

The Shepherd's News

132 East Valley Forge Road · King of Prussia · Pennsylvania 19406 · 610.265.4545
March 2021 · April 2021 · May 2021



Spring 2021

Brothers and Sisters,

We are fast approaching the one year anniversary of the Covid-19 shutdown. The exact date that each of us will mark the anniversary will be different. Some of us will mark it as March 13th, the day President Trump declared Covid-19 a National Emergency. I know a woman who travels for a living and marks it as March 6th. It was the day that her company pulled her off the road. She hasn't traveled since. I mark it as March 12th. It was on that Thursday that I met with the choir and we decided to suspend in-person worship ... at least for a week or two. Who could have predicted what the year ahead would hold?!

Covid-19 has turned our lives upside down; from our workplaces, to our schools to our church. Each day seems to take us further into a state of unsettling unknowns. We don't know if we should make plans to travel this summer or if our children will all be back in school this coming fall or when we will be back holding in-person worship. The truth is we have very little idea of when the restrictions that we have gotten so used to will end and so, we have no choice but to learn how to dwell in the uncertainty.

And yet, in a world where so much is uncertain, there is one thing of which we can be certain and that is Christ our Lord. In a world where so much is unsure, of this we can be sure ... that Jesus, who died on the cross, lives so that we too might have life, and have it in abundance. This is our sure and certain hope.

During these uncertain times I find myself praying a prayer found in our *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* Vesper's Service. I invite you to pray it as well during these days this Lenten season.

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessed Lent,

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

Pastor Julie DeWerth

Sunday · March 28, 2021 † PALM SUNDAY

Worship 9:30 A.M.
Palms to go: 10:30 A.M.-11:45 A.M.

Thursday · April 1, 2021 † MAUNDY THURSDAY

Worship 7:00 P.M.

Friday · April 2, 2021 † GOOD FRIDAY

Worship 7:00 P.M.

Sunday · April 4, 2021

† THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD †

Worship 9:30 A.M.

Please note: All worship service are held online only. When we begin having in-person worship, you will be notified through the weekly email blast. The announcement will also be posted on our Website and Facebook page.



American Red Cross

MARCH OUTREACH—AMERICAN RED CROSS

The March Outreach funds will support the **American Red Cross**. We have all seen the devastation in Texas following the winter storms. The **American Red Cross** is there to help by helping to provide much needed shelter, food and water. The crisis has also affected the blood supply and they are working to increase the donations to meet the higher demand. To donate, designate to Outreach funds for March. *Checks may be made payable to Good Shepherd and marked "Outreach."*

APRIL OUTREACH—GOODWILL INDUSTRIES



The April Outreach funds will support **Goodwill Industries**. **Goodwill Industries** does more than collect donations to sell at discount prices at their retail stores. Their mission states that Goodwill works to enhance people's dignity and quality of life by strengthening their communities, eliminating their barriers to opportunity, and helping them reach their full potential through learning and the power of work. They help people find jobs and help them attain the skills they need to get those jobs. To donate, designate to Outreach funds for April. *Checks may be made payable to Good Shepherd and marked "Outreach."*



MAY OUTREACH—BABY MANNA

So many families are in great need due to loss of jobs and financial challenges. Families with babies are especially hard hit. Philabundance's BabyFood program (AKA BabyManna) provides families served by our member agency network with access to formula – which might otherwise be too expensive for those in need. In honor of Mother's Day, we have designated **Baby Manna** as the recipient of our May Outreach funds. To donate, designate to Outreach funds for May. *Checks may be made payable to Good Shepherd and marked "Outreach."*



PRESCHOOL NEWS

Registration has begun for the 2021-2022 school year. Classes are available for children ages 2 through 5. Contact Diane Smith at 610-265-0733 for more information.



THANK YOU FOR A SUPER SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY!

The response was fantastic! Good Shepherd raised \$1,800.00
 Your participation in this annual outreach is appreciated!
 Proceeds are used to purchase gift cards for people who come to the church office during the week seeking assistance.

Lent at Good Shepherd - 2021

During the Wednesdays in Lent you will experience the tradition of Vespers, or "Evening Prayer". An early name for Vespers is *lucernarium*; literally translated from Latin as "lamp-lighting time" which refers to the candles lit for the services when they were held in the early evening.

On weeks 1, 3, and 5 we will offer different versions of this sacred service: the ELW vespers service, the LBW vespers service, and the Holden Evening Prayer.

On weeks 2 and 4 we will offer a *lucernarium* for the world. We will pray for all peoples and nations of the world by using a new liturgical experience here at Good Shepherd- **and we'd like you to participate!**

Email the office at gskopstaff@verizon.net and use the subject line "*Lenten Prayers*" to let us know the names of people, situations, cities, or countries that you've read about in the paper or heard about on the news that need our prayers. They are due at noon the Monday before the service. Perhaps you'd like to pray for peace in a war-zone or for healing in a city dealing with unrest. Simply send us those details and we will offer up your prayers anonymously. When we worship, our collective prayer requests will scroll across the livestream video. We will light candles on your behalf and place them on a large map of the world as a physical representation of your prayers. It is sure to be a beautiful moment when you'll see the world illuminated with prayers.

Wednesday Evening Lenten Worship

All services will be held live via our YouTube channel at 7:00pm

March 3rd

Holden: For the Healing of the Nations

(Prayer requests due by noon, March 1.)

Email prayer requests to gskopstaff@verizon.net

March 10th

Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW/Green Book) Vespers Service

March 17th

Holden: For the Healing of the Nations

(Prayer requests due by noon, March 15.)

Email prayer requests to gskopstaff@verizon.net

EASTER FLOWERS



This is a wonderful way to honor or remember someone at Easter. Please mail or drop off an envelope for Easter flowers to the church office. Include the names of the people you would like to remember or honor on the outside of the envelope. The cost of each plant is \$10. Orders should be placed before Monday, March 29th. Flowers may be picked up the week after Easter during office hours 9:00 am-12:00 pm. Please call 610-265-4545 or email the church office at gskopstaff@verizon.net to make pick-up arrangements.

ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING

The annual meeting was held on January 31st via Zoom. The reports of all of the church committees were reviewed. The newly elected council members are Dave Forney, Stephanie Lutz, Pam Kamat and Dave Satterfield to serve three-year terms on Council. The Nominating Committee presented Dwanna Whiting to complete the final year of the term of Theresa Haenn.

The 2021 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 at gskopstaff@verizon.net. The 2021 Council has met and was organized as follows:

Ivana Anderson, President—Evangelism

Ed Price, Vice President—Property

Lisa Hand, Secretary—Personnel

Karen Lehman, Treasurer

Peter Fleischer—Finance

Dave Forney—Memorials and Gifts

Tim Glickman—Fellowship

Sue Groff—Christian Education

Pam Kamat—Worship and Music

Stephanie Lutz—Youth Ministry

Andy Restad—Preschool

Dave Satterfield—Stewardship

Dwanna Whiting—Outreach



Council members' names appear in bold print and are a liaison to the committee which appears next to their name.

Monday's at Good Shepherd

First Monday of the month is Pub Theology at 7:00 P.M.

March 1st, April 5th and May 3rd via Zoom.

Second Monday of the month are Committee Meetings

If you serve on a committee please check with your committee chairperson to see if your committee is meeting.

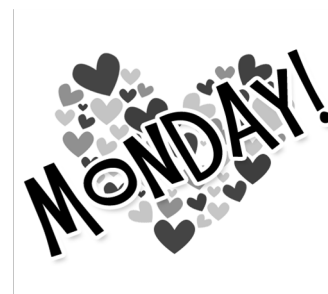
Third Monday of the month is Council Meeting at 7:00 P.M.

March 15th, April 19th and May 17th via Zoom.

Fourth Monday of the month is Book Club at 7:00 p.m

March 22nd, April 26th and May 24th via Zoom.

Zoom links are shared through the weekly email blasts.



You may also email the church office at gskopstaff@verizon.net to have the link sent to you.

LEARNING THE WILDERNESS: PRACTICES OF LENT THROUGH THE AGES

Every year around Lent, there are many who look around for what they can give up. This practice of “giving up x, y, z for Lent” certainly might be a familiar one. During this series, we will journey into the wilderness of Lenten practices and see what we might uncover. Beginning with the history of Lent, we will explore Jesus’ time in the wilderness and what it might say to us and our practices today. In particular, we will review and discuss praying, fasting, and almsgiving over three consecutive Tuesdays. Maybe Lent is not, after all, about “giving up” something, maybe it is about offering something instead. Join us in wilderness wonder this Spring. Vicar Tom Natalini will lead us in this study.

Praying March 2, 2021, at 7 pm

Fasting March 9, 2021, at 7 pm

Almsgiving March 16, 2021, at 7pm

Please look for the zoom link in the weekly email blast or email the church office at gskopstaff@verizon.net for the Zoom link.

Good Shepherd Virtual Passover

Join us on Saturday, March 27th at 4:30 pm for our first Virtual Passover.

We will follow the traditional form of the Passover Seder meal which has been observed by Jews for thousands of years. Listen, learn and participate in this joyful service that includes the whole family!

More information is coming soon, including an email announcement with:

- A sign-up link, to help us with the planning
- A list of special foods to prepare for the seder dish
- A hagadah (order of service) for us all to print at home, follow and take part in
- A zoom link for the event

All are welcome to attend this virtual event, even if you do not sign up.

If you do not receive the weekly email blasts, please email the church office at gskopstaff@verizon.net for the Zoom link.

PALMS TO GO

Palm Sunday, March 28th: Between 10:30 am and 11:45 am you are invited to come to the hill and pick up a palm. The palms will be spread out on tables in front of the church’s red doors. They will be put there by someone who has sanitized their hands. You are invited to get out of your car and pick up your palm. Pastor Julie will be there to greet you, standing 6 feet behind the tables. An offering plate will be on the table with the palms if you would like to drop off your offering.



PUB THEOLOGY WILL CONTINUE THROUGH THE SPRING MONTHS THROUGH ZOOM

Spring Pub Theology gatherings will begin at 7:00 pm on the dates below. Links and passwords will be sent out before each event via the weekly email blast.

Please join us on the following Mondays!

March 1st What one piece of advice would you offer a child?

April 5th If you could ask God one question what would you ask?

May 3rd If you could be present for one event from the Bible what would it be?

Please contact Karen Reimet with any questions: karenreimet@gmail.com

Spring Meal Ministry

We continue to serve warm meals as take-out to our cousins at the **Cecil and Grace Bean Soup Kitchen**. Although guests are still not allowed to dine in due to Covid restrictions, we serve them a warm meal to go. We follow strict protocols to keep everyone safe. A small group of volunteers meet to make casseroles at 10:30 am at Good Shepherd and another group of volunteers join us in serving our “cousins” at the soup kitchen in Norristown at 12:30 pm. Upcoming dates are Saturdays 3/20, 4/17 and 5/15.

Call or email Janice Rackovan at 610-715-2601 or email at jcrackovan@gmail.com, if you are interested in helping.



GOOD SHEPHERD BLOOD DRIVE
Friday, March 19, 2021. 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! Please call 610-265-4545 or email the church office at gskopstaff@verizon.net and let us know you want to donate. You may also log onto the Red Cross website (redcrossblood.org) to make an appointment to donate. *Thank you for considering this vital outreach!*





WOMEN'S RETREAT
For the Women of Good Shepherd and their Friends
September 24th and 25th

The Daylesford Abbey in Paoli will host our Retreat from 7:00 pm on Friday, September 24, 2021 until 2:30pm on Saturday, September 25, 2021.

You will have the option to either stay overnight or just come for the day on Saturday.

Feel free to bring a friend! As the event date gets closer, details will be made available.

Feel free to check out the new facility: <https://daylesford.org/spirituality-center/group-retreats/>.

This year's theme is **Ch-ch-ch-changes....Resting in God.** "Be present, merciful God ... that in the changes and chances of life, we may find rest in you." Life is full of transitions. Some more joyful and some more painful than others. Where and how do we find our place in the journeys? During our time together we will think and pray about making each transition. Please bring something that represents a joyful transition and a challenging (or painful) transition that you are willing to share. This year's speaker is Pastor Ghislaine Cotnoir.

Pastor Ghislaine Cotnoir received her M. Div. in 1986 from the Lutheran Seminary at Philadelphia (now United Lutheran Seminary). She was ordained the following year accepting a call to a congregation in Rochester NY. Most of her ministry has been in chaplaincy sites spanning the age range. She is trained as an Interim Pastor and has served in many congregations and agencies in Upstate New York and Southeastern PA synods. Pastor G is mom to two grown daughters.

Look for additional details this summer. Remember to Save the Date!

Save the Date!

CONFIRMATION

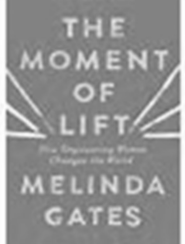
Sunday, April 18th at 9:30 am



FIRST COMMUNION.

Sunday, April 25th at 9:30 am

SPRING BOOK CLUBS AT GOOD SHEPHERD
Via Zoom: Links are sent out in the weekly email blasts.



MONDAY, MARCH 22nd

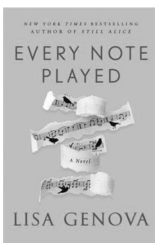
The Moment of Lift: How Empowering Women Changes the World

For the last twenty years, Melinda Gates has been on a mission. Her goal, as co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, has been to find solutions for people with the most urgent needs, wherever they live. Throughout this journey, one thing has become increasingly clear to her: If you want to lift a society up, invest in women.

In this candid and inspiring book, Gates traces her awakening to the link between women's empowerment and the health of societies. She shows some of the tremendous opportunities that exist right now to “turbo-charge” change. And she provides simple and effective ways each one of us can make a difference.

Throughout, Gates introduces us to her heroes in the movement towards equality, offers startling data, shares moving conversations she's had with women from all over the world—and shows how we can all get involved.

A personal statement of passionate conviction, this book tells of Gates' journey from a partner working behind the scenes to one of the world's foremost advocates for women, driven by the belief that no one should be excluded, all lives have equal value, and gender equity is the lever that lifts everything.



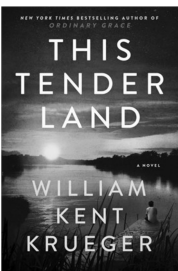
MONDAY, APRIL 26th

Every Note Played

An accomplished concert pianist, Richard received standing ovations from audiences all over the world in awe of his rare combination of emotional resonance and flawless technique. That was eight months ago. Richard now has ALS, and his entire right arm is paralyzed. His fingers are impotent, still, devoid of possibility. The loss of his hand feels like a death, a loss of true love, a divorce—his divorce. He knows his left arm will go next.

Three years ago, Karina removed their framed wedding picture from the living room wall and hung a mirror there instead. But she still hasn't moved on. Karina is paralyzed by excuses and fear, stuck in an unfulfilling life as a piano teacher, afraid to pursue the path she abandoned as a young woman, blaming Richard and their failed marriage for all of it.

When Richard becomes increasingly paralyzed and is no longer able to live on his own, Karina becomes his reluctant caretaker. As Richard's muscles, voice, and breath fade, both he and Karina try to reconcile their past before it's too late.



MONDAY, MAY 24th

This Tender Land

In the summer of 1932, on the banks of Minnesota's Gilead River, the Lincoln Indian Training School is a pitiless place where Native American children, forcibly separated from their parents, are sent to be educated. It is also home to Odie O'Banion, a lively orphan boy whose exploits constantly earn him the superintendent's wrath. Odie and his brother, Albert, are the only white faces among the hundreds of Native American children at the school.

After committing a terrible crime, Odie and Albert are forced to flee for their lives along with their best friend, Mose, a mute young man of Sioux heritage. Out of pity, they also take with them a brokenhearted little girl named Emmy. Together, they steal away in a canoe, heading for the mighty Mississippi in search for a place to call home.

Over the course of one unforgettable summer, these four orphan vagabonds journey into the unknown, crossing paths with others who are adrift, from struggling farmers and traveling faith healers to displaced families and lost souls of all kinds. With the feel of a modern classic, *This Tender Land* is an en-thralling, bighearted epic that shows how the magnificent American landscape connects us all, haunts our dreams, and makes us whole.

CAPITAL APPEAL UPDATE

As you recall, in June of 2018 Good Shepherd embarked on a Capital Appeal “Renewing God’s House.” Various building items were identified as targets that would/should be repaired/replaced to maintain a viable facility.

With a goal of \$400,000, the Appeal effort garnered over \$220,000 in pledges from those who returned commitment cards.

As of June of 2020, Good Shepherd has received \$136,670 from all sources, not just from documented commitments made. This equates to 61% of the pledged total, but 35% to the Goal.

Adding in Appeal funds received for the balance of 2020 we ended the calendar year with \$162,588. If anyone has specific questions regarding commitments or receipts, feel free to reach out to me. (rc.irwin@yahoo.com)

We all know how our world was turned sideways in 2020; the word “Unprecedented” has been so over-used that it is now another kind of routine.

As we head into the home stretch of the last few months of the Appeal term, please prayerfully consider your continued ability to bolster the appeal balances so that we can emerge from these times with a focus on an energized, renewed commitment and the ability to act on those targeted facility improvements that will help our ministries to move forward with confidence.

Respectfully,

Bob Irwin
Capital Appeal Secretary



In sure and certain hope of the
resurrection to eternal life we remember the following
Good Shepherd member and past members
who recently passed into God’s Kingdom:

June Bachmann † Ruth Mitchell † Shirley Nielsen

Mary Hunter Scholarship

Established to honor her memory, this scholarship will be available to any graduating high school senior and/or Good Shepherd Seminarian who is a confirmed member of our congregation.

Please watch the weekly email blasts in the month of March for eligibility requirements and how to apply! The application deadline is **Thursday, April 1st**.

SPRING WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT GOOD SHEPHERD

MARCH 2021

Wed. March 3rd	Holden: For the Healing of the Nations
Sun. March 7th	Third Sunday in Lent
Wed. March 10th	Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW/Green Book) Vespers Service
Sun. March 14th	Fourth Sunday in Lent
Wed. March 17th	Holden: For the Healing of the Nations
Sun. March 21st	Fifth Sunday in Lent. Lay Preacher is Pam Kamat
Wed. March 24th	Holden Evening Prayer
Sun. March 28th	Passion/Palm Sunday

APRIL 2021

Thu. April 1st	Maundy Thursday
Fri. April 2nd	Good Friday
Sun. April 4th	Easter Day
Sun. April 11th	Second Sunday of Easter
Sun. April 18th	Third Sunday of Easter/Confirmation
Sun. April 25th	Fourth Sunday of Easter/First Communion

MAY 2021

Sun. May 2nd	Fifth Sunday of Easter
Sun. May 9th	Sixth Sunday of Easter
Sun. May 16th	Ascension of Our Lord
Sun. May 23rd	Pentecost Sunday
Sun. May 30th	The Holy Trinity

All services may be viewed on the Good Shepherd YouTube Channel
 Sunday Services begin at 9:30 am
 Evening Services begin at 7:00 pm

Please note: All worship service are held online only. When we begin having in-person worship you will be notified through the weekly email blast. The announcement will also be posted on our Website and Facebook page.



THANK YOU FROM GEMMA SERVICES (SILVER SPRINGS MARTIN LUTHER SCHOOL)

December 23, 2020

Dear Pastor DeWerth,

We are thankful to you and everyone at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for thinking of the precious children and youth of Gemma Services (formed by the merger of the Village and Silver Springs-Martin Luther School) during this holiday season.

Thank you for your donation of a variety of gift cards totaling \$875.00 delivered along with Christmas gifts, which will help us create special lifelong memories for our boys and girls this Christmas!

For many of our youth, this may be the first time they experience an abundant holiday season. Thanks to the generosity of friends like you, we can ensure the children experience a bright and joyful holiday season.

Sincerely,
Lynn Unipan, MSW, CFRE
Chief Development Officer.

THANK YOU FROM UPPER MERION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dear Friends of Good Shepherd -

On behalf of the Upper Merion Area High School and School District, we are yet again exceedingly grateful of your generosity and care during this Christmas season.

The blessing of your gift card donations has helped make some of our high school students so happy and appreciative that they will have gifts

to open on Christmas morning!

As you can imagine, this year in particular has been so very difficult for families who have struggled with loss of housing, employment and hope.

Thank you so very much for your compassion and empathy.

Christmas blessings to you and yours!

Brea Truoto, UMASD Social Worker

The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

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Email: gskopstaff@verizon.net
Web: www.gskop.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Shepherd's News Spring 2021

JUNE · JULY · AUGUST NEWSLETTER DEADLINE ... Monday, May 17th

Please email your print ready article to gskopstaff@verizon.net.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday
9:00 A.M. – Noon

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30 am Virtual Worship Services
Watch the weekly email blast for changes.

Please note: All worship service are held online only. When we begin having in-person worship, you will be notified through the weekly email blast. The announcement will also be posted on our Website and Facebook page.

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

Pastor—Julie DeWerth 610-308-2675
Vicar—Tom Natalini 610-265-4545
Director of Music Ministries—Ross Boerner 484-369-1017
Parish Administrator—Kay Shinnars 610-265-4545
Preschool Director—Diane Smith 610-265-0733
Sexton—Ray Erwin 610-265-4545

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Pastor's Mail juliedewerth@gmail.com
Vicar Tom tnatalini@uls.edu
Office Mail gskopstaff@verizon.net
Music Mail goodshepmusic@yahoo.com
Preschool gskoppreschool@verizon.net

