

# June 2025 Newsletter



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills

Volume 2 Issue 6

## From the Pastor's Desk

### Let's Make a Name for Ourselves??

*Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves. -Genesis 11:4*

How do you define "sin"? The classic answer wraps itself around concepts like "missing the mark," "disobedience," and "trespass."

Genesis 11 tells about the people who built the Tower of Babel. It expands the definition of sin a bit. The builders wanted to "make a name for themselves." That's what sin does. It makes life "all about me."

We differ little from the builders at Babel. Consider these examples:

- Small children, learning to ride a bike, sometimes raise their hands in the air, hoping someone will notice how good they've become.
- As we get older, we look for the job, the car, the house, or the (fill in the blank) that will make others sit up and notice us.
- When hard times hit, we ask, "Why is this happening to me?"

Sin centers on self rather than on how God can be served at any given moment. The poison of sinful self-centeredness oozes out of every pore in our being.

We were not created to glorify ourselves, but to glorify God. We were created to make a name for God, not ourselves.

How quickly we lose sight of this. But Jesus never did! Speaking of this, the apostle Paul writes:

*Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: who, 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. -Philippians 2:5-7*

Jesus had it all – the glory, the power, the name. Jesus gave all of that up. He became nothing – all for you and for me. What did it get him? In the eyes of the world, nothing but foolishness. But, in the eyes and heart of the Father, take to heart what the Word says;

*"Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. "(Philippians 2:9-11)*

As we enter into each day, Martin Luther would encourage us to make the sign of the cross upon ourselves while saying the words spoken over us in our Baptism, "In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit!"

What better way to enter or end a day, then in the Name that God has given and made for us, through His dear Son, Jesus!

A thought to Ponder and Pray in the day ahead....

Forgive me Lord, for those times when I've made everything about me instead of you. May my life reflect the holiness of Your name, especially today, where I .....

~Pastor Barry

## In this Issue

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

## The President's Corner

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

SUMMERTIME, SUMMERTIME! Here it comes. Are you ready for summer fun? To be out of school? To go on vacation? To swim, to fish, to hike, to do one-day drives to places you love? We've patiently waited for summer to come. The weather hasn't been that great; up and down with warm temperatures and then not so warm. A lot of rain on and off. But, before you know it people will likely be complaining about the heat, the sun and needing rain.

There are a lot of examples of people in the Bible who complained about what God didn't give them. The Israelites were set free from slavery in Egypt but before long complained about the challenges of being in the wilderness, the lack of water, lack of food, especially meat. What did God do; He sent manna from Heaven. Martha complained about Mary not helping when Jesus came to visit. What did Jesus do; He gently rebuked Martha and said that Mary, who was focused on Him, had her priorities right.

We have a lot of things planned for the summer at Good Shepherd. While there will be no Sunday School in the summer, there will be Church Service every Sunday at 10:15am. Jean Barone and her wonderful Team of VBS organizers are already preparing for Vacation Bible School. Toward the end of our summer our Youth (Good Shepherd and Nepalese) and their Chaperones will be attending the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans...hot, hot, hot but uplifting, enlightening and rewarding...they will never forget this experience!

We have all types of things going on at Good Shepherd. We'll kick off the summer with our June 8th Congregation Meeting. We have a lot of wonderful things to cover. Please try to attend. Pay attention to the Newsletter, Tidings and special announcements throughout the summer as we continue our Ministry "to know and praise Christ, to grow in Christ and to share Christ with others."

If you have any needs where we can support you or your Family, please let us know; me, Ray Vogel, Grace, Pastor Barry.

Have a great Summer! Be safe and know that you are a Child of God and an Ambassador of Good Shepherd wherever you go!

Your Brother in Christ, Ray

# June 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
<b>1</b> 10:15a Sunday Worship 12:30p BPFC 1p PPS	<b>2</b> 3p BCAP 7p Boy Scouts	<b>3</b> 3p BCAP 6p Scrapbooking	<b>4</b> 3p BCAP 7p N/A	<b>5</b> 3p BCAP 5p Soccer Shots	<b>6</b> GSLC Office Closed 5p FLYC – Concert Practice 7p IPMS	<b>7</b> 9a Soccer Shots 3p Nepali Wedding Event
<b>8</b> 10:15a Sunday Worship 11:30a Congregation Meeting 12:30p BPFC 3p PPS	<b>9</b> 3p BCAP 7p Boy Scouts	<b>10</b> 3p BCAP	<b>11</b> 3p BCAP 7p N/A	<b>12</b> 3p BCAP 5p Soccer Shots	<b>13</b> <b>VBS Set Up</b> GSLC Office Closed 5p FLYC – Concert	<b>14</b> <b>VBS Set Up</b> 9a Soccer Shots
<b>15 Father's Day</b> 10:15a Sunday Worship 12:30p BPFC <b>VBS Set Up</b> 5p Bonfire/VBS Check In	<b>16</b> 9a VBS 7p Boy Scouts	<b>17</b> 9a VBS 6p Scrapbooking	<b>18</b> 9a VBS All Day – FLYC Primanti Fundraiser 7p N/A	<b>19</b> 9a VBS 5p Soccer Shots	<b>20</b> 9a VBS GSLC Office Closed	<b>21</b> 9a Soccer Shots
<b>22</b> 10:15a Sunday Worship 12:30p BPFC 12p PPS Practice	<b>23</b> 9a BCAP Summer Program 4p PPS Practice 6:30p Council 7p Boy Scouts	<b>24</b> 9a BCAP Summer Program 4p PPS Practice	<b>25</b> 9a BCAP Summer Program 7p N/A 4p PPS Practice	<b>26</b> 9a BCAP Summer Program 4p PPS Show	<b>27</b> GSLC Office Closed 9a BCAP Summer Program 4p PPS Show	<b>28</b> 9a Soccer Shots 4p PPS Show
<b>29</b> 10:15a Sunday Worship 12:30p BPFC 4p PPS Show	<b>30</b> 9a BCAP Summer Program 7p Boy Scouts	<div> 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 </div>				

## June Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays

6/17 – Stacy Gonzalez

6/20 – Maddox Kochanski

6/21 – Linda Carver

6/21 – Ray Vogel

6/22 – Jacob Dunmire

6/24 – Stephen Kovach

6/25 – Caitlin Carver

6/30 – Phyllis Hackbart



### Anniversaries

6/1 – Glenn & Patty Richards

6/3 – Ron & Dottie Gerstacker

6/3 – David & Jackie Gift

6/6 – Chuck & Diane Johnston

6/10 – Donnie & Tori Volland

6/11 – Ray & Joneen Betler

6/12 – Geoffrey & Kristin Hooper



## 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 Call Committee has reviewed a list of candidates provided by the Eastern District as well as a name submitted by a member. The Committee narrowed the list down to three pastors that they believed to fit Good Shepherd's needs. The committee has interviewed one of the candidates; the other two have, after prayerful consideration, requested to be removed from our list.

Please continue to lift up the members of the committee and these pastors in prayer - all need wisdom, discernment, and God's immeasurable peace. And especially pray for our congregation's next pastor, our next shepherd - God knows who he is. We all must trust His plan and His timetable. - Kim Ressler

## VBS Announcements



**TRUE NORTH VBS** is approaching quickly. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time or provided donations. Please turn in any donations as soon as possible so we know what else we have to purchase. Registration is open until June 6th if anyone is still interested in attending or volunteering. Set up will be on Saturday, June 14th beginning at 10 for anyone who can help. Your support of this important mission is appreciated! Your sister in Christ,  
Jeannie Barone.

## Family Life & Youth Committee Announcements

The next summer bonfire will be on Sunday, June 15 at 5PM. All are welcome to attend! This will also be an early check-in event for registered VBS families that are attending True North VBS. S'mores, hot dogs, and mountain pies will be provided. Please join us at the church firepit for food, games, and fellowship. Don't forget your camp chair!



**PRIMANTI  
BROS.**

Please join us from 11AM to 11PM on Wednesday, June 18 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!

Save the date! The youth attending the National Youth Gathering are organizing a concert on June 13! The concert will begin at 6:00PM with doors opening at 5:00PM. Concessions will be available for purchase. All donations will support our youth's upcoming trip to the National Youth Gathering in July. Come join us for a wonderful night of music!



## Events Outside of Good Shepherd

### Stations of the Resurrection

Zion Ev. Lutheran Church  
237-37<sup>th</sup> Street, Lawrenceville, PA 15201  
Sunday June 1, 2025 – 3:30pm in the Church Sanctuary

Focus on the various appearances of Jesus during the 40-day period between His resurrection and His ascension.

Reception follows in Udercroft

### Strawberry Festival

#### Join us for Food, Fun and Fellowship

Redeemer Lutheran Church  
1261 Pennsylvania Ave in Oakmont (15139)  
Phone: 412-828-9323

Friday June 6, 2025

Rain or shine!

There will be Bratwurst, Hot Sausage, Hot Dogs, Strawberries, Pound Cake and Ice Cream.

Games available for the children.

### Continuing Education

You are invited to study the Book of Revelation under the guidance of Dr. David Peter, professor at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. This course is open to laypersons and churchworkers and is available for continuing education credit. The class will be hosted at St. John's Lutheran Church, [501 North Ave, Millvale, PA 15209](#) on July 15-17. Cost is \$150.00, registration required in advance. For further information or to register please contact the Seminary's Continuing Education office: [ce@csl.edu](mailto:ce@csl.edu) / 314-505-7286. Or contact Pastor Hahn at St. John's, 412-821-6266.



## Prayer Requests:

Rachel Schaar, Cathy Cerminara, Karen Miller, Marian Maskow, The family of Barbara Simmons, Rev. Daniel 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, Arlene Stroebel, Bebe Bair, Iris and Steve Wutzke, Alice Meyer, Nancy Wauthier, John Schmidt, The family of Baby Luca, Zack, Michele Mulick, Mary Ellen Ressler, Mourice Williams, Dr. Bruce Bickel, Jay, Jake Herring, Carol Archer, Sean Sleeman, Madeline Cechman, Eric Powell, Ron Gerstacker, Phyllis Hackbart, Jared Lubawski, Miranda



“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](mailto:office@goodshepherdpittsburgh.org)  
Website: [goodshepherdpittsburgh.org](http://goodshepherdpittsburgh.org)

Pastor Barry  
Email: [bjk5579@gmail.com](mailto:bjk5579@gmail.com)  
Phone: 724-996-2160