

The Shepherd's News

132 East Valley Forge Road · King of Prussia · Pennsylvania 19406 · 610.265.4545
September 2022 · October 2022 · November 2022



Fall 2022

Brothers and Sisters,

#Blessed

If you are one of the many people who use social media, you might be familiar with “#Blessed.” This is how I have seen it used ...

I got a new car #Blessed

I got into my first choice of colleges #Blessed

I am getting married #Blessed

I scored two front seat tickets to Paul McCartney’s “Get Back Tour” #Blessed

I just got back from the best trip ever #Blessed

Needless to say, this is theologically problematic. After all, what does this say about the person who doesn’t have a new car, but instead a car that seems to break down every other day? Or what about the high school senior who doesn’t get into their first choice college, or their second or third? Or what about the person who hasn’t found someone with whom to spend their life (or did find someone but then they left). You see how problematic it is?

Sometimes I wonder if the term blessed has lost its meaning. Maybe calling something “blessed” has become a way for people to boast while pretending to be humble.

Maybe we need to take another look at the word “blessed” and recover its actual meaning. A blessing is not something that you receive from God for a job well done. A blessing is something that God freely gives because that is who God is. We don’t deserve to be blessed and we can’t earn blessings. They are gifts from God.

My favorite story of blessings is found in Genesis 12:2. God said to Abraham, “I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.” In other words we have been blessed so that we can go out and be a blessing to others. Our blessings do not lead to bragging but to generosity.

I hope that you will join me on Rally Day, Sunday, September 11th as we, who have been richly blessed, are a blessing to others.

9:30am Service of Holy Communion

“Bless the Backpacks” and those who wear them.

10:30am Assembling of 100 School Kits

We will have everything we need to make the kits ... we just need YOU to assemble them!

What a great way to be a blessing to children around the world. In addition, everyone will receive a Good Shepherd T-Shirt.

11:15am - 12:00 Brunch

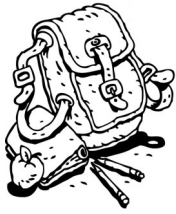
Join us for a light brunch before you are on your way!

I look forward to seeing you on September 11th as we give thanks for the blessings we have received by blessing others.

Peace,

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

Pastor Julie DeWerth



Bring your backpack on Rally Day for a Backpack Blessing during the Service

**RALLY DAY:
September 11, 2022**
Worship Service at 9:30am
Service Project, Food & Fellowship following the Service



Rally Day is the day when the church “rallies” together to launch all of the educational ministries and activities for the upcoming school year. We will celebrate Rally Day on September 11th with one Worship Service at 9:30am. During the Children’s Sermon, Pastor Julie will bless the backpacks. Bibles will be presented to students entering Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 5th, 6th and 7th Grades, as well as any youth who are recent new members. If you have a student who should be receiving a Bible and have not received an email from Karen Lehman, please contact her at karen_lehman@verizon.net.

Following worship, we will gather in Founders Hall for a service project (see details below) followed by time for food and fellowship. We hope you will join us for all or any portion of the morning festivities!



**RALLY DAY SERVICE PROJECT :
SCHOOL KITS FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF**

Many congregations in the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod will be holding service events on what the synod calls “God’s work. Our hands. Sunday.” We will be putting together 100 school kits for Lutheran World Relief. There are specific items that need to go in each kit and the entire congregation is invited to help purchase these items. We have been richly blessed. This is a tangible way for our children to learn and experience the joy of passing those blessings along to others. Here’s how you can help:

Everyone can be involved in this project, even if you are away on September 11th!

1. Purchase items off of the Amazon wish list and have them sent directly to the church. The link to the wish list is: tinyurl.com/GSKOPschoolKITS **Last day to order is Wednesday, September 7th.**
2. If you would prefer, send a check made payable to Good Shepherd (put “School Kit Project” in the memo line) to help with the purchase of items as needed and with getting the final kits to Lutheran World Relief.
3. Join us in Founders Hall on September 11th at 10:30am to put the kits together—all ages and abilities will be able to participate! We will have special T-shirts for all who come to help!

A Thrivent Action Team grant has supplied drawstring bags for this project. Thank you, Thrivent!



PRESCHOOL NEWS

The preschool is excited to start their 34th year! There are still a few openings for children ages 2-4. Contact Diane Smith at 610-265-0733 or gskoppreschool@verizon.net for more information.



SUNDAY SCHOOL & ADULT FELLOWSHIP



Join us once a month for Adult Fellowship time in Founders Hall while the children and youth are in Sunday School class.



Sunday School
SCHEDULE

Adult Sunday School will start back up on Sunday, September 18th at 10:45am in the church library and via Zoom. Look for details in future bulletins.

Sunday School for children and youth will be held once a month from 10:45am to 11:30am. **The dates for these classes will be: October 2nd, November 13th, December 4th, January 8th, February 12th, March 5th and April 2nd.** There will be three age groups: Preschool, Elementary (grades K-4) and Junior High (grades 5-8). High School students are welcome to participate with the Junior High or can volunteer to help with one of the younger groups.

Adult Fellowship Hour: On the Sundays listed above, we will have a special coffee hour in Founders Hall for adults to have time to talk over coffee and snacks while the children and youth are in class.

Contact Karen Lehman at karen_lehman@verizon.net with any questions or to volunteer to help with the coffee hour or Sunday School classes.

THE MUSIC MINISTRY OF GOOD SHEPHERD

Psalm 40:3 says, "He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God" You'll be hearing the Chancel Choir sing this text on Rally Day! The choir has sung this text a few times over the years and I tend to program it on Rally Day because as we are starting anew with a new program year at Good Shepherd; so, in a sense, singing a *new* song.

The music ministry is always welcoming new (and returning) participants. For the Adult Chancel Choir, we typically work 2 or 3 weeks in advance, so you could get plugged in at any point. The Bell Choir is also able to take on new ringers – we'd love to have you. If you are interested in joining, come see me after worship!

Here is the start-up information for the fall:

Our Adult Choir will resume on **Sunday, September 11th, 10:40am – 11:40am**

Our Handbell Choir will resume on **Thursday, September 8th, 6:30pm – 7:30pm**

Special music will continue each month from our faithful musicians.



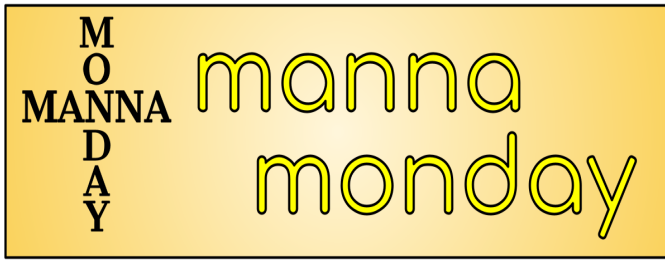
I'm looking forward to another year of exciting and meaningful music at Good Shepherd.

In Song, *Ross*

OPERATION SHINING STAR

Once again, we will be making Christmas a little brighter for the children of Martin Luther School (a ministry of Gemma Services). Watch for more information in the weekly blast and bulletin for gift lists as we collect gifts in the month of November.





We are excited to announce that **Manna Monday is returning this fall.**

Manna Monday is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to share a meal together in our Founders Hall, followed by an interesting speaker or activity. Join us for either or both parts of the evening. Manna Monday, as with all our events, is open to the community. Bring a friend!

Our first Manna Monday will be **September 26th**. The topic is **Preaching Out Loud**. Join us to hear Pastor Noah Hepler share his journey and struggles with “integrating queer identities in the world of Christianity.” *The Daily Nebraskan*. Pastor Hepler was featured in an episode of Netflix’s *Queer Eye* where “The Fab Five help a timid gay pastor who came out in his 30s update his look and find the confidence to lead his congregation into the future.”

There is a special schedule for this evening:

6:00-6:30 pm— Pizza Dinner

*Please RSVP to the church office, 610.265.4545 or gskopstaff@verizon.net
\$5/person/\$20 max per family. Please request gluten free option in advance.*

6:30-7:20 pm—Watch episode of Netflix’s *Queer Eye* featuring Pastor Noah.

Free, no RSVP required

7:20-8:00 pm—Pastor Noah speaks

Free, no RSVP required

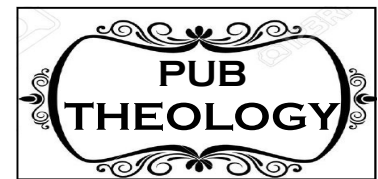


Pastor Noah Hepler

About Pastor Noah: Noah Hepler (he/him) is the pastor at the Church of the Atonement (ELCA) in Philadelphia. He holds a Ph.D. in Historical Theology from United Lutheran Seminary. His research centered around Augustine of Hippo. Noah appeared in Netflix’s *Queer Eye* – season five, episode one. When he isn’t nerding out on theology, Noah can frequently be found geeking out with a computer or tabletop game. Noah’s passion for Queer Theology developed as it liberated him to experience God’s grace anew. This led him to come out, and he experienced God’s grace again as he released the past which had kept him bound.

And mark your calendar for the **next Manna Monday — October 24th**, which will be our **Trunk or Treat!** (no meal served; see flyer on page 7).

PUB THEOLOGY



Join us the **first Monday of each month, beginning October 3rd**, to participate in interesting discussions over delicious food and drink.

We are excited to try out a new location, a local favorite, the **King of Prussia Diner**, located at **128 Town Center Rd.**

Our first gathering will be on **October 3rd**. No need to RSVP.

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

From 7:15 pm to 8:00 pm we will discuss a question which will be announced in advance in Good Shepherd’s weekly emailed reminders. The question might be philosophical or ethical or religious.

There are no right or wrong answers, just a sharing of ideas.

All ages interested in discussion are invited. Bring a friend.

To facilitate conversation, we will sit at multiple tables, instead of one giant table.

Information on the Good Shepherd website, www.gskop.org, under the Participate tab, on Facebook., or contact Hele Vondra at helevondra@hotmail.com.

MONDAYS AT GOOD SHEPHERD

First Monday: Pub Theology, 6:30 P.M.
October 3rd, November 7th, December 5th.

Second Monday: Committee Meetings
September 12th, October 10th, November 14th.
If you serve on a committee, check with your chairperson to see if your committee is meeting.

Third Monday: Council Meeting, 7 P.M.
September 19th, October 17th, November 21st
hybrid (Zoom and in person)

Select Fourth Mondays: Manna Monday
Sept 26: Preaching Out Loud, details on p. 4
October 24: Trunk or Treat: no meal, see p. 7
January 23, 2023: Details to follow
April 24, 2023: Details to follow

FALL MEAL MINISTRY

We continue to serve meals to our cousins at the **Cecil and Grace Bean Soup Kitchen** in Norristown. Our guests are not permitted to dine indoors in August and September as the Episcopal Diocese has graciously agreed to remodel the entire kitchen. We will serve the meals as take-out until the renovations are complete. A small group of volunteers meet to prepare the food at Good Shepherd, and another group of volunteers meet at the soup kitchen in Norristown to serve our "cousins." Upcoming dates are 9/17, 10/15, and 11/19. Please call or email Pam Satterfield at 610-804-9325, pamsatterfield53@gmail.com if you are interested in helping.



SPECIAL WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES THIS FALL

All services in person (masks are optional), live streamed on the Good Shepherd YouTube Channel, and available afterwards for viewing. Go to YouTube and search for GSKoP.

September 11th—Rally Day, Blessing of the Backpacks, Service Project, Brunch

September 18th—Baptisms—Caleb Bullwinkle, Rosalie Daniel, Luca Seagraves

October 2nd—St. Francis of Assisi—Blessing of the Animals at 11:30 am in the outdoor sanctuary. If the weather is bad the event will be held in the Narthex

October 30th—Confirmation and Reformation Sunday—**WEAR RED**

November 6th—All Saints Sunday—The names of those who have been baptized at Good Shepherd during the past year and those who have entered the church triumphant this year will be recognized during the Prayers of Intercession. You are invited to bring a photo/photos of those saints who have been dear to you. Photos may be brought to the front of the church during the prelude and picked up during the postlude.

November 13th—Veterans will be recognized during the Prayers of Intercession.

November 20th—Christ the King Sunday—Commitment Sunday

November 27th—1st Sunday in Advent



In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life we remember the following

Good Shepherd member
who recently joined the Saints Triumphant:

† Marie Hofmockel †

FALL OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Each month you can support the outreach program by donating through your special outreach envelopes or filling out a pew envelope (checks payable to Good Shepherd) and marking it "Outreach."



SEPTEMBER OUTREACH—WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER

Our Outreach funds for the month of **September** will go to support **The Women's Resource Center**. Their mission is to support, strengthen and serve women and girls as they journey through transitions in life. They provide counseling, a help line, family law and financial counseling, career services and they direct women to community resources. Please use your outreach envelope or just mark your check (payable to Good Shepherd) to Outreach Funds.



OCTOBER OUTREACH—UNITED LUTHERAN SEMINARY

With the Reformation in mind in the month of **October** we would like to support the **United Lutheran Seminary**. Their mission is to equip and to proclaim the living gospel for a changing church and world by "Unifying, Learning, Serving." They support over 300 students of 28 denominations and offer 7 degrees. They provide a learning environment that is Lutheran in focus, ecumenical in practice, and led by grace. Let us continue to support growth in Christian leaders of the future. Please use your outreach envelope or just mark your check (payable to Good Shepherd) to Outreach Funds.



NOVEMBER OUTREACH—UMACC

Thanksgiving is a time for family and harvest. With that in mind we designate Special Outreach funds for the month of November to go to support the **Upper Merion Area Community Cupboard**. The financial crisis brought on by the pandemic has left so many families with food insufficiency. The UMACC is a collaborative and empathetic community response of our schools, municipalities, businesses, communities of faith, and caring neighbors. Their hope and goal is to strengthen our most vulnerable neighbors through food supplementation. They are open to those in need in the community on Tuesday mornings and evenings. The UMACC serves 150 families in Upper Merion. Please use your outreach envelope or just mark your check (payable to Good Shepherd) to Outreach Funds.

COMMUNITY OUTDOOR PRAYER SANCTUARY

What is in your heart? When you feel the need for personal time to pray or contemplate, rest and refresh in our peaceful Community Outdoor Prayer Sanctuary. If desired, you may leave a flower or a prayer.





Welcome to the
Trunk or Treat
OCTOBER 24, 2022
6:00 – 7:00PM
FREE

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
132 East Valley Forge Rd
King of Prussia, PA 19406
gskopstaff@verizon.net
www.gskop.org

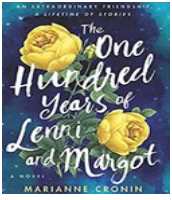


FALL BACK IN NOVEMBER!

Daylight Savings Time ENDS on Sunday, November 6th. Remember to get an extra hour of sleep and set your analog clocks and watches back one hour.

FALL BOOK CLUBS AT GOOD SHEPHERD

Via Zoom: Links are sent out in the weekly email blasts.



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th *The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot*

By Marianne Cronin

Life is short. No one knows that better than seventeen year old Lenni living on the terminal ward. But as she is about to learn, it's not only what you make of life that matters, but who you share it with.

Dodging doctor's orders, she joins an art class where she bumps into fellow patient Margot, a rebel-hearted eighty three year old from the next ward. Their bond is instant as they realize that together they have lived an astonishing one hundred years.

To celebrate their shared century, they decide to paint their life stories: of growing old and staying young, of giving joy, of receiving kindness, of losing love, of finding the person who is everything.

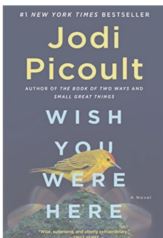


THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27th *Hum If You Don't Know the Words*

By Bianca Marais

Life under Apartheid has created a secure future for Robin Conrad, a ten-year-old white girl living with her parents in 1970s Johannesburg. In the same nation but worlds apart, Beauty Mbali, a Xhosa woman in a rural village in the Bantu homeland of the Transkei, struggles to raise her children alone after her husband's death. Both lives have been built upon the division of race, and their meeting should never have occurred...until the Soweto Uprising, in which a protest by black students ignites racial conflict, alters the fault lines on which their society is built, and shatters their worlds when Robin's parents are left dead and Beauty's daughter goes missing.

After Robin is sent to live with her loving but irresponsible aunt, Beauty is hired to care for Robin while continuing the search for her daughter. In Beauty, Robin finds the security and family that she craves, and the two forge an inextricable bond through their deep personal losses. But Robin knows that if Beauty finds her daughter, Robin could lose her new caretaker forever, so she makes a desperate decision with devastating consequences. Her quest to make amends and find redemption is a journey of self-discovery in which she learns the harsh truths of the society that once promised her protection.



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29th *Wish You Were Here*

by Jodi Picoult

Diana O'Toole is perfectly on track. She will be married by thirty, done having kids by thirty-five, and move out to the New York City suburbs, all while climbing the professional ladder in the cutthroat art auction world. She's not engaged just yet, but she knows her boyfriend, Finn, a surgical resident, is about to propose on their romantic getaway to the Galapagos--days before her thirtieth birthday. Right on time.

But then a virus that felt worlds away appears in the city, and Finn breaks the news: It's all hands on deck at the hospital. He has to stay behind. You should still go, he assures her. And so, reluctantly, she goes.

Almost immediately, Diana's dream vacation goes awry. In fact, the whole island is now under quarantine, and she is stranded until the borders reopen. Completely isolated, she must venture beyond her comfort zone.

In the Galapagos Islands, Diana finds herself examining her relationships, her choices, and herself--and wondering if when she goes home, she too will have evolved into someone completely different.

FIRST GSKOP CAMPING WEEKEND

November 4th–6th, 2022

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

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

When? November 4-6, 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 later.



WOMEN'S RETREAT

Lovely **Daylesford Abbey in Paoli** will be the setting of our beloved annual Women's Retreat from **7:00pm on Friday, November 11th, 2022 to 2:30pm on Saturday, November 11th, 2022**. You will have the option to either **stay overnight or just come for the day** on Saturday. [Bring a friend!](#)

A link to more information including accommodation information and your sign-up opportunity will be in Good Shepherd's emailed Weekly Reminders or follow this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0949A4AB2DA0F85-20221>

Retreat Topic

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 the Delaware Conference of the 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.

Thank You

Dear Pastor Julie,

Thank you so much for choosing me as the recipient for the Peacemaker Award! I greatly appreciate you considering me for this scholarship.

Kind regards, Emily Burke

5K AND FUN RUN FOR SANCTUARY VILLAGE

HOME RUN 5K and Fun Run/Walk

Hosted at Christ Lutheran Church 2211 Mainland Road Harleysville, PA 19438



Benefiting Sanctuary Village

Saturday September 17th



Timing provided by Pretzel City Sports

SCHEDULE	
8:00 AM – Check-in / Registration	
9:00 AM – 5K Wheel Measured	
9:45 AM – 1K Fun Run/Walk	
10:00 AM – Award Presentations	



Sanctuary Village is a 501c3 organization dedicated to providing a community of tiny houses to offer temporary shelter to people experiencing homelessness with community support and without the instability of the shelter system, so that individuals can transition into a sustainable long-term living situation.

5K AGE GROUPS * Wheel Measured, Timed Event*	
Medals for 1 st 70+ and Overall Male and Female	
1 st -3 rd Ribbons Male and Female Categories:	
13 and Under	30-44 Years
14-18 Years	45-59 Years
19-29 Years	60 + Years

5K Race \$30 register by September 1, 2022
1K Fun Run/Walk \$25 register by September 1, 2022
Late Registration After September 1 deadline
5K Race \$35 1K Run/Walk \$30

Shirts provided to all registrants before September 1 and as available to late registrations.

CONTACT INFO: For questions, or to become a business sponsor call Christ Lutheran Church at: 215-256-3738
Online Registration Available at <https://www.pretzelcitysports.com/onlineform1.php?id=1723>
 (Online registration closes at midnight, the Wednesday of race week, September 14. A nominal service charge applies.)

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____ AGE (on race day): _____

E-Mail: _____ Address _____

Please Circle: Male or Female 5K or Fun Run/Walk Tee Shirt Size: YM YL S M L XL XXL

Make Checks payable to: Christ Lutheran Church 2211 Mainland Road Harleysville, PA 19438

WAIVER/RELEASE: I hereby waive all claims against the race director, race officials and volunteers, any and all sponsors including, but not limited to Christ Lutheran Church. I attest that I am physically fit and prepared for this event. I assume all risks associated with running in this event including, but not limited to: falls; contact with other participants; the effect of the weather, including high heat and/or humidity; and the condition of the road and trail; all such risks being known and appreciated by me. I grant full permission for organizers to use my name and or pictures in legitimate accounts and promotions of this event.

Signature : _____ Date: _____

(Parent / Guardian Signature under 18)

The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

132 East Valley Forge Road

King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406-2031

(610)265-4545 (PHONE) (610)265-4771 (FAX)

Email: gskopstaff@verizon.net

Web: www.gskop.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Shepherd's News Fall 2022

DECEMBER · JANUARY · FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: Monday, November 14th

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

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday

9:00 A.M. – noon

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30 A.M. In person, masks optional, 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
Office Administrator—Laurie Mueller 610-265-4545
Preschool Director—Diane Smith 610-265-0733

EMAIL ADDRESSES

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