



Newsletter

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills

Volume 1, Issue 12

From the Pastor's Desk

Deep in The Flesh!

The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us (John 1:14)

As we journey through the season of Advent, on our way to the manger, I pray that we might ponder and treasure, like Mary, the mystery of Christ's birth. It is in His incarnation, that the Christ entered our world deep into the flesh.

Deep with the straw, lies the Son of God. Who can understand this? Yet even more amazing, prior to this, deep within the darkness of Mary's womb and carried by His own creation, is the Creator.

St. Augustine expressed it in this way:

*Maker of the sun, He is made under the sun. . . .
In the Father He remains,
From His mother He goes forth.
Creator of heaven and earth,
He was born on earth under heaven.
Unspeakably wise, He is wisely speechless;
filling the world, He lies in a manger;
Ruler of the stars, He nurses at His mother's bosom.
He is both great in the nature of God,
and small in the form of a servant,
but so that His greatness is not diminished by His smallness,
nor His smallness overwhelmed by His greatness.*

Some imagine that Jesus became man so that He could visit and experience life as we know it. His birth was no visit! He entered deep into our lives, where sin had defiled the human race. Deep within, where pain and grief are the daily companions of sinners like you and me. He was well-acquainted with our sorrows and our grief. He not only witnessed them when He ate with sinners, He carried them Himself.

Deep within, Jesus lowered Himself into our flesh, entering the stronghold of Satan, binding Satan and taking us back as His own. Deep within, the lifeless body of Jesus was laid in the grave so that death would no longer hold power over us. Deep within our flesh, Jesus, "being in very nature, God" ...humbled Himself from the heights of glory so that He might be our Savior from sin and be deep with our hearts this coming glorious Christmas Day!

A blessed Advent to you and those you love,
Pastor Barry

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The President's Corner

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Well, we got our first snow! On Thursday night, November 21st, as Pittsburgh lost to Cleveland the snow began to fly! It was an incredible scene watching the game...quite beautiful if you were watching from the TV and weren't in it. But at 6am on Friday morning, I was getting ready to go to work at the SHIM Food Bank to set up and hand out food for the morning drive-through distribution. All of a sudden it wasn't so pretty, rather it looked kind of nasty! That's called perspective. Your view of the world sometimes changes based on how it impacts you individually.

Advent has started. We have a perspective of what Advent will bring. Advent is the first season of the Christian calendar. The four Sundays in Advent lead us to Christmas. We've conditioned ourselves over the years to know what to expect. Baby Jesus is coming; make fast the way of the Lord! In other words, actively prepare the path for God's presence by removing obstacles, promoting righteousness, and actively aligning oneself with God's Will! Is that what you and your Family and our Congregation will be doing this Advent?

We are in the process of managing the daily needs of Good Shepherd while maintaining a focus on our purpose and longer term opportunities. The Mission and Ministry of Good Shepherd is elaborated in our mission statement: To know and praise Christ, to grow in Christ and to share Christ with others. This is our touchstone. Everything we do and all that we support should align with this purpose.

I take this opportunity again to wish Pastor Josh well as he is ordained on Dec. 1, 2024 and takes over the Ministry of the St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Tunkhannock, PA. He, Sarah and Samuel will be living here through the end of this year until they close on their new house, and Pastor Josh will be commuting for his first few weeks at St. Paul's. Please keep him, Sarah and Samuel, and his new Congregation in your prayers.

Thank you to Pastor Barry for his continuing leadership and guidance. Maybe the phrase "been there done that" comes to mind. But it's really not so. The Lord has continued to bless Good Shepherd and we are in a new place in our Ministry. Pastor Barry has served, and will continue to serve as Vacancy Pastor, in Bradford, PA. We all have two additional years of experience and knowledge, and there it is again...perspective. Pastor Barry has helped us to structure a Pastoral Ministry Team to serve our Congregation that consists of Pastor Adam Salinas, Pastor David Weeks and himself. Pastor Barry is in regular communication with Grace, Regina, Ray V, myself and often others. He is leading the Worship Committee weekly to prepare our Sunday Services and has committed to be at Good Shepherd periodically to visit shut-ins, conduct devotionals with the Preschool Staff, and attend Chapels with the Preschool Children. We will hold a joint Council/Elders Meeting after our Dec 8th Service facilitated by Pastor David Weeks. This is a timely follow-up to the strategic planning session we held in February. And we will get to know Pastor Adam Salinas well as he preaches and teaches Adult Bible Class most Sundays. I am teaching Confirmation Class now and am honored to have the opportunity to nurture the hearts and souls of two wonderful young men; Aaron Zeman and Gavin Glasser.

So many people are doing so many things at Good Shepherd. The LWML organization led by Jeannie Barone has held several events since our last newsletter. The same is true for the Family Life and Youth Committee led by Stephanie & John Watkins and Stephanie & Josh Glasser. Scott Thurston has accepted the role as the official Chartered Organization Representative for the Cub Scout Pack that is now part of our Church. Each of these specific and individual responsibilities are meaningful. They send a message to the community demonstrating who we are and what we are all about, and they have a connection to our purpose. Look for the signs of dynamic activity in the Narthex, in the Tidings, on the Church calendar, and all around you in the Church throughout the week.

Please pray that we can attract people back to Good Shepherd, those that have left recently, those that left long ago, and those that have not yet met us. Please take the personal responsibility to invite people back: family members, friends, visitors, etc. We have a lot to offer and we want to use the gifts God has given to show just that.

The greatest gift is the one we celebrate on Christmas Eve; the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May you find peace and comfort in His birth. May it fill your heart, mind and spirit with a perspective rooted in hope and faith through the promise and free gift of our salvation.

Merry Christmas...may the Lord bless and guide all of us through the coming New Year!

Your Brother in Christ, Ray

December 2024

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.

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>1</p> <p>9:15a Sunday School 10:15 Sunday Worship (Video Sermon) 12:30 Pgh Napali Church 12p Accent Music 3:30p Cub Scouts - DEN</p>	<p>2</p> <p>3p BCAP 5:30p Cub Scouts - DEN 7p Boy Scouts</p>	<p>3</p> <p>3p BCAP 5:30p Cub Scouts - DEN 6p Scrapbooking</p>	<p>4</p> <p>3p BCAP 5:30p Cub Scouts - DEN 7p Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>5</p> <p>3p BCAP 5:30p Cub Scouts - DEN 5:30p Soccer Shots</p>	<p>6</p> <p>3p BCAP 5p Preschool Family Fun Night</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:15a Sunday School 10:15a Sunday Worship (Weeks) 12p Elder/Council Meeting 12:30p Pgh Napali Church 3:30p Cub Scouts - DEN</p>	<p>9</p> <p>3p BCAP 5:30p Cub Scouts - DEN 7p Boy Scouts</p>	<p>10</p> <p>3p BCAP 5:30p Cub Scouts - DEN</p>	<p>11</p> <p>3p BCAP 5:30p Cub Scouts - DEN 7p Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>12</p> <p>3p BCAP 5p Cub Scouts Pack Meeting</p>	<p>13</p> <p>GSLC office closed 3p BCAP</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6p Accent Music</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:15a Sunday School 10:15 Sunday Worship (Silinas) 12:30 Pgh Napali Church 12p Accent Music 3:30p Cub Scouts - DEN</p>	<p>16</p> <p>3p BCAP 5:30p Cub Scouts - DEN 6:30p Council 7p Boy Scouts</p>	<p>17</p> <p>3p BCAP 5:30p Cub Scouts - DEN 6p Scrapbooking</p>	<p>18</p> <p>3p BCAP 5:30p Cub Scouts - DEN 7p Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>19</p> <p>3p BCAP 5p Soccer Shots 5:30p Cub Scouts - DEN</p>	<p>20</p> <p>GSLC office closed 3p BCAP</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10a Nepalese Christmas Service</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:15a Sunday School 10:15 Sunday Worship (Silinas) 12:30 Pgh Napali Church 12p Accent Music 3:30p Cub Scouts - DEN</p>	<p>23</p> <p>No Preschool-Christmas Break 5:30p Cub Scouts - DEN 7p Boy Scouts NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve</p> <p>No Preschool-Christmas Break 5p Christmas Service 7pm Christmas Service</p>	<p>25 Christmas Day</p> <p>No Preschool-Christmas Break 1p Nepalese Christmas Dinner</p>	<p>26</p> <p>No Preschool-Christmas Break 5p Soccer Shots 5:30p Cub Scouts - DEN</p>	<p>27</p> <p>GSLC office closed No Preschool-Christmas Break</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10a Private use of Fellowship Hall</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9:15a Sunday School 10:15 Sunday Worship (Silinas) 12:30 Pgh Napali Church 12p Accent Music 3:30p Cub Scouts - DEN</p>	<p>30</p> <p>No Preschool-Christmas Break 5:30p Cub Scouts - DEN 7p Boy Scouts</p>	<p>31 New Year's Eve</p> <p>No Preschool-Christmas Break 5:30p Cub Scouts - DEN</p>				

BCAP = Bhutanese Community Association of Pittsburgh
BPFC = Pgh Napli Church (Nepalese)

December Birthdays

12/1 - Dominic Molinari

12/3 - Jackson Reed

12/5 - Jim Marlowe

12/7 - Grace Chioda

12/8 - Kaleb Arnold

12/10 - Carole Shade

12/12 - Bud Hoellein

12/15 - Kevin Vietmeier

12/26 - Katelyn Marcovecchio

12/29 - Mark Coleman

12/29 - Charli Winters

12/31 - Zoey Volland



December Anniversaries

12/23 Dominic & Carol Sue Molinari (45)



GOOD SHEPHERD ANNOUNCEMENTS

The children's Christmas service is Sunday December 22nd at 10:15am. Practices will be held on Sunday mornings (Dec. 1st, 8th & 15th) at 9:15am during Sunday School. Thank you to the teachers and families helping to support this special service!



New church office hours:
Monday - Thursday 8:30am-12:30pm

LWML ANNOUNCEMENTS

LWML will hold its next meeting on Sunday, December 15th directly after service. Light lunch is provided. We would love to see your smiling face.

PRESCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

It's Sarris time! All orders are placed online and will be shipped to you. All orders must be placed by **Dec 15th** to receive by Christmas.



- Scan the QR code on the right, or visit Sarriscandiesfundraising.com.
- Select "I am supporting a fundraiser"
- Enter group ID **10-0940**



Family Fun night is right around the corner! Santa & Mrs. Claus will be making an appearance to get a picture with! Food and holiday activities will be scattered around to enjoy! \$10 per family for pizza. Extra slices available for purchase. For more information, contact Laura Thurston. Save the date – Dec 6th at 5pm!



Registration for the 2025-2026 school year is right around the corner. More details to come!



FAMILY LIFE & YOUTH COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Save the date for Donuts in December! On December 8th, FLYC invites you to arrive a bit early, 9:30am, for coffee, donuts, and fellowship in the Narthex prior to worship



The 100 Envelope Challenge is underway! FLYC is supporting the Youth in their efforts to raise funds for the LCMS National Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July 2025. If you'd like to help, check out the envelope board in the Narthex. Select an envelope and fill it with the amount of money (cash or check) equal to the number on the envelope. Return the filled envelope to the bag beneath the board or place it in the collection plate. ****If you would like your donation to be counted towards your member contributions, please put your offering envelope number or your name on the envelope when it is returned****



BREAKING NEWS!

Mike Ressler has been elected onto the Board at Concordia Lutheran Ministries

GOOD SHEPHERD ADVENT – CHRISTMAS – EPIPHANY WORSHIP **SCHEDULE:**

Dec 1, 8, 15 – 9:15am Sunday School / Adult Bible Class
10:15am Advent Worship Service

Dec. 22 – 10:15am A **special Advent Worship** service with the **Children's Christmas Service**

Dec. 24 – **Christmas Eve Worship**
5:00pm with Rev. Salinas
7:00pm with Rev. Salinas and Brass Quartet

Dec. 29 – 10:15am Worship Service

Jan. 5 – Regular Sunday Schedule Resumes:
9:15am Sunday School / Adult Bible Class
10:15am Worship Service





Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills

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Prayer Requests for Members, Family and Friends:

Patti Theriault, Marcia Colgan, Rachel Schaar, Cathy Cerminara, Karen Miller, Marian Maskow, Barbara Simmons, Don Steward, Cathy Sayre, Sarah Brooks, Peter Way, Michael Ayres, Mrs. Deemer, Carol DeAngelis, Larry Winker, Cindy Geis, Rob Welsh, Mike Brennan, Jim Stocker, Erika Similo, Jan Kleiser, Lisa Brady, Don Matthews, Pastor Tim, Tiffany, Mary Jane Forrest, Dottie Tritsch, Hope Leydig, Dennis Lee, Sam Langol, Melissa Medved, Anne Malone, Gary Cooper, Carolyn Uhlyar, Norma Mikoleit, Tillie Koerth, Joan Uhrinak, Michael Ares, Arlene Stroebel, Bebe Bair, Iris and Steve Wutzke, Alice Meyer, Nancy Wauthier, John Schmidt, Baby Luca, Zack, Baby Luca, Michele Mulick, Mary Ellen Ressler, Mourice Williams, Dr. Bruce Bickel, Jay, Jake Herring, Carol Archer, Ron Urbansky, Jeanine Bondi, Sean Sleeman, Pam Spechtold



Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise.

Jeremiah 17:14

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[Youtube.com/channel/UC3Vho6JeoKM-rVRkXRRVpvQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3Vho6JeoKM-rVRkXRRVpvQ)



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

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