HOPE Evangelical Lutheran Parish

Good Shepherd and Salem Lutheran Churches have identified a new parish name for our partnership in ministry. We believe the parish name chosen speaks to *our hope* that both congregations may experience financial stability and revived faith life and mission through this partnership.

I hope you take advantage of the many opportunities throughout the year to participate in parish and faith life at both Salem and Good Shepherd. We will make every effort in our monthly newsletters to inform you of all worship, education, service and fellowship activities in both congregations. We are excited about this partnership in ministry and meeting new friends in Christ today and moving forward!

If it's been a while since you've been active in church and faith life, now is the time to recommit as we seek to share the good news of Jesus and to love God and love neighbor in service of Christ and in gratitude for the love we first receive from God. You are also warmly welcomed to attend any worship service in the parish that works for your family.

Saturday Worship
5:30PM at Good Shepherd only
Sunday Worship
8:30AM at Salem
11:00AM at Good Shepherd

Remember, when you are in need of spiritual care for you and for your family, please be in touch by text or call! I hope to see you in worship!

+ With you in Christ, Pastor Kara (cell: 304-668-9890)

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Church Council Meeting Summary

August 17, 2026

9 In Attendance | **2** Decisions | **5** Motions Passed

The Church Council met with nine members present to address several facility and administrative matters. Greg will transfer the broadcast license to Barb for completion, and the council received updates on the lighting system and direct deposit procedures. The council voted unanimously to accept the Special July Meeting Minutes, the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer Report, and the Pastor's report as presented. Regarding the parking lot paving project, the council voted unanimously to proceed with sealing the parking lot and driveway if completed before year-end, though + full paving will require Congregation approval at a special meeting, with Brian tasked to contact American Paving regarding timing. The council also voted unanimously to approve urgent repairs to the roof arch pillar outside the sanctuary in the amount of $2,900 using Major Repairs funds, with work beginning August 24. Further discussion is needed on the RC Management full overview with payroll option.

Pastor Kara will be on vacation September 14th through September 21st, for any pastoral care needs call Rachel @ 724-454-6476

SAVE THE DATE

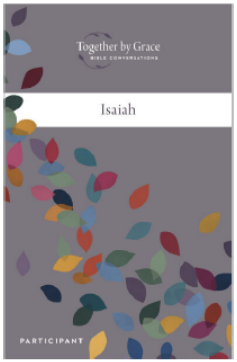
Sunday, October 4th 1:00PM

New Parish Adult Bible Study on the book of ISAIAH starting September 22, 2026!!

WHAT IF BIBLE STUDY COULD . . .

- Build community and relationships
- Invite questions, conversation, and introspection
- Connect the Bible to daily life
- Encourage personal connections to people in the Bible
- Welcome participants at any point during the study

About Isaiah: Written over hundreds of years as God's people navigated war, exile, and homecoming, the Book of Isaiah intertwines grief and hope, inviting readers and hearers across the centuries to join in God's lament over a broken world, to receive God's abundant love and overflowing grace, and to respond with joy to God's call to the work of justice and peace.



Written by Michael Chan, Vice President for Mission and Inclusion at Concordia College, the study offers tailored participant Bible study guides for adults looking to study Isaiah in community. This conversation-based study is for groups of all shapes and sizes.

The participant guide includes images, activities, prayers, recaps, and questions to spur thinking, deepen reflection, and keep the conversation flowing.

Join us as we read Isaiah in community, receive God's word of hope, and share the good news with a world that needs it!

To sign up and get a participant book, please use the form at the church or text Pastor Kara @ 304-668-9890.

Food 2 Go-
West Point Elementary

Look for the kids posted in the Commons Area and donate for our upcoming packing in October

Don't want to miss out on events & interested in joining the youth group!?

Contact: Rachel King 724-454-6476

SEPTEMBER
13

Faith

+

Food

+

Friends

RALLY DAY
BACK TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

@ Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 9:45AM, before Worship

At Good Shepherd, we give thanks for God's love in Jesus Christ for all people and all creation. We teach the love of God and love to neighbor to the youth and create a faith filled community that can become a second family for all.

We invite you to Sunday School Rally Day before worship service to meet our teachers and share in food and fellowship brunch with other youth!

Sunday School is for Pre-K – 8th Grade.
All classes start at 9:45AM.
The schedule of classes will be made available on Rally Day.
We look forward to meeting you!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE:
WWW.SHEPHERD501@YAHOO.COM OR 724-834-1940

Community Fellowship Upcoming Events

September 12th 11:00-1:00PM-
Chicken BBQ
Purchase tickets by August 31st

October 16th 6:30-8:30PM –
Trunk or Treat
More information to come

December 4th 6:00-8:30PM-
Light Up Night
More information to come

(*All activities are tentative & subject to change*)

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Find us on Facebook

www.goodshepherdgbg.org

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
TRUNK
-OR-
TREAT
& FUNHOUSE
TRUNK
TREAT
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16 | 6:30PM-8:30PM
Join us for a Spooky Evening of Tricks & Treats!
Grab some coffee at the Coffin Bean & Co. or something tasty from Chick-fil-A!
FREE Trunk or Treating, Funhouse, Bonfire, S'mores & more!
Light Up
West Point
&
Wendover
Save
the Date!
Friday, December 4 • 6-8:30PM
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
501 Fairfield Drive

TRUNKS NEEDED!

This Year Trunk or Treat will be held on **Friday, October 16th 6:30-8:30PM**.

We need volunteers to decorate their trunks & hand out treats to all attendees. On average we have had around 100-150 kids participate in the past. We encourage incorporating lights into your décor as it will be dark.

Look for a sign up that will be posted in the Commons Area/contact the church office or scan the QR Code to register your car!

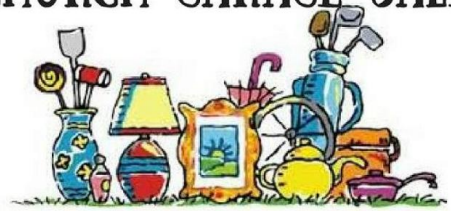
Volunteers Needed!

This will be our 5th Annual Light Up Night!

This is Good Shepherd's largest community event. We have some new and exciting plans once again for this year. Our Light Up Committee has been meeting monthly. Anyone is more than welcome to attend. Look for a sign up to be posted soon for volunteer time slots as well as a raffle donation sign up if interested in donating a basket for our raffle!

Upcoming Events at Salem Lutheran

CHURCH GARAGE SALE



Saturday September 26, 2026
8 am - Noon

Salem Lutheran Church
301 E Pittsburgh Street
Delmont, PA 15626

Incredible bargains of treasurers & Bake Sale.
Rain (will be indoors) or Shine!

Tables available $20.
Call 724-468-4189 or email
office@salemdelmont.org to register.

Ministry & WELCA
invites EVERYONE to a
Prayer Breakfast
Saturday October 10
@ 9 am

Join us for breakfast, prayer and fellowship in the Newhouse hall. We will be doing a service project, making no sew fleece blankets. We look forward to seeing everyone, young & old, male or female!!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30
6-8 PM

SALEM LUTHERAN
CHURCH Newhouse Hall

Join our youth for an evening of food and fun!
Costumes are encouraged for ALL!

FEATURING THE SPOOKY SOUNDS OF THE INFAMOUS BAND

Questions please call 724-468-4189 or email office@salemdelmont.org.

Find the cross (+)

In each monthly Newsletter there will be a hidden cross (+) that can be found in one of the articles! If you find, please turn in where it was found including page # and article found in with your name & number on a piece of paper. At the end of each month, all who turn in will be entered into a monthly drawing to win a prize!

In order to be entered your slip must be turned into office into container labeled Find the cross by the **3rd Sunday** of the month.

Congratulations to our June, July, August winner
Fran Ober
***The cross was located on page**
16 & 19

ATTENTION MEALS ON WHEELS COOKIE BAKERS

Homemade or Store Bought **are welcome!** Please drop your cookies off **AT THE CHURCH**.

SEPTEMBER

COOKIE BAKERS (GROUP 1) Cookie Sunday is September 13, 2026.

Fran Ober	Sue Strasser
Barbara Henderson	Carol Clawson

We are still collecting cookies for **Meals-on-Wheels.** At **180 meals per day, 5 days a week**, we get enough cookies for about **2 days.**
New contributors are always welcome!

Just a few

REMINDERS

regarding the

Food Pantry

@ Good Shepherd

IT IS AVAILABLE 24/7 TO ANYONE IN NEED

GUIDELINES FOR FOOD DONATIONS

- Non perishable in date items accepted.
- All donations are to be placed in bin under pantry. Church staff will sort through the items & place them in the pantry.
- Any items donated past expiration will be discarded.

FOOD ITEM SUGGESTIONS

- Cereal
- Powdered milk
- Pancake mix
- Syrup
- Soup
- Canned meat
- Pasta
- Pasta sauce
- Juice
- Canned fruit

Etc.

Thank you again to everybody *who supports and donates to this mission.*

Hot Dog Sunday

Join us for Hot Dog Sunday! On the last Sunday of every month* gather in the Social Room following the 10:30am service. Enjoy a toppings bar, chips, side, and a drink with your hot dog!

*Excluding November, December, June, July & August.

BGS (Books, Games & Scripture) Sunday, Sept. 13th at church at Noon. Bring your own lunch and any books you've read (or not read) that you might want to share with the group. We will have a brief devotion and meeting to discuss dates and plans for future activities. Your input is appreciated.

SWPA Women of the ELCA Designated Outreach 2026: reagan's journey.

Started in 2012, reagan's journey is a free pediatric closet where families, caregivers, agencies, and hospitals can help children get medical equipment they desperately needed without waiting upwards of 6 months navigating through insurance denials and appointment wait times. Custom equipment is best, but no child should have to wait, and insurance will only cover 1 piece of equipment every 3-5 years and as we know children are constantly growing! Reagan's Journey accepts gently used pediatric durable medical equipment and unused medical supplies. The items are sanitized and redistributed to children in need. If you or someone you know would like to donate gently used pediatric medical equipment, please contact them to see if they are able to accept it at this time and to arrange a drop-off appointment. Their phone number is 724-826-0778, their email address is info@reagansjourney.org and their website is reagansjourney.org. Anyone who is caring for a child with special needs and is willing to make the trip can schedule an appointment to have access to pick out items they are in need of. On average, they serve 500 families per year by giving them the supplies they need for their kids - for FREE! We are asked to help with monetary donations, their greatest need. It costs $150 per family to operate the Reagan's Journey Closet. Financial support keeps the pediatric medical equipment closet FREE to families who need it.

Please make checks Payable to: SWPA Women of the ELCA

Write on the designation line: Reagan's Journey

Mail checks to: Janet Fishovitz 136 Clearwater Drive Ellwood City, PA 16117.

Reagan's Journey is also excepting $25 Gift Cards for Amazon, Walmart and Sheetz. If you drop gift cards in the church office please mark them what they are for and they will be delivered at the Lutherlyn Fall Retreat Sept. 25-27th. Thank you for your donations.

If you have any questions about any of the Women of the ELCA activities, please contact Karen Gesalman at 724-309-2667.

Happy Birthday to:

September

Kristy Alderson	(09/01)
Andrew Mellon	(09/01)
Valerie Pollock	(09/01)
Sandra Wright	(09/01)
Robert Gesalman	(09/03)
Michelle Ryan	(09/03)
Richard Neiderhiser	(09/04)
Morgan Mull	(09/06)
Zachary Meyers	(09/10)
Miriam Starenchak	(09/11)
Noah Nagle	(09/13)
Deborah Territ	(09/14)
Jamie Luffy	(09/15)
Andrea Territ	(09/15)
Tristyn Mays	(09/20)
Jessica Darragh	(09/23)
Kenneth Hill	(09/25)
Amy Donahue	(09/28)
Peyton Starenchak	(09/30)

(If we have missed your birthday, we do not have it in our records. Please help us update them. Thank you)

PRAYER LIST - Our thoughts and prayers are with the following:

Good Shepherd Members*:*
Tony Mariani
Jackie Guhl
Jane Elliott
Val Pollock
Erik Williams
Mac McMurtrie
Jerry Plummer
John Strasser
Chuck Ober
Kay Wright
Joy Stynchula
Vincent Smith
Wendy Strasser

Friends and relatives of the Good Shepherd family:
Lauren Floyd
Brian Murphy
Gianna
Chris Brinker
Tobi Geyer
Maxine Shroyer
Bob Neumann
Elaine Grace
Kevin Ober
Silas Howells
Maria Meyers
David Beistel
Joanie S
Camryn Ecker
Amanda Jo
J. Arturo
Miles Webb

Those in care facilities:
Redstone Highlands: Donna Sheridan, Dorothy Stewart
Mt. View Senior Care: Carole Bridges
Woodcrest Senior Living Community: George Billig

Those in the Service

NATIONAL GUARD	Spencer Geohrig
NAVY:	Derek Leach

We pray for the safety of all military personnel and their families and give thanks to God for their service to our nation.

We welcome names for the Good Shepherd prayer list. Names will appear on the list for one month unless we are contacted to keep them longer. Thank you.

No-Bake Pumpkin Cheesecake Balls: Easy Fall Dessert Recipe

Author: Sophia
Total Time: 45 minutes
Yield: 12-15 balls

These No-Bake Pumpkin Cheesecake Balls are a simple yet delicious fall dessert. With a creamy, spiced pumpkin filling and a rich cheesecake flavor, they are perfect for parties or as a snack. Plus, they're easy to prepare without the need for an oven.

INGREDIENTS

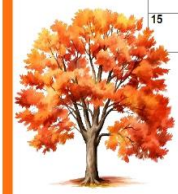
8 oz cream cheese, softened
1 cup canned pumpkin puree
1 cup graham cracker crumbs, plus extra for rolling
1/2 cup powdered sugar
1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup white chocolate chips, melted (optional for drizzling)

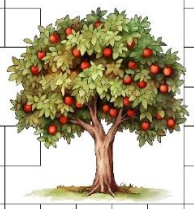
INSTRUCTIONS

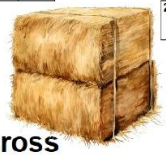
In a large mixing bowl, beat the softened cream cheese until smooth and creamy.
Add the pumpkin puree, powdered sugar, pumpkin pie spice, cinnamon, vanilla extract, and salt. Mix until well combined.
Stir in the graham cracker crumbs and mix until the mixture holds together.
Scoop the mixture into tablespoon-sized portions and roll into balls.
Roll each ball in additional graham cracker crumbs to coat.
If desired, drizzle with melted white chocolate for extra sweetness.
Place the cheesecake balls on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper and refrigerate for at least 1 hour to firm up before serving.

Name:_____ Date:_____

Autumn Crossword







Across

2. Cool feeling in the air as autumn arrives
6. Outfit worn for Halloween
8. Place where a fire is built for warmth
10. Small animal that gathers nuts for winter
11. Flying object that is often flown on windy days
12. Hard-shelled fruit often used in fall decorations
13. Time when crops are gathered from the fields
15. Colorful foliage that falls from trees in autumn
18. Container often used to collect apples or leaves
20. Nut that grows on oak trees
21. Sound of walking on dry leaves
23. Type of tree that stays green all year round
25. Nocturnal animal known for its mask-like face
26. Tree known for its sweet syrup & colorful leaves

Down

1. Figure placed in fields to scare away birds
3. Holiday celebrated on October 31st
4. Large outdoor fire often used for gatherings
5. Warm piece of clothing worn in cooler weather
7. Celebration, often featuring food and games
8. Popular sport played in the autumn months
9. Weather condition often experienced during fall
12. Sound a turkey makes
14. Cozy clothing item often worn when it gets chilly
16. Word used to describe something scary or Halloween-like
17. Popular orange fruit used for Halloween
19. Fun outing on a wagon filled with hay
20. Fruit commonly picked in autumn
21. Drink made from pressed apples, often enjoyed in fall
22. Common crop harvested in autumn
24. Another name for the autumn season

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