



# The Shepherd's Pipe



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March 2020

## Vicar's Note

Dear Friends in Christ,

Are you ready to spring forward? Mark your calendars because on March 8<sup>th</sup>, we will spring forward into Daylight Savings Time. In many ways, I am ready to spring forward. I actually prefer Daylight Savings Time. However, as I consider this and the messages that we encounter on a daily basis, it seems to me a bit ironic that March 1<sup>st</sup> is the first Sunday of Lent this year. After all, can we really "save" daylight? Of course not. As the earth rotates on its axis and orbits around the sun, we will experience the same amount of daylight whether we change the clocks or not.

The message then seems to be that we need to somehow "save" daylight, so that we can be more productive. We spring forward into a new season where we can accomplish more, moving from one thing to the next, drawn into the busyness of life.

The irony then, for us connected to the church, seems to be that during the season of Lent the message is one that invites us to "slow down." As we begin the season of Lent, we enter into a time where we embrace a variety of spiritual disciplines. Hopefully renewing our focus on and our relationship with God. Your practices may be ones of fasting (giving something up for Lent), or focused time with God in prayer. Maybe your practices include intentional outreach into the community. Whatever your practices or disciplines are during Lent, I invite you to consider taking a moment each day, a moment away from the speed of the world around you and "just be" with God.

Peace,  
Vicar Chris

*"Be still, and know that I am God!"*  
Psalm 46:10a (NRSV)

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

### Happy Birthday!

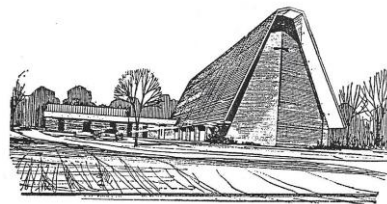
- 1 – Aaron Tervo  
Michael Turk
- 2 – Mark DeDominicis
- 6 – Donald Andrews
- 7 – Cody Snyder
- 10 – George Ratkovich
- 11 – Fred DeDominicis
- 17 – Jacob Snyder
- 18 – Valerie Mitcheltree
- 22 – Robert Salmen
- 23 – Kathy Cimini
- 24 – Carter Johns
- 30 – Allyson Mrozek

### Happy Anniversary!

- 1 – Michael and Jennifer Turk
- 16 – Mark and Vickie McConnell
- 18 – Mark 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

## **Thank You!**

Thank you to everyone who donated meal kits for the City Rescue Mission. They have been delivered and are very much appreciated!

## **Mid-Week Lenten Services**

Trinity Lutheran Church (207 Spring Avenue, Ellwood City, PA 16117) has invited members of Good Shepherd to join them for their mid-week soup suppers and Lenten services every Wednesday starting March 4 – April 1. The soup supper will begin at 5:30 pm and worship will begin at 7:00 pm. Vicar Chris and Pastor Peggy Suhr-Barkley will be working together to explore the theme “Living our Baptism.”

## **Easter Flowers**

If you are interested in purchasing Easter flowers, please call the church office or pick up an order form from the table in the narthex and return to the church office. Orders are due by Sunday, March 22. Pricing is as follows: Mums, Tulips and Hyacinths are \$10.50 each, Tulips are \$11.50 each. Checks can be made out to Feola’s Floral Shop.

## **Easter Basket Project**

Volunteers are needed to help make 100 Easter baskets to be donated to the City Rescue Mission for local children in Lawrence County. We will begin making the baskets on Saturday, April 4 at 9:00 am in the Shepherd Center. Please consider helping to give our community children a great Easter!

## **Council Meeting**

Our monthly Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10 at 7:00 pm.

## **Vision Committee**

Members of the Vision Committee will meet on Tuesday, March 17 at 6:00 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 23.

## **Mission Project**

Until the end of April, we will be collecting offerings for ELCA Good Gifts including Lenten offerings.

## **Weather Cancellations**

In the event that we have would need to cancel any church events or services due to inclement weather, it will be communicated through WPXI Channel 11 and KDKA Channel 2.

## **Join Us for Zumba!**

Zumba is here at Good Shepherd! Please join us on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 am. The cost is \$4 and our instructor is Danielle Johns.

## **Shepherd Center Usage**

Our Shepherd Center policy for usage has been updated as of December 10, 2019. If anyone is interested in using the center, please contact the church office for a new copy.

## **Snack Sign-Ups**

A new snack sign-up sheet has been placed on the narthex table for you to volunteer to take a turn bringing in snacks for fellowship after church. Please consider being a part of this ministry by bringing in food or sponsoring a week of treats.

## **Bible Study**

Our Bible Study with Vicar Chris will take place on Tuesday, March 10 and Tuesday, March 24 at 2:00 pm.

## **Community Church Women**

All women of GSLC and your friends are invited to join with the Community Church Women, which is a Christian group from New Castle and surrounding area churches. The first meeting of the year will be on Friday, March 6 at 12:00 pm at Gallo's Italian Villa. The cost is \$10 per person and reservations must be made on or before 12:00 pm on Monday, March 2 by contacting Irene Matas at 724-658-8855.

## **GSLC Updates**

- Soffit & Fascia
  - The project has been completed and the new Soffit and Fascia looks wonderful. As this work was being completed some concerns with the roof were revealed. The area of primary concern is over the Shepherd's Center. Church Council has started a "Roof Fund," in anticipation of work that will need to be completed. We have just begun the process to investigate what the scope of this project will be. We are reaching out to roofing contractor's that work on commercial buildings. If you have any contacts with commercial roofers, please let the church office know so that we can reach out to multiple places.
- Heating System.
  - Upon consideration of the current heating situation in the sanctuary, Church Council is putting together a task force to consider the multiple options that could address this situation and make recommendations back to council. If you are interested in serving on this task force, please contact Vicar Chris. There are a variety of options and each will have long-term pros and cons.
- Mission Statement
  - Church Council reviewed Good Shepherd's existing Mission Statement and acting on the recommendation of the Vision Committee is reintroducing that Mission Statement. Our Mission Statement is:
    - 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.
- Attendance / Giving – January 2020
  - Average Attendance = 34
  - Total Offerings = \$6,532.55

## 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/>

These are just a few of the resources that are available. If there is something that you have used and found particularly helpful, please let us know in the office so that we can share it with others.

## **Learning Moments**

In January, Vicar Chris started to provide some Learning Moments during the Sunday Morning announcements, which grew out of a discussion with the internship committee. These do not happen every Sunday, but here you will find the moments that have been shared so far.

### **January 5, 2020 – Liturgy**

This morning, I thought it would be appropriate to start with a word that is at the heart of our worship. Liturgy. As a word itself, liturgy is often misunderstood as somehow being tied to formal vs informal worship --- but the word liturgy actually comes from a Greek word and means work of the people. That is really what our Liturgical worship is about --- it is about us --- all of us coming together to worship God. It is not the effort of one or two people, but of the entire gathering. That is liturgy.

### **January 12, 2020 – Baptism and the Sign of the Cross**

As we started last week, I do have a learning moment again this week and although I had thought about some other things, it seemed to me that today's moment should be related to Baptism. Last week, I shared that these learning moments are the result of a discussion that took place in the internship committee --- one of the discussion points was related to making the sign of the cross and why we do that. There can be a variety of reasons, but as our service begins with the brief order for confession and forgiveness, maybe take note of those first words in the order --- the ones in red. They say, "The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism. In Baptism we as Christians are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. We are sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Our Baptism's are something to remember everyday, because as we find in Luther's small Catechism, Baptism is water enclosed in God's command and connected to God's Word. It brings about forgiveness of sins, redeems from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe it, as the words and promise of God declare. There is much more that could be said about Baptism, but today, I invite you to make the sign of the cross in remembrance of your Baptism.

### **February 2, 2020 – Groundhog's day – Rooted in Christian Tradition**

How many of you know whether Phil saw his shadow this morning? Now – how many of you know that this tradition is rooted in religious tradition? Today we celebrate the Presentation of Our Lord and because of Simeon's words in our Gospel – That Jesus was the light for revelation to the nations, this day became the day which people celebrated Candlemas – a day when people would bring their candles for the year to church and have them blessed. In the midst of that celebration it became common to understand that if Candlemas was fair and bright, then winter had another round – but if Candlemas was cloudy and dreary – then Spring was on its way early. In Germany – this became associated with the hedgehog seeing its shadow or not and as German Settler's came to America, they brought this tradition with them. So that's how Groundhog's day finds its roots in religious tradition.

## **Council Highlights – Meeting Held February 11, 2020**

- Plans are being made for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 25 from 4:00 – 7:00 pm. Any money donated will go to the general fund, with 10% going to support the Lenten Mission Project.
- The Youth Group enjoyed a Super Bowl party at the church. The Youth Group continues to do well under the Hailey Tamaro's direction.
- I was reported that CVS finished the Soffit and Fascia project earlier today and we will be making the final payment for the project in the coming days. This project revealed some concerns with the roof, particularly over the Shepherd's Center. We will start to look for contractors to see what actions will be necessary to address the roof concerns.
  - Council determined to begin a Roof Fund.
  - Thank you to Fred DeDominicis for reclaiming the aluminum from the project for recycling. Proceeds from this will go toward the Roof.
- Discussion of another property concern related to the Heating system. Given the variety of options to address the concern, it was determined that a task force be created to evaluate the options and make recommendations to Church Council on how to proceed.
- Recommendations from the Vision Committee resulted in a reintroduction of Good Shepherd's Mission Statement to the Congregation. Mission projects were recommended to the council and we will be supporting ELCA Good Gifts through the end of April, including any special Lenten Gifts.
- Thanks to Michonda Weber -- through her contacts at Faith Country Chapel, we have identified a contractor to plow the parking lot on as-needed basis.
- Good Shepherd will once again have a bake sale on Election Day, Tuesday April 28, 2020. Linda Marttala will reach out to Thrivent for support. Proceeds will go to the Roof Fund, with 10% going to support Lutherlyn.

## **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.

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

- APRIL
  - 5 Palm Sunday
  - 9 Passover
  - 10 Good Friday
  - 12 Easter
  - 14 Church Council
  - 28 Primary Election

Zumba is currently being held every Wednesday at 9:00 AM in the Shepherd Center.

Committee meeting dates and events will be added as they are planned. Keep checking back for updates!

