



June 2022

Good Shepherd Monthly News

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills

Volume 3, Issue 6

Our Father

Like father, like son. How are you like your father? How are you not like your father? The relationship one has with their father, evokes many memories and many emotions. As we consider what it means to be free, the relationship of father and son is referred to no less than 12 times in John 8.

Jesus tells his listeners, "I speak the things which I have seen with My Father, therefore you also do the things which you heard from your father, you are of your father the devil and you want to do the desires of your father." (John 8:38)

True freedom is rooted in knowing who your Father is. Jesus says that Satan is the father of lies and a murderer from the beginning. One does not need to look any further than the garden of Eden for proof of this. At the core of knowing the truth that makes one free is knowing that the words of Jesus are the words of the Father. "He who sent me is true and the things which I heard from him these I speak to the world." (John 8:26) As they say, like father, like son.

Jesus refers to His Father over 150 times in the Gospels. It is no coincidence that in a chapter where He speaks about being free, that it is connected to His Father. When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray, He gave them a prayer that began "Our Father." The Lord's Prayer is so well known but only recently did I see the invitation to break free from the deception and lies of Satan and discover the truth and path of freedom in each petition that follows.

Our Father! Martin Luther says of these words, "God would hereby tenderly invite us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children so that we may ask Him with all boldness and confidence, as children ask their dear father."

Prayer is many things but chiefly, prayer is about relationship, a relationship of confidence and trust that invites us as His children to a life of freedom. Hold the words of Jesus close you're your heart; "A Slave is not a permanent member of the family, but a son is part of the family forever." (John 8:35) There is security in these words. The truth of this verse is painted for us in the image of the prodigal son coming home. The father is quick to give him the sandals, the best robe and the ring. He is no slave, and these items will remind the son in days to come, he is safe and secure at home.

Our Father who art in heaven. In these words there is reverence in who He is and where He dwells but there is also refuge. The creator of the universe is our Father. The world is a perfectly safe place to be in His hands.

Ponder on your own or share with someone in your life this question: What makes for a good father? How does your heavenly Father fulfill this for you?

Prayer: Father, what a joy it is to call you Father. Help me this day to live confidently in this truth, especially when.....
- Pastor Barry

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Ministry News

Ukraine Love Offering Update and Distribution

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for your generous support of the Ukrainian Relief Fund. The contributions collected were so moving that Joneen and I decided to contribute to the full challenge match which resulted in total funds raised of \$22,000.

There are two anchor Ukrainian Congregations in our area that are doing wonderful work in support of the Ukrainian Nation and their people. In discussion at our May Council Meeting, it was decided to split the contributions raised between these two Churches equally and to give each \$11,000.

Father John Charest of Saints Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 200 Walnut Street, Carnegie, PA 15106 informed me that their Congregation has already bought three Vans to transport people and supplies in and out of war-torn cities, like Mariupol. Each van costs \$30,000. The Vans are purchased in Ukraine and utilize a Ukrainian driver who has defensive and evasive driving skills to remove people from Mariupol and other territories. The group has had success in their efforts and will use our \$11,000 contribution to help increase the number of vans they have, from 3 to 6. What used to take three hours in Ukraine now takes two days because of deteriorating roads and the hundreds of checkpoints that have been set up.

Father Yaroslav Koval of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, 109 South 7th St. Pittsburgh, PA 15203 (Southside) informed me that their Congregation is sending donations to The Smile of the Child Orphanage and to the Ukrainian Army. The money that St. John the Baptist UCC is able to raise is wired directly to the Orphanage and to the Chaplain of the Ukrainian Army. They will use our \$11,000 donation to support their focus on orphaned Children.

Billions of dollars have been given to Ukraine by the US and many other aligned Countries. It makes the \$22,000 we raised pale in comparison, but the reality is that our funds are directed and will have immediate impact...and they matter!

Thank you again to all who contributed, for their thoughtfulness, love, concern and support.

All Members and Friends of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church are asked to continue to PRAY! Pray for an end of the war, for an end to the violence and atrocities inflicted on the innocent, pray for the orphans, for the elderly, for men separated from the families, for women desperate to support their children, for the safety of all, for hope, faith and understanding, for spiritual leaders, medical staff and for the soldiers who endure the threat of the enemy each day not knowing what their fate may be; and pray for the leaders of Ukraine and their courage to seek that which is right and just for their people.

Your Brothers and Sister in Christ,
Ray & Joneen Betler
Cousin Nick Kotow

A Retirement Celebration for Joan Krueger

Sunday, June 26 will be Joan Krueger's last service playing the organ. Join us for worship at 10:15am and stay for a noon luncheon to celebrate Joan's 25 years of Music Ministry at Good Shepherd. Joan and Larry have both served in leadership positions and led various ministries at Good Shepherd for the past 27 years. They will begin a new season in retirement as they move to Indiana. We hope you can join us June 26 to say good-bye and thank you.

Please RSVP for the luncheon in the Fellowship Hall by June 12 to help us plan, and to let us know you if you are able to bring a side dish or dessert. You may call (412-884-3232) or [email the church office](#), sign-up in the church narthex, or [sign-up electronically](#).

*Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness!
Come into this presence with singing! — Psalm 100:1-2*

VBS: Treasured—June 20-24

Discovering You Are Priceless to God!



VBS is right around the corner! Are you ready to explore and unlock a treasure? At Treasured VBS, kids will dig into action-packed, faith-filled adventures. They'll discover God's greatest treasure isn't diamonds, gems, or gold—it's them! [Registration](#) continues through May 28th for participants and June 3rd for volunteers.

Would you like to be a volunteer? There are so many ways to be involved. Youth (who have completed 6th grade by June 2022) and adults interested in helping, please register online. If you have questions about volunteering, contact Jean Barone (jrbear6399@verizon.net). Don't forget, adults 18 years and older need to have current clearances (< 5 years old) on file in the church office. Clearance information and instructions are available on the [website](#).

Finally, to ensure all families can participate, we do not charge for VBS, so its success depends on the generosity of participant and congregation families. If you are moved to donate to our VBS program, special envelopes are available in the church narthex or donations may be given [online](#). There is also a donation board in the back of the narthex with items that are needed. If you are able to help, take a tag and return your donation to the church office by June 12th.

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

June 2022

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Worship Sermon Schedule:

6/5—Pastor David Weeks
6/12—Video Sermon—Pastor Barry Keurulainen
6/19—Ray Betler
6/26—Pastor Barry Keurulainen

			1 7:30p Narc Anon	2 5p Soccer Shots Makeup	3	4 9:15a Soccer Shots Whitehall Summer Concert (5p Food; 7p Music)
5 Pentecost 10:15a Worship w/ Communion 11:45a Private Baptism	6 5p Soccer Shots 7p Boy Scouts	7 6p Scrapbookers	8 7:30p Narc Anon	9 5p Soccer Shots	10 7p Plastic Model Society	11 9:15a Soccer Shots
12 Trinity 10:15a Worship 12p Private Use of Fellowship Hall	13 5p Soccer Shots 7p Boy Scouts 7p Council Mtg	14	15 7:30p Narc Anon	16 5p Soccer Shots	17 Whitehall Summer Concert (5p Food; 7p Music)	18 9:15a Soc- cer Shots 1p Private Use Fellowship Hall VBS Setup
19 VBS Setup 10:15a Worship Articles Due for July Newsletter	20 VBS 9a-12p 5p Library Pro- gram 7p Boy Scouts	21 VBS 9a-12p 6p Scrapbookers	22 VBS 9a-12p 7:30p Narc Anon	23 VBS 9a-12p 5p Soccer Shots	24 VBS 9a-12p VBS Cleanup	25 9:15a Soccer Shots
26 10:15a Wor- ship w/ commun- ion 12p Luncheon for Kruegers	27 5p Soccer Shots 7p Boy Scouts	28	29 7:30p Narc Anon	30 1:30p Commun- ion Service 5p Soccer Shots		

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

[Click here](#) Sundays to join us in worship via our YouTube Channel.
Complete the [Online Worship Fellowship Record](#) to let us know you have joined.

June Birthdays

6/1—Luke Barkell	6/19—Mark Barkell
6/3—Colleen Kudis	6/20—Aundrea Reed
6/7—Joan Krueger	6/20—Maddox Kochanski
6/9—Sean Sleeman	6/21—Linda Carver
6/12—Christopher Wilson	6/21—Ray Vogel
6/15—Cindy Wutzke	6/22—Jacob Dunmire
6/17—Stacy Gonzalez	6/25—Caitlin Carver
6/18—Jennifer Meyer	6/29—Andie Keurulainen
6/18—Ronald Sheppard	6/30—Phyllis Hackbart



June Anniversaries

6/3—Ron and Dot Gerstacker (66)	6/10—Donnie and Tori Volland (5)
6/3—David and Jackie Gift (33)	6/11—Ray and Joneen Betler (45)
6/6—Chuck and Diane Johnston (25)	



But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. — 2 Peter 3:18

Memorials Received

Thanks to Ron and Dot Gerstacker for a memorial to Good Shepherd's LWML in memory of Evie Jones.

New: A Library of Sermons

On Sunday, May 22 we started a new sermon series on the book of James. This series will go through the end of summer. Outlines for all of the sermons and access to the sermons videos may be found on the [website](#). You can also find here the outlines for and links to the sermon videos for 'The Cross' sermon series from Lent 2022. Thanks to Jeremy Frantz for isolating the sermons from their live worship recordings to create a [sermon only video library](#).

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills

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Prayer Requests for Members, Family and Friends:

Bill Mutschler, Mrs. Deemer, Liam Storey, Rachel, Carol DeAngelis, John Ballantyne, Debbie, Nicole, Marian Maskow, Pastor Bob McCanless, Larry Winker, Cindy Geis, Lorraine, Rob Welsh, Karen, Rob, Mike Brennan, Jim Stocker, Rose Ann Zimmerman, Erika Similo, Dana McNulty, Jan Kleiser, Sherri, Lisa Brady, Don Matthews, Phyllis, Don Richards, Pastor Tim, Debbie Volland, Tiffany, Jennifer Meyer, Earl Richards, Mary Jane Forrest, Fred "Butch" Taylor, Dottie Tritsch, Scott Garretson, Hope Leydig, Dennis Lee, John Wilson, Sam Langol, Linda, Barb Hentsch, Melissa Medved, Anne Malone, Gary Cooper, Carolyn Uhlyar, Joan Steigerwald, Norma Mikoleit, John Simpson, Tillie Koerth, Pam Spechtold, Joan Uhrinak

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(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://goodshepherdpittsburgh.org/news-to-note-2/>.