



The Shepherd's Pipe



Volume 51, Issue 1

January 2020

Vicar's Note

Dear Friends in Christ,

It is a New Year! Not only is it a New Year, but this January we also begin a new decade, 2020. As we ring in this new calendar year and new decade, many of us will probably celebrate, following some long-held traditions. Maybe we will stay up 'til midnight and watch the ball-drop, wishing our loved ones a Happy New Year. Many will enjoy a special traditional meal on New Year's Day, for me that will be pork and sauerkraut. And many of us will also make one or more New Year's resolutions.

These resolutions often will be geared toward some type of self-improvement. It may be that we resolve to eat better, get more exercise, get organized..., well I am sure you get the idea. Some may resolve to be more thoughtful and loving spouses, or parents, or may resolve to be more active in the church or community. All of these resolutions are commendable as they are intended to improve ourselves, our relationships, or our communities. Unfortunately, as we seek a new beginning as the year itself begins, many of these resolutions will quickly fade away from our routines.

As you think about the New Year and your possible resolutions, I invite to remember the words of Paul to the Corinthians. "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see everything has become new!" (2 Cor 5:17, NRSV). Christ whose birth we just celebrated is the one who makes everything new and Christ will not fade away. My friends, we have been Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, we are in Christ, and through Christ we are made new.

I wish you all the best in this New Year and New Decade! Regardless of how successful you might be with your resolutions, I pray that you find peace in Christ, who is our Hope, who makes us New! As we enter this new year, I invite you to take some time to reflect on how Christ has made and continues to make you new.

Vicar Chris

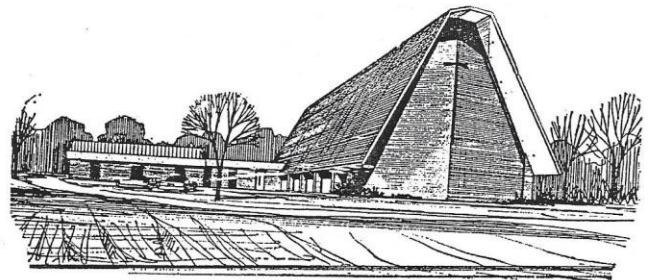
Best Wishes on Your Special Day in January:

Happy Birthday!

- 2 – Delores McCurdy
- 4 – Donetta Andrews
- 5 – Jarrod Price
- 6 – Nicole Davis
Matthew Michael
Catherine Spor
- 11 – Brian Ratvasky
- 15 – Annalise Cook
- 20 – K'rin Fortuna
- 22 – Susan Bender
- 23 – Leslie Calhoun
- 26 – Joshua Boyer
Brandon Johns
Vickie McConnell
- 28 – Wendy Braun
- 30 – Corina Andrews
Brandon Ratvasky

Happy Anniversary!

- 10 – Aaron and Kristen Tervo
- 21 – James and Mary Ann Burick



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
of New Castle

Thank You!

A special thank you from Bertha Metzger to Vicar Chris for his visit to her home and to the congregation for the basket of goodies. She wants everyone to know how much she appreciated it and how nice it is to be remembered by her church family. God Bless everyone in the New Year!

Council Installations

Installation of our new council members will take place on Sunday, January 5 after worship.

Council Meeting

Our monthly Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 14 at 7:00 pm.

Vision Committee

Members of the Vision Committee will meet on Tuesday, January 21 at 6:00 pm.

Bible Study

Our Bible Study with Vicar Chris will take place on Tuesday, January 14 and Tuesday, January 28 at 2:00 pm.

Congregational Meeting

Our Congregational Meeting will take place on Sunday, January 26 after worship.

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.

Additions to Newsletter

Do you have something to publish in The Shepherd's Pipe? Please have any submissions into the church office by Monday, January 20.

January Mission Project

From January 1 – February 14, we will be collecting offerings to support the City Rescue Mission for the making of meal kits.

2020 Altar Flowers

There is a new flower chart for 2020 available in the narthex for anyone who is interested in signing up. The cost per vase is \$18.00.

2020 Offering Envelopes

The 2020 Offering Envelopes are available to pick up in the narthex.

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.

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/>

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 – November and December 2019

- Action was taken to direct a tithe of the Election day bake sale proceeds to the Southwestern PA food Cupboard in Harmony, PA. They had recently suffered a failure of their cold-storage unit.
- The youth group continues to meet on a regular basis. They had a wonderful retreat at the Laurelville Mud Weekend.
- The Worship and Music Committee met and determined hymns through February 23, 2020. Services for Christ the King Sunday and The First Sunday of Christmas were discussed. These services will be different from the typical service.
 - A recommendation was made to council to change offering practice, such that the offering would remain in the sanctuary, placed on the altar, until the service has concluded. This recommendation was approved by council.
 - A recommendation was made to council for Christmas Eve, that Silent Night be sung in English only. This was discussed and not approved by council, as it is a significant tradition at Good Shepherd.
- An update concerning the soffit and fascia project was given. Although it was originally thought that this work could be completed in November, the contractor's schedule has not allowed for that. It is now expected to be completed in January 2020.
- An update was given concerning the boiler and situation with water usage. Caldwell Heating again added stop-leak to the system, to see if this could solve the problem in the short-term. This will continue to be monitored. Given the current situation and history over the last few years with this system, council will begin to think about next steps.
 - Action was taken to move any money that remains in the soffit & fascia fund, after completion of that project, to the Building Projects Fund.
- The Vision Committee proposed a new Shepherd's Center/Kitchen use policy for council approval. This policy along with a flow chart of the approval process to be followed were adopted by Council.
- The Vision Committee Recommended that Advent envelopes be directed to Ronald McDonald House along with December mission support. It was also recommended that mission support for Jan – Feb 14, 2020 be directed to the City Rescue Rescue Mission – Meal Kits and that Feb 14 – Mar, 2020 be directed to Lutherlyn for camp improvements. All of these recommendations were approved.
- Good Shepherd has registered with WPXI (channel 11) and KDKA (channel 2), to communicate cancellations of services or activities as GSLC due to weather concerns if necessary.
- We continue to explore options for snow removal.
- Church Council members will be installed on January 5, 2020. Thank you to all who will be serving on Council this year and thank you to those whose terms are ending, Theresa Andrews, Brian Johns, Curtis Johns, Jr., and Linda Marttala.
- The next Church Council Meeting will be January 14, 2020 @ 7:00pm.

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

- JANUARY
 - 5 Installation of Council Members
 - 14 Church Council
 - 26 Congregational Meeting
- FEBRUARY
 - 11 Church Council
 - 25 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner. Time TBD
 - 26 Ash Wednesday Services at 11:00 am and 7:00 pm
- MARCH
 - 8 Daylight Savings
 - 10 Church Council
- APRIL
 - 5 Palm Sunday
 - 9 Passover
 - 10 Good Friday
 - 12 Easter
 - 14 Church Council

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!

Good Shepherd Youth Group – A Year in Review

2019 was a busy year for the GSLC Youth Group! Here is a list of some of the fun things we did this year!

- Had monthly bible studies with fun games and snacks
- Made shamrock shakes and shamrock trinity three-leaf clovers
- Colored Easter Eggs
- Had a bonfire and cookout celebration for Pastor Ellen
- Sang at the farewell luncheon for Pastor Ellen
- Played mini golf with Vicar Chris and his family
- Went to Dunkin' Donuts for bible studies
- Prepared and served a lunch for the congregation
- Went on our first Youth Group retreat at Laurelville Mud Weekend!
- Had a fun Christmas pajama party
- Performed in the Christmas program at church

Thank you to everyone for your prayers! If you have a child interested in coming to Youth Group, please contact Hailey Tamaro at 724-674-6296 or haileytamaro18@gmail.com

