



The Shepherd's Voice

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

June 2016

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

FROM OUR PASTOR

"As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God? ... These things I remember, as I pour out my soul: how I went with the throng, and led them in procession to the house of God, with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival. Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? ... Deep calls to deep at the thunder of your cataracts; all your waves and your billows have gone over me. By day the Lord commands his steadfast love, and at night his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life." -Psalm 42, selections

How are you doing?

Or maybe a better question to ask is, "How is your soul?"

We can get caught up in the busy-ness of things: the calendar, the programs, the work, the next thing to be attended to. This running around and clock-driven work can consume us so that we have little time to breathe or even to think about much of anything.

Sometimes, I think the church can just add to the busy. We never really mean to—we just want to have opportunities and events to get together, to grow in faith and love, and to have a good time ... and then there are the meetings to plan those opportunities and events, the work to sustain the community we care so much about, the things we feel like we have to do because we've always done them (they were great once!), the things we do because some other church is doing it (so they must be good ideas), and the list goes on and on. And we are just made more and more frantic in the busy-ness.

Being busy is not all bad. It is good to have things to do, events to connect with others, times to grow in faith together, amazing programs that help the whole community grow in joy, etcetera, etcetera.

But, how is your soul?

Sometimes being busy gives us no time to stop and ask that question. Sometimes being busy prevents us from actually growing our souls in good and healing ways. Sometimes being busy just drains us, turns activities into just another thing to check off the list, and leads to a life where at the end of the day, you're not sure you got much of substance done, but you're nearly too tired to care.

For the next few months, I'm hoping to meet with most (I'm realistic enough to realize all might be impossible, but that would be amazing) of you who are part of the community of Good Shepherd, through cottage meetings that are being set up by the Mutual Ministry Committee as a way for me to get to know each of you better. In addition to the basic hope of getting to know names, faces, and stories better, the heart of these meetings for me will be the question: "How is your soul?" And related to that, "What do we need to actually be doing as a community to not just be busy but to be a place of connection, growth, healing, and joy for you?"

I'm sure there are a million churchy things that will be addressed with this question, including worship, sermons, Sunday School, Confirmation, the music program, small groups, Bible studies, etc. But, I just want you to know what is at the heart of the reason I want to talk about all these things. I do not want us, as a church to add to the frantic busy-ness of your life. I want us to be a community that is good for your soul, that deepens your relationship to God and to each other, and that works for the healing of the world.

I hope you will participate in the "Lena's Listening Tour" by coming to or hosting a cottage meeting. I hope you will let me know how your soul is and how I and this community can help. I hope you will also think about how you are being led to help others.

In the meantime, I am praying for you. That these meetings will be spaces of inspiration and vision. That we, as a congregation, and I as pastor, will get a clearer sense of what God is up to among us. And that your souls will be well.

Peace,

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: 8:15, 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 **June 10th** for the July/August 2016 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

Baptisms

Alice Catherine Johnson
Cassandra Jeanette Johnson

date

5/15/16
5/15/16

Marriage

Michael O'Sullivan & Deborah Frederick

date

5/14/16

Deaths

Ella Swindells

date

5/13/16

General Memorial

In memory of Don Liebert, given by Ann Sieger

New Members

Michael & Jennifer Johnson, with daughters Alice & Cassandra
Lee Warren

2016 CHURCH COUNCIL

Pastor Lena Warren
Ken Merring, Council President
Robert Bergman, Treasurer
Janet Maleski, Secretary
Rob Bayer
Werner Boecker
Barbara Bow
Robert Callan
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**

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.

HELP SUPPORT PEOPLE TO PEOPLE

...items always needed:

Cold/Hot cereals
Peanut butter and jelly
Cold drinks, like juices and ice tea/lemonade
Cans of tuna or chicken
Flour, sugar
Juice boxes

Canned soups/vegetables
Pasta/rice
Canned fruit
Diapers
Tea, coffee
Boxed macaroni & cheese



Our food bin is located at the entrance to the Education Building. Thank you for your support.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**Food Faith & Friends Meets Tuesday,
June 21, from 6:30 to 9 pm**

We cordially invite you to join us for Food, Faith & Friends for our "Beginning of Summer BBQ" on Tuesday, June 21, from 6:30 to 9 p.m., at the home of Rich Bowman in Nanuet. 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! **Please RSVP if you plan to attend this event.** If you have any questions or need directions, please contact Rich Bowman at rbbp@yahoo.com or the Church Office at (845) **735-2243.**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2016 GRADUATES !!**

Morgan Gruskin is graduating from the Nanuet HS, Class of 2016. She will be attending Steven's Institute of Technology in Hoboken, NJ.

Anthony LaPoma is graduating on May 22nd, from Dominican college, with a B.A. in History and a minor in Criminal Justice.

Michael LaPoma is graduating from Pearl River High School, and will attend Dominican in the Fall.



Sarah Olson graduated on May 21st from Marist college, with a BS in Digital Media, focus on publishing, web design, and photography.. one of her passions..

Connor McLaughlin has graduated from Springfield College with a Bachelors degree in Physical Education/Coaching. He is a certified Physical Education Teacher for grades K through 12, and a certified Personal Trainer

Jack Mikuszewski just graduated on May 18, from the NYU Tisch School, with a Bachelor of Fine Arts with a major in Film and Television, a major in Economics, and a minor in Business of Entertainment.

CREATIVE PLAY ENDS ANOTHER GREAT YEAR!

...with Summer Camp Around the Corner

Wow, did this year fly by! Your children have been a delight and joy, they are truly precious. Our 4-year-old children will graduate on June 13th and June 20th, all ready for their new adventures.



Thank you to all the parents who helped out in the classrooms, the families that participated on our committees, and most especially, our teachers and staff who have helped your children learn and grow.

Our summer camp will start on July 5th and run the entire month; lots of warm weather fun to enjoy!

We have openings in our afternoon classes that meet 1:00- 3:30; please call the office for more information. We are still taking names for our Toddler/Time for Twos classes that start in September.

We wish everyone a happy, safe summer!
Maureen Connolly,

Stewardship

is not a program.

Stewardship

is not about raising money.

but. . .

Stewardship

is a journey.

Stewardship

is about life.

In fact. . .

Stewardship

is a way of life.



Author unknown

ELCA Missionary Profile

The Rev. Deborah and Joe Troester

Regional Representatives for East Africa

Joe and Deborah serve as the ELCA's Regional Representatives for East Africa, serving specifically Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. Their responsibilities include water projects, women's ministry and leadership development with the companion churches in these countries. They live in Tanzania.

Contact

E-mail: josephtroester@gmail.com
 debtroester@earthlink.net
 Deborah.Troester@elca.org
 Joe.Troester@elca.org

Website: <http://africanwaterlog.blogspot.com>

Calendar

Joe's birthday: June 26
 Deborah's birthday: April 24
 Deborah's ordination: April 27
 Anniversary: May 28
 Christa's (daughter) birthday: November 13



Connect

Companion Synods: Southwest California Synod (2B), Pacifica Synod (2C), Rocky Mountain Synod (2E), Central Southern Illinois Synod (5C), La Crosse Area Synod (5L), Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod (8B), Allegheny Synod (8C), West Virginia/Western Maryland Synod (8H), Southeastern Synod (9D).

Home base: Illinois

Joe

Education

B.S. Geology
 Southern Illinois University

Ph.D. Geology
 Penn State, University Park, PA

Hobbies

Reading, watching movies,
 Travel, postcards, cooking.

Deborah

Education

B.A. German
 Southern Illinois University

M.A. German
 Penn State, University Park, PA

M.Div.
 Evangelical Seminary of P.R.
 Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico

Hobbies

Reading, watching movies,
 Cooking, playing with their dog.

Additional information

Joe has over 30 years of experience working with water, serving the church in Central African Republic the past few years. He and Deborah both speak English, German, Spanish, and French. She is an ordained pastor (PCUSA) who enjoys her ecumenical relationship with the ELCA.

ANNOUNCING OUR NEW MISSIONARIES!



Many of you may remember the video Pastor Miriam Schmidt made as a way to share with Good Shepherd all the work she and her husband were doing in Slovakia. It was a sad day when we heard that Pastor Schmidt had to resign her call as a missionary and return to the States due to her husband requiring medical care.

The Evangelism Committee is pleased to let everyone know we recently began a new sponsorship of the Rev. Deborah and Joe Troester, Regional Representatives for East Africa. Their responsibilities include water projects, women's ministry, and leadership development. On the left-hand page(4), is the information sheet so you can read a little more about these wonderful people.

Good Shepherd made a covenant promise of prayer, communication, and financial support for the Troesters. During the ELCA Global Church's fiscal year, which goes from February 1 – January 31, we have agreed to provide \$1500 toward their financial needs.

Look for more information to come as we update the "Pay it Forward for Mission" bulletin board and develop our relationship with these missionaries. Remember, when you have a special birthday, anniversary, or are just feeling good about all God's blessings, you may use an envelope from the bulletin board or the e-giving website to say thank you by making a donation to our Missionary Fund.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

On Sunday, May 22nd, twelve of Good Shepherd's fifth graders were invited to the Lord's table to receive their First Holy Communion. Banners they each made during Sunday Church School were displayed on the pews. A reception followed the service, in Fellowship Hall, where each child received a Bible and certificate. We thank the parents of our 4th graders, along with Deanna Lauer, for providing the lovely reception, and we especially thank Ms. Debra Thaler, our fifth grade teacher, for her ministry working with our fifth grade children.

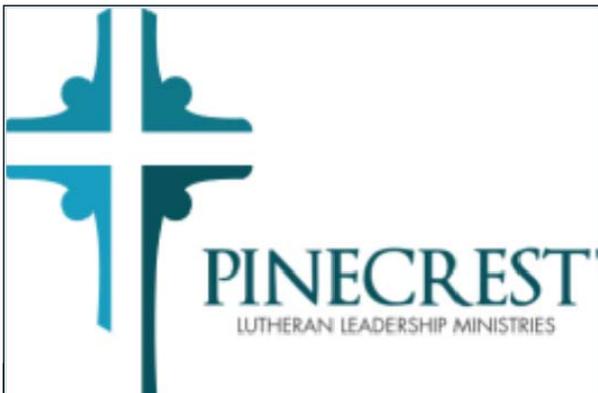
2016 FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASS

Cassidy Lynn Armenio
Declan James Cleary
Ava Jane Diffley
Isabella Renee Lamadrid
Ashlyn Rose Nostro
Jack William Ryan
Kaitlyn Deborah Smith

Kyra Christina Baily
Benjamin Scott Comito
Chloe Florence Gallet
Lacy Isabelle Matthys
Larissa Rigmor Reddington
Jordan Marie Sealander
Mason Alexander Tramm

Jonathan David Bow
Bridget Elizabeth Coyle
Sean Edward Habas
Samantha Mary Nilsen
Madeline Jane Riker
Daniel Andrew Shore
Lillian Grace Tuohy





WHEN: AUGUST 7-14

WHERE: Camp Louemma in Sussex, NJ

WHO: Youth age 15+

Pinecrest Lutheran Leadership Ministries meets annually in August for a one-week session of morning classes, afternoon activities and free time, evening programs, plus a variety of worship experiences. An annual

theme guides the program throughout the week in group competition, athletic contests, and individual talent opportunities.

Over 150 youth, ages high school to college, wait for this one week in August each year. The week when they can return to camp, reunite with their friends from past years, ask questions about God out loud, cheer at the top of their lungs, play silly games, meet others wrestling with the same faith puzzles, and be themselves.

For more information and registration information, please visit:

<http://www.pinecrestllm.org/#!/registration/wj691>

Brochures are also available in the office and by the youth bulletin board on the 2nd floor of the education building, by the Music Director's office.

We have a few youth who will be attending Pinecrest, so carpooling will be available.

If you have any questions, please contact Dagmar in the church office via email: office@gspr.org or phone: 845-735-2243.

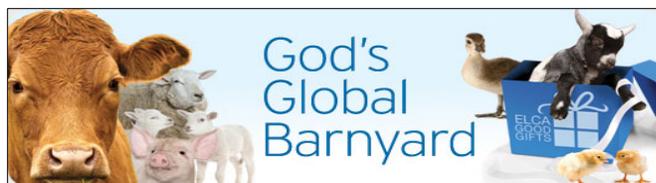
**PINECREST INSPIRES
YOUNG ADULTS IN THEIR
FAITH FORMATION
AND HELPS DEVELOP
LEADERS IN THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

BARNYARD NOISE

This year, Good Shepherd made a "JOYFUL NOISE" by filling the Global Barnyard with Moos and Baas, Bleats and Chirps, Buzzes and Oinks... a noisy racket of hopping and love and giving.

Over \$3,000 was collected to bring these animals, along with training, to families throughout the world. So, added to the noise in the barn, we can add the noise of joy and laughter, of filled stomachs and hopeful conversation around their tables.

THANK YOU to groups within Good Shepherd, to the Sunday School, and to all the individuals who joined in this wonderful program.



CONFIRMATION NEWS

6th through 8th Grade Confirmation Class & Family Night Rescheduled to Thursday, June 2
Dinner 7 to 7:30 pm ("Pizza Night") – Program 7:30 to 8:30 pm
 (gluten-free and vegetarian/egg-free options will be available)

Everyone is urged to participate. It is especially important that those 8th graders being confirmed in October and their parents be present to hear about the confirmation projects they will be completing over the summer, prior to confirmation.

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

Save the Date!

Camp Ma-He-Tu Annual Confirmation Retreat
 Friday, September 23, to Sunday, September 25
 Harriman State Park

All Confirmation Class Students are urged to attend
 High School Youth are invited to be Junior Chaperones
 Parents are invited and encouraged to help chaperone

Youth Happenings

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 other meaningful experiences. At the 2015 Youth Gathering in Detroit, 12 high school youth represented Good Shepherd, 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 Fall 2017.

Thank you, Parents and Families of ELIJAH Sacristy Singers Musical. Your children have learned this story from the Bible, and given us a gift we will never forget! They shared their talent and fun with each of us on Friday night, May 6. Please give them our best when you see them in church:

Dylan Martini, ELIJAH
 Kya Tricarico, Narrator
 Matthew Balison, Narrator
 Daniel Bowman, King Ahab
 Addison Moss, Queen Jezebel
 Mason Tramm, Obadiah
 Ava Hahn, Widow of Zaraphath
 Madeline Riker, Israelite Girl
 Kevin Riker, Palace Guard
 and...
 Alex Balison, our Unicorn
 Kim Moss, our Terrific Parent Assistant
 Kya Tricarico, Music Intern



Renaissance Camerata in Manhattan... Pentecost Concert

Tongues of Flame title by David Martini
 Sunday, May 15
 Church of Saint Michael

Thank you to our very gifted high school musicians, who give our church so much time and talent. They are now fulfilling the dream of Dick Biehl, to bring our music to the greater community of believers - Music Ministry Outreach.

Sopranos

Grace Duffy, Laryssa Filatov, Katie Martini, Brielle Nostro, Rosie Tramm, Kya Tricarico

Altos

Sophia Bowman, Bridget Klein, Lilli Tramm

Tenor

Dylan Martini

Bass

William Klein, Matthew Lauer, David Martini, Quinton Tramm

Parent Assistant: Craig Sloane

MUCH LOVE AND APPRECIATION TO OUR BELOVED SANCTUARY CHOIR, who lead our 10:30 Worship services each and every week! Beautiful anthems and weekly rehearsals lift our hearts to God!

Evening Bells - another spectacular year ringing praises to God - joyful, meditative, concerts & anthems for Worship. Excellence in bells!

CANZONA Youth Orchestra giving Vivaldi and Mozart to our 10:30 Worship... This year was a first - we played WITH Sanctuary Choir!

Cherub Choir, led by Michelle Zaro, sang beautifully in our services, giving God their youthful and sweet songs. We wish Michelle all the best as she pursues other work this next year. Michelle, we will miss you! Thank you for giving your best to our youngest choir in Sunday School and the Christmas Pageant!

Albert Ahlf, Pianist for 9:30 Worship - great jazz piano. Thank you for this leadership.

Blessings on our Music Ministry Choirs, volunteers each and every one. Enjoy your summer!

Love and appreciation, Brenda



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK 3:00-4:00 Organ School Lessons 6:00-7:00 Organ School Lessons	2 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK 11:30 Staff Meeting 4:30-5:30 Sacristy Singers 7:00-8:30 Confirmation Dinner 6th—8th Grades & Families	3 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK 7:45 AA/Fellowship Hall	4
5 3rd Sunday After Pentecost 8:15 Worship Service 9:30 Contemporary Holy Comm. Service 9:45 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Holy Communion/SCS/ Teacher Recognition/ Special Recognitions 6:00 AA—Fellowship Hall	6 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK 7:00 Cottage Mtg. 7:00 CP Alumni Mtg./FH	7 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK 1:30 WELCA—Joe & Joe Rest. 3:30-6:45 Organ School Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts—Fellowship Hall	8 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK 3:00-4:00 Organ School Lessons 4:30 Executive Committee Mtg. 6:00-7:00 Organ School Lessons 7:30-9:00 CP New Member Mtg. Sanctuary & FH	9 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK 11:30 Staff Meeting 4:30-5:30 Sacristy Singers 7:00 Evangelism Mtg.—Parlor	10 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK 7:45 AA/Fellowship Hall	11
12 4th Sunday After Pentecost 9:30 Summer Worship—Holy Communion 6:00 AA—Fellowship Hall	13 10:00 Creative Play Graduation 1:30 Creative Play Graduation 7:30 Prayer Shawl Ministry	14 Flag Day 9:00/1:00 UPK 1:00 Piecemakers—Youth Room 3:30-6:45 Organ School Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts—Youth Room	15 9:00/1:00 UPK 3:00-4:00 Organ School Lessons 6:00-7:00 Organ School Lessons 7:30 UPK Parent Mtg.—Sanctuary	16 9:00/1:00 UPK 11:30 Staff Meeting	17 9:00/1:00 UPK 7:45 AA/Fellowship Hall	18 9:00 Men's Breakfast
19 5th Sunday After Pentecost Father's Day 9:30 Summer Worship—Holy Communion 6:00 AA/Fellowship Hall	20 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	21 10:00 UPK Graduation 1:00 Piecemakers 3:30-6:45 Organ School Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts—Fellowship Hall 7:00 Food, Faith & Friends—Off-site	22	23 11:30 Staff Meeting	24 7:45 AA/Fellowship Hall	25
26 6th Sunday After Pentecost 9:30 Summer Worship—Holy Communion 6:00 AA/Fellowship Hall	27 8:45 Organ Lesson	28 1:00 Piecemakers 3:30-6:45 Organ School Lessons	29 7:00 Church Council	30 11:30 Staff Meeting	1 7:45 AA/Fellowship Hall	2



Enjoy the Convenience of Online Giving

Good Shepherd Church wants to remind you that you can give to the church through our “eOffering” website link at www.gspr.org. We offer an online giving option as a way to automate your regular weekly and special offerings. Electronic giving offers convenience for individual congregational members and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. eOffering can direct debit your checking or savings account in the amount and frequency you choose, and transfer those payments directly to Good Shepherd’s bank account.

To set up your online eOffering account, please visit Good Shepherd Church’s website (www.gspr.org), look for the word “Give” in the box on the lower left hand side of the home page, and click “eOffering” to enter Online Giving. Click to create a new profile and follow the directions on the page. Once you create a profile, you can, at any time, set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation, or view your online donation history.

As you contemplate future financial contributions to Good Shepherd Church, please consider electronic giving. The church office can provide you with additional information. If you have any questions or need assistance setting up an eOffering profile, you can also contact Rich Bowman at (845) 627-6967 or by email at rpbp@yahoo.com.

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays—9:30 a.m.

June 12th through September 4th



SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

The Church Office will be open
Monday—Friday 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.
From July 2 to September 2