



Newsletter

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills

Volume 2, Issue 2

From the Pastor's Desk

THE PARADOXES OF CHRISTIANITY

Paradoxes have been called the “atoms of philosophy.” In the same way, paradoxes are the particles of theology. The Bible is the ultimate sourcebook for the greatest paradoxes in the sphere of human thinking. God’s Word is a rich sourcebook of paradoxical statements. In fact, the Bible is so full of paradoxes that one old commentator said, “Without paradoxes, there is no Christianity.”

God doesn’t look at life the way we do. He declares; “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways... As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:8)

It stands to reason that if there is a God in heaven, He would look at things differently from us, from a different vantage point and perspective. That results in paradoxes — statements that appear to be contradictory but are actually true.

Years ago, there was a beloved Christian preacher and publisher named Henry Clay Trumbull who wrote an entire book about this. He called it *Practical Paradoxes; or, Truth in Contradictions*. The title of his introduction was “*The Comfort of Christian Paradoxes.*” This is how he began:

The law of the Christian life is a paradox. It is made up of seeming contradictions. All its teachings are contrary to the common opinions of man. According to this law, giving is getting; scattering is gaining; holding is losing; having nothing is possessing all things; dying is living. It is he who is weak who is strong... Happiness is found when it is no longer sought; the clearest sight is of the invisible; (and) things which are not bring to naught things which are.

Consider some of the grand paradoxes of Christianity:

- We see unseen things.
- We conquer by yielding.
- We find rest under a yoke.
- We reign by serving.
- We are made great by becoming small.
- We are exalted when we are humble.
- We become wise by being fools for Christ’s sake.
- We are made free by becoming bondservants.
- We gain strength when we are weak.
- We triumph through defeat.
- We find victory by glorying in our infirmities.
- We live by dying.

Paul the Apostle said that he and his associates were “genuine, yet regarded as impostors; known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, yet possessing all things” ([2 Corinthians 6:8-10](#)). Then further in his letter, he said that when he was weak, then he was strong ([2 Corinthians 12:9](#)). Soon, we will enter the season of Lent, where we will focus on the ultimate paradox of Christianity, the Cross! The Cross – foolishness to the world, but to those of us being saved it is the power of God.

The season of Lent that is before us, is rooted in the paradox of the Beatitudes “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.” Later in His ministry, Jesus said, “Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses His life for My sake will find it.” (Matthew 10:39)

So, dear ones, If you look at life differently than most (and if others think you’re a walking paradox), congratulations! That’s a mark of authentic discipleship that boasts in the paradox of the Cross.

In Jesus, Pastor Barry

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The President's Corner

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Peace I leave you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you and the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. John 14:27

On Sunday, January 19, 2025 a Call Committee was put in place. Members include: Kim Ressler (Chair), Ray Vogel, Grace Chioda, Jeannie Barone, Sam Ressler, Hollie Ulanowicz and Ray Betler. The Congregation voted their unanimous support for the Call Committee and its makeup. I have notified President Pingel who leads the LCMS Eastern District. And so, our journey begins once again to find a Spiritual Leader for Good Shepherd Church of South Hills. I look forward to Kim's leadership as she guides us through this process.

As the Lord has told us in John, we should be at peace. We should not be anxious. I ask that we be constantly prayerful for the Members of the Call Committee, for the Congregation, for our Staff and Pastors who serve, for President Pingel and his Team, and for the Pastor who God has chosen to be the next Spiritual Leader of our Congregation.

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Your Brother in Christ, Ray

February 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
<p>BCAP = Bhutanese Community Association of Pittsburgh BPFC = Pgh Napli Church (Nepalese)</p>						<p>1 9a Soccer Shots 4:30p Pittsburgh Performance Society</p>
<p>2 9:15a Sunday School 10:15a Sunday Worship (Salinas) 12:30p Pgh Napali Church 3:30p Cub Scouts - DEN 4:30p Pittsburgh Performance Society</p>	<p>3 3p BCAP 5:30p Cub Scouts - DEN 7p Boy Scouts</p>	<p>4 11:30a Soccer Shots 3p BCAP 5:30p Cub Scouts - DEN 6p Scrapbooking</p>	<p>5 3p BCAP 5:30p Cub Scouts - DEN 7p Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>6 3p BCAP 5p Soccer Shots 5:30p Cub Scouts Pack Meeting</p>	<p>7 GSLC office closed 3p BCAP 7p Plastic Model Society</p>	<p>8 9a Soccer Shots</p>
<p>9 9:15a Sunday School 10:15 Sunday Worship (Silinas) 12:30 Pgh Napali Church 3:30p Cub Scouts - DEN</p>	<p>10 3p BCAP 5:30p Cub Scouts - DEN 7p Boy Scouts</p>	<p>11 11:30a Soccer Shots 3p BCAP 5:30p Cub Scouts - DEN</p>	<p>12 3p BCAP 5:30p Cub Scouts - DEN 7p Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>13 3p BCAP 5p Soccer Shots 5:30p Cub Scouts - DEN</p>	<p>14 GSLC office closed 3p BCAP</p>	<p>15 9a Soccer Shots 5p FLYC Bingo</p>
<p>16 9:15a Sunday School 10:15 Sunday Worship (Silinas) 12:30 Pgh Napali Church 3:30p Cub Scouts - DEN</p>	<p>17 President's Day No Preschool 5:30p Cub Scouts - DEN 7p Boy Scouts</p>	<p>18 No Preschool 3p BCAP 5:30p Cub Scouts - DEN 6p Scrapbooking</p>	<p>19 No Preschool 3p BCAP 5:30p Cub Scouts - DEN 7p Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>20 3p BCAP 5p Cub Scouts Pack Meeting</p>	<p>21 GSLC office closed</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 9:15a Sunday School 10:15 Sunday Worship (Silinas) 12:30 Pgh Napali Church 3:30p Cub Scouts - DEN</p>	<p>24 3p BCAP 5:30p Cub Scouts - DEN 7p Boy Scouts</p>	<p>25 11:30a Soccer Shots 3p BCAP 5:30p Cub Scouts - DEN</p>	<p>26 3p BCAP 5:30p Cub Scouts - DEN 7p Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>27 3p BCAP 5p Soccer Shots 5:30p Cub Scouts - DEN</p>	<p>28 GSLC office closed 3p BCAP</p>	

February Birthdays

2/1 - Robert Sheppard

2/2 - Anthony Chioda

2/2 - Jeff Held

2/8 - Glenn Richards

2/12 - Joshua Dunmire

2/13 - Sarah Makey

2/21 - Sharon Matey

2/22 - Stephanie Glasser

2/24 - Violet Volland

2/27 - Tyler Zeman

2/28 - Sam Ressler



February Anniversaries

2/8 - Steve & Kathi Kuskie



“For by me your days will be multiplied, and years will be added to your life”

Proverbs 9:11

Good Shepherd Announcements

Church office hours:

Monday - Thursday 8:30am-12:30pm

If you have a pastoral care need, please feel free to reach out to Pastor Barry at: 724-996-2160

Lent is approaching, the season starts on Ash Wednesday, March 5th @ 5pm.



Our facility is used by so many groups, lots of fun is happening here!
The Cub Scouts had their Pinewood Derby



Preschool Announcements

Registration for the 2025-26 school year is open! Classes are filling up. Any questions, please email the director, Laura Thurston at preschool@goodshepherdpittsburgh.org



Make room in your freezers, pepperoni roll fundraiser is coming back! Orders can be placed between February 12-March 2nd. Delivery will be March 12th

Sarris is back for Easter! Orders start February 28th and must be in by April 13th for delivery by Easter. Keep in mind, you can take a trip to their store for pick-up! More details will be available in the weekly tidings.



Family Life & Youth Committee Announcements



Saturday February 15th mark your calendars for Bingo!

Doors open at 3:30, games start at 4pm!

\$10 gets you 10 games.

Food and drinks available for purchase
during the games.

Scan the QR code to sign up or click the link!

https://pitt.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0VDOLJQQgbxfI0e



Everyone's favorite is back! Trivia is March 1st.
Pasta dinner starts at 5:00pm with trivia to follow!

No sign up needed.

Pay at the door:

\$10/Adult

\$5/Child



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Pastor Barry

Email: bjk5579@gmail.com

Phone: 724-996-2160

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, Sarah & Eric Powell



“Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits - who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases”

Psalm 103:2-3

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

(or, go to YouTube and search @goodshepherdlutheranchurch3950)

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