



# The Shepherd's Pipe



Volume 52, Issue 5

May 2021

## Worship Services

Beginning on the first Sunday in June, the 6<sup>th</sup>, 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, May 11th at 7:00 pm.**

## Help Recording Services

If you are interested in helping to record live streaming of our church services, please contact Hailey Tammaro at 724-674-6296.

## 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.

## Thoughts and Prayers

Our sympathies to the family of Marcia Nagy, who passed away on April 18, 2021.

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

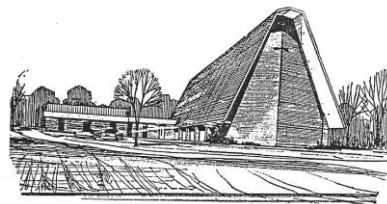
### Happy Birthday!

- 1 – Jody Vanassa
- 4 – David Michael  
Mark McCullough
- 8 – Kevin Braun  
Heather Ratvasky
- 9 – Christian Maxwell
- 10 – Jack Warneck
- 12 – Patti Michael
- 16 – Dennis Eagan
- 17 – Diane Vanassa
- 19 – Laverne Ratkovich
- 20 – Sherry Badger  
Julie DeDominicis
- 22 – Ansen Westrick
- 23 – Jace Leonard
- 24 – Irene Fracul
- 30 – Ashley Augustine Rhoades  
Christine Bruno  
Ridge Tervo
- 31 – Bertha Metzger  
Micah Worek

### Happy Anniversary!

- 5 – Henry and Linda Marttala
- 17 – Raymond and Diana Braun
- 21 – Scott and Sky Suorsa
- 22 – Donald and Beth Suorsa
- 24 – Brian and Stefanie Leonard
- 27 – Timothy and Brenda Johnson

### Our Mission



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
of New Castle

*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.*

## 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

## Highway Cleanup

On Sunday, May 2 after church services, we will continue our Adopt A Highway highway cleanup following COVID restrictions.

## Additions to Newsletter

Do you have something to publish in The Shepherd's Pipe? Please have any submissions into the church office by Monday, May 24th.

## 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](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/>

## 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.***

## May Mission Project

“Love the child, save the horse, give strength and hope through faith.” You can find this motto on the website of a local Christian ministry, Ready Yourselves Youth Ranch.

Ready Yourselves Youth Ranch is a non-profit, Christian ministry that connects horses in need of rescue with children dealing with challenges and difficulties who need to learn about the hope and healing found in Jesus Christ. In 2010, the founders and directors, Micheline and Mathew Barkley, desired to combine her broken childhood and his equestrian experience to rescue horses and mentor children facing conflicts and challenges of their own. When God blessed them with fifty acres of land in New Brighton, PA, they gathered a dedicated group of volunteers and mentors to bring their faith, time and talents to make RYYR a place

where God's love and grace enables horses and children to trust and love again.

The mission of RYYR is to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ by bringing together rescue horses, Children in need (6-18) and volunteer mentors ready to shine the light of Christ into the darkest night, creating a safe and loving environment ready for God to heal.

If you would like to learn more about this ministry and what kind of support they need, go to [www.ryyr.org](http://www.ryyr.org).

## **Council Highlights – Meeting held April 13, 2021**

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

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- We received a letter to file Good Shepherd Lutheran Church's registered name. This is something that must be done every ten years and costs \$70.
- Linda Marttala made a motion for Ruth Johns to file Good Shepherd Lutheran Church's registered name. Shirley Mazzocca seconded. The motion carried.
- We received a letter from Adopt A Highway saying we could continue our highway cleanup following COVID restrictions. We will clean up our area of the highway on May 2nd after church.

### **CHURCH MATTERS:**

- The audio on the Facebook live stream has not been clear or loud. We will look into getting better technology for future live streams.
- We discussed keeping music in the bulletin or taking it out to save paper. We also discussed using hymnals again and rotating them out each Sunday to let them sit and allow the virus to "die." This may start in June depending on the status of the virus.
- Shirley Mazzocca made the motion to start using the With One Voice hymnals on June 6th depending on the status of the virus. Michonda Weber seconded. The motion carried.
- A member of the church has offered to donate \$500 towards the purchase of a new camera to live stream the church services. Thank you!
- Thoughts on returning to in-person council meetings - most people wanted to keep the meetings virtual.
- Michonda Weber made a motion to approve the gift policy. Linda Marttala seconded. The motion carried.
- The gift policy will be re-approved on 4/13/2022.
- Terri Lombardo had a conversation with Pastor Asplin about the future of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. We are asked to think about how we feel about the future of the church.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND YOUTH GROUP:**

- Hailey and Scott are going to start leading the youth for Bible study outside at the church following COVID restrictions.

#### **PROPERTY:**

- The boiler is leaking again. Caldwell has been called.
- Jodi and Shirley will look into obtaining new smoke detectors from the Shenango Township Fire Department for the church.
- We need to think about whether we want to allocate our money towards heating or the roof.
- An area in the ceiling by the main doors is leaking again. Ruth will call Slippery Rock Roofing to fix this problem.
- Fred will replace the dusk to dawn lights at the church.
- Thank you to Fred, Shirley, Rosina, Jim, and Grover for cleaning the church so well!

## **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.

