



DEVOTIONS: Pastor Paul Gruesu

ACCEPT AGENDA: Accepted with one additional question for the Property Committee.

COMMUNICATIONS: Nothing to add.

MINUTES: March minutes accepted as presented. Thank you to Brian Gesalman for submitting.

PASTOR'S REPORT: March report accepted as presented. Pastor Gruesu added that the confirmands went to a homeless shelter and local synagogue. They also served at the W/ELCA gathering this past Saturday.

TREASURER'S REPORT: March report accepted as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Youth—Youth are packing the Food 2 Go for April on the 28th. Time to be decided.

B. Christian Education—The last Sunday Club will be held on April 28th. Vacation Bible School will be held from June 10th through 14th from 8:45 am to 12 pm. Currently there are 10 registered. Deadline to register is May 12th. Confirmands will be confirmed on Pentecost Sunday, May 19th. Reception with cake to follow in the social room. Question was raised as to whether or not the confirmands receive Bibles. To ask Rachel King to talk to Pastor Gruesu.

C. Constitution Committee—Met on April 8th and started with revisions to the constitution. Next meeting on May 6th at 7pm will be to address the by-laws.

D. Finance—

The Assistant Treasurer, as part of his duties as described in the church bylaws, is examining the possibility of investing a portion of the church's consolidated funds in flexible CDs earning 4.9% through the church's bank First National. The amount and details will be determined in conjunction with the Finance

Committee. The consolidated funds are those funds that have long range application and not involved in normal budgeted operational expenses. Linda reminded council that this rate changes daily.

E. Fellowship—

The next event is the Art Show on April 27th and all are encouraged to participate. Planning committee for the church picnic to be held on August 25th at Mammoth Park will be started in May. If interested in joining the picnic committee, please contact Jack Gesalman.

F. Property—

Meeting was held on April 6th and future projects were discussed. Priority items were concrete walkway around the entryway and electrical work. Work Day was discussed but the date initially proposed isn't going to work so a new date will need to be selected. Quotes have been received for electrical work but were received after the meeting so were not shared in person with the committee. Fairfield Drive flood light broken and a replacement was purchased. To be installed when able. Rug pads were ordered but will be returned and re-ordered slightly larger to accommodate the entire rug.

Bonnie asked if a grab bar could be installed in the women's restroom. It was lost when the restroom stalls were reconfigured. Andrew to speak to the installer.

G. Community Fellowship—VBS from June 10th through 14th.

H. Worship and Music—

The committee is planning to meet within the next few weeks. Still gathering information regarding the options for the organ. Harry added that it would be a huge undertaking to move the organ downstairs. Amy, liaison to the committee, was asked take to the committee the idea of having a speaker installed near the organ upstairs so that the organist can hear both the pastor and choir director during the worship service.

I. Rocking Horse Preschool—met today, April 15th. The sink is working fine. Concentrating on three- and four-year old registration for fall. Discussed marketing techniques to attract the maximum number of kids in the classes, especially three-year-olds.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Newsletter Letter Results—183 letters sent, which cost the church more than \$200. Twenty-seven (27) were returned (4 pickup, 9 online, 14 to be mailed). Four came back with the incorrect address.

We had twenty-two (22) returned from the Newsletter mailing for Nov/Dec/Jan. Pastor Paul said that by sending the letter we communicated with the congregation that we care about you. Thirty-some newsletters are currently being mailed.

B. Communion Card Results—No cards were returned from the Saturday services. (Wasn't announced as far as we know). None from sunrise service while 24 were returned from the 10:30 Easter Service). Was announced by Pastor Sheehan. Harry has agreed to distribute the communion cards at the Saturday night service and Dee Salentino agreed to do the same on Sunday morning. To be a voting member of the congregation, per the Good Shepherd constitution, one must both commune and contribute. The completion of the cards allows the database of the church to be updated.

C. Search for Partner Congregation—another congregation has been contacted. The pastor there has spoken to their council and that started the process. Harry, Kathy and Pastor Paul to meet this month with a few individuals from the other church, along with Pastor Asplin from the synod, when a time and date is agreed upon.

D. Removing active members—a list has been generated showing individuals who have not contributed to Good Shepherd monetarily from January 2022 through 2023. Letter explaining the requirements to be a voting member to be drafted and shown to council at the next meeting. Pastor Paul has shared the letter used by St. Matthias.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: NEXT MEETING is May 20, 2024.



Please take note of the adjusted office hours starting in June through August

Monday 9-12PM, Tuesday 9-3PM, Thursday 9-11AM

Starting **June 2nd** Sunday services will start at **9:30AM**

JUST A LITTLE
Reminder

Three Members to Be Confirmed on May 19



Three young members of the congregation – Addison Hoone, Giovanna Jones, and Ty'reon Morrison-Jones – have completed their year of instruction on the beliefs and practices of the Lutheran Christian Church. Their classes were held by Pastor Paul Gruesu, who is the local interim pastor of the congregation. The classes look at worship, the Bible, history of the church, and what it means to be a practicing Lutheran in today's society. It is an important step in our life of growth as followers of Jesus Christ.

The Rite of Confirmation will take place at the 10:30 am service on Sunday, May 19. Pastor Ed Sheehan will preside. There will be a reception after the service, to recognize the confirmands, and give all the members of the congregation an opportunity to congratulate them.

To the dedicated teachers/opener (Jackie Gesalman, Andrea Territ, Jack Gesalman & Kathy Wolfe) of Sunday Club!



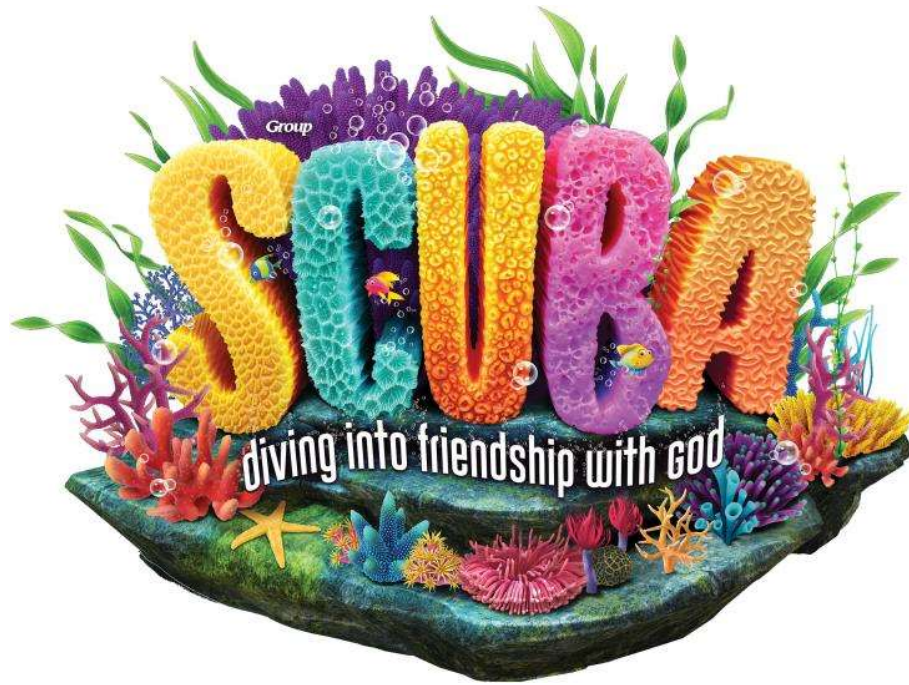
We look forward to kicking back off in the fall!



JR/SR

Keep an eye out for upcoming activities!
Don't want to miss out on events & interested in joining the youth group!?

Contact: Rachel King 724-454-6476



**Dive into fun this summer June 10-14th at
Good Shepherd for Vacation Bible School!**



**Interested in being a volunteer scan QR code to
sign up or contact the church office!**

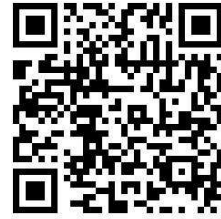
***Participant registration deadline is May 12th @
10:30AM Use QR code above to register!**

Community Fellowship Upcoming Events

Monday, June 10th – Friday, June 14th 8:45AM-12:00PM-
Vacation Bible School



Dive In for a FUN week!
Pre/K-5th
(Must be fully potty trained)
Cost- \$15.00 per kid
Scan QR code to register



Saturday, July 13th 8:00PM &
Saturday, August 10th 8:00PM-
Outdoor Movie Nights

Join us for a magical night under the stars



More information coming soon



Saturday, October 12th 6:30PM 8:30PM-
Trunk or Treat & Fun House

Join us for a Spooky evening of Tricks & Treats!

More information coming soon

Friday, December 6th 5:00-8:00PM-
3rd Annual Light Up Night

More information coming soon



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



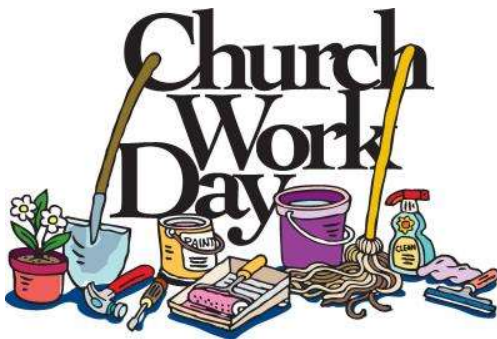
Find the cross (+)

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 April winner Fran Ober!

The cross was located on page 11 under the Art Show article



Join property committee **Saturday, May 4th @ 9:00AM** for church clean up

Outside: Windows outside of sanctuary, Repair gutter @ entrance, Pick up twigs & lawn debris, Dispose of old bathroom stalls, Weeding

Inside: Window cleaning, Clean tables & chairs

Donuts, Pastries, Juice & Coffee provided

Reservations have been made for **Pavilion 13** at **Mammoth Park** for **August 25th**.

Mark this date on your calendar!

If you would like to help plan this picnic, please let The Church office or Jack

Gesalman know. We will have our first planning meeting on **Tuesday, May 7th 7PM**



Join Christian Ed & Fellowship for the last “Hot Dog” (tea sandwiches) Sunday on May 19th following 10:30AM service. We will be celebrating the confirmation of Addison Hoone, Giovanna Jones & Ty’reon Morrison-Jones.

Hot Dog Sunday will then resume again in September!

BLANKET SUNDAY - MAY 12, 2024

Mothers’ Day weekend this year is May 11th and May 12th, and once again Good Shepherd Church members are invited to participate in a collection to fund the acquisition and distribution of blankets and other disaster relief items to people in need. For the small sum of \$10.00 you can give a blanket to help victims of earthquakes, storms, fires, or the ravages of war. Please use the Blanket Sunday envelopes found on the table in the commons area to make your donation in honor of or in memory of a mother, grandmother or other special woman this Mothers' Day.

Tues., May 14th will be the annual Ladies dinner at 6:00.

All ages of women and girls are invited! Fuggenthaler catering will be serving chicken parmesan with stuffed shells for dinner with the help of our men volunteers. Our entertainer for the evening will be Harrisburg resident, Julie Nevel. She is a seasoned veteran of 20+ years in full-time ministry throughout the world as a worship leader, singer, songwriter, speaker, concert artist, pianist and author. Her powerful music captures listeners with her original songs written from the heart. Adult tickets are \$25. Discount tickets for girls 5-11 are \$12 and children 4 and under are free but ask for a ticket for them to save their seat. The last day to buy tickets is Sunday, May 5th. Please encourage your friends and family to come along!



Save these Dates:

Sept. 20-22 2024 for the W/ELCA weekend retreat at camp Lutherlyn – “Stir up Friends Fellowship Faith”
registration information coming soon.



July 16-19, 2026 Triennial Gathering in Des Moines, IA – We hope you consider attending this life changing event.

SWPA Women of the ELCA Designated Outreach Program:



Our 2024 Designated Outreach recipient is St. Peter's Lutheran Church After School Program in Evans City. They provide a safe place for children after school. Kids receive snacks, tutoring, play games, make crafts, and have free play time too at NO COST to those who qualify. Our church is asked to help by supplying some of these items:

- snacks – applesauce, Oreo's, pretzels, kids cereal, chips, etc. Please make sure they won't expire until at least June 2024
- washable tempera paint, glue and glue sticks, pony beads, fuse beads, googly eyes, permanent markers, thin ribbon, other craft items
- paper plates, paper cups, napkins, paper towels, toilet paper, Kleenex
- card stock paper, index cards, construction paper, poster board
- board games, outdoor games
- disinfecting wipes &/or spray, garbage bags (all sizes)
- command hooks/strips
- small dollar store items that can be used as prizes or rewards

Monetary donations are also accepted by making checks payable to SWPA Women of the ELCA. Please designate on the memo line to St Peter's Lutheran Church After School Program. Mail these checks to Janet Fishovitz 136 Clearwater Dr., Ellwood City, PA 16117. We are **currently collecting items thru May 18th** when a representative will come to the SWPA W/ELCA convention and pick up our donations.

Special Request from the Women of the ELCA Lily Project

A few years ago, our local Lutheran Churches have banded together and brought the Lily Project to Westmoreland County. The Lily Project collects special clothing packages to be given to the 3 Independence (Excela) Hospitals to have on hand to be given out as needed. In cases of some medical emergencies, clothing may need to be cut off in order to provide care. In the cases of rape, abuse or other traumatic situations a person's clothing may need to be kept for evidence or are not suitable to be worn again.

First Lutheran church in Greensburg headlines this project with a room to store the clothing until the hospitals take them. At this time, they have several partial packages for women that need shirts to be complete. These women's shirts need to button, snap or zipper in front. This is very critical with some injuries leading to an inability for patients to raise their arms. It is also helpful for the clothing to have long sleeves to cover bruising or other markings. Women's tops may be put into the collection box by the water fountain. Monetary donations are also appreciated. Thank you.



Now enrolling for the 2024-2025 school year. There is currently AM openings for the 3-year-old class and only PM classes available for the 4-year-old class. Contact the

church office for more information or to pick up a registration form. You can also visit www.rockinghorsepreschool.com



Meals-on-Wheels Cookie Program

Our Meals-on-Wheels cookie program is still ongoing. The cookies are picked up at the church on the **2nd Sunday** of each month and delivered to the center on Monday morning. Anyone is welcome to donate cookies. At the present time, we are permitted to bake our own or buy them. You do not have to pack them into baggies, the center + does this.

If you wish to be on the cookie contribution list, we usually donate three times a year. However, we will accept any donations. Many of our long-time cookie bakers are no longer with us or are elderly and no longer able to continue. So won't you please step up and be one of our contributors.

Thank You, Dorothy Gesalman

PS: If you cannot be in church on the **2nd Sunday**, please put them on the kitchen counter or in the freezer with a date and mark "Meals-on-Wheels".

ATTENTION MEALS ON WHEELS COOKIE BAKERS



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

MAY

COOKIE BAKERS (GROUP 1) Cookie Sunday is May 12, 2024.

Sue Strasser	Fran Robb
Barbara Henderson	Donna Sheridan
Fran Ober	

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.



May Committee Meetings

Anyone welcome to JOIN!

Sunday, May 5th 7PM-Light Up Night MTG. Join us to help plan our biggest annual event!

Wednesday, May 29th 7PM-Community Fellowship MTG

Tuesday, May 7th 7PM-Church Picnic planning MTG

Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9:00-3:00PM



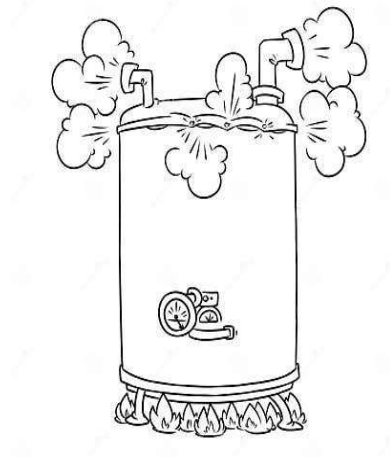
News & Announcements

*To include something in the bulletin, please have it to the church office by 9:00 am. Tuesday.

The deadline for the June, July, August Newsletter is May 20th.



The Prayer List has been updated and will be updated monthly. Every month all names will be removed. If you need a name added, please contact the church office. If you have any friends or relatives in the military that you want included, please let the office know.



**We have begun the boiler fund drive. Simply use the green envelopes found at the pews. Clearly mark as "Boiler Fund" and include your envelope number. Also, put "Boiler Fund" on your check. Details about discussing this opportunity to help our church such as a 3-5-year commitment can be clarified by contacting Denny Clawson at 724-331-2097 clawson.d@gmail.com.
-Thank you.**

Happy Birthday to:

May



Susan Rhome	(05/01)
Colin Ecker	(05/02)
Gregory Harbaugh	(05/02)
William Benton	(05/03)
Nancy Deemer	(05/04)
Dennis Clawson	(05/09)
Anthony Japalucci	(05/09)
Mary Ann Smith	(05/10)
Halla Miller	(05/17)
Addison Hoone	(05/18)
Luke Sikora	(05/18)
Ashley Fearer	(05/21)
Terry Mays	(05/21)
Cameron Alderson	(05/22)
Matthew Alderson	(05/22)
John Mathers	(05/22)
Kristen Ecker	(05/23)
Iver Tarris	(05/23)
Mycal Jones	(05/27)

(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
Miriam Starenchak
Jackie Guhl
Jane Elliott
Val Pollock
Erik Williams
Bernie Miller
Lynda Gesalman
Donna Sheridan
Mac McMurtrie
Bill Ambrose
Lillian Shea

Friends and relatives of the Good Shepherd family:

Helen Bell
Jeff Guhl

Those in care facilities:

Redstone Highlands: Bernie Fisher (Murrysville), Charlotte Hein

Mt. View Senior Care: Carole Bridges

Woodcrest Senior Living Community: George & Joan 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.