



# The Shepherd's News

132 East Valley Forge Road · King of Prussia · Pennsylvania · 19406  
December 2021 · January 2022 · February 2022



Good Shepherd Friends,

Poet and novelist Robert Lewis Stevenson was frequently ill as a child. He was prone to severe respiratory infections and so, in an abundance of caution, his parents often kept him inside, away from other children. Maybe all that time alone helped fuel his imagination.

The story is told that one night his nurse spotted him with his nose pressed up against the frosty pane of his bedroom window. He refused his nurse's pleas to get back into bed. Robert stood at the window spellbound, watching a lamplighter slowly making his way through the black night, lighting each street lamp along his route. Pointing at the lamplighter, Robert turned to his nurse and said, "See; look there; there's a man poking holes in the darkness." It must have been an amazing sight to see because not only was he able to see the lamplighter light each individual lamp, he could see the trail of lights that he left behind him.

You and I are 21st century lamplighters. Each week during the season of Advent we light an additional candle on the wreath, poking holes in the darkness of the world. By the time we get to the Fourth Sunday of Advent there will be a ring of light. And then, on Christmas Eve, we will celebrate the birth of the one who shines into the darkness of this world; the one whom no darkness can overcome.

My prayer is that not only during the season of Advent, but all through the year, you are poking holes into the darkness of this world, leaving a trail of light and love wherever you go. The light of the Christ Child shines in you and it is through you, that Christ's light will shine into the lives of those who are hurting and in pain. You are a lamplighter whenever you feed the hungry, console the grieving and stand up for those who stand on the margins. Like the lamplighter, your actions speak louder than any sermon a person will ever hear.

Join your fellow lamplighters in worship during this season of Advent as together we poke holes in the darkness of our world.

Peace,

Pastor Julie

## THANK YOU FROM PASTOR COURTNEY SMITH

Thank you to everyone who gathered in person and online to celebrate my ordination into the ministry of Word and Sacrament. It was at Good Shepherd where I was baptized and confirmed, where I grew up playing handbells, singing in the choir, and participating in the youth group. It was an honor to celebrate this important milestone in the church where I took my first steps as a baby alongside the people who have supported me on every step since. Thank you for all the ways you have supported me, for all the leadership, guidance, friendship, and encouragement.

You can follow my journey as Pastor at Messiah Lutheran Church in Oakland, NJ through the church's Facebook and Instagram!

Thank you and God Bless,  
+ Pastor Courtney Smith

**OUTREACH IN DECEMBER**—The December Outreach funds will support **The ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission** program which invites ELCA young adults ages 21-29 into a transformative, year-long journey in international service. As they offer themselves in service, ELCA young adults are shaped by the witness of our global neighbors. They share in the journeys of companion churches and organizations in one of nine countries around the world. A year of service through the Young Adults in Global Mission program invites young adults to become the hands and feet of Jesus in the world, providing critical support to ministries and projects in communities of need. It also invites volunteers into a journey of self-reflection, providing space to consider their sense of identity, God's work in the world, and their place within it all. *Checks may be made payable to Good Shepherd and designated for "Outreach."*

**OUTREACH IN JANUARY**—The January Outreach funds will support **Lutheran Disaster Response**. Due to the ongoing need following recent disasters such as Hurricane Ida, outreach funds for the month of January will go to support Lutheran Disaster Response. This is a service provided by the ELCA to bring hope and healing to people here in the US and around the world whose lives have been devastated by disasters. They work with other relief organizations in these hard hit areas by providing emotional and spiritual support, coordinating volunteers, assisting refugees and providing long-term recovery efforts. They will continue to be there for what comes next with our help. *Checks may be made payable to Good Shepherd and designated for "Outreach."*

**OUTREACH IN FEBRUARY**—The February Outreach funds will support **Bear Creek Camp**. Their mission stays the same; to help individuals explore, celebrate and grow in God's creation. Bear Creek Camp is a ministry of the Southeastern and Northeastern Pennsylvania Synods of the ELCA. Located in the beauty of the Pocono Mountains, they offer year-round opportunities, including summer residential youth camp, nature day camp, environmental education programs, weekend camp retreats and outside group rentals. *Checks may be made payable to Good Shepherd and designated for "Outreach."*

### ALTAR FLOWERS and CHURCH BULLETINS



A flower and bulletin sign-up will be sent out before the end of the year in the weekly email blast. The cost for altar flowers is \$20.00. The cost of the bulletins is \$10.00. Each week, the flowers are available for you to pick up from the Church office. Please call ahead during regular office hours to make arrangements to pick up your altar flowers. *Checks may be made payable to Good Shepherd and designated for "Flowers or bulletins". You may also call the church office to sign up.*

### 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. There are envelopes posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. You may also mail or drop off an envelope for the poinsettia plant. Please 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 December 20th.** You may pick up your plants after January 2nd.

### GIFT CARDS FOR UPPER MERION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



We have once again joined forces with the Upper Merion School District in order to meet a need that has come to our attention. The worshipping communities in the township have been asked to provide gift cards for the upper level students who might otherwise have a very sparse holiday. We will be providing \$10 and \$25 gift cards to Target and Walmart. If you are able, please either mail or drop off your donation to the church office Monday through Thursday between 9:00 am and noon clearly marked, "Upper Merion High School Student Gift Cards." You may either donate gift cards or money that we will turn into gift cards. We are collecting through Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. Thank you in advance for your continued generosity



## PUB THEOLOGY WILL CONTINUE THROUGH THE WINTER

Peppers by Amadeo's,  
175 Town Center Road, King of Prussia, PA 19406

**December 6, 2021** *What is your favorite quote or song or poem? Why?*

Bonus December question: *What is your favorite Christmas song?"*

**January 3, 2022** *"If we allow ourselves to become hopeless, we become part of the problem." ~ Brian Stevenson*

**February 7, 2022** *What would be the most ethical way to give away five million dollars?*

**Dining: 6:30pm to 7:15pm.** Everyone will pay on separate checks.

**Discussion: 7:15pm to 8:00pm** All ages interested in discussion are invited. Bring a friend.

In order to facilitate conversation, we will sit at multiple tables, instead of one giant table. Attendees who have not been fully vaccinated against Covid-19 will sit together at a table. If you have any questions, please contact Hele Vondra at [helevondra@hotmail.com](mailto:helevondra@hotmail.com).

*Peppers* has requested that we offer a limited 6 item menu. This does not include appetizers or desserts. The menu is below.

Penne & Chicken **\$18.00,**

Penne Primavera choice of cream sauce or garlic and oil **\$18.00**

Kale & Salmon Salad **\$18,** Meatball Parmigiana Sandwich **\$12.00**

Roast Pork Sandwich **\$12,** w/ Broccoli Rabe **\$14.00**

Balsamic Grilled Chicken w/Roasted Potatoes & Vegetable Medley **\$22.00**

All Sandwiches served with Chips



## SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY—February 13, 2022

While many of our families will be celebrating "Super Bowl" on Sunday, February 13th, 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 come to our door in need of groceries during the week. Donations will be collected at church and Sunday School. We need your help! (*Look for the "Souper Bowl Bank" in the Narthex.*)

## 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 permitted 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 the casseroles at 10:30 am at Good Shepherd and another group of volunteers join us in serving our "cousins" at the soup kitchen at 12:30pm. Upcoming dates are Saturdays, December 18, 2021, January 15, 2022 and February 19, 2022.

Call, text, or email Pam Satterfield at 610-804-9325. [pamsatterfield53@gmail.com](mailto:pamsatterfield53@gmail.com) if you are interesting in helping.



In sure and certain hope of the  
resurrection to eternal life we remember the following  
who have entered the church triumphant:

† Ray Erwin †

Ray was Good Shepherd's Sexton since February 1999.



## GOOD SHEPHERD PRESCHOOL

Registration for the 2022-2023 school year will begin in January. Morning classes are available for children ages 2-5. Please contact Diane Smith at 610-265-0733 or [gskoppreschool@verizon.net](mailto:gskoppreschool@verizon.net).



## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 2022 at 10:45AM

Please look for the details and zoom link in upcoming weekly email blasts.

## WANT TO SAVE ON TAXES? WANT TO HELP GOOD SHEPHERD AT THE SAME TIME? WIN WIN FOR ALL!

As you plan your donations to Good Shepherd, here are a couple of tax strategies that might benefit you either now or in the future...

1. If you are older than 72 1/2 years and you draw down your Traditional IRA Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), the amount you take will be counted as taxable income to you. However, if you give a portion of your RMD to Good Shepherd (up to \$100,000) that amount will not count as taxable income to you, which could save you money and at the same time help Good Shepherd. You would simply have the company holding your IRA send the amount you desire directly to Good Shepherd. *Win-win situation for you and Good Shepherd!*
2. The stock market has done pretty well over the last few years, so if you have appreciated stocks that you have held for longer than a year, you can direct shares to Good Shepherd and take a charitable contribution and avoid paying taxes on the capital gain of those shares. *Win-win situation for you and Good Shepherd!*
3. You might consider whether it makes sense for you to make two years worth of your giving to Good Shepherd in one year, as that may give you the opportunity to take a charitable deduction this year. If you are interested in that, please let us know so that we can apportion your gift for 2021 and 2022.

As with all matters involving your financial plans, it is suggested that you speak to your financial advisor since everyone's tax and financial situation is unique.

## YEAR END REMINDERS FROM THE TREASURER

Despite the pandemic, Good Shepherd has been able to remain financially positive thanks to everyone who has continued to send in their offering via the mail and online banking. To insure proper inclusion of your gifts in the year 2021, please mail them in early enough so that we receive them before making a year-end deposit. If you plan to make an extra donation for Christmas, make sure to write "Christmas" on the memo line of your check. When we begin the new year, please be careful when writing the date as the bank will reject checks with the incorrect year. Blessings to all!

## BAPTISMS AT GOOD SHEPHERD

*Heidi Helen Boyer*  
Daughter of Rick and Emily Boyer  
September 26, 2021



*Cali Ann Dingman*  
Daughter of Dan and Shannon Dingman  
September 26, 2021

*Quinn Lillian Rosenkranz*  
Daughter of Jamie and Tracey Rosenkranz  
September 26, 2021

## ***DECEMBER WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT GOOD SHEPHERD***

### **December 5th—2nd Sunday of Advent**

9:30 AM Service—Lighting of 2nd candle on the Advent Wreath

### **December 12th—3rd Sunday of Advent**

9:30 AM Service—Lighting of 3rd candle on the Advent Wreath

### **December 19th—4th Sunday of Advent**

9:30 AM Service—Lighting of 4th candle on the Advent Wreath

### **Friday, December 24th—Christmas Eve**

5:00 PM Outdoor Carols and Candlelight

5:30PM-6:15 PM—Live Nativity Viewing

7:00 PM and 9:00PM—Traditional Candlelight Worship

### **December 26th—1st Sunday of Christmas**

9:30 AM Service (Lessons and Carols) **Wear your ugly Christmas Sweater to church.**



## ***JANUARY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES***

January 2nd—The Epiphany of Our Lord—9:30 AM Service

January 9th—The Baptism of Our Lord—9:30 AM Service

January 16th—2nd Sunday after the Epiphany—9:30 AM Service

January 23rd—3rd Sunday after the Epiphany—9:30 AM Service

January 30th—4th Sunday after the Epiphany—9:30 AM Service

## ***FEBRUARY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES***

February 6th—5th Sunday after the Epiphany—9:30 AM Service

February 13th—6th Sunday after the Epiphany—9:30 AM Service

Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday (see page 3)

February 20th—7th Sunday after the Epiphany—9:30 AM Service

February 27th—Transfiguration of Our Lord—9:30 AM Service

Farewell to Alleluia

***Look for announcements in the weekly email blasts.***

**Save the Date for the First  
Good Shepherd Camping Weekend!  
March 11-13, 2022**

**Who?** Young, old, single, married, children, no children ...  
All are welcome!

**What?** A time for fellowship and enjoying the great outdoors.

**When?** March 11 - 13, 2022. We will arrive around 7 (after dinner) on Friday and leave on Sunday around noon.

**Where?** At Bear Creek Lutheran Camp in the Poconos  
(about a 1:45 - 2:00 hour drive from King of Prussia).

Additional information will be available in January.



## The Music Ministry of Good Shepherd



Our fall music season is well under way! Our Chancel Ringers are back at full strength and ringing to God's glory and our Chancel Choir is back in the loft each Sunday – and with a number of new singers! We are so very pleased to welcome those new folks into our flock. (Be sure to say “hi” to them!) And of course, our faithful instrumentalists and vocalists have been busy offering special music on a regular basis.

**As we approach Christmas Eve**, I'm pleased that we'll be offering a more familiar experience this year. **We'll be having two indoor services at 7:00pm and 9:00pm.** Our Chancel Choir will be present at both services to offer their two anthems and our Ringers will be at the 7pm; a bell duet will be offered at 9pm. Of course, it's wonderful that we'll all be together to sing those great Christmas hymns!

**Earlier in the evening at 5:00pm**, we'll have an outdoor Carols and Candlelight service around the manger and live nativity (Yes, there will be sheep!). The service will have a few short readings and we'll sing familiar carols; ending with the singing of “Silent Night” by candlelight. You may stay from 5:30pm-6:15pm to visit with the animals – and of course take some selfies with them!

Also in December, we're happy to welcome **The Norristown Chorale** back to our sanctuary for their Christmas concert, “Sing We Now of Christmas” on **Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30pm**. Free tickets are needed to attend for distancing purposes. Those can be obtained at [www.norristownchorale.com](http://www.norristownchorale.com). Masks are also required for everyone attending.

Things are alive and well here at Good Shepherd as we continue to make our way through and out of this pandemic. Even if some things aren't exactly as *you* would like them to be; we are on the move and are all in this together as we continue to make decisions that benefit everyone as a whole.

Romans 12:12 says, “Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer”.

Musically Yours,  
Ross



### Women's Retreat

Our much-loved annual Good Shepherd Women's Retreat will take place on the beautiful 80 acres of Daylesford Abbey in Paoli. The retreat lasts from **Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm to Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> 2:30pm**. Stay overnight or just come for the day on Saturday. Bring a friend!

Detailed information available on this sign-up link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0949A4AB2DA0F85-20221>

**This year's program : *That I Should Still Hope: A Retreat for the Replenishment of the Soul*** “*What strength do I have, that I should still hope? What prospects, that I should be patient?*” Job 6:11

**Our program leader** the Rev. Leslie M. Richard, MA was ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in 1989, and has served in a variety of pastoral settings, including solo, team, and transitional pastorates, and has recently served as the Dean of Delaware Conference of Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod. Pastor Richard is a trained Spiritual Director with a specialized Synodical call to Spiritual Direction, as well as a private practice in Spiritual Direction. Pastor Richard earned a Bachelor of Arts in History at Gettysburg College in 1985, and Master of Divinity at The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia in 1989. In 2008 she received a Master of Arts in Holistic Spirituality, and a Certificate in Spiritual Direction from Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia, and in 2014 received a Certificate in Supervision of Spiritual Directors at Chestnut Hill College. Pastor Richard has two grown children and is married to The Rev. Karl M. Richard, Senior Pastor of St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Springfield, Delaware County, who is currently serving as Secretary of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA.

**WINTER BOOK CLUBS at GOOD SHEPHERD (7:00PM VIA ZOOM)**

Please look for the zoom link in the weekly email blast.

*Monday January 24, 2022—This Is How It Always Is* by Laurie Frankel



This is how a family keeps a secret...and how that secret ends up keeping them.

This is how a family lives happily ever after...until happily ever after becomes complicated.

This is how children change...and then change the world.

This is Claude. He's five years old, the youngest of five brothers, and loves peanut butter sandwiches. He also loves wearing a dress, and dreams of being a princess.

When he grows up, Claude says, he wants to be a girl.

Rosie and Penn want Claude to be whoever Claude wants to be. They're just not sure they're ready to share that with the world. Soon the entire family is keeping Claude's secret. Until one day it explodes.

*This Is How It Always Is* is a novel about revelations, transformations, fairy tales, and family. And it's about the ways this is how it always is: Change is always hard and miraculous and hard again, parenting is always a leap into the unknown with crossed fingers and full hearts, children grow but not always according to plan. And families with secrets don't get to keep them forever.

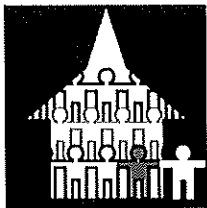
*Monday February 28, 2022—The Marsh King's Daughter* by Karen Dionne



The mesmerizing tale of a woman who must risk everything to hunt down the dangerous man who shaped her past and threatens to steal her future: her father.

Helena Pelletier has a loving husband, two beautiful daughters, and a business that fills her days. But she also has a secret: she is the product of an abduction. Her mother was kidnapped as a teenager by her father and kept in a remote cabin in the marshlands of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Helena, born two years after the abduction, loved her home in nature, and despite her father's sometimes brutal behavior, she loved him, too...until she learned precisely how savage he could be.

More than twenty years later, she has buried her past so soundly that even her husband doesn't know the truth. But now her father has killed two guards, escaped from prison, and disappeared into the marsh. The police begin a manhunt, but Helena knows they don't stand a chance. Knows that only one person has the skills to find the survivalist the world calls the Marsh King—because only one person was ever trained by him: his daughter.



**Become  
Part of  
Our  
Church  
Family**

**A NEW MEMBER CLASS** will be held on **January 16th and 23rd at 10:45 am.**

The class will be held in the church library. Pastor Julie will be holding the classes for people interested in exploring membership at Good Shepherd. New members will be received into membership at the 9:30 am service on **January 30th, attending these classes does not commit you to joining.** Babysitting will be available during the class.

Please contact the church office at 610-265-4545 or email [gskopstaff@verizon.net](mailto:gskopstaff@verizon.net) if you are interested in attending the class or you have any questions.

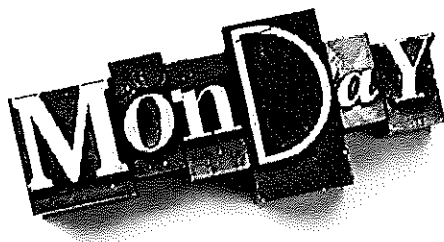
**Monday's at Good Shepherd**

First Monday of the Month is Pub Theology. (see page 3)  
December 6th, January 3rd and February 7th.

Second Monday of the Month is Committee Meeting Night  
Please check if your committee is meeting.

December 13th, January 10th and February 14th

Third Monday of the Month is Council Meeting



PEACE PEACE PEACE

# The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

132 East Valley Forge Road  
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406-2031  
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Web: [www.gskop.org](http://www.gskop.org)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## The Shepherd's News Winter 2021-2022

**MARCH • APRIL • MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE...MONDAY, February 14, 2022**

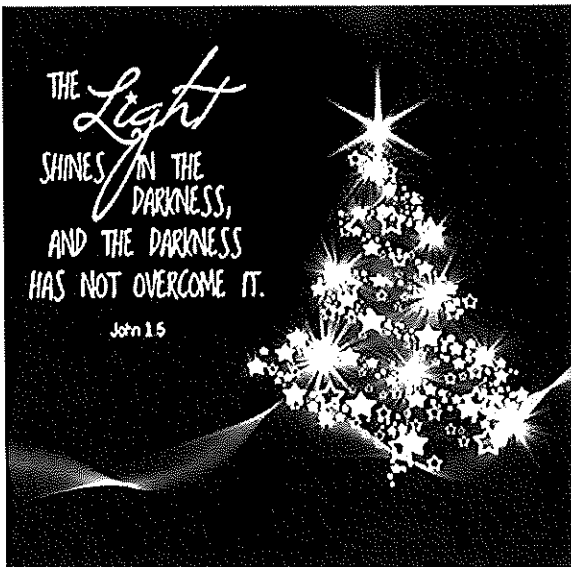
Please email your print ready article to [gskopstaff@verizon.net](mailto:gskopstaff@verizon.net).

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday: 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30 A.M. In person with masks and virtual worship  
via our YouTube Channel



### THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

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

### EMAIL ADDRESSES

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