



March 2023

# Good Shepherd Monthly News

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills

Volume 4, Issue 3

## Inside this issue:

## From the Pastor's Desk

Blessings dear friends. Sarah and I are settling in well and getting to know the area. We both want to thank you for welcoming us and making us a part of the Good Shepherd family. God has many things in store for us and Good Shepherd in the coming months and years. It is our pleasure to partner alongside you as we grow in God's grace and love together. Thanks for all your support and prayers!

In His Grip,

*Pastor Josh and Sarah*

(P.S. Sarah thanks all those who celebrated her birthday with her.)

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How often do you read the Psalms? The Psalms offer wonderful expressions of faith, laments, prayers, and cries to God. While there are many Psalms that could fit within the Lenten theme, Psalm 130 is one that works well. Psalm 130 is one of many Psalms of ascent, a song that was likely sung or spoken as ancient Jewish people climbed up to the temple mount. Psalm 130 is also one of seven repentance Psalms in the Psalter.

During the season of Lent, the focus for Christians is on our sin and brokenness before God as well as our need for repentance. Psalm 130 does just that! The German pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer writes that repentance Psalms, like Psalm 130, "lead us into the total depth of the recognition of sin before God [and also] lead us to the confession of guilt and direct our complete confidence to the forgiving grace of God." In other words, confession, repentance, and the promise of forgiveness all wrapped in one Psalm – and Psalm 130 is only 8 verses long! As we bring our Lenten journey toward Holy Week, reflect on our sinful state and need to repent, look to the Psalms, especially Psalm 130 (as well as Psalm 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, and 143). Pray as the Psalmist does, crying from the depths of his soul, for the mercy of God. Know that God is faithful to forgive all who cry out to Him!

In Christ,

*Pastor Josh*

## The President's Corner

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Lent began with Ash Wednesday and while that was in February, the majority of the 40 day Lenten Season occurs in March. Lent is a solemn season for Christians as we prepare for the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. What should we as followers of Christ do during Lent? Certainly we should pray, read the Bible, participate in special devotionals. Many people have the idea to give something up during Lent; something that is very special to them as an individual. Many people fast. Some give up ice cream, sweets, social media; some form of demonstrating sacrifice. Jesus certainly prepared for sacrifice; in fact, He prepared to be sacrificed. His sacrifice was for you and for me. I would like to ask that rather than giving something up, ie; not doing something. I suggest that you consider sacrificing by applying yourself in some very special and unique way. Do something to sacrifice throughout the Lenten Season. There are so many opportunities at home, at Good Shepherd, at work, in the Community. You decide how you want to apply yourself. Jesus certainly did. When Easter arrives, I pray you will look back and reflect on the positive contribution you made to share the love of our Lord....and then, keep doing it!

*Your Brother in Christ, Ray Betler*

*Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. — Ephesians 5:1-2*

## A Word of Thanks

*"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, in view of your partnership in the Gospel." (Philippians 1:3-5)*

These words were written by St. Paul centuries ago, but they certainly capture and express how Andie and I feel toward you. We give God thanks in our remembrance of you. Your love, your support and your care toward us. We give thanks to God and to you for your crazy generous and unexpected gift of money. Time after time you have so generously loved us and cared for us. Yes, with Paul, we thank God in all our remembrance of you.

*Barry and Andie*

## Ministry News

### March to Sack Hunger with SHIM (South Hills Interfaith Movement)

Good Shepherd is joining **SHIM** in their **March to Sack Hunger** campaign this month. A table will be set up in the narthex to **collect donations March 5-26**. This drive will help SHIM stock their pantries to help feed the 2,500 individuals attending food distributions each month.

Items needed most: dried beans and lentils, rice, pasta sauce in jars, cereal and oatmeal, soup (especially low sodium), canned proteins (tuna, chicken, salmon, beans), beverages (juice, tea, coffee), personal care items (shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, etc.), diapers sizes 3-6, baby food.

Thanks for your participation in this initiative to help another Good Shepherd mission partner.

## Journey to the Cross

Good Shepherd will be hosting *Journey to the Cross*, a Holy Week learning experience, at **noon on Good Friday, April 7**. As a traveler, you have the opportunity to walk in Jesus' footsteps during Holy Week. Smell the aroma of anointing perfume, taste Passover food, feel a crown of thorns, and so much more. You will hear about Jesus from Bible witnesses and be a part of the Passion experience.



**We need some great volunteers to make our *Journey to the Cross* as meaningful as possible, and we're hoping that you will help.** Prayerfully consider serving as a Journey participant. For information about ways in which you might contribute to the *Journey*, speak with Jean Barone (412-901-2514) or Grace Chioda.

*I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning. O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption. And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities. — Psalm 130:5-8*

## Thrivent Choice

thrivent®

If you are a Thrivent member, you may have **Thrivent Choice Dollars** available to designate towards a non-profit you care about. **Thrivent Choice** is a charitable grant program by which eligible Thrivent members can recommend where some of Thrivent Financial's charitable outreach funds are distributed by directing **Choice Dollars**. Good Shepherd Christian Preschool and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills are both enrolled as recipients in the **Thrivent Choice** program. **Choice Dollars** directed to the Church are automatically deposited into the Pastor's Benevolence Fund.

If you are a Thrivent member and have **Choice Dollars** available, consider directing them to the Preschool or to the Church. **March 31st is the last day to direct your 2022 Choice Dollars.** Visit the [Thrivent website](#) or call 1-800-847-4836 and when prompted, say **Thrivent Choice** to learn more and to designate your 2021 **Choice Dollars** before March 31st.

## Thank You

[Printer Friendly](#)

You have directed 69 Choice Dollars to:

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills**  
418 Maxwell Dr  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15236

<https://www.goodshepherdpittsburgh.org/>  
Type: Congregation

Share the good news:



### Now make a bigger impact!

Help this organization even more by making a personal donation through Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing™.

Thrivent covers all processing fees so 100% of your donation goes to help.\*

[Make personal donation](#)

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.

# March 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1 3:30p BCAP 7:30p Narc Anon	2 3:30p BCAP 5:35p Soccer Shots	3 3:30p BCAP 7p IPMS	4 9:50a Soccer Shots 1p ASL
5 9a Discovery Hr 10:15a Worship w/ communion 11:45a Bells 12:30p Nepalese	6 3:30p BCAP 7p Boy Scouts	7 3:30p BCAP 6p Scrapbookers	8 3:30p BCAP 7:30p Narc Anon No Preschool: Parent Teacher	9 3:30p BCAP 5:35p Soccer Shots	10 3:30p BCAP 5p DISKA Conferences	11 9:50a Soccer Shots 1p DISKA 1p ASL
12 Daylight Savings Time Begins 9a Discovery Hr 10:15a Worship w/ communion 11:45a Bells 12:30p Nepalese	13 3:30p BCAP 7p Boy Scouts	14 3:30p BCAP 5p DISKA	15 3:30p BCAP 7:30p Narc Anon	16 3:30p BCAP 5:35p Soccer Shots	17 3:30p BCAP	18 9:50a Soccer Shots 1p ASL
19 9a Discovery Hr 10:15a Worship w/ communion 11:45a Bells 12:30p Nepalese	20 3:30p BCAP 5p Soccer Shots 7p Boy Scouts	21 3:30p BCAP 6p Scrapbookers	22 3:30p BCAP 7:30p Narc Anon Articles Due: Apr. Newsletter	23 3:30p BCAP 5p Soccer Shots	24 3:30p BCAP 5p DISKA	25 9:50a Soccer Shots 1p ASL 5p Pasta Dinner/ Trivia Night
26 9a Discovery Hr 10:15a Worship w/ communion 11:45a Bells 12:30p Nepalese	27 3:30p BCAP 5p Soccer Shots 7p Boy Scouts	28 3:30p BCAP 5p DISKA	29 3:30p BCAP 7:30p Narc Anon	30 3:30p BCAP 5p Soccer Shots	31 3:30p BCAP	

Be sure to check [goodshepherdpittsburgh.org](https://goodshepherdpittsburgh.org) for a live calendar and up-to-date information.

## March Birthdays

3/1—Tori Voland

3/3—David Gift

3/5—Dorothy Gerstacker

3/7—Alexis Kuskie

3/7—Carol Sue Molinari

3/9—Scott Thurston

3/14—Rachel Barone

3/14—Hayslee Kochanski

3/15—Hannah Thurston

3/21—Barry Keurulainen

3/23—Louise Kratz

3/24—Jayden Rawson

3/25—Joshua Hoellein

3/25—Tillie Koerth

3/29—Aimee Arnold

3/29—Matt Betler

3/29—Darryn Sleeman

3/30—Grace Voland

3/31—Jane Watkins



## March Anniversaries

3/24—Anthony and Grace Chioda (5)

3/27—Joshua and Stephanie Glasser (13)

## Easter Flowers

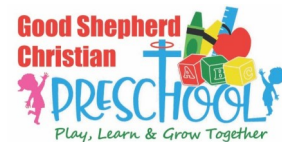
**Flowers** to beautify the altar at Easter may be **ordered through Sunday, March 12**. Choices include a lily, chrysanthemum, hyacinth or tulip. The cost is \$12 each. Checks are made payable to: *Altar Guild, Good Shepherd*. Order forms are available in the narthex or [click here to complete your order electronically](#). Return forms and payment to the office or to an Altar Guild member by March 12.

## Preschool Notes

The Preschool has begun its Easter **Sarris Candy Fundraiser**. All orders will be placed online again and the candy will be shipped to the location you designate. There is a \$5 packaging and handling fee, and shipping is free. The Preschool earns 25% profit with every purchase. To ensure delivery by Easter, **orders should be placed by April 2**.

How to place your order:

- [Click here to visit sarriscandiesfundraising.com](http://sarriscandiesfundraising.com)
- Click on "ORDER HERE" which appears following the question, *Supporting an online fundraiser?*
- Enter the Group ID#: **10-0940**
- Click on "CONTINUE"
- Begin Shopping



If you need assistance placing an order, contact the Church (412-884-3232) or Preschool (412-884-5960) and we are more than happy to help. Thanks for your support!

## Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills

418 Maxwell Dr.  
Whitehall, PA 15236

Phone: 412-884-3232

Email: [office@goodshepherdpittsburgh.org](mailto:office@goodshepherdpittsburgh.org)

Website: [goodshepherdpittsburgh.org](http://goodshepherdpittsburgh.org)

Pastor Josh: [pastorjosh@goodshepherdpittsburgh.org](mailto:pastorjosh@goodshepherdpittsburgh.org)



### Prayer Requests for Members, Family and Friends:

Jake, Pastor Chris Davis, Larry Krueger, Don Steward, Cathy Sayre, Steve Wutzke, Sarah Brooks, Peter Way, Denny, Michael Ayres, Sally Taccone, David, Rachel, Kelsie, Mrs. Deemer, Carol DeAngelis, Debbie, Pastor Bob McCanless, Larry Winker, Cindy Geis, Lorraine, Rob Welsh, Karen, Mike Brennan, Jim Stocker, Erika Similo, 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, Hope Leydig, Dennis Lee, Sam Langol, Linda, Barb Hentsch, Melissa Medved, Anne Malone, Gary Cooper, Carolyn Uhlyar, Joan Steigerwald, Norma Mikoleit, Tillie Koerth, Pam Spechtold, Joan Uhrinak

## Follow Good Shepherd on Social Media



[Facebook.com/GoodShepherdLutheranChurchofSouthHills/](https://Facebook.com/GoodShepherdLutheranChurchofSouthHills/)



[Instagram.com/goodshepherdpggh/](https://Instagram.com/goodshepherdpggh/)



[Youtube.com/channel/UC3Vh06JeoKM-rVRkXRRVpvQ](https://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 on the [News to Note](#) page.