



The Shepherd's Pipe



Volume 53, Issue 1

January 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, January 11th at 7:00 pm.**

Help Recording Services

We are currently in the process of upgrading our video and 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, January 24th.

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:

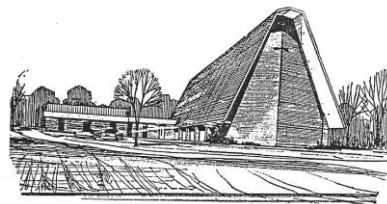
Happy Birthday!

- 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 – Aaron and Kirsten 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.

Church Council

We are still in need of members to fill seats for our church council. If you are interested in taking one of the spots available, please let us know by contacting the church office or any present member of council.

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

Congregational Meeting

Our Congregational Meeting will take place on Sunday, January 30 after worship.

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

We are thinking about and sending all of our prayers and deepest condolences out to the families of Craig Joki and Allen Boyer, who both passed away on December 15, 2021.

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/>

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 WPXI Channel 11 and KDKA Channel 2.

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

CHURCH ROOF Council is reaching out to our current and previous members and friends of the congregation to ask you for your help. We have a roof that is approximately 50 years old that needs to be replaced. At the November congregational meeting, council presented to the congregation our options to replace our almost 50 year old roof. The congregation moved to give council the authority to spend a maximum of \$125,000 to replace the entire roof. If we receive our goal of \$125,000 and are able to replace the roof for less money or we receive more than \$125,000, the additional money will go toward the sanctuary's heating system which also needs replaced. Currently we have \$42,012.24 in the roof fund. To reach our goal of \$125,000, please consider making a lump sum donation or a pledge for a year of special offerings to help finance such a large undertaking. We **THANK YOU** for supporting Good Shepherd in this endeavor and **we look forward to when we will all be back together again under one NEW roof!**

-----updates--

Council approved the motion to hire JB Professional Roofing Company to replace both the flat roof and the shingle roof for \$116,000. The shingled roof will be replaced with a metal roof. The company came out the day after council (the day they were called with the news we wanted to hire them) to do some repairs to the flat roof to get us

through the winter. The hallway is now dry. If someone detects any leaking, please let Ruth Johns know so the roofing company can be contacted again for additional temporary repairs. The plan is to have the flat roof done when the weather permits next year and start the shingle section, if they get good weather, next month.

Two of our heating units in the entrance hallway caught fire recently. The damage was contained to the units themselves. The repairman showed me today the damage to the motor and couldn't believe that we had nothing worse than minimal smoke. We are in the process of having all six units repaired, because they were providing much of the heat to the sanctuary. Eventually, there is a plan to replace all of the more costly units in the sanctuary.

Also, our sound system was worked on this week. If you have a comment about the changes that were made please contact Ruth Johns and we will try to make adjustments. Hopefully, this will enable us to try to stream the services again for those of you who are at home. This Sunday will be our trial run for the new changes to the sound system.

SOS -- I am in need of a typewriter or someone who would be willing to type one 1099NEC tax form so that I can submit it to the IRS. I have the form. I just need to get it typed to save us from having to pay to have it done electronically. Small businesses, such as our church, are not allowed to submit it electronically ourselves. If you can help, please call me. Thanks! Ruth Johns

Council Highlights – Meeting held December 14, 2021

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

CHURCH MATTERS:

- A man named Michael Hooks from Our Master's Voice Audio came out to look at the sound system.
 - He said our headset speaker is high quality.
 - He mentioned the speakers should be in front of the sanctuary rather than behind it.
 - He quoted a price range between \$4,000-\$5,000 for a new speaker system.
- The man who put in the sound system originally has a friend in New Castle who has been contacted and asked to come out to look at the sound system.
- Jodi Tammaro made the motion to accept the date for our next congregational meeting for January 30th after church both virtual and in-person. Linda Marttala seconded. The motion carried.

INTERIM PASTOR'S REPORT:

- Pastor Goetze is planning to go out of town for the month of February. He will ask Pastor Peggy Suhr-Barkley to cover for him in case anyone goes into the hospital. Pastor will also preach on Christmas Eve and the Sunday after Christmas.
- Linda Marttala made the motion to extend Pastor Goetze's service as interim pastor at Good Shepherd for three more months. Shirley Mazzocca seconded. The motion carried.

Fred DeDominicis 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:

- Shenango Fire Hall has decided not to do anymore hall rentals. Good Shepherd will ask them to forward anyone wanting to rent their hall to us. We will also advertise on Facebook.
- Laverne will check into doing a McDonald's fundraiser.

Thank You

Thank you to all who decorated the church and made our Christmas Eve service special!

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.

