

Good Shepherd Monthly News

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills

Volume 1, Issue 1

COVID-19 Impact on Good Shepherd

The challenge of social distancing has caused churches everywhere, including Good Shepherd, to rethink worship and communicating with members and friends. We have turned to online resources more frequently – email communications from church leadership, the *Monday Moment* weekly email, Good Shepherd’s [website](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and even [YouTube](#) presence – to communicate and share information. If you haven’t yet checked out Good Shepherd’s online presence, click on your preferred social media method to get connected.

The Eastern District has compiled a list of churches presenting online alternatives to worship. If you are interested in finding additional online worship options, click on this [link](#) to read the details on the District’s website.

Would you like a hymnal to use for your personal worship time? Would you like to receive the April *Portals of Prayer*? If you have special needs or concerns, contact the church office. Good Shepherd has volunteers ready and willing to help.

Elders and other church members want

to be able to reach out and check-in. Help us be able to keep in touch with one another by updating your contact information. Click [here](#) to complete Good Shepherd’s Contact Information Update Form to make sure you are receiving important emails and that we have your correct phone information.

For the safety and health of everyone, Good Shepherd remains temporarily closed and activities are temporarily suspended until further notice. In person worship has been replaced with alternative worship methods. The pre-

school is not in session and teachers are finding creative ways to teach and stay in contact with their students. Community organizations which frequent the building are on hiatus, and private use of the fellowship hall has ceased. We don’t know how long this change in business will occur, but Good Shepherd is still here to serve you and the community.

Inside this issue:

<i>Red Letter Challenge— Life Groups</i>	2
<i>Missional Pathway</i>	3
<i>Preschool</i>	3
<i>April Calendar</i>	4
<i>Birthdays / Anniversaries</i>	5
<i>Pictorial Directory</i>	5
<i>Prayer Requests</i>	6
51/ 49	6

Online Giving

An online giving option is up and running on the church website. Look for the donate button located on the “Online Giving” page. The online giving option provides a way to continue regular giving

for those who do not want to mail their offering. Online giving can also be used for sacrificial giving—51/49. More details on 51 /49 will be provided later in the newsletter.

While the state stay-at-home order prompted the quick creation of an online giving option, the online giving will be available even after we return to worshipping in our building.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in

Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:4-7 (ESV)

Red Letter Challenge—Life Groups

RLC Experience: A New Type of Challenge

The Red Letter Challenge has really become a new type of challenge. When we started this journey, we all were excited about the idea of bringing a new small Group together, and perhaps a bit anxious about what all that would entail. Joneen and I prepared very diligently to try to make the experience a fulfilling one for all those in our Group. The first two in-person Meetings gave us an opportunity to get to know one another while at the same time focusing on learning, sharing and witnessing.

Our third meeting was done virtually. It was the first meeting where all members of our Life Group were able to join. While it wasn't certain going into the meeting how effective it would be doing it via video-conferencing, it actually worked out very well. The Lord was with us in that meeting, as we discussed Forgiving, just as He was in our home when we did the kickoff orientation and Being

meetings. The materials provide a wonderful guide for discussion. The introductory video for each session are well done and, being Parents of three Sons, Joneen and I are ready to adopt Pastor Zach's sons; Nathan and Brady. As we move through this season of Lent in a very unique way, may the Lord continue to bless our Life Group; keep them safe, healthy, challenged, motivated and fulfilled through the actions which result from their weekly personal and group experience.

Love, Ray & Joneen



RLC Experience: Positive and Encouraging

Our group had two in-person sessions, with the third session being cancelled as in-person due to the restrictions put in place by the county and state. This week we connected via Zoom and were able to cover week 3 and 4. Participation has been great and connecting via Zoom was a great way to keep us all together.

Our group dynamic is really positive and encouraging and we even welcomed a new member, Amy, into the group this week. We were excited for her to join and she jumped right in as if she had been in the group from the start. We have the kids join us too, they get a lot out of it and Tyler seems to

like the videos and the analogies from Zach. It's a great format and the questions allow for a variety of viewpoints to be heard. There is never a lack of conversation in this group and that is a good thing.

Having never hosted a group before, I stepped out of my comfort zone a little, but it has been a very positive and rewarding experience for me and I couldn't have asked for a better group to be a part of and lead.

Greg

RLC Experience: Talking and Sharing

The Life group is virtually meeting. We have our technical snags of computers not working as expected and just conference call with zoom sometimes showing images. But that is not the important thing. Instead, the Lord is allowing us to talk with each other and share our confusions and hopes with each other to let each other know we are all in this together if not still so far apart. We ask for the mercy of God upon us and our neighbors. We have fellow Christians to talk with. For us, there are those who stay, call, and go when

needed. And each hope to God for each other. Together we have a little less lonely time even though apart.

Mark

A Member's RLC Week of Serving Experience:

"We dropped dinner to the doorstep of an elderly family friend who just received chemotherapy and can't leave the house. Offered to pickup groceries for her as well."

RLC Experience: Togetherness

The Monday evening Life Group has been meeting regularly, learning to navigate the marvels of online video technology. We have certainly enjoyed seeing smiling faces on our computer screens and hearing friendly voices, sharing in the struggles of social distancing. We have shared frustrations and worries, and we have spent time in God's Word and prayed together. We have also appreciated the time spent in the Red Letter Challenge and the feeling of togetherness that it has provided. More time at home certainly means more time to reflect on how we have appeared to the world in "normal" times - this certainly seems to be an appropriate time to be honest with our-

selves and with each other. We look forward to the moments we will be able to share face to face with each other and with you!

Kim



Missional Pathway

Good Shepherd has completed three steps on our Missional Pathway with the fourth step planned for when life returns to normal. The most recent workshop was "Assess". Activities included building a timeline for our church from its beginning in the 1960's through today. We explored events and people that were significant in our church history and developed insights that could be used as we move out into the community in service and sharing the message of Jesus Christ.

The next step on our Missional Pathway is "Advance".



Preschool: Uncharted Waters

This wave of uncharted waters hit and hit fast! The abrupt stop to the preschool left us with many concerns and we have been trying to chart a course of actions ever since Friday, March 13. Boy, was that Friday the 13th one for the books. The preschool is trying to stay active with our parents and students in many ways. I email parents and have Facebook live calendar sessions each morning. I read a book daily and on Fridays we do a Bible lesson live. This past Friday we read and discussed The Good Samaritan.

The teachers are keeping in touch with families via email, text and Shutterfly which is an online application that you can message parents, upload pictures, videos, etc. We are now looking into online classes through Google Classroom. This free classroom would allow our teachers to send work, the children can submit it back to the teacher as

well as have live class session with kids from the class. We are collecting data from a survey to get a baseline of interest and will make a final decision by Thursday, April 2. The teachers had previously sent home wonderful packets for the students to work on and this is taking it up a level to adapt to the times. Our first priority is the students and we are taking every measure possible to keep their life as 'normal' as possible and help parents through this unprecedented time in everyone's life.

Ashley

April 2020

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Current activities have been postponed, cancelled, or changed to online while future activities may be uncertain due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Check the [website](#) for a live calendar and up-to-date information.

			1 <i>7p Confirmation (Zoom)</i>	2	3 <i>1-4p Palms pickup/SHIM food collection</i>	4 <i>9a-12p Palms pickup/SHIM food collection</i>
5 <i>Palm Sunday (online worship)</i>	6	7	8	9 <i>Maundy Thursday (online worship)</i>	10 <i>Good Friday (online worship)</i>	11 <i>Easter flower pickup-after 11a</i>
12 <i>Easter Sunday (online worship)</i>	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 <i>Online worship</i>	20	21	22	23	24	25 <i>Ladies' Garage Sale (postponed; future date TBD)</i>
26 <i>Online worship</i>	27 <i>Council Meeting (Zoom)</i>	28	29	30		

March and April Birthdays

3/15—Hannah Thurston

3/22—Ellen Linhart

3/23—Louise Kratz

3/24—Jaydon Lawson

3/25—Josh Hoellein

3/25—Tillie Koerth

3/29—Amy Arnold

3/29—Matt Betler

3/29—Darryn Sleeman

3/30—Grace Volland

3/31—Jane Watkins

4/1—Caleb Scheller

4/2—Alex Barkell

4/2—Maddie Thurston

4/3—Barb Hentsch

4/4—Michael Nader

4/6—Rebekah Johnston

4/8—Tino Martinez

4/8—Marty Snyder

4/8—Laura Thurston

4/9—Joshua Glasser

4/9—Nora Kudis

4/10—Amy Frantz

4/10—Christina Sebastian

4/14—Cindy Geis

4/14—Jakob Sleeman

4/15—Nicole Kochanski

4/18—Don Volland, Sr.

4/21—Diane Johnston

4/24—Ella Frantz

4/25—Mike Rea

4/25—Darlene Stocker

4/26—Sean Thurston

4/30—Tim Marcovecchio



April Anniversaries

4/1—John and Helen Lee Coleman (58)

4/26—Ray and Chris Vogel (51)



A New Pictorial Directory is Coming! Save the Date!

Last month we asked you to save a the date for photography sessions for a new pictorial directory. Given the stay-at-home directives currently in place, the *Save the Date* has changed to **Tuesday, August 11 and Wednesday, August 12.** Life-touch will hold photography ses-

sions at Good Shepherd from 2-9pm on these days. To help us prepare for the directory, we are asking every adult to complete a [Contact Information Update Form](#). Paper copies of the form are also available in the church narthex. So mark your calendar

and save the date! Our directory won't be complete without you!



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills

418 Maxwell Dr.
Whitehall, PA 15236

Phone: 412-884-3232

Email: office@goodshepherdpittsburgh.org

Prayer Requests for Members, Family and Friends:

Dottie Tritsch, Florence Christiansen, Sean Thurston, David Hesse, Jennifer Meyer, Scott Garretson, Darlene Stocker, Hope Leydig, Dennis Lee, Earl Richards, John Wilson, Sam Langol, Linda, Lorraine S., Barb Hentsch, Melissa Medved, Anne Malone, Dorothy Stubock, David DeBor, Mary Hesse, Gary Cooper, Carolyn Uhlyar, Evie Jones, Joan Steigerwald, Norma Mikoleit, Rose Spencer, Mary Jane Forrest, John Simpson, Tillie Koerth, Don Richards, Pam Spechtold, Nancy Edmundson, Ella Mae Held, Rose Marie Koehnke, Shirley McClain, Joan Uhrinak

51 / 49: Reach In, Reach Across, Reach Out

When the Mission Ministry Team decided to embark on another 51/49 Campaign, we certainly had no idea of upcoming events. And yet the idea of sacrificial giving, with 51% to be directed for missions outside of our building, seems especially timely. We can certainly take this time of isolation from the outside world to draw into ourselves even more. After Jesus' death, the apostles locked themselves in a room together in fear. But remember what happened next: "Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be

with you.'" (John 20:19) We know that Jesus is standing next to us now through our feelings of fear and anxiety and loneliness. And now, perhaps more than at any other time we have experienced, we need to look outside of ourselves, outside of our walls, in order to serve and spread the love of Jesus and the peace he provides. We may not know what form that service will take at this moment, but that does not lessen the need. Please remember the 51/49 Campaign today.

