



# The Shepherd's Pipe



Volume 51, Issue 2

February 2020

## Vicar's Note

Dear Friends in Christ,

February means that we are in the midst of winter here in western Pennsylvania. Many of us are hoping that Punxsutawney Phil will emerge on February 2<sup>nd</sup> to a cloudy morning. That he won't see his shadow and thus will predict an early spring. As I look out my window to a cloudy and overcast day, it seems the odds might be in favor of such a result. Those of us living in this area recognize that we live in one of the most cloud covered areas of the country. Yet, somehow Phil has only predicted an early spring 20 times since 1887 --- February 2<sup>nd</sup> must be an unusually sunny day for this area.

In the midst of these dark and dreary days of winter, I am reminded of the beauty of creation. I shared with the youth a couple of weeks ago that as I drove in to church that Sunday morning, I saw a bald eagle in one of the corn fields close to the church. I had to turn around to get a picture. What a blessing to see this majestic bird, one of God's creatures. The snows of winter also reveal the beauty of God's creation. How beautiful is to gaze at our snow-covered trees, hills, and valleys. These things remind me of that wonderful hymn which says, "This is my Father's world; He shines in all that's fair. In the rustling grass I hear him pass; He speaks to me everywhere."

God speaks to us everywhere. As we make our way through these winter days may we be reminded of the beauty of God's creation which surrounds us even on the dreariest of days. May those encounters remind us that we too are God's creation; beautiful because God has made us.

Peace,  
Vicar Chris

*Ever since the creation of the world [God's] eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things [God] has made.*

Romans 1:20a (NRSV)

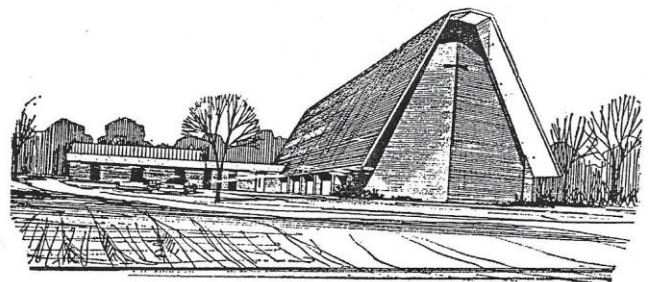
## Best Wishes on Your Special Day in February to our Members and Friends of GSLC:

### Happy Birthday!

- 3 – Douglas Boyer  
Jenna Lane-McLaren  
Kimberly Cook
- 5 – Barbara Dess  
Robyn Reeher
- 8 – Jacob Spor
- 10 – Michelle Wills Summerville
- 11 – Robert Mrozek
- 12 – Cindy Eve  
Michael List
- 13 – Grover Welsh
- 15 – Fran Nelson
- 17 – Christian Vanassa
- 18 – Brenda Eagan Brown  
Harry Ratvasky
- 20 – Marti Marchette
- 21 – Ardith Regdon
- 22 – Michael Mrozek
- 24 – Terri Tankersley
- 25 – Shirley Hattula  
John Nelson
- 28 – Gregory Summerville

### Happy Anniversary!

- 3 – Jacob and Jennifer Spor
- 6 – Gary and Michelle Holtzapple
- 14 – Rev. Thomas and Delores McCurdy
- 27 – Victor and K'rin Fortuna



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
of New Castle

## **Thank You from the Staff!**

All of the staff here at Good Shepherd would like to express our sincerest thank you to our church family for your generosity and contributions to our annual staff Christmas gift.

## **Council Meeting**

Our monthly Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, February at 7:00 pm.

## **Vision Committee**

Members of the Vision Committee will meet on Tuesday, February 18 at 6:00 pm.

## **Bible Study**

Our Bible Study with Vicar Chris will take place on Tuesday, February 11 and Tuesday, February 25 at 2:00 pm.

## **Shepherd Center Usage**

Our Shepherd Center policy for usage has been updated as of December 10, 2019. If anyone is interested in using the center, please contact the church office for a new copy.

## **Shrove Tuesday**

The Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner will be on February 25 from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm. We hope that you will join us!

## **Ash Wednesday**

Our Ash Wednesday services will be at 11:00 am and 7:00 pm on Wednesday, February 26.

## **Additions to Newsletter**

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

## **February Mission Projects**

From February 1 – February 14, we will be collecting offerings to support the City Rescue Mission for the making of meal kits. From February 15 – the end of March, we will be collecting offerings for Lutherlyn for camp improvements.

## **Weather Cancellations**

In the event that we have would need to cancel any church events or services due to inclement weather, it will be communicated through WPXI Channel 11 and KDKA Channel 2.

## **Join Us for Zumba!**

Zumba is here at Good Shepherd! Please join us on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 am. The cost is \$4 and our instructor is Danielle Johns.

## **Lenten Services**

This year we will be joining with Trinity Lutheran in Ellwood City for Mid-Week Lenten Services.

Everyone is invited for soup beginning at 5:30 pm and the service will start at 7:00 pm. Pastor Peggy and Vicar Chris will be sharing responsibility for the weekly messages, based on the theme, "Living Our Baptism...Five Gifts Discipleship."

Please mark your calendars now! The first mid-week service will be March 1, 2020. Look for additional details in the March edition of the Shepherd's Pipe.

## 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/>

These are just a few of the resources that are available. If there is something that you have used and found particularly helpful, please let us know in the office so that we can share it with others.

## **Council Highlights – Meeting Held January 14, 2020**

Church Council elected officers for 2020. The results of those elections are as follows:

- President – Terri Lombardo
- Vice President – Terri Tankersley
- Recording Secretary – Linda Marttala
- Treasurer – Ruth Johns
- Financial Secretary – Terri Tankersley

Numbers of thank-you notes have been received – these have been placed on the Good News board.

Good Shepherd will continue to serve as an official voting site in 2020. Election days are April 28, 2020 and November 3, 2020.

Annual reports are being compiled for the congregations annual meeting on January 26, 2020. Plans are being made for a Potluck luncheon and time for games and fellowship following the meeting. Information is also being compiled for submission to the ELCA for annual requirements.

Soffit and Fascia update. Materials are anticipated to be delivered around January 20<sup>th</sup>, with work commencing the last week of January or first week of February. These dates may be impacted by weather.

Several water leaks have been isolated in December. These are in the hot-water heating system. Currently, this has resulted in the part of the heating system being shut-off in the sanctuary and church office. Options on how to proceed are being investigated.

We continue to seek appropriate snow removal services.

## **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: Theresa Andrews, Fred DeDominicis, Brian Johns, Curtis Johns, Curt Johns, Terri Lombardo, Linda Marttala, Hailey Tamaro, 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, 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, Don Michael, Fran Nelson, Don Suorsa, Kim Cook, Bertha Metzger, and Alfred Andrews.

### 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.

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

- MARCH
  - 1 First mid-week Lenten service with Trinity Lutheran
  - 8 Daylight Savings
  - 10 Church Council
  
- APRIL
  - 5 Palm Sunday
  - 9 Passover
  - 10 Good Friday
  - 12 Easter
  - 14 Church Council
  - 28 Primary Election

Zumba is currently being held every Wednesday at 9:00 AM in the Shepherd Center.

Committee meeting dates and events will be added as they are planned. Keep checking back for updates!

---