



The Shepherd's Pipe



Volume 52, Issue 2

February 2021

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, February 9th at 7:00 pm.**

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.

Love and Prayers

- All our love and prayers go out to the family of Harold Laderer. He passed away Monday, January 25, 2021 due to complications from COVID-19.
- Prayers also go out to the family of Stephen Kline. He also passed away on Monday, January 25, 2021.

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

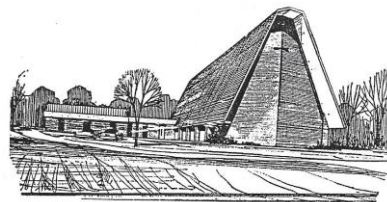
Happy Birthday!

- 3 – Douglas Boyer
Jenna Lane-McLaren
Kimberly Cook
- 11 – Robert Mrozek
- 12 – Cindy Eve
Michael List
- 13 – Grover Welsh
- 14 – Fran Nelson
- 17 – Christian Vanassa
- 18 – Brenda Eagan Brown
Harry Ratvasky
- 20 – Marti Marchette
- 21 – Ardith Regdon
- 22 – Michael Mrozek
- 24 – Terri Tankersley
- 25 – John Nelson

Happy Anniversary!

- 27 – Victor and K'rin Fortuna

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.

Pancake Dinner

We invite you to have your own pancake dinner to celebrate Shrove Tuesday on February 16th! Make your pancakes, snap a picture of your family enjoying the pancakes, post it on Facebook, and tag us at "Good Shepherd Lutheran Church ELCA."

Thank You

- Bertha Metzger would like to thank everyone that sent shut in gifts and also for everyone that sent Christmas cards.
- Thank you to everyone who had me in their prayers! The phone calls, cookies and pies were appreciated. I'm recovering from the operation but now trying a new treatment. It's good to have friends who care! God bless, Don Fracul.
- A big thank you goes to Linda Marttala for serving as our Council Recording Secretary. We appreciate all of her time and dedication to the job. However, she has decided to resign and Hailey Tammaro will take her place.
- Our organist, Evy, and our secretary, K'rin, would like to thank everyone who contributed to the staff Christmas gifts. They are very much appreciated!

Thank You

A big thank you goes to Linda Marttala for serving as our Council Recording Secretary. We appreciate all of her time and dedication to the job. However, she has decided to resign and Hailey Tammaro will take her place.

New Treasurer

We are still in need of a new treasurer. If you are interested, please contact the church office or Terri Lombardo. There is a copy of the job description available as well.

Help Recording Services

If you are interested in helping to record live streaming of our church services, please contact Hailey Tammaro at 724-674-6296.

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 22nd.

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/>

February Mission Project

Our mission project for the month of January is Lutherlyn. More information about them is below:

Lutherlyn is a God-given place to be accepted, challenged, and sent.

Mission Statement

Lutherlyn extends the ministry and mission of Jesus Christ, by inviting all people to engage the Word of God, one another and themselves in an intentional, challenging, exciting, and fun outdoor Christian community centered in the grace of God and the goodness of earth and life.



Lutherlyn is a year around ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America which provides unique opportunities for Christian living experiences.

Lutherlyn offers a natural setting for an intentional Christian community committed to experiencing and affirming our interrelationship with all of God's creation.

Lutherlyn encourages spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical growth and renewal for the whole person through encounter with scripture, experiences of the environment, educational programs, the witness of staff, opportunities for creative worship, the nurture of personal relationships, recreational activities, and fun.

In support of and in partnership with the community at large, Lutherlyn offers programs and the use of its facilities for the benefit of individuals, service organizations and agencies that work for the improvement of the quality of life and for the fulfillment of human potential in ways that are consistent with basic Christian values.

In support of and in partnership with parish ministries, Lutherlyn encourages continuing growth in Christian faith and enables people of all ages and needs to live lives of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, witness, and service.

Please Reach Out

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

Kessler, Alba
724-535-7303
PO Box 12
West Pittsburg, PA 16160

LeComte, Dolores "Dee"
724-856-3176
125 W. North Street #331
New Castle, PA 16101

Nelson, John W. & Frances
724-658-2579
1810 Morris St.
New Castle, PA 16102

Suorsa, Donald & Beth
724-654-9063
724-944-4982 cell
796 Eastbrook-Harlansburg Rd.
New Castle, PA 16101

****Please note: NEW ADDRESS****

Bertha Metzger
Haven Convalescent Home
725 Paul Street
New Castle, PA 16101

Good Shepherd Family,

Thank you so much for thinking of us this holiday season.

We love the lighted ceramic gift that reminds us that Jesus is the gift. He is the reason for the season.

Thank you for the delicious Jameson chocolate drizzled popcorn, chocolate pretzels + ornaments. They were delicious!

We miss seeing everyone. Thanks again for everything.

Love,

Don + Beth
Susan



CITY OF NEW CASTLE
Office of the Mayor
Chris Frye Jr.

01/12/2021

Dear Pastor and congregation,

I am writing this letter to you as a humble civic leader. I was raised to understand the power of prayer and in these challenging times we are facing as a community we not only need legislative change we more importantly need divine intervention. As the Mayor of this city, I implore you to encourage your congregation to come together and pray for our city. I am confident that you and your congregations will allow the Holy Spirit to lead and guide you in your prayers. Additionally, I ask that you pray for righteousness, peace, and joy to prevail. Scripture tells us that we should seek FIRST the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness and all the things that we seek will be added to us. Scripture also tells us that Gods Kingdom is one of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. THIS IS THE ANSWER to what we are facing as a city.

When we are divided the enemy comes in, but I am confident that God has placed you in this city to rise up and allow the flood of God's Spirit to set a standard against him!

Humbly submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Frye Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Christopher C Frye, Jr.
Mayor, City of New Castle

City Building - 230 North Jefferson Street - New Castle, Pennsylvania 16101-2220
Phone (724) 656-3500 - Fax (724) 656-3503
www.newcastlepa.org

50 Years as Good Shepherd

As we look back to more than 50 years ago when Good Shepherd Church was being planned, we can be thankful that we can do it through this story that has been given to us by one of our founding fathers, George Tervo. Sit back and enjoy...

The History of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

New Castle, Pennsylvania

By George Tervo

(This is a written transcription of an audio tape made by George Tervo.)

The Log Lutheran Church was organized in 1800, in Princeton, Pennsylvania, now the site of the Pleasant Valley Cemetery, and it was the first Lutheran church in Lawrence County. This building, as rustic as it was, served the Lutheran ministries of the area until Jerusalem Lutheran Church was organized in 1876. It was built near the site of the Log Church and it served its people for over a half century until it was disbanded. Meanwhile, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, which was located at the present site of the Pizza Hut at the corner of Grant and North Jefferson Street, was organized in November of 1848 to serve the Lutheran people who were arriving at that time from Germany and there were various Saxons and Transylvanians that came at that time. They were formed to membership of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Then, later in the 1890s, there was an immigration of Finnish people that came to this area mainly to work in the tin mill. They formed a church that is presently the Church of God on Ray Street, on the East Side of New Castle, and it was organized in December of 1900. Later, in the 1960s, this church changed its name to Trinity Lutheran Church, and part of this church accepted the membership of Bessemer Finnish Lutheran Church that was organized in 1903. In 1941, it became affiliated and merged with the New Castle church. Then, in 1904, Bethany Lutheran Church was organized, and it continued to serve until 1962. The church building and parsonage still is standing across from the Almira Home on East Washington Street and it is presently used as a playhouse where they have various plays and so forth for the community. (Note to the reader: This former church building was later demolished after a gas explosion in the area knocked it off its foundation.)

Then Redeemer Lutheran Church was formed, and it was intended that this merger would include Trinity Church. It was not until October 26, 1970, that this step in God's plan of church unity took place. There was a period of negotiations from 1962 to 1970 before this happened. All these predecessor churches of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church served well as they were called by the Lord to serve mainly ethnic people that did not understand the English language and they served first in their native language totally. And then, later in the late 1940s and early 50s, it was realized that in order to profess the Word of God and witness to the community, that the English language was brought into the church, at first slowly and gradually, so that everyone would understand that they weren't trying to push the language question out of existence. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church then was a result of this merger and this happened in 1970.

In the winter of 1970 and '71, it was a Church Planning Committee and Site Committee that were appointed by the congregation and a written building program was approved. The Site Committee had several sites that they visited and looked over to see which would be the best for our needs and the Lord's hand seemed to again present itself, that they decided that they would go down and see Mr. Weingartner who owns Weingartner Florists, Mr. Bob Weingartner and his wife, and asked them if they would be interested in selling a parcel of land where the present church building is located. They said that other people have asked them about this property, and they have outright turned them down. But they felt that, after explaining what the church building was about and how it was the people desired that the hand of God work in Shenango Township here in this community and after the survey of the area it was to be a growing community. In fact, the bypass that we see from our church was nonexistent. It was already in the talking state, so the Planning Committee visited the Pennsylvania State Highway Department in Franklin, Pennsylvania, to see where this Route 422 bypass was to be located. As a result of that survey, everybody enthusiastically had the desire to try to purchase this property from Weingartners. Another interesting fact is that at

that time, we purchased 4 and 4/10 acres of land, 300-foot frontage on old 422, 630 feet deep for the price of \$12,500. When this check was presented to the Weingartners, they in turn wrote a check for \$2,500 back to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church because they felt that it was a worthwhile cause. So, this is how the Lord blessed us even in the purchase of the property.

After many, many committee meetings, we naturally knew that this was a real act of faith. We owned these old church properties and church properties are not the best thing to sell on the market, so as a result of selling the various old previous church properties, we realized somewhere in the neighborhood of \$170,000. Then, the Finance Committee of the Planning Committee went down to First Federal Bank and we had some estimates from our architects at that time that the church would come to cost somewhere in the neighborhood of \$475,000. We talked to Norman Clark, the chairman of the board, and to Mr. Houk who was the president of First Federal and they went along and said that there would be no problem obtaining a mortgage of \$300,000 so that the building program could proceed. The interest on the \$300,000 was 6.5%. We had an architect selected. It was Brooks and Redfoot from Sharon, Pennsylvania, Dale Redfoot being a member of Christ Lutheran Church in Sharon. He was also handicapped. He was stricken with polio in his senior year in high school and that's why today, in the architecture of the church, we realize what a great benefit this was in God's leading because in this day and age, all public buildings are to serve the handicapped, and here we had in 1971, already selected an architect that had this vision. So in all of the church itself, there are no stairs that have to be negotiated. There are ramps, even at the altar, that are wheelchair accessible and the church itself has no stairways for entry.

In December of 1971, the contracts for this church were awarded and the contractors at that time, the General Contractor was George Stevens of New Castle, the heating was A & B of New Castle, Pennsylvania, the electrical was Marino Electric of New Castle, the plumbing was D.J. Hannon of New Castle, and the total contracts and all the work at the Day of Dedication, which was on Sunday, May 27, 1973, the total of all costs when we moved into this building, was \$464,837.00. Of this, in excess of \$30,000 was given as gifts and memorials for various items in the church, such as the faceted glass, the stained glass, the cross over the altar which was purchased by a half mile of pennies, for \$474. All of these pennies were given by the Sunday school of the church. There were other donations such as the Knox Foundation of New Castle. They gave \$5,000 for the pastor's office furnishings and whatever was necessary so that the office could be used for counseling, not only for the members of our church, but as you know, the pastor counsels people whether they're members of our church or just members of the community. There were many, many gifts that were given. As I think back, all the church pews, all the altar furnishings, the altar stonework was all donated by members of our parish. Some of the work was professionally done from non-members, but no charge was ever presented on any of the altar work. Then, as another point of interest, the altar rock itself weighs approximately 1 ton and it was procured from the banks of the Neshannock Creek above Volant with proper permissions and so forth. It was delivered here by some local business people free of charge.

When the Planning Committee was discussing the altar itself, which was the prime concern of the Planning Committee that it shows itself in a very worshipful attitude and that God and Christ are revealed from the time you walk into the nave of the church that you realize that God is in this place, that He is present. The organ of the church was relocated from Trinity Lutheran Church and with the necessary renovations, it came to cost a little less than \$2,000. It was the newest of the existing organs. It was only 7 years old at that time and it has served well, even to this day.

Now some of the points of interest as I think about the outside of the building: The corner stone was laid on August 27, 1972, and as I mentioned before, the dedication service was May 27, 1973. As you look at the church from the Old Butler Road side, or the south side, it is very prominent as you come up the 422 bypass or if you come in on 422 from New Castle or from the Butler side. You notice that you see this high church building, which is 44 feet from the ground to the peak of the roof and it was made the shape it is to designate that this is to be a mighty fortress. It is to give you the appearance of a mighty fortress. The brick on the cross wall of the church, or where the lighted

aluminum cross is planted, the brick behind it is a distressed brick, which when it was put into the mold in a soft condition, it was distressed by using a lead-filled piece of garden hose and as it was soft, it was beat into there by hand into each brick to show that Christ suffered on the cross and this was certainly a reminder of the distress that he went through. The rest of the brick throughout the church shows the imprint, every brick in the church, shows the imprint of a grape vine. So, if you look closely, you will see that it speaks as a witness to all of us that Christ is the vine and we are the branches, and this is what it is supposed to designate.

If you look above the main entry of our church, you will notice glass panels in an irregular pattern. These are faceted glass of various colors. They're actually stained, but the glass is thick. It's at least an inch thick, each piece of each facet. Looking from the balcony level, they are relatively darker than up at the top arch. They are a brilliant color. This is the same with the stained-glass windows. From the altar they are light. From the front of the church, they are light and as you look back towards the rear of the church, each one is a slight shade darker. The reason for this is that it's supposed to accentuate the cross and the altar, that our thoughts do not stray away from the central meaning of the church and that is our worship to God through the altar, through Communion and through prayer that is rendered at the altar rail. Another point of interest of the nave is that there are no hanging chandeliers that would distract our thoughts from the worship service and the key part of the worship service, the sermon and the Word of God that is preached from the pulpit and the altar area. So, all of the lighting has been hidden behind the arches so that they are not a distraction to a holy atmosphere in the worship service of our congregation.

When the height of the church was to be decided at the 44-foot level, the means by which this resulted from flying a gas-filled balloon and putting it up in the air and then going around to the various highways and observation points as you're entering the area of the church to make sure that it was visible to the community and presented a welcome to all those that pass on the various highways. The church furnishings, the altar furnishings, if you note, all have a pear metal look to it pointing upward. The pulpit, the baptismal font, the spokes on the altar railings, and any of the furnishings used inside of the altar are of this design. This again is to point our attention upward to the main theme of the worship area and that is the cross and the altar. If you notice the altar has three steps going up to what they call the predella or the kneeling platform. These three steps are there to remind us of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. The choir loft is located to the rear of the congregation and this again was decided to be the musical area of the church and not to distract from the worship service itself. If it had been located in the front, of course, the Planning Committee and the Worship Committee felt that it would take away from the real worship service to some extent, and that's why the choir is located to the rear of this congregation.

The area which we call the narthex or the entrance to the nave and the entry hall was so located for an overflow. It was supposed to be an overflow for approximately 50 attendants or members when it was necessary. The library is there because we know that the Word of God is to be studied by all and we wanted to have an area where members of the congregation feel free to go in and research the various subjects, whether it be for Sunday school education or throughout life. There is a resource there that the congregation is free to use at any time. The kindergarten area of the Sunday school classroom area is well-lighted, and it also has an accordion fold door which divides it into two parts, and it is multiple use. It is used by the choir for their practice sessions as well as for the Sunday school students. The nursery area is so furnished, and the plumbing fixtures are designed for the purpose that the young children can use the facilities at their own need. The cupboards in the play area are for toys and also for the attendants so the attendant can easily pay attention to any individual student. The floor of this area was with electric heat mats so that the floor would be warm, but in later years, the floor was carpeted and made the use of this electrical heated floor unnecessary. Now, as you go beyond this point, there's an exterior corridor leading to the exit that has a pair of doors. This was so designed for future Sunday school classroom additions. It is to contain eight classrooms and storage areas also in this addition. It was originally intended as a future classroom expansion and we just pray that someday this expansion will be necessary.

The boiler room and the boiler itself was so designed that it would take care of this additional expansion. The boiler was sized such that it would be able to heat and take care of it. The nave of the church also, the piping below the floor is ready for air conditioning, if the need ever arises. Since we've been in the building now for twenty years plus, we've found that the air handling system in the church itself has been well enough designed that this air conditioning has not been necessary. Although in the original building, there was \$4,000 allowed to do all the necessary underground work, it would cost an additional \$45,000 to air condition this portion of the building. The family room of the church is used for various reasons. It's used for small meetings, auxiliary groups where they hold their meetings, for Bible classes, and also, it's used for wedding preparations and funerals also. The back altar wall where you see the triangles, the triangles on that back wall behind the hanging cross, these were designed by an engineer in Youngstown, Ohio, who designed these types of walls and it is one-of-a-kind. What he did was make a pattern of triangles and he had the vision that this is to represent rippling waters. The shape of them also represents the Trinity, the triangle. This pattern, once it was furnished for our church, the patterns were destroyed. I was asked to say a few more words about the altar stone itself: The altar stone itself was taken from scripture as the way they built their altars originally in the early churches. The foundation below this rock itself extends down through the platforms which form the altar and goes down to an earth foundation and then there's a masonry foundation up to the base of the rock so that the altar is firmly standing on solid ground.

The top of the altar table is wormy chestnut and that is also from scripture as you read about the wormwood and the gall. The rock, you notice, has many clefts in it and this rock as you see it now, is very close to the way it was found along the Neshannock Creek. There was a slight bit of trimming done to it and if you notice, there are no chisel marks showing, no signs of the tool and this is scriptural. We find in scripture it says, "On this rock, I will build my church." So that is some of the history behind this rock and people that look at this, they can interpret various meanings for themselves and their Christian faith. It also has a lifeline running through it if you will look at it closely and the man that was a non-church member that helped do the work on the altar rock itself said that there is no way after he did the work on it and knew what it was representing, that rock spoke to him, and he said there is no way that I can present a bill for this altar stone. At the dedication of the building, he and his family were there although they were members of another church, so it spoke before dedication to people. And may it speak to all of us as we go to church and observe the altar itself and the area of the altar.

Another interesting fact is that before dedication, and the lighting system was first placed into the church, into the nave, and somebody turned the church light on, the hanging cross was already in place and how amazing it was to all of us, it was like an act of God, that the reflection from the lighting through the cross represented the Trinity or Calvary itself. When you think of Calvary, you think of Christ on the cross and then the other two crosses with the thieves. This was not planned, not by any of the members of the committee or by the architect, it was just something that was an act of God and we certainly thank Him for this. Some people came into the church on Dedication Day, when they came into the church, it was naturally lit up and some of the people, their jaws dropped and they said, "My, what a holy place!" and that was really a good feeling to know that the people of the church and everybody that was involved, all the members that were involved in the planning and so forth, that the vision that they had seen spoke to visitors, not only from our church, but from other churches, people from out of town. Through all of this, we had learned one thing and that was that our theme at that time was "Aim High" and then, from the book of Proverbs, 29th chapter, the 18th verse, it says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish" and we must keep a vision before us at all times and the congregation will enthusiastically overcome any endeavor that they are faced or object that they are faced to encumber.

The building itself is a zoned building. The fellowship hall itself can be separated from the rest of the church. You can come in through the entrance, have the other doors all closed and the fellowship hall and kitchen area can be used by groups of the community without them traveling through all the worship areas of the church building itself. The landscaping for the church was done by the members of the congregation but the landscape design was done by a well-known landscape architect from Pittsburgh. His name was Dominic Palumbo. He was a golf course designer

and well-known throughout the world. When he was approached to make a drawing and give us an idea of what the landscaping should look like, he made a complete drawing of the whole area and he was asked when he completed that and presented it to the church, to send his bill for the work that he had done and he says, "There is no way I will expect to receive anything from the design." He said as long as it was memorialized by the various people of the congregation, he will accept no monetary gift, so we were thankful for that.

Then, we go to the concrete paving. All of the paving of the outside parking lots, the driveways, was done by the membership of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. That was started, the base was put in for dedication and so forth, and the main sidewalks were put in the by the general contractor on the building. May 1974, the first concrete went into the paving and the members of the congregation, those that did not work on the concrete itself, they donated the funding to purchase concrete and the members, I have to say not men, but the members, because there were ladies present also, did all the work and grass and half of the concrete was placed in the year 1974, beginning in May, and ending in July. It was done every Saturday. First time when they were asked for a workday, some of us that were on the committee wondered how many would show up because there was no pressure applied. The first day, we ordered two trucks of concrete to come and we figured if nobody shows, at least we could get rid of two trucks of concrete. Well, as it was, there were 35 members who came out there. We saw we would have enough construction men that we ordered more concrete and each Saturday then we would place 45 cubic yards of concrete. Then, when the money ran out that was gifted, we found out we were able to do 50% of the total concrete as you see it today. People of the congregation still kept donating to this cause, so in 1979, the same thing occurred, we placed the balance of the concrete work as you see it in the parking lots and driveways, but the grand total of concrete that was placed was 575 cubic yards. At that time, Troggio's on 422, Troggio's Restaurant, put blacktop in. Their blacktop cost them the same per square foot as our concrete. The only difference is, Troggio's has been re-blacktopped three times since then. Ours is still the original, so there we were blessed again by people that had the faith, the time, the talent, and those that gave monetarily to this challenge of getting our site into a respectable order. So again, it points out that if the people of our congregation have a challenge, they will answer that challenge and the only way these things were able to happen was through the strong faith and conviction of the members themselves and we thank the Lord for His rich blessing throughout this project and may we in the future pray diligently as those before us have prayed that our witness to this community will continue to grow in the coming years.

Annual Congregational Meeting Notes

- Approved Financial Records
- Approved 2021 Budget
- Approved Fred DeDominicis to take a second term on council and welcomed Jodi Tammara as a new member on council. Pastor Goetze installed all council members during the congregational meeting.

* We still have 2 positions to fill and would like to encourage members to volunteer for these positions. If interested, please contact Terri Lombardo.

** If anyone would like a hard copy of the Annual Report, please email or call the church.

Council Highlights – Meeting held January 12, 2021

- This meeting was held virtually via Zoom
- 2020 financial statements will be mailed to members.
- Approved a motion that Good Shepherd will be a polling place for Shenango Township on May 18, 2021 and November 2, 2021

- We plan to record our Sunday service for YouTube viewing beginning March 14, 2021
- A checklist will be posted so that everyone willing to help clean up from the November fire can be aware of jobs that need to be completed
- Approved a request from Hailey Tamaro for the use of Good Shepherd for her wedding on Friday, September 24, 2021

SPRING CLEANING FUNDRAISER



This is what we have been waiting for --- a chance to reenter the church --- a chance to take back our church from the fire -- a chance to get our church ready for worship again. Think of it as a fundraiser and spring cleaning all wrapped into one.

You are not only welcome to go back into your church, but you are asked to go back in and help get it back in shape after the fire. Everyone has the green light to come back into the church. Grover has started to do some cleanup but needs some help. There is a list of jobs that need to be done on the bulletin board in the main hallway. The heat can be turned back on (please let me know if you plan to go in and want the heat on). If you complete a task, please initial the job on the list so we know it is done. When you do so, you will have saved the church a portion of the thousands of dollars we would have had to pay to have it done with outside workers.

Some notes: There are some supplies at the church, but I would suggest that you bring what you are comfortable using, such as your own buckets, rags to wash or dust with, etc. If you have a specific job you want to do and need special supplies to get it done, please let me know. If you need reimbursed for supplies, please let me know. I am in the process of buying the tiles for the ceiling in the bathroom and I have volunteers to do that job, so let's give thanks for that! Don't worry, there are many more jobs from which to pick. As Grover works at the church, he will be knocking off some of the list too and before you know it the church will be cleaner than it has been in years!

Remember, not only do we get to be in the church again, but we get to save somewhere between \$12,000 and \$13,000 to put toward our next project by doing this ourselves. It is truly a wonderful opportunity to pocket so much \$\$\$ for our next project.

Thanks! - Ruth (724-657-4733)

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, Delores LeComte, 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.

