

# August 2025 Newsletter

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills



Volume 2 Issue 8

## From the Pastor's Desk

### The Acts of the Apostles and of Good Shepherd!

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and what book follows next?

If you said Acts, you would be partially right. The proper name is "The Acts of the Apostles." The next question, following this one, would be "what acts of the Apostles are mentioned in this book?"

The Book of Acts records the early days of the Church. Within its pages, you will find the Acts of the Apostles: Powerful preaching, healing of the sick, casting out demons and the raising of the dead. Then of course there is the rapid and expansive growth of the church as it quickly becomes a global movement.

Final question - which of the Acts of the Apostles, is mentioned the most - in fact 29 times? Without a doubt, the thread that weaves through the tapestry of The Acts of the Apostles, is prayer.

Everything they pursued, planned and preached was rooted in prayer. 29 times in the "Acts of the Apostles", prayer is referenced. Clearly, it can be said that one of the foremost Acts of the Apostles was prayer.

At the end of this article, you will find a list of those moments when prayer is mentioned. I hope you might take a few moments to look them up and consider how important prayer was to the Early Church.

What about us? Can the same be said about us at this moment in Good Shepherd's Ministry? Here are some of the vital areas of ministry, that I would ask you to lift up in prayer

**Pray** for the Call that has been sent out to Pastor Harry Smith from Texas to be the next Pastor of Good Shepherd. Pray for discernment that Pastor Harry might know where God is leading He and his family.

**Pray** for our Preschool that will soon be back in session. Pray for our staff 12. Pray for Laura Thurston, the Administrator of the school. Pray that their teaching will open hearts and minds and souls to the love of learning and to above all, Jesus. Always Jesus.

**Pray** for the Nepalese community among us. What an incredible opportunity to strengthen our partnership with them and they with us, all to the glory of God. Pray that the Spirit will lead us in the way that we can continue to strengthen and deepen our bond with them.

**Pray** for the work and mission of SHIM. Pray that God would open doors where we can strengthen our work with them for the sake of community they and we serve in the name of Jesus.

**Pray** for a rekindled fire of the Spirit within each of us at Good Shepherd, that as it was with the Early Church, it might be here with us- devoting ourselves to the apostles teaching, the fellowship, the prayers and the breaking of bread.

May it be so with us, that one of the most important acts of Good Shepherd will be that of prayer, as it was in the Acts of the Apostles. Verses to study are listed to the right.

-Pastor Barry

### In this Issue

From the Pastor's Desk	1
President's Corner	2
Calendar - August	3
Birthdays & Anniversaries	4
Announcements	5
Announcements	6
Prayers	8

### The Vital and Pivotal Act of the Apostles:

Acts 1:14,24  
Acts 2:42  
Acts 3:1  
Acts 4:31  
Acts 6:4,6  
Acts 8:15,22,24  
Acts 9:40  
Acts 10:2, 4, 9, 30, 31, 48  
Acts 11:5  
Acts 12:5, 12  
Acts 13:3  
Acts 14:23  
Acts 16:13, 16, 25  
Acts 20:5  
Acts 22:17  
Acts 28:8

## The President's Corner

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On July 27, 2025 a Congregation Meeting was held where those attending voted to extend a Call to Pastor Harry Reed Smith. Two virtual meetings were held with Pastor Harry. He then visited Pittsburgh and Good Shepherd to meet our Call Committee and see our City. Everyone who had the opportunity to be with Pastor Harry was excited and impressed. He is extremely poised, mature and personable. He is kind in character and passionate about his service in the Ministry. He has a heart for all people and is very committed to those in his present Congregation, as well as, his Community. We feel that Pastor Harry would be a great fit for Good Shepherd. Please pray that the Lord gives Pastor Harry wisdom, guidance and discernment as he considers our Call.

Pastor Harry grew up in Edison, NJ. His Father was a Professor at Rutgers. The Family moved to Texas when Pastor Harry was six because his Father accepted a position at Baylor University. Pastor Harry earned his undergraduate degree from Baylor. He went on to Concordia Seminary in St. Louis and became an ordained Minister. He then attended Wheaton College prior to beginning his service as a Parish Pastor in Texas. Pastor Harry is married to Hannah. They have two boys; Lionel (6) and Ethan (3).

As I contemplate where we are in the Call Process, the debate in my head is; are we on a journey or at a turning point. For me, I believe we are on a journey. The journey is one God placed us on when Good Shepherd was formed in 1960. At our Congregation Meeting the Chair of our Call Committee, Kim Ressler, outlined our journey. Kim reviewed our vision, mission, strategic initiatives, strengths and challenges. Calling a full-time Pastor is a Call of Faith for Good Shepherd. Jim Marlowe, our Treasurer, outlined what the impact will be on our financials. We will be challenged. But Pastor Barry pointed us to Matthew 25: 14 - 30. I encourage you to read it.

Please pray for our Congregation, Pastor Harry and the future of Good Shepherd. May His Will be done!

Your Brother in Christ, Ray

# August 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> GSLC Office Closed 9a BCAP Summer Program 7p IPMS	<b>2</b> 9a Nepali Party 9a Soccer Shots
<b>3</b> 10:15a Sunday Worship 12:30p BPFC	<b>4</b> 9a PPS Summer Camp 7p Boy Scouts	<b>5</b> 9a PPS Summer Camp 6p Scrapbooking	<b>6</b> 9a PPS Summer Camp 7p N/A	<b>7</b> 9a PPS Summer Camp 5p Soccer Shots	<b>8</b> GSLC Office Closed 9a PPS Summer Camp	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 10:15a Sunday Worship 12:30p BPFC	<b>11</b> 9a PPS Summer Camp 7p Boy Scouts	<b>12</b> 9a PPS Summer Camp	<b>13</b> 9a PPS Summer Camp 7p N/A	<b>14</b> 9a PPS Summer Camp 5p Soccer Shots	<b>15</b> GSLC Office Closed 9a PPS Summer Camp	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 10:15a Sunday Worship 12:30p BPFC	<b>18</b> 7p Boy Scouts	<b>19</b> 6p Scrapbooking	<b>20</b> 7p N/A	<b>21</b> 5p Soccer Shots	<b>22</b> GSLC Office Closed	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 10:15a Sunday Worship 12:30p BPFC	<b>25</b> 7p Boy Scouts	<b>26</b> 5:00 Meet the Teacher	<b>27</b> 5:00 Meet the Teacher	<b>28</b> Montgomery Wedding Set-Up 5p Soccer Shots	<b>29</b> GSLC Office Closed Montgomery Wedding	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 10:15a Sunday Worship 12:30p BPFC						

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  
 Events in purple are Preschool Events

## August Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays

8/1 – Don Volland

8/9 – Kacy Dinning

8/16 – Carol Schaar

8/19 – Larry Mikoleit

8/19 – Derek Scheller



### Anniversaries

8/21 – Larry & Norma Mikoleit (71)



## **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**

On Sunday, July 27, the congregation voted to issue a Call to Pastor Harry Smith, currently serving in Irving, TX. Many have asked why he would come here, and my answer can only be that we may not truly know! But God knows. God knows who our next pastor is. God knows all that is ahead for Good Shepherd. And the Call Committee believes that Pastor Smith's gifts and passions fit with this congregation's goals and needs. Pray with me that we are all properly discerning God's will, in Pittsburgh and in Irving. Pray for our congregation and the people of Our Redeemer, who each face uncertainty, to trust in the call process. Pray for the steps we are each taking and will take in faith, as unnerving as some of those steps may be.

Thank you for your heart for Good Shepherd,  
Kim Ressler

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

## **Preschool Announcements**

School is right around the corner! Teachers are working hard to get their rooms ready for this new school year.

August 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> in the evening, will be Meet the Teacher. This is a casual opportunity for all the students in each class to get together and meet the teacher and other students.

The first day of school (modified schedule) is set for September 9<sup>th</sup>!

The preschool will start regular schedules on September 15<sup>th</sup>!

Each teacher has made a wish-list for items for their classroom. If you are interested in helping them, please reach out to Laura Thurston.

## 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, 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!



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

(or, go to YouTube and search @goodshepherdchurch3950 )



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