



Vicar's Note

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

Jeremiah 29:11 (NRSV)

Dear Friends in Christ,

This past Monday was Memorial Day, a day when we pause to honor those who gave their lives in service to their country. It is a solemn day, but it also has a less solemn significance. It serves as an unofficial transition from spring into summer. Typically, in our congregations it is around this time that Sunday School classes come to an end until the fall. It is also typically around this time that graduations take place. Those graduating from college would have graduated a few weeks ago and high school graduates would be looking forward to their graduation in the coming days or weeks.

As you will find in this newsletter, Good Shepherd has quite a few graduates this year. I want to take this opportunity to say to all of you, CONGRATULATIONS! Your hard work and perseverance has brought you to this point and those things that you have learned will help you as you step into your future. Remember, wherever those steps lead, that you are not alone, as Jesus said to the disciples, "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matt. 28:20b NRSV).

Taking time to recognize your accomplishments also reminds us, that this time in the world is not typical. While your graduations and many other events are not how you or any of us anticipated or would have wanted, know that we celebrate your accomplishments with you and look forward to the day that we can congratulate you face to face.

There is a verse above from Jeremiah, a prophet to the exiled Israelites in Babylon. They also were experiencing time of distress, where nothing was "typical." These words remind us, all of us, that God seeks our welfare and not our harm. With God, we have a future full of hope, just as the Israelites were given hope in these words. As Christians, we recognize that hope is in the eternal life granted to us through God's grace, secured for us by Christ's life, death, and resurrection. Blessings to everyone, and especially our graduates, as we look to the future in hope, a hope not secured by things of the world, but through Christ.

Peace,
Vicar Chris

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

Happy Birthday!

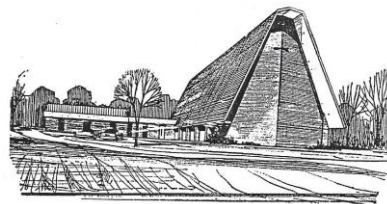
- 3 – James Burick
- 5 – Ruth Ratvasky
- 7 – Amanda Johns
- 10 – Richard Ratvasky II
- 12 – Caden Cook
Dalton Brown
- 13 – Kylee Bruno French
- 14 – Ava DeRiggi
Robby Mrozek
Jodi Tammaro
- 15 – Craig Joki
- 18 – Brian Kuttesch
- 24 – Nicholas Cimini
Lily McConnell
- 26 – Joan Milnes

Happy Anniversary!

- 11 – Christopher and Natalie Beaver
- 18 – Steve and Kathy Cimini
- 24 – Curtis and Amanda Johns
- 25 – Rev. Brandon and Christine Johns
- 27 – Bob and Marci Mrozek

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

**** During this time, we will continue to have virtual services throughout June dependent on changing guidelines for social gatherings. We will communicate changes as they occur. Feel free to reach out to Vicar Chris or church council members with any questions that you may have.**

Worship Services

During this time, we are 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. Worship is still scheduled for Sunday morning at 10:00 am just like normal. 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/>

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.

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 to let us know and we will provide the link for you so that you are able to participate.

Additions to Newsletter

Do you have something to publish in The Shepherd’s Pipe? Please have any submissions into the church office by Monday, June 22.

Mission Project

Our mission support project for June is Lutherlyn. Please know that like so many organizations, they are impacted by the current situation with COVID-19. At this point, they still intend to offer a summer program, but the opening will be delayed at least until July 5th.

We recognize too, that some of you may have wanted to contribute to the mission support project for March and April but didn’t have the opportunity. ELCA Good Gifts was the organization designated for support in those months.

If you would like to support any either of these projects or the ELCA COVID-19 Response Fund, which is discussed at significant length in this edition of the Shepherd’s Pipe, you can continue to do that. As you send in your offerings, we just ask that you designate that support, by indicating either, “Lutherlyn,” ELCA Good Gifts,” or “ELCA COVID-19.” As always, thank you for all of your support!

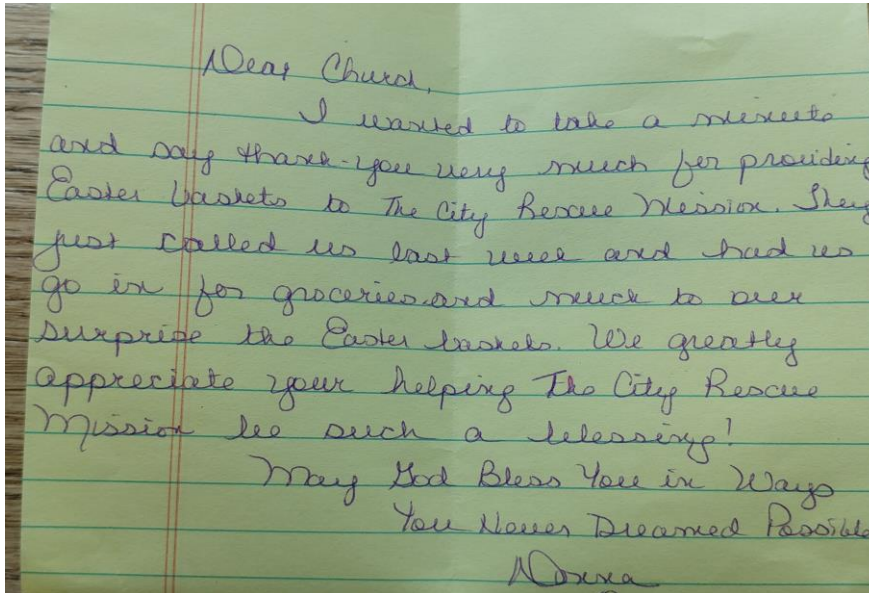
“Zooming” with Danielle

Anyone who is looking for some fun from home can join our exercise group on Mondays and Wednesdays during June at 9AM. You do not have to join with video if you are not comfortable showing off your dance moves or your early morning right-out-of-bed look. If you just want to watch, that’s fine too; although, I promise you at least once you’ll be dancing in your chair! It requires you to download Zoom and join on your computer, iPad or phone. Just text or call Danielle Johns to give her your email address so she can send you a link for our get-togethers. Her telephone number is 330-646-7792.

Portals of Prayer

Editions of the Portals of Prayer are available for July-September. If you would like a copy, please contact the church office and we will make sure that you receive one.

Thank You!



Honoring our 2020 Graduates!

We want to recognize and congratulate our graduates. We are proud of each of you and we pray for God's blessings as you step into your futures!

We have included our graduate's addresses and encourage you all to reach out to them with congratulations and encouragement.

High School Graduates

- Brent Bergbaugher, graduate of Laurel High School. Brent plans to join the workforce.
135 Independence Lane, New Castle, PA 16101
- Callie Bruno, graduate of Shenango High School. Callie plans to attend Slippery Rock University.
64 Links Drive, New Castle PA 16101
- Celeste Weber, graduate of Laurel High School. She plans to attend college after graduation but her decision where to attend is yet to be determined.
182 Copper Road, Ellwood City, PA 16117
- Jacob Snyder, graduate of New Castle High School. He plans to attend Penn State University.
227 E. Northview Avenue, New Castle PA 16105
- Jonathan Tammaro, graduate of Laurel High School. He plans to attend Slippery Rock University.
2927 Glenda Drive, New Castle, PA 16101
- Nicolas Tammaro, graduate of Laurel High School. He plans to attend college after graduation but has not yet determined where.
2927 Glenda Drive, New Castle, PA 16101
- Shannon Linz, graduate of Shenango High School. She plans to attend Penn State Shenango and major in Special Education Studies and play volleyball there.
1687 Frew Mill Road, New Castle, PA 16101

College Graduates

- Chloe Brown, graduate of Westminster College with a degree in Public Relations
1891 Old State Road, New Castle, PA 16101
- Colton Brown- graduate of Pitt University with a degree in Biology
1891 Old State Road, New Castle, PA 16101

Dessert at a Distance

This is an informal gathering time for fellowship, via Zoom. As we will be at home, everyone can have the dessert of their choice, but we will all enjoy the time of fellowship together. Zoom Details are ---

Topic: GSLC - Dessert at a Distance

Time: Jun 4, 2020 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86912024763?pwd=MUs3K1RMMFQ3Ryt1dWRMZmwXZG9qZz09>

Meeting ID: 869 1202 4763

Password: 281987

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,86912024763#,,1#,281987# US (Germantown)

+13126266799,,86912024763#,,1#,281987# US (Chicago)

Dial-in

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 869 1202 4763

Password: 281987

Re-entering the Building

During our last church council meeting on Tuesday May 12, 2020, it was determined that Good Shepherd would remain out of the building at least through June 2020. Worship will continue to be held virtually as indicated above. While no meetings or worship will take place in-person in the building at least until the end of June, council has asked the Vision Committee to consider the details of what coming back into the building might look like. There are many details to consider, including seating, wearing of masks, records of attendance, singing, communion, communication, etc. These things and many others will be considered, and recommendations will be made back to council, always keeping in mind how we can best care for our family in Christ. If you have questions about this process, please let us know. Also, please keep this process of discernment on how best to care for each other as we consider when and how to re-enter the building in your prayers.

Directory Update

We have been working on updating our directory since our last version was published in 2015-2016. We recognize that things have changed since then and are trying to include the best information that we have for the Good Shepherd family. However, we know that there can be oversights. If you have updated information that you would like included in the directory --- maybe an e-mail address or cell phone number that you didn't previously have included ---- and would like that included in the new update, please send that information to the church office at gslcnewcastle@gmail.com or call the office at 724-654-8246 and leave a message to let us know.

Council Highlights – Meeting held May 12, 2020

- This meeting was held virtually via Zoom with all members in attendance.
- Rev. Peter Asplin, Assistant to the Bishop, joined for the first part of the meeting. The purpose to discuss options for Good Shepherd going forward at the conclusion of Vicar Chris's internship. Numerous options were communicated by Pastor Asplin. These will require discernment of the best direction for Good Shepherd.
- Significant discussion surrounding issues related to COVID-19.
 - There are numerous factors to consider related to how and when to re-enter the worship space. Discussion of several of these concluded with a determination that the Vision Committee should consider in further detail and make recommendations back to council.
 - Council determined to worship virtually at least through the entire month of June and to make preparations for how and when to re-enter the building when that time comes. Looking forward to doing that as soon as is possible.
 - Note: As we continue to partner with Trinity in Ellwood City, their normal practice is to move worship to 10:00 am through the summer months. Virtual services will be live-streamed at 10:00 am from June 7th through September 6th.
- A "Dessert at a Distance" fellowship gathering was held via Zoom at the end of April. It was determined that to schedule a second "Dessert at a Distance" for June 4, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

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/>



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Dear partner in ministry,

Weeks may have passed since you last walked in the doors of your congregation and worshiped, face-to-face, with your community of faith. To be sure, being the body of Christ looks and feels differently than it ever has before.

Despite all of this, we are called to be church — together. The ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) looks different now, but it has not stopped. Nor have the needs of our communities and the world. Our church and its leaders continue to minister to its members, to those who are hurting and searching for peace, and to those in need.

The congregations and ministries of this church rely on your weekly offerings and gifts. Without in-person worship services for many weeks or even months, the financial impact could be devastating.

Please continue to give to your congregation and give regularly. Your congregation and its leaders continue to minister to your community of faith. This ministry relies on your weekly offerings. Find out how you can continue your pledge or regular offering through online giving, automatic monthly giving or mail.

I know that, for many of us, this is a time of uncertainty and financial hardship. However, for those of you who are in a position to do more, the needs are great.

In the United States, unemployment has soared. We are already seeing rising demands on our food pantries, homeless shelters and social services. Around the world, millions of people living in poverty are facing this pandemic without reliable access to sanitation and health care.

With congregations and ministries across the country, and a network of companion churches and partners in over 70 countries around the world, we anticipate this crisis will affect us all. Your gifts to the ELCA's [COVID-19 Response Fund](#) will provide funds to the ministries of the ELCA most in need and best positioned to help. This includes our congregations as well as local and churchwide ministries capable of reaching and assisting those in need. **If you are able, please help with a gift today.**

I have been reflecting on the words of Peter: "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received" (1 Peter 4:10). Now is a time when we need one another. Now is a time to live and act as faithful people of God.

Be of good courage, dear church, and remember that Christ is with us now and always.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton".

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Continued ...

In response to this plea from the Bishop, council voted to participate in the ELCA'S COVID-19 Relief Outreach. We have received a PPP loan (which should not have to be repaid) from the bank for \$6,700 to help with our costs for staff and utilities for the next two months. Knowing that there are needs that are extreme outside of our church, council pledged from our church \$670 for the ELCA Relief Fund.

We also want to inform those of you who want to help others during this time how you can donate to COVID-19 Relief as an individual. You may include with your regular offering a donation, by stating on the message line of your check to the church "COVID-19" with the amount you want to go toward the fund or write it on your envelope. If you are donating through ZELLE, include a note on the message line of your offering with the amount to go toward the fund. Separate checks are not necessary. Simply write a note how you would like your check that is written to "Good Shepherd Lutheran Church" to be divided. Checks should not be written to anyone other than "Good Shepherd Lutheran Church." One check to the ELCA COVID-19 Relief Fund will be sent from the church.

FYI: One check from you may be designated to many causes. There is no need to write multiple checks. If you need to for your bookkeeping, it is totally fine, but not necessary on our end for bookkeeping. Also, some of you have been sending in weekly checks. If it would be easier for you to write one check for a longer period of time, that is fine too. If you think of another way we could help you, please don't hesitate to call. Your offering checks may be mailed to the church **2323 Old Butler Rd., New Castle, PA. 16101** or Ruth Johns **2824 Glenda Dr., New Castle, PA. 16101**.

JUST A REMINDER -- Zelle is a way to transfer money between bank accounts. When prompted, the church's "First Name" is **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church** and the "Last Name" is **New Castle**. The phone number connected to the church account belongs to our treasurer, Ruth Johns – **724-657-4733**. This is a safe and secure way to skip sending checks. If you use this service with your bank, we are now able to receive your transfers. You will be given credit to your offering record the Sunday following your transfer. *NEED HELP? CALL RUTH JOHNS---724-657-4733.*

THANK YOU FOR ALL OF THE MONEY THAT HAS BEEN SENT TO DATE!

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: Fred DeDominicis, Curt Johns, Ruth Johns, Terri Lombardo, Linda Marttala, Shirley Mazzocca, Hailey Tamaro, 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 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, Fran Nelson, Don Suorsa, Kim Cook, Bertha Metzger, and Alfred Andrews.

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.

