



The Shepherd's Pipe



Volume 51, Issue 8

August 2020

Vicar's Note

Dear Friends in Christ,

August will be a month of change for Good Shepherd. As you receive this edition of the Shepherd's Pipe, our journey together in a year-long internship will have ended. I first want to say thank you to the family that is Good Shepherd. You have welcomed me and my family into your family. Thank you also for the beautiful stole with the children of the nations, I will be honored wear this after my ordination. This has truly been a journey together and the people of Good Shepherd will always hold a special place in my heart.

I also want to say good-bye. This is not an easy thing to do, but I hope you find comfort, as I do, in knowing that this has been a wonderful year of learning. A year where we together have been constantly reminded of God's grace and love for us and our unity as members of the body of Christ.

At this point of saying good-bye, I am reminded of two things. First, those wonderful words from Ecclesiastes 3:1. "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." Many examples are given in the verses that follow and we might also add to them, "a time to say hello and a time to say good-bye." I am also reminded of a poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, *The Arrow and the Song*.

I shot an arrow into the air,
It fell to earth, I knew not where;
For, so swiftly it flew, the sight
Could not follow it in its flight.

I breathed a song into the air,
It fell to earth, I knew not where;
For who has sight so keen and strong,
That it can follow the flight of song?

Long, long afterward, in an oak
I found the arrow, still unbroke;
And the song, from beginning to end,
I found again in the heart of a friend.

We may or may not encounter each other again, but as we continue to make connections in this world, as we continue to be the body of Christ in the world, we all will likely encounter someone which reminds us of the "song" we sang together this year. And when those "times under heaven" occur, I will remember fondly this year we journeyed together. Thank you for everything!

Finally, I leave you with these words of encouragement from Joshua 1:9b. "Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

May the peace of Christ be with you always!
Vicar Chris

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

Happy Birthday!

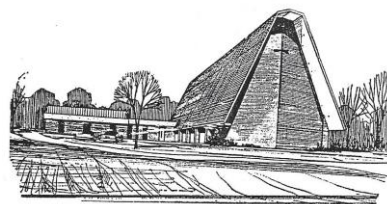
- 11 – Nick Mrozek
- 14 – Linda Marttala
- 17 – Ashlyn Bruno
- 22 – Carl Tammara
- 26 – Stephanie Cimini
- 29 – Tiffany Maxell

Happy Anniversary!

- 6 – Dominick and Terri Lombardo
- 13 – Adrian and Sandra Radziwon
- 14 – Craig and Nadema Joki
Steven and Tiffany Smeltzer
- 18 – Fred and Darlene DeDominicis
- 22 – Harold and Doris Laderer

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.



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
of New Castle

**** During this time, we will continue to have virtual services throughout the beginning of August dependent on changing guidelines for social gatherings. It will be discussed further at the August 11th council meeting. We will communicate changes as they occur. Feel free to reach out to church council members with any questions that you may have.**

Worship Services

During this time, we are working to stream Sunday worship service on Facebook Live as a joint effort with Trinity – Ellwood City. Please check out Good Shepherd and Trinity's Facebook pages for updates as we navigate through the next few weeks. Worship is still scheduled for Sunday morning at 10:00 am just like normal. Please note that both of the church's pages are public, so you do not need to be a Facebook member in order to view and/or watch the live streams.

- Good Shepherd:
<https://www.facebook.com/GSLCNewCastle/>
- Trinity:
<https://www.facebook.com/TrinityEllwood/>

Council Meetings

As we continue to hold our monthly council meetings virtually, 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 and we will provide the link for you so that you are able to participate. **This month's council meeting will be on Tuesday, August 11 at 7:00 pm.**

Additions to Newsletter

Do you have something to publish in The Shepherd's Pipe? Please have any submissions into the church office by Monday, August 24.

Portals of Prayer

Editions of the Portals of Prayer are available for July-September. If you would like a copy, please contact the church office and we will make sure that you receive one.

Pop Can Collection

A reminder that we are continuing to collect pop cans which are taken for recycling with the proceeds being returned to the church. Any donations can be left by the main doors. They will be collected and processed appropriately while we remain out of the building.

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/>

Council Highlights – Meeting held July 14, 2020

- This meeting was held virtually via Zoom
- Significant discussion took place regarding returning to in-person worship, planned for July 19, 2020.
 - Note: In response to new directives regarding indoor gatherings from the Governor on July 15th and guidance received from our Bishop on July 16th, the Council executives met on July 16th and determined that we needed to remain virtual for worship at the present time. This will be reviewed and discussed again at the August 11th, council meeting.
 - Council discussed lines of communication if someone attending worship should report they have tested positive for COVID-19. Should this be the case, that individual(s) should communicate directly with either Terri Lombardo (Council President) or with Pastor Peggy Suhr-Barkley (Local Interim Pastor). They will then communicate with each other and make the necessary notifications for worshippers. Identifying information will remain confidential and would only be shared if permission has been given in writing.
- It was determined that Worship would remain at 10:00am throughout the summer.
- There was discussion of how best to approach Sunday School and Youth Group as we approach the school year. This discussion will continue.
- Some significant property concerns were discussed. Some leaks have developed in the roof, apparent in “flat-roof” sections of the building between the main entrance and Shepherd’s Center. Arrangements will be made with roofers to review and advise direction. A tree at the edge of the property which has the potential to fall in the neighbor’s driveway was also discussed. This is also being investigated to see if it can be removed without damage to the other two trees it is growing near and into. There was also additional discussion about our status with heating in the building. At this point, the roof is the highest priority to address.
- In consideration of options for the future, there was discussion of meeting with a Pastor or two, familiar with the co-op model for congregations. Pastor Peggy will make arrangements to have such a Pastor join the September Council meeting to discuss.
- The next Church Council Meeting is planned to be held virtually on August 11, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. This meeting is planned to be held via Zoom.

RURAL KING FUNDRAISER

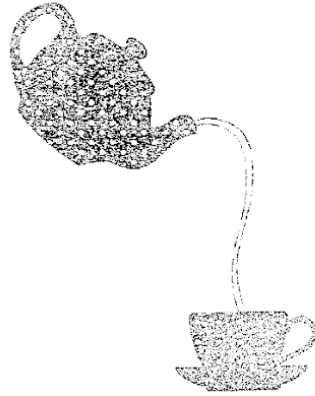
WHETHER YOU ARE OUT SHOPPING IN PERSON OR SHOPPING ONLINE YOU CAN RAISE MONEY FOR THE CHURCH BY MAKING PURCHASES AT **RURAL KING** BETWEEN AUGUST 2 AND AUGUST 15, 2020.

RURAL KING WILL DONATE 10% OF ALL PURCHASE RECEIPTS UPLOADED TO **WWW.RURALKING.COM/CHURCHWEEK** THAT ARE DESIGNATED TO GO TO **GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH, NEW CASTLE, PA.** RECEIPTS FROM YOUR PURCHASES MUST BE UPLOADED BY AUGUST 31ST. IF YOU NEED HELP UPLOADING A RECEIPT CALL RUTH JOHNS AT 724-657-4733.

PLEASE SHARE THIS INFO. ON YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS SO THAT WE CAN TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY! PLEASE DON'T SHARE MY PHONE NUMBER ON SOCIAL MEDIA. I ALREADY HAD A SCAM CALLER CALL ME FROM A BURNER PHONE BECAUSE HE FOUND MY NUMBER IN THE NEWSLETTER.
THANKS! RUTH



CHURCH WEEK
SUPPORTING CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATIONS



SW PA Women of the ELCA Fall Cluster Event

Tea Time You and Me Time!

Saturday, September 19, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

**Pour yourself a cup of tea or your favorite beverage,
add a scone, coffee cake, muffin or a cookie.**

As we join in Community ... Virtually or Spiritually.

Zoom Meeting ID: 930 0930 9968

Meeting Pass Code: 123456

Call in phone number: 646-876-9923

SW PA Women of the ELCA Fall Cluster Event

Virtual Program

Welcome - Jeanne Christensen

Opening Devotion – Sustained Community – Sandy Grantz

Scripture: Colossians 2:5-6 Romans 1:11-12

Blessed Bundles Rep

Song "Weave" Led by Donna DuPont

Board Rep Jennifer Armstrong-Schaefer – A Word from our President

Offering - Donna Petrell

Closing - Many Hats – Janet Fishovitz

Easy Buttermilk Scones
Casa Sedona B&B

2 1/2 cup flour
1/2 cup sugar
~~3/4 tsp Baking soda~~
3/4 cup buttermilk (can substitute with milk &
about 1 T of Vinegar)
1/2 cup melted butter
1/2 cup dried cranberries, nuts, fruits,
chocolate chips —I use mini-Chocolate chips,
etc.

Combine dry ingredients in a large mixing
bowl; add buttermilk, melted butter and mini-
chocolate chips. Fold gently until evenly
moistened. **Do not over mix.** On a greased
baking sheet, drop spoonful of batter about 1
inch apart. Bake at 400 degrees for 15 - 17
minutes until lightly browned. Makes 12 - 16
scones.

Mrs. Shaulis's Coffee Cake
From Camp Lutherlyn

Dough:
Sift Together:
1 1/2 cups flour
2/3 cups sugar
2 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp salt

Add:
1 egg
3/4 cup milk
2 Tbsp melted shortening/butter

Mix dough well. Put in a 9x13 or smaller
greased pan.

Topping: (This puts a small amount of topping
on the cake. If you like a lot of topping, double
the topping recipe.)

Mix Together:
3 Tbsp brown sugar
1 Tbsp flour
1/2 tsp cinnamon

Add:
1 Tbsp melted butter
Use a fork to mix the melted butter into the
sugar mixture. Sprinkle topping on the dough.

Bake:
375 degrees for 25-35 minutes

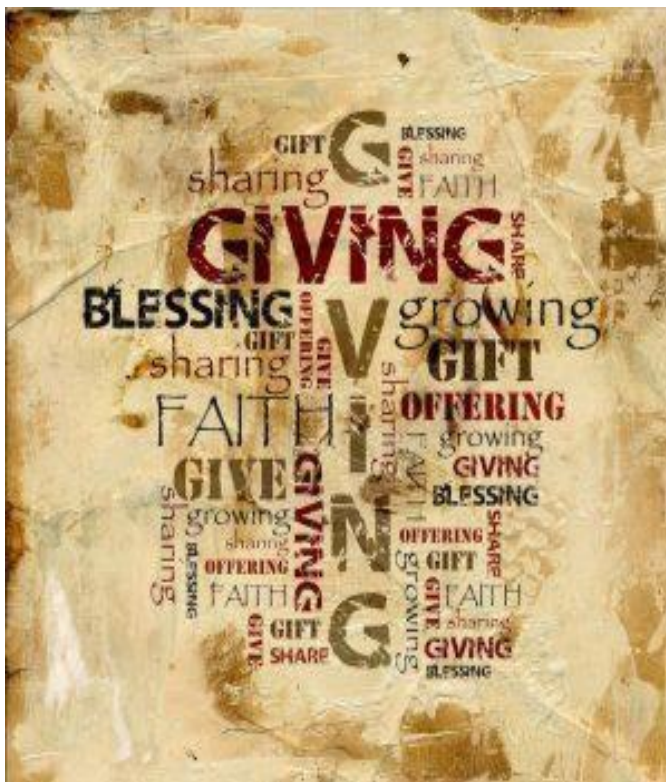
OFFERINGS—Your offering checks may be mailed to **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 2323 Old Butler Rd., New Castle, PA 16101** or **Ruth Johns, 2824 Glenda Dr., New Castle, PA 16101.**

ALL CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO "GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH."

WE ALSO ACCEPT ZELLE TRANSFERS—ZELLE is an easy way to transfer money between bank accounts. When prompted, the church's "First Name" is **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church** and the "Last Name" is **New Castle**. The phone number connected to the church account belongs to Ruth Johns – **724-657-4733**. You will be given credit to your offering record the Sunday following your transfer. *NEED HELP? CALL RUTH JOHNS*

A NOTE FROM YOUR TREASURER—Anything sent to the church is being opened by me since I am getting all of the mail to reduce the number of times it is being touched. If you have sent something to Vicar Chris or Pastor Peggy, I have forwarded it to them. I appreciate the notes to me that have been included with your offerings. Ruth

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED PRAYERS AND OFFERINGS!



MISSION OFFERING OPPORTUNITIES:

COVID-19

LUTHERLYN

GOOD GIFTS

(If you have a bank of change still around the house that was supposed to go to Good Gifts you have two options. One is that you can hold on to it until we are accepting cash. Note that when we return to in-person worship we would still prefer offerings to be made by checks or ZELLE. The second option is to count the money now in your bank and make it a part of your regular check or ZELLE offering. Thank you for your understanding!)



**"FOR I KNOW THE PLANS
I HAVE FOR YOU,"
DECLARES THE LORD,
"PLANS TO PROSPER YOU
AND NOT TO HARM YOU,
PLANS TO GIVE YOU HOPE
AND A FUTURE."**

JEREMIAH 29:11



Dear GSLC Members and Friends,

It came to council's attention again this past February that we have a long list of repairs that need to be done to the church in order to continue to use our building. Let me explain to the best of my ability some of the issues we as a congregation are looking at in order to stay at 2323 Old Butler Road. We have prioritized some the needs of the church as to what can wait and what needs to be done immediately.

The first repair we need to address is the flat roof. Over the years, we have made many repairs to the roof to keep the water from damaging the inside of the church. In February, when we had the soffit and fascia redone (and doesn't it look nice!), the workers told us that the condition of the roof was going to compromise the work they did on the soffit and fascia. Slippery Rock Roofing was called in to look at the roof, but then the pandemic hit which put everything on pause. Many questions were raised when the pandemic hit. One was, "Are we ever going to be able to afford to come back to the church?" Fortunately, we were able to get a loan that will turn into a grant for \$6700 to cover some of our payroll and utility expenses for May and June. And even better yet, our fear of losing income because we were not worshipping in person did not materialize. THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU for all of your offerings! Your generosity has been uplifting. Also, not having a full-time pastor to pay meant we did not have to touch our savings. So many blessings! In the past couple of weeks the roof situation has become more dire. Leaks have multiplied and ceiling tiles have fallen in many areas of the church. Our primary concern before the pandemic started became something we couldn't postpone taking care of another day. We are currently accepting bids for repairs.

The second item we have to address is a tree which has been damaged by carpenter ants. It will fall and possibly damage a neighbor's property which we can't let happen. Bids to take down the tree have been obtained -\$700.

Third, the office heating unit died and flooded the office last fall. K'rin worked with the little heat that the unit in the pastor's office could provide. The unit in the main office needs replaced. Caldwell gave us a bid on the unit for \$6400.

Next, the sanctuary, as I'm sure you all are aware, had to have the heating turned off last winter on the whole right side of the church because the water that was leaking under the church was costing us hundreds of dollars a month to keep it on in water bills, not to mention what the water might be doing to the foundation of the church as it constantly flowed under the church. We managed to keep enough heat in the sanctuary with it turned off, but it needs repaired in case the same thing happens to the other set of pipes on the other side of the church causing us to have no heat at all. Tens of thousands of dollars will be involved in this project.

Do I even mention the damage that was done to the basketball pole by the neighborhood children that we could repair?

Another concern we need to address is the lighting in the Shepherd's Center. When the election people came in to set up the voting machines in June, Vicar went in to turn on the lights and they didn't all work. He called me and I told him, "Oh you just have to wait for them to turn on. They're the kind of lights that have to warm up." Not the right answer. They too need fixed. Cost unknown.

And then finally, there is the cost of replacing the roof over the sanctuary. It is slowly washing away and filling up the gutters. After almost fifty years it is a job that has to be done. Cost –CRAZY!

We probably have enough money to address the first three concerns. So this letter that was meant just to be informative in nature is now going to get personal. I always like you to know what is going on financially as we continue to be a family who wants to continue to worship together. These projects could be our demise. Many of you have read about other churches in the community that have reached this point and have decided to close because they couldn't afford to make the necessary repairs. I hope that made you upset. It does me. I look at those articles every day and wonder if and when that will happen to us. Then I think that each day we don't know what is in store for us. This pandemic has proven that for sure. We can only deal with the present today and pray for guidance for the future. Are we willing to make sacrifices to keep this beautiful space we worship in today? I can't help but say let's work hard and save our church because that's what we do. This is not the time for an ending. It is a time for a rebirth. We can look upward to the magnificent cross that hangs over our altar that was paid for by pennies children gave one by one so that we would have a beautiful reminder that Christ died for us and is present in our lives always and know that we too can put our pennies together to create something magnificent! I know I myself have thought, well why give my money if we don't even have a full-time pastor to lead us from week to week. We will just get the church all fixed up and then close anyhow. Then I get mad at myself, because that is a give up attitude and I for one am not giving up. I still see our church as a "Beacon on the Hill" -- a place for all to know God. There is a purpose for us all to be here together. In my heart, I know there is still a job to do through this church and through this group of people. I believe if you look deep down in your heart, you too can see a future in which this church provides us a place where God can nurture us and lead us to do His work.

We are being hit with financial woes, but the money we need to fix them will come. I know it will. We can take care of these issues and move on. Pray for your church. Pray for understanding how you can be a part of this rebirth. And pray for all to know Christ. He is our Good Shepherd, always there for us to walk with Him, day-by-day through the good and the bad. Through Him each day is a blessing!

One day at a time got us to 50 years of being Good Shepherd!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Love,

Ruth

Circles of Prayer for Mission

Please pray for the members of Good Shepherd:

Daily Prayer

- ❖ For Vicar Chris, in his ministry to our congregation.
- ❖ 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.

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 Donald Trump, 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, Curt Johns, Ruth Johns, Terri Lombardo, Linda Marttala, Shirley Mazzocca, Hailey Tamaro, Terri Tankersley, Diana Tervo, Barbara Turk, Michonda Weber, and Grover Welsh.
- ❖ 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 Tamaro, 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: Alba Kessler, Delores LeComte, Fran Nelson, Don Suorsa, Kim Cook, Bertha Metzger, and Alfred Andrews.

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.

