



The Shepherd's Pipe



Volume 52, Issue 6

June 2021

Worship Services

Beginning on the first Sunday in June, the 6th, we will return to use of Hymn books as well as bulletins. We will continue, though, with COVID protocol such as masking, social distancing, hand sanitizing, etc.

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, June 8th 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 to record live streaming of our church services, please contact the church office and leave a message for K'rin.

Altar Flowers

Beginning in May, we will return to having flowers on the Altar during services. If you are interested in purchasing a vase, the cost is \$18. There is a sign-up sheet for May-July available in the hallway or you may also call the church office and leave a message with the date and the message you would like printed in the bulletin.

Annual Yard Sale

Our annual church bake sale and yard sale will be on Saturday, July 17th. We are in need of volunteers to help, especially on the day of the yard sale, so if you are interested, please call the church office. If anyone has any donations, please call Ruth Johns at 724-657-4733. She will pick up larger items for you!

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

Happy Birthday!

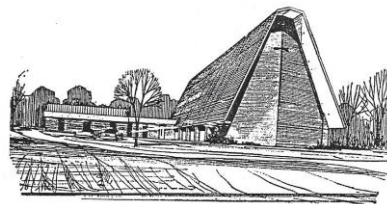
- 3 – James Burick
- 5 – Ruth Ratvasky
- 7 – Amanda Johns
- 10 – Richard Ratvasky II
- 12 – Dalton Brown
Caden Cook
- 13 – Kylee Bruno French
- 14 – Ava DeRiggi
Robby Mrozek
Jodi Tammaro
- 15 – Craig Joki
- 18 – Brian Kuttesch
- 24 – Nicholas Cimini
Lily McConnell
- 26 – Joan Milnes

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

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.

Please Reach Out

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

Kessler, Alba
724-535-7303
PO Box 12
West Pittsburg, PA 16160

Metzger, Bertha
Haven Convalescent Home
725 Paul Street
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

June/July Mission Project

Our current mission project for the months of June and July is collecting back-to-school supplies for the Shenango Area School District.

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 21st.

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/>

** Portals of Prayer are now available for July through September. If you would like a copy, please call the church office and let K'rin know.

From the Desk of Pastor Wil Goetze:

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE DISCIPLES' PRAYER,

prompted by a visit with one of the Elders of GSLC

Person: *Our Father who art in Heaven....Hallowed be Thy Name*

Program: *Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be Done, on earth as in Heaven.*

Provision: Supplying what we need in order to honor the Person and participate in His Program :*Give us this day our daily bread Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.*

Protection: *Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.* Here we ask God to Keep us safe from the forces of evil that

1. tempt us to revere powerful people or other "gods" more than we "hallow/revere" our God
2. tempt us to pay more attention to the "kingdoms" we now live under than to the Kingdom Jesus inaugurated by His Death and Resurrection. Regarding them to be more important than Jesus!
3. tempt us to care more about our will (Agenda) being done, even when it clashes with God's,
4. tempt us to question whether the Lord who rescued us and gave us Eternal Life has either the Power or the Desire to provide us with what we need to live fruitful and obedient lives as His Witnesses in any and all circumstances.

But why do we need to ask God NOT to lead us into Temptation? How could He ever intentionally lead us into a tempting situation? Well the Gospels tell us that the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tested/tempted by the devil. The Father allowed the devil to try to break the bond between Father, Son, and Spirit. Jesus passed the test. We often do not. No, the Father NEVER tempts us to be disloyal to Him. But in following Him we will often enter situations in which the devil, the world, or our own self-centeredness might try to draw us away from following Jesus. When we seek to honor Him and bless our neighbors we will encounter situations in which God calls us to deny ourselves and bear our crosses. If we stay true to Jesus and "yield not to temptation" our faith connection with Him will have been tested and strengthened. If we fail and choose Self over Christ or neighbor, we can confess our disobedience and disloyalty to our Lord. He will forgive us. He will renew us. And maybe next time we won't be so easily deceived by the forces of evil.

So perhaps we could rephrase this request like this: *Lord, You know how weak, selfish and fearful we are. Without You we may well yield to temptation, abandoning Your Cause. So whatever situations You lead us into today, Deliver us from the power of the devil. By Your Grace, Help us to stay true and loyal to You instead, so that we might Honor Your Name and bless our neighbor!*

Thank You

Thank you to Shirley Mazzocca, Fred DeDominicis, Nick Tammaro and Jonny Tammaro for participating in the highway clean up in May.

Worship Services

Each of you are invited to review the precautions that Good Shepherd is implementing and determine if returning to in-person worship is reasonable for you and your situation. We also ask for understanding among our Good Shepherd family for those whose decisions about returning may be different from our own.

As you consider what will be your best option for worship, please keep in mind that Good Shepherd continues to live-stream the Sunday Morning worship service virtually.

The precautions to be implemented for resuming in-person worship are as follows:

- All are asked to wear masks while inside the building. We will wear masks to protect each other.

- Social distancing is expected to be maintained. Pews will be taped off to help maintain social distance. Additionally, we ask that worshippers sit in the same pew as they return to worship in subsequent weeks. Pews will be marked with names to aid in this. Space will also be identified for visitors.
- Singing and corporate speaking will be allowed because of the expectations for masks to be worn and distance to be maintained.
- Hymnals, paper, pencils, etc. will be removed from the pews. However, Bulletins containing Liturgy and hymns will be distributed.
- Doors will be opened so that each person will not need to open the doors. This will reduce touching of a common surface. Entry and exit will be through the main entrance and through the side parking lot entrance.
- A hand sanitizing station will be centrally located in the narthex. Worshippers are encouraged to use this station as they enter the worship space. Other items normally in the narthex will be removed to discourage congregating in this space before or after worship.
- The worship leader will take care of the readings as well as the lighting and extinguishing of the candles. There will be no lector or acolyte taking care of these items.
- Passing the peace will remain corporate, no individual sharing of the peace.
- An offering plate will be placed in a central location. The offering plates will not be passed. Electronic giving through Zelle is encouraged.
- Rather than providing a paper prayer list in the narthex, time will be included in the Prayers of Intercession for people to offer their petitions silently or aloud.
- Holy Communion: upon entering the Sanctuary, you will find small bags containing wafers and lidded cups containing wine on a table at the rear of the church. Please take these with you to your seats. You will not be asked to come up to the altar for communion.
- A record of who attended each weekly worship service will be maintained. In the event that someone determines that they have COVID-19, this will allow the people who could have been exposed to be notified.

In addition to these precautions, we ask that anyone who is not feeling well or is experiencing fever or other symptoms of illness, please remain home so as to protect your neighbor. The precautions that are being implemented for this return are being done to reduce the risk for those coming back into the building. ***We recognize that things, both in and out of our control, could change. Should any changes be made, this will be communicated as quickly as possible.***

Council Highlights – Meeting held May 11, 2021

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

CHURCH MATTERS:

- Ruth and Curt Johns met with someone to discuss the logistics of filming church service with a camera. We must connect the internet to the balcony and buy a computer. We will pursue this idea further.
- Mission Projects:
 - June & July - School supplies for Shenango School District
- We will hold outdoor worship the first Sunday of the summer months (June 6th, July 4th, and August 1st, September 5th) Jodi Tammaro made the motion to hold outdoor service for the first Sunday of the summer months. Grover Welsh seconded. The motion carried.
- The church yard sale/bake sale will be held on July 17th 2021.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND YOUTH GROUP:

- Youth Group will start up again in June

PROPERTY:

- The smoke detectors were not installed. Shirley spoke to a person from the fire department who said by law, we are not required to install smoke detectors.
- The roof is leaking and the roofing company has been called. The flashing on top of the roof needs to be fixed. This will be a \$1,000 job. Ruth Johns made the motion to fix the roof for \$1,000. Linda Marttala seconded. The motion carried.
- The boiler is leaking. Terry Caldwell has been called and is going to come out to fix it soon.

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.

