



# The Shepherd's Voice

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

May 2016

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

## Dear Parents With Young Children in Church

**Jamie Bruesehoff, Blogger, 'I Am Totally \*That\* Mom'**

You are doing something really, *really* important. I know it's not easy. I see you with your arms overflowing, and I know you came to church already tired. Parenting is tiring. Really tiring.

I watch you bounce and sway trying to keep the baby quiet, juggling the infant car seat and the diaper bag as you find a seat. I see you wince as your child cries. I see you anxiously pull things out of your bag of tricks to try to quiet them.

And I see you with your toddler and your preschooler. I watch you cringe when your little girl asks an innocent question in a voice that might not be an inside voice let alone a church whisper. I hear the exasperation in your voice as you *beg* your child to just sit, to be quiet, as you feel everyone's eyes on you. Not everyone is looking, but I know it feels that way.

I know you're wondering, is this worth it? Why do I bother? I know you often leave church more exhausted than fulfilled. But what you are doing is so important.

When you are here, the church is filled with a joyful noise. When you are here, the Body of Christ is more fully present. When you are here, we are reminded that this worship thing we do isn't about Bible study or personal, quiet contemplation, but coming together to worship as a community where all are welcome, where we share in the Word and Sacrament together. When you are here, I have hope that these pews won't be empty in 10 years when your kids are old enough to *sit quietly and behave in worship*. I know that they are learning how and why we worship now, before it's too late. They are learning that worship is important.

I see them learning. In the midst of the cries, whines, and giggles, in the midst of the crinkling of pretzel bags and the growing pile of crumbs, I see a little girl who insists on going two pews up to share peace with someone she's never met. I hear a little boy slurping (quite loudly) every last drop of his communion wine out of the cup, determined not to miss a drop of Jesus. I watch a child excitedly color a cross and point to the one in the front of the sanctuary. I hear the echos of "Amens" just a few seconds after the rest of the community says it together. I watch a boy just learning to read try to sound out the words in the worship book or count his way to Hymn 672. Even on weeks when I can't see my own children learning because, well, it's one of *those* mornings, I can see your children learning.

I know how hard it is to do what you're doing, but I want you to know *it matters*. It matters to me. It matters to my children to not be alone in the pew. It matters to the congregation to know that families care about faith, to see young people... and even on those weeks when you can't see the little moments, it matters to your children.

It matters that they learn that worship is what we do as a community of faith, that everyone is welcome, that *their* worship matters. When we teach children that their worship matters, we teach them that they are *enough*, right here and right now, as members of the church community. They don't need to wait until they can believe, pray or worship a certain way to be welcome here, and I know adults who are still looking to be shown that. It matters that children learn that they are an integral part of this church, that their prayers, their songs, and even their badly - or perfectly-timed, (depending on whom you ask) cries and whines *are* a joyful noise because it means they are present.

I know it's hard, but thank you for what you do when you bring your children to church. Please know that your family — with all of its noise, struggle, commotion, and joy — are not simply tolerated; you are a vital part of the community gathered in worship.

Submitted by 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](mailto:office@gspr.org)

Web site: [www.gspr.org](http://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 **May 13th** for the June 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](mailto: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](mailto:secretary@gspr.org), as well as the e-mail address you'd like us to use.

**LIFE STATIONS**

**Deaths**

Dorothy Rothbart

**date**

4/24/16

**Baptisms**

Grant Thomas Crispell

Jonah Benjamin Habina

**date**

4/10/16

4/24/16

**MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE**

Sunday, May 25th—7:30 p.m.  
Annual Community Memorial Service  
Braunsdorf Memorial Park  
Pearl River, NY (*next to the post office*)

Pearl River Memorial Day Parade



**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](http://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](mailto:himensing@gmail.com) or Carol Westphal at 845-624-5732; email: [carolwestphal9@gmail.com](mailto:carolwestphal9@gmail.com)

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

## **COMING SOON TO YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD**

Pastor Lena would like the opportunity to meet members in small gatherings, "cottage meetings," in order to get to know you and your thoughts about Good Shepherd. This would offer a time to discuss topics, such as how our worship works for you, what kind of Christian Education and programs would draw your interest, and what visions you would like to see developed for our church and community.

The Mutual Ministry Committee will be sponsoring this undertaking. (The committee works as a liaison between the pastor and the congregation.) We are looking for those who would be willing to offer their homes to groups of 12-20 people. These gatherings could be held in the afternoon or evening, and could be coffee and cake, wine and cheese, dinner or whatever you feel comfortable hosting. If you are willing to host, or have any questions, please speak directly with one of us in person, Sue Baumeister, Eileen Kennedy, Walter Lauer, or Ione Mensing, OR email [mutualministry@gspr.org](mailto:mutualministry@gspr.org) with the best way to reach you, and one of us will contact 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.

## **DO YOU HAVE A 2016 GRADUATE IN THE FAMILY....**



If you have someone in your family graduating this spring, and would like us to publish their name in the June issue of the *Shepherd's Voice* newsletter, please email information (name, school, degree, future plans, etc)...to [secretary@gspr.org](mailto:secretary@gspr.org) by May 13th. Thank you!!

## **CALLING ALL GARDENERS**

JOIN US ON MAY 7TH, FROM 9AM-12 NOON, TO HELP SPRUCE UP THE GROUNDS FOR SPRING...AND PLANT FLOWERS.



## **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION—MAY 22**

First Holy Communion will be held on Sunday, May 22nd at the 10:30 service. With the size of this year's class, we are encouraging folks who do not have a family member receiving their First Holy Communion to consider attending either the 8:15 am or 9:30 am services. Seating will be limited at the 10:30 service. Thank you.

## **STEWARDSHIP**

"God loves a cheerful giver." Have you ever thought about that and tried to analyze your own feelings regarding giving. Well, when you discover that a more precise translation from Greek of the word "cheerful" is "hilarious," the question becomes even more interesting. How many of us give with hilarity? Perhaps the ability to give with cheerfulness or hilarity is related to our motivation for giving: Grudge giving says, "I have to." Duty giving says, "I ought to." Thanks giving says, "I want to."

Author unknown



**WELCA**

May meeting of WELCA will be on Tuesday, May 3rd, at 1:30 PM, in the parlor. Our speaker will be Bob Vatter who will talk to us about fire prevention.



We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. We collected 33 kits and that is excellent. This is a much-needed and very rewarding mission. So, once again, thank you.

Our May meeting will be the last one for this year. In June we have our annual lunch and this year it's at Joe and Joe's in Pearl River. The cost is \$25.00 per person. We all look forward to this. Good food and social time.

Ladies, if you are a member of Good Shepherd, you are a member of WELCA. We are all needed to continue our ministry here at Good Shepherd, the community and worldwide. So, please join us. We have a short business meeting, a nice program and, of course, wonderful refreshments and social time.

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

God's peace and blessings to all.

**ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION****Food Faith & Friends Meets Tuesday, May 17, from 7 to 8:30 pm**

We cordially invite you to join us for Food, Faith & Friends on Tuesday, May 17, 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 May for more details. If you have any questions, please contact Rich Bowman at [rpbb@yahoo.com](mailto:rpbb@yahoo.com) or the Church Office at (845) 735-2243.

**CREATIVE PLAY NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS**

May is a very busy time here at Creative Play. The children are so excited for the classroom caterpillars to turn into beautiful butterflies. They have observed them grow from tiny caterpillars to much bigger ones and to finally sleeping in their chrysalis. What a great lesson on growing and changing. Our classes are also working hard on a craft for a very special someone in their lives, their Moms. The 3s will be sending home a beautiful flower, planted by the children, with a unique design created by each child. The fours have designed a one-of-a kind plate with their own drawings. Our Moms will be so delighted to receive these gifts!

Their annual class picnics take place May 19th & 20th, at Kaufmann Campgrounds. The children and staff will be wearing their crimson-colored t-shirts and be ready for a fun-filled day.

Don't forget to register for our Creative Play programs:

**Summer Camp** - during July; you choose your weeks; spots are filling up quickly!

**Time for Twos/Toddler** - Call the school and register your 2-year-old (2 by December 1st) for one of our lively classes.

**3-& 4-Year-Old Cooperative Classes** - We have limited openings in our classes; don't miss out for September

**Thank You!**

Thank you to the Men's Group for the wonderful Easter Breakfast and thank you to our congregation for your breakfast donations, which will help support our youth as they begin their efforts to attend the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, TX.

## CONFIRMATION NEWS

### 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Classes

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

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade** – Thursday, **May 5** – 7:00 to 8:15 pm

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade** – Thursday, **May 12** – 7:00 to 8:15 pm

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade** – Thursday, **May 19** – 7:00 to 8:15 pm

**6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Class & Family Night**– Thursday, **May 26**

**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)

Christian Education

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

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## Youth Happenings

### **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 8th

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

or Rich Bowman at: [rpbp@yahoo.com](mailto:rpbp@yahoo.com)

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### *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 to help chaperone*



## **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](mailto:office@gspr.org) or at (845) 735-2243, or speak to Rich Bowman in church or at [rpbp@yahoo.com](mailto: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.

## MUSIC MINISTRY OUTREACH

The Holy Bible comes to life... in our very own sanctuary

King Ahab, Queen Jezebel,  
the prophets of Baal  
vs.

ELIJAH and the true prophets of JAHWEH

Perfect for kids and adults of all ages!  
Full costumes, music, dancing, lights...  
a musical about the power of PRAYER to GOD.

Good Shepherd Family Theatre presents

## ELIJAH

Friday evening, May 6  
7:00 pm

Sacristy Singers

also... our very dedicated and excellent high school choir

## RENAISSANCE CAMERATA

will give a beautiful concert in MANHATTAN  
as they share  
their gifts and talents with the wider  
community of God.

SACRED MUSIC FROM THE CATHEDRAL  
Church of Saint Michael  
West 34th Street

SUNDAY, MAY 15  
1:30 pm

Thanks and much appreciation to THE ORGAN SCHOOL students who offered glorious music to God in our Worship services through Holy Week and Easter!

Kya Tricarico, soprano (Palm Sunday Cantor)  
Matthew Balison, pipe organ (Palm Sunday)  
William Klein, double bass (Maundy Thurs & Good Fri.)  
Grace Duffy, soprano (Good Friday)  
William Klein, bass (Good Fri., Easter Sunrise 6:30 am)  
Lilli Tramm, pipe organ (Easter Sunday)  
Bridget Klein, flute (Easter Sunday)  
Chris Filatov, trumpet (Easter Sunday)  
Chris Filatov, trumpet, Holden Evening Prayer (Lent)

David Martini and Quinton Tramm made Good Friday an exciting Walk With Jesus, as they played guitars at noon.

Special heart felt gratitude to Daniel Brooker, trumpet, for leading Easter 9:00 and 11:00 services, returning from his home in Philadelphia to his home church, Good Shepherd.

### EVENING BELLS

graced our Easter Sunday with a 30-minute concert prelude to our 9:00 Worship. This is an ancient tradition of ringing bells to proclaim our risen Lord... how beautiful and exciting!

### SANCTUARY CHOIR

LED EVERY WORSHIP SERVICE WITH DEVOTION, TALENT AND JOY. We are so fortunate to have the leadership of these superb musicians - ALL VOLUNTEERS, giving so freely of their time and energy. This takes a lot of work in rehearsals, and they give of themselves with such musical excellence.

### CANTORS

Barbara Bow, alto  
William Klein, bass  
Lilli Tramm, alto  
Kya Tricarico, soprano  
Rob Bayer, bass  
Bob Klein, tenor  
Carol Brundage, soprano

**SOLI DEO GLORIA!**

## REACHING OUT

On Saturday, May 7th, at 10:30 a.m., there will be a gathering of those who have been involved in Parish Ministry and Eucharistic Ministry, those who are interested in getting involved, and those who just want to sit in and learn about the program. Part of the session will include a time for the visitors to share their experiences. In addition, we will also be brainstorming about ways in which we can reach out to more of our members who are going through difficult times or have special needs. If you are interested, please join us in the Parlor, and if you have any questions, please contact Ione Mensing at 201-664-1235.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
<b>I EASTER VI</b> 8:15 Worship/Evening Bells 9:30 Contemporary Holy Comm. Service 9:45 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Holy Communion/SCS/Evening Bells 11:30 Coffee Hour 12:30 Bowling (9-12th grades)  6:00 AA—Fellowship Hall	<b>2</b> 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK 7:00-8:00 Renaissance Camerata 7:30 Prayer Shawl Ministry 8:00-9:30 Organ Lesson	<b>3</b> 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK 1:30 WELCA—Church Parlor 3:30-6:45 Organ School Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts—Fellowship Hall	<b>4</b> 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK 9:45/3:15 Outragehiss Pets—FH 3:00-4:00 Organ School Lessons 6:00-7:00 Organ School Lessons 7:00 Worship & Music Mtg	<b>5</b> 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK 9:45/3:15 Outragehiss Pets—FH 11:30 Staff Meeting 4:30-5:30 Sacristy Singers 7:00 6th Gr. Confirmation—FH 7:30 Sanctuary Choir	<b>6</b> 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK  6:00 Youth Musical "Eljah"  7:00-8:00 Girl Scout Mtg. Youth Room  7:45 AA/Fellowship Hall	<b>7</b> 9:00-12:00 Garden Clean-up & Planting	
<b>8 EASTER VII Mother's Day</b> 8:15 Holy Communion 9:30 Contemporary Holy Comm. Service 9:45 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Worship Service/Sacristy Singers  6:00 AA—Fellowship Hall	<b>9</b> 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK 2:00 Baptismal Conference 7:00-8:00 Renaissance Camerata 8:00-9:30 Organ Lesson	<b>10</b> 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 Social Ministry Mtg.—Parlor 8:00 Women's Faith Life Group	<b>11</b> 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	<b>12</b> 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	<b>13</b> 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK  5:00Wedding Rehearsal  7:45 AA/Fellowship Hall	<b>14</b> 2:30 Wedding	
<b>15 PENTECOST</b> 8:15 Worship Service 9:30 Contemporary Holy Comm. Service 9:45 Sanctuary Choir rehearsal 10:30 Holy Communion/Baptisms/SCS 11:30 Coffee Hour 12:30 Bowling (6th-8th grades) 1:30 "Tongues of Fire" Renaissance Camerata Concert at Church of St. Michael—Manhattan 6:00 AA—Fellowship Hall	<b>16</b> 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK	<b>18</b> 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK 1:00 Piecemakers—Youth Room 3:30-6:45 Organ School Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts—Youth Room 7:00 Creative Play Changeover Mtg. and Dinner—Fellowship Hall	<b>18</b> 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK 3:00-4:00 Organ School Lessons 6:00-7:00 Organ School Lessons	<b>19 MNYS Synod Assembly</b>  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	<b>20 MNYS Synod Assembly</b> 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK  7:45 AA/Fellowship Hall	<b>21 MNYS Synod Assembly</b>  9:00 Men's Breakfast	
<b>22 HOLY TRINITY</b> 8:15 Holy Communion 9:30 Contemporary Holy Comm. Service 9:45 Sanctuary Choir rehearsal 10:30 First Holy Communion/SCS 11:30 First Communion Reception—FH 6:00 AA/Fellowship Hall	<b>23</b> 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	<b>24</b> 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	<b>25</b> 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	<b>26</b> 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	<b>27</b> NO CREATIVE PLAY  7:45 AA//Fellowship Hall	<b>28</b>	
<b>29 2ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b> 8:15 Holy Communion Service 9:30 Contemporary Holy Comm. Service 10:30 Holy Communion/ SCS 7:30 Memorial Day Vigil & Service in Braunsdorf Park  6:00 AA/Fellowship Hall	<b>30 Memorial Day</b> NO CREATIVE PLAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 6:00-7:00 Evening Bells 7:00-8:00 Renaissance Camerata 8:00-8:45 Canzona Youth Orchestra 8:45 Organ Lesson	<b>31</b> 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK 1:00 Piecemakers 3:30-6:45 Organ School Lessons 7:00 Boy Scouts—Fellowship Hall					