

January 2025



Newsletter

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills

Volume 2, Issue 1

From the Pastor's Desk

Who Knows What the Future Holds?
Good Shepherd Lutheran

Happy and Blessed New Year! What does the New Year hold for you and your family? What does the New Year hold for our Family, here at Good Shepherd? What does the New Year hold for our world?

We live in uncertain times. We live in unsteady times. Yet, we are able to enter this New Year, saying with the Psalmist;

God is our refuge and strength,
An ever-present help in trouble.

Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way
And the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. Selah!

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.

God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.
(Psalm 46:1-5)

Many will cry out in fear and anxiety, saying; "Who knows what the future holds?" But, how are we to respond to this cry?

As believers, we are able to say; "We need not fear what the future holds, for we know who holds the future!"

In the midst of wars among nations and violence on our streets! In the midst of stock markets rising and falling and inflation hitting our wallets! We are able, as children of our dear Abba Father to live in hope. For, we know who holds the future - Our Father, Almighty who created the heavens and the earth.

Did you notice that at the end of verse 3, there is the word "Selah!" It is a word that indicates a pause in music. Selah also beckons us to pause and ponder what it means to "Be still and know that I am God." He is God! He is in control! Pause and ponder what this means for your life in 2025.

In the season of Advent, we lit the candle of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. In doing so, we gave a declaration of faith, that the darkness of this world cannot and will not extinguish the hope, peace, joy and love that are found in the light of Jesus.

There is a quote that I have loved for years. I am unable to track down the author, but it offers guidance in the journey ahead;

"We may not know how the road bends or where it bends in the few months, years or generations. But, we already know where the road ends and the message that the journey sends"

May it be so with you and those you love in the New Year before us!

Pastor Barry

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The President's Corner

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What do we take from Christmas? The New Year is here, Christmas is behind us. All the work, getting things out, the hussle and bussle, the focus on preparation, buying, wrapping, giving, getting, cleaning, putting things away. Christmas comes and then in a flash, it goes. But does it? We are so incredibly blessed to have a God who was in the beginning, was in the baby Jesus, and dwells in us. For us, it truly is Christmas everyday for the promise and love of the Lord are a certainty! We have just as much to celebrate and be thankful for today as we did on December 25th! And yes, every day is a day that the Lord has made; and yes, we should rejoice and be glad in it.

People often become depressed after the high level of activity at Christmas time is over. My encouragement to you is, don't let it be over. Find a new focus of high level activity which is in honor and service to Christ the Lord. Find opportunities to get involved in one way or many ways. Praying, phoning someone, sending cards, volunteering...find a way for you to focus your love of the Lord on others. I hope that some of that focus can be in service to other members of our Congregation; there are many in need. Find ways to focus your time and talent in the Community around us as a representative of Good Shepherd. Use those opportunities to witness God's Word through thought, word and deed.

We held a joint Council/Elders Meeting at Good Shepherd on Dec. 6th facilitated by Pastor Weeks. The priorities that were shared at our Congregation Meeting in Feb. 2024 have not changed. We are making good progress on those. New work will begin shortly. We are blessed to have the support and fellowship of Pastor Barry now to help us as a Call Committee is formed. We will begin our search anew with the blessing of President John Pingel. A Nominating Committee will also be established soon to identify those who are willing to serve as Officers and Committee Chairs starting this summer. I take this opportunity to sincerely thank those currently serving, some of whom have been serving for multiple decades!

We have other work to do. The most expensive task likely is above us: our roof is going to need replacement. It will take some thought to determine how best to approach and address that task.

The work of the Kingdom here on earth is endless. My commitment is to continue to be diligent, loyal and responsible in my role. I appreciate all the support and understanding provided by all of you. I look forward to our work together in 2025. May the Lord give us wisdom, guidance and discernment to do His Will.

Your Brother in Christ, Ray

January 2025

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
BCAP = Bhutanese Community Association of Pittsburgh BPFC = Pgh Napli Church (Nepalese)			1 <i>No Preschool-Christmas Break</i> 5:30p Cub Scouts - DEN 7p Narcotics Anonymous	2 <i>No Preschool-Christmas Break</i> 3p BCAP 5:30p Cub Scouts - DEN 5:30p Soccer Shots	3 <i>No Preschool-Christmas Break</i> 3p BCAP	4
5 10:15a Sunday Worship (Salinas) 12:30p Pgh Napali Church 3:30p Cub Scouts - DEN	6 3p BCAP 5:30p Cub Scouts - DEN 7p Boy Scouts	7 11:30a Soccer Shots 3p BCAP 5:30p Cub Scouts - DEN 6p Scrapbooking	8 3p BCAP 5:30p Cub Scouts - DEN 7p Narcotics Anonymous	9 3p BCAP 5p Soccer Shots 5p Cub Scouts Pack Meeting	10 GSLC office closed 3p BCAP 5:30p FLYC Movie Night 7p Plastic Model	11 9a Soccer Shots
12 9:15a Sunday School 10:15 Sunday Worship (Silinas) 12:30 Pgh Napali Church 12p Accent Music 3:30p Cub Scouts - DEN 6:30p FLYC Meeting	13 3p BCAP 5:30p Cub Scouts - DEN 5:30p Preschool Open House 6:30p Council/Elders Mtg 7p Boy Scouts	14 11:30a Soccer Shots 3p BCAP 5:30p Cub Scouts - DEN	15 3p BCAP 5:30p Cub Scouts - DEN 7p Narcotics Anonymous	16 3p BCAP 5p Soccer Shots 5:30p Cub Scouts - DEN	17 GSLC office closed 3p BCAP	18 9a Soccer Shots
19 9:15a Sunday School 10:15 Sunday Worship (Silinas) 12:30 Pgh Napali Church 12p Congregation Meeting 3:30p Cub Scouts - DEN	20 MLK Jr. Day <i>No Preschool</i> 5:30p Cub Scouts - DEN 7p Boy Scouts	21 11:30a Soccer Shots 3p BCAP 5:30p Cub Scouts - DEN 6p Scrapbooking	22 3p BCAP 5:30p Cub Scouts - DEN 7p Narcotics Anonymous NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	23 3p BCAP 5p Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby	24 GSLC office closed Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby	25 Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby
26 9:15a Sunday School 10:15 Sunday Worship (Silinas) 12:30 Pgh Napali Church 12p Accent Music 3:30p Cub Scouts - DEN	27 3p BCAP 4:30p Accent Music Show	28 11:30a Soccer Shots 3p BCAP 4:30p Accent Music Show	29 3p BCAP 4:30p Accent Music Show	30 3p BCAP 4:30p Accent Music Show	31 GSLC office closed 3p BCAP 4:30p Accent Music Show	

January Birthdays

1/6 - Georgia Nader	1/17 - Gavin Scheller
1/7 - Dave Barone	1/19 - Nikki Yakemowicz
1/8 - Starlett Shawchak	1/19 - Greg Zeman
1/11 - Ron Gerstacker	1/20 - Zachary Zeman
1/14 - Makenna Glasser	1/21 - Kim Ressler
1/15 - Art Malenky	1/24 - Aiden Winters
1/16 - Kari Sawchak	1/26 - Kristin Hooper
1/17 - Sandy Kirkwood	1/29 - Nancy Rodriguez
	1/30 - Ken Kirkwood



January Anniversaries

1/7 Mark & Lourie Coleman (18)



GOOD SHEPHERD ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church office hours:
Monday - Thursday 8:30am-12:30pm

PRESCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Registration for the 2025-26 school year opens on January 6, 2025 for current students and their families and also for members of Good Shepherd.

We are having an Open House to see the classrooms and meet the teachers on Monday January 13, from 5:30-7:00pm. Registration for new families will open January 20th!

Any questions, please email the director, Laura Thurston at preschool@goodshepherdpittsburgh.org



FAMILY LIFE & YOUTH COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

2024 has been a very exciting year for the Family Life & Youth Committee. We thank you all for your support as we revive this facet of our church that has been lacking. Many of you have been very generous with your time and financial support, and we are so appreciative of everyone that has come out and attended our events, such as the Egg Hunt, Bonfires, Top Golf, Steelers Party, Toys for Tots and others.

Perhaps the greatest impact of FLYC this past year has been with supporting the kids and chaperones who will attend the National Youth Gathering. Hannah Thurston has taken the lead with organizing the trip. In all, we have a group of 15 people attending (11 students and 4 chaperones)! This event has become an opportunity for us to reach out and invite the Nepalese on the trip; it is such a blessing to offer this event within our congregation, as well as to others out in the community. An experience like this conference can truly change lives.

'Endure' is the theme of this year's National Youth Gathering. It is taken from Hebrews 12:1-3 which reads, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted."

Endurance will be needed as FLYC continues to lead fundraising efforts for this trip. We are so thankful for your support with our fundraising efforts so far, and ask that you pray for the kids and chaperones, as well as the families of those that will be attending the Youth Gathering. Keep an eye on the Weekly Tidings and Facebook for upcoming events and fundraisers, and share them with your co-workers, classmates, teammates and families outside our congregation.

Blessings in Christ,

The Family Life & Youth Committee
Stephanie & Josh Glasser, and John & Stephanie Watkins

MOVIE
Night



Join us Friday, January 10 in the Fellowship Hall to view Inside Out 2. Doors open at 5:30PM and the movie begins at 6PM. A free will offering will benefit the Youth attending the National Youth Gathering. Concessions will be available for purchase. Bring the whole family, a blanket and even a camp chair

Please join us from 11AM to 11PM on Tuesday, January 14 at the Pleasant Hills Primanti Brothers at 830 Clairton Blvd Pittsburgh, PA 15236. The Youth will earn 20% of all food sales that day. You must present the flyer found in the Narthex or on Facebook for your order to count (or use code DINE2DONATE online). Please invite your friends, teammates, co-workers and family to enjoy lunch or dinner that day. Thank you for your support!





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, 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, Michele Mulick, Mary Ellen Ressler, Mourice Williams, Dr. Bruce Bickel, Jay, Jake Herring, Carol Archer, Ron Urbansky, Jeanine Bondi, Sean Sleeman, Pam Spechtold, Carol Schaar, Madeline Cechman, Kay Fehrman



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

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