



## 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, May 10<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, May 23rd.**

## 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.

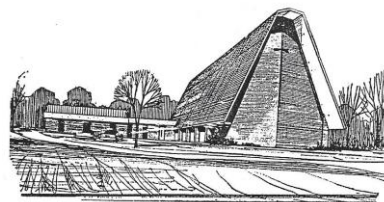
## Best Wishes on Your Special Day to our Members and Friends of GSLC:

### Happy Birthday!

- 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 Surosa
- 24 – Brian and Stefanie Leonard
- 27 – Timothy and Brenda Johnson



#### 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

## Birthday Greetings

Bertha Metzger is turning 95 on May 31st! Please consider sending her a card to help her celebrate!  
Haven Convalescent Home  
725 Paul Street  
New Castle, PA 16101

## Thank You!

Thank you to all of you who donated or made pledges to donate this year to the roof fund. We are still far away from our roof fund goal of approximately \$116,496. The new roof has been installed. Metal roofing was put over the A-frame and a blown-on roofing system was used on the entire flat roof surface. We have you to thank for that. We depleted our Building Fund and Roof Fund money along with taking \$6,511.27 out of our General Fund to make our second payment of \$38,832. The final installment of \$38,832 will be due soon. Therefore, approximately \$45,000 still needs to be raised to pay back the General Fund to cover the roof expense. (Unfortunately, we also had fires in some of the overhead heating units in the hallways after we committed to the roof project which took away money that was in the Building Fund we were going to spend on the roof.) So, if you haven't donated yet or would like to make an additional donation to the Roof Fund you still can be a part of this great endeavor. Please mark your special offering "Roof Fund." Thank you again for your offerings that have already been made or pledged!

## 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. This year, the times and dates are tentatively set for Saturdays in the middle of July. When and how many sales are 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 4th. 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!

## 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.

## Council Highlights – Meeting held April 12th, 2022

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

### CORRESPONDENCE:

- We received a letter from the ELCA synod regarding the new COVID protocol. Currently, we are in the "green" phase of the pandemic which means masks are not required indoors. Keith Kuttesch made the motion to switch to making masks optional during church. Chuck Kennedy seconded. The motion carried. We will make sure to let any lay worship leaders coming into the church know of our new mask policy.

### CHURCH MATTERS:

- K'rin Fortuna, our church secretary, has resigned. Our organist, Evy Amerson, is interested in the position. Ruth Johns made the motion to hire Evy Amerson as our new church secretary at \$11 an hour for 10 hours per week. Terri Lombardo seconded. The motion carried.
- Ruth Johns made the motion to amend the insurance following the list that was sent out previously that the premium would be lowered except for the deductible that would stay at \$1,000. Keith Kuttesch seconded. The motion carried.
- Keith Kuttesch made the motion for Kristina Egetoe to use the fellowship hall for a graduation party on June 4th. Terri Lombardo seconded. The motion carried.
- Ruth John made the motion for Karen Esposito to use the fellowship hall from April 25 – May 17 for her furniture sale. Fred DeDominicis seconded. The motion carried.
- We are going to ask an organist who has played at the church before to fill in for Evy while she is on maternity leave. If she is not able to play, Chuck Kennedy will check with Westminster College Music Department to see if any musician there is able to play.
- There will be a special meeting on April 20th, 2022 to go over the constitution.
- We discussed the well-being and the future of Good Shepherd.
- The fellowship hall will be blocked off from June 5 - the end of July to prepare for the yard sale.
- The church swing set is broken in a few places, and we will look into fixing it or removing it.

### FELLOWSHIP:

- Shirley Mazzocca sent out Easter cards to the shut ins.

### PROPERTY:

- The roofers will be completing the roof soon now that the weather has improved.
- We are having drainage issues in the side yard near the classroom side of the building. Fred and his brother have offered to dig a ditch and insert a pipe to help alleviate the issue. Good Shepherd would only have to pay the cost of the materials. Fred will price the materials and get back to us.

### OLD BUSINESS:

- We have not heard back from Pastor Jewell about sharing Good Shepherd with New Creation Free Methodist Church.

## **Welcome to our new Church Secretary!**

We are pleased to announce that Evy Amerson, who serves as our organist, has accepted this position. Thank you to K'rin Fortuna for her dedicated service the last three years. We wish her success in her new endeavor and many blessings to her and her family.

## **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.

