

The Shepherd's Pipe

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December 2018

Pastor's Note

Dear siblings in Christ,

I wish you a blessed Advent and a very Merry Christmas! Together, we will watch and wait for Christ and celebrate the birth of our Savior. Despite the cold and dark of the season, we gather together in the light, knowing that there is no darkness that can overcome our God. I look forward to celebrating with you.

This will be my last Advent and Christmas at Good Shepherd. As the council and congregation has discerned that it would be best to proceed in the future with a half-time pastor, I have been in deep prayer and reflection and have come to the decision to seek a new call. The 2019 budget approved by the congregation sets the date for a half-time pastor as of July 1, 2019 and I will resign my call as your pastor on or before that date.

In the coming months, I am still your pastor and will administer the sacraments, preach, teach, visit the sick, and walk with you in our lives of faith. Please let me know if you have any questions, concerns, or would simply like to talk about this further. I am always reachable by phone 412 818-2189 or email ellenlundie@gmail.com.

Peace,
Pastor Ellen



Christmas Eve Worship

Monday, December 24, 2018

7:00 pm

Traditional Liturgy of Carols with Holy Communion and Candle Light

All are welcome! We celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ! Join us for a service of Holy Communion and candlelight singing of Silent Night.

Advent Special Offering

Please use envelopes to make your Special Advent Offering by the Christmas Eve Service. This year's offering is going to Meals on Wheels



Circles of Prayer for Mission

Please pray for the members of Good Shepherd:

Daily Prayer

- ❖ For Pastor Ellen Lundie, in her 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
- ❖ For our Sunday School program, as it opens the minds and hearts of our children to Christ. Give thanks for our Sunday School teachers: Diana Braun and Pastor Ellen, in their teaching ministries of education.

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 member in their decision making for our congregation: Theresa Andrews, Fred DeDominicis, Brian Johns, Curtis Johns, Curt Johns, Linda Martala, Shirley Mazzocca, Dave Michael, Terri Tankersley, Diana Tervo, Barbara Turk, 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 and Ruth Johns, 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, Don Michael, and Fran Nelson

Saturday Prayer

- ❖ For the people of the Passavant Retirement and Health Center in Zelienople
- ❖ 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.

Carol Sing

Gather with churches from around the area and our neighbors to sing Christmas carols at the Confluence on Friday, December 14 at 6 pm. Grab dinner or a hot drink as we sing our favorite hymns and Christmas songs.

Youth Group

This month the youth group is meeting on Sunday, December 9 from 6-9 pm for a Christmas movie and cookie decorating! Wear your comfy pajamas!

Christmas Program and Luncheon

This year's Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 23. All youth are invited to participate. Please let Pastor Ellen know if you would like a part in the program. After worship we will have a Christmas Luncheon. Donations of Christmas cookies needed.

Poinsettia Orders

Help decorate our sanctuary for Christmas Eve. Orders for red poinsettias from Feolas Greenhouse are being taken through December 9. The cost is \$10.50 each. Contact Shirley Mazzocca at 724 654-0966 or 724 813-5893. Make checks payable to Feola's Floral Shop.

Dry Mixes on Sale

We are selling filled quarts jars and bags with dry ingredients for soup and cookie recipes to support the Good Shepherd General Fund. We will be taking orders during November and December. Orders by December 9 will be available for pick up Sunday, December 16. See Linda Marttala if you need a different pick up date or if you have any questions. Please consider purchasing jars and bags of mixes for yourself or as gifts.

Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 8, 9-11:30 am in the Shepherd Center. Please join us for a delicious breakfast buffet catered by Weber Catering. Have a meet and greet and photo opportunities with Santa and Mrs. Claus. In addition, everyone's favorite Snow Queen and her sister, from One Royal Wish, will be here as well! There will be cookie decorating, ornament making, hot cocoa, Christmas stories and just a fun filled morning (so bring a camera)! You may wear your favorite princess dress or Christmas attire, if you like. Tickets are available online now and at Mrozek Financial (2210 West State St. New Castle, PA 16101) from 9 until 5 weekdays, or call 724-658-6392 for more information. (For online tickets, please click on the link above. To access adult and child tickets, just click on the store name to add them to your cart). Cost is \$15 for adults, \$12 for kids 2-12, and under 2 is free! Tickets are available after worship.

Family Paint Night

Good Shepherd is hosting a paint night lead by Casey's Creations on January 19 from 2-4:30 pm. The cost is \$35/person and includes all material needed to make the Believe Snowman Canvas. Consider making this experience a Christmas gift. Tickets are available at Mrozek Financial weekdays from 9-5 (2210 West State Street New Castle, PA 16101). Or call 724-658-6392 for more information. All tickets must be purchased in advance so we have an accurate count for materials.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2- Skylar Andrews
- 5- Scott Ratkovich
- 13- Keith Nagy
 Betty North
- 14- Diana Braun
- 16- Rev. Thomas McCurdy
- 18- Brian Korpela
- 21- Brittany Miller
- 22- Brandon Vanassa
- 23- Dr. Curtis Johns
- 26- Paul "Rick" Karki
 Isa Skuba
- 28- Ruth Johns

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 12- Timothy & Sherry Badger
- 16- George & Ruth Ann Parnay
- 19- Normand Conti & Deanna Fracul
- 30- John & Sherry Hattula

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
2323 Old Butler Road
New Castle PA 16101

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Newsletter Note

Our newsletter is abbreviated this month as Good Shepherd is without a secretary. Please call the church or Pastor Ellen if you need more information about church events or happenings.

Church office: 724 654-8246

Pastor Ellen: 412 818-2189



