



# The Shepherd's Pipe



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October 2019

## Vicar's Note

Dear Friends in Christ,

Fall is officially here! One of the things I love about living here in western PA is the changing of the seasons. At this point in the year that means that those beautiful fall colors will be here soon. Even though I know those colors will only be around for a short time, for those few weeks I will enjoy the colors of fall. I will be reminded in these fall colors of the beauty of God's creation.

The beautiful colors that so many of us will enjoy will pass away. We will greet (some of us more happily than others) the cold and snow of winter. The snow will eventually melt and combine with spring rains to become the water of new life. These changes of seasons and the powerful connection to water and life then serve as reminders of baptism.

In the waters of baptism, water connected with God's command and Word, we find forgiveness of sins, redemption from death and the devil, and eternal salvation through belief in it, just as the words and promise of God declare. Just like the leaves that will pass away this fall and the new life that will witness in the spring, in the waters of baptism we encounter our own life cycles. The waters of baptism signify that the old sinful creature in each of us is to be drowned daily and that each day through these waters we rise up to live a new life in Christ.<sup>1</sup>

I hope that you will be able to savor a few moments this fall encountering the beauty of God's creation. As you do, be reminded of those grace-filled waters of baptism. Water that provide strength and comfort to us daily in the midst of all the struggles of this life. Water combined with God's word, that Martin Luther reminds us that we can boldly say in the face of those struggles, "But I am baptized! And if I have been baptized, I have the promise that I shall be saved and have eternal life, both in soul and body."<sup>2</sup> Thanks be to God for the gift and promise found in baptism.

Vicar Chris

<sup>1</sup> The Small Catechism, The Sacrament of Holy Baptism in Robert Kolb and Timothy J. Wengert, eds., *The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2000), 359-360.

<sup>2</sup> The Large Catechism, Fourth Part: Concerning Baptism in Kolb and Wengert, 462.

## Best Wishes on Your Special Day in October:

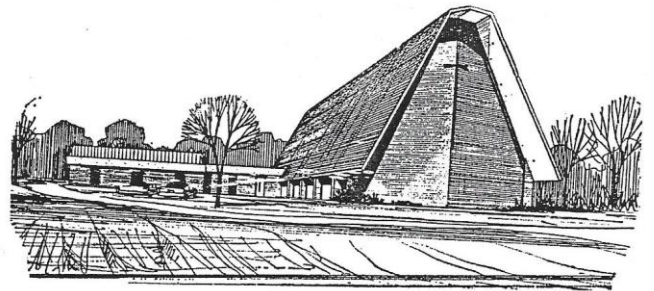
### Happy Birthday!

- 1 – Nancy Eagan  
Viola Ratvasky
- 4 – George Parnay
- 7 – Raymond Reeher
- 8 – Erica Boyer
- 10 – Justin Kuttesch
- 11 – Fred Spor, Jr.
- 12 – Corey Davis  
Anne McCullough
- 13 – Elsie Stimple
- 14 – Gordon North
- 16 – Nancie Hicks
- 17 – Sam Byler  
Bill McElravy
- 20 – Janet Linz
- 21 – Chloe Brown  
Colton Brown
- 22 – Brianna Whitmire
- 23 – Rose Bender
- 26 – Megan Mrozek
- 31 – Carl Turk

### Happy

### Anniversary!

- 10 – Harry and  
Barbara Pawlak
- 11 – David and  
Michelle Plaufcan
- 15 – Carl and  
Barbara Turk
- 18 – Eric and  
Melodi Herb
- 22 – Michael and  
Janet Linz
- 23 – Dennis and  
Nancy Eagan
- 24 – George and  
Laverne  
Ratkovich



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
of New Castle

## **Out of Office**

Vicar Chris will be out of the church office Monday, October 14 – Wednesday, October 16 at Synod Convocation.

## **Additions to Newsletter**

Do you have something to publish in The Shepherd's Pipe? Please have any submissions into the church office by the last Monday before the last Friday of the month.

## **Council Meeting**

Our monthly Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 8 at 7:00 pm.

## **Vision Committee**

Members of the Vision Committee will meet on Wednesday, October 22 at 6:00 pm.

## **Bible Study**

Our Bible Study with Vicar Chris will take place on Tuesday, October 8 and Tuesday, October 22 at 11:00 am.

## **Looking Ahead – Election**

### **Day Bake Sale**

The bake sale is fast approaching! Please save some time to help out at the tables on November 5. Any baked goods to sell would be much appreciated. We sold out the last two elections so your donations are very much needed!

## **October Mission Project**

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

## **Church Yard Sale**

Our annual yard sale will be held Friday, October 4 and Saturday, October 5 from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm. Donations of clean and gently used items can be dropped off in the Shepherd Center through Thursday, October 3. We are accepting all clothing this year. Volunteers will be needed for setting up tables, pricing and sorting through items, making quarts of soup to sell, donating baked goods, and working in the kitchen serving a light lunch on the days of the yard sale. Sign-up sheets for volunteers are available on the table in the narthex. Please contact Ruth Johns with any questions at (724) 657-4733. 90% of the proceeds from this event will go to our General Fund and 10% will be donated to Meals On Wheels.

## **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.

## **Soffit and Fascia Project**

If anyone has recommendations for someone who may be able to help work on this project, please let us know by calling the church office.

## **Join Us for Zumba!**

Zumba is here at Good Shepherd! Please note that the time has changed to Wednesdays at 9:00 am for the summer months. The cost is \$4 and our instructor is Danielle Johns.

## **Fundraiser Opportunity**

Eastbrook Presbyterian Church has given us an opportunity to join them in working at games and concerts in Pittsburgh to raise money for our church. Our first group of volunteers worked at a Pirates game in the sweltering heat for a sell-out crowd that included a rain delay. They survived and are willing to go back, so come and join them to raise money for your church.

We had been given a deadline to get all of our paperwork done and seven people did that. We are now looking for a second round of people to complete the training to add more volunteers. Below, please find the links to the training you need to complete in order to volunteer. Black pants and black tennis shoes are the uniform.

Any questions can be directed to Diana Tervo, Linda Marttala or Curt and Ruth Johns

The links are:

### **ServSafe:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uw-lmSBj0EQ>

-The acknowledgment form is in the attachment with the NPO Documents. This form is to be signed and returned to us for course credit.

### **RAMP:**

-This training is renewed every 2 years.

**-When asked for the LID # please enter 48228 and send us a copy of your CERTIFICATE when training course is completed.**

[https://rservering.com/web/pscc\\_state.php?siteid=251&flag=bartender%20license&statecode=PA](https://rservering.com/web/pscc_state.php?siteid=251&flag=bartender%20license&statecode=PA)

\*IF you take the online RAMP- you must complete the attached "RAMP Employee Signature."  
**Please note that you must enter your name, date of birth, and last 4 digits of your social security number on the top. You will then initial all the dotted lines on the right hand side of the page and sign your name at the bottom.**

## **Council Highlights – Meeting held on September 10, 2019**

Recognizing that elections to church council will be coming soon a question was raised as to what responsibilities should be mentioned when asking someone to consider serving on council. In addition to responsibilities listed in the GSLC constitution, it was discussed that council members are expected to run the business of the church, be responsible stewards of the church, and be active in the life of the church.

Discussion are taking place to see if it will be possible to have another Christmas event similar to last year's Breakfast with Santa event.

Plans continue for the GSLC yard sale, soup sale, bake sale, and lunch counter on October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. Sign-up sheets have been placed in the narthex. Thrivent Action Team seed money has been approved for this project. This connection with Thrivent also now allows for online fundraising which will be utilized and advertised through our Facebook page and through e-mail. 10% of the money raised in conjunction with this event will go to support our mission project – Meals on Wheels.

Plans are being made for the youth to attend the Laurelville Mud Weekend. Related to this event letters and release forms were reviewed and updated.

We expect one student for First Holy Communion and there is a potential for two additional students. Discussions for confirmation also continue.

Several water leaks were resolved at the end of August and beginning of September.

Progress is being made on the soffit and fascia project. One contractor has been out to look at the project but will be returning with different personnel to evaluate. We continue to reach out for others to evaluate this project.

The Worship and Music Committee met on August 21, choosing hymns through November 24. The next meeting will be schedule for early November.

Communion on Sunday September 15<sup>th</sup> will be through Eucharistic Sharing as arranged with Trinity Episcopal. We are also planning for Eucharistic Sharing on October 13<sup>th</sup>.

The next council meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

## **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 Tammara, 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 Tammara, 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, and Kim Cook.

### 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**

- OCTOBER
  - 4-5 Yard Sale
  - 8 Church Council
  - 26 Volunteers Working at Heinz Field
  
- NOVEMBER
  - 5 Outreach Election Day Bake Sale
  - 12 Church Council
  - 14 Volunteers Working at Heinz Field
  - 24 Congregational Meeting
  - 30 Volunteers Working at Heinz Field
  
- DECEMBER
  - ?? Decorate the Church for Christmas
  - 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!

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