

FALL 2018 OUR SHEPHERDING STAFF



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills

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PASTOR: Rev. Timothy Bickel

MINISTER OF MUSIC: Joan Krueger

OFFICE COORDINATOR: Sandy Marcovecchio

PRESIDENT: Scott Thurston

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR: Jennifer Meyer

WORSHIP FACILITATOR: Jeremy Frantz

ELDER CHAIRMAN: Tim Marcovecchio

NEWSLETTER NEWS

Soon, much of our communication will be electronic. Many of you receive our weekly email of the Monday Moment. Our new website is almost ready to go live. Understanding some people still prefer printed materials, we will mail a paper copy of printed news to those who request it. Simply let the church office know if your preference is to receive printed church news. Also, if you would like to be added to the Monday Moment recipient list, send your email to the church office.

CONNECT GROUPS

Small groups are starting up again on **September 30th**. Consistent with Good Shepherd's theme of REACHING, together we'll see how we can connect and grow stronger as a community. Personally you will discover how you can become a stronger witness for Jesus in your daily living. The fall session begins the week of September 30th and ends the week of November 11th. Pray about your participation. Sign-up sheets will be available in mid-September. If you have questions, contact the church office.

MUSIC MINISTRY: *Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord!*



Choir Rehearsals will begin on Sunday, September 9th at 8:30 am. When the second service begins, the rehearsals will start at 7:45 am. Please join us. Everyone is welcome and no experience is necessary.

Bell Choir will practice on **Saturdays at 9:00 am beginning Saturday, September 8th**. Basic ability to read music is help helpful. New bell-ringers are needed. See Joan Krueger for more information.

Saturday, October 20th: Fall Festival and Octoberfest

Sponsored by the Ladies' and Youth Ministries

Watch for more information.

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR BICKEL

Welcome to the Morning Stretch

Every morning not long after I wake up, with sleep still in my eyes, I slog out my bedroom door. And every morning outside my bedroom door there is a choice awaiting me. I actually see that choice because it is an actual physical bar that is mounted just two steps away from me and right in front of my face. It cannot be missed. It cannot be missed, but it can be passed by and avoided.

This bar is an ominous bar. The sight of it makes me silently groan inside, because I know that this bar brings with it an element of pain and discomfort. If I choose to take hold of it, I take a few seconds for a deep breath. And then the pain sets in. I bend my knees until my feet no longer touch the floor. I allow my spine to stretch out and then as I move slowly side to side stretching out my ribs. My lungs stretch open and begin to take in extra amounts of air. Then if so inclined, I will summon my determination and pull my body upward until my eyes meet the upper frame of the door. Just a handful of times. But enough to be a challenge of determination.

May I say welcome to the morning stretch at Good Shepherd. Each new season in a church's' life is like a new morning. We walk out to meet the new season, and like the bar outside my door, God invites us to a challenging, probably pain-filled stretch. We know God may be calling us to step into it. We know it is even "Good" for us, but yet there is the hesitation to leave the comfort zone and reluctance to commit our body to the bar to be stretched.

I sense that this fall, arms are extending and committing to the stretch of the new season God has for us at Good Shepherd. Do we know exactly what it will look like? Not really. Only God does. Will it hurt? Well yes it will, at least a bit. But as muscles are stretched, hopefully we recognize it as what I call, "Good Pain." It's the pain that goes with the release of toxins, as well as freeing up and extending our muscles. Even as our muscles fight against the stretch, yet we know in our minds that something good is taking place beyond the discomfort and pain.

One of the greatest ministry truths I came to understand at seminary was this: Whenever there is change in a congregation (or any family system), there will be a gravitational pull back to the status quo, back to what was. Why? Because of the fear of the unfamiliar, as well as the discomfort of leaving some familiar behind. The crazy thing is that even when we recognized the change as "Good" change, we tend to draw back to the old way because of the comfort of the familiar. In fact, often a "great" change gets even more resistance. Weird. Why? Because it poses an even greater threat to our zone of comfort.

Brothers & Sisters, with the leading and direction of God, I invite you into the discomfort zone, the stretch zone, the Word of God zone, and the Holy Spirit zone. Let's take a deep breath together, and allow the Father to stretch us and shape us according to his will.

- Pastor Tim

A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW WORSHIP FACILITATOR

I am humbled by the opportunity to serve Christ's church in worship here at Good Shepherd. With God's help, I offer my talents that He graciously gave to lead music and join with you in worship on Sunday mornings. As we move into a new season with a second service, I look forward to leading and developing teams of servant leaders that will facilitate God honoring, Spirit led worship through music and song, supported by media arts and new technology support. Please pray for God's continual leading and direction as we embark on this new journey together to draw closer to Him and to share the grace and joy of Christ Jesus with those around us!

- Jeremy Frantz

FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

September 2: 9:30am Worship
10:45am Bible Hour

September 9: **FALL KICKOFF**

9:30am Worship

11am Sunday School / Bible Class – *EVERYONE please meet in the Fellowship Hall.*

11:30am Picnic – Meat and drinks will be provided. SIGN UP on the bulletin board outside the church office.



September 16: 9:30am Worship
10:45am Bible Hour

September 23: **TWO SERVICES BEGIN**

8:30am Traditional Worship

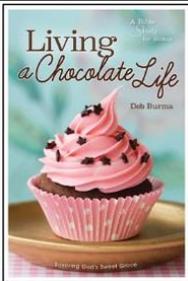
9:50am Sunday School / Bible Class

10:45am Modern Worship Service



Note the change to two worship services beginning September 23rd. Coffee and donuts will be available in the Fellowship Hall following the early service and before Sunday School / Bible Class start.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: *Living a Chocolate Life*



O Taste and See that the Lord is Good! Psalm 34:8

Living a Chocolate Life is a women's Bible study that warmly invites all to savor God's rich and endless supply of grace in Christ. Whether you're sampling bitter nuggets of pain to sweet morsels of joy, this study reminds you that the Holy Spirit fills us with sweet faith in our Savior—and it is only He who can truly satisfy. We will meet monthly with the first session on **Saturday, September 22 at 10:30 at church**. Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board by the office. See Joan Krueger for additional details.

WOMEN'S HOME BIBLE STUDY: *Woman & Identity*



It is no myth that most of us harness only a small percentage of the love, joy and peace that God can give. Ask a woman about love, friends, needs, calling, identity and you will likely hear about heartbreak, loneliness, others, uncertainty, shame and frustration. But ask about rest and enjoyment and you will hear laments about time and busyness. We live a fraction of the life God has for us.

Won't you join me as we read and learn about women who are in company with us. It is our hope that by spending time learning about these women that you will see yourself through new eyes, and that you will embrace what it is to live wholeheartedly.

We will meet on **Wednesdays, beginning September 26th at the home of Pam Bickel from 12:45-2:30pm** (ish). We will share a dessert together and grow in building relationships with one another. This last year was an awesome year of study and we hope you can join us. I sure look forward to having you at my home.

Please RSVP to me by September 21st so I can order enough material. You can text or call with any questions (419.377.0370) or email me at pamelabick4@gmail.com. The participant book will be \$9.

MISSION MINISTRY

The **Mission Ministry Committee** is exploring opportunities to be more involved in our community as a way of sharing Christ with our neighbors. We have received some response to our request for ideas for community involvement and welcome additional suggestions. Please speak with one of the members of the committee: Mike Martinez, Katelyn Marcovecchio, Kim Ressler, Rita Winker, Carol Kagemann, Rachel Barone, Pastor Bickel. Pray for direction as we explore opportunities in our neighborhood



We are still collecting **food donations** for the Cloverleaf Area Ecumenical Assistance Program. This is a Food Pantry run out of St. Elizabeth Parish on Route 51. *Donations may be placed on the table in the narthex behind the stairs to the balcony.* Thank you for your support!

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT



Sean Thurston is continuing to accept donations for his Eagle Scout Project. Sean's project is to upgrade the Message Boards in the stone sign by Maxwell Drive. He will also redo the landscaping and upgrade the lighting around the sign. He'll be adding cameras inside and outside the church, and adding lights around the church to improve security. Checks may be made payable directly to Sean.

LADIES' MINISTRY

The LWML is having their **first meeting** of the new season on **September 30th** in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the late service. All ladies are welcome to attend. We'll have lunch and plan the events and activities for the next year.



Do you frequent Eat'n Park? You can enjoy your meal and support the ladies by purchasing an Eat'n Park gift card. A percentage of the purchase benefits the ladies group. See Ruth Johnson for the cards. Thank you and remember, gift cards make great gifts.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Nights this fall are scheduled for September 16th and October 7th, 5 – 7 pm. Come join us!



2019 National Youth Gathering Registration: If you weren't able to join us for the information meeting in August and you plan on going to The Gathering, contact the church office to obtain a copy of the paperwork and registration documentation. The **commitment deadline is October 1st**

Turn into the church office the following:

- Pre-Registration Form (participant worksheet)
- Signed Pre-Gathering Participation Covenant
- \$375 Registration Fee (checks may be made payable to Good Shepherd Youth)

Fall Youth Fundraising Activities:



COIN WARS - PITT VS PENN STATE: Who will win the football game on September 8th? Drop your loose change into the buckets in the narthex and show your support for your favorite team. The funds raised will go towards the youth's trip to the 2019 National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis.

YOUTH SERVANT AUCTION: At the Picnic on September 9th, the youth will be auctioning themselves off to perform various services. Maybe someone will offer to cut your grass or possibly provide you with a different baked good for the next 4 months. Come, check out what the youth have to offer. The funds raised by this auction will also be going towards the youth's trip to the 2019 National Youth Gathering.

PRECHOOL

For registration information, contact Jennifer Meyer (412-884-5960).

A **Preschool Wish List** of items needed to start the new school year is posted in the narthex. *Pick an apple if you'd like to help out.* Items may be returned to the box outside the church office. Thank you so much for your support!

Giant Eagle 'APPLES FOR STUDENTS': Register your Giant Eagle Advantage card; the preschool earns money with each swipe. To register you can go online at GiantEagle.com/AFTS or call 1-800-553-2324 and ask to register 'Apples for the Students'. Our school code is # 5916.



Welcome Back Students!

Classes start on September 5th for the Learning Together, Pre-K, and Jr. Kindergarten classes. Classes start on **September 6th** for the 3-year olds. Both days, there will be a coffee hour for the parents in the Fellowship Hall. Discovery Days and Lunch Bunch begin on September 11th.

We have a wonderful staff excited to teach the children this year. We have both new and familiar faces. Please meet the staff.

Jr Kindergarten Class:	Ashley Miller / Cathy O'Malley
Pre-K Classes:	Heather Bell / Christina Sebastian
Learning Together and 3 Year Old Classes:	Cathi Storey / Jack Zewe
Learning Together Class:	Laura Thurston / Laura Diamond
Discovery Days and Lunch Bunch:	Rachel Barone / Bonnie Panasko
Mommy and Me 2 Year Old Class:	Amy Frantz
Administrative Assistant:	Jeanine Bondi
Director:	Jennifer Meyer

Jennifer announced her retirement as Preschool Director in May, however, she is continuing on in this position until a replacement is found.

Chapel for the Preschool will begin on Wednesday and Thursday, September 19th and 20th.

Thank you to all Preschool Staff for serving the families and children of Good Shepherd and of our community for the upcoming 2018-2019 school year!

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