

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills and Christian Preschool

Church Office: 412-884-3232 / office@goodshepherdpittsburgh.org
Preschool: 412-884-5960 / preschool@goodshepherdpittsburgh.org
Pastor Tim: pastortim@goodshepherdpittsburgh.org
Website: www.goodshepherdpittsburgh.org



WEEKLY TIDINGS: APRIL 7 – APRIL 14, 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.*

O, SON OF MAN, CAN THESE BONES GIVE? AND I ANSWERED, O LORD GOD, YOU ALONE KNOW.

Ok, ok, so that is not exactly the question of Ezekiel 37:3. But it is a legitimate question, “Can these bones Give?” It struck me as I pondered our giving for 51/49, and then as I thought about the giving for our at home ministry through Good Shepherd. Can I, as pastor, really expect this congregation to support the ministry it embarked upon so many years ago with so many more people.

My logical answer to this question is, “NO!” Oh sure, guilt trips and other motivations can be made to draw out funds to support the ministry, but let’s be honest, a pastor doesn’t care as much about funds coming in as he does about hearts opening up. Yes, dollars can meet momentary needs, but that is not the heart and center of Jesus’ mission. Jesus mission was into the personal lives of you and me.

So when asked, “**Can these bones Give?**” Rather than answering, “**No,**” or **pleading the fifth**, I take the Ezekiel cop out to that question. “**O Lord God, you alone know.**” And although it may be a cop out, I like God’s response. In Ezekiel’s Valley, God gave him some words to speak, and then to be amazed at what happened to some ... Very ... Dry ... Bones.

Now, if you are amazed at how God’s word penetrated the *dry bones* in Ezekiel’s valley, then listen how his words brought riches out of rags for some Macedonian Christians. First, we hear how they gave with **a wealth of generosity**. And this generosity **overflowed in a severe test of affliction**, which did not hinder the flow of **their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty**. And their extreme WHAT!? ... **their extreme poverty**. Wow! That is the “I want to be like them” piece of the story.

But next comes the part that takes us beyond dry bones to the miracle of the very dry bones.

For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints.

(From II Corinthians 8:1-5)

So let this be our giving prayer. Not that we give greatly and abundantly, but even more, that the Holy Spirit gives us generous hearts which open up and experience supernatural giving.

Could it happen? God alone knows. But let’s you and I be encouraged by Ezekiel, the Macedonians, and **The Great Cloud of Witnesses** who surround us and cheer us on in our walk with Jesus.

Be blessed in your Giving and your Living,

- Pastor Tim

LAST WEEK (MAR. 31ST) AT GOOD SHEPHERD: OFFERINGS \$3,372.00 AND ATTENDANCE (44-8:30; 35-10:45)

*** 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. ***

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, April 14th: 8:30am Worship with Communion; 10:45am Worship

Maundy Thursday, April 18th: 7pm Worship with Communion

Good Friday, April 19th: 12pm *Journey to the Cross*; 7pm Good Friday Evening Service

Easter Celebration, April 21st: 8:30am & 10:45am Worship with Communion; 9:30 am Breakfast begins

ON THE CALENDAR THIS WEEK (4/7-4/14):

Sunday	7:45a // 8:30a // 9:50a // 10:45a 11a 5p	Choir // Traditional Worship with Communion // Bible Hour // Modern Worship with Communion Private Use of Youth Rm // Card Ministry-Fellowship Hall Youth Night
Monday	7p	Boy Scouts
Tuesday	7p	Council Meeting
Wednesday	7:30p	Narcotics Anonymous
Thursday	5:30p	Soccer Shots
Friday		
Saturday	9a 9:30a 12-5p	Bells Soccer Shots Private Use of Fellowship Hall
Sunday	7:45a // 8:30a // 9:50a // 10:45a 11a	Choir // Traditional Worship with Communion // Bible Hour // Modern Worship Private Use of Youth Room

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.***

MEMBERS, FAMILY & FRIENDS

Prayer Requests: Alexa, Steve Pardiny, Debbie Kermes, Lorraine, Larry Krueger, Jack Sincek, Martha Legates, Deanna Corporon, Joe Morgan, Sammy Langol, Families of the victims of the New Zealand shooting, Alex, Jim & Mary Hesse, Brenden, Steve and Sarah Grack and Family, Jennifer Meyer, Lois Christ, Andrew Thomasson, Karen and Dave Razumic, elderly father of Alice Meyer and the Meyer family, Alec, Frank Rawson, Bonnie, Carol, Rachel Bricker, Ann Malone, Nan Nedlick, John Oldroyd and Family, Kathi Kuskie, Joe Lynn, Owen Meyers, David Hesse, John Simpson, Lynda and Larry Beiter, Mark Centrone, Emily Lebovitz, Art Maksin, Diane Barker, Barratti Family, Sherri Horton, Cheyenne Ignat, Tillie Koerth, Crystal Mason, Don Richards, Pam Spechtold, Will Yanko, Christi, Sharon O, Nancy Edmundson, Robert Hartung, Ella Mae Held, Evie Jones, Rose Marie Koehnke, Alma Krueger, Shirley McClain, Rose Spencer, Joan Steigerwald, Joan Uhrinak

New prayer requests may be given to the office or written in the Prayer Book located in the narthex.

Please help us keep the list up to date. If you submitted a name, please call and give the office an update.



Apr. 8 – Tino Martinez
Brittnie Richards
Marty Snyder
Laura Thurston
Apr. 9 – Nora Kudis
Apr. 10 – Amy Frantz
Christina Sebastian



Chancel Flowers today are placed to the Glory of God by the Congregation for blessings received.

GOOD SHEPHERD ANNOUNCEMENTS

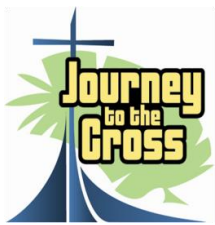
Spring subscriptions including Portals of Prayer (April, May, June), Lutherans Engage, and Lutheran Witness, are available in the narthex

As part of our **Greeting Card Ministry** sponsored with Thrivent seed money, a group will be **meeting today in the Fellowship Hall from 11AM to 1PM to make Easter cards** for our shut-ins and ill members. This is just the first of, what we hope to be, more opportunities to join with others in sharing our talents to spread God's love. Any questions, please see Rite Winker or Ruth Johnson. No prior cardmaking experience needed. We'd love to have you come join us.

The **51/49 Campaign continues!** As we each look for our own place in sharing God's love and covenant of peace, we also look for how we as a congregation, in unity, should serve. Hopefully you have learned more of the work being done by Light of Life Ministries, the Unity Mission, and Himalayan Foundation USA, the three organizations that will share in 51% of your donations. The remaining 49% will further missions here at Good Shepherd. Continue to pray for guidance for yourself and the congregation.

Light of Life Ministries is holding an **Open House on Saturday, April 13th** from 10a-2p. If you are interested in carpooling and joining others from Good Shepherd to visit this ministry, please contact the office.

The **LWML** will have a **Bake Sale on Palm Sunday, April 14th**. If you would like to donate a sweet treat for us to sell, we would appreciate it. Please package items with no more than 4 to a pack and don't worry about prices, we'll take care of that! As a reminder, Good Shepherd is a peanut-free zone. Thank you for your continued support.



Good Shepherd will be leading a **Journey to the Cross on Good Friday, April 19th at Noon**. This will be a true experience, of learning, of feeling, and of greater understanding of Jesus' experiences during the week from Palm Sunday to Easter. All ages will be able to learn and grow from this hour-long journey, so plan to attend!

Thank you to all who have already volunteered to help make this event a success. Just a few spots remain, so if you wish to be involved, contact Larry Krueger at 724.816.5105 or via email at larryakrueger@verizon.net.

The Youth will again be hosting the **Easter Breakfast**. Sign-up to attend on the sheet in the narthex or electronically (<https://forms.gle/RPesMNIhZnrEcSQA>). Funds raised from the freewill donation will go towards the trip to the National Youth Gathering in July. To reach their goal, an additional \$2,000 is needed.

Donations of orange juice, napkins, and decaf coffee are welcome. Items may be brought to the church kitchen by Sunday, April 14th.

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. Setup for the sale is Friday, April 26th. Thank you for your support.



Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries (PALM) supports regional missions that unite local congregations of the LCMS. PALM is making a **PALM Sunday Appeal** to LCMS congregation members. Half of all monies raised from this appeal will be directed toward Holy Cross Mission in Hazelwood. The second half will help to establish an endowment fund to support mission work in our region. Donations may be directed to PALM through Good Shepherd on Sunday, April 14 or they may be sent to: PALM, 535 N. Neville Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15213. Please indicate 'PALM Sunday Appeal' in the memo line. Learn more about PALM www.palmpa.org

Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) brings Christ to the nations and the nations to the church. LHM has launched SENT, a 5-year global initiative to proclaim the Gospel. Information about the SENT initiative and how you can help to share the Good News is available in the narthex or on their website (www.lhm.org).

If you will be shopping on Amazon for Easter gifts, remember that Good Shepherd participates in the Amazon Smile Program. Login to your account via **Amazon Smile** to have 0.5% of your eligible purchases donated to Good Shepherd. Visit smile.amazon.com, log into your account, and choose **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills, Pittsburgh PA**.



How about Eat 'n Park gift card for a meal out? Gift cards are available from Ruth Johnson, Jean Barone, and Carol Kagemann. A percentage of your purchase benefits the Women's Ministry. Thank you for your support.

For those submitting applications for **Thrivent Action Grants**, please request the 25 free T-shirts in various sizes. The hope is to provide these t-shirts to the VBS volunteers this summer.

And if you haven't marked your calendar already, **VBS** is June 24-28. This year's theme is **ROAR!** Kids will discover that God is good even when life gets wild. Watch for registration information coming soon for participants and volunteers. As a reminder to our volunteers, it is Good Shepherd's policy that the appropriate clearances be obtained for all volunteers age 18 and older prior to working with children and youth, and a copy of the clearance certificates shall be provided to the church office to be kept on file.



OTHER CHURCH NEWS – PLEASE SEE THE BULLETIN BOARD FOR DETAILS

- *Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends* (April 26-28; October 11-13; November 1-3)
- *Fishing Derby for Kids sponsored by Concordia Lutheran Ministries*: Saturday, May 11, 8am-2pm
- *Camp Pioneer*: Family Camp and Sundays at Pioneer (June-August)
- *Faith Night at the Pirates*: Saturday, June 22, 4:05pm