



The Shepherd's Pipe



Volume 53, Issue 3

March 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, March 8th at 7:00 pm.**

Additions to Newsletter

Do you have something to publish in The Shepherd's Pipe? Please have any submissions into the church office by Monday, March 28th.

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.

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!

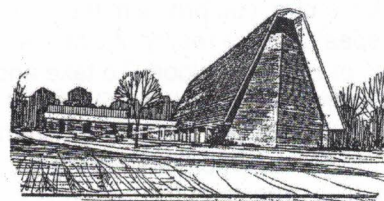
- 1 – Aaron Tervo
Michael Turk
- 2 – Mark DeDominicis
- 6 – Donald Andrews
- 7 – Cody Snyder
- 10 – George Ratkovich
- 11 – Fred DeDominicis
- 17 – Jacob Snyder
- 18 – Valerie Mitcheltree
- 22 – Robert Salmen
- 23 – Kathy Cimini
- 24 – Carter Johns
- 30 – Allyson Mrozek

Happy Anniversary!

- 1 – Michael and Jennifer Turk
- 16 – Mark and Vickie McConnell
- 18 – Mike Jr. and Nancy Kessler
- 22 – Carl and Jodi Tammaro

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

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

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 Thoughts

Some thoughts on Holy Communion by Professor Anthony Thiselton, Canon Theologian of Leicester Cathedral. He suggests that when an ordinary Christian takes Communion, she is actually preaching and proclaiming the Gospel in a public manner!

"The Lord's Supper provides an opportunity for every committed Christian to bear witness and to preach a short sermon. As St. Paul said... 'As many times as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death'... Bread broken speaks of the reality of Christ's death; wine poured out, of His shed blood. To take and to eat, and to drink, proclaims... 'Christ died FOR ME; I am His, and He is mine'... Do we see participation in the Lord's Supper as a confession of faith (Like saying the Creed), a proclamation, (like preaching the sermon), and a witness (like giving our personal testimony)?"

What do you think?

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 WFMJ Channel 21 and KDKA Channel 2.

Easter Flowers

If you're interested in ordering Easter flowers, please call or text Shirley Mazzocca at 724-813-5893. You can write your check out to Feola's Greenhouse. The deadline to order is March 20th. Prices are below:
Tulips - \$10.50 ea
Hyacinth - \$10.50 ea
Lilies - \$12.75 ea

Lent & Lenten Services

Lent is meant to be a season of our lives in which we as Christians set aside extra time to focus our hearts and minds on the suffering and death of Jesus Christ on our behalf.

It is a time for self-reflection, for thinking about what it means to follow Jesus, to practice giving up stuff in order to take up our crosses so we can better see Jesus more clearly, love Him more dearly, and follow Him more nearly day by day. Whether it's giving up candy, TV shows, Twitter-time, one meal a week....forms of FASTING. Or reviewing how we spend money and deciding how we might spend less on luxuries and give more to support the works of Church or Charities....which is called ALMSGIVING. Or taking advantage of the many opportunities our three congregations are offering to get together with our brothers/sisters in Christ in order to ponder and take a closer look at those Scriptures that reveal to us how deeply human beings are effected by Sin, Death and the Devil and about how deeply our Heavenly Father has loved us, sending His only-begotten Son to suffer and die for us so that, believing in Him, we might be saved from the power of those three Forces and instead have Eternal Life.....resulting in PRAYER.

So I invite you to give up some stuff so you can feel just enough deprivation to be reminded on a daily or weekly basis how much it cost Jesus to love and redeem you. And i invite you to make the extra effort to set aside what you would normally be doing during the Wednesday evenings in Lent so you can instead use that time to re-connect with God's Word, allowing His Holy Spirit do some Spring Cleaning in our lives!

Ash Wednesday, March 2

Good Shepherd: Service at 7:00 p.m.

Trinity, Elwood: Services at 1:00 and 7:00 p.m.

St. John's, New Castle: Service at 7:00 p.m. in person. The Holden Evening Prayer service can also be viewed on Zoom. Anyone interested can email Pastor Snyder at stjohnsncpa@gmail.com and he will send you the link.

Midweek Services: March 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6

Good Shepherd: None

Trinity: 6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Service, in person and live-streamed

St. John's: 6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Service in person and via Zoom

Holy Thursday and Good Friday, April 14 and 15

Good Shepherd: Service at 7:00 p.m.

Trinity: Service at 7:00 p.m., including live-streamed

St. John's: Service at 7:00 p.m. in person and via Zoom

Mission Projects

GSLC FAMILY AND FRIENDS,

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.

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

Council Highlights – Meeting held February 8, 2022

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

- The insurance company emailed the church that they are sending out a certified letter canceling our insurance. It is a formality because it is being changed to a Premium Policy that they are now offering.
- We received a letter from Lawrence County about elections - May 17th and November 8th are the election dates this year. Keith Kuttesch made the motion to allow the use of the Shepherd's Center for the elections. Ruth Johns seconded. The motion carried.
- We received a thank you letter from the American Red Cross for our donation of \$520.00.
- We received a letter from the boiler inspector which said to keep the electrical breaker boxes closed so dirt or moisture could enter the system.
- The ELCA sent a letter to predict how much we will be giving each year.
- We received a letter from Shenango township asking if we want to be part of their brochure that they are going to distribute to everyone in the township. To get a spot on the brochure is \$375. Hailey will design the cards. Terri Lombardo made the motion to put our information in the brochure. Keith Kuttesch seconded. The motion carried.

PROPERTY:

- The sanctuary roof is complete, and the workers will move onto the flat roof when the temperature gets warmer. They will return when the snow melts to make sure there are no materials that fell to the ground and got covered with snow. They also created ruts in the grass that they will bring topsoil to fix.
- We will contact the man who plows our parking lot to see if he can also salt. If he cannot, we will contact a friend of Keith's to salt the parking lot.
- The overhead heaters cost \$4,256. A down payment of \$500 was made this month.
- We will contact Dave and Matthew Michaels to see if they are wanting/willing to mow the church's grass this spring.

INTERIM PASTOR'S REPORT:

- We will invite the congregation to bring their bible to the church service to have a more meaningful experience at church.
- The lessons will be posted the week prior for people to read and study ahead of time.

Congregational Meeting Highlights – Meeting held February 13, 2022

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

1. Financial Reports

- a. We need to bring in more money monthly to maintain the life of the church.
- b. Opportunities to bring in more money include sharing the church with another congregation and renting the space for birthday parties, baby showers, etc.
- c. Fred made the motion to accept the financial reports. Jodi seconded. The motion carried.

2. Gift Policy

The gift policy is a guide for donations to the church.

3. Election/Installation of Church Council

- a. Jodi made the motion to elect Keith Kuttesch to a three-year council term. Karen seconded. The motion carried.
- b. Council was installed for 2022

4. Old Business

- a. The roof above the sanctuary is on and complete. The roofing company will fix the ruts they made in the yard when the weather warms up.
- b. We still have not heard from Pastor Asplin about sharing a pastor with another church.

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 Tamaro, Terri Tankersley, Jodi Tamaro, 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 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 Zeligople.
- ❖ 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.