

October 2025 Newsletter



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills

Volume 2 Issue 10

From the Pastor's Desk

The Walls of our Prison

As we enter October, my thoughts are drawn to Autumn and leaves and the pumpkins. Looking ahead to the end of the month, my heart is drawn to the Reformation.

Martin Luther knew all too well how sin kept him a slave. He tried everything to gain God's favor. He nearly froze himself to death as he slept, believing God would have mercy on him for his devotion. He carried out one religious act after another, only in the end to ask, *"who knows whether it is so or not?"* He spent hours and hours in the confessional booth to cleanse himself of his sin. Other priests would seek to avoid him because of this, with the exception of Father Staupitz. He became a trusted confessor. At one point he advised Luther that his problem would be resolved by loving God. Luther said in response;

"Is it not against all-natural reason that God out of his mere whim deserts men, hardens them, damns them, as if he is delighted in sins and in such torments of the wretched for eternity, he who is said to be of such mercy and goodness? This appears iniquitous, cruel and intolerable in God, by which very many have been offended in all ages. And who would not be? I was myself more than once driven to the very abyss of despair so that I wished I had never been created. Love God? I hated him!" (Bainton, 1978, p. 44).

Luther knew that like Adam, he was naked before God. His struggle was the same as Isaiah, *"how can a man stand before a holy God?"*

He found himself in a prison of four walls constructed of these questions.

Can I be free from my sin?

Is there a Judgement Day?

Is God indifferent to my sin?

Must I then be damned?

Luther felt lost and doomed. There was no way he could free himself from his sin. He knew deep in his soul, that God would not wink at his sinful life and so therefore he must be damned. He was a slave to his sin.

Then one day as Luther was preparing to teach Romans to his theological students, he came to verse 17 and read, ***"For in the Gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith..."*** Luther said later, *"I realized for the first time that my own justification depends, not on my own righteousness which will always fall short, but it rests solely and completely on the righteousness of Jesus Christ which I must hold on to by trusting faith...."* it was as if the gates of paradise had opened:

Sin makes us its slave but the righteousness of Jesus himself, is yours. The door of your prison is open. The walls have been knocked down by the power of the Gospel. Can you be free from your sin? Yes, in Christ there is no condemnation. (Romans 8:1) Is there a judgement day? Yes and in Christ you have been judged already. "Not Guilty" is the verdict through Jesus! (John 3:18) Is God indifferent to my sin? No. Sin matters to God and He shows that in punishing His Son for you. (Isaiah 53:10) Must I then be damned. No! In Jesus, you and I are forgiven and cleansed in His blood! (Romans 5:1)

You are free from sins control of you. Free from Satan's lies. Free from the condemning voice of your past. Free is Free.

I leave you with this quote by Luther, when Satan was assaulting him; *"When the devil throws our sins up to us and declares we deserve death and hell, we ought to speak thus; 'I admit that I deserve death and hell. What of it? Does this mean that I shall be sentenced to eternal damnation? By no means. For I know one who suffered and made a satisfaction in my behalf. His name is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Where He is, there I shall be also.'"*

"Where He is, there I shall be also." When Satan assaults you, may the truth and the confidence of this thought, fill your heart and soul with peace.

-Pastor Barry

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The President's Corner

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Blessings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who continues to provide for all those in our Congregation. We have Members who are in very stages of life. Pray for those who are thriving; our children as they learn, develop and grow in mind, body and soul. Pray for those who work to contribute and provide; those whose responsibilities place tremendous expectation and stress on them individually. Pray for those who are retired as they look for ways to give back to others including contributing in many ways to Good Shepherd. Pray for those who are in need; the elderly, the hospitalized, those close to end-of-life.

Each of these diverse cross-section of people have one thing in common; the promise of forgiveness and salvation; we enjoy the mercy and grace of our loving Father. And we have Faith! We put our Faith into action in recognition of God's grace. I want to thank all who continue to contribute to the health and well being of Good Shepherd.

We had a great picnic gathering. Fall activities have ramped up. School children can be seen in the halls of Good Shepherd throughout the week. And a dozen students are enrolled in our Early Communion Program. Seven or more will continue on in our year-long Confirmation Program. Pastor Adam is leading an Adult Bible Class every Sunday; please come and join the class. Small Group Ministry has started back up focused on episodes of the Chosen; please come and join on Thursday evenings.

We may be in a vacancy period but we are not vacant. Our Mission and Ministry continues. Pastor Barry is in support, as is Pastor Adam. Look for your opportunity to personally connect and contribute. Bring a Friend or Family Member to Church. Witness your Faith to others outside of Church: at work, at school, in the community! We are a priesthood of believers, small and mighty. Spread your wings and share the message of our Lord and Savior...and they'll know we are Christians by our love!

Your Brother in Christ, Ray

October 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 Events in purple are Preschool Events			1 5:15p Cub Scouts 7:00p N/A	2 GSLC Office Closed 5p Soccer Shots 5:45p Cub Scouts 6p The Chosen	3 GSLC Office Closed 2p Private use of FH & Sanctuary 7:15p IMPS	4
5 9:15a Adult Bible Study 10:15a Sunday Worship 12:30p BPFC 3p Cub Scouts	6 3p BCAP 5:15p Cub Scouts 7pm Boy Scouts	7 11:30a Preschool Soccer Shots 3p BCAP 6p Cub Scouts 6p Scrapbooking	8 Preschool Pepperoni Roll Orders Due 3p BCAP 5:15p Cub Scouts 7:00p N/A	9 3p BCAP 5p Soccer Shots 5:45p Cub Scouts 6p The Chosen	10 3p BCAP GSLC Office Closed	11 10a LWML Pittsburgh Fall Rally
12 9:15a Adult Bible Study 10:15a Sunday Worship 12:30p BPFC 3p Cub Scouts	13 No Preschool 3p BCAP 5:15p Cub Scouts 7pm Boy Scouts	14 11:30a Preschool Soccer Shots 3p BCAP 6p Cub Scouts 6p Preschool CPR Training	15 3p BCAP 5:15p Cub Scouts 7:00p N/A	16 GSLC Office Closed Preschool Pepperoni Roll Delivery 3p BCAP 5p Soccer Shots 5:45p Cub Scouts 6p The Chosen	17 3p BCAP GSLC Office Closed	18
19 9:15a Adult Bible Study 10:15a Sunday Worship 12:30p BPFC 3p Cub Scouts	20 5:15p Cub Scouts 6p Council 7pm Boy Scouts	21 11:30a Preschool Soccer Shots 3p BCAP 6p Cub Scouts 6p Scrapbooking	22 3p BCAP 5:15p Cub Scouts 7:00p N/A	23 3p BCAP 5p Soccer Shots 5:45p Cub Scouts 6p The Chosen	24 3p BCAP GSLC Office Closed	25 1p FLYC Ice Cream Social
26 9:15a Adult Bible Study 10:15a Sunday Worship 12:30p BPFC 3p Cub Scouts	27 5:15p Cub Scouts 6p Council 7pm Boy Scouts	28 11:30a Preschool Soccer Shots 3p BCAP 6p Cub Scouts	29 3p BCAP 5:15p Cub Scouts 7:00p N/A	30 3p BCAP 5p Soccer Shots 5:45p Cub Scouts 6p The Chosen	31 Halloween 3p BCAP GSLC Office Closed	

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

10/4 – Arlene Stroebe
10/4 – Stephanie Watkins
10/5 – Sandy Marcovecchio
10/5 – Lukas Sleeman
10/6 – Joshua Barone
10/7 - Jacquelyn Kramer
10/9 – Sofia Kramer
10/11 – Michael Ressler
10/14 – Aaron Zeman
10/18 – Dylan Carrol
10/18 – Gail Snyder
10/19 – Penelope Chioda
10/21 – Daniel Moore
10/30 – Laurie Coleman



Anniversaries

10/5 – Dee & Larry Moore (57)
10/8 – Darrell & Nikki Kochanski (14)
10/15 – Nikki & Michael Yakemowicz (21)



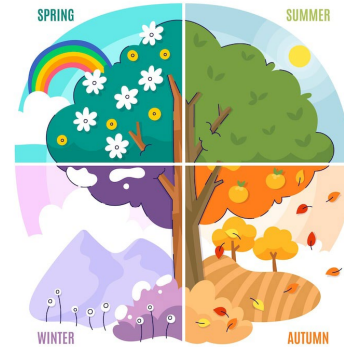
Good Shepherd Announcements

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

LWML Announcements

The LWML will hold its **Four Seasons** event on **Saturday, November 15th beginning at noon**. Each table will be decorated with a theme for one of the four seasons. We'll have lunch, a basket raffle, and a 50/50 drawing. The cost to attend will be \$10. More information will be provided as the date gets closer.



The LWML Pittsburgh Zone Fall Rally is being held here at Good Shepherd! Save the date for Saturday October 11. Registration starts at 10am and is \$10. See Carol Kagemann for more information.

Preschool Announcements

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.



Pepperoni Roll sales are here!! Order are due by October 8th. Delivery will be Thursday, October 16th.

Family Life & Youth Committee Announcements

Mark you calendars!

An Ice Cream Social is scheduled for Saturday October 25 at 1pm in the fellowship hall. Free for all!



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, The Family of Jim Stocker on his death, Erika Similo, Jan Kleiser, Lisa Brady, Don Matthews, Pastor Tim, Tiffany, Mary Jane Forrest, 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, Kaiden, Andie Keurulainen



“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