

April 2025

Newsletter



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills

Volume 2 Issue 4

From the Pastor's Desk

Humble Majesty

Jesus humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross! -Philippians 2:8

When Queen Elizabeth II visited the United States, she came in majestic fashion. She brought 4,000 pounds of luggage, including two outfits for every occasion, a mourning outfit in case someone died, forty pints of blood plasma, and white kid-leather toilet seat covers. She also brought her own hairdresser, two valets, and many other attendants. The price tag for the trip exceeded 20 million dollars.

Contrast this with Jesus' entry into the world:

Jesus, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross!

-Philippians 2:6-8

The power of the cross reveals a humble majesty. In Jesus we find an amazing blend of holiness and humbleness, of glory and grace. Angels announce his birth, yet he lies in a manger. Throughout his earthly ministry, he rebukes the boastful but welcomes the broken.

We deepen our understanding of our Lord's humble majesty as we study the names given to him. He is the Lamb of God and also the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep. He is the King of Kings, and yet a lowly Servant who washes the feet of sinners.

Before such humble majesty, the psalmist urges us to "rejoice with trembling" (Psalm 2:11). Who is like the God who became flesh so he could dwell among us? Is it any wonder that Psalm 95 invites us to shout joyfully, but a few short verses later, invites us to bow low, yes, even to "kneel before the Lord or Maker" (v. 6)?

We respond to his humble majesty in all these ways. Yet our worship can become stale, perhaps even boring, if we lose the tension between his amazing humility and his awe-inspiring majesty. True worship requires that we maintain a balance between abounding joy and humble reverence.

Come, let us worship and bow down! Majesty is in our midst. His gentleness has made us great (see Psalm 18:35)

Prayer: Lord Jesus, you are my brother and yet you are, from all eternity, the King of kings. I rejoice and tremble in your presence today...Amen.

~Pastor Barry

In this Issue

From the Pastor's Desk	1
President's Corner	2
Calendar – April	3
Birthdays & Anniversaries	4
Announcements	5
Announcements	6
Event Reports	7
Other Events	8
Prayers	9

The President's Corner

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What Child is This?

Just a little over three months ago that song was sung at Christmastime. What Child is This; I want you to close your eyes and think back to the Baby Jesus in the Manger. He is innocent like all babies; the Babe, the Son of Mary. But this Child is the Son of God; true God and true Man!

What Child is This? I want you to close your eyes and think of our Lord Jesus Christ hanging on the Cross on Good Friday. Is this the Man who healed the blind, made the lame to walk, raised the dead? His blood is dripping, His Mother weeping, His Disciples scattered. Was it not a Roman Centurion who testified that "surely this was the Son of God" Mt. 27:45-54. See His face, the suffering and then the words "It is finished" John 19:30

What Child is This? Close your eyes and picture Jesus, in all His glory, seated on His throne at the right hand of His Father. "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by His powerful word. After He had provided purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in Heaven." Hebrews 1:3

Yes; what Child is this...a prophecy fulfilled, our salvation guaranteed. We have been gifted through the grace of God the opportunity to go to our Father through His Son. As wonderful as Christmas is, Easter is our most important Christian Holiday. I pray that you and your Family at Eastertime can take time to reflect; to close your eyes and reflect on the birth, the life, the death, and resurrection of our Lord! Happy Easter!

Your Brother in Christ, Ray

PS: please continue to pray for the Call Committee and all the needs of Good Shepherd and those we serve through our Mission and Ministry.

April 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.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 3p BCAP 5:30p DEN 6p Scrapbooking	2 3p BCAP 5:30p DEN 7p N/A	3 3p BCAP 5p Soccer Shots 5:30p DEN	4 3p BCAP 5p FLYC – Concert Practice 7p IPMS	5 9a Soccer Shots
6 9:15a Sunday School 10:15a Sunday Worship 12:30p BPFC 1p PPS 3:30p DEN 6p Scouts	7 3p BCAP 5:30p DEN 7p Boy Scouts	8 3p BCAP 5:30p DEN 6p The Chosen Study	9 3p BCAP 5:30p DEN 7p N/A	10 3p BCAP 5p Soccer Shots 5:30p DEN	11 3p BCAP 5p FLYC – Concert Practice	12 9a Soccer Shots 5p PPS Recital
13 Palm Sunday 9:15a Sunday School 10:15a Sunday Worship 12:30p BPFC 1p PPS 3:30p DEN	14 3p BCAP 5:30p DEN 7p Boy Scouts	15 3p BCAP 5:30p DEN 6p The Chosen Study 6p Scrapbooking	16 Preschool Spring Break 5:30p DEN 7p N/A	17 Maundy Thursday Preschool Spring Break 5p Soccer Shots 5:30p DEN 5p Worship	18 Good Friday Preschool Spring Break 10:30a FLYC Egg Hunt 5p FLYC – Concert Practice 7p Worship	19 9a Soccer Shots
20 Easter 8:30a Worship 9:30a Breakfast 11a Worship 12:30p BPFC	21 Preschool Spring Break 3p BCAP 5:30p DEN 7p Boy Scouts 6:30p Council	22 Preschool Spring Break 3p BCAP 5:30p DEN 6p The Chosen Study	23 3p BCAP 5:30p DEN 7p N/A	24 3p BCAP 5p Soccer Shots 5:30p DEN	25 3p BCAP 5p FLYC – Concert Practice	26 9a Soccer Shots
27 9:15a Sunday School 10:15a Sunday Worship 12:30p BPFC 1p PPS 3:30p DEN	28 3p BCAP 7p Boy Scouts	29 3p BCAP 6p The Chosen Study	30 3p BCAP 7p N/A			

BPFC – Pgh Nepali Church
 BCAP – Bhutanese Community Association of Pittsburgh
 DEN – Cub Scouts
 N/A – Narcotics Anonymous
 PPS – Pittsburgh Performance Society
 Events in **green** are Good Shepherd Events

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

4/1 – Caleb Scheller
4/2 – Maddie Thurston
4/6 – Rebekah Dinning
4/8 – Marty Snyder
4/8 – Laura Thurston
4/9 – Joshua Glasser
4/10 – Amy Frantz
4/15 – Nicole Kochanski
4/18 – Bob Matey
4/18 – Donnie Volland
4/21 – Diane Johnston
4/24 – Ella Frantz
4/26 – Sean Thurston



Anniversaries

4/1 – John & Helen Lee Coleman
4/26 – Ray & Chris Vogel



Good Shepherd Announcements

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

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

Lent Worship Schedule:

Maundy Thursday – April 17th @ 5pm

Good Friday – April 18th @ 7pm

Easter Sunday – April 20th @ 8:30am & 11:00am

Easter Breakfast – April 20th @ 9:30am



The Chosen study is back! Tuesdays on the stage in the fellowship hall, at 6pm!

Palm Sunday, April 13, instead of Sunday School, the Sunday School children will be making the bread that will be used for communion on Maundy Thursday. Please arrive at 9am



LWML Announcements



The **LWML** will have a **Bake Sale** on **Palm Sunday, April 13th**. If you would like to donate a sweet treat for us to sell, we would appreciate it. Please package items with no more than 4 to a pack and don't worry about prices, we'll take care of that! As a reminder, Good Shepherd is a peanut-free zone. Thank you for your continued support.

Preschool Announcements

Registration for 2025-2026 school year is open! Classes are filling up. Any questions, please email Preschool Director, Laura Thurston at preschool@goodshepherdpittsburgh.org



Sarris is back for Easter! Orders must be placed by April 13th. Visit SarrisCandiesFundraising.com; select "Good Shepherd Christian Preschool" under organization name. Enter "10-0940" as the Group ID. Pick up at the store in Canonsburg is an option instead of shipping!

Family Life & Youth Committee Announcements



The Family Life and Youth Committee is selling discount cards to Rita's Italian Ice. Each card is \$5 and provides a 10% discount on all purchases throughout the 2025 season. Proceeds will go towards the upcoming National Youth Gathering. If you are interested in buying a card, please see Stephanie Watkins.

Time to hunt! Easter egg hunt is scheduled for Good Friday, April 18th @ 10:30am. There will be egg hunting, a scavenger hunt, donuts and coffee.



VBS Announcements



TRUE NORTH VBS will be held the week of June 16th from 9 am to noon. This is a wonderful way to share the love of Jesus with our children as we learn about "trusting Jesus in a wild world." Registration opens April 1st for both participants and volunteers. Even if you aren't able to be there during the week of VBS, there are a number of opportunities to help. There is a donation board by the office if you are able to provide items that we will need during the week. In addition, please save containers that are cylindrical (oatmeal, bread crumbs, pringles, etc.) and plastic bottles - size doesn't matter. Please see Jeannie Barone if have questions about how you can help.

Events at Good Shepherd

Trivia Night was a hit! We had a new group of winners!



Pancake Breakfast was delicious and a great treat before service.



Other events

Concordia Lutheran Ministries 2025 Spring Fling Luncheon

Saturday, May 17, 2025

Butler Country Club

310 Country Club Lane, Butler, PA 16002

10am

\$45 or Tables of 10: \$400

Basket Auctions, Mystery Bags, Shopping

Lunch:

Chicken Romano, Sour Cream and Chive Whipped Potatoes, Glazed Baby Carrots, Triple Layer Lemon Shortcake

Entertainment:

Freeport Area High School Music Performance

RSVP with advance payment by April 26, 2025

Men's Weekend Retreat

May 30-June 1, 2025

Theme: "My Church – My Community"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. John Pingle

(President, LCMS Eastern District)

Where: Pioneer on the Lake

We have tradition: Our retreat has brought together Christian men at Pioneer on the Lake for a weekend of spiritual growth, Christian fellowship, servanthood, and outdoor fun since 1945! Each year, we return home refreshed and better equipped to live as leaders who follow Jesus Christ.

Registration begins Friday afternoon at 4pm with Dinner at 6pm and closes following 10am Sunday Worship.

Price: \$180.00

Contact Rich Gruenhagen at 215-444-6126 or at margaretgruenhagen@yahoo.com for further information about registration, accommodations and transportation.

Prayer Requests:

Patti Theriault, 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, Jeanine Bondi, Sean Sleeman, Pam Spechtold & Zeke, Carol Schaar, Madeline Cechman, Sarah & Eric Powell, family of Marcia Colgan, Ron Gerstacker



“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)



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
of South Hills
418 Maxwell Dr. Pittsburgh, PA 15236
Phone: 412-884-3232
Email: office@goodshepherdpittsburgh.org
Website: goodshepherdpittsburgh.org

Pastor Barry
Email: bjk5579@gmail.com
Phone: 724-996-2160