

August 2026 Newsletter



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills

Volume 3 Issue 8

President's Corner

In this Issue

The Month of August

Here is a little trivia for you. We follow the Julian calendar, so named for Julius Caesar who instituted the twelve-month, 365-day year. He then deemed himself worthy of naming the seventh month for himself, giving us July. So, of course, while Emperor Augustus was in charge, he felt he needed to glorify himself in the same way, renaming the next month for himself, giving us August.

Names are important. We see wings of hospitals and college buildings named after donors. Pittsburgh has bridges named for valued celebrity residents. And we are a part of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills, a name that defines the doctrine we believe in and our vision of both Jesus and our mission in the community.

This August, I ask each of you to think about how we can best fulfill our name. It should not just be a title or a term of honor, it should be a reminder of who we are as a congregation. How can we best serve you, one of Jesus' flock? How can we best meet your needs and the needs of those you love? And how can you help us meet the needs of those you worship with? How can you help us meet the needs of our neighborhood, our community? We are opening our building up to SHIM this fall for their after-school program, and we continue to host the Nepali congregation. But there is more! How can we bring the love of Jesus to others? Even as we wait for a new pastor, a new shepherd, we must share our faith and our love, we must be shepherds ourselves. Pray on it. Be open to it. Let's work on it together.

Your Sister in Christ,
Kim Ressler

(Let me know what is on your heart. Email me at mkressler4@gmail.com, call or text me at 412-477-4673)

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From the Pastor's Desk

Bless the Lord, O My Soul!

Do you ever talk to yourself? For some reason, I find that the older I get, the more I find myself talking to myself!

Some might find this odd, but spiritually speaking, talking to oneself can be healthy for the soul, because we tend to be forgetful people.

Talking to oneself is the essence of Psalm 103!

*Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

*The Lord works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel. The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide,
nor will he keep his anger forever.*

*He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his
steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our
transgressions from us.*

*As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him. For
he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.*

*As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and
it is gone, and its place knows it no more.*

*But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and his
righteousness to children's children to those who keep his covenant
and remember to do his commandments.*

*The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all. Bless the Lord, O you
his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word!*

*Bless the Lord, all his hosts, his ministers, who do his will! Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of
his dominion.*

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

It sounds a bit strange doesn't it? How does one bless the Lord? He blesses us over and over again! But, me blessing Him?

We bless Him when we praise Him. He has wired us this way. When we remember to return to Him and give Him thanks, He is blessed!

Quite honestly, praising God does not always come naturally to me. My prayers can be filled with humble confession and loaded with petitions and requests. But, Praises? They do not come so naturally at times.

From the Pastor's Desk cont.

This is why we need, like David, to talk to our soul. "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits" (Psalm 103:1-2)

"Forget none of His benefits!" What are those benefits and blessings? The next three verses mention five of them.

"Who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's."

"He forgives all your iniquity!" This is not just in the past, but now. This is written in the present tense! How I need, how we all need, His forgiveness each and every day!

"He heals all your diseases" The Lord certainly brings healing to our bodies. But David is talking here to his soul! The soul being diseased? How can this be? Sin is not just an outward act, it is a disease of the soul. Martin Luther said that when we were born, we were conceived in sin and totally corrupt! He heals all your diseases - the disease of anger and anxiety and greed and guilt and coveting and the list goes on. His grace and mercy brings healing to all of this.

"He redeems your life from the Pit" The Pit is in reference to the grave.. The Apostle's Creed states "He was crucified, died and was buried..." Why was it necessary for His burial to be included in this Creed? Would it not be self-evident in saying "He died?" The burial of Jesus, makes holy and sanctifies the grave which we will one day be placed in. The grave that could not hold onto Jesus, will not be able to hold onto anyone in Jesus!

"He crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion" David was all too familiar with crowns. He was crowned as King of Israel. But his reign was marked by shame and rebellion and war. Yet, David was able to say to his soul regarding his life "He crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion! We too can say that with every confidence.

"He satisfies your years with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle." He satisfies your years with good things! Ahhhh. Satisfaction! We search for it but it is so, so illusive. This is why it is so important to talk to our soul and be reminded how He satisfies us with good things. At the end of this day, ask yourself and your soul, "where did I see the goodness of the Lord in this day?"

O bless the Lord my soul! As a sinner, He forgives me. As a sick person, He heals me. As a slave, He redeems me. As a son, He crowns me with kindness and mercy. As a saint, He satisfies me in His goodness! O bless the Lord my soul! In Jesus, Barry

A closing note: Since my retirement in 2020, Andie and I have served and partnered with you in ministry through many seasons and opportunities. We are ever so grateful for the way in which you have welcomed us. At the end of this month, I will be stepping away from serving as your Interim Pastor. You will be in the good and gifted hands and heart of Pastor Dave Weeks. He and I have journeyed together and I consider him to be a trusted friend in my life. I know that he will be the same for each of you. Andie and I will hold you in our hearts and prayers. Thank you for who you are and all you do in His name. O bless the Lord my Soul!

August 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 9a Soccer Shots (Make up) 3p Love for Leila Fundraiser
2 10:15a Sunday Worship 12:30p BPFC	3 GSLC Office Closed 7p Boy Scouts	4 GSLC Office Closed 6p Scrapbooking	5 GSLC Office Closed	6 GSLC Office Closed 5p Soccer Shots (Make up)	7 GSLC Office Closed	8 9a Soccer Shots (Make up)
9 10:15a Sunday Worship with Communion 12:30p BPFC	10 7p Boy Scouts	11 6:30p Council	12	13 5p Soccer Shots (Make up)	14 7p IPMS	15 9a Soccer Shots
16 10:15a Sunday Worship 12:30p BPFC	17 7p Boy Scouts	18 6p Scrapbooking	19	20 5p Soccer Shots	21	22 9a Soccer Shots 1pm Ice Cream Social
23 10:15a Sunday Worship with Communion 12:30p BPFC	24 7p Boy Scouts	25	26	27 5p Soccer Shots	28	29 9a Soccer Shots
30 10:15a Sunday Worship 12:30p BPFC	31 7p Boy Scouts	BPFC – Pgh Nepali Church DEN – Cub Scouts Events in green are Good Shepherd Events Events in purple are Preschool Events				

August Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

8/1 – Don Volland

8/7 – Patty Richards

8/9 – Kacy Dinning

8/16 – Carol Schaar

8/19 – Larry Mikoleit

8/19 – Derek Scheller

8/19 – Melinda Scheller

8/19 – Pam Spectold

8/19 – Rita Winker



Anniversaries

8/21 – Larry & Norma Mikoleit (72)



Call Committee Update

The Call Committee continues to work on the latest candidate list provided by the Eastern District office. In the last days of July, we held a second interview with one of the candidates and will pray over and discuss next steps. Thank you all for your continued prayers, support, and patience! -Kim Ressler, Committee Chair

FLYC Announcements

Thank you to everyone who came to church early Sunday, July 12 to enjoy donuts and coffee before the service began.



Please join us for our next fellowship event! An Ice Cream social will be held on Saturday, August 22nd at 1pm in the Fellowship Hall. We hope to see you there to wrap up summer!



Preschool Announcements

The school year is right around the corner!

Meet the teacher is scheduled for September 2nd & 3rd in the evening. Teacher's have some items they'd love to have for this year. Check them out below!



Mrs. Wood



Mrs. Sabol



Mrs. B



Mrs. Thurston

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, Kaylee, Jenny Peterson, 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

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(or, go to YouTube and search @goodshepherdchurch3950)



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