



The Shepherd's Voice

Serving Rockland County, NY, & Northern Bergen County, NJ

APRIL 2016

Reaching and Risking to Welcome the World in the Word that has come among us in Jesus Christ.

Living Questions



*"There's no proof that God exists
so I don't believe in God."*

sigh

*confirmation class challenger
pushing the new pastor*

*"You believe in lots of things
you have no proof for."*

Ugh.

*The words die
as they fall off my lips*

*It's not the answer I long for
Not the answer that touches my soul*

*Not the answer
because there is no answer*

only the question

*"Where is the guest room, where I may eat the
Passover with my disciples?"*

"What will you give me if I betray him to you?"

the question

"Do you know what I have done to you?"

"Surely, not I?"

the question

"Could you not keep awake one hour?"

*"Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has
given me?"*

the question

"Are you the King of the Jews?"

"Have you no answer?"

"What is truth?"

the question

"Whom do you want me to release for you ...?"

"Then what should I do with Jesus ...?"

"Why, what evil has he done?"

the question

Do you not fear God ... ?

*"My God, my God, why have you forsaken
me?"*

the question

*"Who will roll away the stone for us from
the entrance to the tomb?"*

"Where have you laid his body?"

the question

"Woman, why are you weeping?"

"For whom are you looking?"

*"Why do you look for the living among the
dead?"*

the question

of the silent, empty tomb

echoing of something

inviting

breathing

not answers

final, dead

answers

but mysterious

vibrant

questions

and finding

in them

the living God

-Pastor Lena Warren

**The Evangelical Lutheran
Church of the Good Shepherd**

112 North Main Street
Pearl River, New York 10965

OUR MISSION

**“Welcoming the World in the
Word that has come among us
in Jesus Christ”**

WORSHIP

Sundays: 8:15, 9:30, & 10:30 a.m.

CONTACT US

Church Office: (845)735-2243

Fax: (845)735-0819

E-mail: office@gspr.org

Web site: www.gspr.org

Creative Play Pre-School: (845)735-2737

AT YOUR SERVICE

The Reverend J. Lena Warren, Pastor
Kenneth Merring - Council President
Robert Bergman - Treasurer
Maureen Connolly - Creative Play Director
Dale Damon - Church Secretary
Brenda Ferguson - Organist/Director of Music
Dagmar Klein - Church Administrator
Janet Maleskii - Council Secretary
The Reverend John R. Taylor - Pastor Emeritus

Voice Publication Deadline

Items to be included in *The Shepherd's Voice* must be submitted to the church office by **April 8th** for the May 2106 issue. Electronic submission (e-mail) is preferred. Articles submitted after the deadline may not be published, due to space and time restrictions. Please e-mail articles to: secretary@gspr.org.

GET YOUR COPY OF THE “VOICE” E-MAILED....

It will be exactly the same *Voice* that you've been receiving through the mail, but delivered via e-mail instead. That way you receive your copy faster, and we save on mailing expenses. To sign up for the *e-Voice*, send an e-mail to secretary@gspr.org, as well as the e-mail address you'd like us to use.

LIFE STATIONS

Deaths

Elvera Barany

date

3/7/2016

General Memorial

In memory of Don Liebert

given by Dave & Ruth Cranstoun

In memory of Gerald Rothbart

given by Dave & Ruth Cranstoun

Good Shepherd Fund

In memory of Elvera Barany

given by Margie & Bob Vatter

In memory of Don Liebert

given by Margie & Bob Vatter

2016 CHURCH COUNCIL

Pastor Lena Warren
Ken Merring, Council President
Robert Bergman, Treasurer
Janet Maleski, Secretary
Rob Bayer
Werner Boecker
Barbara Bow
Robert Callan
James Cleary
Wendy Gates
Trish Habas
Steve Habina
Jayne Knarich
Deanna Lauer
Carole Meehan
Herman Mensing
Richard Struck
Debra Thaler
Don Widmayer

Good Shepherd Church is on Social Media

See our church webpage at: www.gspr.org

"*Like Us*" on Facebook at: ***Good Shepherd Lutheran Church***

"*Follow Us*" on Instagram at: ***good_shepherd_pearlriver***

MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

Good Shepherd's Men's Breakfast Group generally meets on the third Saturday of every month, at 9:00 am in Fellowship Hall. However, the April breakfast will take place on the 9th. All men of Good Shepherd are invited to join in for fellowship and a great breakfast!

PRAYER CHAIN

If you, a loved one, or a friend experience difficulty and you desire prayer support, the Good Shepherd Prayer Chain may be helpful.

When you have a request or a thanksgiving to share, please call: lone Mensing at 201-664-1235; email: himensing@gmail.com or Carol Westphal at 845-624-5732; email: carolwestphal9@gmail.com

The Prayer Chain will then be activated, and many will be praying with and for you.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who participated in our Lenten Wednesday Evenings.

- To Jayne Knarich for organizing our wonderful soup suppers, and to the Women's Faith Life; Food, Faith, and Friends; the First Communion Class Parents; The Men's Group; and WELCA and friends, for taking on a Wednesday evening with an amazing array of delicious soups.
- To those who led programs: Rich Bowman, Brenda Ferguson, Deanna Lauer, Ione Mensing, Debra Thaler, and Merold Westphal.
- To Pastor Lena for leading us in the beautiful Holden Evening Prayer, and to Brenda, Christopher Filatov, William Klein, Rich Bowman and Elizabeth Dowling for their musical contributions.

THANK YOU FROM FORDHAM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church:

Once again, another productive year and most importantly, a grace-filled year. Thank you all for the gifts you provided Fordham Church and members of the Fordham Heights community.

The turkey drive was a success. Every single adult member was able to leave the Sunday before Thanksgiving with a bag or turkey and feed either themselves or their family. The highlight for me this year, during Thanksgiving, was receiving a phone call from our Assemblyman. "Pastor, I have given out over 500 turkeys to families in need. I'm exhausted and can you believe I don't even have a turkey for my own home?" Thanks to Good Shepherd, we were able to provide this faithful servant the last turkey we had. All of our youth and specific families enjoyed opening their (white) gifts and they each truly appreciate your time and effort as you provide this assistance to them. Our relationship has truly been a blessing and I hope and pray it continues for years to come.

Blessings,

Rev. Jonathan Recabarren

CALLING ALL GARDENERS

SOON THE SNOW WILL MELT AND BE ONLY A MEMORY... AND SOON WE'LL BE PLANTING AND WEEDING AND TRIMMING AND DEAD-HEADING—GETTING BACK TO THE SOIL.

BUT BEFORE ALL THIS HAPPENS, WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A GENERAL CLEAN-UP OF THE PROPERTY BEFORE PASTOR LENA'S INSTALLATION.

JOIN US ON APRIL 9TH AT 9AM-12 NOON TO HELP SPRUCE UP THE GROUNDS FOR SPRING...PLANTING WILL TAKE PLACE LATER IN MAY.



"Giving is a spiritual discipline. Giving grows out of our knowing that we do not own anything, that everything we have is God's, ... given to us by God. And when we have been truly touched by and grasped this truth, then we cannot help but give."

Author unknown



CREATIVE PLAY NEWS



The April sunshine brings out the smiling faces of our children and staff. We are looking forward to the arrival of our caterpillars, that will blossom into painted lady butterflies. The children will watch the lifecycle of the caterpillar and learn about the changes that will take place. Reading *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* is a favorite story that the teachers will be sharing with their classes.

The spring weather brings outside fun and learning about planting, baby animals and April showers. Our program committee will be putting on the Dinosaur Show, in which the children will get to explore and learn all about the dinosaurs that roamed the earth so many years ago. The parents on the committee enjoy making fossil prints and digging for dinosaur eggs(plastic ones!) with the children.

Our Time for Twos and Toddler classes are open for registration. If you have a child who will be 2 by December 1st, just call the school office and we will take your information. Classes are formed over the summer.

Our Summer Camp will run July 5th - July 29th; you can choose your weeks, and there is a different theme for each one. Applications are available in the office and classes fill up quickly.

We still have available spots in our Creative Play 3s and 4s, come visit our school to see all the fun we are having!

WELCA

The next meeting of WELCA will be Tuesday, April 5th, at 1:30 PM, in the parlor. We will have a speaker from the Salvation Army.

Our last meeting was very well-attended. We had a speaker from the Rockland County Office of the Aging. This was very interesting and informative.



The response was very good for the Personal Care Kits. They will be delivered to a church in River Edge, NJ, on April 18th or 19th. We will be collecting them until Sunday, March 27th. Many thanks to all.

Ladies, if you are a member of Good Shepherd, you are a member of WELCA. We meet the 1st Tuesday of every month and have a short business meeting, followed by a program. And then delicious refreshments and social time. We need all of you so we can continue our outreach into the community and beyond. There are no dues, but we do collect a voluntary donation at each meeting.

If you have any questions or need a ride, please call Barbara Bow at 845-215-5866 or Mary Iseman at 845-623-7638.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Food Faith & Friends Meets Tuesday,
April 19, 2016 from 7 to 8:30 pm

We cordially invite you to join us for Food, Faith & Friends on Tuesday, April 19, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., in the church parlor. Come share in this opportunity to meet people of all ages, share a little about our faith journeys (including our questions), and eat a meal together. Bring yourself, an open heart, an open mind, and an appetite! Invite a friend! Watch the Sunday *Cross Connections* in April for more details. If you have any questions, please contact Rich Bowman at rbp@yahoo.com or the Church Office at (845) 735-2243.

The Organ School

What in the world is God doing here? We have eight students in our Organ School, full scholarship musicians who come for private lessons each week. They then give their musical gifts back to God in our Worship services.

BACH is the most difficult music to play and sing, but five of our gifted youth musicians took on the challenge and blessed us with their talent and love on Wednesday evening, March 2. Those of us who heard them were lifted to God by their beautiful music, played and sung brilliantly.

If you see them - they look quite normal in the hallways of our church - give them a hug and a very big THANK YOU.

They are genius level musicians!

BACH MUSICIANS:
MATTHEW BALISON, WILLIAM KLEIN, MATTHEW LAUER, LILLI TRAMM, KYA TRICARICO

CONFIRMATION NEWS

6th through 8th Grade Confirmation Classes

Confirmation Class will be held the following evenings in Fellowship Hall:

6th Grade – Thursday, **April 7** – 7:00 to 8:15 pm

7th Grade – Thursday, **April 14** – 7:00 to 8:15 pm

8th Grade – Thursday, **April 21** – 7:00 to 8:15 pm

6th to 8th Grade Confirmation Class & Family Night– Thursday, April 28

Dinner: 7 to 7:30 pm (“Taco Night”) – Program: 7:30 to 8:30 pm

(Gluton Free and Vegetarian/Egg-free options will be available)

For more information, contact the Church Office at (845) 735-2243.

Youth Happenings

High School Bowling & Pizza Party at Montvale Lanes

Sunday, May 1, at 12:30 pm

(Grades 9 to 12)

Join us for 2 games of bowling, pizza & a drink

\$13 per person

Please RSVP by Sunday, April 24,

For more information, contact the Church Office at (845) 735-2243

or Rich Bowman at: rpbp@yahoo.com

Middle School Bowling & Pizza Party at Montvale Lanes

Sunday, May 15, at 12:30 pm

(Grades 5 to 8)

Join us for 2 games of bowling, pizza & a drink

\$13 per person

Please RSVP by Sunday, May 8,

For more information, contact the Church Office at (845) 735-2243

or Rich Bowman at: rpbp@yahoo.com

2018 ELCA Youth Gathering for Youth Currently in Grades 6th through 10th

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) will hold its 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas, from **June 27 to July 1, 2018 (departing New York on June 26)**. The Youth Gathering meets for five days every three years, and provides youth with the opportunity to participate in community service, study, worship, fun, and meaningful experiences. At the 2015 Youth Gathering in Detroit, 12 high school youth represented Good Shepherd at the Gathering, which had 30,000 participants from around the country. We hope to send even more youth in 2018! Please give careful consideration to encouraging your youth to participate in this life-changing Gathering event. If your youth has not yet signed up, but might be interested, please let us know as soon as possible. For more information, please **contact the church office** by email at: office@gspr.org or at (845) 735-2243 or speak to Rich Bowman in church or at rpbp@yahoo.com. Signing up now does not commit your youth to attend, but will give them an opportunity to explore the possibility. Final commitments won't be required until the Fall 2017.

Fun & Yummy

(Iron Chef Event)

Saturday, April 16, at 6:00 pm

Please join us in Fellowship Hall and enjoy a gourmet presentation of appetizers, entrees, and desserts, all prepared by creative culinary members of our congregation and their friends.



Seating is limited to 50 guests. Reservations are required!

- Attendance is on a first come, first served basis.
- Reservations must be made before April 10th
- Cost: \$12.00 per adult, \$8 for children under 12
- Wine and beer: \$4 each – limit of 2

You will participate in judging the best of the best and will have the opportunity to take home the chefs' "secret recipes."

Please fill out the form below and send to the church office with your payment, with "Fun & Yummy" indicated on the check. No tickets will be sold at the door and confirmations will be by e-mail or telephone.

Only 50 tickets will be sold! Deadline is April 10th!




"FUN & YUMMY" – April 16, 2016

NAME: _____

E-mail or telephone # for confirmation: _____

Persons attending: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

Wine:____ Beer:____ (Limit of 2 per person)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK 7:00 Girl Scout Mtg. Youth Room 7:45 AA/Fellowship Hall	2 9:00-12:00 Cub Pack 36
3 Easter 2 Holy Humor Sunday 8:15 Worship 9:30 Contemporary Holy Comm. Service 9:45 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Holy Communion/SCS 11:30 Coffee Hour 12:00 New Member Class 6:00 AA—Fellowship Hall	4 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK 6:00-7:00 Evening Bells 7:00-8:00 Renaissance Camerata 7:30 Prayer Shawl Ministry 8:00-8:45 Canzona Youth Orchestra 8:45 Organ Lesson	5 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK 1:30 WELCA—Parlor 3:30-6:45 Organ School Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts—Fellowship Hall	6 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK 3:30-4:00 Organ School Lessons 6:00-7:00 Organ School Lessons 7:00 Worship & Music Mtg.—Parlor	7 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK 11:30 Staff Meeting 4:30-5:30 Sacristy Singers 7:00 6th Gr. Confirmation—FH 7:30 Sanctuary Choir	8 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK 7:45 AA/Fellowship Hall	9 9:00-12:00 Garden Com. Spring Clean-up
10 Easter 3 8:15 Holy Communion 9:30 Contemporary Holy Comm. Service 9:45 Sanctuary Choir rehearsal 10:30 Holy Communion/Baptism/SCS 11:30 Coffee Hour 11:30 Church Council Mtg. 12:00 New Member Class 6:00 AA—Fellowship Hall	11 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK 6:00-7:00 Evening Bells 7:00 Wedding Conference 7:00-8:00 Renaissance Camerata 7:00-8:30 Yth. & Ed. Bd. Mtg 8:00-8:45 Canzona Youth Orchestra 8:45 Organ Lesson	12 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK 1:00 Piecemakers—Youth Room 1:00 Dinosaur Program Set up-FH 3:30-6:45 Organ School Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts—Education Bldg. 8:00 Women's Faith Life—Parlor	13 9:00-3:00 Dinosaur Program 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK 3:30-4:00 Organ School Lessons 4:30 Executive Committee Mtg. 6:00-7:00 Organ School Lessons	14 9:00-3:00 Dinosaur Program 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK 11:30 Staff Meeting 4:30-5:30 Sacristy Singers 7:00 Evangelism Mtg.—Parlor 7:00 7th Gr. Confirmation—FH 7:30 Sanctuary Choir	15 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK 7:00 Girl Scout Mtg. Youth Room 7:45 AA/Fellowship Hall	16 9:00 Men's Breakfast 3:00 Set up For Iron Chef 6:00-9:00 Iron Chef—FH
17 Easter 4 8:15 Worship Service 9:30 Contemporary Holy Comm. Service 9:45 Sanctuary Choir rehearsal 10:30 Holy Communion/SCS 1:00 Rockland Conservatory Concert Suzuki Violin Concert—Sanctuary 6:00 AA/Fellowship Hall	18 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK 6:00-7:00 Evening Bells 7:00-8:00 Renaissance Camerata 7:00 Youth & Education Mtg. 8:00-8:45 Canzona Youth Orchestra 8:45 Organ Lesson	19 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK 1:00 Piecemakers 3:30-6:45 Organ School Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts—Fellowship Hall 7:00 Food, Faith & Friends—Parlor	20 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK 3:30-4:30 Organ School Lessons 6:00-7:00 Organ School Lessons 7:00 Church Council Mtg.—Parlor	21 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK 11:30 Staff Meeting 4:30-5:30 Sacristy Singers 7:00 Confirmation 8th Gr.—FH 7:30-9:00 Sanctuary Choir	22 NO CREATIVE PLAY 7:45 AA/Fellowship Hall	23 3:00 Pastor Lena's Installation Service 5:00 Reception— Nyack Seaport 
24 Easter 5 8:15 Holy Communion Service 9:30 Contemporary Service 10:30 Holy Communion/Baptisms/SCS/ Cherubs 11:30 Keep Rockland Beautiful—Great American Clean-up 11:30 Baptismal Reception—FH (private) 6:00 AA/Fellowship Hall	25 NO CREATIVE PLAY 6:00-7:00 Evening Bells 7:00-8:00 Renaissance Camerata 8:00-8:45 Canzona Youth Orchestra 8:45 Organ Lesson	26 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK 1:00 Piecemakers 3:30-6:45 Organ School Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts—Fellowship Hall	27 9:00/1:00 CP Puppet Show—FH 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK 3:30-4:00 Organ School Lessons 6:00-7:00 Organ School Lessons	28 11:30 Staff Meeting 4:30-5:30 Sacristy Singers 7:00 Confirmation Family Dinner (6th, 7th & 8th Grades) 7:30-9:00 Sanctuary Choir	29 7:45 AA/Fellowship Hall	30

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
2016 Great American Cleanup**



Time to roll up our sleeves and get it done: every year, over 3,000+ volunteers come out to help clean up local parks, streets and waterways. It's our way of giving the local ecology a lift. It's also an amazing teaching moment for kids (of all ages!) to understand the impact of the choices we all make. Will you join us this year? We need your help – this winter has been brutal and the debris is ridiculous.

Sunday April 24, 2016

Meet in the Youth Room 11:30 am

Back at Youth Room at 1:30pm

Contact Sharon Martini for more information (sharonfmartini@gmail.com)