



# The Shepherd's Pipe



Volume 53, Issue 1

February 2022

## 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, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.**

## Help Recording Services

We have currently made some upgrades to our 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.

## 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 21st.

## 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.

## 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.

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

### Happy Birthday!

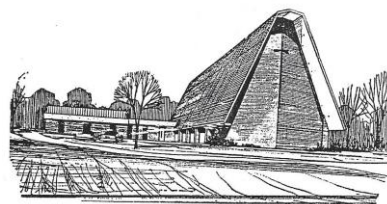
- 3 – Douglas Boyer  
Jenna Lane-McLaren  
Kimberly Cook
- 11 – Robert Mrozek
- 12 – Cindy Eve  
Michael List
- 13 – Grover Welsh
- 14 – Fran Nelson
- 17 – Christian Vanassa
- 18 – Brenda Eagan Brown  
Harry Ratvasky
- 20 – Marti Marchette
- 21 – Ardith Regdon
- 22 – Michael Mrozek
- 24 – Terri Tankersley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

### Happy Anniversary!

- 27 – Victor and K'rin Fortuna

#### Our Mission

*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.*



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
of New Castle

## Please Reach Out

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

**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

## For Rent

If you or you know someone who is in need of a large place to hold a party or a meeting, consider your church social hall. For non-members, the rent is only \$100. If using the kitchen facilities, it is \$125. We have had family get-togethers, business meetings and birthday parties take place in the hall this year. There is plenty of room to spread out and have some fun!

## Thoughts and Prayers

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of our former member, Jonathan Richard Lepisto, who passed away on January 7, 2022, in Mount Dora, Florida, of complications after heart surgery. A memorial service is being planned for next summer in New Castle.

Prayers are also needed for Laverne Ratkovich who is currently in the Cleveland Clinic, Linda Hahn who is at Qualify of Life Rehab Facility, and Dave Michael.

## 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/>

## Winter Weather Cancellations

In the event that we have would need to cancel any church services due to inclement weather, it will be communicated through WFMJ Channel 21 and KDKA Channel 2.

## **Ash Wednesday**

Our Ash Wednesday service (distribution of ashes) will be on Wednesday, March 2 at 7:00 pm.

## **Heating Repair Update**

Caldwell Heating just called with a price to fix the heating units in the entrance hallway, which will be \$4,256. Anyone wanting to help with the cost can put "heating units" on the "other" line on your offering envelope with your donation or write it on your check memo line. Thanks in advance!!

## **Pop Can Collection**

A reminder that we are continuing to collect pop cans which are taken for recycling with the proceeds being donated to the Ronald McDonald House. Any donations can be left by the main doors or in the library. They will be collected and processed appropriately.

## **Mission Projects**

GSLC FAMILY AND FRIENDS,

Hope everyone had a blessed Christmas! This month we have been collecting money for the American Red Cross. Tornadoes have caused so much destruction and devastation across our country. We are so fortunate to have our family, homes and church. Thinking of ways our small community can make a difference, council decided to dedicate our Mission Project donations for January and February to the Lutheran Disaster Response Fund, ELCA. So whether your preference is to give money to the American Red Cross or to the Lutheran Disaster Response Fund, ELCA you can make a difference by donating to the victims of this tragic event through the church. Please note on the memo line how you would like to designate your offering. You can write your check out to the church and we will forward it to the appropriate organization. HAVE A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Please read the following letter from the Lutheran Disaster Response Fund, ELCA:

"By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace" (Luke 1:78-79).

Friends,

On the night of Dec. 10 and early morning of Dec. 11, an outbreak of at least 30 tornadoes swept through six states. So far, 94 people are reported dead across five states, more than 80 of those in Kentucky. For those unaccounted for, search-and-rescue operations are underway. Homes and businesses were destroyed, and over 300,000 people were without electricity.

Lutheran Disaster Response is collaborating with the Indiana-Kentucky Synod and other partners in the area to assess the damage and develop an immediate and a long-term response plan. Your gifts to support these response efforts will empower our partners to meet survivors' immediate and long-term needs. Given the extent of the damage, recovery will take years as thousands of homes will need to be rebuilt or repaired. With your support, Lutheran Disaster Response can accompany survivors on the long road to recovery.

In Christ's service,

*Daniel Rift*

The Rev. Daniel Rift  
Director, ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response Fund  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## **Council Highlights – Meeting held January 11, 2022**

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

### **CHURCH MATTERS:**

- Hailey Hughes made the motion to elect Shirley Mazzocca as President and Keith Kuttensch as Vice President of the church council pending the congregational meeting. Ruth Johns seconded. The motion carried.
- Boiler Inspection Update: The inspector found the boiler in good shape. He remarked that the one side of the storage room in the fellowship hall was inaccessible to the electrical panels due to the amount of stored materials.
- The sound system was looked at and the volume was significantly louder afterwards. The company offered to come back and adjust the speaker to Pastor Goetze's voice.
- We will vote on a color for the metal roof at the church congregational meeting.
- We will omit a midweek lenten service, but we will still have Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday services. Pastor will look into whether or not St. John's and/or Trinity are having their midweek lenten services for our members to attend if they wish.
- We will have one Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 PM.
- Installation of the church council members will be February 6th, 2022.
- Hailey Hughes made the motion to buy a Zoom subscription for the church for a year which will cost approximately \$150. Terri Lombardo seconded. The motion carried.

### **PROPERTY:**

- It was suggested that we form a property committee again to discuss everything that needs done around the church.
- We will need someone to mow the lawn this spring and summer. We will start advertising for that in February.

### **INTERIM PASTOR'S REPORT:**

- Pastor Goetze has put in 25 hours this past month and has made various visitations, phone calls, and prayers. He performed a funeral for Craig Joki. He led worship for 3 Sundays and on Christmas Eve.
- Terri Lombardo made the motion to accept the committee reports. Jodi Tammaro seconded. The motion carried.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- We only needed 28 offering envelopes for 2022.
- Shirley Mazzocca will contact KDKA and the supply pastor in the event of a snow cancellation.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- We will take a look at the constitution for next month's meeting and review it then.
- We have 69 active members currently based on the giving records from 2021.

## **Thank You!**

A very big thank you from the staff here at GSLC for your generous donations towards our staff Christmas gifts!

12-20-21

Dear D & L C,

Thank you for the beautiful gift box of goodies.

It's so nice to be remembered. Love and joy.

Nora Teno

Dear Brothers and Sisters  
in Christ Jesus



With all good wishes for a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

May we all have a peaceful and safe holiday season!

God bless us all,  
Marti Mankette

For you, O Lord, have made my path for your work;  
at the work of your hands I trust for joy.  
Psalm 122

Irene + I Thank you for the Christmas Gift. We appreciate your thoughts & prayers.  
God Bless!

MAY THE  
Beauty OF THIS SEASON  
BRING US JOY, BLISS, PEACE

## **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.

