



The Shepherd's Pipe



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November 2019

Vicar's Note

Dear Friends in Christ,

Give Thanks! A few weeks ago, as we were greeting each other after worship, someone said to me, "It's about an attitude of gratitude." Our gospel lesson that Sunday was from Luke chapter 17, where Jesus healed ten people afflicted with leprosy. One of them, the Samaritan, seeing that he was healed, turned back, praised God with a loud voice, prostrated himself at Jesus' feet, and thanked him.

As we enter into the month of November, many will celebrate and give thanks at a meal. This won't be the reality for everyone, however, as we live in world where hunger is reality. Recognizing the brokenness of the world, it may seem difficult to have an "attitude of gratitude." Or, it may seem that we are merely giving thanks for the blessings in our own lives, which is part of it. However, I am reminded of the words that are spoken as we come together for another meal.

As we prepare to come to the table for Holy Communion, the presiding minister invites all present to give thanks and words similar to these are exchanged, "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God; **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**" The presiding minister then follows with words similar to these, "It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise..." (ELW, 129-130). In this meal at Christ's table, all are invited and there is always enough. It is certainly right for us to give thanks and praise, but did you catch those words, "at **all** times and in **all** places." It is not just about this meal, it is about all the gifts that come from God; our very beings, our lives, our salvation.

In our world it can be easy to focus on the negative and that can make an "attitude of gratitude" almost impossible. One of the things that I have found helpful is to look for at least one thing each day, for which I can say thank you. I invite you to do the same this month. Each day take a moment and give thanks to God.

Vicar Chris

"O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!"

Psalm 118:1 NRSV

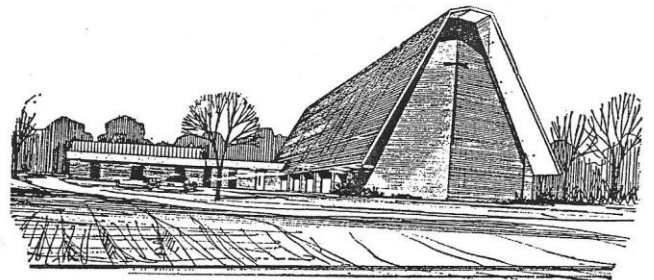
Best Wishes on Your Special Day in November:

Happy Birthday!

- 1 – Deanna Fracul
- 3 – Donald Fracul
Bonita Salmen
- 4 – Henry "Chip" Marttala
Shirley Mazzocca
- 6 – Frank Augustine
Gary Brown
James LeComte
Patricia Maga
Nora Tervo
- 7 – Amy Bruno
- 11 – Harold Laderer
Sandra Radziwon
- 12 – Rosina Mowrey
- 13 – Anna Johns
- 14 – David Boyer
Robin McBride
Ethan Skuba
- 15 – Doris Laderer
- 16 – Cora Christoforetti
- 18 – Ethan Johns
- 19 – Allen Boyer
- 20 – Judy Morella
- 25 – Carlyn Houk
Arlene Wright
- 27 – Alisha Cook
- 29 – Robin Houk
Grace Mrozek
- 30 – Mary Margaret Penwell
Lily Johns

Happy Anniversary!

- 3 – Steve and Isa Skuba
- 6 – Jason and Dawn Klien
- 16 – Allen and Shirley Boyer
- 17 – Frank and Christine Bruno & Jody and Diane Vanassa
- 19 – Leroy and Lynne Ransom
- 20 – Patrick and Valerie Mitcheltree



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
of New Castle



Happy Veterans Day!

Thank you so much for your service! A heartfelt Veterans Day salute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice, both past and present, for our country while protecting the freedoms of our great nation.

Congregational Meeting

Our Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 10 after our worship service. Lunch and games will also be provided!

Council Meeting

Our monthly Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 12 at 7:00 pm.

Vision Committee

Members of the Vision Committee will meet on Tuesday, November 19 at 6:00 pm.

Bible Study

Our Bible Study with Vicar Chris will take place on Tuesday, November 12 and Tuesday, November 26 at 2:00 pm.

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.

***** There will be NO Zumba class on Wednesday, November 6.**

Christmas Program & Luncheon

Our annual Christmas Program and Fellowship Luncheon will be held on Sunday, December 22 after our service.

Additions to Newsletter

Do you have something to publish in The Shepherd's Pipe? Please have any submissions into the church office by November 25.

Daylight Savings

Remember to set your clocks one hour behind on Sunday, November 3!

Thank You!

Thanks to Fred and Darlene DeDominicis for updating the church sign out front in September.

All Saints Sunday

We will remember the following member who has passed since last All Saints Day, Patricia Salmen. She passed away November 23, 2018.

November Mission Project

This month, we will be collecting non-perishable items for our Thanksgiving Food Drive.

Pull Tab Challenge

Pull tabs are still being collected for Thrivent's Pull Tab Challenge for the Ronald McDonald House until Tuesday, December 3. There is a box in the library where you may place them.

Christmas Decorating

We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Sunday, November 24 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm.



We asked – You responded!

Our grand total for the Alpha Omega Center went up after we asked if there was any more money out there. We are pleased to let you know that the final total for the Alpha Omega Center mission project was \$366.87!



Election Day is Tuesday, November 5th. We will be holding a bake sale during the election so we need your kitchens to be humming! We have been asked if the donations need to be homemade and the answer is "No." We're not giving up any of our secret recipes, but some might include a charge card and Giant Eagle, Costco or Sam's. We've sold out the previous two elections, so please consider making a donation. During the yard/bake/soup sale, we had a special request for the cherry pie we had at our last election bake sale. If you were the one who donated the pie, please try to donate another. Your pie has a following! We will be packaging your donations the night before. If there are any questions or you'd like to volunteer to work the bake sale, please see or call Ruth Johns at (724) 657-4733.



THANK YOU TO SO MANY OF YOU!!!

Our Good Shepherd family and friends outdid themselves again this year. Through all of our hard work, donations and purchases we raised \$3,046.77. Out of this amount, we have donated \$305 to Meals on Wheels. The rest of the money will be put in the General Fund. We also donated items to The Friends of the New Castle Library for their yard sale, jewelry to Passavant for their second-hand store for their residents, clothes and shoes to Goodwill, comfy blankets and sheets to the Lawrence County Humane Society, and the remaining treasures were given to New Bedford Presbyterian Church for their bazaar.

We tried something new this year and didn't price anything. For the most part, it worked out. We will make some adjustments next year and price some larger items; so if you are worried we will only get a dollar for your valuable, you can still donate it next year, put a minimum price on it, and we will make sure that your wish is honored.

Many people came and didn't even purchase anything, yet said they wanted our church to do well, so they gave us a donation anyhow. It is great to know that the community cares about us!

Missed this year was Fran Nelson. Fans of your macaroni salad were sorry to hear you were not feeling well enough to make your delicious dish! We hope you are doing better, Fran!

A special thank you to Linda Marttala, who obtained a Thrivent grant in the amount of \$250 to pay for the advertising and the cost of items for the kitchen. If anyone else is a Thrivent member who can apply for a Thrivent grant, please let the office know so we can assist you in applying for a grant for our next event.

My neighbors are already giving me items for next year! Just saying, it's never too early to start thinking about next year!

Thanks to Everyone!

The Bake Sale/Soup Sale/Yard Sale and Kitchen Staff

Council Highlights – Meeting held on October 8, 2019

A proposed budget was developed, which will be presented to the congregation for approval on November 10, 2019. The budget was created with consideration of compensation guidelines from the SWPA synod. There was discussion of how to present the budget, in terms of a full-time called pastor or in terms of a ½ time called pastor. The proposed budget is based on estimated cost for a full-time pastor with a total for 2020, including mission outreach, of \$136,255. This is \$2,527 less than the 2019 budget.

The congregational meeting will be held on November 10, 2019 following worship. In addition to consideration and approval of the 2020 budget, we will elect four members to 3-year terms on church council. The youth will coordinate a simple lunch. We will also provide an opportunity for fellowship, including games and cornhole.

We will celebrate the baptism and first communion of JJ Weber on October 20, 2019.

On Sunday December 22, 2019, we will have a Soup and Sandwich luncheon after worship.

Bids for the soffit and fascia project were received from CVS (Creative Vinyl Systems) and Penn-Ohio Roofing and Siding, LLC. These bids came in at \$14,869 and \$16,805, respectively. While the bids were comparable in terms of quoted pricing, the Penn-Ohio bid excluded significant items from the scope of the bid. Several questions were outstanding concerning the CVS bid. It was determined that answers to these questions would be sought and a special council meeting would be held on October 13, 2019 after worship to review the answers and determine whether or not to move forward with CVS.

The vision committee is in the process of updating the Shepherd Center / Building use policy, based on the ELCA template. This will be presented to the council for final approval.

Reports were received from the Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Vicar Chris, and Pastor Peggy.

The next council meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

Special Council Meeting – Held October 13, 2019

This meeting was held for the sole purpose to review the answers posed concerning the CVS bid for the soffit and fascia project and determine if we could move forward with CVS for this project.

Acceptable answers to the questions were received. A motion was made to award the contract to CVS, it was seconded, and the motion carried. Work on the project is expected to start in November.

Special Council Meeting – Held October 27, 2019

This meeting was held to review a request for use of the Shepherd Center. The request was made by Cory Miller to use the center for her granddaughter's birthday party on Saturday, November 16, 2019. She will not be using the kitchen and is expecting between 20 and 30 people.

A motion was made to allow Cory to use the Shepherd Center, following the current "Guidelines for Use of the Shepherd Center." The motion was seconded and carried.

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: Theresa Andrews, Fred DeDominicis, Brian Johns, Curtis Johns, Curt Johns, Terri Lombardo, Linda Marttala, Hailey Tamaro, Terri Tankersley, Diana Tervo, Barbara Turk, 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, Don Michael, Fran Nelson, Don Suorsa, Kim Cook, and Alfred Andrews.

Saturday Prayer

- ❖ For the people of the Passavant Retirement and Health Center in Zelienople.
- ❖ 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

- NOVEMBER
 - 5 Outreach Election Day Bake Sale
 - 10 Congregational Meeting
 - 12 Church Council
 - 14 Volunteers Working at Heinz Field
 - 24 Decorate the Church for Christmas
 - 28 Thanksgiving
 - 30 Volunteers Working at Heinz Field

- DECEMBER
 - 10 Church Council
 - 22 Children's Christmas Program Followed by Luncheon
 - 24 Christmas Eve Service
 - 25 CHRISTMAS

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!

