

## Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills and Christian Preschool

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**WEEKLY TIDINGS: JANUARY 27 – FEBRUARY 3, 2019**

*Hello and welcome to Good Shepherd! We're glad you're here!  
May you experience the love of Christ and feel His presence during worship today.*

**PASTOR'S THOUGHTS: Give up WHAAAT!? ... Exxxx - actly**

Why would you give up something you like? And what would you call it when I do? Well, we call that a fast. So "fasting" came up in our "Bible Discovery Hour." And when I thought about it, it seemed like it would follow well the last couple Tidings thoughts about being in the Word and prayer.

And here is why. Marking up your Bibles is about slowing down and banging around in God's words. You mark up your Bibles to help you soak it in and get saturated in it, rather than rushing through. Prayer is God's invitation to you to talk with him, and your invitation for him to talk with you. So where does fasting come in? Fasting creates room and space for the word and prayer to move around and find a place deep within your being.

Fasting is your way of creating space in your full life for God. Call it purging if you want. You cut something out of life for a period of time to allow God to take up residence in your life in a new way. A way he has not before done. A place he has not before been permitted to dwell. You are making conscious choices to clear space for your beloved, Jesus, to have a new and special place in your life.

So what will you give up? What will you clear out, for a bit, to give Jesus room to move in in his special way? Someone I know took their TV off their living room wall and put it in their bedroom closet for 21 days. Now, they agreed to take it out for football games in January, but come on, we can understand that. It's playoff time. Others I know have put away some foods for their fast. Others put away drinks for a while. Some of you may even have to fast WORK. WHAAAT? Yes, work. God is more important than what you do. And life with Jesus is more about a relationship than what you can accomplish on your own.

You see, there is not a rule on what to give up, it is just giving up something in order to focus your love upon the one who loves you most, Jesus. And your reasons for fasting can vary as much as "the what" of what you fast. Some of you know that the Holy Spirit has been nudging you to turn from something that is not right in your life. The fast may be the place where that gets purged. Some of you are desiring deeper insights, colors and contours of God's Word and of your Jesus. Some of you just want a closer, more intimate relationship with Jesus than you have yet had.

No matter what you fast, or why you are fasting, I urge you to allow God to shape the results. Because he knows your delights and your needs better than even you do.

And finally, I so encourage you, do not beat yourself up in your fast. If you slip or think you have failed, don't let the enemy to steal what God is doing. This is not some legalistic endeavor to earn favor with God. You already have that through the blood of Jesus. This is about intimacy and love with your Jesus. This is about taking the time for relationship.

SO, can you "Give It Up" for the one you love? I guarantee you, he is worth your time and your sacrifice.

- Pastor Tim

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**LAST WEEK AT GOOD SHEPHERD:** JAN. 20<sup>TH</sup> - SERVICES WERE CANCELLED DUE TO WEATHER

JAN. 13<sup>TH</sup> – OFFERINGS \$2,559.00 AND ATTENDANCE (41-8:30; 44-10:45)

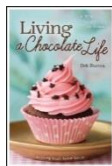
**\*\* Remember to sign the welcome pad during the service. It is located on the pew near the center aisle.  
Pass it down for all to sign, then return it to its original location. \*\***

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### GOOD SHEPHERD ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Chancel Flowers** are placed to the Glory of God by the congregation for blessings received.

The **Adult Bible Discussion** today, will take place **in the back of the Sanctuary**. Please gather at the back right side when you enter the Sanctuary. The children will still meet in the front of the church for the opening before going to their classes.



*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. **The next session will be on Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:30am in the Youth Room.** See Joan Krueger for more information.



*The Armor of God* is a new **Women's Bible Study** to begin the week of **February 11<sup>th</sup>**. With enough interest, this home study will have two options-evenings on Tuesdays (7-8:30p) and afternoons on Thursdays (1-2:30p). **Read more on the special insert today and sign-up in the narthex.**

The **LWML/Ladies Guild** invites you to our annual **Chili Cook-Off** on **Saturday, February 9, 2019** beginning at **3pm**. There is a \$5 charge to cover the cost of the bowl, spoon, and cornbread. We will also have hot dogs and drinks for sale. Come, sample the delicious chilis made by our Good Shepherd cooks and vote for your favorite recipe. This event is open to the public so invite your friends, family, and neighbors!

*Please sign-up to attend on the sheet outside the church office. Indicate if you wish to make a pot of chili.*

A note to the chili cooks: Please make a small sign to place in front of your pot of chili indicating the ingredients and whether your chili is hot or mild. Please bring your chili in a crock pot. We will have power strips available. Thank you!

**High Schoolers**, join us in the Youth Room **TONIGHT, 5pm** for our next **Youth Night!**



Check out the poster on the bulletin board outside the church office to see the kids going to **National Youth Gathering** and to see how far along the group is in reaching its fundraising goal.

Interested in **sponsoring a mile** of the group's trip from Pittsburgh to Minneapolis? Then pick up a **Money to Miles** donation form in the narthex or contact the church office.

Join us **Saturday, February 23, 5:30pm** for **Trivia Night and a Pasta Dinner**. Invite your friends, family, and neighbors for an evening of laughter and delicious food. Details are posted on the bulletin board.

The baby bottle campaign for the Human Coalition has been extended to **Sunday, February 3** due to the service cancellation last week. There are a few empty baby bottles available if you would still like to take one.

It's January. It's cold outside. Are you thinking of summer? Mark your calendars as busy **June 24-28** for Good Shepherd's **Vacation Bible School**. We'll be doing **ROAR** where Life is Wild and God is Good! VBS is always a great time for the kids in our community as well as all the adult helpers. Join us this summer for VBS!

**2018 Year-End Financial Statements** are available for pickup in the narthex. Pick yours up today.

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#### OTHER CHURCH NEWS – PLEASE SEE THE BULLETIN BOARD FOR DETAILS

- *A Luncheon for Your Grieving Heart:* Thursday, February 14, The Whitehall House, 11:30am
- *WinterJam 2019:* Friday, February 15, PPG Paints Arena, 7pm
- *TobyMac Hits Deep Tour 2019:* Saturday, March 23 – Petersen Events Center, 7pm
- *Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends* (April 5-7; April 26-28; October 11-13; November 1-3)
- *Camp Pioneer:* Purple Party & Purple Palooza (Feb. 8-9); Taste of Pioneer (Mar. 10); Family Camp and Sundays at Pioneer (June-August)
- *John F. Slater Funeral Home:* Weekend Office Coordinator part-time position available

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#### ON THE CALENDAR (1/27–2/3):

Sunday	7:45a // 8:30a // 9:50a // 10:45a	Choir // Traditional Worship with Communion // Bible Hour // Modern Worship & Private Use of Fellowship Hall
	5p	Youth Night
Monday	7p	Education Discussion // Boy Scouts
Tuesday		
Wednesday	7:30p	Narcotics Anonymous
Thursday	5:30p	Soccer Shots
Friday	7p	Plastic Model Society
Saturday	9a	Bells
	9:30a	Soccer Shots
	10:30a	Women's Bible Study
Sunday	7:45a // 8:30a // 9:50a // 10:45a	Choir // Traditional Worship with Communion // Bible Hour // Modern Worship with Communion

**\*\*During the Worship Services, Closed Circuit TV of the service is available in Room 11 (Preschool Room, Red Door)\*\***

**\*\* If a person has difficulty hearing during the service, hearing receivers are available in the narthex. \*\***

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