

The Shepherd's Staff

March 2024

The March 2024 Edition of the Shepherd's Staff is sponsored to the Glory of God, in loving memory of Patricia Gebhardt, by Bill Gebhardt.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus,

I remember Easter growing up at Jordan Lutheran church. You always had to get new church clothes, and back then it was a suit. Unfortunately it was a wool suit that itched. I did not like it! Easter worship service was a long, long sermon and communion took awhile. No intinction back then, we had regular communion with the Pastor doing everything. Church was packed and the sanctuary seemed brighter.

Easter is called the Queen of all church festivals. I remember in Seminary how my preaching professor told us how all history before Jesus came to a point at the cross and resurrection and after that exploded outward. Easter is that to us.

Jesus' death on the cross meant our sins were forgiven and He began the last fight against death. His resurrection sealed the victory over death. Death was defeated. Do you remember what He told Martha before He raised Lazarus from the grave? Jesus told her: "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." Do you believe this?

Jesus rose from the grave, not with all the scars of his torture except with 5 wounds from the crucifixion. He rose with a resurrected body. Paul tells us that because He rose, we shall rise also. So this Holy Week, walk with Jesus to the cross: with the Stations on Wednesday, Maundy Thursday service, and the Tenebrae on Good Friday. Join us to celebrate the great Festival of Easter—Jesus' Resurrection.

Have a Blessed Easter,

Pastor Gary



March 2
Karaoke Night

March 3
Candy presale
begins
Soup pick up

March 6
Easter flower orders
due

March 10
Soup pick up

March 17
Soup pick up

March 18
First Communion
Meeting

March 24
Palm Sunday
First Communion
Candy pick up

March 27
Stations of the Cross

March 28
Maundy Thursday

March 29
Good Friday

March 30
Easter Egg hunt

March 31
Easter Sunday

April 14
BINGO

April 21
Annual
Congregational
Meeting

President's Corner

This past Sunday, I found myself worshipping far from home. We were in a huge and historic Catholic church in Frederick, Maryland. I always enjoy seeing other beautiful churches, and singing in other sanctuaries. My family ends up in many historic towns with warm and welcoming congregations who are used to visitors who are traveling. This church was certainly welcoming. But this time, throughout the service, I found myself thinking about Good Shepherd from far away, and contemplating the word "home".

I have worshipped in churches in rocky Maine coastal towns, gorgeous Cathedrals in D.C., a huge church in Charleston, a simple church in Long Island, college churches, neighborhood churches, and a hundred other churches all over the place. I have worshipped God in Civil war uniform, sitting on the grass or even praying with fellow re-enactors while under booming cannons. I have worshipped with fellow Boy Scouts, in simple chapels at summer camps and weekend hikes. And no matter where I was, I know I was "home." God found me. It really didn't matter where I was, or if I knew the songs well, or if I knew all the parts of the different services, I was taking part in. God was there. I said a prayer for all of you at Good Shepherd, and know that God heard me from far away, and kept my family safe, until we arrived back home.

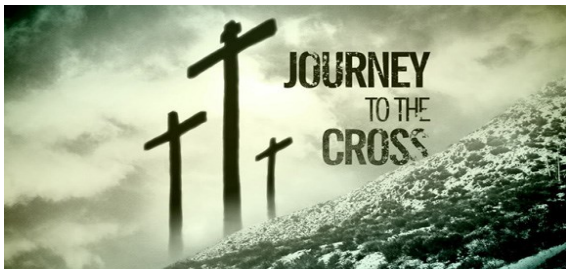
We are now on our Lenten Journey. Our worship is reflective now, and the music has changed. The shadows are lengthening, and we must hear the last teachings of Jesus before he begins his road to Calvary. Take the time to join us for Wednesday Lenten services, and spend some time in reflective prayer. Jesus is leading us, and the road is dark and somber. But in the end, He is the way Home.



Chris Holub, Council President

Our Lenten Journey

Our Lenten journey continues.. We have our mid week worship service at 11 AM & 7 PM every Wednesday. This year we are "Asking Questions" Each session bring a question that has always puzzled you and we will search for an answer. Please join us.



Stations of the Cross

Experiencing the Stations of the Cross is a sacred service that remembers Jesus' journey on Good Friday, from Pontius Pilate's condemnation to His being placed in the tomb. Each station or stop depicts a moment in Jesus' journey to the cross and grave. We shall experience each stop through pictures, prayer and music. The purpose is to help us make a spiritual pilgrimage by contemplating the Passion of Christ. We experience what journey took because of our sins. He did it for you and me. Please come on March 27th at 7pm to experience this sacred journey.

SAVE THE DATE JUNE 8, 2024

Dinner and dancing while celebrating our Senior members. Music from the 1920's to now. Doors open 3:30 pm.



THRIVENT NEWS

Don't forget: 2023 Choice Dollars must be directed by March 31st!

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Lent/ Holy Week Schedule

- | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| March 6 | Mid week Service
11:00 am & 7:00 pm | March 24 | Palm Sunday/First Holy Communion
Distribution of Palms
9:00 am service |
| March 13 | Mid week Service
11:00 am & 7:00 pm | March 27 | Stations of the Cross
7:00 pm |
| March 20 | Mid week Service
11:00 am & 7:00 pm | March 28 | Maundy Thursday
11:00 am Holy Communion
7:00 pm Holy Communion & Stripping of the Altar |
| | | March 29 | Good Friday
7:00 pm Tenebrae |
| | | March 31 | Resurrection of our Lord
6:30 am Dawn Service/ Holy Communion
9:00 am Festival Service/ Holy Communion |



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

One of the steps in growing in the church is receiving your First Holy Communion. First Holy Communion instruction is for anyone second grade or older.

This year the class will take place on March 18th at 7 pm. It will be held in the 3rd/4th grade classroom. The class will last approximately one hour and one parent must attend with the child.

First Holy Communion will be celebrated on Palm Sunday, March 24th, during 9 am service. If you are interested in having your child participate or have any questions, please call the church office or Pastor Gary.



Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held after Sunday Service on **April 21, 2024**. We will have more information to follow.



Dine & Donate Event

Tuesday March 19th
12:00 pm– 10:00 pm

Just Chill Creamery
5503 MacArthur Rd
Whitehall (Eagle Point shopping center, formerly King Kone)

No flyer required!



Karaoke night

March 2, 2024
6 pm-9 pm

Fellowship Hall

From rock ballads to movie soundtracks! Bring your voice and join us!

Refreshments will be provided.





Good Shepherd Lutheran Church presents

GIFT CARD BINGO

Sunday, April 14

Doors & Kitchen open at noon
Games begin at 1 p.m.

PRE-SALE TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
\$25 in advance • \$30 at the door
Incl. 20 regular games, 5 specials & door prize

Extra games • 50/50 • Kitchen open

Call 484-241-1370 or 610-262-9517 to reserve your seat

1335 Old Carriage Rd., Northampton



SAVE THE DATE! Our upcoming Bingo events are scheduled June 2nd and September 8th...

Treasurer Report – January 2024

In the month of January, we had a loss of \$2,500 due to an increase in maintenance work that was performed.

Some notable income activity includes:

Offerings of \$11,471

Hall Rentals of \$400

Fundraising of \$372

Some notable expense activity includes:

\$2,500 for water heater

\$1,245 for Snow Removal

At the end of January, we had a balance of \$6,800 in our checking account. Our savings account has a balance of \$40,000.

There is about \$6,000 in outstanding checks that will clear in the upcoming days.

Total assets, all bank accounts and CDs, were \$218,000 at January 31, 2024

Happy Birthday...

Brandon Koch	03/05
Christina Weaver	03/05
Lorie Filipovits	03/08
Margaret Fogel	03/08
Blair Hower	03/08
Catherine Miller	03/08
Emma Rogers	03/09
Bradley Newhard	03/12
Stephanie Schwarz	03/12
Stephanie Rogers	03/15
Eric Borger	03/16
Kylee Pavlick	03/16
Thomas Kramer	03/17
Brian Dungan	03/18
Donna Yelles	03/18
Sally Sherman	03/21
Joan Webb	03/21
Gloria Jones	03/22
Donna Williams	03/24
Margaret Lawlor	03/25
Edwin Marshall	03/25
EmilyAnn Schweitzer	03/25
Chris Holub	03/29
Joseph Fehr	03/31
Michael Rogers	03/31



Happy Anniversary

Kevin & Judy Readinger 03/08
Colin & Louise Saylor 03/08

PASTORAL ACTS

The Northampton Area Food Bank would like to thank the congregation of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for the generous donations in January! **117 items!**



Sunday School

Sunday School is every Sunday at 10:15 a.m. All ages are encouraged to attend. So after the church service, please make your way down the hallway and find the classroom that is right for you. We hope to see everyone.

Our annual **Souper-Bowl** collection to benefit the NAFB total from Sunday, February 11th = \$152.00

Thank you for your support!

In Touch– Every first Sunday of each month, one of the great ministries we have at Good Shepherd is our In Touch. It is a very important way we can tell our members in need that we really care!

Food Bank Sunday– Every 2nd Sunday of each month, please bring a canned good to Sunday service to donate to the Northampton Area Food Bank.

We extend our heartfelt Christian sympathy to the families of the following members who passed into eternal life in the months of January & February.

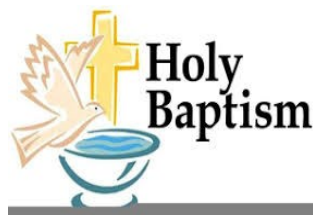
Alan R. Gaugler

Margie Werner

We rejoice that those listed below have been liberated from sin and death by being joined in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ through the sacrament of Holy Baptism in the month of February.

Amber Abraham

Jacob Wolfer



Volunteers needed...

We are in need of volunteers to assist at our fundraising BINGO event on April 14th. Please sign up on the sheet located in the Narthex or let Ed Filipovits or Lisa Mann know if your interested in lending a hand!



March Worship Assistant List

Date	Assisting Minister	Lector	Pouring Chalice	Acolytes
3/3	Mark Weaver	Bill Gebhardt	LeAnne Krill	Andrew LaBarre
3/10	Chris Holub	Lorie Filipovits	Linda Siekonic	Will Burrell
3/17	Bill Gebhardt	Nicole Bogden	LeAnne Krill	Andrew LaBarre
3/24	Jen Gaugler	Ben Bogden	Gail Loch	Andrew LaBarre
3/27	Ben Bogden	-	-	Andrew LaBarre
3/28 11 am	Jen Gaugler	Jen Gaugler	Mark Weaver	-
3/28 7 pm	tba	tba	Shelly Dorn	tba
3/29	-	-	-	Andrew LaBarre
3/31 6:30 am	Mark Weaver	Jen Burrell	Donna / Barb	Will Burrell
3/31 9 am	Chris Holub	Bill Gebhardt	Linda / Jessica	tba

If you cannot keep your scheduled time, please arrange for someone to fill in.

Ushers	
3/3	Kerry Ruch, Doug Yelles, Mary Dennis, Jessica Kirkpatric
3/10	Dave Hausman, Dan Pavlick, Jen Gaugler, Ed Marshall
3/17	Dean & Roseann Yelles, Jeff & Shelly Dorn
3/24	Kerry Ruch, Dave Hausman, Doug Yelles, Allison Quartararo
3/28 7 pm	Kerry Ruch, Doug Yelles
3/31 6:30 am	Charles Burrell, Dean & Roseann Yelles, Allison Quartararo
3/31 9 am	Jeff & Shelly Dorn, Doug Yelles, Dave Hausman



Winter weather alert

Be sure to check WFMZ or Facebook for up to minute cancellations for Sunday service.



2024 Financial breakdown for February
 Amount needed weekly to meet budget = \$ 3,101.00
 Amount needed weekly to pay bills = \$2,803.00

Date	Weekly offering	Memorial	Building repair
1/7	\$1851.00		
1/14	\$4227.00		\$215.00
1/21	\$1913.00		\$40.00
1/28	\$2151.00		\$50.00



Homemade Easter Candy \$3.50 1/4 lb and \$7.00 1/2 lb

Submitted by _____

Phone _____

Item	amount	¼ or ½ Circle one	Total due
Milk chocolate peanut butter eggs		¼ ½	
Dark chocolate peanut butter eggs		¼ ½	
Milk chocolate coconut eggs		¼ ½	
Dark chocolate coconut eggs		¼ ½	
Milk chocolate pretzels		¼ ½	
Dark chocolate pretzels		¼ ½	
Milk chocolate raisinets		¼ ½	
Dark chocolate raisinets		¼ ½	
Milk chocolate nonpareils		¼ ½	
Dark chocolate nonpareils		¼ ½	
Milk chocolate peanuts		¼ ½	
Dark chocolate peanuts		¼ ½	

Total _____

*Please make check payable to Good Shepherd Lutheran church

Good Shepherd Lutheran church fundraising committee is making homemade Easter candy, presale only. Please submit order and payment by Sunday, March 17th. Pick up will be Sunday March 24th, after Palm Sunday service 10:15 am-12:00 pm



Good Shepherd Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 30 at 11:00 AM

Rain or shine in the Fellowship Hall for all children up to 6th grade.

The Egg Hunt Committee is in need of some individual chocolate candies to fill plastic eggs. If you would be able to help us out please place candy in the container marked Egg Hunt by March 17h. Thank you so much. Egg Hunt Committee



March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Karaoke night! 6-9 pm in Fellowship Hall
3 Worship 9:00 am In Touch Sunday school Candy sale begins Soup pick up	4 Worship & Music Mtg 7:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm	5 Christian Ed Mtg Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	6 Mid Week Lent Service 11 am & 7 pm Easter flower	7 Bell Choir Practice 6:30 pm Choir practice 7:30 pm	8	9 Council Reports Due
10 Worship 9:00 am Food Bank Sunday school Soup pick up Fundraising Mtg	11 Council Mtg 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm	12 Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	13 Mid Week Lent Service 11 am & 7 pm	14 Bell Choir Practice 6:30 pm Choir practice 7:30 pm	15	16 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE
17 Worship 9:00 am Sunday school Candy sale ends Soup pick up Happy St. Patrick's Day	18 First Communion Mtg 7:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm	19 Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	20 Mid Week Lent Service 11 am & 7 pm Candy making 7am	21 Bell Choir Practice 6:30 pm Choir practice 7:30 pm	22	23
24 Worship 9:00 am Palm Sunday & First Holy Communion Candy pick up	25 Girl Scouts 7:00 pm	26 Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	27 Stations of the Cross 7:00 pm	28 Maundy Thursday Services 11:00 am & 7:00 pm	29 Good Friday 7:00 pm	30 Easter Egg Hunt 11:00 AM
31 EASTER DAWN SERVICE 6:30 am EASTER FESTIVAL SERVICE 9:00 am						

Vacation Bible School

June 24th - 28th 6 pm- 7:30 pm
Stories, crafts and music each night. Ages Preschool - 6th grade,
adults encouraged to stay. Call (610)262-9517 to sign up.

This year's theme is:
Special Women of the Bible



Thank you Scott Heninger for all the fun
and laughter at our Mardi Gras event this
year!

