

June 2026

# Newsletter



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills

Volume 3 Issue 6

## President's Corner

### In this Issue

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I complete my four-year term as President of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills, I am reminded of Ecclesiastes 3 which begins in verse 1: "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens." My season as President begins. A new and better President will take over soon and it will be a historical moment for our Congregation. A Congregation Meeting will be held on June 7th where elections will be held for those who serve as Officers for the coming year. Some on Council have served for decades; some for single two-year terms. All have served with commitment, conviction and diligence. I want to thank those who have served with me during my tenure. I am appreciative of the work we did to keep our Church open during covid, after covid, during a period of vacancy, during a period of a resident Pastor and now during a period of vacancy again. Many people at Good Shepherd do many things without anyone noticing. I have tried to recognize them periodically throughout the last four years. It is always hard to do so because there are many and I never want to miss anyone; so the fallback is simply to say thank you to all you serve, and give, and keep giving because they choose to do so. To those who are not able to use their time and talent in service to Good Shepherd, thank you for your financial gifts. These treasures, which you so kindly give to the Church, are greatly appreciated and needed to continue our Mission and Ministry.

President's Corner	1
From the Pastor's Desk	2
Calendar – June	3
Birthdays & Anniversaries	4
Announcements	5
Announcements	6
Thoughts for June	7
Prayers	8

As this time of year, this season, marks the beginning of summer, I wish you and your Families a safe and enjoyable time with your Family and Friends. During the summer, we take time to relax but also time to prepare for the coming of fall which will be here too quickly. Then we will start another season, the beginning of Christian education on Sundays and weekdays through the Preschool.

Ecclesiastes 3:9 - 11: "What do workers gain from their toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has set eternity in the human heart: yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. v.22: "So, I saw that there is nothing better for a person than to enjoy their work, because that is their lot. For who can bring them to see what will happen after them?"

Joneen and I will continue my service to Good Shepherd in many other ways. I have some ideas, others God will provide along the way. Whatever they are, I am honored to have served as President of our Congregation Family and look forward to continuing to serve aside each of you.

Your Brother in Christ, Ray

## From the Pastor's Desk

### "Our Father Who Art in Heaven"

"Whom do I have in heaven but You! And besides You, I desire nothing on earth." Psalm 73:25

As we enter the month of June, Father's Day is before us. It is a day that brings joy to many and for some, it is a day that is filled with mixed emotions and memories. For the child of God however, our greatest joy and privilege is found in two words that begin the prayer that Jesus gave us, "Our Father."

The Lord's prayer is made up of 66 words. It is a short prayer packed with great depth. Of those 66 words, only two are repeated – Heaven and Day. Why these two words? What importance do they have in this short but beautiful prayer? The Lord's Prayer embraces in its span, the greatest things and the smallest of things. It beholds the Majesty of God and the mundane needs of humanity. It dwells on things eternal while wrestling with everyday challenges. The Lord's Prayer can be prayed at weddings and by the bedside of one dying. Those who pray it have their heart in heaven and their feet in the day-to-day battles of life.

One of my favorite movies is "The Shawshank Redemption" There is one scene where one of the prisoners plays a record album over a loudspeaker in the prison courtyard. The music is an opera with all of its arias. Another prisoner listens attentively and then says;

*"I have no idea to this day what those two Italian ladies were singing about. Truth is, I don't want to know. Some things are best left unsaid. I'd like to think they were singing about something so beautiful, it can't be expressed in words, and makes your heart ache because of it. I tell you, those voices soared higher and farther than anybody in this gray place dares to dream. It was like some beautiful bird flapped into our drab little cage and made those walls dissolve away, and for the briefest of moments, every last man in Shawshank felt free."*  
*Every last man in Shawshank felt free!*

They were in prison but that music lifted their hearts and souls above those prison walls.

In teaching us The Lord's Prayer, Jesus is seeking to have us lift our eyes and hearts upward to our Father. Jesus would have us lift up our eyes and our soul beyond what we see and know here on earth. Say these words quietly to yourself in this moment. He dwells above all things. He is supreme. He is all powerful. He is our Father.

There is a quote in "The Little Prince" "It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye."

"Our Father" with these two words, Our Father who is in heaven invites us to see with the eyes of faith what is essential. We are too easily prone to see only what is before us and we are then filled with anxiety and despair. It is with these two words, "Our Father" that we see what is essential.

"Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God." (Colossian 3:2-3) Our soul longs to be home with Him. Our soul echoes what was spoken in Psalm 73:25 "Whom do I have in heaven but You! And besides You, I desire nothing on earth."

What gives us such confidence? Jesus! Only Jesus! Do you remember what Jesus said to Mary as she clung to Him on that quiet Resurrection morning?

"I am ascending to my Father and your Father!" (John 20:17) The Resurrection blesses us with Grace upon Grace, too numerous to count. But without a doubt, one of the greatest joys is that we can call Him, Our Father! Our Father! Martin Luther says of these words, "God would hereby tenderly invite us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children so that we may ask Him with all boldness and confidence, as children ask their dear father."

Our Father! In these words there is reverence in who He is and where He dwells, but there is also refuge. The creator of the universe is our Father. The world is a perfectly safe place to be in His hands.

I will close by asking you to pause and pray. Quietly whisper, "Our Father" and then share with Him, whatever is upon your heart .....

-Pastor Barry

# June 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> 7p Boy Scouts	<b>2</b> 6p Scrapbooking	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 5pm Soccer Shots	<b>5</b> GSLC Office Closed 7p IPMS	<b>6</b> 9am Soccer Shots 9am Private Use of Fellowship Hall
<b>7</b> 10:15a Sunday Worship 12:30p BPFC	<b>8</b> 7p Boy Scouts	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 5pm Soccer Shots	<b>12</b> GSLC Office Closed	<b>13</b> 9am Soccer Shots
<b>14</b> 10:15a Sunday Worship w/ Communion 12:30p BPFC	<b>15</b> 7p Boy Scouts	<b>16</b> 6p Scrapbooking	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 5pm Soccer Shots	<b>19</b> GSLC Office Closed	<b>20</b> 9am Soccer Shots
<b>21 Father's Day</b> 10:15a Sunday Worship 12:30p BPFC	<b>22</b> 9am Vacation Bible School 7p Boy Scouts	<b>23</b> 9am Vacation Bible School	<b>24</b> 9am Vacation Bible School	<b>25</b> 9am Vacation Bible School 5pm Soccer Shots	<b>26</b> 9am Vacation Bible School GSLC Office Closed	<b>27</b> 9am Soccer Shots
<b>28</b> 10:15a Sunday Worship w/ Communion 12:30p BPFC	<b>29</b> 7p Boy Scouts	<b>30</b>				

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

## June Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays

6/20 – Maddox Kochanski

6/21 – Linda Carver

6/21 – Ray Vogel

6/30 – Phyllis Hackbart



### Anniversaries

6/1 – Glenn & Patty Richards (2)

6/3 – Ron & Dottie Gerstacker (70)

6/6 – Chuck & Diane Johnston (29)

6/10 – Donnie & Tori Volland (9)

6/11 – Ray & Joneen Betler (49)

6/12 – Kristin & Geoffrey Hooper (4)



## 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.

This past year Good Shepherd was blessed to welcome thirteen young people participated in Early Communion instruction and six young people in Confirmation. Confirmation Sunday was held on May 10, 2026. It's not too early to be thinking about Early Communion and Confirmation classes for our next Church year. The classes would begin after Labor Day and would be held at 9am each Sunday. Typically, Early Communion will consist of six classes and will be taught first, after which the Students will be recognized at a special Early Communion Sunday Service. The Confirmation Classes will include the Early Communion instruction and then proceed through May teaching the six elements of Luther's Small Catechism. Ray Betler has agreed to teach again this coming year. Students for Confirmation are normally seventh and eighth graders; although we can be reasonably flexible. Early Communion Students can be as young as second or third grade; they need to be able to comprehend the material taught. Any Parent who has Children who are interested in their Children attending these classes should notify Grace in the Church Office at 412 884 3232.

## Preschool Announcements

This school year was one of the largest enrollments of GSCP! We welcomed new students, teachers and assistants! We added the Sunshine Squad and welcomed many new students to Discovery Days and Lunch Bunch!! We added Summer Camp! We rolled out a new website! We can't wait to see what next year brings!  
Thank you for always supporting the Preschool!



## Call Committee Update

The Call Committee continues its work! We are now reviewing another list of candidates and hope to speak with some of them soon. Please continue to pray for these pastors' ministries and current congregations as they are approached to consider their potential contribution to Good Shepherd's mission. We are so thankful for the guidance and wisdom of Pastor Adam, Pastor Barry, and many lay leaders during this vacancy, but we know that a called shepherd will help this church to reach its true potential in this community. - Kim Ressler, Committee Chair



## FLYC Announcements

Please join us for the first fire of the season! Family Life will be hosting a bonfire with hot dogs, s'mores and mountain pies on Friday June 12<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm. Bring a camp chair and your friends!

## Vacation Bible School Announcements

There are seven weeks to go before the start of VBS. Registration is going well for participants, but as always we are in need of volunteers to help us be successful. If you would like to volunteer that week, please register using this QR code:



We will be announcing future opportunities to help in other ways as well and we can always use your prayers. Don't forget to check out the donation board right outside of the office - take a butterfly and drop off your purchase or scan the code for the Amazon Wishlist ---> and have the package delivered directly to church. If you don't like to shop, we're happy to take monetary donations and do the shopping for you. VBS donations can also be done on-line just like your regular weekly offering or in the envelopes available in the Narthex. Thank you as always for your support!



## Thoughts to begin this month!

“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.”  
(Ecclesiastes 3:1)

### THE TRAIN THEORY

You are the train. Your life is the track:  
And everyone you meet is either getting  
on for a stop, getting on for a few stations,  
or riding with you all the way to the end.

**Most people** don't stay for the whole ride, and that's normal.

**Some people** hop on, teach you something, love you for a moment, and then get off.

**Others** stay through multiple stations.

**And very few** become your forever passengers

**Enjoy the ride. Cherish the connections. And trust God through the journey.**

**Different people. Different stations. Meaningful journey.**

**The apostle Paul in Romans 8 has reminds us that we are  
graced by His purpose,  
guided by His providence,  
guarded by His power,  
gladdened by His presence.**

*from*

Pastor Brian Lott

Spiritual Care Supervisor

Concordia Visiting Nurses

## 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, 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, 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

## 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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