



# The Shepherd's Pipe



Volume 53, Issue 6

June 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, June 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.**

## Emergency Contact

If you have an emergency and aren't able to get in touch with anyone by calling the church office, please call or email Pastor Wil Goetze. He can be reached at 724-316-8107 or [wgoetze@zoominternet.net](mailto:wgoetze@zoominternet.net)

## 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 20<sup>th</sup>**.

## 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 1/4" 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.

## Pop Can Collection

A reminder that we are continuing to collect pop can tabs which are given to the VFW, who in turn process them for lodging and food for families of children that are in Children's Hospital. Any donations can be left by the main doors or in the library. They will be collected and processed appropriately.

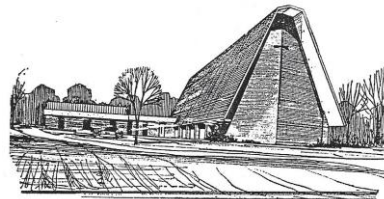
## Best Wishes on Your Special Day to our Members and Friends of GSLC:

### Happy Birthday!

- 5 – Ruth Ratvasky
- 10 – Richard Ratvasky II
- 12 – Dalton Brown  
Caden Cook
- 13 – Kylee Bruno French
- 14 – Ava DeRiggi  
Robby Mrozek  
Jodi Tammaro
- 18 – Brian Kuttesch
- 24 – Nicholas Cimini  
Lily McConnell
- 26 – Joan Milnes

### Happy Anniversary!

- 11 – Christopher and Natalie Beaver
- 18 – Steve and Kathy Cimini
- 27 – Bob and Marci Mrozek



#### Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

2323 Old Butler Road  
New Castle, PA 16101  
724-654-8246  
[www.gslcnewcastle.weebly.com](http://www.gslcnewcastle.weebly.com)

**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.*

## Please Reach Out

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

**Hahn, Linda**  
Rhodes Place  
318 Rhodes Place  
New Castle, PA 16101

**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

## Mission Project

On February 24, Russian forces invaded Ukraine launching land, sea and air attacks. More than five million people have fled their country to find refuge in neighboring countries. There are major humanitarian concerns for both internally displaced people and refugees. Many of the Ukrainians fleeing their homes need shelter and basic necessities. ELCA'S Lutheran Disaster Response (specifically, the Eastern Europe Crisis Response) is working alongside other humanitarian organizations to provide help to these people. We at Good Shepherd are supporting this effort by making it our mission project for the months of April, May and June. If you would like to give, send your donation made out to the church with the memo line marked "Ukraine" or use the offering plate on Sunday to place your cash donation in an envelope marked with "Ukraine" or with a check made out to the church with "Ukraine" on the memo line of a check. Your gifts to the ELCA's Lutheran Disaster Response ("Ukraine") will be used entirely (100%) to provide support for people impacted by conflict in the region.

## Thank You!

K'rin would like to thank everyone for the departing gift. She really enjoyed working with the congregation at Good Shepherd and wishes you all the best!

## 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](http://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/>

## Indoor Yard Sale

Once again, to try to raise money to pay off some of the roof expense, we are looking to hold a yard sale(s) this year. The sale will be held on July 16<sup>th</sup> and tentatively July 23<sup>rd</sup> if there are still items to sell. It will also be dependent on the health of our workers, the number of volunteers and the number of Covid cases in the community.

We have items that we will start to put out after June 4<sup>th</sup>. We also are willing to take your items starting then. Please call Ruth Johns if you want her to open the Shepherd Center or need to arrange for a pickup of items (724-657-4733). You can volunteer to help put out items by calling Ruth. Volunteers are coordinated so that only a few are helping at a time to minimize contact with others. If you are comfortable working the day of the sale please let Ruth know.

## 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!

## Communion

Beginning with the first Sunday in June we will change how we distribute Communion. You will be invited to come up to the altar rail. The pastor will be masked and give you the bread and a worship assistant will give you a pre-filled glass of wine.

## Council Highlights – Meeting held May 10th, 2022

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

### FINANCIAL REPORTS:

- Next month there will be money in the “In The Memory Of” category from the death of Don Fracul.

### CORRESPONDENCE:

- The people from the election will be coming to set up the voting machines on the 13th and 20th of May.

### CHURCH MATTERS:

- Pastor Peter Asplin attended the May council meeting to speak with us about the future options of our church.
  - Currently, there are not many pastors interested in working half-time at a church.
  - Both Prospect & Connoquenessing Lutheran Churches might be interested sharing a pastor.
  - There are also two churches in Zelenople that could be a possibility for us.
  - Pastor Asplin recommended writing a letter to the councils of those congregations to see if they would like to start a conversation with us about sharing a pastor.
  - He also mentioned that we would most likely only be able to afford a half-time pastor between the three churches.
- Terri Lombardo made the motion to allow Pastor Kirk Bish to have a baptism for a family friend at Good Shepherd on July 24th. Keith Kuttensch seconded. The motion carried.
- Members of council will be given church and office keys if they would like them.
- A personal computer and printer have been donated to the church by Keith Kuttensch and his family.

### WORSHIP:

- Terri Lombardo made the motion to have outside worship the first Sunday of July and August. Jodi Tamaro seconded. The motion carried.
- We will start traditional communion again the first Sunday in June with the pastor sanitizing his hands and wearing gloves and a mask.

### PROPERTY:

- Ruth received an email from JB Roofing that said everything on the roof is done. However, Curt is going to double check the job was completely done before Good Shepherd pays them.
- Fred recycled the leftover aluminum materials from the roof that added up to \$39.
- The playground behind the church is not stable. We will take the swings down and possibly look into replacing it or fixing it.

### OLD BUSINESS:

- Ruth contacted Emily Hill to pay the rest of the cost for renting the fellowship hall. We will make sure anyone who rents out the hall pays in full ahead of time before the event.
- The gas bill went up.
- The boiler is leaking oil and it was shut off. We will call to get someone to come and look at it.
- We will have a soup & bake sale at the yard sale on July 16th this year.

## **A Message from the Pastor**

What a beautiful and thoughtful reflection on the word GOSPEL and how wonderful that this Gospel is ours by the Grace of God!!!

Please read these words from Martin Luther and ponder and apply them to your own lives.....

For 'gospel' [Euangelium] is a Greek word and means in Greek a good message, good tidings, good news, a good report, which one sings and tells with gladness.

For example, when David overcame the great Goliath, there came among the Jewish people the good report and encouraging news that their terrible enemy had been struck down and that they had been rescued and given joy and peace; and they sang and danced and were glad for it [I Sam. 18:6].

Thus this gospel of God or New Testament is a good story and report, sounded forth into all the world by the apostles, telling of a true David who strove with sin, death, and the devil, and overcame them, and thereby rescued all those who were captive in sin, afflicted with death, and overpowered by the devil.

Without any merit of their own He made them righteous, gave them life, and saved them, so that they were given peace and brought back to God. For this they sing, and thank and praise God, and are glad forever, if only they believe firmly and remain steadfast in faith.

This report and encouraging tidings, or evangelical and divine news, is also called a New Testament. For it is a testament when a dying man bequeaths his property, after his death, to his legally defined heirs.

And Christ, before His death, commanded and ordained that His gospel be preached after His death in all the world [Luke 24:44–47]. Thereby He gave to all who believe, as their possession, everything that He had.

This included: His life, in which He swallowed up death; His righteousness, by which He blotted out sin; and His salvation, with which He overcame everlasting damnation.

A poor man, dead in sin and consigned to hell, can hear nothing more comforting than this precious and tender message about Christ. From the bottom of his heart he must laugh and be glad over it, if he believes it true.”

–Martin Luther, “Preface to the New Testament (1522)” in Luther’s Works, Vol. 35: Word and Sacrament I, ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 35 (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1999), 358–359.

## **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, Chuck Kennedy, and Keith Kuttesch.
- ❖ 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, and Hailey Tammaro, Youth Group Leader.
- ❖ 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: Linda Hahn, 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

