



The Shepherd's News

132 East Valley Forge Road · King of Prussia · Pennsylvania 19406 · 610.265.4545

Summer Newsletter 2015

The balloon stayed up! For those of you who weren't in worship on Easter Sunday you may be a tad bit confused, so allow me to catch you up to speed. On Easter morning we released a helium alleluia balloon during worship and watched it float up to heaven (or at least up to the cupola!). We actually released two ... one at each service. We said that we would check on them during the 7 weeks of the Easter season and see if they were still there. Well, I'm glad to report that while one floated down midseason, one made it all the way through the season. ALLELUIA!!!

But now the season of Easter is over ... Jesus has ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of his father. But he didn't ascend before making his disciples a promise. The promise was that he would be sending them the Holy Spirit. God would be dwelling on the earth in a new way. The Holy Spirit would live in each of them, making them the body of Christ. That is what we celebrate on Pentecost ... the descending of the Holy Spirit which lives and moves in the church and through each and every one of us.

The church has lots of names for the Holy Spirit ... one of the more commonly used names is "comforter." The Rev. Dr. David Lose, President of *The Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia* takes objection to that name. While he acknowledges that the Holy Spirit clearly does comfort us, it more often than not shakes things up ... pushing us in directions, and to do things, that are anything but comfortable. How right he is! The Rev. Barbara Brown Taylor puts it this way: you can be pretty sure the Holy Spirit is active when "you find yourself giving forgiveness you had not meant to offer ... taking risks you thought you did not have the courage to take or reaching out to someone you had intended to walk away from ..."

Here at Good Shepherd it isn't difficult to see the prodding's and poking's of the Holy Spirit pushing us to take risks and do things that we would ordinarily not do for the sake of the Gospel. I think about the 8 people who will be heading to the Nibakuri Children's Village in Rwanda this summer and our congregation that has supported them. Good Shepherd has never done global mission. What made us think that we could find anyone to go? What made us think that we could raise any money? What made us think that it was possible? The Holy Spirit pushed us out of our comfort zone and now, in less than a month, the group will be at the Village, sharing God's love with the children and the people of Rwanda ... and the children and people of that country will be sharing God's love with us! Through the workings of the Holy Spirit, our 8 missionaries and our entire congregation will be transformed!

This summer, through the workings of the Holy Spirit, 7 of our members will be at the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Detroit. There will be lots of opportunities for praise, learning, fellowship and service. I know that these young people will be transformed by what happens in Detroit this summer!

Once again, we will open our doors wide to welcome our community to our Vacation Bible School. Through songs and crafts and learning, the Holy Spirit will work and transform us in ways that we cannot even imagine!

During these summer months I urge you to be aware of the blowing of the Holy Spirit both at Good Shepherd and in your day to day life. How will you know you have been touched by the Holy Spirit? You will find yourself being challenged and moved to do things that you didn't even know were possible! Pastor Julie DeWerth

SPECIAL WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES THIS SUMMER

Beginning May 24th our Sunday Worship Service of Holy Communion will be held at 9:30 A.M.



Worship
Schedule
for the
Summer

May 31st—Holy Trinity

June 7th—Recognition of Graduates

June 21st—Blessing of Good Shepherd Rwanda Missionaries

July 12th—Blessing of Detroit Youth Gathering Participants

July 19th—VBS Staff Installation

July 26th—VBS Sunday

A special blessing will be offered each Sunday at the conclusion of the worship service for those who will be traveling in the coming week.

Our summer schedule concludes on Labor Day Weekend September 6th.

RECENT BAPTISMS at GOOD SHEPHERD

FIRST COMMUNION



April 26th

Corinne Eleanor Kilian and Laurel Hope Killian

Parents — Michael and Kelly Kilian

and

Ulana Sofia Sznoluch

Parents — Paul and Heather Sznoluch

May 10th

Emmett Jack Schmeltzer

Parents — Paul and Rebecca Schmeltzer

Sunday, April 12th, was an exciting day at Good Shepherd when Pepper Francis and Sam Montich received their First Communion.

God's blessing to our young people as they continue on their faith journeys!



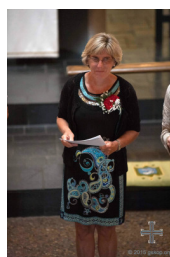
On May 17th we welcomed new members to Good Shepherd!



Anne Cressman



Lisa Hand



Barbara Johnson



Mike and Kelly Kilian



Stella Lyons




Charlie Biegalski, Willie Garrison, Elizabeth Herrmann, Andy Junttonen, and Eric Palmer are the youth from Good Shepherd that will be traveling to Detroit from July 15th—July 19th (also attending in a leadership role are Courtney Smith and Beth Bullwinkle). We ask the people of Good Shepherd to support them with your prayers while they are gone! God's blessing as they join the other Lutheran youth to "Rise Up Together." **On July 12th, we will have a special blessing for the youth trip participants.**

CALLING ALL MEMBERS of the CLASS of 2015!

We will be honoring our 2015 high school, technical school, college and graduate school graduates on Sunday, June 7th at Good Shepherd. Graduates will be invited to come forward for a special prayer during worship. If there is someone in your household who you would like to have recognized, please contact the office with their name, college they will be attending, or what their future plans are. Thank you!






THANK YOU TO OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF

Superintendents—Sue Groff and Karen Lehman
Preschool (ages 2-4)—Kim Smith and Jennifer Readman
Kindergarten through 2nd Grade—Karen Lehman, Tonya Reinbold and Kerstin Zadrejko
3rd through 6th Grade— Beth Bullwinkle, Kathy Forney, Lisa Schlechtweg and Helga Yang
7th through 12th Grade—Kat Steinly and Jen Lehman
Adult Education—Marsha Bullwinkle and Barbara Petroske

Additional Support—Barbara Bielgaski, Amanda Fleischer, John Kendig,
 Peter Fleischer, Donna Montich, Jeremiah Smith,
 Liz Smith, Hele Vondra and Mia Weygand



Thank You Staff

Vacation Bible School

JULY 20-24 * 9 AM – NOON

REGISTRATION & VOLUNTEER FORMS

can be found on the kiosk.

Sign up soon

Gear up for VBS!



CREW LEADERS needed to guide adventurers through stations **No experience or advance preparation required.** Youth (completed Grade 5) through great-grandparents – come and join us as we climb to great heights!

FLOATER STAFF: If you can help for just one or two days, we need volunteers to help as fill-in crew leaders or in the various stations each day.

VBS STAFF MEETINGS will be held in the Education Building on **Thursday, June 11th and Monday, June 29th at 7:30 p.m.** Please attend whichever one fits your schedule.

IF YOU CAN'T JOIN THE EXPEDITION, THEN PLEASE HELP WITH SUPPLIES: By the middle of June there will be a poster in the narthex of our wish list. Thank you for the items you are able to contribute. Please bring in your items no later than July 12th. Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated. See kiosk for special donation envelopes or mark a pew envelope "VBS supplies".

MUNCHIES FOR THE STAFF during the week would be appreciated! Sign up on the kiosk.

PLEASE CALL KAREN LEHMAN (610-337-7296) OR KERSTIN ZADREJKO (610-265-1566),
 IF YOU CAN HELP IN ANY WAY

GOOD SHEPHERD PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

Opening are still available for the 2015-2016 school year. Classes are available for children ages 2-5. Please contact Diane Smith at 610-265-0733 for more information.



THE ROAD TO RWANDA

It's just around the corner, Good Shepherd's first global mission! This trip has been almost two years in the making. It seems like Rally Day 2013 was only yesterday...

Our final fundraiser will be a multi-family spring yard sale on Saturday, May 30th, beginning at 8am until 11am, at the Palmer Residence (451 Valley Forge Road). All proceeds from the sale will directly benefit the Nibakure Children's Village in Rwanda. If any church members have items in good condition that they would like to donate to this cause, please contact Karen Reimet at 610-768-0242 to arrange for donation and/or pick-up, or to coordinate drop-off. Donations can also be delivered to the Palmer Residence on Friday evening, May 29th. We hope to see you shopping on Saturday the 30th!



Daniel Owens, our Nibakure contact, is currently in country, and he has forwarded us a "Wish List" of school supplies needed for the children. The greatest need? SHOES! We are asking members of the congregation to please consider purchasing shoes, which will be checked in our luggage and taken with us to avoid shipping costs. The children need sturdy shoes for everyday wear to school. For the girls, we need basic black closed toed flats, ranging in size from Child/Youth 2 (EU 31) through Women's 8 (EU 39). For the boys, athletic sneakers, ranging in size from Child/Youth 13 (EU 30) through Youth 6 (EU 37). Our goal is 20 pair, 10 for the girls and 10 for the boys. We would appreciate having all donations received by Sunday, June 14th. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Amanda Fleischer (amanda_fleischer@verizon.net).

Lutherans like to sing, and the children of the Nibakure Village like to sing... as a gift from our congregation, we will be taking a red hymnal to leave with the village. We would like as many GSKoP members to sign the hymnal as possible, and we will be tracking you down after services in late May and early June to request your autograph!



At the end of the church service on Sunday, June 21st, there will be an additional prayer of blessing said for the mission group traveling to Rwanda. Please join us on this day to add your voice to these prayers as we prepare for their departure to the village.

On June 24th, Pastor Julie, Don Anton, Jenn Lyons, Amanda Fleischer, Courtney Smith, Andy Junttonen, Dan Junttonen, and Karen Reimet will depart for the Nibakure Children's Village in Rwanda. It is our hope to connect with not only the children and their greater community, but to also connect with the Lutheran Church of Rwanda. Please keep this group in your thoughts and prayers while they are away, and we look forward to discussing this experience on Rally Day.

REMEMBER GOOD SHEPHERD THIS SUMMER!



Although travel plans and visits with friends and family are highlights of the summertime, please know that bills continue to arrive monthly at Good Shepherd...and they need to be paid! And so, although you may be on vacation, we need to continue to meet our financial obligations. Please consider having your donation automatically drafted from your account so that we can continue to count on your support, even while you are away!

Summer Music Ministry



It's been a wonderful year, and it's going to be equally as exciting this summer.

I'm going to continue the tradition of "Summer Singers". We will meet at 8:30am on July 19th and August 16th to learn an easy anthem and offer it *that Sunday* in worship. If you've not sung with us this past year, NOW'S THE TIME! - we'll have music and a seat just for you!

Other special music this summer will be the **Bell Choir** ringing on Sunday July 5th and our **Orchestra** playing on August 23rd.

There are also several dates open for *anyone* interested in offering special music. Please come and speak with me, and let's get you involved.

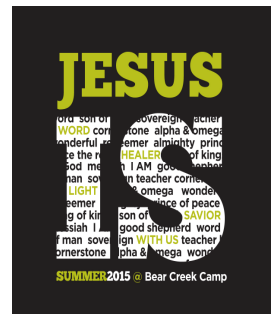
I'm very excited to bring my 4th Annual Community Hymn Festival "American Songs of Faith" to Good Shepherd on **Sunday June 21st @ 4pm**. Singers from many local churches will join together to form a festival choir that will lead all in attendance in song. The festival will celebrate our God through the hymns and songs unique to America. More information on the Hymn Fest can be found at www.MontCoHymnFest.com.

I hope that you will participate this summer if you are able, and will find our summer music to be meaningful, exciting and uplifting.

In Song,
Ross

BEAR CREEK CAMP (A LUTHERAN CAMP)

Bear Creek has a traditional camp program centered on spiritual growth, outdoor exploration, and small group development. The camp serves children age 4 through those who have completed 12th grade. Please visit bearcreek.org for more information. There is a discount for Good Shepherd members because Lisa Santini and Liz Smith are this year's Bear Creek Camp Ambassadors. Please see Liz or Lisa for more information or contact the church office.



BEAR CREEK GOLF TOURNAMENT — Monday, June 29th at Shepherd Hills Golf Course in Emmaus, PA.

This golf event is a perfect opportunity for you to have a great time and is a tremendous way to support the ministry of Bear Creek Camp. All proceeds will be used for the Campership fund to assist families in sending their kids to camp. For more information and to register please call (570-472-3741) or visit www.bearcreek.org.



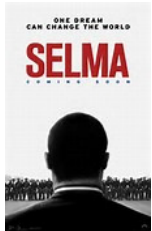
On May 17th we bid a fond farewell to our Youth Worker, Kat Steiny and our seminarian Jeremiah Smith. We are sincerely grateful and blessed to have had Kat and Jeremiah as part of our church family for the past year and wish them the best as they continue to serve God. Kat is seeking a call in our Synod. Jeremiah will be getting married in August and will begin a yearlong internship in California.

SUMMER MOVIE NIGHTS AT GOOD SHEPHERD

Each movie night begins at 6:30pm with pizza. The movie will begin promptly at 7:00pm and conclude with a short discussion. Please reserve your spot with a \$5.00 donation to defray the cost of the pizza. Call the church office to make your reservation. Popcorn will be supplied! Stay tuned ... the number of reservations will determine exactly where we will show the movie at church. Both of our movies this year were nominated in 2014 by the Academy of Motion Pictures for best picture of the year.



**movie
nights**



Showing Thursday, June 18th—*Selma* (2014) PG-13 (Running time—128 minutes) Although the Civil Rights Act of 1964 legally desegregated the South, discrimination was still rampant in certain areas, making it very difficult for blacks to register to vote. In 1965, an Alabama city became the battleground in the fight for suffrage. Despite violent opposition, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (David Oyelowo) and his followers pressed forward on an epic march from Selma to Montgomery, and their efforts culminated in President Lyndon Johnson signing the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

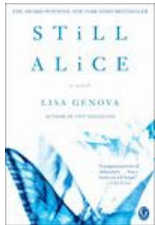
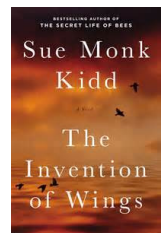
Showing Wednesday, July 29th— *The Imitation Game* (2014) PG-13 (Running time—114 minutes) In 1939, newly created British intelligence agency MI6 recruits Cambridge mathematics alumnus Alan Turing (Benedict Cumberbatch) to crack Nazi codes, including Enigma -- which cryptanalysts had thought unbreakable. Turing's team, including Joan Clarke (Keira Knightley), analyze Enigma messages while he builds a machine to decipher them. Turing and team finally succeed and become heroes, but in 1952, the quiet genius encounters disgrace when authorities reveal he is gay and send him to prison.



SUMMER BOOK CLUBS at GOOD SHEPHERD (7:00PM in the church library)

Wednesday, July 15th—*The Invention of Wings* —By Sue Monk Kidd

An extraordinary novel about two exceptional women. Sarah Grimke is the middle daughter. The one her mother calls difficult and her father calls remarkable. On Sarah's eleventh birthday, Hetty 'Handful' Grimke is taken from the slave quarters, wrapped in lavender ribbons, and presented to Sarah as a gift. Sarah knows that she cannot accept. And so the trouble begins ...



Wednesday, August 26th—*Still Alice*—By Lisa Genova—Alice Howland, happily married with three grown children and a house on the Cape, is a celebrated Harvard professor at the height of her career when she notices a forgetfulness creeping into her life. As confusion starts to cloud her thinking and her memory begins to fail her, she receives a devastating diagnosis: early onset Alzheimer's disease. Fiercely independent, Alice struggles to maintain her lifestyle and live in the moment, even as her sense of self is being stripped away. In turns heartbreaking, inspiring and terrifying, *Still Alice* captures in remarkable detail what's it's like to literally lose your mind...



\$783 has been received by Good Shepherd this year through April on behalf of the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Thrivent Choice program to help further the work of our ministry at Good Shepherd. Thank you to the folks at Good Shepherd who have designated this church as the recipient of their outreach grant dollars from Thrivent. If you are a Thrivent member and would like more information on designating your outreach dollars, contact Barbara Petroske at 610.631.9392 or bpetroske@premiermagnesia.com.



JUNE OUTREACH

The damage as a result of the April 25th earthquake that shook the nation of Nepal is staggering. Sections of the city's historic center lie in rubble. More than 8,000 people died and thousands more are injured. It is estimated that 2.8 million Nepalese are displaced and 190,000 houses destroyed. Lutheran World Relief, along with many other organizations, is responding to immediate and long-term needs. Lutheran Disaster Response began an immediate large-scale emergency response in and around Kathmandu on the day of the quake. Your gifts to this organization will support the establishment of shelters and camps

and the distribution of clean water, food, sanitation supplies and more in several districts in the Kathmandu Valley. During the month of June we ask that you consider a generous outreach gift which will be used by Lutheran World Relief as part of their disaster response.

JULY & AUGUST OUTREACH

This summer, the focus of our Outreach will be the Nibakure Children's Village in Rwanda. As eight of our members journey to this location we would like to insure that the children are remembered long after their visit is over. There are so many needs to be met and the dreams are many. The gift from Good Shepherd will help provide housing, food, schooling...even school uniforms for these children who have lost one or both of their parents. The success of Nibakure is well documented with many of the older children moving on to higher education. (For more information please visit Nibakure.org.)



Each month you can support the outreach program by donating through your special outreach envelopes or fill out a pew envelope and mark it "Outreach." Checks may be made payable to Good Shepherd.



CASSEROLE DAY—Saturday— May 30th
Help Needed to Feed the Hungry

Please join us for an hour or two of fellowship and service (beginning at 7:00 A.M. in the fellowship hall) as we make casseroles and bag lunches to feed 200 homeless people who come to the Germantown Soup Kitchen for nourishment of body, mind and spirit. The soup kitchen is just one part of St. Vincent DePaul's ministry to the poor, which they call "Face to Face."

Consider bringing your whole family (children as young as elementary age are welcome) as there is something for everyone to do. We also need drivers who meet at the church at 10:50 A.M. to deliver the meals. **We thank the Montgomery County Chapter of Thrivent Financial for their \$800 in matching funds which helps support our Casserole Day outreach.**

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST and FELLOWSHIP
Saturday—June 13th * July 11th * August 8th

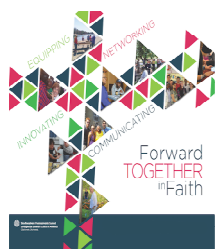


Join us for the Men's Fellowship Breakfast in Founders Hall at 9:00 A.M. for some food and a time of fellowship with your Christian brothers.

MANOR CARE WORSHIP SERVICE
May 31st * August 30th



Good Shepherd will host a brief worship service for the residents at Manor Care. We invite anyone who is able and willing to join us. All children, youth and adults are welcome (and needed!) to assist in this outreach ministry. We hope that you will open your heart and consider this ministry opportunity. We gather at Manor Care (600 W. Valley Forge Road, King of Prussia) at 2:20 P.M. and conclude the worship service by 3:00 P.M. For more information, please call Bill Sansalone (610.337.1281).



The 2015 Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly was held May 8th and May 9th. Attending from Good Shepherd were Pastor Julie, Rob Bubeck, Karen Reimet and Andy Junttonen. Andy read at the opening worship and did a beautiful job! While there were no major votes taken, the 2015 Assembly celebrated our shared mission and how we will be moving *Forward Together in Faith* as a synod, leaders and congregations! Presentations introduced a synodical capital appeal which will focus on a 4 prong strategy; a new vision for our ministry together as equippers, innovators, communicators and networkers.



RECYCLING OPPORTUNITIES

Please continue to bring your old toner and ink jet cartridges. There is a bin that is marked in the coat rack area of the Narthex where you can deposit your used cartridges. Good Shepherd receives \$2 for each cartridge and we are able to help offset the cost of our office supplies with your donations. Staples accepts the return of 20 ink/toner cartridges per month, which means that we receive \$40 each month towards the purchase of our office supplies. Keep your used cartridges coming!!!

ONGOING FOOD DRIVE

We continue to collect non-perishable foods in the shopping cart located in the Narthex of the church. In these economic times there are many who need the help of local food banks and the response from the people of Good Shepherd is always phenomenal. If you are able, please continue to help fill the grocery cart. Donations are accepted year round..



GOOD SHEPHERD RECEIVES 5% ON ANY PURCHASE FROM PLAZA FLOWERS

Tell everyone you know to order from Plaza Flowers when they need to send flowers, plants, fruit baskets, or balloons. Just mention our FlowerCause code **GSL** at the time the order is placed. The code can also be entered during checkout at pflorist.com. Each quarter we will earn a rebate equal to 5% of all purchases made that used the GSL code. Orders can be placed by calling 610-630-8825 or 800-841-7363, on-line at pflorist.com, or in person at 417 Egypt Rd, Norristown, PA 19403. If you have any questions please call Karl Herrmann at 610-539-7256.



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS and OTHER SUNDAY MORNING HELP NEEDED

If you would like to help during our church service, there are many positions available including acolyte, lector, communion assistant, usher, greeter, nursery staff and altar guild. Please contact the office if you have an interest in serving. No prior experience necessary.



CONTINUE TO "LIKE" US ON FACEBOOK!

Do you have a Facebook page? Look for Good Shepherd's page and hit the "LIKE" button. When a Good Shepherd post appears on your Facebook page, it can be seen by all of those who view your page. In other words, Good Shepherd can be viewed by hundreds after a post is made and you hit "share". If you have a Facebook page, check us out! This is a great way to spread the word about what's happening at your church.

memorials & gifts

Hopefully you have been able to take a look at the beautifully refurbished youth room. Much of the money for the new furniture was given in loving memory of Mira Price. The youth also contributed and Karen Reimet provided the rugs. Additional money was allocated to the youth room from the Memorial Fund of David Knoebel. Many thanks go to Kerstin Zadrejko and Karen Reimet for planning the room and purchasing the furniture. A job well done!

The much needed new chairs in Founders Hall were underwritten in large part in loving memory of Pat Snyder. Also contributing toward the chairs were funds given in memory of Pastor Walter Reimet, Ken Nielsen, and Verne Krueger.


The beautiful drapes hanging over the cross above the altar during the Lenten and Easter season were purchased in memory of Kenneth Nielsen. Money given in memory of Walter Schmitt was used for the altar microphone and mission banners. *Holden's Evening Prayer* which was used during Wednesday evening services throughout Lent was made possible by Laverne Krueger's memorial gifts.

The overwhelming love shown by the gifts in memory of Dot Price enabled Good Shepherd to purchase a carillon for the church. A very fitting gift which will remind us all of the tremendous influence she had on the church and all of us. Additional money from this fund was given to the Rwanda mission trip as well as to the Bell Choir.

Diane Holeczy will be remembered by the Home Communion sets purchased with her funds to be used by our new Eucharistic Ministry program. Costs for training these volunteers also was provided by this fund.

Other money received by the Memorial & Gifts came from Sandra Suprenuk in honor of Pastor Julie's fiftieth birthday and from Karen Herrmann in memory of Dot Price.

We are grateful for all those families who designated Good Shepherd to receive the memorial gifts made in honor of their loved ones. A heartfelt thanks to all who gave so generously to remember these friends.



In sure and certain hope
of the resurrection to
eternal life we share the
news of the passing of
Good Shepherd member:

Louisa Ortlip † April 21, 2015



Dear Good Shepherd Family,

Thank you so much for the bell tree stand! You have been so supportive in encouraging me and enabling me to grow my gift of ringing over the years and this is another piece of the puzzle. Your support and generosity means so much.

Peace and Blessings,
Ruth Bullwinkle

"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now." Philippians 1:3-5

Where did the year go?! Over the last nine months I have had the joy and pleasure to serve with you. In that time I have had the honor to participate in Sunday school, Adult Bible Study, visit the home bound, and worship. Good Shepherd has been a blessing to me and I know the experiences I have had will continue to shape and inform me for years to come.

As I head off to internship and married life in Southern California, I wanted to say a few words of thanks. A big thank you to Pastor Julie for her leadership and guidance over the last year. Thank you to all council members, Sunday school teachers and volunteers, for the giving of your time and support. Thank you to Ross, Kat and all the staff who work so hard throughout the week. Last and certainly not least, thank you to each and every one of you! Thank you for allowing me to be a part of the Good Shepherd family for the last year. Thank you for your prayers, your support and your friendship.

I give thanks for the countless ways that God is at work in and through Good Shepherd. I will continue to pray and give thanks for each of you.

God Bless,
Jeremiah Smith

The Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) Results

This past February members of Good Shepherd were invited to take an online survey (The Congregational Assessment Tool). We were one of a number of churches in our Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod that were offered this opportunity. Not only did the synod learn things about our congregations, we also benefited by learning about our individual congregation.

Below you will find a summary of the results. The Congregational Council had an opportunity to go over the results with a member of the Kairos Associates team that administered the survey and were very pleased with the results.

168 of our members were invited to take the survey and 116 responded. Overall, approximately 71% of our members are clearly satisfied with things in the church. This, along with other information, indicates that our church has options which include growth, expansion, replication, and external impact.

Not every question is of equal importance to our members. When asked how satisfied they are, members tend to focus on the issues addressed in the questions below. When they feel more positive in these areas, they tend to feel more positive overall.

- Persons who serve as leaders in our church are representative of the membership
- Our Pastor helps us accomplish our mission by bringing out the best in everyone.
- Our Pastor communicates with people in a way that keeps us informed and connected.
- Our Pastor articulates a clear vision for our church and keeps it before the people in a compelling way.
- In important decisions in our church, adequate opportunity for consideration of different approaches is usually provided.

Conversely, when our members feel less positive about the areas above, they tend to feel less satisfied with their experience in the church overall.

Every church exhibits patterns in its life that contain strengths and potential weaknesses. Our church has potential strengths related to inclusiveness and advocacy. Potential weaknesses include a tendency to intellectualize every issue and difficulty in establishing identity and vision.

As our members look to the future, our top four goals are.

- Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church.
- Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church.
- Develop the spiritual generosity of the people to financially support the ministry of the church.
- Develop ministries that work toward healing those broken by life circumstances.

In comparison to other churches, three goals that are unusually strong for our church are:

- Adapt the opportunities provided by the church making them more accessible given the pace and schedule of my life. (i.e. online education, early morning classes, lunch discussions)
- Work as an advocate for social and institutional change so that society might better reflect the values of the kingdom of God.
- Develop the spiritual generosity of the people to financially support the ministry of the church.

Thank You for your willingness to participate and help to shape the future of our church.

CHILD CLEARANCES NEEDED FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers play a vital role in supporting Good Shepherd's mission and programs. We are blessed with individuals who willingly and abundantly share their gifts and talents with children of the church and our greater community. The Commonwealth has recently implemented a law that requires clearances to be obtained for adults working with children and youth under the age of 18.

This article provides you with important updates about a new Pennsylvania law, Act 153, also known as the Child Protective Services Law. Implementation of this mandate is going to impact all of our volunteers who work with children and youth. Whether you volunteer for one event or volunteer on a regular basis, you will be required to obtain two clearances that we will keep on file at the church. We have included the basic information below, including links to complete each required clearance online. The clearances are valid for 36 months from the date of issue. Each clearance has a cost of \$10, and when completed online, these fees can be paid using a credit card.

* Pennsylvania Criminal History Record Clearance (ACT 34) <<http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=4451&&PageID=458621&level=2&css=L2&mode=2>>

* Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance (ACT 151) <<http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/findaform/childabusehistoryclearanceforms/index.htm>>

Both clearances can be paid for and completed in a short amount of time, and results are usually immediate. Jen Loane has agreed to be Good Shepherd's record keeper for the clearances. Copies of the originals may be put in her mail folder in a sealed envelope. Copies may be made in the church office. Jen will be the only one to see the information on the clearances. She will provide lists of those who are cleared to volunteer to work with our children and youth.

Thank you for your continued interest in being a volunteer at Good Shepherd. Please bear with us as we, along with every other organization within Pennsylvania that works with volunteers, begin to understand the full implications of this new law. We understand that at first glance this is quite overwhelming. Please know that it is intended for the very best interest and protection of our youth. Your cooperation in this very important matter is greatly appreciated.

ATTENTION SEWERS!

The 2015 Sewing Fellowship is scheduled for Saturday, September 12th from 9AM—Noon. This year's format will be a little different from those held in the past. Needed are portable sewing machines, thread, pins, ironing boards and irons...and of course—YOU! If you can sew but do not have a machine that can be transported, please let us know and we will be sure one is provided. If you are able to donate fabric, please be sure to do so by Sunday, August 30th (in the wicker basket in the Narthex.) The focus of the morning will be completing pillowcases for ConKerr Cancer. Light refreshments will be provided. If you have an interest in taking part in this event, email the church office (gskopstaff@verizon.net) and use the word PILLOWCASES in the subject line. Let us know what you can do!



FLEA MARKET & BAKE SALE—Saturday, September 19th—9AM—2PM

Mark your calendars for the September 19th flea market. This year we will **NOT** be accepting any donations from the congregation. There will be tables to rent (\$20) for anyone who chooses to display and sell his/her own crafts or wares. Please call the church office to reserve your table today!





The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

132 East Valley Forge Road
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406-2031
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Email: gskopstaff@verizon.net
Web: www.gskop.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Shepherd's News † Summer 2015

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE...SUNDAY, August 12th

Please submit your articles to the Church Office via email or by using a pink form found in "forms" slot in front of mail cart. Place forms in "Office" mailbox slot.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Monday 9:00 A.M. – Noon
Tuesday—Thursday 8:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Summer Schedule —Service of Holy Communion at 9:30 A.M.
(through September 6, 2015)

Vacation
Bible
School

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

Pastor—Julie DeWerth 610-308-2675
Organist/Choir Director—Ross Boerner 610-272-0410
Office Assistant—Phyllis Kelly 610-265-4545
Preschool Director—Diane Smith 610-265-0733
Sexton—Ray Erwin 610-265-4545
Nursery Attendant—Christina Torrente



July 20 — July 24
9 am—Noon

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Pastor's Mail juliedewerth@comcast.net
Music Mail goodshepmusic@yahoo.com
Office Mail gskopstaff@verizon.net
Preschool gskoppreschool@verizon.net