

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills and Christian Preschool

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WEEKLY TIDINGS: MARCH 24 – MARCH 31, 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.*

THE EMPTY TOMB MEETS THE VALLEY OF DRY BONES

Welcome to the valley of dry bones. I've been there, have you? We could say together, "Our bones were dried up, and our hope was lost, and we were indeed cut off." If that is you in the present tense then these next words are for you today. "Thus says the LORD, 'Behold, I will open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people.'"

That is really what Easter is all about. Jesus rips the grip of death from the hands of Satan. If we are honest, we all know that we have had a time or times in our life where we stood defeated. Somehow we let the enemy sneak in and begin to take over. Some of you know your blatant sin which walked you down the enemy's path. Others were lulled into a sleeper hold. So slight was each slip and misstep that you found yourself so far down the wrong path, you were like a visitor lost in Pittsburgh with no map or GPS; trapped, with no way out.

Ezekiel 37 is Easter for exiles trapped in the Old Testament. And resurrection is spoken to a hopeless people. You see Easter isn't for people who have their act all together. Easter is for those who know that they are an abandoned wreck, It is for those who are beyond hope. That is why Easter is for me.

Paul had it figured out. Once he stopped trying to get his act together and fell in submission at the feet of Jesus, his whole life was turned around. He didn't turn it around, but the Spirit of Christ in him turned his life into a masterpiece leading many, many people to a relationship with Jesus.

So may I suggest that if your life, or a specific area of your life, feels like dry bones that you put those dry bones in the hands of Jesus. Let his Words wash over those very dry bones, and as he speaks, listen for the rattling of bones. Then watch as things are reconstructed in the master's hands, breathe in the Spirit of life given to you in the name and person of Jesus Christ.

Resurrection isn't for one day off in the distant future, it is for you and me today. Allow Jesus' resurrection power to come alive in you.
- Pastor Tim

LAST WEEK (MAR. 17TH) AT GOOD SHEPHERD: OFFERINGS \$2,712.00 AND ATTENDANCE (58-8:30; 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 . ***

ON THE CALENDAR (3/24-3/31):

Sunday	7:45a // 8:30a // 9:50a // 10:45a	Choir // Traditional Worship with Communion // Bible Hour // Modern Worship
Monday	7p	Boy Scouts
Tuesday		
Wednesday	7:30p	Narcotics Anonymous
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday	9a 9:30a 1-7p	Bells Soccer Shots Private Use of Fellowship Hall
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.***

GOOD SHEPHERD ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chancel Flowers are placed to the Glory of God in honor of Louise Kratz's birthday, by her grandchildren.

Portals of Prayer for April, May, and June are available in the narthex.

The **51/49 Campaign continues!** Through prayer and Bible study, we are looking more closely into ourselves for our place in missions. Today in worship, we concentrate on Ezekiel's words about the dry times in our lives, times of hopelessness, that were turned around by God. Isn't it truly amazing what reaching out in missions can do? We can be the hands of God in bringing hope to the lives of others. So also **today, we learn more about the Himalayan Foundation**, which serves many members of the Bhutanese/Nepalese communities right in Good Shepherd's neighborhood. If you have any questions, see Kim Ressler who will try to answer them. Or to learn more about the organization's vision, mission, and current programs, visit its website at <http://www.himalayanfoundationusa.org/>.



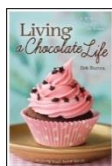
Good Shepherd will be hosting **Journey to the Cross**, a Holy Week learning experience at **noon on Good Friday, April 19th**.

We need some great volunteers to make our *Journey* as meaningful as possible, and we're hoping that you will help. Please prayerfully consider serving our church as Actors, Station Helpers, Meet-and-Greet Volunteers, Tour Guides and more.

For more information about ways in which you might contribute to the *Journey*, please see the sign-up sheet located on the bulletin board in the hallway or via the website (<https://goodshepherdpittsburgh.org/journey-to-the-cross/>) or contact Larry Krueger at

724.816.5105 or via email to larrykrueger@verizon.net.

Life Groups have started, meeting at various times and locations during the week. If you are interested, check out the notice on the bulletin board next to the church office and contact a host or leader.



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, April 6th at 10:30am in the Youth Room.** See Joan Krueger for more information.

The **LWML Annual Garage Sale** will be held on **Saturday, April 27, 2019**. Clean out your closets, attics, and drawers and let us sell your stuff for you! *We will accept anything other than clothing and TVs. You can bring items starting the day after Easter and place them on the stage.* It would be really helpful if you price them because we will have only a short window to get ready this year. Thank you for your support.

In February, Joan Krueger introduced Good Shepherd to **Thrivent Action Grants** – up to \$250 in seed money for mission projects, programs like VBS or Journey to the Cross, or fundraisers. Since then, we have been approved for 5 grants:

- Trivia Night/Pasta Dinner Fundraiser
- Journey to the Cross
- Eagle Scout Project: Beautification of the Benches/Fire Pit
- Card Ministry
- VBS: Feed the Kids (snack supplies)

In less than 2 months, we have been blessed with \$1,250 in seed money for various projects our members have engaged in. If you have been approved for or plan on applying for a Thrivent Action Grant, please let the office know so we can track all of the events and to prevent duplication.

The **boy scouts and adult leaders of Troop 210** joined together to support **Will Schmidt's Eagle Scout project** Saturday, March 16. Will led his team in **making the fire pit area a beautiful place**. This was a unique effort in that we also obtained Thrivent funds through a Living Generously grant. These funds helped pay for the materials to build a woodshed, repaint the furniture and put new stones and gravel around a beautiful new fire ring. A total of 19 volunteers assisted in the hard work and dedication to complete this wonderful addition to the grounds at Good Shepherd. Well done, team and congratulations Will!

- Walt Meyer - Charter Representative, Troop 210

Thank you to Rita Winker for coordinating the Prayer Vigil which was held at Good Shepherd on Saturday, March 16. So many were blessed by this event.

Thank you to my Good Shepherd Family for your support of the recent Bethel Park Musical. It is a joy for me to perform, and I am blessed to have the encouragement of so many people. - *Katelyn Marcovecchio*

During the month of January, Good Shepherd participated in the **Human Coalition** baby bottle drive. We collected \$173.84 for the Human Coalition. Thank you for your support.

OTHER CHURCH NEWS – PLEASE SEE THE BULLETIN BOARD FOR DETAILS

- *Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends* (April 5-7; April 26-28; October 11-13; November 1-3)
 - *Camp Pioneer: Family Camp and Sundays at Pioneer* (June-August)
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