



# The Shepherd's Pipe



Volume 52, Issue 12

December 2021

## 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, December 14th at 7:00 pm.**

## Help Recording Services

We are currently in the process of upgrading our video and audio services but we are in need of helpers at each service to turn on/off the computer, cameras, etc. If you are interested in helping or know someone who is, please contact the church office and leave a message for K'rin.

## Altar Flowers

If you are interested in purchasing a vase, the cost is now **\$20**. We apologize for the increase in price, however, we were not informed by Butz until we received our bill. There is a sign-up sheet for July-October available in the hallway or you may also call the church office and leave a message with the date and the message you would like printed in the bulletin.

## 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 27th.

## New Mask Policy

We are amending our mask guidelines to only ask worship participants to wear his/her mask while walking in and out of the church. Once the member sits down, he/she may take off their mask while maintaining social distancing. Due to the anticipated increase in the number of worship participants on Christmas Eve, we are asking that all participants wear their mask for the entirety of the Christmas Eve service regardless of vaccination status.

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

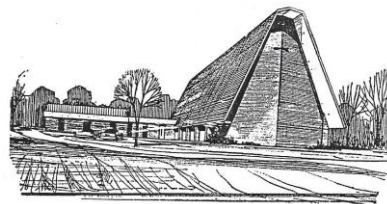
### Happy Birthday!

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

### Happy Anniversary!

- 19 – Norman Conti and 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.*

## December Mission Project

Our current mission project for the month of December is collecting donations to the Red Cross.

## 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 ¼" 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.

## Please Reach Out

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

**Joki, Craig**  
1003 Adams Street  
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

## 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](http://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/>

## Christmas Poinsettias

If you are interested in ordering poinsettias, please let K'rin or Shirley Mazzocca know. This year, they will be \$10.50 each and only red are available for purchase. All payments must be received by December 14<sup>th</sup>. If paying by check, please make it out to Feola's Greenhouse.

## Thank You!

Thank you to Fred DeDominicis for donating \$204.94 from recycled metals to the church's Roof Fund

## **Church Council**

We are still in need of 3 members to fill seats for our church council. If you are interested in taking one of the spots available, please let us know by contacting the church office or any present member of council.

### **Council Highlights – Meeting held November 9th, 2021**

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

#### **CHURCH MATTERS:**

- Pastor Goetze compared the two bids that we received for the video system. Randy Vanhorn from RV computer services gave us the cheaper bid compared to Spectrum Audio Productions.
- There was a request from Sharon Esposito to use the Shepherd's Center on December 8th for her association meeting.
  - Ruth Johns made the motion to allow Sharon Esposito to use the Shepherd's Center on December 8th for her meeting. Hailey Tammaro seconded. The motion carried.
- There was a request from Amy Gray to use the Shepherd's Center on November 27th for her family Thanksgiving dinner.
  - Ruth Johns made the motion to allow Amy Gray to use the Shepherd's Center on November 27th for her Thanksgiving dinner. Jodi Tammaro seconded. The motion carried.
- We need 5 people to run for council. One of those positions is for a one-year term.
- Pastor Goetze will check with K'rin to obtain information about winter weather cancellations.

#### **WORSHIP:**

- Jodi Tammaro made the motion to amend our mask guidelines to only require the worship participants to wear their mask while walking in and out of the church. Once the member sits down, they may take off their mask while social distancing.
- Due to the anticipated increase in the number of worship participants on Christmas Eve, we are asking that all participants wear their mask for the entirety of the Christmas Eve service regardless of vaccination status. Fred DeDominicis seconded. Two people abstained. The motion carried.

#### **PROPERTY:**

- We will propose both roofing bids to the congregation at the November 21st congregational meeting.

## **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, 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, 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.

