

May 2016

The Staff

The Newsletter of Shepherd of the Glen Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship & School 9:30 AM

When my kids were growing up, I remember that May began to compete with December for sheer busyness. There were school concerts, piano and dance recitals, sports play-offs, graduations, weddings, Mother's Day, Memorial Day—May began to fill up as soon as I pulled out the next year's calendar. We *expect* the December datebook to get crowded, but May might even surpass the holiday season for celebrations and events, especially for those that mark life's milestones.

Celebrations have always been markers that God has given us to stop, look at a particular blessing and—have a party! The Old Testament tells us that the Hebrew calendar was full of celebration days like Passover, Feast of tabernacles, Purim, Hanukkah, and many others. Many of the psalms are songs that were written to sing out during festivals and you can imagine the energy in the crowds as musicians played and everyone joined in with words like "Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy." (Psalm 47:1). Talk about dancing in the streets! Sounds like those ancient Israelites knew how to have fun!

Jesus enjoyed traditional celebrations as well—the New Testament tells us that he was there in the crowd celebrating feast days in the temple in Jerusalem, and of course, we know that his first miracle was to keep a party going and turn water into wine at a wedding!

These celebrations often came in the midst of hardship or crisis, but I believe that God has always given his people times for celebration not *despite* the challenges and difficulties of life, but *because* of them. God, in God's wisdom, knows that we need those times when we gather as his beloved children to stop, take a good look at the blessings in gives, and most importantly, come together to celebrate and enjoy the occasion.

When I was studying to be a childbirth educator, there was a term I'll never forget because I got it wrong on a very important exam. The "Hawthorn Effect" states that "a patient perceives less pain when given emotional support." I find this to be so true in my work with women giving birth, and it is also very evident in our life as a faith community. When we come together—to laugh, to cry, to sing, to pray, to eat and drink, to enjoy each other's company, to *celebrate*, the pain any one of us is carrying is lightened by the presence of others. Every

Sunday is, in fact, a celebration day, where we gather to share our joys and sorrows and be fed by the meal of bread and wine where Jesus himself welcomes and meets us—a blessed time which gives us that “foretaste of the feast to come” in the midst of the stresses and anxieties of life. Our first Sunday monthly fellowship times have been good fun, and such times are vital to the life of a congregation. Joyful celebration—fun!--is not a frivolous or non-essential part of life; it is, in itself, a life-giving, sacred gift from our Creator.

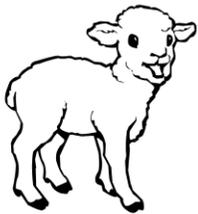
So, whatever celebrations you have coming up—enjoy this month! God is good, and blesses us with celebrations to share.

Peace.

Pastor Susan

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Final Total for the Lenten Project – Five backpacks and 45 cans of food for a total of \$245.00. These items were delivered on April 13 to the Route 1 Day Center. Supplies/Pantry Coordinator: Melinda Becker sends her personal thank you to Shepherd of the Glen congregation. Your generosity will make a difference in their clients’ lives.



“Good Shepherd Campaign” Beginning April 17 (Good Shepherd Sunday) through May 15, we will be collecting donations to put toward sending a sheep—or hopefully a flock!—to families in Burkina Faso in West Africa through LWR. These sheep will enable families to be self supporting and will not only contribute to that family’s ability to feed, clothe, house, and educate their children, but to the stability of the area as well. For \$100 we can send one sheep, and we’re hoping to send more. Any amount you, your friends, neighbors and families can donate will help, and left over funds will be donated to LWR to help with their life-saving work worldwide. When you donate, you can stuff a bit of wool on to the cardboard sheep in the church hallway—so by May 15 we’ll have a nice woolly sheep to show for our generosity! **Many thanks to Stephanie Ransom**, (resident sheep expert and artist) for making the sheep and providing the wool.

Sunday May 1. We welcome **Deacon Doug Wittach** to our church to preach and tell us about the role of consecrated deacons of the **Order of St Stephens**. This is a very old (see Acts 6) branch of ministry that is experiencing a resurgence. Please plan to stay and greet Deacon Doug and ask questions about his vocation.

Sunday May 1. Call Committee Survey- Please have your surveys completed and returned by May 1. Your feedback will impact how the Call Committee answers the questions in the

Ministry Site Profile. This profile is what prospective Pastoral candidates will review to give them an idea of what kind of a church/congregation Shepherd of the Glen is. ***Every member's opinion is important! ***

Pentecost, May 15. Do you speak / read a foreign language? On the day of Pentecost, 2000 years ago, the Holy Spirit enabled the disciples to speak in different languages. It would be great to be able to hear the scripture read in as many languages as possible that morning. Please let Pastor Susan know by May 5 if you are interested.

Sunday May 29. We welcome Rev. Gerry Rickel, pastor of the St Dymas Prison ministry of the Delaware/Maryland Synod. He has amazing stories of how Jesus has made a difference in people's lives. Please plan to be here and support this vital ministry.

The **Prayer Shawl group** is planning to meet at 9:00 AM on the third Tuesday of each month to crochet or knit shawls that will provide comfort for persons needing support or healing. Our first meeting will be May 17th at Shepherd of the Glen Church. Don't forget, if you are interested and don't know how to crochet or knit, we can teach you. Also, if you have leftover yarn that soft and washable we can use it. It doesn't have to be whole skeins, yarns can be combined.

Monday May 30. Route 1 Day Center – This is our next scheduled date to prepare and serve the meal at Route 1 Day Center. If you can help serve from 3:30 to 6:00 pm or provide food, please let Linda Krause know. The menu is:

4 foil pans of baked chicken

2 large foil pans of mixed vegetables or green beans

2 large foil pans of macaroni and cheese

4 gallons of drinks: tea, fruit punch, lemonade, fruit juice

4 bags of rolls

2 containers of salad dressings

5 bags of salad

1 large bag ice

3 desserts

2 gallons milk

Opportunities to volunteer: Signup sheets are posted in the narthex next to the kitchen for **Assisting and/or Teaching Sunday school**, also **providing items to share for the First Sunday Fellowships.** *Thank you.*

Coming up: Synod Assembly June 2-4. Pastor Susan will be there as we elect a new bishop. Pray for our synod as we consider this election (during down times at the Flea Market/Mini Book sale—say a prayer!)

Saturday June 4. Flea Market/Mini Book Sale will be held from 8 am to 1 pm. Items you would like to donate to the flea market may be brought to church and place in the back Sunday school room. To help give the ladies enough time to price all items, please bring them to church as soon as possible. Much appreciated.

Church Council Meeting held on April 12, 2016

Minutes from the March 15, 2016 meeting were read and approved with one correction.

Financial Reports:

The Financial Secretary's report was distributed.

For the week ending March 31, 2016:

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| Pledged Envelope Offerings: | \$15,528.00 |
| Actual Envelope Offerings: | \$15,564.00 (100.2%) |
| Loose Offerings | \$386.00 (year to date) |
| Building Fund | \$350.00 (year to date) |
| Gifts and Memorials | \$3,165.00 |
| Miscellaneous Donation | \$1,134.54 (Boy Scouts)/\$101.00 (Rt.1) |

The Treasurer's report was distributed.

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|----------------------------|-------------|
| March Envelope income: | \$5,102.00 |
| Year to date total income: | \$17,856.04 |
| Year to date expenses: | \$14,727.01 |

Financial reports were accepted as given.

Dennis received a letter from the IRS re: Church address of record. He has resolved this with the IRS.

We discussed how we calculate the amount of fund raiser income allocated to the Building Fund. For 2015 fundraising, an additional \$1,393.60 will be transferred to the Building Fund resulting in a balance of \$10,000. A motion was presented and passed that In future years Council will decide how much of the excess fund raising will be transferred to the building fund based on a report of the prior year's income, fund raising and expenses provided by the Treasurer.

Board of Christian Education:

A Coffee Fellowships will be held on April 24 and May 1. Please sign up on the Sunday before the fellowship to let Christian Ed know if you will be providing treats.

Christian Ed is still in need of teachers to lead Sunday school lessons. Please sign up if you can offer this service. The last day of Sunday school is May 29.

We are at the beginning stages of organizing a Prayer Shawl group. Anyone interested in knitting or crocheting is invited to join the group to make Prayer Shawls. We are still in need of yarn also.

Board of Trustees Report:

New water tank has been installed. Thank you to Matt Mader, Tim K. and Tom C. A Spring work day has been scheduled for May 21. It will concentrate on indoor tasks such as window washing and chair cleaning. A sign-up sheet has been posted with both jobs and for volunteers.

Board of Deacons Report:

Lenten Project--Five backpacks and many canned goods were taken to the Route 1 Center. The Good Shepherd campaign is now underway. We will be raising money to buy and send a sheep to Burkina Faso. Each sheep costs \$100. This program will run until May 15th (Pentecost).

Bulletin and Service Simplification: The Deacons are working on simplifying both the weekly bulletin and service. For April and May the Prayers of Intercession will not be printed in the bulletin; the Creed and Lord's Prayer will have different formatting; the Communion hymn will be played by the organist and not sung.

Pastors Report:

Pastor Susan continues to meet with members and make Pastoral Care visits.

Pastor Susan conducted Holy Week Services including "communion to go" on Maundy Thursday and Ecumenical service at St. Michaels on Good Friday.

Pastor Susan attended Baltimore West Conference meeting and Jewish/Christian/Muslim Interreligious study.

Pastor Susan met with Calvary Lutheran Church to discuss possible collaborative ministries.

Call Committee:

The Call Committee continues to put together our Ministry Site Profile with the Synod. A survey will be given to all members on April 17 to be returned on May 1 for the purpose of gathering input for this Site Profile.

We discussed the possibility of hiring an Administrative Assistant including duties, hours and salary.

The Council decided to move forward with the hiring process for an Administrative Assistant. A special Congregational meeting will take place on May 8 to discuss the Administrative Assistant position.

The next Council meeting will be held on May 10, 2016 at 7:00 pm.