

March 2026

# Newsletter



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills

Volume 3 Issue 3

## From The Pastor's Desk

### The Joyful Sorrow of Lent

Growing up, my family attended a Finnish American Lutheran church in New England. One of my memories of being in worship with them, was when my parents went up for communion (children remained in the pew) they came back with tears in their eyes. As a boy, I had trouble understanding what caused this. Now, years later, I have come to taste and see that the Lord's Supper is a living paradox. We shed tears as we confess our sins and ponder His suffering and torturous death. Yet, we know and believe that His death was out of deep love for His Father and for you and for me. We believe that in His dying there is the gift of forgiveness and the promise of life, eternal, everlasting life! In that moment when my mom and dad left my brother and me in the pew, only to return with tears, I was the witness of joyful sorrow.

Joyful sorrow is the essence in the season of Lent, in the hymns we sing, and the prayers we offer. Even if we choose to give up something for Lent, there is joyful sorrow!

Lent like Holy Communion is a living paradox. Lent invites us to meditate upon the Passion of our dear Jesus, whose life was a living paradox. His life embraced paradox;

We are made great by becoming small!

We triumph through defeat!

We are exalted when we humble ourselves!

We are free when we live as a servant to the will of the Father!

The season of Lent is rooted in the greatest sermon ever preached, Jesus' sermon on the Mount. A sermon about the Paradox of living in His Kingdom.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be filled."

Matthew 5:3-6

I learned a valuable lesson sitting in that pew with my brother, as my parents returned with tears in their eyes. Life is better and richer when it is lived in Joyful Sorrow.

~Pastor Barry

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## President's Corner

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On February 22nd, the United States Men's Hockey Team was playing Canada in the Final Round of the Olympics. The USA hadn't won gold for 46 years. Just three days earlier, on Thursday Feb. 19th, the US Women's Team had just beaten Canada. In both games the US Teams were behind 1 - 0. Late in both games the US Teams came back to score and tie the game 1 - 1. And, in both games, the US Teams won the game in overtime! The winning goal, by Jack Hughes, for the Men's Game is being called the Golden Goal!

What's this have to do with Church? Lent? Easter? I was thinking about how nice it is that our Country can rally around something enjoyable, like the Olympics. It is even more exciting to see how positive people are about winning the Gold in both Women's and Men's Hockey! When you think about the process; players were selected, they were brought together and given their assignments, they practiced every chance they got and then, the big moment, they played. In each round of the Olympic tournament the Teams won to advance to the next level. Finally they reached the final round and they laid it on the line; everything they had they left on the ice. The result; victory...two Gold Medals.

We just celebrated Christmas. God the Father gave His Son to be born of the Virgin Mary and become Man. God sent His Son to redeem us. Jesus of Nazareth grew in mind and body, preparing for His Mission. By the age of 30, Jesus was ready for the opening round. He began His Ministry in earnest. He proceeded to call His Team; His Disciples. He performed His first miracle at the Wedding of Cana. For three years those who witnessed His actions either loved Him or grew to hate Him. As He entered the Final Round riding a donkey into Jerusalem, people cheered for Him. By the end of the week, people abandoned Him. At the end of the battle, he laid His life on the line; and He died on the cross. But wait; three days later, He rose. His enemy did not triumph, Our Lord and Savior rose again from the dead...He won the contest. He reigned supreme! He is the Victor and shares his Victory with ALL who believe in Him!

The Golden Goal...it was so wonderful to see! Our Lord's Resurrection...we know there is no comparison. When's the last time you saw congregants throw their belongings in the air and run uncontrollably screaming at the top of their lungs? We each are in the battle; we each get to influence our own personal outcome. I teach my Confirmands; believe and be baptized. But that's not where it stops. That's where it begins. Believe and be baptized, love one another, serve one another for we, as Lutherans, recognize that our salvation is an unearned gift from God; it comes from grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. Our good works do not earn our salvation but rather they are the fruits of our faith.

These 2026 Olympics are over. They will be talked about for a long time to come. But we have the Bible; "In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God." John 1:1-2. We have the Word! The Word will be with us forever for the Word was, and is, God.

Do you want to get excited? Think about the Journey BEYOND the Cross. It is a Journey that our MVP delivered for each of us and a Victory over Death and the Grave! Celebrate and turn your recognition of that into action...

Your Brother in Christ, Ray

# March 2026

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> 9:15a Adult Bible Study 10:15a Sunday Worship 12:30p BPFC 3p DEN	<b>2</b> 3p BCAP 5:15p DEN 7p Boy Scouts	<b>3</b> 3p BCAP 6p Scrapbooking	<b>4</b> 3p BCAP 5:15p DEN	<b>5</b> 3p BCAP 5:45p DEN	<b>6</b> GSLC Office Closed 3p BCAP	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:15a Adult Bible Study 10:15a Sunday Worship w/ Communion (Scout Sunday) 12:30p BPFC 3p DEN	<b>9</b> 3p BCAP 5:15p DEN 7p Boy Scouts	<b>10</b> 3p BCAP	<b>11</b> 3p BCAP 5:15p DEN	<b>12</b> Preschool Pepperoni Roll Delivery 3p BCAP 5:45p DEN	<b>13</b> GSLC Office Closed 3p BCAP	<b>14</b> 5:00p Trivia
<b>15</b> 9:15a Adult Bible Study 10:15a Sunday Worship 12:30p BPFC 3p DEN	<b>16</b> 3p BCAP 5:15p DEN 7p Boy Scouts	<b>17</b> 3p BCAP 6pm Scrapbooking	<b>18</b> 3p BCAP 5:15p DEN	<b>19</b> 3p BCAP 5p Soccer Shots 5:45p DEN	<b>20</b> GSLC Office Closed	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:15a Adult Bible Study 10:15a Sunday Worship w/ Communion 12:30p BPFC 3p DEN	<b>23</b> 3p BCAP 5:15p DEN 6:30p Council 7p Boy Scouts	<b>24</b> Scholastic Book Fair 3p BCAP	<b>25</b> Scholastic Book Fair 9am Dad's & Donuts 3p BCAP	<b>26</b> Scholastic Book Fair 9am Dad's & Donuts 3p BCAP 5p Soccer Shots 5:45p DEN	<b>27</b> GSLC Office Closed 9am Dad's & Donuts Scholastic Book Fair 3p BCAP	<b>28</b>
<b>29 Palm Sunday</b> 9:15a Adult Bible Study 10:15a Sunday Worship w/ Communion 12:30p BPFC 3p DEN	<b>30</b> 3p BCAP 5:15p DEN 7p Boy Scouts	<b>31</b> 3p BCAP	<p>BPFC – Pgh Nepali Church                      BCAP – Bhutanese Community Association of Pittsburgh                      DEN – Cub Scouts                      PPS – Pittsburgh Performance Society                      Events in <b>green</b> are Good Shepherd Events                      Events in <b>purple</b> are Preschool Events</p>			

## March Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays

3/1 – Tori Voland  
3/5 – Dottie Gerstacker  
3/7 – Carol Sue Molinari  
3/9 – Scott Thurston  
3/14 – Rachel Barone  
3/14 – Hayslee Kochanski  
3/15 – Hannah Thurston  
3/23 – Louise Kratz  
3/24 – Jayden Rawson  
3/29 – Aimee Arnold  
3/29 – Matthew Betler  
3/29 – Darryn Sleeman  
3/30 – Grace Voland  
3/31 – Jane Watkins



### Anniversaries

3/16 – Eric & Devera Hoblak (8)  
3/24 – Anthony & Grace Chioda (8)



## 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 Announcement

The next meeting for the LWML will be held on March 15h directly after service. The postponed Treasurer's Auction will be held that day. If you are planning to attend, please bring a wrapped gift (new or gently used) to be auctioned. During the meeting we will be discussing Easter breakfast and our spring luncheon. Hope to see you there!

## Preschool Announcements

Sarris is back for Easter! Place your orders online at [sarriscandiesfundraising.com](http://sarriscandiesfundraising.com) or scanning the QR code.



Enter group ID:10-0940

Don't forget you can pick up at the store in Canonsburg! Orders must be in by March 22nd!



## Vacation Bible School Announcements

Thank you again for sending in your packing paper which will be used to make vines. We are also in need of anything that is a tube (paper towel rolls, toilet paper rolls, wrapping paper rolls) so that we can create bamboo. It's amazing what you can make from repurposed trash! As always, we appreciate your support and prayers.



## FLYC Announcements

Thank you to everyone who came out for bowling. We had a great turn out from the church, preschool and Nepalese. It was a lot of fun and a great way to get out after such a long stretch of cold weather and snow. Special recognition goes out to Anthony Chioda, who bowled 3 strikes in a row in his first game!



The Family Life and Youth Committee will once again be sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt for the Preschool and young families in our church and community. The hunt will be on the morning of Friday, April 3, 2026 (Good Friday). There will be an egg hunt, a scavenger hunt, refreshments, air brush tattoos, and a coloring contest. If you are interested in helping with this event, please see John or Stephanie Watkins.



## Announcements



The annual Trivia Night is back on Saturday, March 14th. Put on your thinking caps and join us for a night of fun filled competition. Dinner will be served at 5:00 pm with trivia starting at 6:00. Watch for updates about the cost and menu in future Weekly Tidings. This event will be a fundraiser for Vacation Bible School.

Good Shepherd is looking for individuals interested in joining the team that handles the sound system and video screens during worship services. We have a dedicated group of individuals, and would like to add 1 or 2 additional people to the group. No experience is necessary. Full training will be provided on all aspects of the system.

If you are interested in joining or just want to learn more about it, please reach out to Scott Thurston.



## Outside Good Shepherd

Concordia Lutheran Ministries' Good Samaritan Hospice (GSH) is looking for volunteers!

Hospice volunteers can help in any of the areas Good Samaritan services.

Volunteering can be anything from writing letters to/for patients, sewing memory bears/quilts, making a meal, sitting with a patient so their loved one can go to the store or take a break.

If interested, please reach out to the office!

## 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, 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, 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, Kaiden, Andie Keurulainen, Kaylee, Jenny Peterson, Mary Ellen Ressler, Leila Wood



“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 @goodshepherdlutheranchurch3950 )



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