



Good Shepherd Monthly News

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills

Volume 1, Issue 9

Reopening Update

The Reopening Committee continues to be in place and address issues associated with the pandemic. The church opened for services on June 21st. Preschool opened on October 19th. We started singing all songs on October 25th. We did have a person test positive for Covid who attended that service. Contact tracing was used and all persons who may have been at risk were notified. No new cases have been identified. Our facilities have been sanitized and continue to be on a regular basis in compliance with CDC guidelines.

The Preschool has made adaptations and implemented new processes to be able to teach the children in-person during the pandemic. There are 34 students in 5 classes. The classes celebrated Halloween with outdoor costume parades so families could watch. The students celebrated Thanksgiving as each class invited their parents to the sanctuary to listen to songs the children had prepared. The Preschool thanks the congregation for its continued prayers and support, including participation in the Pre-

school Pal program and various fundraisers.

As we continue with Sunday morning worship only, we know there is interest for in-person Adult Discovery Time and Sunday School. In the initial months without a pastor, our focus has been on establishing the worship services, especially as we prepare for the special Advent and Christmas services. Beginning in January, we will revisit initiating Adult Discovery Time and Sunday School.

While we do not have a pastor, Sunday services have been, and will continue to be, led by a mix of visiting pastors, in-person lay members, and pre-recorded messages. We also continue to live stream our worship services and provide a shortened recording several days after the live service.

Good Shepherd continues to adapt and *“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, giving thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)*

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Ministry News

Advent and Christmas Schedule

December 6—2nd Sunday in Advent—10 am Worship

- Lay leader with a pre-recorded sermon by Rev. Joel Christiansen, Joan Krueger's brother

December 13—3rd Sunday in Advent—10 am Worship with Communion

- Guest preacher Rev. Jared Townley, St. Luke Lutheran, Cabot, PA

December 20—4th Sunday in Advent—10am Worship

- The Christmas Story will be told with readings by Sunday School families

December 24—Christmas Eve—4pm & 7pm Worship with Communion

- Good Shepherd member Ray Betler will preach at both services
- The services will be identical (the 3 hour time difference is to allow adequate time for cleaning between services)
- We will request advance registration for in-person attendance so we can ensure adequate social distancing. Details to complete the registration process will be available closer to Christmas.

December 27—1st Sunday after Christmas— 10am Worship with Communion

- Guest preacher Rev. Joel Christiansen, Joan Krueger's brother

A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God." - Isaiah 40:3 (ESV)

Call Process Update

Given our last call process finished a short 3 1/2 years ago, under the Eastern District's guidance, this time around we will engage in an abbreviated call process. A subset of the church council is reviewing the 2016 completed self-study documents. Edits are being made to reflect more current statistics, financials, and goals. The Council and Elders will review the updated documentation before approving the final document which is to be submitted directly to President Wicher. The goal is to send the documentation to President Wicher in January. We are taking the time necessary to update the documentation to adequately represent the current Good Shepherd. If you have questions about the process or want to see the final documentation, please speak with Scott Thurston or Ray Vogel.

Our Sunday morning worship is being live streamed.

[Click here](#) Sundays at 10am to join us in worship. A recording of the service continues to be made available midweek.

2021 Offering Envelopes: Get Ready for a New Number!

We are reassigning the offering envelope numbers this year. As a result, the majority of envelope holders will receive a new number for their 2021 offering envelopes. If you have not received offering envelopes in the past and would like to be assigned an envelope for 2021, please inform the office.

The 2021 envelopes will be **available for pickup** in the narthex beginning **Sunday, December 6**. Remember, please do not use these envelopes until January 2021.

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. - Colossians 3:17 (ESV)

Senior “Angel” Tree

2020 has been a difficult year for us all, but most especially for those living and serving in care facilities. Many residents have been without visits from family and friends for much of the year, as well as outside trips and excursions, and some residents have little family to provide even small gifts. Let's reach out to our neighbors at Concordia of South Hills as gift angels this year. As you make your Christmas shopping list, why not add something for a resident:

- Clothing items such as sweatshirts and sweatpants, cardigan sweaters, adjustable ball caps, socks, washable slippers (with backs) or slipper socks.
- Personal items such as hair clips and barrettes, hand lotion, combs or hairbrushes.
- Gifts such as stationery and stamps, word search books, large print books, boxes of chocolates, music cd's, sun catchers with suction cups, or small decorative pillows.

If your heart reaches out to the staff who have been subject to long hours and exhausting protocols, you could purchase gift cards to take-out restaurants or Amazon, Christmas ornaments, scented candles, or hand lotion.

Please do not limit yourself to this list! Just keep in mind that most of the residents and staff are women.

Collection will end on December 13 so that your gifts can be delivered later that week. Gift-wrapping would be helpful, with a short description attached to assist the coordinator, and please include a note or greeting. If you have any questions or suggestions, speak with Kim Ressler.

Thank you, angels!

Be sure to check goodshepherdpittsburgh.org for a live calendar and up-to-date information.

December 2020

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		<i>1</i> <i>6p Scrapbookers</i>	<i>2</i> <i>7:30p Narc Anon</i>	<i>3</i> <i>5p Soccer Shots</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> <i>9:15a Soccer Shots</i>
<i>6</i> <i>10a Worship</i>	<i>7</i> <i>7p Boy Scouts</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> <i>7:30p Narc Anon</i>	<i>10</i> <i>5p Soccer Shots</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i> <i>9:15a Soccer Shots</i>
<i>13</i> <i>10a Worship with communion</i>	<i>14</i> <i>7p Boy Scouts</i>	<i>15</i> <i>6p Scrapbookers</i>	<i>16</i> <i>7:30p Narc Anon</i>	<i>17</i> <i>5p Soccer Shots</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i> <i>9:15a Soccer Shots</i>
<i>20</i> <i>10a Worship</i>	<i>21</i> <i>Preschool Break: 12/21-1/1</i> <i>7p Boy Scouts</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i> <i>7:30p Narc Anon</i>	<i>24</i> <i>Church Office Closed</i> <i>Christmas Eve</i> <i>4p & 7p Worship with communion</i>	<i>25</i> <i>Church Office Closed</i> <i>Christmas Day</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>27</i> <i>10a Worship with communion</i>	<i>28</i> <i>7p Boy Scouts</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i> <i>7:30p Narc Anon</i>	<i>31</i> <i>9a-9p Private Use of Fellowship Hall</i>		

Worship Sermon Schedule:

- 12/6—Pre-recorded sermon by Rev. Joel Christiansen, Joan Krueger's brother
- 12/13—Live sermon by guest preacher Rev. Jared Townley, St. Luke Lutheran, Cabot, PA
- 12/20—The Christmas Story told by Sunday School Families
- 12/24—Live sermon by member Ray Betler at both services
- 12/27—Live sermon by guest preacher Rev. Joel Christiansen, Joan Krueger's brother.

December Birthdays

12/1—Dominic Molinari
12/1—Delilah Yasko
12/5—Jim Marlowe
12/6—Fred Winkler
12/7—Grace Chioda
12/8—Kaleb Arnold
12/10—Carole Shade
12/12—Bud Hoellein

12/15—Kevin Vietmeier
12/23—Rose Marie Koehnke
12/24—Luke Eicher
12/26—Katelyn Marcovecchio
12/29—Mark Coleman
12/29—Charli Winters
12/31—Zoey Volland



December Anniversaries

12/23—Dominic and Carol Sue Molinari (41)



Thanks and Giving

We wish to thank Jacque Fete for the many years of giving her time to care for Good Shepherd's front entrance flower garden! This quiet, behind the scenes service, has been greatly appreciated! We are looking for someone to maintain the garden in the future, beginning spring of 2021. If you are interested, speak with Ken Meyer.

Thank you to everyone who helped Pastor Tim and Pam in the moving process—packing, loading, providing meals and a place to stay. The generosity and love provided by Good Shepherd was a true blessing.

Shop with AmazonSmile, Support Good Shepherd

The holiday season is upon us. As you begin your Christmas shopping, if you shop on Amazon, remember to login to your account via **Amazon Smile** to have 0.5% of your eligible purchases donated to Good Shepherd. [Click here](#) to shop for gifts at AmazonSmile to generate donations for **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills**. Browse and shop like you normally do, and Amazon will donate 0.5% to our church every time you shop.

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Prayer Requests for Members, Family and Friends:

Robin Hesse, Don Richards, Pastor Tim, Debbie Volland, Tiffany, Jennifer Meyer, Dorothy Stubock, Ellen Linhart, Earl and Mary Jane Richards, Mary Jane Forrest, Kristen, Joan Funaiock, Evie Jones, Fred "Butch" Taylor, Dottie Tritsch, Florence Christiansen, David Hesse, Scott Garretson, Darlene Stocker, Hope Leydig, Dennis Lee, John Wilson, Sam Langol, Linda, Lorraine S., Barb Hentsch, Melissa Medved, Anne Malone, David DeBor, Mary Hesse, Gary Cooper, Carolyn Uhlyar, Joan Steigerwald, Norma Mikoleit, Rose Spencer, John Simpson, Tillie Koerth, Pam Spechtold, Nancy Edmundson, Rose Marie Koehnke, Joan Uhrinak

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[Youtube.com/channel/UC3Vh06JeoKM-rVRkXRRVpvQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3Vh06JeoKM-rVRkXRRVpvQ)

(or, go to YouTube and search for Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills)

If you are receiving this newsletter in your home mailbox, consider giving us an email address, and you'll receive the newsletter more quickly each month. And just a reminder, the Monthly Newsletter and Weekly Tidings can be viewed on the website at: <https://www.goodshepherdpittsburgh.org/news-to-note/>.