



The Shepherd's Pipe



Volume 52, Issue 1

January 2021

Hello from Pastor Goetze

Greetings in the Name of Christ to the saints of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church!

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Wil Goetze and I am an ELCA pastor. In January 2018, I retired from full-time-ministry after having served for 22 years as a chaplain at Passavant Retirement Community in Zelienople. The Bishop's office recently asked me if I would like to serve as the Local Interim Pastor for Good Shepherd. I was invited to join in on the December Council meeting via Zoom and I thank Council President Terri Lombardo and the rest of the members of Council for their warm welcome, pleasant conversation and their decision to affirm the Bishop's recommendation by inviting me to serve as the Local Interim. I gladly accepted! I will begin to serve you all in January 2021.

My wife, Sandy, and I live in Harmony, PA. We've been married for 42 years and have 2 sons. Since I retired, I have enjoyed doing Sunday supply preaching. I enjoy leading worship in different churches, appreciating the variety of ways and places in which people worship our Lord. I do, however, miss getting to know people beyond Sunday worship, so I look forward to providing you with pastoral care and counsel as together we follow Our Lord Jesus Christ into 2021... in the power of His Holy Spirit, to the Glory of the Father and for the Blessing of our neighbors. No matter what challenges we will face in the new year, we can count on the Lord to help us overcome!

So, if you need some pastoral help, please call me at 724 316 8107.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Wilfred K. Goetze

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

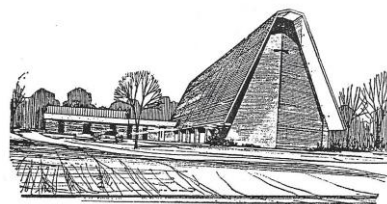
Happy Birthday!

- 4 – Donetta Andrews
- 6 – Nicole Davis
Matthew Michael
- 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 – Aarron and Kristen Tervo
- 21 – James and Mary Ann Burick

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.

Happy 50th Anniversary!

The Articles of Consolidation for Good Shepherd Lutheran Church were signed and notarized on August 31, 1970. Unfortunately, Covid has put a crimp in our celebration plans. However, we would like to gather some memories from our members. If you have a special memory, photographs, or other information from the past 50 years, please submit them to K'rin. These memories can be emailed, mailed, texted or phone messaged to the church office/K'rin. We would like to include these items in upcoming newsletters.

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, January 12th 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

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 25th.

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/>

January 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.

Congratulations!

- Congratulations to Mark & Lauren DeRiggi on the birth of their daughter, Shae Theresa on Wednesday, December 2, 2020 in Morristown, New Jersey. Proud big sisters & brother at home are Ava, Liliana & James. Grandparents are Domenick & Terri Lombardo & great grandmother is Bertha Metzger.
- Callie Nicole Michael was born on March 25, 2020 to Matthew Michael and Lauren Parks. Grandparents are Dave and Patti Michael. Welcome to the Good Shepherd family, Callie!

Thank You

Church council would like to thank Matthew Michael for helping to mow the church property over the summer.

Fire Update

We are still waiting to have work approved by the insurance company, so nothing has been done thus far. We are still requesting that all members stay out of the building until all repairs can be completed.

Welcome Pastor Goetze!

Pastor Wil Goetz will begin as our interim on January 1, 2021. Pastor Goetz is contracted for five hours per week. His duties will include pastoral care, congregational leadership, funerals, hospital visits and other duties as agreed upon by church council and Pr. Goetz. This contract does not include leading Sunday worship, however, Pr. Goetz has indicated that he is willing to be hired as our supply pastor for a couple Sundays a month. He can be reached via phone at 724-316-8107 or via email at wgoetze@zoominternet.net

Annual Congregational Meeting via Zoom

This meeting will take place January 24, 2021 at 12:00 noon

A link for the meeting will be sent via email. Please make sure the church office has your current email address. A phone number and password will be provided for those not having access to a device.

Agenda:

- Approve budget for 2021
- Church Council election
- Approve committee reports

Offering Envelopes

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the offering envelopes for 2021 have not yet arrived. You may continue to make offerings without your envelopes by sending in a check and giving direction on how you would like to designate your offering. They will then be credited to your account. Thank you for understanding!

Please Reach Out

To say this year has been a challenging one is an understatement. We have had a number of members that suffered a loss, illness, or other problem throughout this year. Since we have not been in our building since March, it has been difficult keeping in touch with everyone. We are asking you to please pray for, send a card, or contact these members of Good Shepherd during the coming new year.

Families who have suffered a loss this year:
The Michael Family

The Laderer Family
The Eve Family
The Andrews Family

People who have had illness and surgeries this year:

Barbara Pawlak

Bertha Metzger

Don Fracul (Don was recently scheduled for surgery but was unable to have it done. He is now resting at home.)

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****

Harold Laderer

2772 Old Enon Unity Road

Enon Valley, PA 16120

Bertha Metzger

Haven Convalescent Home

725 Paul Street

New Castle, PA 16101

Council Highlights – Meeting held December 8, 2020

- This meeting was held virtually via Zoom
- Accepted a motion to allow Good Shepherd Treasurer, Ruth John's to renew our CD or to move the money to another account when the CD matures based on her best judgement at the time.
- Set January 24, 2021 at 12 noon as the date & time of our Annual Congregational Meeting.
- Accepted a motion to support Lutherlyn for our January and February mission projects.
- Approved a motion for Caldwell Heating & Cooling to repair the boiler.

Thank Yous to GSLC

Thank you for
All you Do for our
Cancer Support
Group. WE Appreciate
this A lot The Gift
Certificate Really
help

Ruth &
LARRY
Cross

prayers Bz w/ you

I want to thank
you for the gift
card for Thanksgiving
It was such a
blessing

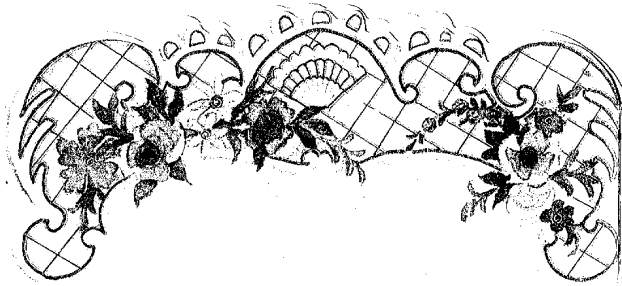
God bless
everyone -
Carlene Mearns

Good Shepherd Friends:
Thank you for the
generosity! It made me
feel so special.

Diana
(and Jon)
Estman

May the blessings of the season fill your heart
with peace and joy throughout the year.

Thank you so much for helping our
Cancer Support Group. It is very much
appreciated. God bless everyone.
Carmello Vargas



There are all kinds of thank-yous —
 all very sincere —
 For help, or for gifts,
 or for just being near.
 There are all kinds of thank-yous
 for all kinds of things,
 But none could mean more
 than the thank-you this brings...

*Your kindness was greatly
 appreciated.
 June Dattis + New Castle
 support group!*




*Good Shepherd
 Lutheran
 Church,
 Not only
 for your kindness,
 but for the wonderful
 way you have
 of making it seem
 your pleasure...*

Thank You!
*We are all so thankful for
 the gift cards. You made so
 many people able to have a
 holiday meal!!*



Circles of Prayer

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.

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: Fred DeDominicis, Curt Johns, Ruth Johns, Terri Lombardo, Linda Marttala, Shirley Mazzocca, Hailey Tammaro, Terri Tankersley, Diana Tervo, Barbara Turk, 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, Kim Cook, and Bertha Metzger.

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.

