



The Shepherd's Pipe



Volume 51, Issue 12

December 2020

Council President Update

Here we are at the end of another year. This year has been a challenging one, to say the least. It had been Council's hope that we would return to in-person worship on Sunday, December 6, 2020. This decision had to be put ON HOLD due to a recommendation from Bishop Kusserow and the Covid-19 positivity rate for Lawrence County. Your Church Council will continue to monitor the situation, discuss it and make the best decision for our church family. We will continue to email and post the virtual worship information for Trinity Lutheran Church, Ellwood City.

I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

- Terri

Happy 50th Anniversary!

The Articles of Consolidation for Good Shepherd Lutheran Church were signed and notarized on August 31, 1970. Unfortunately, Covid has put a crimp in our celebration plans. However, we would like to gather some memories from our members. If you have a special memory, photographs, or other information from the past 50 years, please submit them to K'rin. These memories can be emailed, mailed, texted or phone messaged to the church office/K'rin. We would like to include these items in upcoming newsletters.

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

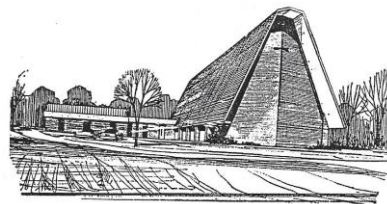
Happy Birthday!

- 2 – Skylar Andrews
- 5 – Scott Ratkovich
- 13 – Betty North
- 14 – Diana Braun
- 16 – Rev. Thomas McCurdy
- 21 – Brittany Miller
- 22 – Brandon Vanassa
- 23 – Dr. Curtis Johns
- 26 – Paul "Rick" Karki
- 28 – Ruth Johns
- 20 – Mackenzie Johns
- 31 – Celeste Weber

Happy Anniversary!

- 19 – Norman Conti & Deanna Fracul

Our Mission



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of New Castle

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.

Staff Christmas Gifts

If you are interested in contributing to the annual Staff Christmas Gifts, please submit your monetary gift by Christmas Eve, December 24. You may mail your donation to Ruth Johns at her home, 2824 Glenda Drive, New Castle, PA 16101, or to the church at 2323 Old Butler Road, New Castle, PA 16101. Please make sure to label it as "Staff Christmas Gifts." This is our way of saying "Thank you" to your staff for serving us over the course of the year!

December Mission Project

Our mission project for the month of December is the City Rescue Mission. If you are interested in contributing, you may mail your donation to Ruth Johns at her home, 2824 Glenda Drive, New Castle, PA 16101, or to the church at 2323 Old Butler Road, New Castle, PA 16101. Please make sure to label it as "City Rescue Mission."

Worship Services

We are still 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. 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, December 8th 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, December 21st.

Portals of Prayer

Editions of the Portals of Prayer are available for January-March. 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/>

Church Communications

It has been brought to our attention that not everyone is receiving emails that are sent out. PLEASE make sure your email and telephone number information is updated with the church office.

Fire Update

We are still waiting to have work approved by the insurance company, so nothing has been done thus far. We are still requesting that all members stay out of the building until all repairs can be completed.

Last Day for Giving

All offerings must be received in the mail by December 26 or if giving via Zelle, December 27 in order to be credited toward this year.

Mission Work Continues...

Although we might not be worshipping in person together yet, the work of the church continues to be done through us. We have donated from our congregation to many local, national and global causes to support those less fortunate during these difficult times. A whopping \$1,170.00 was sent to Synod for their COVID Relief fund. Another \$330 was collected for the Global Barnyard Project which is enough to purchase 5 piglets, 3 goats and 3 flocks of chicks. (We donated the money on match-your-donation day so in reality your offerings will be doubled which will double the number of animals purchased.) Earlier this year, we supported the City Rescue Mission with food and money and sent money to support Camp Lutherlyn. Our church angel, Diana Braun, is still behind the scenes gathering supplies for local organizations. Currently, we are collecting additional money for the City Rescue Mission and have partnered with the New Castle Cancer Support Group that helps those battling cancer on their own. We were able to give ten \$25 gift cards to the Cancer Support Group to help them with needs at Thanksgiving. Hopefully, we can continue to build on this relationship in the future.

In our own congregation, members have died and we have reached out to their grieving families and have supported them. Although limited by the restrictions in place in response to the rising numbers of COVID cases, we have still found ways to offer help. We also gave gifts to our graduates this year.

Members and neighbors have reached out to us for space and we found creative ways to help following the COVID-19 guidelines.

There are so many needs in this community and beyond. If you are in need, reach out and let us know by calling the church office. Pray that we may continue to find ways to bless others as much as we have been blessed! I recently read a commentary that said that they felt the church was dying because people don't see the JOY in being a Christian. When I turned over the gift cards to the local support group, I was asked how we could give so much when we are but a small group of people. The answer was easy. We find JOY in giving. Thank you for the donations you have made so far this year that allow all of these good things to happen so that others may see what a JOY it is to be a Christian! - Ruth

Advent Bible Study

Pastor Peggy Suhr-Barkley of Trinity Lutheran Church, Ellwood City will be leading a virtual Advent Bible Study and has invited the members of Good Shepherd. Please watch for further details as they become available.

A New Treasurer Will Be Needed!

With the resignation of Ruth Johns as our current treasurer, as soon as all the PPP paperwork is turned in, we will be looking for a new person to take over the responsibilities of treasurer. A job description is available for anyone who would like to see it, has any questions or is interested in using his or her gifts in serving GSLC in this capacity. If interested, please speak with Terri Lombardo, Council President.

Property Update

Thank you to the following people for helping keep our church property looking great!

Dave Michael (mowing this past season)

Shirley Mazzocca and her grandsons, Nicky & Jonny (raking and bagging leaves this fall)

Fred DeDominicis (purchasing a new trimming mower for church use)

The box gutters have been repaired by Slippery Rock Roofing.

Council Highlights – Meeting held November 10, 2020

- This meeting was held virtually via Zoom
- Approved a motion that we will begin in-person worship at Good Shepherd on Sunday, December 6, 2020, provided that:
 1. We are able to obtain a supply pastor.
 2. The necessary clean up related to our recent fire has been completed.
 3. The boiler and heating system have passed inspection.
 4. We are able to meet COVID-19 pandemic mandates and guidelines in effect at that time.
- Approved a motion that we will have an in-person Christmas Eve worship service at Good Shepherd on Thursday, December 24, 2020, with a limit of approximately 68 people who have signed up by December 20, provided that we are able to obtain a supply pastor. . The motion carried with two abstentions. (68 people is only an estimate)
- Approved a motion that our staff (K'rin, Evy, and Grover) will return to their regular full-time hours on November 29 if we will be able to begin in-person worship on December 6, and their full-time hours will continue on a week-to-week basis if we continue to be open for in-person worship. The motion carried with two abstentions.
- Ruth Johns prepared a budget proposal for 2021 for Good Shepherd. Some of the figures for this budget will not be available until after the Synod Assembly is held this month. Also, until we would know a pastor's age, sex, and family situation, the figure for health care can't be determined.
- A motion was made and approved the we accept the proposed budget for 2021 and use it as our working budget until we are able to have a congregational meeting.
- Approved a motion that our Advent offering be the same as the November and December mission project, which is the City Rescue Mission.
- Approved a motion to allow Karen Esposito, who is a neighbor of Good Shepherd, to use Shepherd Center for a Homeowner Association meeting on a weeknight in December.



Christmas Bible Reading

Dec. 1	Dec. 2	Dec. 3	Dec. 4	Dec. 5	Dec. 6
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MATTHEW 1:1-17	ISAIAH 7:13-16	LUKE 1:26-28	LUKE 1:29-33	LUKE 1:34-38	MATTHEW 1:18-19
Dec. 7	Dec. 8	Dec. 9	Dec. 10	Dec. 11	Dec. 12
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MATTHEW 1:20-21	MATTHEW 1:22-25	MICAH 5:2-5	LUKE 2:1-3	LUKE 2:4-7	LUKE 2:8-12
Dec. 13	Dec. 14	Dec. 15	Dec. 16	Dec. 17	Dec. 18
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LUKE 2:13-15	LUKE 2:16-20	2 SAMUEL 7:12-14	MATTHEW 2:1-4	MATTHEW 2:5-8	MATTHEW 2:9-10
Dec. 19	Dec. 20	Dec. 21	Dec. 22	Dec. 23	Dec. 24
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MATTHEW 2:11-12	MATTHEW 2:13-15	MATTHEW 2:16-18	MATTHEW 2:19-21	MATTHEW 2:22-23	JOHN 3:15-17

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.

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 Tammaro, 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 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: Alba Kessler, Delores LeComte, Fran Nelson, Don Suorsa, Kim Cook, and Bertha Metzger.

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.

