

The GOOD NEWS

of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Loudonville, NY

May 2018



*“Now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, - and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance.”
Song of Solomon 2:11-13*

As the writer from Song of Solomon states, “Now the winter is past.” Yes, the snow and the cold is over, and spring is finally here! Flowers are beginning to bud, the birds are singing, and so are we! All creation has come alive! There’s a real joy that happens in the spring after a long hard winter. We feel a deep sense of gratitude for the simple things like warmth, sunshine, and flowers springing up. Seasons have a way of helping us adapt to the changes of life. The seasons of the church year do the same.

Easter Sunday was celebrated on April 1st this year, and it may seem like a long time ago. Yet, the season of Easter continues in the life of the church for 50 days. Are you still rejoicing? Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! That is the song of praise that we can sing each and every day because the resurrection changes everything. The resurrection shows us that God brings life out of death. This is the great news that we as witnesses of the resurrection need to remember each and every day of our lives, and to share with others.

Every Sunday during our worship services we celebrate the miracle of Easter. We need to remind ourselves of this every week, and every day, as we journey through the many changes in our lives. “Behold, I am making all things new.” (Rev. 21:5) We, ourselves – along with all of creation - are changing every day.

The wonderful news is that we don’t make this journey alone; Jesus is with us, nourishing us with God’s amazing grace. Led by the power of the Holy Spirit we are continually made new. On Sunday, May 20th, we will celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. I look forward to celebrating on that day with you all.

Peace and Blessings,
Pastor Edwina

Next Newsletter Deadline: Sunday, May 20

Call the Church Office at 458-1562 or
e-mail office@gslcl.org if you have item(s) for publication.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- **Lillian Skarka** family reports that she is feeling better and thanks everyone for the thoughtful cards. Lillian would enjoy some visitors (and also more cards!) Lillian's complete address is: **Our Lady of Mercy Life Center, 2 Mercy Care Lane, Room 460, Guilderland, NY 12084.** .
 - **Betty Cadwallader** who is home. We ask that you keep her in your prayers. Cards may be sent to: 8 Carondelet Drive Apt. 225, Watervliet, NY 12189.
 - **Beverly Quinlan** is still in rehab. Cards may be sent to: Diamond Hill Nursing Home, 100 New Turnpike Rd, Troy, NY 12182.
 - **Joan VanApeldoorn** who is home. We ask that you keep her in your prayers. Cards may be sent to: 7 Pettibone Drive, Albany, NY 12205
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Pentecost – Feel the Spirit!

Sunday, May 20th – Feel the Spirit at our 8:00 am and 10:30 am services as we celebrate Pentecost. The color of the day is red, so **wear red** and **help decorate the sanctuary with beautiful red geraniums!**

You are invited to donate red geraniums and place them at the altar that Sunday. If you will not be in church that day, they can be dropped off earlier in the week. Geraniums will be planted later in the front of the church.





May Birthdays

- 2 - Daniel Churchill, Ann Howland
- 3 - Colbi Kromrey, Amber Yarter
- 6 - Danny Patrick
- 7 - Lillian Skarka
- 8 - Mark Wiegert
- 10 - Nancy Layne
- 12 - Charles Adams, Grace Ahl, Susan Spofford
- 14 - Kayla Bradley
- 19 - Tedi Kirker
- 20 - Nicole Ross, Joel Medina
- 21 - Paul Spofford
- 22 - Harper Churchill
- 23 - Richard Walker
- 26 - Ciji Churchill
- 28 - Megan Dwire, Christopher Rudat
- 29 - Mary Long
- 30 - Nancy Endres, Gabriela Velez
- 31 - Neil Olsen Jr

Spring Cleanup Days

Our church property is in need of some Spring cleaning and we need volunteers! Two different days have been set up for you to help. Come to one or both. **Saturday, May 12th** starting at **9:30 am**. Please contact Neil Olsen if you can help on that day or just show up. **Sunday, May 20th – 8:45 am**. Immediately following the 8:00 am service Mark Kaercher & the FLY Group along with any others who would like to help will be doing some more Spring cleaning. Please contact Mark Kaercher if you can help.





From the Music Corner

Let us make a joyful noise!

We greatly appreciate the musical gifts that Good Shepherd choir shared during Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter.

Peter Crouse was our narrator for the thought provoking, "My Dying Lord." Atif Dean and Susan Perkins shared beautiful musical offerings on Palm Sunday and Easter.

We continue to extend invitations for you to sing with us. We are a friendly group and sing traditional and contemporary styles of Christian music. We are flexible and offer two rehearsals, Thursday evenings from 6:00pm -7:00pm and Sunday mornings from 10:00am -10:20am. We are a multigenerational choir and welcome all ages beginning at age twelve.

The choir will continue to sing a variety of choral pieces during the 10:30am service. We will continue to incorporate your favorite hymns into the order of service. Please share your favorite hymns by speaking to me directly or leaving a message for the music director at the church office.

We are in need of instrumentalist to play during preludes, offertory and postludes. **This is an excellent opportunity for children, teens and young adults to participate in the service.**

If you are called to participate in our music ministry (vocal choir or instrumentalist), please **speak to myself, Pastor Edwina, or any of the choir members** after service. You can also leave a message at the Church office.

Carl Rorie Alexandroy, Director of Music

Financial Report for March			
	This Month	YTD	
Expenses	\$13,707.36	\$41,839.80	
Revenue	\$13,610.73	\$26,023.24	
<u>Surplus +</u> Deficit -		\$-15,816.56	

Our Garage Has a New Roof

An energetic crew replaced the garage roof in one long (very long) day that started with an inch of new snow. Mark Bradley, Mark Kaercher, Mark Silo, Neil Olsen, Rob Beach, Dennis Claypool, and Paul Spofford did the job. Kathy Silo delivered lunch to the crew.

Stewardship Opportunity

We've had many new improvements to the building lately to help keep it in good condition for the ministry that we provide and for the many groups in the community that use our space.

To help replenish the Building and Equipment Fund, new envelopes especially marked for this purpose have been placed in the pew boxes and on the table in the narthex for your contributions. Thank you for your generosity.

Year-Round Stewardship

When most people hear the word stewardship, they think of financial giving. While finances are a part of stewardship, there are so many other aspects of stewardship such as being stewards of our time, talents, relationships, etc.

Every month the Stewardship Team will be highlighting a different aspect of stewardship on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. For the months of April & May we will be focusing on the Stewardship of Creation. Please check out the bulletin board and see the many ways you can be a better steward of creation.

Upcoming FLY Activities @ GSLC

5/6 - NO CLASS / CROP Walk Sunday - Students (and families) are encouraged to walk in the CROP Walk after the 10:30 service. We will meet at First Lutheran Church. Pizza will be available for lunch before the walk. Contact Elaine Sacco for more information.



5/13 - Mother's Day - class from 9:15 - 10:00AM

5/20 - Final Gathering of the School Year - Spring Clean-Up at Church - Students (and families) are encouraged to attend the 8:00 AM service. After church, we will then spend the morning cleaning up the gardens and grounds of the church. Bring work clothes/rakes/leaf bags, etc. We will be done by noon, and you can enjoy food and refreshments at the fellowship hour.

Confirmation Update

May 6th, 12:00pm Crop Walk - FLC

On Sunday, May 6th, confirmation students will be walking in the annual Crop Walk for hunger that takes place at First Lutheran Church in Albany. Students are still accepting donations prior to the walk.



Please consider sponsoring them if you are able.

During the summer there will not be any formal confirmation classes at the church. However, some summer take-home activities for our confirmation students will be going home with them as a way to stay connected with their faith. We hope students, parents, and all at GSLC will take time to worship over the summer.

First Communion Classes

This year we will be preparing children for their first Communion as early as 1st grade. If you are interested in having your child prepare for this special event, please contact Pastor Edwina. Pastor Edwina along with a Sunday School teacher will lead classes with parents and their children.



Splash Play Time

This month – **May 12th** - **We will meet at the Pinebush Discovery Center**, 195 New Karner Road. Plan to be there about 11:00 am to explore, learn and enjoy our local pine barrens. It's one of only 20 inland pine barrens in the world. There is a kid friendly interpretive center, small outdoor playground and walking trails.

And it's FREE! Come enjoy this natural wonder. All children 3 and under invited. Friends too!



Bus Trips & Musical Performances

St. Matthew's Church in Voorheesville is offering 2 Bus Trips!!

The first is to Lancaster County, PA from July 31, 2018 – Aug 1, 2018 to see Sight and Sound's Newest Production "**Jesus.**" An action packed musical taking you on a miraculous journey beside the most powerful person to walk the earth. Trip includes: Round Trip Bus Transportation; Over Night accommodations at Hershey Farm Restaurant and Inn, Buffet Dinner and Breakfast; Show ticket for "Jesus" performance on Wed, Aug 1st 11:00 AM; Luggage Fees; and a Shopping Trip to Kitchen Kettle Village.

The deadline to purchase tickets for this show is June 15th.

The second is a day trip to Broadway, NYC on September 22, 2018 to see Disney's "**Frozen: The Broadway Musical.**" **The deadline to purchase these tickets is July 9th.**

Forms are posted in the narthex with pricing, for more information contact Peggy McQuade at St.mattswelcome@gmail.com or call 518-765-2805 Ext. 14.

Nickel Social

On **Saturday June 9th**, starting at **11:00 am** we will again be having our "**Nickel Social**." We are accepting donations of new and used items (please, no clothes). Please leave them in the garage or the storage room in the church. Examples: **Household** (dishes, silverware, cookware, glassware, small appliances); **Collectibles**; **Seasonal items** (Christmas, Halloween, Easter); **Tools**; **Children Items** (Games, Toys, Electronics, Stuffed Animals); **Sports Items**; **Books**; **Records**, **VCR Tapes**, **DVDs**, **CDs**; **Puzzles**; **Jewelry**; **Vases**; **Candles**; **Picture Frames**. If you have items and are not sure if we could use them, please ask Chris or Marc Kleinhenz. We will also be looking for donations of **gift cards** and **gift baskets** to raffle off. Please also contact Chris if you can help.



Just Breathe – Secrets

What do we experience when we sit in contemplative silence? Focus? Peace? Wise ideas? Quiet minds?

Here's the secret. It's a jumbled mess. Thoughts fly every which way, just like they always do. But what's different is that we are taking the opportunity to notice that they come and go -- unless we choose, often unwittingly, to hang on to them.

And so we practice letting the thoughts go. Again and again and again, we gently return to our breath, a word, or a mantra. Eventually we may notice a deep peace or quiet. We might even suspect it was there all the time, but hidden under our constant busyness.

Why sit in silence together? Perhaps for a bit of encouragement. Perhaps as a reminder that we all are in need of learning to let go. And perhaps as a sign that we are all connected to this deep peace, even when we seem unable to notice or experience it.

You are invited to join us: Wednesday evenings at 7 pm.

Visitation Team

Being a member of a church gives people a sense of being part of something larger than themselves. One of the basic needs of people is a sense of love and belonging. Our congregation has roughly 14 shut-ins that cannot get here to worship with us each week, and they miss this community. While the pastor visits these members, it is not possible to see them all in a month.



We are putting together a visitation team to help with this important ministry. If you are interested in being a part of this team, please contact Pastor Edwina.

Faith Matters: The Shadow in the Photograph

If you are like me you probably have a favorite photograph that you keep in view. Mine is black and white and shows a little me dressed up as a cowboy. Lurking in the foreground is the shadow of my dad, who was taking my picture. I am looking up at him, but you can only tell that because his shadow is visible in front of me.

Shadows are integral parts of our lives that are impossible to avoid. However hard we try to find and stay out in the sun, they loom in the corner...whether we welcome them, or not. And, boy, are they persistent! So what can we do?

Well, we can find a space that is open and friendly, and we can talk about them. That is what Faith Matters offers: a space for adults to gather and talk about the events of life that come with both sun and shade. Faith Matters folks acknowledge that there are no easy answers, but we offer ears to listen, hearts that are open, and a bit of light to discern the shadows' reach.

Faith Matters meets at 9:15 each Sunday Morning in The Blue Room across from the church library. Stop in for coffee, tea, a snack, and encouraging conversations about those pesky shadows. We promise to brighten your day.

Shelter Meals

It is so hard to believe but the shelter season will end on April 28, 2018. A big thanks to all of you who have provided meals and to **Barbara Shafarzek** for doing all of the desserts. A special thanks goes out to **Kathy and Mark Silo** for providing the meal and bringing the meal and dessert down to the shelter last month and to **Barbara** for making the dessert. We say this often, but the men at the shelter really enjoy the meals and are very appreciative. Thank you again for your help and support in this special ministry.



Social Ministry

Thank-you to all who donated to our March/April Cluster to the St. Francis and St. John/St. Ann food pantry and the Sister Maureen Food Bank. This month's collection will be for **Things Of My Very Own**. Personal care items for the Sister Maureen Food Bank are needed as well. A helping hand blesses the giver and receiver.

Holy Humor Sunday April 8, 2018

Thank you to everyone who participated!



Church Council News

The Annual Retreat of the Church Council was held on Saturday, April 14. After getting the morning started with refreshments and a team-building exercise, the Council members formed teams and read passages from the Scriptures. Each team described "God's Mission in the World" in 12 words or less.



The Council reviewed the current mission statement, identified Good Shepherd's key ministries and worked together to develop a new mission statement for Good Shepherd. In the afternoon, Phoebe Morad, Director of Lutherans Restoring Creation, joined the Retreat by video-conference and shared information and resources on "Becoming a Creation-Care Congregation."

We invite members and friends of the congregation to provide comments about the new mission statement that has been developed and proposed by the Church Council:

"We are a community of God's faithful people called to love, welcome and care for all."

Please provide your feedback and ideas by May 31st on the poster in the narthex.

Marjorie Raymond, President
518-435-0906

Social Justice News

A monthly info and meeting will be held the 2nd Sunday after the 10:30 service and in the Narthex after the 8:00 service. Please stop by to check out info and see how the greater church is working on societal issues. Input is always welcome.

Pray, Fast, Act is held on the 21st of every month with a different focus highlighted each month. For more details on issues selected, look on ELCA Advocacy website. The 21st is the designated day to help us connect with those struggling financially. It is the day money for food runs out for people in food assistance programs.

The Good Shepherd Garden was blessed on Earth Day and children have been planting seeds to be transplanted. Dennis Claypool rototilled the area. May 12th at 9:00am will be our official planting day. Our garden produce will be donated to area food programs and also for our enjoyment. Your help will be much appreciated. *"Let all the people thank and enjoy you. Earth, display your exuberance!"* Psalm 67: 6.

Poor People's Campaign 40 days of action starts on Mother's Day. Please check their website on how we can help lift people out of poverty and act as their neighbor.

CROP Walk

The CROP WALK is almost here! **May 6, 2018.** Walkers and Donors are still needed for this grand initiative to end hunger, assist those ravaged by natural disasters or economic misfortune. CWS/CROP's endeavors are well thought out to provide positive outcomes and lift people from their dire situations and disease. 25% of all donations stay right here in our area. CROP co-ordinates their efforts with other aid organizations for the best outcomes. **Please walk and give so others can live!**

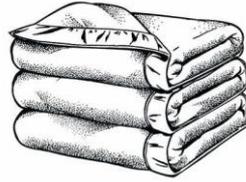


May/June Cluster Collection

Throughout May & June the Lutheran Cluster congregations will

gather items for Things of My Very Own (TOMVO), a non-profit organization, located in Schenectady that provides crisis intervention

services to children who have been impacted by extensive abuse and/or neglect. They also provide services to children at-risk of a Child Protective Services intervention where families don't have items necessary for sustainability.



The organization works to keep children with their non-abusive family members and out of the foster care system whenever possible. The transition out of an abusive situation is often sudden and unexpected. Rarely is a child able to return home to retrieve belongings prior to the move. TOMVO recognizes the need for children to have "things of their very own," even when they are in an unfamiliar setting.

Urgent Needs: Twin Sized Sheets & Blankets, Blankets (All Sizes), and towels.

*** Clothing and Bedding in New or Gently Used Condition Please.

Always Needed: Seasonal Appropriate Clothing, Pajamas, Diapers and Wipes, Hygiene Products, Shampoo, Body Wash, etc., Toilet Paper, Baby Formula, Household Cleaning Products

Administrative Needs: Postage Stamps, Gas Cards, Copy/Printer Paper, HP 950 and 951 Officejet Ink Cartridges

News from the Senior Shepherds

Senior Shepherds will be holding a **Flower and Bake Sale Luncheon on Saturday, May 5th from 11:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Once again Dick Dunn has created beautiful flower arrangements for the cemetery and home. Also, in celebration of Cinco De Mayo free Tacos will be served during the sale. Everyone is welcome.



The Personal Care Kits, which were assembled last Fall will be delivered in early May to Clifton Park for pickup and and and distribution by Lutheran World Relief.

Lunches are available at the Cicotti Center every Monday at 1:00 .m. Anyone from Albany County are eligible. Price is \$4.00 and sign up is necessary at 518-867-8920.

The Senior Shepherds will be selling **meatball sandwiches and drinks at the Nickel Social on June 9th.**

Our **next monthly meeting will be on May 25th.** The Lutheran Care Network Coburg Village Executive Director Antoinette Wallace will be speaking on health living and senior exercise.



Debbie Fowler, Director of the Eyes Wide Open organization in Schenectady, was the guest speaker at our April meeting who spoke about human trafficking. It was an informative and powerful presentation.

The next meeting of the women of the ELCA will be on **Tuesday, May 22nd at 7:00pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Our program for that meeting is still in the works, but we promise it will be one you don't want to miss. Hope to see you there!

Thanks to Good Shepherd...

Dear Senior Shepherds,

*What a wonderful surprise to receive your generous gift to **Eyes Wide Open!** Your gift of \$100 supports our goal to provide homes for survivor care of those who were victims of sex trafficking.*

Very Sincerely, Deborah Fowler, Foudner/President

Dear Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,

*Once again **Books for Troops** is thrilled to receive your **continued** support of our organization and its mission to help send books to our deployed troops. God bless you and thank you again.*

Sincerely yours, Ellen R. Keegan

Dear Members,

*We wanted to reach out and personally thank you for your support to Catholic Charities Tri County's **Sister Maureen Joyce Soup Kitchen** and the generous **donation of soup**. We take our commitment to our neighbors very seriously and we are proud to say that last year alone 12,085 people including 5,522 children benefitted from our program.*

Sincerely, Gayle Pausley, Program Coordinator

And a Special Thanks to Megan Stasi...

We give thanks to God for the years of dedicated service Megan Stasi, has given to GSLC. She will be greatly missed, but we wish her well on her new teaching career. A farewell luncheon for her will be announced soon.

Save the Date!

Nine 2018 Hillenbrandt Scholarship recipients will be recognized at the 10:30 am service on **Sunday, June 3rd**. A special reception will follow the service in the fellowship hall sponsored by the Hillenbrandt Scholarship Committee. Please plan to attend as we recognize these outstanding students and members of GSLC.



Vacation Bible School

There has been some interest in holding VBS here this summer. It would be a week-long event held during the late afternoon possibly around 6- 8:30 pm. sometime in July or August.

This would be a great outreach opportunity for our community, but would require many volunteers. If you would be interested in helping with VBS, please sign your name on the sign-up sheet in the narthex. Thank you.

WELCOME!

We are pleased to welcome Elaine Urbanowicz, our new Admin. Asst. Elaine's hours will be Tues. – Fri. 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. Elaine has a teenage son named Manny, and a sweet Yorkie named Lucy. She's an avid reader, loves puzzles, and working on her family tree. Please welcome Elaine when you see her.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Contacts

Pastor Edwina E. Landry pastor@gslcl.org	518-458-1562 – office 518-469-9282 - cell	Mon. – Thurs. (Please call ahead to confirm availability.)
Elaine Urbanowicz, Admin. Asst. office@gslcl.org	518-458-1562	Tues. – Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

ELCA Contacts

National Office – Chicago, IL

www.elca.org

Bishop: Rev. Elizabeth Eaton

Upstate NY Synod, Syracuse, NY

www.upstatenysynod.org

Bishop: Rev. John Macholz

Hudson-Mohawk Conference

Dean: Rev. Jo Page

e-mail: jopage34@yahoo.com

THOSE WHO SERVE IN MAY 2018

**** If you are unable to serve on the day assigned, arrange a replacement and notify the office before the previous Wed. ****

Task	MAY 6	MAY 13	MAY 20	MAY 27	JUNE 3
Opener	Maryanne Sangiacomo	Marjorie Raymond	Donna Myers	JoAn Walker	Leighann Yost
Greeters 8AM 10:30AM	Earl & Marna Redding Amy Rudat	Keith & Maureen Behrens Mary Long	Jeannette Harting Chris & Marc Kleinhenz	Dick & Maralyn Walker Marvin & Heta Miller	Marilyn Graver Neil & Patti Olsen
Ushers	Joyce & Dennis Claypool	Jack Ludwin Bernie Shafarzek	Keith & Maureen Behrens	Peter Crouse Marc Kleinhenz	John McGrath Karie Robertson
Lay Reader 8AM 10:30AM	Keith Kelly Marjorie Raymond	Keith Behrens Peter Crouse	Richard Walker Sade Miller	Leighann Yost Meg Winters	Liz Kaercher Heta Miller
Acolytes 8AM 10:30AM	Sara Kelly Richie Kleinhenz & Johnny Rudat	Elizabeth Kaercher William Quinn	Lauren Bradley Trenton Kirker	Daniel Brown Ralf Miller	Kayla Bradley Blake Wiegert
Comm. Asst. 8AM 10:30AM	Marilyn Graver Carl Phelps	Richard Walker Colleen Kromrey	Steve Layne Linda Kowalski	Marilyn Graver Chris Kleinhenz	Richard Walker Bertie Cole
Comm. Set/Clean	Lynn Best Shahnaz Dean	Pauline Wanjugi Bertie Cole	Susan & Paul Spofford	Dorothy Wimble Colleen Ward	Meg Winters Chris Kleinhenz
Flowers	Chohan Everin	Best Bradley	Phelps Spofford	Raymond Dwire	Wanjugi Ngowi/Mwandambo
Fellowship	Sr. Shepherds	Meg Winters	Patrick/Ward	Raymond	Hillenbrandt Scholarship Comm.
Parish Life Rep	Bertie Cole	Marie Wertman	Marc Kleinhenz	Spoffords	Carol Phelps
Closer	Kathy Crouse	Atif Dean	Colleen Kromrey	Danny Patrick	Carol Phelps

May Counters
Kathy Crouse
Colleen Ward

Bulletin Folder
Jeannette Harting

Newsletter Team #3
Susan Spofford
Jeanne Guenther
Dorothy Wimble
Colleen Ward
Friday May 25, 9:30am

June Counters
Maryanne Sangiacomo
Meg Winters