



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

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**WEEKLY TIDINGS: FEBRUARY 3 – FEBRUARY 10, 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: Life Groups (Nehemiah 8:6-8)**

I have to smile because a few verses get skipped in the Old Testament reading for today. I think they skip it because the names are a doozy to pronounce. But what gets missed by skipping these verses is the sense of community that is going on among the people. Listen to Nehemiah 8:6 and 7-8.

*6 And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.*

Ok, Ok, I love this picture of all out worship, souls surrendered, body fully engaged, nothing being held back. But my thought today is more on what follows. Hear verses 7-8:

*7 Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, **helped the people to understand** the Law, while the people remained in their places. 8 They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, **and they gave the sense**, so that **the people understood** the reading.*

Great names, right!? As the people gathered around Ezra to hear the word proclaimed, these "Life Group Leaders" gathered in smaller groups helping the people discover an even clearer understanding of what was going on in their greater worship experience. Not everything Ezra spoke was clearly understood by everyone. So they broke down into discovery groups. Brother helping brother to discover and understand the awesome mystery and power of God.

So get this, not everything that happens in worship and word on a Sunday morning at Good Shepherd is vividly clear to everyone present. Thus the gathering in Life Groups is a natural outflow of worship. Look at verse six and see that the people were engaged in worship, but with an infinite God there is always deeper places to go and bigger pictures to see.

Last month we ventured into our personal time in word, prayer and fasting. There is a time for us to gather as a larger group for worship, but a living part of the body of Christ is gathering in smaller groups to discuss, discover and pray over the word and life together.

Quick self-eval:

- I gather with the body on the Lord's Day
- I have personal word and prayer time (just me & God)
- I get together around the word with brothers and sisters in Christ
- We pray, discover Holy Spirit truths, and pray our lives together

Take note of our current opportunities to gather with your Good Shepherd family. They are out there. Go ahead, take the step in.

And watch for our upcoming Life Group focus for this Lent (March and April). "*The hand of the Lord was upon me.*" - Ezekiel 37

- Pastor Tim

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**LAST WEEK (JAN. 27<sup>TH</sup>) AT GOOD SHEPHERD:** OFFERINGS \$23,784.00 AND ATTENDANCE (54-8:30; 27-10:45)

*\*\* 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 Donna McCoy in loving memory of her husband, Paul.

The next **Men's Breakfast and Bible Study** is **Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup>**. Men, start your weekend in fellowship and in the Word. Join us at 7am in the Fellowship Hall.



*The Armor of God* is a new **Women's Bible Study** to **begin the week of February 10<sup>th</sup>**. This in home study has two options - evenings on Tuesdays (7-8:30p) and afternoons on Thursdays (1-2:30p). **Please sign-up by February 6<sup>th</sup>**. (Read more on the special insert today and sign-up in the narthex or via the website - <https://goodshepherdpittsburgh.org/ladies-in-home-study/>.)

The **LWML/Ladies Guild** invites you to our annual **Chili Cook-Off** this **Saturday, February 9**, 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 or via the website (<https://goodshepherdpittsburgh.org/chili-cookoff/>). 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!

**Saturday, February 23** is the annual **Trivia Night and Pasta Dinner sponsored by the Youth**. What do you know about the Oscars? Classic Movies? Musicals? Disney? Minneapolis? The National Youth Gathering? Come, test your knowledge and join us for an evening of food, fun, and fellowship. Dinner begins at 5:30pm, and Trivia follows at 6pm. A free will offering will be taken to support the group attending the 2019 National Youth Gathering. 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 **ends today**. If you took a baby bottle to fill and still need to return it, please inform the church office. Thank you.

After this bitter cold week, you're probably ready for summer. Well, 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. Any statements not picked up today will be mailed this week.

Have you recently replaced an iPad or Android notebook and you're looking to recycle your old equipment? If so, consider donating the older devices to Good Shepherd. The late service worship team can make use of these devices.

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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 (2/3–2/10):

Sunday	7:45a // 8:30a // 9:50a // 10:45a	Choir // Traditional Worship with Communion // Bible Hour // Modern Worship with Communion
Monday	7p	Elders Meeting // Boy Scouts
Tuesday	6p	Steel City Scrappers
Wednesday	7:30p	Narcotics Anonymous
Thursday	5:30p	Soccer Shots
Friday	6p	Preschool Board Meeting
Saturday	7a 9a 9:30a 1p 3p	Men's Breakfast and Bible Discussion Bells Soccer Shots Setup for Chili Cookoff Chili Cookoff
Sunday	7:45a // 8:30a // 9:50a // 10:45a	Choir // Traditional Worship with Communion // Bible Hour // Modern Worship

**\*\*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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