



February 2021

Good Shepherd Monthly News

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills

Volume 2, Issue 2

February Happenings

Adult Bible Class and Sunday School classes have been **on hold** since mid-March and many have asked, when will we meet in-person again? Compared to in-person worship, there are more factors to consider for in-person Adult Bible Class and Sunday School. Church leadership continues to discuss and pray about restarting these in-person classes. As the Covid virus persists to rapidly spread and with new variants, for everyone's health and safety, at this time Good Shepherd will maintain in holding off on in-person classes. With vaccinations beginning, we can see 'the light at the end of the tunnel.' We have come this far keeping everyone safe, so we ask for your patience as Good Shepherd continues to wait just a little longer before beginning in-person classes again.

With safety measures in place, the **Preschool** remains open. The children are thriving with the guidance of their teachers, growing socially, academically, and spiritually. Looking forward to next year, the **registration** process has begun. To learn about class offerings and availability for **2020-2021**, contact the Preschool Director, Ashly Miller via phone (412-884-5960) or email (preschool@goodshepherdpittsburgh.org).

Ash Wednesday is **February 17**. We will have a single **worship** service at **5pm**. Pastor Barry Keurulainen will preside over this service when we begin the season of Lent, a time for reflection and prayer as we focus on Jesus' life, ministry, suffering and death, in preparation for his resurrection and the hope it brings.

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*My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.—
Psalm 73:26 (ESV)*

Ministry News

Call Process Update for a New Pastor

Congregation members have been invited to suggest the name of a pastor to be considered for our call list. Nominations will be forwarded to District President Chris Wicher. If you would like to make a nomination, please contact the church office to receive the appropriate form to be completed. Completed nomination forms shall be returned to the office by Tuesday, February 2nd.

Ray Vogel has been appointed to be the Call Committee Chair. Ray and Congregation President, Scott Thurston, will ask members to join this committee. If you are asked to join the Call Committee, prayerfully consider serving. The committee will review the list of pastoral names provided to us from the Eastern District, identify the individuals to be interviewed, conduct interviews, and present nominees to the congregation.

Pastor Barry Keurulainen, recently retired from St. Luke in Cabot, will provide pastoral guidance for the call committee. Pastor Barry is also assisting us in worship this winter and spring. Check the monthly calendar to see when Pastor Barry is preaching. We are grateful for Pastor Barry's support during our vacancy.

Service of Communion Only—Friday, February 12

Friday, February 12 at 11am, Good Shepherd will offer a short *communion only service* in the sanctuary. This weekday communion service will be led by an elder and is open to anyone who would like to come, but it is especially for those seeking to avoid large crowds due to Covid. If the weather is too poor on February 12, this service will be rescheduled. Please contact the church office with any questions.

Sunday morning worship continues in-person at 10am and it is also being live streamed.

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

Being Challenge and Virtual Life Groups

March 1, 2020, Good Shepherd kicked off the **Red Letter Challenge (RLC)**. For 40 days during Lent, this was the focus of our worship and Life Groups. In this discipleship challenge, we focused on the word of Jesus and putting those words into practice on a daily basis. Little did we know when we started how unifying this study would be, keeping Good Shepherd connected when just two weeks later, we were no longer meeting in person to worship and socialize due to the pandemic.

For Lent 2021, we again invite every family to participate in a 40-day challenge. We will begin the **Being Challenge** on Sunday, February 14. *Being* was the first principle introduced in the **RLC**. The **Being Challenge** will now take us on a 40-day journey to BE like Jesus. We will learn and have the opportunity to put into practice Jesus' 5 main habits:

- ◆ Commit to Community
- ◆ Study Scripture
- ◆ Prioritize Prayer
- ◆ Seek Solitude
- ◆ Choose Church



Participation in the **Being Challenge** can be done individually, but for a feeling of connection and community as we seek to bring the entire church on this journey, we encourage participants to join a virtual Life Group. We currently have groups meeting as follows:

- ◆ 5pm Sunday—Tim Marcovecchio is the leader
- ◆ 6:30pm Sunday—Ray Betler is the leader
- ◆ 1pm Thursday—Kim Ressler is the leader
- ◆ 6:30pm Friday—Mark Barkell is the leader

The groups will meet once per week for 6 weeks, beginning the week of February 14. If you would like to lead and form a new group, [click here](#) to inform the church office.

We hope you will join us for this challenge, either in a virtual group or individually. Sign-ups are available in the church narthex or [click here to sign-up electronically](#).

Thrivent seed money was used to help purchase the **Being Challenge** books. If you would like to personally donate towards the cost of the books, any amount will be graciously accepted. Envelopes are available at the BC table in the narthex and may be placed in the offering. Online donations may also be given. Check out the [website](#) for more information.

BEING

CHALLENGE

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

February 2021

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1 <i>7p Boy Scouts</i>	2 <i>6p Scrapbookers 7p Council- Elders Mig (YR)</i>	3 <i>7:30p Narc Anon</i>	4 <i>5:35p Soccer Shots</i>	5 <i>7p Plastic Model Society</i>	6 <i>9:50a Soc Shots 11a Private Bapt- Confirmation</i>
7 <i>10a Worship with Communion</i>	8 <i>7p Boy Scouts</i>	9	10 <i>7:30p Narc Anon</i>	11 <i>5:35p Soccer Shots</i>	12 <i>11a Communion Only Service</i>	13 <i>9:50a Soccer Shots</i>
14 <i>10a Worship Being Challenge Begins</i>	15 <i>No Preschool 7p Boy Scouts</i>	16 <i>6p Scrapbookers</i>	17 <i>5p Worship with Communion Ash Wednesday 7:30p Narc Anon</i>	18 <i>5:35p Soccer Shots</i>	19	20 <i>9:50a Soccer Shots</i>
21 <i>10a Worship</i>	22 <i>7p Boy Scouts</i>	23	24 <i>7:30p Narc Anon</i>	25 <i>5:35p Soccer Shots</i>	26	27 <i>9:50a Soccer Shots</i>
28 <i>10a Worship with Communion</i>						

Worship Sermon Schedule:

- 2/7—Visiting Preacher—Pastor Barry Keurulainen
- 2/14—Pre-recorded sermon—**Being Challenge:** Introduction
- 2/17—Visiting Preacher—Pastor Barry Keurulainen
- 2/21—Pre-recorded sermon—**Being Challenge:** Commit to Community
- 2/28—Visiting Preacher—Pastor Barry Keurulainen

February Birthdays

2/2—Anthony Chioda

2/8—Glenn Richards

2/12—Joshua Dunmire

2/12—George Zimmerman

2/20—Sara Ringling

2/22—Stephanie Glasser

2/23—Anthony Dicesaro

2/23—Jacob Marcovecchio

2/23—Art Tritsch

2/27—Tyler Zeman

2/28—Sam Ressler

2/28—Allie Wilson



February Anniversaries

2/8—Steve and Kathi Kuskie (46)

2/10—Eric and Debbie Hoellein (25)



Memorials Received

Thanks to all those who gave memorials to Good Shepherd in memory of loved ones and friends during the month of January:

In memory of Ellen Linhart—Ron and Dot Gerstacker (Preschool Gift)

In memory of Dorothea Stubock, Linda Carver's mother—Ron and Dot Gerstacker (GMAC); Carole Shade and Arlene Stroebel (Altar Guild); George and Rose Ann Zimmerman (LWML)

In memory of Darlene Stocker—Ron and Dot Gerstacker and Don Richards (GMAC), Arlene Stroebel (Altar Guild)

But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.—Isaiah 40:31 (ESV)

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Prayer Requests for Members, Family and Friends:

Bill, Karen Reiter, Don Matthews, Phyllis, Robin Hesse, Don Richards, Pastor Tim, Debbie Volland, Tiffany, Jennifer Meyer, Earl and Mary Jane Richards, Mary Jane Forrest, Joan Funaiock, Evie Jones, Fred "Butch" Taylor, Dottie Tritsch, Florence Christiansen, David Hesse, Scott Garretson, 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/>.