

May 2025 Newsletter



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills

Volume 2 Issue 4

From the Pastor's Desk

Ugly Beauty

Being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross! -Philippians 2:8

The cross is in. It is everywhere – in all shapes and sizes. It is fashionable to wear it and display it. You can buy it studded with diamonds or rubies. Crosses can be beautiful!

It wasn't always so. In fact, Paul likely gritted his teeth as he wrote the words, "even death on a cross!" Paul and those to whom he wrote know too much about crosses. They had seen too much agony, too much humiliation, to think of the cross as beautiful.

To first-century eyes, the cross was ugly. In the minds of his followers, the last thing Jesus should have endured was the shame of the cross. Our Lord, however, has a strange and wonderful way of transforming things. He takes an ugly thing like the cross and makes it a matter of joy and pride.

The cross of our Savior does this for you and me. The Bible promises, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow" (Isaiah 1:18). What a great image! Snow has a wonderful way of transforming a drab winter landscape, creating in its place a winter wonderland. Similarly, the love of Jesus covers over the ugliness of our sin. His grace changes everything – and not just on the surface, but all the way to the heart. He changes us inside and out.

What is it that makes you feel ugly inside right now? The power of the cross can transform it. An old hymn expresses this wonderfully:

The old rugged cross,
 stained with blood so divine,
Such a wonderful beauty I see;
For 'twas on that old cross
 Jesus suffered and died,
To pardon and sanctify me.
So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it someday for a crown.

A crown and a cross! Together, these tell the story of our salvation. My dad and mom's gravestone bears both a crown and a cross, along with the words "I know that my Redeemer lives" (Job 19:25). It reminds me that the cross brings beauty even to the ugliness of death.

~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,

Did your Parents ever tell you, "it's time we had the talk"? Well, it's time. At our monthly Church Council Meetings we always review the Financial Statements and the Distribution of Giving. We budgeted last year under the assumption that we would have a full time Pastor. Our expenses are currently lower than expected because we are in a vacancy period. Yet, we are still running about 8% below our anticipated income level. Yes, we do pay Pastor Adam and Pastor Barry for their support, but the cost is significantly less than a full time Pastor. Our expected income each week is \$6,136. We are very transparent about this. The actual income received is published in the bulletin each week. Rarely do we exceed the weekly budgeted income. Often contributions range between \$2,000 and \$4,000. Obviously it is difficult to run the Church if we can't support our anticipated expenses.

No one likes to talk about money; especially under these types of circumstances. But, money is integral to everything we do in life including supporting our Church. We do have other income sources; the Preschool, the organizations that use our facilities, rentals, etc. We take those all into account when we're managing our budget.

The reason I'm using this newsletter article to address our financial shortfall is that we are starting the Call process in earnest. A new Pastor is going to expect to come into a Church that can afford to pay him and provide benefits to support his Family. Good Shepherd will be more attractive to a new Pastor if we are in a positive financial condition and not in a deficit spending mode.

So, I am kindly asking that you reflect on your giving situation, pray about it, and if it is possible to increase your regular contribution, please consider doing so. If it is not, don't. Absent a large windfall legacy gift, the best way for us to address this specific issue going forward is to increase attendance. We're currently averaging 58 people per week average attendance. So pray also about bringing someone new to Church. Invite them to come and worship, participate in activities. Encourage them to consider joining our Good Shepherd Family.

I have faith that the Lord will continue to guide us and provide for us. But I also believe the Lord gave us many individual and collective talents, and we have to apply them to accomplish our Mission and Ministry.

On Easter Sunday, my Offertory Prayers was : "Dear Heavenly Father, We are filled with humility and praise dear Lord at the incredible gift you gave that we celebrate today, the gift of eternal salvation. Our gifts pale in comparison to all we've been given. Yet we pray dear Lord that these gifts honor you and that we effectively use them, wisely, to honor You and to do Your Will in Your Kingdom here on Earth...In Jesus Name, Amen"

Your Brother in Christ, Ray

May 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
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				1 9a Preschool Moms & Muffins 3p BCAP 5p Soccer Shots	2 GSLC Office Closed 9a Preschool Moms & Muffins 5p FLYC – Concert Practice 7p IPMS	3 9a Soccer Shots
4 9:15a Sunday School 10:15a Sunday Worship 11:30a LWML Meeting 12:30p BPFC 1p PPS	5 3p BCAP 7p Boy Scouts	6 3p BCAP 6p Scrapbooking	7 3p BCAP 7p N/A	8 9a Preschool Moms & Muffins 3p BCAP 5p Soccer Shots	9 GSLC Office Closed 9a Preschool Moms & Muffins 3p BCAP 5p FLYC – Concert Practice	10 9a Soccer Shots
11 Mother's Day 9:15a Sunday School 10:15a Sunday Worship 12:30p BPFC 1p PPS	12 3p BCAP 7p Boy Scouts	13 3p BCAP 11a Preschool Graduation 5p Preschool Graduation 6p Preschool Graduation 3p BCAP	14 3p BCAP 5:30p Preschool Graduation 6:30p Preschool Graduation 7p Preschool Graduation 7p N/A	15 3p BCAP 5p Soccer Shots	16 GSLC Office Closed 3p BCAP	17 9a Soccer Shots 4p FLYC- Bingo
18 Confirmation 10:15a Sunday Worship 12:30p BPFC	19 3p BCAP 6:30p Council 7p Boy Scouts	20 3p BCAP 6p Scrapbooking	21 3p BCAP 7p N/A	22 3p BCAP	23 GSLC Office Closed Nepal Wedding Set Up 3p BCAP 6pm Bonfire	24 Nepal Wedding
25 10:15a Sunday Worship 12:30p BPFC 1p PPS	26 Memorial Day 7p Boy Scouts	27 3p BCAP	28 3p BCAP 7p N/A	29 3p BCAP	30 GSLC Office Closed 3p BCAP	31

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

5/6 – Debi Kaspereit

5/8 – Averil Arnold-Binikos

5/9 – Norma Mikoleit

5/18 – Patrick Dunmire

5/20 – Chase Ulanowicz

5/21 – John Coleman

5/25 – Chris Vogel

5/29 – Hope Ulanowicz



Anniversaries

5/21 – Bob & Sharon Matey

5/22 – Dave & Jean Barone

5/22 – Rich & Hollie Ulanowicz



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**

Call Committee Update

The Eastern District has sent a call list of five candidates for the committee to consider for Good Shepherd's next pastor. They are of varying ages and experiences, and the committee is studying all of the information provided. We are also composing interview questions that will be asked of candidates we wish to speak with further. Please keep the committee and the congregation in your prayers - God knows who our next pastor is! May we all have the wisdom and discernment to follow His will.

LWML Announcements

The next LWML meeting is Sunday May 4th, after service. We look forward to seeing your smiling face!

Preschool Announcements

The Preschool year is coming to a close. Thank you for all the support you have provided for us, from preschool pals to fundraisers and everything in-between!

Preschool Graduation's are coming up and we would love to see you there!

The schedule is as follows:

May 13th – 10:00am – 2 year old

May 13th – 11:00am – All 3 year old classes

May 13th – 5:00pm – Learning Together

May 13th – 6:00pm – Mrs. Thurston's 4 year olds

May 13th – 7:00pm – Jr. Kindergarten

May 14th – 5:30 – Mrs. Wood AM class

May 14th – 6:30 – Mrs. Wood PM class

Family Life & Youth Committee Announcements

Now that the weather has warmed up, bonfires are back! Please join us for our first bonfire of the season on Friday, May 23.



Join us for another night of BINGO! The Youth will be hosting Bingo on Saturday, May 17. Doors open at 4PM and games begin at 5PM. \$10 for 10 games. Bring your friends and family as we work to raise money for the National Youth Gathering.

National Youth Gathering Update: The Rita's Italian Ice discount cards, as well as the Envelope Challenge were a huge success! We thank you all for your support in our continued efforts to raise funds for the National Youth Gathering. Additional fundraising events for the youth, such as another Primanti brother's night, concert and bingo are being planned before the big trip in July. We ask that you would continue to pray for FLYC and for the youth and chaperones that are attending the gathering this summer. And please share these events with your friends, family members, and co-workers.

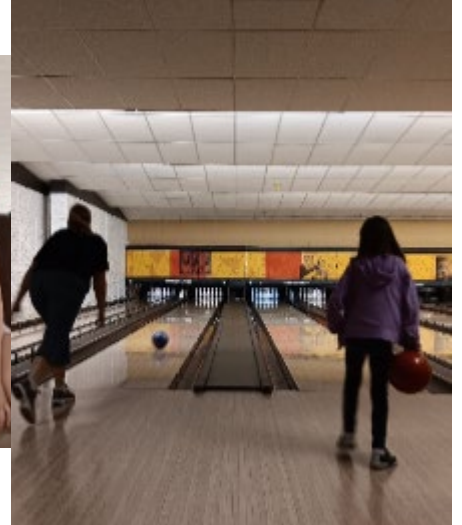
VBS Announcements



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

FLYC sponsored an afternoon of bowling for all members on April 5. It was a great time of fun and fellowship!



FLYC's second easter egg hunt took place on Good Friday. It was a huge success this year! Over 50 kids and more than 30 adults from the preschool and community came for coffee, donuts, a scavenger hunt, face painting and the egg hunt. The youth did a great job helping to organize the event!



Events Outside of Good Shepherd

Kids Fishing Derby

Saturday May 17th, 2025

8:00a-2:00p

Saxony Farm Lake

No entry fee

Open to all kids 14 and under.

Free refreshments

Bait provided by Concordia

Prizes all day

Participants must have an adult chaperone. Bring your own fishing pole and lawn chair!

Good Samaritan Hospice

Youth Bereavement Care Events

Friday May 2

5:30-7:30p

Middlesex Office

Valencia, PA

Friday May 16

5:30-7:30p

St. Johns Lutheran Church

Ambridge, PA

The events will focus on creating personalized memory boxes and are open to bereaved youth up to age 21 as well as their caregivers. Attendees should bring items that remind them of the special person in their lives who died, which will be used to make a unique memory box. Adults can relax and unwind, receive support from a bereavement coordinator or create their own memory box. Dinner will be provided for all guests, and all children must be accompanied by an adult. While our bereavement programs are rooted in the Christian faith, they offer a supportive environment that welcomes individuals of all faiths or backgrounds. Register on the Events page at www.ConcordiaLM.org

Man Up Conference

Saturday June 7th, 2025

7:30am-3:00pm

Victory Family Church – Cranberry Township

\$49/person

Register at manuppittsburgh.org

For men and young men, ages 15+

Man Up is a one-day conference designed to help men maximize their impact in the home, church and community. Featured speakers, local pastors, and sports personalities will challenge you to be the best godly leader you can be and raise awareness of the devastating impact of fatherlessness in our communities....Breakouts and meals are included in registration.

Prayer Requests:

Patti Theriault, Rachel Schaar, Cathy Cerminara, Karen Miller, Marian Maskow, Barbara Simmons, Rev. Dan Strussenberg, 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, Sean Sleeman, Pam Spechtold, Carol Schaar, Madeline Cechman, Eric Powell, Ron Gerstacker, Phyllis Hackbart, Jared Lubawski, Wayne, the family of Cindy No"



“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

Follow us!



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



[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