

July 2025 Newsletter



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills

Volume 2 Issue 7

From the Pastor's Desk

Shut Up!

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. -Romans 3:19

It sounds so harsh. When my girls were growing up, we did not allow them to say it: *Shut up!* It is so abrasive, so blunt!

That is the way the Law of God is. To anyone who tries to offer excuses, to all who try to rationalize their sin before a holy God, the Law is abrupt. It's harsh, abrasive, and blunt. "Shut up!" it demands. "That every mouth may be silenced!"

In the face of the Law of God, every sinner's mouth must remain silent. Those who stand trial before God may offer no excuses. We can make no deals. Every argument is overruled before we even offer it. The Law shouts, "Shut up!"

Yet, so often we try to live as though it were the other way around, as if God owed us an explanation. When life seems to treat us unfairly, we scream out our whys. Remember God's servant, Job? He suffered much in life. As he did, he trotted out all kinds of questions, "why questions," many of them like our own. But, in the end.. he concluded, "I am unworthy – how can I reply to you? I put my hand over my mouth" (Job 40:4). In other words, Job said, "I will shut up!"

The cross of Jesus shuts the mouth of anyone who has an excuse to offer. It shut even the mouth of Jesus. Many have puzzled over why Jesus stood silent before Pilate. He did not try to defend His innocence. In light of that sin, there was nothing to say, no deals to be cut. Just as Isaiah had said 700 years before:

"He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth." Isaiah 53:7

Standing beneath the Law and the judgement of God, Jesus remained silent. There was no other way. The Word says to us "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. " 2 Corinthians 5:21

Jesus became sin. He became your sin. He became my sin.. He did not simply carry our sin to the cross, Jesus became that sin. This single truth is one that I find so hard to even begin to fathom. What manner of love is this? We may never understand this, but take to heart this day, how great a love, our Lord Jesus has for you and me.

Now you and I may open our mouths to declare his praise and tell of all his marvelous deeds!

A prayer to ponder in the coming days;

*Lord Jesus, you made yourself accountable for my sin. You stood under God's judgement and did not open your mouth!
Your love leaves me speechless. How and where can I begin to open my mouth before others to express my thanks
and love to you? Amen.*

-Pastor Barry

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The President's Corner

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Born Again to a Living Hope; the theme of the LCMS Eastern District Convention based on 1 Peter 1:3. The Convention was held at First Trinity Lutheran Church in Tonawanda, NY on June 20th and 21st. Pastor Barry, Pastor Adam and I were all in attendance. I'd like to use this month's newsletter article to inform you a bit about the Eastern District and the Convention itself.

The LCMS Eastern District (ED) was established in 1855 and is headquartered in Williamsville, NY. It is one of seventeen districts within the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. The LCMS ED President is Rev. John Pingel (no relation to Rev. Melvin Pingel or Lou & Lynn Pingel). The ED includes all of PA, the western portion of NY and the upper portion of MD. It includes about 120 Congregations, 22,000 communicant members in total. You'd be interested to know that President Pingel has a staff of only 6 people. This small but very capable team can support needs in the areas of: education, stewardship and facilities management, discipleship development, communications, financial assistance and more.

The Convention began with a wonderful Worship Service at First Trinity hosted by Rev. Dr. Charles Whited. The Sermon was delivered by President Rev. John Pingel. President Pingel set the tone for the Convention. His focus was on optimism for the future of the Church. He said that while some want to despair about Churches shrinking and even closing in some cases, we should rejoice in the opportunities God is placing before us and to approach those with joy in our hearts knowing that "Christ has died, Christ has risen and that Christ will come again." This set a positive tone for those in attendance which was felt and witnessed throughout the next two days.

Some of the business items that were addressed during the Convention included elections. President Pingel was elected for another three year term. Rev. Dr. Edward Grimenstein of Zion Bridgeville was elected 2nd Vice-President. The Rev. Dr. Daniel Hahn was elected Circuit Visitor, Pittsburgh South which is the grouping of Churches which includes Good Shepherd. By the way, there are a lot of churches named Good Shepherd throughout the Eastern District.

Two representatives for Synod; Rev. Dan Galchutt - Director of National Missions and Rev. Christopher Esget - Fifth Vice President, LCMS spoke at the Convention.

I did have the opportunity to see Pastor Josh. He & Sarah and Samuel are doing well personally and professionally. I also had the chance to visit with Rev. Nathan Hartke (married to Laura nee Pingel). Nate and his Family are well but Lynn Pingel had a heart attack four weeks ago. She fortunately had a stint put in and is recovering well.

I had the opportunity to meet many wonderful committed Christians who all have similar challenges and opportunities to those we experience at Good Shepherd. There is a tremendous wealth of resources available to our Church at many levels; Eastern District, sister Churches and at the Synod office.

A banquet was held on June 20th where Pastor Barry was recognized for his lifetime of service to our Lord. He and two other well-deserving Church workers received the "2025 Servant of Christ Award". This prestigious award is given on a very selective basis to unique individuals who exemplify servitude, humility, accomplishment and impact.

Your Brother in Christ, Ray



July 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 9a BCAP Summer Program 6p Scrapbooking	2 9a BCAP Summer Program 7p N/A	3 GSLC Office Closed 9a BCAP Summer Program 5p Soccer Shots	4 GSLC Office Closed 9a BCAP Summer Program	5 9a Soccer Shots
6 9:30a FLYC Coffee & Donuts 10:15a Sunday Worship 12:30p BPFC	7 9a BCAP Summer Program 7p Boy Scouts	8 9a BCAP Summer Program	9 9a BCAP Summer Program 7p N/A	10 9a BCAP Summer Program 5p Soccer Shots	11 GSLC Office Closed 9a BCAP Summer Program 7p IPMS	12 9a Soccer Shots
13 10:15a Sunday Worship 12:30p BPFC	14 GSLC Office Closed 9a BCAP Summer Program 7p Boy Scouts	15 GSLC Office Closed 9a BCAP Summer Program 6p Scrapbooking	16 GSLC Office Closed 9a BCAP Summer Program 7p N/A	17 GSLC Office Closed 9a BCAP Summer Program 5p Soccer Shots	18 GSLC Office Closed 9a BCAP Summer Program	19 9a Soccer Shots Nepali Wedding
20 10:15a Sunday Worship 12:30p BPFC	21 9a BCAP Summer Program 7p Boy Scouts	22 9a BCAP Summer Program	23 9a BCAP Summer Program 7p N/A	24 9a BCAP Summer Program 5p Soccer Shots	25 GSLC Office Closed 9a BCAP Summer Program	26 9a Soccer Shots 5pm PPS Fundraiser
27 10:15a Sunday Worship 12:30p BPFC	28 9a BCAP Summer Program 7p Boy Scouts	29 9a BCAP Summer Program	30 9a BCAP Summer Program	31 9a BCAP Summer Program 5p Soccer Shots		

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

July Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

7/1 – Piper Frantz
7/2 – Mackenzie Chioda
7/5 – Dee Moore
7/5 – Marion Ott
7/6 – Joneen Betler
7/12 – Ron Dunmire
7/12 – Lily Winters
7/13 – Gavin Glasser
7/15 – Ken Meyer
7/15 – Sandy Overfield
7/16 – Maria Ressler
7/17 – Debbie Malenky
7/18 – Katie Zeman
7/19 – Daniel Watkins

7/21 – Al Nagy
7/22 – Jennie Zeman
7/24 – Jeremy Frantz
7/28 – Walt Meyer
7/29 – Susan Davies



Anniversaries

7/1 – George & Rose Ann Zimmerman (26)
7/6 – Scott & Laura Thurston (29)
7/25 – Walt & Alice Meyer (40)



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**

**The Church office will be closed July 14th-18th. If you are in need of
anything, please reach out to Ray Betler @ 724-747-8602 or Ray
Vogel @ 412-334-1621**

Call Committee Update

The Call Committee has had a second interview with one of the candidates. As a group we have decided to invite him for a visit which he has agreed to and will take place sometime in July. Plans are still being made.

Please continue to lift up the members of the committee and this pastor in prayer - all need wisdom, discernment, and God's immeasurable peace. God knows who our next Shepherd is. We all must trust His plan and His timetable. - Kim Ressler

Family Life & Youth Committee Announcements

Keep an eye out in the weekly tidings for the next bonfire!



Join FLYC before church on Sunday July 6,
2025 for Donuts and Coffee (Iced coffee will be
available).

VBS Announcements



True North VBS was a success! 92 children participated throughout the week to learn how to trust Jesus in a wild world. None of this could be possible without the support of our congregation and our many volunteers. Whether you helped before VBS with prayers, donations or set up, volunteered during the week, or assisted in clean up, we appreciate you. The list of all of the volunteers is as follows (hopefully I didn't miss anyone!):

Station leaders:

Preschool Imagination Station: Carol Kagemann

Preschool Bible Adventure: Stephanie Watkins

Preschool Crafts: Jackie Kramer, Chloe Kramer, Patty Kandcer

Preschool Games: Anna Carlson, Evie Coughenour

Elementary Sticky Scriptures: Marion Ott

Elementary Games: Ethan Bell, Mikey Yakemowicz, John Carlson, Anthony Scarnati

Elementary Bible Adventures: Laura Thurston, Logan Frantz (roman soldier)

Elementary Crafts: Hollie Ulanowicz, Makenna Glasser, Elaine Ivancza (Stephanie's mom)

Fabulous snack ladies for both groups: Dee Moore, Nikki Yakemowicz

Decorating crew:

Sue Fox (stairwell, kayak scene, elementary hallway)

The Ulanowicz family (Narthex set)

The Watkins family (waterfall, stream set)

Rachel Barone (under the stairs)

Piper Frantz (trees for the preschool space)

Ray Vogel, Patrick Dunmire, Mike Ressler, Josh Dunmire (picked up and delivered the cabin). Ray also helped with the backdrop as well as repairing the cabin)

Walt Meyer (provided the tent, and beavers for the stream)

Thomas Jefferson High School Theater construction class (graciously let us borrow the tree, cave, canoe, and fire)

Media:

Kaleb Arnold (videos and sound)

Greg Fox (photographer and videographer)

Skit Performers:

Joshua Barone & Kim Ressler

Crew Leaders/Assistants

Reilly Johnson, Skylar Huwalt, Jack Zewe, Logan Huwalt, Rachel Barone, Hope Ulanowicz, Avery Porter, Layla Pacifico, Hannah Thurston, Victoria Coughenour, Bepasha Darjee, Chase Ulanowicz, Matthew Fox, Jakob Sleeman, Piper Frantz, Hayslee Kochanski, Caden Servan, Sue Fox, Gavin Glasser, Dani Dorrian, Natalie Totin, Sujata Tiwari, Ishak Darjee, Emma Mey, Danika Porter, Aiden Wechter, Babita Darjee, Caden Smith, Gavin Scheller, Sloane Miller

Cali Reale, Pat Woods

Thank you all – Jeannie Barone

Stay tuned for next years VBS June 22nd-26th,
2026. The theme will be Rainforest Falls –
Exploring the Nature of God!



Events Outside of Good Shepherd

Concordia Festival

144th Annual Summer Festival

Sunday July 27th, 2025

12:30pm-5:30pm

Lund Care Center Backyard, 134 Marwood Rd. Cabot, PA 16023

Kids Fishing Derby & Activities

Chuck Blasko and The Vogues: 1:30-3:30pm

Haven Apartments Open House: 1-3pm

Car Cruise (weather permitting): 12:30-3:00pm

Worship Service at 4:00pm featuring
LCMS Eastern District President Rev. John Pingel

Summer Picnic Themed Menu
(Cash only)

Commemoration

A celebration of the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea and the birth
of the Nicene Creed

Saturday, July 12 @ 4:00pm

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
711 Chestnut Street, Johnstown, PA 15906

Refreshments to follow.

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 / 314-505-7286. Or contact Pastor Hahn at St. John's, 412-821-6266.

Prayer Requests:

Rachel Schaar, Cathy Cerminara, Karen Miller, Marian Maskow, 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, Zack, Michele Mulick, 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

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(or, go to YouTube and search @goodshepherdlutheranchurch3950)



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