❖ God of many blessings, we give thanks for giving us life. We praise you for the call to mission with which you continue to draw us out of ourselves and into relationship with others.

Thursday Prayer

- ❖ For the Pastor/Pilots of LAMP ministry of Canada.
- ❖ For the elderly and homebound and the Meals On Wheels staff and volunteers.
- ❖ Almighty God, we give thanks for the earth you have created and all its living things. Help us appreciate the love you give and remember continued thankfulness for your goodness.

Friday Prayer

- ❖ For Grover Welsh, Sexton, Ruth Johns, Treasurer, Terri Tankersley, Financial Secretary, Hailey Tammaro, Youth Group Leader, and K'rin Fortuna, Secretary.
- ❖ For individuals who have physical, emotional, or spiritual needs and their families and friends who care for them. For our homebound members and their caregivers: Linda Hahn, Fran Nelson, Don Suorsa, and Bertha Metzger.

Saturday Prayer

- ❖ For the people of the Passavant Retirement and Health Center in Zelenople.
- ❖ Give thanks for the time, talents, prayers, and funds that are donated to the ELCA Disaster Response which enable the ELCA to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and bring the Good News to those who are suffering.

