

April 2026

Newsletter



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills

Volume 3 Issue 4

President's Corner

In this Issue

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Many of you will remember Dave Noll. Dave was the first DCE (Director of Christian Education) at Good Shepherd. Dave is now the Senior Pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Spokane, WA. His birthday is on April 1st. So naturally, I used to play a lot of April Fools jokes on him; and still do!

There are a lot of references to fools in the Bible:

Psalm 14:1 The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."

Proverbs 18:2 A fool has no delight in understanding, only in expressing their own heart.

Proverbs 1:7 Fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 14:16 A fool is reckless, careless and arrogant.

1 Corinthians 1:27 God uses the foolish things of the world to shame the wise.

The word "fool" appears approximately 360 times throughout the Old and New Testament. The term is not only used to refer to the unintelligent, it is also used to refer to wicked, perverse and unteachable individuals.

Perhaps a good way to not become a fool, is to read the Bible and to be reverent to the Word. Take time everyday to get into your Bible and spend a little time there with God. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John 1:1 With this one verse, we have the opportunity to develop, maintain and grow our personal relationship with the Triune God of all Eternity.

We had a discussion at our last Church Council Meeting about the future of Good Shepherd. A lot of good things are going on all around Good Shepherd! Could things be better? Could we be better? Would we like to see higher attendance, more participation at our Services and activities? Sure, but we love to honor and serve those who are present! At Good Shepherd, we are never going to stop praying, trying and working to make Good Shepherd a healthy, active, engaging, committed, Biblically-based, faith-oriented, Christ-centered Church. "We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are honored, but we are ridiculed." 1 Corinthians 4:10

Let us continue to honor the One who loves us. Let us keep our eyes on the Cross and be known for the love we share with others in our thoughts, words and deeds...no fooling!

Your Brother in Christ, Ray

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From the Pastor's Desk

The Quiet of a Resurrection Morning

Has it ever struck you, how Easter comes so quietly, unlike Christmas that comes with angels singing and Magi entering in a grand procession?

Easter is different. The sounds of a Resurrection Morning are Quiet. There are muffled sounds of women at dawn, the sound of sandals on the gravel road, and hushed disciples in a locked room. Then there is a distraught Mary standing near the grave in tears, hearing her name whispered "Mary!"

I like the Quiet of a Resurrection Morning. A morning that begins in the dark. **"Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark..." John 20:1**

Dear ones, let us learn from this! When our prayers seem to go unheard. When hope seems lost and darkness fills our minds and hearts, this is where we need Easter and the Quiet of a Resurrection Morning. "While it was still dark." Where is it dark for you? When is it difficult to even get up to begin a new day? On that Friday when Jesus died and darkness covered the land, it must have seemed to those watching that all was lost. Yet, the women followed as they carried the body of Jesus to his burial. The woman stood at a distance, taking note of where they laid the corpse of the one they loved. They did not flee. They stayed by His lifeless side. Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. Among those spices, would have been Myrrh, a gift once fit for a child in Bethlehem and now fit for a corpse.

It seems so small, so ordinary. But in their sorrow, they simply did what they could. They obeyed the Sabbath command, by waiting and resting. How they must have longed to . do something. The Sabbath however, was to be a day for singing the Psalms and giving thanks to God for His faithfulness. Yet, on this day, how could they sing, when their faith was shattered and it seemed as though all hope had died with Jesus?

The Sabbath was created to remember how God rescued his people, when we could not help ourselves. The Sabbath was about resting in the *Lord's* work through His Messiah. And yet, they had just placed him in a tomb! How could they pause their mourning to honor God who had promised a Messiah who was now dead? Wouldn't it have felt entirely pointless? Yet, in their sorrow, they were living out and trusting His Word, **"They that sow in tears, shall reap in joy!" (Psalm 126:5)** Have you experienced that pain of being in church and trying to sing a hymn through tears and wondering what is the point of it all?

When the Sabbath was over, the women returned to the tomb while it was still dark, not in anticipation of an empty grave but rather prepared to express their love one last time for their dead Lord.

"Faithfulness in the dark is often quiet and unseen. Simple, daily obedience. Keeping the Sabbath. Tending to the small and the sacred. Preparing for what lies ahead, even when the road is shrouded. In the silence between Friday and Sunday? Between despair and resurrection? Between death and dawn? The women show us the quiet strength of obedience in uncertainty.

They were not thinking or looking for resurrection. They were not waiting for an empty tomb. They simply loved Jesus, and so they did the next thing." (Dan Steel - "Ever Approaching Dawn")

Sometimes it can feel as if our days are spent in that space between Good Friday and The Quiet of a Resurrection Morning.

Like the women, we are called to remain faithful in the ordinary, trusting that when it feels like Friday, we know that Sunday is coming. When we get up in the morning and dawn is breaking, we know what the women did not know that first morning. The darkness does not have the final word. The grave has lost its grip. As it was with Mary, in the quietness of all our own Resurrection Mornings, He calls our name **"Fear not, for I have redeemed you, I have called you by your name, you are mine."** (Isaiah 43:1)

-Pastor Barry

April 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
			1 No Preschool 5:15p DEN	2 Maundy Thursday No Preschool 5p Soccer Shots 6p Maundy Thursday Service	3 Good Friday No Preschool 10a Easter Egg Hunt 7p IPMS 7p Good Friday Service	4 9a Soccer Shots
5 Easter 8:30a Sunday Worship w/ Communion 9:45a Easter Breakfast 11:00a Sunday Worship w/ Communion 12:30p BPFC	6 No Preschool 5:15p DEN 7p Boy Scouts	7 No Preschool 3p BCAP 6p Scrapbooking	8 3p BCAP 5:15p DEN 6:30p The Chosen	9 3p BCAP 5p Soccer Shots 5:15p DEN	10 3p BCAP	11 9a Soccer Shots
12 9:15 Adult Bible Study/Confirmation 10:15a Sunday Worship w/ Communion	13 3p BCAP 5:15p DEN 7p Boy Scouts	14 3p BCAP 6:30p Council	15 3p BCAP 5:15p DEN 6:30p The Chosen	16 3p BCAP 5p Soccer Shots 5:15p DEN	17 3p BCAP	18 9a Soccer Shots
19 9:15 Adult Bible Study/Confirmation 10:15a Sunday Worship	20 3p BCAP 5:15p DEN 7p Boy Scouts	21 3p BCAP 6p Scrapbooking	22 3p BCAP 5:15p DEN 6:30p The Chosen	23 3p BCAP 5p Soccer Shots 5:15p DEN	24 3p BCAP	25 9a Soccer Shots
26 9:15 Adult Bible Study/Confirmation 10:15a Sunday Worship w/ Communion	27 3p BCAP 5:15p DEN 7p Boy Scouts	28 3p BCAP	29 3p BCAP 5:15p DEN 6:30p The Chosen	30 10a Mom's & Muffins 3p BCAP 5p Soccer Shots 5:15p DEN		

BPFC – Pgh Nepali Church
 BCAP – Bhutanese Community Association of Pittsburgh
 DEN – Cub Scouts
 PPS – Pittsburgh Performance Society
 Events in green are Good Shepherd Events
 Events in purple are Preschool Events

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

4/1 – Caleb Scheller
4/2 – Maddie Thurston
4/6 – Rebekah Dinning
4/8 – Marty Snyder
4/8 – Laura Thurston
4/10 – Amy Frantz
4/14 – Jakob Sleeman
4/15 – Nicole Kochanski
4/18 – Bob Matey
4/18 – Donnie Volland
4/21 – Diane Johnston
4/24 – Ella Frantz
4/26 – Sean Thurston



Anniversaries

4/1 – John & Helen Lee Coleman (64)
4/26 – Ray & Chris Vogel (57)



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



If you shop at christianbook.com, the Preschool has set up an account for their GiveBack program. When you go to check out, you can search for Good Shepherd Christian Preschool in Pittsburgh, PA. The preschool will receive 4% back from all orders.

Vacation Bible School Announcements

Registration is now open for this year's VBS - Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God which will be held the week of June 22nd from 9 am to 12 pm.

Participants and volunteers can register at this link: <https://vbspro.events/p/gslc-rainforestfalls> or by using the QR Code:



We will be posting a donation board right outside of the office as well as information about an Amazon wish list. As always, your support and prayers are appreciated.

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

Bingo was a great success! Thank you to everyone who came out to support our Youth and play Bingo at the end of February. The food was delicious and the games were a lot of fun. Over \$900 was raised for the Youth!



Don't forget to join us on Good Friday, April 3, at 10 AM for our next Family Life event: a fun-filled Easter Egg Hunt! In addition to the egg hunt, we'll have a scavenger hunt, coloring contest, airbrush tattoo artist, plus donuts and coffee for everyone to enjoy.

This is a rain-or-shine event and all are welcome — even if you don't have children, come fellowship with us and enjoy some treats!



Please sign up using the QR code provided to help us plan accordingly. We hope to see you there!



Outside Good Shepherd

LWML Spring Rally

May 2, 2026

St. Luke – Bulter Campus



Bible Study with Concordia Lutheran
Ministries Deaconess Heather Wathall.
Joyshop Service Project for Forged by Fire Ministries

Registration information coming in April!

The Life of Christ

A Presentation in Word & Song by
The Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus

Sunday, April 12

Concordia at Rebecca Residence Chapel @ 2:00pm
Highpointe at Rebecca Chapel @ 3:30pm

Sunday, April 19

Concordia Haven 2 @ 4:00pm

Sunday, April 26

Concordia of Monroeville @ 2:30pm

Sunday, May 3

Harmony Room, Concordia of the South Hills @ 2:00pm

God's Grace to Grieve

A Good Samaritan Hospice Grief Group

Concordia at Cabot, Haven II
148 Marwood Rd, Cabot PA 16023
2nd floor classroom

Wednesday's from March 25-April 29
10:00am-11:30am



Prayer Requests:

Rachel Schaar, Cathy Cerminara, Karen Miller, Marian Maskow, Rev. Daniel Strussenberg, Cathy Sayre, Sarah Brooks, Peter Way, 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, 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 you 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)



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