



# The Shepherd's News

132 East Valley Forge Road · King of Prussia · Pennsylvania · 19406  
December 2016 · January 2017 · February 2017



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

While the secular world has moved directly from Thanksgiving to Christmas, the church says, "Not so fast." For the next four weeks we will be celebrating Advent.

Amid all the preparations and parties, the cards and cooking, the decking and decorating, I encourage you to make a little space for Advent ... just a little space. And in that Advent space I urge you to be still ... to experience just a little bit of quiet. In the silence I urge you get in touch with your deepest hopes. After all, that is what this season of Advent is all about ... it is about hopes and dreamers. People in ancient Israel hoped and prayed for a Messiah to come. What are your hopes and dreams ... for yourself, for your children, for your church, for your community, for your nation and for your world?

The angel comes to Mary and says, "Do not be afraid." And so I say to you, "Do not be afraid to dream big!" We come from a long line of dreamers. All through Advent we will be hearing the dreams of the prophet Isaiah. On Advent 1 we will hear of the prophet's dream for a day when swords will be beaten into plowshares. Advent 2, Isaiah will share his dream of a shoot growing out of the dead stump of Jesse. Advent 3, water will spring forth from the desert and Advent 4, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son. These were Isaiah's hopes and dreams. What are yours?

During this season of Advent, I encourage you to dare to dream the most outlandish dreams. For if God can stoop down and kiss the earth by sending a little baby to save us, God can do anything. Trust God with your hopes and dreams this Advent season.

*Pastor Livi*

## Christmas Eve Saturday—December 24<sup>th</sup>

5:00 P.M. — Family Worship with Holy Communion and Candlelight

*This abbreviated service will include a children's message and the singing of favorite Christmas Carols.*

7:30 P.M. — Holy Communion Candlelight Service

(7:15 P.M. Special Prelude music offered by Good Shepherd Choir, Orchestra and Bells)

10:00 P.M. — Holy Communion Candlelight Service

(9:45 P.M. Special Prelude music offered by Good Shepherd Choir and Bells)

## Sunday—December 25<sup>th</sup>

9:30 A.M. — Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion

Sunday—January 1st

9:30 A.M. — Name of Jesus

Sunday School will not meet on December 25<sup>th</sup> and January 1st

Classes resume Sunday, January 8th





## Audubon Symphony Orchestra Concert \* December 11th, 1:30 P.M.

The Audubon Symphony Orchestra will present their Winter Concert in the Sanctuary at Good Shepherd on Sunday, December 11th at 1:30PM. The concert will include pop, classical, and Christmas favorites. Admission is free with a goodwill offering taken.



## BREAKFAST WITH SANTA— SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2016

Breakfast will be from 10:00-10:30 am in Founders hall.

Pictures with Santa will be from 10:30 am-11:00am.

The Zadreko family will be cooking another fabulous meal. Breakfast will include, pancakes with all of the toppings, fresh scrambled eggs, cold cereal and bananas.

Please consider a \$15.00 per family donation. There will be a donation container at the event.



## GOOD SHEPHERD CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 18th

**8:30 and 11:00 A.M. — Advent Worship with Holy Communion  
(11:00 A.M. Christmas Pageant in place of the sermon)**

The Christmas Pageant will be held on Sunday, December 18th during the 11:00 A.M. Service. All children are invited to participate. Rehearsals will take place during Sunday School on December 4th, 11th and 18th from 9:45 am to 10:45 am.



## YOUTH CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION (5th-12th GRADES) — December 18th

We will gather in the youth room for our white elephant gift exchange. This will take place immediately after the 11am service and pizza will be provided. We also are planning on caroling in the afternoon for our shut-ins at around 2:00pm. We would like to bring cookies for the shut-ins. We ask the youth to bring cookies to the white elephant so we can box them up and pass them out when caroling. The caroling is for anyone in the congregation who would like to attend. For more information contact Erin Rackovan at [erack83@gmail.com](mailto:erack83@gmail.com).

## FINAL GIFT REQUEST FROM THE UPPER MERION SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR 2016

We have joined forces with the Upper Merion School District in order to meet some needs that had come to their attention. This fall you provided snacks for the elementary students, and last month food was collected to complete Thanksgiving baskets for families in the district. The final request this year is for gift cards for the upper level students who might otherwise have a very sparse Christmas. We will be providing between \$10 and \$25 gift certificates to Target and Walmart. If you are able, please remove an envelope from the Christmas tree located in the Narthex and include your cash or check (payable to Good Shepherd) and place it in the offering plate so that we can purchase gift cards this season. We will be collecting until December 18th. Thank you for your continued generosity!

## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Is there someone you would like to remember or honor this holiday season? You can do so by ordering a **poinsettia plant** as a memorial or in honor of someone special. Envelopes for the poinsettia plants are posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Please include the names of the people you would like to remember or honor. The cost of each plant is \$10. Envelopes may be placed in the offering plate.



## Message from Vicar Rachel

And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior ..." Luke 1:46-47

I've always loved the words of Mary's Magnificat. Almost as soon as Mary hears the news from the angel that she is going to give birth to the Savior of the world, she sings a song of praise to God. These words are known as Mary's Song or "Magnificat." You will find the text in Luke 1:46-55 and the passage talks about what God has done throughout history to bring salvation to the world. Mary had a lot to ponder.

Even when Mary does mention herself, she says, "from now on all generations will call me blessed." She doesn't say that she is better or more worthy than anyone else – in fact she admits her own sinfulness when she calls God "my Savior." The Magnificat does exactly what she is saying – it glorifies God by telling what He has done to save us. The words are beautiful and are just as true for every Christian today as they were for Mary.

Truly all generations of Christians can call Mary blessed for being chosen by God to be the mother of our Lord, yet all who believe in Jesus as Savior are even more richly blessed. Jesus is the mighty one who has done great things for you and me and all people. Jesus deserves all the praise and glory because He has accomplished for us what we could not – salvation from our sins.

Let us follow Mary's lead by glorifying and praising God's holiness, while acknowledging our lowliness. Let us recognize ourselves as servants, as vessels for God's plan. Let us trust in the Lord for everything, even in overwhelming situations. May hope, peace, joy and love be with you as we prepare for the coming of our Lord Jesus.

God's blessings,  
Vicar Rachel

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We are grateful for deposits totaling \$1,401 through November to Good Shepherd's operating fund by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans through their Thrivent Choice program. If you would like more information about how to be a part of Thrivent For Lutherans, please call the church office.



### TIMELY REMINDERS...



As we move through the busy seasons of Advent and Christmas, please revisit your 2016 pledge and prayerfully consider "catching up" or perhaps giving an additional gift if you are able. With the holiday season upon us, the Finance Committee would like to remind all of our members to please try to keep your weekly offering envelopes current, especially if you are planning to be out of town during the holidays. As you know, we are closely watching our expenses and, at this time of year, would like to avoid any untimely drop in current receipts at the end of the year. **If you will be traveling during the holidays and would like to insure recognition for your contributions in the calendar year 2016, please have your gift in the church office by Thursday, December 29th.**

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### Consecration Sunday Results!

On November 20 we celebrated Consecration Sunday at Good Shepherd. Rev. Ellen Meissgeier was our preacher at both our 8:30 and 11am worship services. After the second service over 110 people attended a catered lunch in Founders Hall. **Because of YOUR generosity we saw a 11.5% increase in our pledges!** Thank you for your support of our ministry up here on the hill. Special thanks to our Consecration Sunday Team: Fred Brown, Lisa Hand, Bill Hunter, Bill Loane, Jennifer Lyons, Linda Quam, Hele Vondra and Kerstin Zadrejko.



## OUTREACH IN DECEMBER - Silver Springs

Silver Springs – Martin Luther School provides a range of specialized services and support for children who struggle with emotional and behavioral challenges. Through special education, foster family care, and residential and community-based mental health services, they offer opportunities for children and families to learn, to heal, and to reach for brighter tomorrows. The school offers a holistic and comprehensive approach to improving the academic, emotional, behavioral, and social well-being for K-8th grade students. Our gifts through Operation Shining star go to the children at this school.

*Checks may be made payable to Good Shepherd and placed in a pew envelope marked "Outreach."*

## OUTREACH IN JANUARY– Meals on Wheels



Neighborhood Meals on Wheels was organized over 40 years ago to fill the need in our community for meals for the homebound. Several Good Shepherd members already volunteer and serve on the Board. Neighborhood Meals on Wheels accepts no government funding and as a result is able to bring new clients on board with much less paperwork than is required by the county and state. However, because it has no government funding it must rely on the generosity of friends, neighbors, community groups and faith based organizations to sustain it. If you know of anyone in Bridgeport, King of Prussia or West Conshohocken in need of this service (two meals a day are delivered, fifty-two weeks a year at a cost of \$25 per week) **OR if you are able to assist in delivering meals on a regular, substitute, or emergency only basis (time needed for meal delivery is approximately 90 minutes),** please contact the Meals on Wheels office 610-265-7051.

*Checks may be made payable to Good Shepherd and placed in a pew envelope marked "Outreach."*

## OUTREACH IN FEBRUARY – Sunday Breakfast Rescue Mission



The Sunday Breakfast Rescue Mission offers a variety of programs and services to accomplish their mission of providing for the practical and spiritual needs of hungry, homeless, and hurting individuals in the Philadelphia area. It is their desire to meet the immediate needs of their guests and to create an environment which inspires real life changes that lead to restoration and rehabilitation. When Sunday Breakfast Rescue Mission was founded in 1878, the Mission served hot cups of coffee and rolls to guests before church on Sunday. Through prayer, and the generosity of supporters like you, Sunday Breakfast is now the only free provider of three meals a day, 365 days a year to homeless individuals in Center City Philadelphia. Men, women, and children are welcome to share a meal any day of the week.

*Checks may be made payable to Good Shepherd and placed in a pew envelope marked "Outreach."*



## GOOD SHEPHERD PRESCHOOL

Registration for the 2017-2018 school year will begin for church members on January 15. Morning classes are available for children ages 2-5. For more information please contact Diane Smith at 610-265-0733.



## Boy Scout Sunday— February 5, 2017



We will be recognizing the Boy Scouts on Sunday, February 5th at both services. Leaders and Scouts are asked to wear their uniforms to church and to come forward for a special prayer during the Prayers of Intercession.

## *The Music Ministry of Good Shepherd*

We've had a wonderful start to our music year! The Chancel Choir is back in action, the Chancel Ringers are ringing to God's glory, and our talented instrumentalists have been filling the sanctuary with music!

As we approach Advent, our music will turn a touch more somber and reflective, as we await the arrival of the baby Jesus. This season, we are excited to offer an **Advent Vespers** service on **Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm**. Vespers is an evening [prayer](#) service. The word "vespers" comes from the [Latin vesper](#), meaning "evening." It is also referred to as [evening prayer](#) or [evensong](#). More details on this service will be announced in church, but be sure to mark your calendars now!

There are also several opportunities to get involved as we approach Christmas Eve:

**The Chancel Choir** will be working on the music for Christmas Eve on Thursdays at 7:30pm; this would be a great time to come sing with us for this special season!

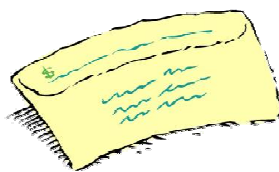
**The Orchestra** will also be playing on Christmas Eve, so if you play an instrument, this would be a perfect time to play with us. Rehearsals will begin in December.

If you have questions about our music ministry or would like to get involved, please contact me via email: [GoodShepMusic@yahoo.com](mailto:GoodShepMusic@yahoo.com)  
Thank You!!

~Ross

### ALTAR FLOWERS and CHURCH BULLETINS

The 2017 flower and bulletin charts have been posted in the Narthex. The cost for altar flowers has increased to \$20.00. The cost of the bulletins has remained at \$10.00. Each week, the flowers are available for you to bring home or deliver to a friend following the 11:00 AM. worship service.



### OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2017 offering envelopes will be available for pick-up in the Narthex in early December. If you do not see a set of envelopes with your name, please contact the church office.

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

Your continued generosity in **filling the grocery cart** in the Narthex and the recycling of your **used ink cartridges** (which may be left in the bin located above the coat rack) is deeply appreciated. *The folks of Good Shepherd are indeed generous!*





Please join Good Shepherd Church for **God on Tap**  
**December 5th from 6:30pm to 8:00pm**

**Get into the Spirit of Christmas at Taphouse 23 with some Christmas Caroling!**

At the **December 5<sup>th</sup>** Pub Theology there will be *no discussion*.

We will spend the evening joyfully joining our voices together in song and friendship!  
 Bring your family, bring your friends as together we sing our favorite Christmas Carols.

**People have been gathering in pubs** and public spaces for ages, talking about life, philosophy, faith, and deep questions of meaning. Increasingly, people all over are rediscovering the pub as a safe, open space where they can explore and express their own doubts and questions, learn from others, and engage people of varying religious traditions. In our increasingly fractured society, these spaces are not only welcome, but needed.

The format is simple: refreshments, conversation, and God. Come bring your questions, your curiosity, and pull up a chair. Be ready to engage with people of varying religious traditions, philosophical perspectives and life experiences. You'll be able to share your own wrestlings and thoughts while learning something new along the way.

The upstairs at Taphouse 23 (266 E. 4th Street, Bridgeport, PA 19405) has been reserved starting at **6:30 for anyone ordering food**. At 7:15 we will begin singing. If you can't join us for a meal, please come at **7:15 for caroling**. Taphouse 23 has a full bar. For their full menu please check their website at [www.taphouse23.com](http://www.taphouse23.com). Their parking lot is across the street. Please Note: The servers will issue a separate check for each person in attendance with an 18% gratuity added on.

Appetizers range from \$8 to \$12—Burgers & Sandwiches range from \$10 to \$18—Entrées range from \$18 to \$33  
**For a full menu please check their website at [www.taphouse23.com](http://www.taphouse23.com)**

Taphouse 23 has a small parking lot. On street parking is also available.  
 Please contact Karen Reimet with any questions: [karenreimet@gmail.com](mailto:karenreimet@gmail.com)  
 Pub Theology description from website: [pubtheology.com](http://pubtheology.com)

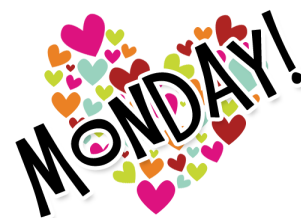
## Monday's at Good Shepherd

First Monday of the Month is Pub Theology.  
 December 5<sup>th</sup>, January 2<sup>nd</sup> and February 6<sup>th</sup>

Second Monday of the Month is Committee Meetings  
 Please check if your committee is meeting.  
 December 12<sup>th</sup>, January 9<sup>th</sup> and February 13<sup>th</sup>

Third Monday of the Month is Council Meeting  
 January 16<sup>th</sup> and February 20<sup>th</sup> (not meeting in December)

Fourth Monday of the Month is Manna Monday  
 January 23<sup>rd</sup> and February 27<sup>th</sup> (not meeting in December)



**Monday, February 27th—Chili Cook-off**  
**For our Manna Monday Dinner—6pm to 7pm**

We need families to sign up to donate chili and youth to sign up to judge the chili! Even if you are unable to contribute chili, please join us for dinner.  
 Contact Erin Rackovan at [erack83@gmail.com](mailto:erack83@gmail.com) for more information.

**MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST AND FELLOWSHIP —Saturdays****December 10th \* January 14th \* February 11th**

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

**MANOR CARE WORSHIP SERVICE**

Good Shepherd will host a brief worship service for the residents at Manor Care, located at 600 W. Valley Forge Road on **Sunday, January 29th**. Children, youth and adults—all are welcome (and needed!) to assist in this outreach ministry. We hope that you will open your heart and consider this ministry opportunity. We meet in the lobby of Manor Care at 2:20 P.M. And the service concludes at 3:00 P.M.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING \* SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2017****Following the 11:00 A.M. church service**

All are invited to attend. The meeting is held in Founders Hall and a light lunch will be served. Details regarding the luncheon and meeting will be included in a January mailing.

**SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY—February 5, 2017**

While many of our families will be celebrating "Super Bowl" on Sunday, February 7th, countless families will not. They will be wondering and worrying about where their next meal will be coming from. Please help us to help them. Please bring a can of soup and/or make a donation to Good Shepherd's Souper Bowl fund, which enables us to not only help alleviate hunger, but also provides a gift card to families who are in need of groceries. Donations will be collected at church and Sunday School. We need your help!

There is a place for you at our table...

**Monday, January 23, 2017****Manna Monday****Our Muslim Neighbors**

Christ calls us to love our neighbors, even those who don't share our beliefs. We live in an increasingly diverse nation. Whether or not we are aware of it, we work with people of the Muslim faith and our children go to school and play on sports teams with their children. On January 23, Good Shepherd will have the privilege of hosting one of our Muslim neighbors, Intissar Elarbi. Please come out and join us for an open and honest conversation as we seek to build bridges of understanding between our faith communities. Dinner is from 6pm to 7pm and the speaker will begin at 7pm.

**Youth Family Bowling—Friday, January 20, 2017**

We invite all youth families to go bowling. We will meet at the church at 7pm and go to Facenda Whitaker Lanes in Norristown to bowl from 7:30--9:30 pm. Cost is \$10 per person. Look for more details via emails and in bulletins in January. Contact Karen Lehman ([karen\\_lehman@verizon.net](mailto:karen_lehman@verizon.net)) with any questions.

## Mom's Group Meeting at Good Shepherd!

- Who?** Anyone who has children of any age at home  
**What?** A chance for moms to be together  
**Where?** Lobby (Narthex) at Good Shepherd, King of Prussia ... the church/office building  
**When?** Tuesdays: November 29 and December 6 and 13—**9:30 AM—10:30 AM**

This group is free and open to the community ... so invite your friends and neighbors! Refreshments will be served weekly. Also, if you would like to come but don't have child care for a little one, please feel free to bring them along. This is a very relaxed gathering.

We will be looking at some of the "Bad Girls" of the Bible. Everyone knows about Sarah and Mary (the "Good Girls") but what about Jezebel, Bathsheba, and Delilah?! Come out and hear a contemporary retelling of their stories and find out what lessons we can learn from them.

For more information contact Heather Francis ([heatherfrancis1@comcast.net](mailto:heatherfrancis1@comcast.net)).



### Yoga with Centering Prayer—Wednesdays, December 21st, January 18th, February 15th

Yoga is a great way to prepare your body and mind to be still for prayer. If you have ever wondered how something like meditation would fit into your faith practice, we will be sharing the basics of Centering Prayer. If you cannot stay for prayer, you are welcome to leave any time. If you cannot make it to yoga, you are welcome to join us for prayer. **Yoga with a professional instructor** from 7:00pm to 8:00pm. If you did not pay the \$80 for all sessions, each session is \$15. **Centering Prayer (facilitated by members of Good Shepherd Church)** from 8:00pm to 8:20pm is free. Questions? Contact Hele Vondra at [helevondra@hotmail.com](mailto:helevondra@hotmail.com).

**Please bring a yoga mat.** (To help make some stretches more comfortable, 2 yoga blocks are recommended and a strap or belt or towel is suggested. Class is held in Founder's Hall.)



### Advent Vespers—Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>

**Find haven in a candlelit evening of personal prayer,  
then Advent Vespers followed by a reception.**

During this hectic holiday season come fill your soul with our Lord's peace and love.

**6:45pm to 7:15pm** pray, contemplate or read the bible in a silent, candlelit Sanctuary. (If you will be reading the bible, please bring your own subtle lighting.) **7:15pm to 7:30pm** will be used to quietly transition.

From **7:30pm to 8:00pm** experience a peaceful, candlelit Advent Vespers service.

Then finish up the evening at **8:00pm** with a simple, elegant reception in the Narthex (lobby). Partake in one activity or all three activities. Bring a friend – share the Advent peace and love!





## The 2016 Confirmation Classes

An important part of the confirmation program at Good Shepherd involves meeting with the pastor for a number of Sunday afternoons during their 9<sup>th</sup> grade year. We will be touching on the different parts of Martin Luther's Small Catechism.

The Sundays we will be meeting are December 11th, January 8th, February 26th and April 23rd. Classes will be held from 12:00 - 2:30 pm. We ask that the confirmands attend worship on the days that the class is meeting. There will be times that we discuss what happened during the service.

**A NEW MEMBER CLASS** — will be held on **January 22nd and 29th from 9:45 am to 10:45 in one of the classrooms in the Education Building.** Pastor Julie will be holding the classes for people interested in exploring membership at Good Shepherd. While new members will be received into membership at the 11:00 am service on **January 29th** *attending these classes does not commit you to joining.* Please contact the church office at 610-265-4545 or email [gskopstaff@verizon.net](mailto:gskopstaff@verizon.net), if you are interested in attending.



## GIFT & MEMORIAL REPORT

Recently we received gifts in memory of Edward Reilly, husband of Cathy Reilly. This money will be used in the best manner possible to remember Ed, while either enriching and supporting our ministry at Good Shepherd or enhancing our property.

We are grateful for the Reilly family for designating Good Shepherd to receive these gifts in memory of Ed and thankful for the generosity of our members and friends who gave gifts to honor him. On special occasions we encourage everyone to consider honoring or remembering family and friends with a gift to the Gift and Memorial Fund. The needs of Good Shepherd are many and these discretionary funds help provide services and items that are not included in the annual budget.

## Final Gift Card for 2016



The final gift card order will be placed on Sunday, December 11th and those cards will be available on Sunday, December 18th. You can visit [ShopWithScrip.com](http://ShopWithScrip.com) to get a complete list of retailers available. Put your gift card request in writing and place it in the offering plate, along with a check payable to "Good Shepherd" in an envelope clearly marked "GIFT CARD ORDER" or email your request to the church office

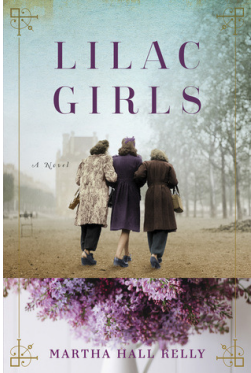
([gskopstaff@verizon.net](mailto:gskopstaff@verizon.net)). If you plan to give gift cards this holiday season, or if you shop at any of the participating retailers, please consider using gift cards purchased through the church. The percentages indicated on the complete retailers' list online is the amount of your purchase that Good Shepherd receives and that amount can be deducted from your 2016 taxes if you itemize!



## 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.

**JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT BOOK CLUB**  
**Monday, January 30, 2017 at 7pm in the church library**  
***Lilac Girls* by Martha Hall Kelly**



Inspired by the life of a real World War II heroine, this debut novel reveals a story of love, redemption, and secrets that were hidden for decades.

New York socialite Caroline Ferriday has her hands full with her post at the French consulate and a new love on the horizon. But Caroline's world is forever changed when Hitler's army invades Poland in September 1939—and then sets its sights on France.

An ocean away from Caroline, Kasia Kuzmerick, a Polish teenager, senses her carefree youth disappearing as she is drawn deeper into her role as courier for the underground resistance movement. In a tense atmosphere of watchful eyes and suspecting neighbors, one false move can have dire consequences.

For the ambitious young German doctor, Herta Oberheuser, an ad for a government medical position seems her ticket out of a desolate life. Once hired, though, she finds herself trapped in a male-dominated realm of Nazi secrets and power.

The lives of these three women are set on a collision course when the unthinkable happens and Kasia is sent to Ravensbrück, the notorious Nazi concentration camp for women. Their stories cross continents—from New York to Paris, Germany, and Poland—as Caroline and Kasia strive to bring justice to those whom history has forgotten.



**FASNACHTS AND FUN**  
**SHROVE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28th**  
**7:00—8:00 PM IN THE SANCTUARY**

Traditionally, on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, Christians eat Fasnachts (donut like pastries). They do this to use up whatever sugar, fat and eggs are left in the kitchen before Lent ... a season associated with simplicity and dietary restrictions. In addition, it is a time to enjoy oneself before entering into this penitential season. Come out and observe this tradition with your brothers and sisters at Good Shepherd. In addition to eating Fasnachts, our members will be featured in a variety show. People from ages 2 - 102 are invited to share their talent. Share a poem (original or someone else's), magic tricks, songs, dance, instrumental solo or ensemble ... we are open to anything (ok ... almost anything!). Those who perform will be presented with Mardi Gras beads! The evening will conclude with the burning of the palms in preparation for the following evening's Ash Wednesday service. We know our members have lots of talent - hidden and otherwise. There is no need to sign up - just come prepared to perform. And for those of you who are shy - we look forward to seeing you in the audience.



We were blessed with a gift from a Good Shepherd member and our sanctuary is now audio-assisted with a "hearing loop." If you currently wear a hearing aid, you can activate the T-coil (telecoil) option on your hearing device and the entire service can be heard through your hearing aid. We are grateful for this generous gift! (If you have questions about the operation of this system and the compatibility with your hearing device, please contact the church office and further instruction will be given.)



## A Note from a Resident of the Community

Dear Good Shepherd Bell Leaders,

Thank you, thank you, thank you! I'm sitting in my house right now, practically in tears over the BEAUTIFUL music that your church is playing right now. I know it as "Lift Every Voice and Sing." I'm sure there is an original name-but thank you! It totally lifted my spirits. PLEASE, PLEASE keep playing these songs. I stop what I'm doing when I hear it. I love that the music rings through the whole community. I love that your church is on the hill! I love going to your hill to look over at Mount Misery and Mount Joy, and the Conshohocken Hills. What an amazing blessing to live in this community with your church! Such a blessing. I'm so excited and amazed. Keep it up. Everything. Always. Love, "Faith"



### Mark Your Calendars! WOMEN'S RETREAT

For the Women of Good Shepherd and their Friends

March 10-11, 2017



Mary Konopka

The retreat will begin on Friday evening at 7:00pm and end Saturday afternoon at 2:30pm. It will be held at the Franciscan Spirituality Center, 609 S. Covent Road, Aston, PA - about 25 miles from Good Shepherd. The cost is \$80 which includes lodging and breakfast and lunch on Saturday. Some people will be carpooling from church. **Space is limited, so please contact the church office at [gskopstaff@verizon.net](mailto:gskopstaff@verizon.net) to make your reservation!**

The Rev. Mary Konopka, retired in 2013 after 35 years of ministry, will be our leader. Ordained in 1982, she has served as an instructor in Practical Theology and as the Registrar at Christ Seminary-Seminex in St. Louis and parishes in St. Louis, MO; Ithaca, NY; Detroit, MI; and NE Philadelphia. She holds a BA in Literature and Rhetoric and a Master's in English Literature from SUNY at Binghamton, as well as a Master of Divinity degree from Christ Seminary-Seminex, St. Louis. In the past decade, she has added to her knowledge and practical skills by obtaining Certificates in Non-Profit Management and Non-Profit Fundraising from the University of Pennsylvania and La-Salle University School of Business. In 2007, she was a co-founder of a local ecumenical partnership which resulted in establishing Rhawnhurst Turning Point, a center for youth and young adults in NE Philadelphia.

Pastor Konopka has led retreats in a variety of settings including the Florida-Bahamas Synod Diaconate, a local food pantry Board, women's groups and church councils in the SEPA Synod.

A native of Long Island, New York, she loves cats, playing her accordion & bass guitar, movies, writing, fishing, spending time with friends and summer vacations at her sister's lake house on Lake Cayuga in Ithaca, New York.

She currently serves as the part-time Visitation Pastor at St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church in Devon, PA.

### HEARTS & HANDS

Please join the ladies of Hearts & Hands each Wednesday from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. planning activities and working on mission projects. The third Wednesday morning of each month we are truly blessed to have Pastor John Kerr lead us in Bible study in the church library. For more information please contact Barbara Schneider at 610-265-5976 or [bfschn@gmail.com](mailto:bfschn@gmail.com) or the church office at 610-265-4545 or [gskopstaff@verizon.net](mailto:gskopstaff@verizon.net).



## The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## The Shepherd's News Winter 2016-2017

### MARCH • APRIL • MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE...MONDAY, February 6, 2017

Please submit your articles to the Church Office using pink form in "forms" slot in front of the credenza.  
Place forms in "Office" slot or email your print ready article to [gskopstaff@verizon.net](mailto:gskopstaff@verizon.net).

#### OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday: 9:00 A.M. – Noon

#### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:30 and 11:00 A.M. Worship Services  
Education Hour—9:45 A.M.



#### THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

Pastor—Julie DeWerth	610-308-2675
Vicar—Rachel Scheible	610-265-4545
Organist/Choir Director—Ross Boerner	610-279-0410
Parish Administrator—Kay Shinnars	610-265-4545
Office Support—Phyllis Kelly	610-265-4545
Preschool Director—Diane Smith	610-265-0733
Sexton—Ray Erwin	610-265-4545
Nursery Attendant—Christina Torrente	

#### EMAIL ADDRESSES

Pastor's Mail	<a href="mailto:juliedewerth@comcast.net">juliedewerth@comcast.net</a>
Office Mail	<a href="mailto:gskopstaff@verizon.net">gskopstaff@verizon.net</a>
Music Mail	<a href="mailto:goodshepmusic@yahoo.com">goodshepmusic@yahoo.com</a>
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