



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

On Shrove Tuesday, February 13th, Pastor Lena will be burning last year's palms, to make this year's ashes, for Ash Wednesday. If you have any old palms in your home, you can drop them off at the Church Office, or there will be a box available at the back of the church for palm collection. Thank you!

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER

Tuesday, February 13th at 7pm we will be having a pancake dinner to celebrate the last day before Lent. This is traditionally a day to eat wonderfully sugary, fatty foods before the solemnity of the Lenten period begins.

February 14th - ASH WEDNESDAY

12:30 p.m. Service of Holy Communion, with imposition of ashes

8:00 p.m. Service of Holy Communion, with imposition of ashes



FROM THE PASTOR... *"Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love..." - Joel 2:12-13*

Welcome to 2018 ... and we're already in Lent! Lent this year begins on February 14th – Yes., Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day fall on the same day! While I joked among some friends about putting ash hearts on people's foreheads this year, I think I'll stick with crosses. After all, crosses are signs of love; God's love for us, actually, God's *passion* for us.

The theme for our Wednesdays in Lent is "Learning the Language of Divine Love." And you will get more information about that in a letter soon. In the meantime, I wanted to tell you a little about why this theme works so well.

First of all, seriously, how often does Ash Wednesday fall on Valentine's Day? How could we not take advantage of that?!?

Secondly, in 2018 we are still the midst of the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and we thought it would be good to still focus a bit on that. Maybe a little less on Luther, but more on what it means for us to continue the re-forming ... and that certainly has something to do with love. Actually, I believe that the very heart of the reformation is about love: about a man (Martin Luther) who falls madly in love with a God who loved him first. It is that love that drove him to speak, to act, to nail 95 theses to a door, and to stand before Princes and the Emperor and say, "My conscience is captive to the Word of God. Thus I cannot and will not recant, because acting against one's conscience is neither safe nor sound. God help me. Here I stand."

If that love is so powerful – if falling in love with God can make such a difference in one man's life and then the whole world, what would that do for us? Would we find the heart to continue living into the reforming of this world? Of our own lives?

Finally, but maybe most importantly of all, the reading from Joel at the top of this note is the first lesson that we hear read on Ash Wednesday, the very beginning of Lent. At the heart of Lent is the work of turning our hearts to God – of rending them of the ways that we turn away from love and a God of life. It is to, like Luther, fall in love with a God who is abounding in steadfast love that will never fail.

Huh, this works so well for Lent, maybe I'll figure out how to make it our theme for not just our Wednesdays ... anyway, I hope you'll join us. It's a great delight to gather together in community and learn to live God's love with one another and the world.

See you soon!

Pastor Lena

**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: 8:00, 9:00, & 10:30 a.m.
Wednesdays: 7:15 p.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
Don Widmayer - Council President
Robert Bergman - Treasurer
Elaina Burns - Organist
Brian Burns - Music Director
Maureen Connolly - Creative Play Director
Dale Damon - Church Secretary
Lisa Filatov - Bookkeeper
Lisa Holliday - Coordinator of Faith Formation
Dagmar Klein - Church Administrator
Janet Maleski - Council Secretary
The Reverend John R. Taylor - Pastor Emeritus

Voice Publication Deadline

Items to be included in *The Shepherd's Voice* must be submitted February 9th for the March 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

LIFE STATIONS

Deaths

Gus Dash	1/02/18
Edna M. Pfaff	1/05/18
Lorraine Mae Jaeger	1/12/18

Baptism

Ethan Briggs Steinberg	1/07/18
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Memorial Fund

In memory of Barbara J. Burfeindt, given by Mary Olson

Altar Guild Fund

In memory of Ella Krampetz, given by John & Denise Guadagnino

All in the Family

Robert Callan has been asked/honored to be one of eight singers in a Bach Chorale Concert on February 28th, at Nyack College Concert Hall. The concert hall overlooks the Hudson, with beautiful stained glass windows. This promises to be an enjoyable evening for all who attend.

**Good Shepherd Church
is on Social Media**

See our church webpage at: www.gspr.org
"Like Us" on Facebook at:
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

2018 CHURCH COUNCIL

J. Lena Warren, Pastor
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Anthony Armenio, Vice President
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Jake Daniels
Wendy Gates
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Jayne Knarich
Deanna Lauer
Carole Meehan
Kenneth Merring
Mark Olson
Christopher Ryan
Debra Thaler
(*non-voting)

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: Ione Mensing at 201-664-1235; email: himensing@gmail.com or Carol Westphal at 845-624-5732; email: carolwestphal19@gmail.com

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

The Event Matters: How Going To Church Helps Us Be The Church



The Church is not a place we go to, it's who we are. The New Testament is really clear about that.

But because church is who we are, it also matters a great deal that we go to church, too.

Church attendance should not be the defining feature of our Christian lives. After all, God doesn't take attendance. But that doesn't mean going to church doesn't matter. It does. A lot.

Unfortunately, there's a growing movement of people who say they can be better Christians without going to church. They're using the theology of *being* the church as an excuse for not *going* to church. That is misguided at best and disobedient at worst.

It's dangerous to discount the value of church-going. And it's unsupported by scripture, which makes it clear that gathering with other believers is an essential aspect of faith. For instance, you can't take communion alone – the word "communion" itself tells us that.

Your church-going experience may look nothing like mine. That's okay. I'm not arguing for any particular format. But it matters that we go. It's important – even essential – that we gather.

The Church Event Matters

For almost 2,000 years, Christians haven't just *been* the church, we've gathered for the *event* of church. Because the event matters

The event of church-going gives weight to the reality of church-being.

There's something important about leaving our houses to gather with other believers – even if it's to meet in another believer's house. It tells us that being the church matters, because things that matter get a spot on our schedules. They carve time out of our week. They cost us something to do.

The event of church-going gives weight to the reality of church-being.

(continued p. 4)

(continued from p. 3)

Church-Going As A Shared Experience

Have you ever wondered why people line up for a midnight showing of a new movie? Or brave the elements to sit in cold stands to watch a football game?

It's not because there's no other way to see the movie or watch the game. In fact, it can be argued (by me, for one) that the TV experience is better than the live game experience in many ways. And for the movie, it's not like fans will never have another chance to see it. It will be in theaters for months, then on DVD, streaming services and more after that. Forever.

If it was only about the content of the movie or the game, no one would ever leave their house to watch one ever again.

They leave their house to go to the movie and the game because the event matters. Sharing the experience in the same space as other people who share that interest – even with total strangers – matters. It makes the content better, somehow. More real.

It's the same with church attendance. Sharing the same space with others who also love Jesus and each other gives a sense of importance, excitement and reality to everything else about our faith. Going to church reminds us that being the church matters.

At least that's what a good church experience *should* do.

Going And Being

So why is church attendance down, even among believers? Is it because we've elevated going to church over being the church? Or is it because we think we can be the church without going to church? Both/and.

When church leaders emphasize going to church over being the church, people start thinking church attendance is enough and they *stop* being the church.

On the other hand, when we tell people it's only about *being* the church, they stop *going*. And soon they stop being, too. It's a vicious circle.

Going to church strengthens being the church, and being the church is made stronger by going to church.

We need both. Going to church strengthens being the church, and being the church is made stronger by going to church.

I need to worship in the same space as you to ground my faith in the reality of my everyday life. And you need to worship in the same space as I for the same reason.

Going to church doesn't matter if we're not being the church, and being the church stops happening when we stop going.

We need the church. Not because we need an institution. But because we've been made to worship Jesus together.

I am a part of the church, so I go to church. And I go to church because we are the church.

We're better together.

-*Christian Unity, December 2017*

Interested in finding out more about Good Shepherd, interested in membership...we will be holding a New Member Class on Sunday, Feb. 11th at 12 noon . New Members will be received the following Sunday at the 10:30 service. Call the Church Office at 845-735-2243 if you are interested in attending.



Happy Birthday!



February 20th is Good Shepherd's 117th Birthday

FEBRUARY 2ND
GROUNDHOG
DAY



GROUNDHOG DAY

SAVE THE DATE

5TH ANNUAL

IRON CHEF EVENT

SATURDAY

APRIL 21ST

6-9 PM

FELLOWSHIP HALL

(If you are interested in being a "chef" for the night, contact Craig Sloane or the Church Office at 845-735-2243.)



Boy Scout Sunday is February 4th. All Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts are invited to participate at the 10:30 worship service. Come dressed in your Class A uniform. If interested, call Scout Master Bob Klein at 845-624-3216.

SAVE THE DATE

Vacation Bible School

July 30—August 3

9am to 12 pm

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday Church School Event

Bible Baseball

Sunday, February 18th

during the SCS hour



SAVE THE DATE

Girl Scout Sunday—March 11th

All Girl Scouts, Daisies, Brownies, are invited to participate at the 10:30 worship service, Come dressed in your uniform. If interested, call the Church Office 845-735-2243, or Cindy Sealander 845-735-6701

IT'S TIME AGAIN TO MAKE SOME NOISE--- BARNYARD NOISE!

Once again, Good Shepherd wants to make a "JOYFUL NOISE" by filling the Global Barnyard with Moos and Baas, Bleats and Chirps, Buzzes and Oinks...a noisy racket of love and giving.

By "purchasing" animals or making donations towards those purchases, the ELCA will give animals, along with training, to families throughout the world. In this way they improve their nutrition and their financial situation, which opens doors to a better life, the ability to get an education, and the dignity of work.

So let's dig deep and offer noise and joy and full stomachs to those in need.





WELCA

Hope all had a wonderful Christmas and now we are ready for WELCA to start a new year. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, February 6th at 1:30 PM. Watch *Cross Connections* to see where we will meet. Sue Baumeister will talk about her and Rich's trip to Africa and show us some pictures.

We are all looking forward to Sue's program.

Also, because our Personal Care Kits project has been so successful in the past, we will continue with this. They are needed and certainly appreciated. Following are instructions and items needed to assemble 1 kit:

Items:

- One light-weight bath towel (between 20" x 40" or 52" x 27"). Dark color recommended
- Two or Three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz. Any brand in original wrapping.
- One adult size toothbrush in its original packaging.
- One metal nail clippers (attached file optional, remove packaging).

How to pack the kits:

- Fold the towel in half. Place the rest of the items in the towel, fold and roll so nothing falls out. Secure with yarn, ribbon, string or rubber bands.
- Do not use paper or plastic bags to pack items.
- Use light or medium-weight towels, as they are easier for recipients to hand wash and air dry.
- Please give new items only.
- Do not donate any items with any religious symbols, messages or your group's name.
- Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.
- Do not add or leave out any items.
- All items should be new and in good condition.
- Do not enclose the kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

There will be a container in the entrance to the Educational Building for you to deposit your kits. We will ship them in early April. Thank you in advance for your help.

See you all on February 6th. If you have any questions or need a ride, please call Barbara Bow at 845-215-5866 or Mary Iseman at 845-623-7638.

Happy New Year and God's peace and blessings to all.



CREATIVE PLAY

Love is all around!! The children at Creative Play are excited for the upcoming Valentine Day celebrations. The classes are making special cards for their families, and the children will also exchange Valentine cards with one another. Many of the lessons the children are learning this month: include how to be a good friend, and showing love to others.

We are excited about our Creative Play Winter Olympics. At the end of the month, our school will host a day of winter activities for the children. Of course, everyone will need to use their imagination when we ice skate around the blue tablecloth with paper booties!, or throw snowballs (actually, white loofah sponges) through the Olympic rings. Our hope is that the children will learn about sportsmanship and teamwork. They will learn that you should always try your best, and be persistent. All good traits and values needed for life!

Our school is accepting applications for the 2018-19 school year. Please call the school for information, and to set up a tour of our amazing school. (845)735-2737

Maureen Connolly, Director

STEWARDSHIP...At its best, giving is an act of worship." — Cornelius J. Dyck (1740-92), colonel under the command of Gen. George Washington.

As we continue our Re-formation into 2018 and the years to come, we learn to live the love of God, who loved us first.

LEARNING THE LANGUAGE OF DIVINE LOVE...

through Baptism
 through Worship
 through Music
 through Prayer
 through Questioning
 through Generosity
 through Creativity
 through Work
 through our Lives

RE•FORMATION

THEN • NOW • ALWAYS

Join us Wednesday evenings in Lent:

Ash Wednesday, February 14th
 12:30 and 8:00 p.m.

February 21st - March 21
 6:00 p.m. Soup Suppers
 7:00 p.m. Sessions
 8:00 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer

LENTEN WEDNESDAYS KIDS CRAFTS... During Lenten Wednesdays, Karin Wegner O'Keefe will be doing craft sessions for children 4th grade and younger. The theme is Holy week (Palm Sunday/ Maundy Thurs./Good Friday, etc.). Karin would appreciate an RSVP, if your child will be participating, so she can prepare enough materials to go around. Have your child dress appropriately for doing messy crafts.

LENT Lent LENT Lent

ASH WEDNESDAY PRAYER

Merciful God, you called us forth from the dust of the earth; you claimed us for Christ in the waters of baptism. Look upon us as we enter these Forty Days bearing the mark of ashes, and bless our journey through the desert of Lent to the font of rebirth. May our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; our prayer, the chant of humble and grateful hearts.

—Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers



“If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.”

—Anne Bradstreet

CONFIRMATION NEWS



6th through 8th Grade Confirmation Classes

In lieu of our regular Confirmation Classes, students will attend 3 out of the 5 Wednesday evenings during Lent, for the meal, Communiversity (a class of their choice), and Holden Evening prayer. On each of these nights, they will have a pre-scripted interview that they will need to hold do with an adult member of the congregation.

The Wednesday evening dates are as follows:

Wednesday, February 21st
 Wednesday, February 28th
 Wednesday, March 7th
 Wednesday, March 14th
 Wednesday, March 21st

Additionally, confirmation students are expected to attend one of the following special gatherings:

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner & Palm Burning –Tuesday, February 13th at 7pm

We will begin with a pancake dinner, prepared by our Men's Group. After dinner, Pastor will show us how to turn last year's palms into ashes. These ashes will be used the next day, for Ash Wednesday.

Easter Vigil Service – Saturday, March 31st – At Prince of Peace church in Old Tappan, NJ

The time and additional information will be provided in future publications.

Junior High Youth Retreat (6th-8th graders) February 23rd – 25th at Koinonia

Theme: B.O.O.M. Bringing Others Our Message: Let your faith explode!

Cost: \$120 (includes tee shirt).

Registration forms and permission slips will be available on the youth bulletin board (2nd floor of the Education Building) and in the church office.

Make checks payable to Metro NY Synod. Registration deadline is February 11th.

Drivers and chaperone will be needed. Please contact Lisa Holliday at lisa@gspr.org or call the church office at 735-2243.



Senior High Youth Retreat (9th - 12th graders) March 16th - 18th at Koinonia

Theme: Jesus Inc. – Fear No One

Cost: \$120 (includes tee shirt).

Registration forms and Permission slips will be available on the youth bulletin board (2nd floor of the Education Building) and in the church office.

Make checks payable to Metro NY Synod. Registration deadline is March 1st.

Please contact Lisa Holliday at lisa@gspr.org or call the church office at 735-2243.

“No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn.”

—Hal Borland

Sun

Mon

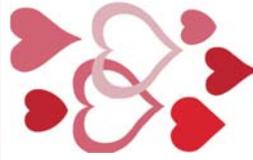
Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

**4 5 Epiphany**

8:00 Worship Service
9:00 Contemporary Worship Service
9:30-10:15 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
10:30 Holy Communion/SCS
11:30 Coffee Hour—Fellowship Hall
6:00 AAF/fellowship Hall

5

9:00/12:30 UPK
9:30/1:00 Creative Play
7:00 Worship & Music—Parlor
7:30 Prayer Shawl Ministry

6

9:00/12:00 UPK
9:30/1:00 Creative Play
1:30 WELCA
7:00 Book Group—Parlor
7:00 Boy Scout Troop 36

11 Transfiguration of Our Lord

8:00 Holy Communion
9:00 Contemporary Worship Service
9:30-10:15 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
10:30 Holy Communion/SCS/
11:30 Coffee Hour—Fellowship Hall
11:45 Acolyte Training
12:00 New Member Class—Pastor's Office
6:00 AAF/fellowship Hall

12

9:00/12:30 UPK
9:30/1:00 Creative Play
6:00 Evening Bells—Choir Rm.

13 Shrove Tuesday

9:00/12:30 UPK
9:30/1:00 Creative Play
7:00 Pancake Dinner/Palm Burning
7:00 Boy Scout Troop 36
Court of Honor—Sanctuary

14—ASH WED.

9:00/12:30 UPK
9:30/1:00 Creative Play
10:00 Staff Mtg.
4:30 Executive Com. Mtg.
12:30 Holy Communion Serv.
with Imposition of Ashes
8:00 Holy Communion Serv.
with Imposition of Ashes

15

9:00/12:30 UPK
9:30/1:00 Creative Play
5:15 Canzona
6:15 Camerata
7:30 Sanctuary Choir—Choir Rm

16

9:00/12:30 UPK
9:30/1:00 Creative Play
7:45 AA—Fellowship Hall

17

9:00 Men's Breakfast—FH
Jr. High Koinonia Retreat

18 1 LENT

8:00 Worship Service
9:00 Contemporary Worship
9:30-10:15 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
10:30 Holy Communion/SCS/New Members Recv.
11:30 Coffee Hour—Parlor
6:00 AAF/fellowship Hall

19

NO CREATIVE PLAY

20

NO CREATIVE PLAY
7:00 Church Council
7:00 Boy Scout Troop 36—FH
7:00 Church Council—Parlor

21

9:00/12:30 UPK
9:30/1:00 Creative Play
11:00 Staff Meeting
6:00 Soup Supper
7:00 Communion
8:00 Holden Evening Prayer

22

9:00/12:30 UPK
9:30/1:00 Creative Play
5:15 Canzona
6:15 Camerata
7:30 Sanctuary Choir—Choir Rm

23

9:00/12:30 UPK
9:30/1:00 Creative Play
Jr. High Koinonia Retreat
7:45 AAF/fellowship Hall

24

Jr. High Koinonia Retreat

25 2 LENT

8:00 Holy Communion
9:00 Contemporary Worship
9:30-10:15 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
10:30 Worship Service/SCS
6:00 AAF/fellowship Hall

26

9:00/12:30 UPK
9:30/1:00 Creative Play
6:00 Evening Bells

27

9:00/12:30 UPK
9:30/1:00 Creative Play
1:00 Piecemakers Quilting Group
7:00 Boy Scout Troop 36—FH

28

9:00/12:00 UPK
9:30/1:00 Creative Play
11:00 Staff Meeting
6:00 Soup Supper
7:00 Communion
8:00 Holden Evening Prayer

2018



*The Lutheran Church
of the Good Shepherd*

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