

The Shepherd's News

132 East Valley Forge Road · King of Prussia · Pennsylvania 19406 · 610.265.4545
March 2018 · April 2018 · May 2018



Spring 2018

Brothers and Sisters,

This year the season of Lent is bookended by two secular holidays. Ash Wednesday was on Valentine's Day, a day devoted to love and schmaltz. Easter will fall on April Fools' Day, a day devoted to trickery and practical jokes. It's a quirky calendar coincidence that hasn't happened in decades.

April Fools' Day is all about presenting information that is on the edge of believability. The trick is to get someone to believe an outlandish claim that seems out of this world and then, when the person accepts it as truth, they are called a fool (all in good fun, of course!). They are told it's all been a prank ... a made-up story ... a practical joke.

Holy Week seems full of information that is over the edge of believability ... a king riding on a donkey? How about an angry mob demanding that Jesus be crucified when he has committed no crime? God hanging on a cross? It all seems beyond believable ... part of one big joke. But it isn't a joke.

And then, on Easter Sunday, when Jesus emerges from the tomb after being there for three days and the women run to tell the disciples that he is alive, the men think it is a prank but not a very funny one. But they soon learn that it isn't a joke ... or a prank ... or even an idle tale. Jesus is alive!

The only April Fools' joke being played on that first Easter morning was played by Jesus and he was playing it on the devil and those who thought they could kill him.

I pray that you are having a wonderful Lent. Our midweek soup suppers and worship have been glorious so far. If you have not joined us, please do. And if you have been coming, please keep coming. And then walk with us through Holy Week. Come as we follow Jesus into Jerusalem amidst shouts of Hosanna and share in the Last Supper that Jesus ate with his disciples on Maundy Thursday. On Good Friday, come and worship with us as we contemplate Christ's great love for us. And then, on Easter morning, come and celebrate! Come for what promises to be a delicious Easter Brunch. Come to worship and shout out the "A" word that will have been buried deep in our hearts for 40 days. Be part of the excitement as our children release the "A" balloon from the box and watch it drift up to the cupola, where we hope it will remain for the 50 days of Easter. But most importantly, come and worship the one who played the greatest April Fools' joke of all ... Jesus Christ our Lord.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Julie".

Pastor Julie DeWerth

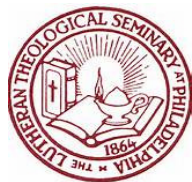




MARCH OUTREACH—MORE THAN ME ACADEMY IN LIBERIA

More Than Me uses education as a catalyst for transformative social change for every girl in Liberia. It all started with a girl. At 11 years old, she was selling herself for clean drinking water, when all she really wanted was to go to school. More Than Me was founded to meet her needs. The More Than Me Academy (MTMA) is a tuition-free K-6 girls school providing high quality education and holistic services like healthcare, family planning, psychosocial support, and a feeding program for the most vulnerable girls in Monrovia. MTMA is committed to supporting its students through the 12th grade with tuition, basic healthcare, and tutoring. The Academy's model has been proven successful and is being implemented in 30+ schools across Liberia and throughout Africa. Meet the MTM girls and learn more at www.morethanme.org! **\$1,200 changes the life of one girl in Liberia for an entire year.** It pays for one year of schooling, uniforms, medical care, psychosocial care, family planning, access to technology and two hot meals a day for one.

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



APRIL OUTREACH—UNITED LUTHERAN SEMINARY

In 2017, exactly five hundred years after the Protestant Reformation, the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia joined their two historic institutions as United Lutheran Seminary (ULS).

As a premier graduate professional school, United Lutheran Seminary offers theological education and leadership formation that is both academically rigorous and practically oriented. Students engage in the study of scripture and biblical languages, church history, theology and philosophy as well as practical disciplines such as preaching and pastoral care. Graduates are equipped to move in many directions as leaders in church and society, including parish ministry, chaplaincies and as leaders in areas of human service and justice, or after additional study, as scholars and professors.

Our very own Courtney Smith is currently a student at United Lutheran Seminary.

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



MAY OUTREACH—BABY MANNA

Each year 12,000 babies are born into poverty in southeast Pennsylvania. Many of these infants are reared by caregivers who are unable to nurse. Tragically, during the first year, many caregivers are unable to afford infant formula and resort to diluting formula with water, introducing cow's milk too early, or starting babies on solid foods prematurely. Consequences of this type of malnutrition are often devastating and permanent, affecting the babies' physical, mental and social growth. **100% of the money received from the annual Baby Manna collection is used by Philabundance to purchase infant formula and baby food.** Baby Manna raises funds to purchase infant formula and baby food for babies born into poverty in our five county Philadelphia area.

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

Message from Vicar Rachel

The other day my young daughter finished eating up her Valentine candy, which was heading to be a disappointing moment! But her older sister informed her “in a few days we will have baskets full of Easter candy!” Their conversation then turned to which Easter candy is their favorite, and ended declaring which color jelly bean they always pick first to eat. Easter season always incorporates tons of jelly beans, and their vibrant colors

Colors can tell us a lot. If the sky is dark you know that a storm is coming. If a person looks pale they may not be feeling very well. If a burner on a stove is red it may be hot. Colors can also be used to tell us a story. I found this tidbit and considered it a good share as we prepare for Easter time. The jelly bean colors remind us of the greatest story of all time, Jesus, and His love for us.

Black: Because of the sin we are born with and the wrongs we do, we separate ourselves from God (Psalm 51:5, Ephesians 2:1, Romans 6:23a). Red: Reminds us of the blood Jesus shed on the cross for all of our sin (John 19:34, Romans 5:9). White: Because of Jesus' death and rising from the dead we are forgiven and are no longer separated from God (Isaiah 1:18, Psalm 103:1-12, Romans 8:31-39). Blue: Reminds us of the waters of baptism which with God's Word brings forgiveness and eternal life (Acts 2:38, Mark 16:16, Romans 6:3-5). Green: This is the color of life. Because of Jesus we have new life promised to us (John 3:16, Romans 6:4). Yellow: The color of heavenly glory. Because of Jesus we will be given a place in heavenly glory where the streets are paved in gold (Philippians 3:20-21, Revelation 21:21).

When you are eating jelly beans this year, let the colors tell you a story. Take some time this Easter to share this love story with others. You may even want to use the colors of the Jelly Beans to tell the story to a friend, family member, neighbor, or classmate.

Enjoy your Easter treats!
Vicar Rachel

Mary Hunter Scholarship

Established to honor her memory, this scholarship will be available to any graduating high school senior and/or Good Shepherd Seminarians.

Please watch the weekly bulletins in March for eligibility requirements and how to apply!



THANK YOU FOR A SUPER SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY!

The response was fantastic! Over \$1,000 and many canned goods were collected on Sunday, February 4th. Your participation in this annual outreach is appreciated!



PRAYER REQUEST

Please pray for our Synod as they prepare to elect our new Bishop.

ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING

The annual meeting was held on January 28th. Following the luncheon, which was hosted by the Fellowship Committee, the business meeting began. The reports of all of the church committees were reviewed. Thanks was given to Bill Loane for his service on the Church Council. The newly elected member is Andy Restad. The 2018 budget was reviewed and approved. If you were unable to attend the meeting and would like a copy of the annual report, please contact the church office.

The 2018 Council has met and was organized as follows:

Lisa Hand, President—Stewardship
Dennis Hosgood, Vice-President—Personnel
Amanda Fleischer, Secretary—Youth Support
Karen Lehman, Treasurer
Ivana Anderson—Evangelism
Marilynn Anton—Fellowship
John Dolan—Finance
Harry Feliciano—Property
Sue Groff—Christian Education
Daniel Pirani—Memorials and Gifts
Cathy Reilly—Preschool
Andy Restad—Outreach
Liz Smith—Worship & Music



Council members' names appear in bold print and are a liaison to the committee which appears next to their name. The Council will be installed at the 11 AM Worship Service on March 18, 2018.

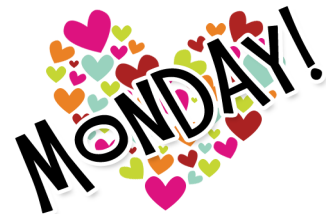
Monday's at Good Shepherd

First Monday of the Month is Pub Theology at 6:30 P.M.
 March 5th, April 2nd and May 7th

Second Monday of the Month is Committee Meetings
 Please check with your committee chairperson to see if your committee is meeting.
 March 12th, April 9th, May 14th.

Third Monday of the Month is Council Meeting at 7:30 P.M.
 March 19th, April 16th, May 21st.

Fourth Monday of the Month is Manna Monday at 6:00 P.M.
 April 23rd (no Manna Monday in March and May)





The Music Ministries of Good Shepherd

As we enter Lent, the music at Good Shepherd will take a more somber and reflective tone; allowing us to reflect and pray upon our lives as we prepare for the joy of Easter Sunday.

For our Wednesday night services this year, beginning on February 21st, we will once again use the beautiful *Holden Prayer Around the Cross* Liturgy. There will also be special musical offerings each week provided by members of Good Shepherd.

On Palm Sunday our music will include congregational singing of Faure's "*The Palms*", The Chancel Choir and Bells will also offer special music.

During Holy Week, we'll have special music on both Thursday and Friday. Our Good Friday liturgy will contain beautiful readings and poetry as we extinguish the candles on the altar.

And now, we arrive at Easter! He is Risen Indeed! Good Shepherd will be alive with music, as we celebrate the risen Lord; The Orchestra will play, and the choir will sing...be sure to get to church a little early for the special prelude before each service.

If you would like to join the choir for the Easter Season – I have music and a seat JUST FOR YOU! Come and speak with me after worship, and we'll discuss how to get you plugged in!

As always, it's going to be a great season of meaningful music here on the hill, and as we enter Lent, consider the text of hymn, "The Glory of These Forty Days" (ELW 320, verses 1 & 4)

The glory of these forty days we celebrate with songs of praise; Christ, through whom all things were made, himself has fasted and has prayed. Then grant, O God, that we may too, return in fast and prayer to you. Our spirits strengthen with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

Yours in Song,
Ross

A Special Thank-You

Dear Pastor Julie, 02/05/18
Thank you so much for allowing us to hold my Mother's memorial service at Good Shepherd. I know that Mom really loved Good Shepherd, and I too have many fond memories of the years I spent here. May God bless and keep you.

Tori Smith-Sain

Selma Smith's memorial service was held at Good Shepherd on January 27, 2018

On January 28th we welcomed new members to Good Shepherd!



Kim Deery



Theresa Haenn



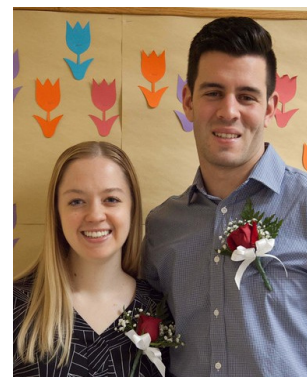
Gretna Rodgers



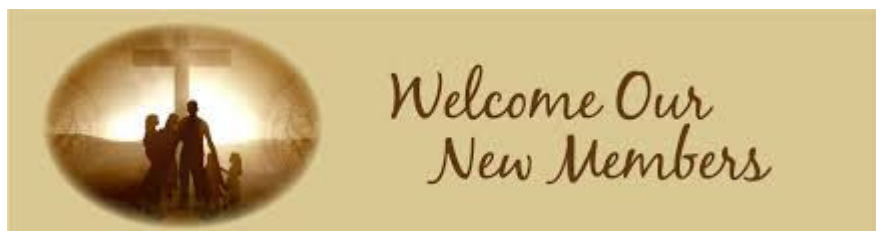
Enjoli Segneri



Kaylee, Amy and Justin Tanis



Ashley & Zack Kempa





MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST AND FELLOWSHIP

Saturdays—March 10th * April 14th * May 12th

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.



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

On February 10th Good Shepherd had a group of volunteers participate in a Habitat for Humanity build in Philadelphia.

The build was very fulfilling and a lot of fun.

There will be another group of volunteers for the next build on **Saturday, March 17th from 8:30 AM-3:30 PM.**

Look for details about upcoming opportunities.



**American
Red Cross**

GOOD SHEPHERD BLOOD DRIVE

Friday, March 23rd, 2018—2:00–7:00 P.M.

We are in search of some 'new blood'! We ask that you consider becoming a blood donor and if you are not able, perhaps there is another family member, neighbor or friend, who you know that may be a willing donor. Please do not wait to be called to volunteer! There will be sign-up opportunities in the church Narthex soon. Kendra Zadrejko is coordinating this event. ***Thank you for considering this vital outreach!*** *If you have any questions please email the church office at gskopstaff@verizon.net*

Yoga with Centering Prayer—Wednesdays, April 18th and May 16th



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 \$60 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.

Please bring a yoga mat. *Class is held in Founders Hall.*

Lent at Good Shepherd

Our Lenten season at Good Shepherd began on Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at 7:00 P.M.

Soup supper begins at 6:00 P.M.

Each week during Lent a different Good Shepherd Committee will prepare soup and bread for all. The meal is held in Founders Hall. All are invited!

March 7th - Sunday School and Youth March 14th - Open Sign Up * March 21st - Open Sign Up

Following the meal, we will worship using **Holden: Prayer Around the Cross.**

Prayer Around the Cross is a meaningful devotional prayer service. It is a contemplative service filled with music, scripture and silence. It is reminiscent of Taize style worship. The music will include congregational singing, as well as special music by soloists or ensembles each week. We hope you will find these Lenten services meaningful and engaging.

Our theme this year is: *The Miracles of Jesus*

March 7th—Rev. Laura Tancredi, Saint Paul's Lutheran Church, Ardmore, PA

March 14th —Rev. Tim Dooner, Valley Forge Presbyterian Church, King of Prussia, PA

March 21st —Courtney Smith, Seminary Student at ULS, Philadelphia

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 24th * 10:00 A.M.—11:00 A.M. in Founders Hall

Breakfast & Crafts will be from 10:00 to 10:40.

The Easter Bunny & photos will be from 10:15 to 10:40.

Easter Egg hunt will begin promptly at 10:45 and will finish quickly, so don't be late. Please bring a basket to collect goodies.

R.S.V.P. to the church office by Wednesday, March 22nd

610-265-4545 or by email gskopstaff@verizon.net

There is also a sign up sheet on the credenza in the Narthex.

EASTER EGG HUNT DONATIONS NEEDED

Donations of candy filled eggs are needed. Please fill the eggs with peanut free candy and tape the seams of the eggs. Candy filled eggs can be brought to the church office by Wednesday, March 21st.



Easter Morning — Brunch will be served in Founders Hall

We are asking the congregation to bring breakfast casseroles, bagels and toppings, fruit and/or veggie trays, or something that you would enjoy eating on Easter morning. The Fellowship Committee will provide coffee, tea, orange juice, apple juice, etc. It is a wonderful time of fellowship on a joyous morning. There is a sign up sheet on the credenza in the Narthex.



GIRL SCOUTS

will be recognized on Sunday, March 11th at both services. Special patches will be given to the participating Scouts.



GOOD SHEPHERD PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

Registration has begun for the 2018-2019 school year. Classes are available for children ages 2 through 5. Contact Diane Smith at 610-265-0733 for more information.



**Calling all Youth (5th -12th grade) Ready to get air??
Sunday, March 18**

Join us for an hour of jumping and climbing like Spider-Man at King of Prussia's "Get Air" on Sunday, March 18 after the 11:00 church service. We will meet in the youth room and carpool over.

Snacks will be provided. The cost is \$10 per person.

Contact Erin Rackovan at erack83@gmail.com or Amanda Fleischer at amanda_fleischer@Verizon.net for more details.



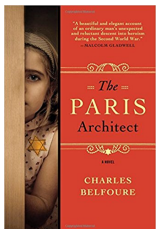
Zoo and Zipline Adventure—Sunday, May 20th

Family event to Elmwood Park Zoo after the 11am service. Once again, we will participate in the zip line held within the zoo. If you are not interested in zip lining, please join us to see the sights of the zoo. Please check the weekly bulletins for more details. Or contact Erin Rackovan at erack83@gmail.com or Amanda Fleischer at amanda_fleischer@verizon.net for more information.



EASTER FLOWERS

This is a wonderful way to honor or remember someone at Easter. Envelopes for the Easter Flowers 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.



BOOK CLUB

The next book club is Tuesday, April 17, 2018.

The book title is *The Paris Architect*, by Charles Belfoure.....*Time to get reading.*

CAPITAL APPEAL

"Renewing God's House"

We are excited to officially announce the theme for our Capital Appeal, "Renewing God's House."

Meet the Steering Team!

Fred Brown, Lisa Hand, Bill Hunter, Bob Irwin, Ed Price, Hele Vondra

Team Coordinators have been selected and have already met with our consultant, Pastor Renee Liabraaten (who led us in our very successful last Capital Appeal).

Lots of fun events and information will be coming in the next few weeks so keep your eyes open!

Please note, on April 29th there will be only one service at 10am as we officially kick off our Appeal followed by a lunch in Founders' Hall. Mark your calendars today!



FEEDING THE HUNGRY—CASSEROLE DAY—April 21st

Join us for Casserole Day on Saturday, April 21st at 8 A.M. It takes ten to fifteen people to help feed over 200 people. Consider it a great activity to do with the whole family. Even school aged children can help in our assembly line by putting together bag lunches. Older kids can help make PB & J sandwiches. You do not need to commit in advance. Join us for an hour or two. Adults and teens can help in the kitchen. We also need 2-3 people willing to drive the casseroles and bag lunches to Germantown and help carry them into the kitchen. Please call Joan Jenaway if you are able to help at 610-337-7264.

HEARTS & HANDS

Please join the ladies of Hearts & Hands each Wednesday from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. as we plan activities and work on mission projects. Our patterns for blankets, afghans, sweaters and pillow cases designated by Linus, World Vision and Con-Kerr Cancer are simple. If you enjoy sewing, knitting or crocheting please consider joining us in creating these worthy 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 schn2@webtv.net or the church office at 610-265-4545 or gskopstaff@verizon.net.



In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life we share the news of the passing of

Good Shepherd member:

Selma Smith † January 1, 2018



Gifts were received from Pastor John & Joanne Kerr in memory of Richard Stambaugh and from Lisa Santini in memory of Herm Schaeff (father of Kerstin Zadrejko). Additional gifts were given in memory of long time member, Russell Polinka by Linda Quam, Edith Procopio, Pastor John & Joanne Kerr and Lisa Santini.

Pastor Paul Howells was remembered by Linda Mack and the women of Hearts and Hands by gifts in his memory. We are very thankful for the generosity of our members for these gifts. All memorial money will be used in the best manner possible to enrich and support our ministry at Good Shepherd as well as enhance our property.



New Adult Study!

Living the Questions

April 25th, May 2nd, May 9th

(Wednesdays from 7 - 8pm in the church library)

Participants will be invited into a safe environment where they can ask the questions they may have been afraid to ask. After watching the video, we will open the class up for discussion. Come for one or come for all sessions. Each class stands independently.

THE TOPICS WE WILL BE DISCUSSING ARE:

April 25th—Evil, Suffering and A God Of Love

May 2nd—The Prophetic Jesus

May 9th —Practicing Resurrection



MANNA MONDAY, APRIL 23RD—6:00 P.M.

TOPIC: KEEPING OUR CHURCH SAFE

At this Manna Monday, our speaker will be a Police Officer from The Upper Merion Township Police Department.

The Police Officer will be discussing ways to keep our church safe. In today's climate, this subject is important. Please join us for this informative evening.



\$596.00 has been received by Good Shepherd this year through February 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 bpetroske99@gmail.com.



The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

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Web: www.gskop.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Shepherd's News Spring 2018

JUNE · JULY · AUGUST NEWSLETTER DEADLINE...Wednesday, May 9th

Please submit your articles to the Church Office using pink form in "forms" slot in front of mail cart.
Place forms in "Office" slot or email your print ready article to 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.
Summer Worship Schedule begins May 27, 2018—One Service—9:30A.M.

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

Pastor—Julie DeWerth 610-308-2675
Vicar—Rachel Scheible 610-265-4545
Director of Music Ministries—Ross Boerner 610-272-0410
Parish Administrator—Kay Shinnars 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 juliedewerth@gmail.com
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Music Mail goodshepmusic@yahoo.com
Preschool gskoppreschool@verizon.net

