

# The GOOD NEWS

of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Loudonville, NY

July/August 2018



*“...but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” John 4:14*

Summer is here! It’s time to slow down, and relax. Many people go away on weekend trips or even away for weeks or months at a time. It’s important to devote time for self-care. It’s part of what being a good steward is all about. Stewardship means caretaking, and we need to be good caretakers of our own bodies in order to be able to care for others. You’ve often heard that you can’t get water from the well if it has run dry. So we need to refresh ourselves with the life-giving water of renewal.

We also need to be good care-takers of our spiritual well-being. Where can we go to get the best life-giving water of renewal? Jesus said, “...but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” Of all the vacations that we may take, the place that will bring us the most peace, the most life-giving joy can be found in Jesus. We may go to the most beautiful place on earth to be inspired and relax, but it is God’s life-giving Spirit that will breathe new life into us.

So wherever you find yourself this summer, remember to pause, and breathe in the Spirit of the living God. Breathe in Divine peace. Breathe in Divine love. Come and worship together at one of our summer worship services at either 8:00 am or 9:30 am and drink from the life-giving well of God’s grace.

Blessings and Peace,  
Pastor Edwina

## Next Newsletter Deadline: Sunday, August 19th

Call the Church Office at 518-458-1562 or  
e-mail office@gslcl.org if you have item(s) for publication.

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### PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- **Barbara Emptage** who is recovering from hip surgery. Cards may be sent to: 22 Morocco Lane, Schenectady, NY 12304.
  - **Maralyn Walker** who is recovering from foot surgery. Cards may be sent to: 7 Medaille Drive, Apt. 204, Watervliet, NY 12189.
  - **Vic Riggins**, our sexton, who is recovering from a severe ankle sprain. Cards may be sent to: 131 Southern Blvd., Albany, NY 12209.
  - **Dorothy Wimble** who is recovering from back surgery. Cards may be sent to: 38 Dowling Street, Albany, NY 12205
  - **Stephanie Ferrill** who is home from the hospital and recovering. Cards may be sent to: 58 Miracle Lane, Loudonville, NY 12211
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### Congratulations Grads!

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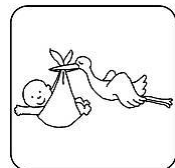
Congratulations to our graduates: Clayton Buff, Cameron Kaercher, and Blake Wiegert.



### Congratulations!

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Congratulations to Anita and Aakash Chohan on the birth of their son *Azariah* on June 4<sup>th</sup>!



**\*Welcome** to Kathy Williams, our wonderful new Administrative Assistant! Please stop by to say hello and give her a warm welcome!



## **July & August Birthdays**

### **July Birthdays**

- 4 - Antoinette Vinciguerra
- 5 - Cameron Rhodes, Amy Rudat  
Carolyn Wolfe
- 6 - Cameron Kaercher, Ralf Miller  
10 – Mary Benoit
- 12 - Nancy McGrath
- 13 - Hayley Beach
- 14 – Siera Morales
- 15 – Clayton Buff
- 21 - Marc Kleinhenz
- 23 - Carl Phelps
- 25 - Christopher Kowalski

### **August Birthdays**

- 2 - Bonnie Siiss
- 4 – Marcia Bahan
- 7 – Lynne Salerno
- 9 – Beverly Quinlan
- 10 – Robert Howland
- 14 – Ericka Mackey
- 18 – Mildred Vigars
- 20 – Betty Cadwallader
- 21 – Joan Walker
- 23 – Torrina Adams, Jeffrey Ludwin
- 26 – Kelsey Dwire
- 27 – Marion Krug, Bill Siiss
- 29 – Truman Crouse, Barbara Shafarzek
- 30 – Bernie Shafarzek

## From the Music Corner

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“Music is the strongest form of magic.” – Marilyn Manson

We continue to extend invitations for you to sing with us. During the summer, we will not have choir rehearsal on Thursday evenings. We will convene at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. During the summer, we will sing **Setting VI**. This is a familiar setting that we have sung in the past.

Several of you have provided lists of your favorite hymns and we continue to incorporate them into the music schedule. Please forward lists of favorite hymns to the attention of the music director’s mailbox at Good Shepherd Church.

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.



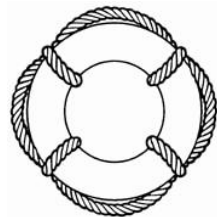
**Carl Rorie Alexandrov**, Director of Music

## Sea Sunday

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Join us on **Sunday, July 8<sup>th</sup>** as we celebrate **Sea Sunday**. Wear your flip flops, wear your summer shorts, think “ocean.”

For over 160 years, Sea Sunday has been marked as a day of global recognition for those who transport our material goods by sea, and with great sacrifice to their own lives.



So join us for Sea Sunday, as we lift up in prayer and support the Mission to Seafarer’s.

## **Thirteenth Annual Berry Festival**

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The Thirteenth Annual Berry Festival will be on **Saturday, July 14th from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM.**



Tasty strawberries, blueberries and raspberries will be served on homemade biscuits topped with your choice of either vanilla ice cream or whipped cream. This yearly summer event has always been a fun time for many people who attend every year from the community as well as the congregation.

If you have never come to one of our Berry Festivals or if you come every year, we encourage you to jot this date down and come out for some great berries and wonderful fellowship.

There will be a free will offering and the proceeds will be going to the Summer Lunch Program at the Schuyler Inn Motel on Broadway in Menands. The parents and children who reside at the Schuyler Inn are homeless and are looking for permanent housing.

If you are interested in helping out, please talk to Danny Patrick.

## **Special Congregational Meeting**

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We will have a special congregational meeting on **Sunday, July 15 at 9:00 am between services to discuss and vote on the new GSLC Mission Statement.** Berries from the Berry Festival will be available at that time. So come and “eat dessert first,” then be ready to vote on the mission statement. Thank you to everyone who contributed your feedback on the draft statement from the Council. The revised mission statement we will be voting on is: “We are a community of God’s faithful people called by Christ to love, welcome, and care for all.”

## Tea and Talk

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Good Shepherd Lutheran's Women of the ELCA group is hosting our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Tea & Talk on Saturday, July 28, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. All women of Good Shepherd, their friends, and women from the community and other congregations are welcome to join us!



Following the model of afternoon tea from the British Isles, a variety of brewed teas (no tea bags allowed!), finger sandwiches, savory items, and sweet treats will be available as women meet and mingle. An interesting program/discussion will be offered, as well (more to come on this in the coming weeks!).

In addition to making a free-will offering to support Good Shepherd's Women of the ELCA unit and the National Women of the ELCA, we encourage women to donate items for *Her Treasure Box*, an arts and crafts thrift store run by volunteers of Eyes Wide Open, a Schenectady-based non-profit serving victims of human and sex trafficking. *Her Treasure Box* specializes in selling the following items:

- Art supplies of all types
- Crafts supplies, including fabric, yarn, thread, and decorations

Working with Schenectady County Safe Harbor Anti-Trafficking Task Force and the Sisters of St. Joseph's Coalition to End Human Trafficking, the goal of Eyes Wide Open is to open a two-year residential program offering a full range of services to victims, including medical care and education. Please help with your support!

We look forward to seeing you on July 28<sup>th</sup>! Questions? Please contact: Good Shepherd Church Office at [office@gscl.org](mailto:office@gscl.org) or (518)458-1562, or Susan Perkins, Coordinator, Women of the ELCA – Good Shepherd Loudonville unit at [susanjperkins@aol.com](mailto:susanjperkins@aol.com) or (607)376-3485.

## ALL ABOUT KIDS

**On the next couple of pages, check out all the ways we support and nurture children!**

### Summer Lunch Program

The Outreach and Evangelism Committee is planning for this year's summer lunch program at the Schuyler Inn Motel on Broadway in Menands.



We plan to provide the children with back packs and school supplies, t-shirts, socks, underwear and sweat shirts, as well as socks for all of the adults. Since an ELCA grant is not available for us this year, we will be relying heavily on Thrivent Actions Grants that members of the congregation can apply for, so that we may provide for these additional items to give to the children and adults.

In the past, congregation members have been very generous with food donations and we are again asking for food donations, as well as children and adult books.

Food suggestions are individual boxes of juice; chocolate, vanilla and butterscotch puddings; fruit cups; applesauce; raisins; gluten free items and cheese sticks, as well as small bags of chips, granola bars, pretzels, cheese and peanut butter crackers. A box is in the narthex/front hallway for any food donations.

We are in great need to get volunteers on Thursdays (July 12-August 30) who could lift large pans of food and load them into cars and help to unload these pans of food when we arrive down at the Schuyler Inn.

If you could help out with this specific task on any Thursday in July and August, please speak to Carol Phelps or Danny Patrick. We thank everyone in advance for your food and book donations, assistance, and all of your support and prayers as we continue this important ministry.

## Splash Play Time

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We had a fun meetup at Cook Park's new playground in June. (Worth checking out if you haven't seen it). For July it's splash table water fun **at the church at 10:30 am on July 14**. If it rains we'll check the Pine Bush Nature Center.



Our August meetup will be at the **Colonie Town Park on August 18th at 10:30 am**. More details in July. Hope you all are getting outside and enjoying God's beautiful creation! All children 3 and under welcome; friends too!

## Science & Art Summer Camps at Good Shepherd

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Club Scientific and KidzArt are hosting Summer Camps at Good Shepherd during the weeks of July 23-27, July 30 – August 3 and August 6-10. Camps are offered for ages 5 through 14, including Young Engineer Inventor, Coding and Gaming with Robots, Emergency Vet, and Chef Scientific. Information is available at the church and on online at [www.Colonie.ClubScientific.com](http://www.Colonie.ClubScientific.com) and [www.Colonie.KidzArt.com](http://www.Colonie.KidzArt.com).

## Vacation Bible School

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We're halfway there to hosting a VBS here at GSLC this summer! So far we have 8 volunteers, and need at least 12 more.



It will be a week-long event held during the late afternoon from 6- 8:30 pm. in August.

This would be a great outreach opportunity for our community, so we need many volunteers. **If you'd like to bring some fun to kids this summer, please sign your name on the sign-up sheet in the narthex or call the office.** Thank you.



### Summer Love

*The beginning of love is to let those we love be perfectly themselves, and not twist them to fit our own image. Thomas Merton*



I love the perfection of an early summer day. It unfolds from cool morning to bright afternoon, offering clarity, breeze and warmth until night falls with stillness and a hint of surprise. Unless it doesn't. When the day arrives as sticky heat, or bugs, or rain, or my personal favorite: the double whammy of pollen plus poplar fuzz, it's not perfect!

And yet each day manifests its own perfection. Merton's quote about love is true for so much more, reminding us that if we spend our moments wishing for something different, we are denying the reality of what is...which is a gift from God.

I have a simple suggestion for all who struggle to shape perfection in our own image. Take some time to sit with others who share the dilemma and seek a peace beyond personal control. We invite you to Just Breathe, a meditation group grounded in Christian contemplation.

Just Breathe meets for 45 minutes or so each Wednesday at 7PM at Good Shepherd. We gather in all sorts of perfect weather, and make way for the Peace that passes all understanding. All are welcome rain or shine...and we often share some funny stories about the weather. We invite you to join us. You can even bring an umbrella if you wish.

# REACHING OUT WITH GOD'S LOVE

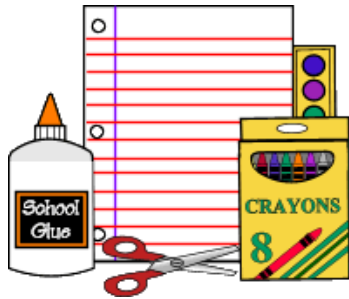
## July/August Cluster Collection

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Throughout July & August the Lutheran Cluster congregations will gather items for the Giffen Memorial and the Delaware Community Schools in Albany.

Needs include:

- \*black & white composition notebooks
- \*3-hole loose-leaf paper
- \*folders
- \*index cards (5x7)
- \*crayons
- \*colored pencils
- \*markers
- \*glue sticks
- \*pencils
- \*paper plates
- \*napkins
- \*boxes of tissues
- \*small brown lunch bags



## Community Garden Update

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The garden is in and taking shape. Thank you to all who helped. Some things have needed replanting due to dry weather. However, the season is young God and blesses us with hope for a fruitful yield. Planting continues with respect to different plant requirements. Your help with this food initiative is always appreciated. If you have coffee grounds for the blueberries, please leave them in a sealed labeled container at church. God's work. Our hands.



## **News from the Senior Shepherds**

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The Seniors sold meatball subs at the Nickel Social which was a success. A big thank you to Kathy Silo for making the meatballs. Always delicious.

If anyone is interested in cemetery arrangements, we still have some available. Please contact Marilyn Graver or Joan Walker.

We will not be meeting during the months of July and August. Our next meeting will be September 28th at 11:00 a.m.

## **Social Justice News:**

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The “Poor People's Campaign” continued through June with rallies every Monday at the Capital in Albany and in Washington D.C. Many pastors in our area attend these events including our own. Until all people have access to healthcare, education, fair wages and jobs, healthy food, clean water, pure air, and affordable housing, we don't live in a free society.

While attending rallies may not be possible for everyone, we all can take a stand for justice in our own lives by how we live our Christian faith, such as being hospitable, friendly and respectful to all, sharing what we have, avoiding excess, and doing no harm to our environment. First we pray and look to God and then we live out the inspirations of the Holy Spirit in our actions. Simply picking up the phone or writing a letter to our elected officials (they need inspiration too! and our prayers) will be a big difference.

The recent synod conference theme was "getting out into the community" and seeing where the needs are. Then walk in the footsteps of Jesus for the good of all. It is a busy world, but there is still time to look around us and meet our neighbors. Check out the web site ELCA Advocacy, the Sojourner websites and the Living Lutheran magazine for actions being taken, how you can participate and contribute action ideas.

# IT'S ALL ABOUT MISSION

Financial Report for May			
	This Month	YTD	
Expenses	\$12,234.56	\$66,215.41	
Revenue	\$10,748.17	\$68,370.72	
Surplus + Deficit -		+\$2155.31	

## Property Updates

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Our Property Team has been busy with some great upgrades to our building, which as you can see is a real **Mission Station** with all the activities we have going on! Most noticeable are the new ceiling fans in the sanctuary. These new fans really move the air around! Come to worship and feel the breeze!

To help **replenish the Building and Equipment Fund so we can be a great Mission Station**, 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

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Every month the Stewardship Team is highlighting a different aspect of stewardship on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. For the summer months of June - August we will be focusing on the **Stewardship of Our Health**. Please check out the bulletin board and see the many ways you can be a better steward of your health.

## Taking a Break

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Faith Matters and the Sunday Morning Bible Study will be taking a break this summer, but will resume in September. Sunday School and the FLY Group are also taking a break this summer, but be ready for some exciting new things come September.

Take a break this summer, but don't take a break from God!  
Come enjoy the new fans in the sanctuary at worship on Sundays at 8:00 am or 9:30 am!

## Church Council News

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At the June meeting, the Council reviewed comments received on the proposed mission statement. A Special Meeting of the congregation will be held on July 15 at 9 AM to vote on the new mission statement.



The council voted to select Tithe.ly as the new vendor for electronic giving for the congregation. Electronic giving can be arranged directly with a bank (usually at no charge to the individual or the church) or through this vendor. Tithe.ly is a preferred vendor of the ELCA. Additional information will be shared with the congregation in the coming months.

As a follow-up to the Council Retreat in June, the Council approved and signed a Creation Care Covenant to demonstrate and reinforce Good Shepherd's long-standing commitment to being good stewards of the environment. The covenant is posted in the narthex by the coat rack.

Good Shepherd is blessed to have many members participating in its ministries. Many volunteers participate in our worship services, Christian education programs, fellowship and support groups, service projects and outreach. Following lengthy discussions and prayerful consideration, the Council has determined that this level of active participation should be encouraged, and that there is not a separate, specific role for congregational deacons at Good Shepherd.

**Marjorie Raymond, President 518-435-0906**

**Council Members:** Robert Beach, Kathy Crouse, Steve Dwire, Jeffrey Emptage, Dave Ferrill, Danny Patrick, Marjorie Raymond, Elaine Sacco, Maryanne Sangiacomo, Mark Silo, Pauline Wanjugi, Marie Wertman, Pam Zepf, Pastor Edwina Landry

## Synod Assembly News

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The thirty-first annual Upstate NY Synod Assembly was held in Rochester, NY June 3 – 5<sup>th</sup>. GSLC delegates Danny Patrick and Elaine Sacco accompanied Pastor Edwina as voting members.

The theme of this year's assembly was "Shine Your Light" focusing on World Hunger. Bishop Macholz issued a "Give Hunger the Slipper" Challenge in which he generously offered to give \$5.00 to the hunger appeal to everyone who wore slippers on Tuesday morning of the assembly. Congregations also brought donations to support this cause, and by the end of the assembly over \$40,000 was raised for hunger. Way to go Upstate NY Synod!

Excellent workshops such as Faith-Rooted Community Organizing and Welcoming the Stranger: Refugee Table Fellowship were informative, motivating, and fun. Resolutions and Memorials were passed supporting the Poor People's Campaign begun in 1968 by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., An Open & Healthy Articulation of Human Sexuality, and efforts to further support the ELCA's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ordination of Women in 2020.

Keynote speaker, Rev. Ruben Duran, Director of Evangelical Outreach & Congregational Mission in the ELCA, inspired us with his presentations on how "the Church is a generator of sending energy out." He stressed how the Church is about being focused on others and not ourselves as we reach out into our communities and the world with Christ's light and love.

Worship was moving – and we mean really "get-up-and-dance" moving as we enjoyed a lively Jazz worship. Please consider being a delegate next year to learn more about the greater Church of which we are a part.

# Upcoming Events

## **Bishop's Golf Tournament**

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Bishop John Macholz invites all golfers, the best and the rest, to tee off with him on Monday, August 20, 2018 at Shadow Lake Golf and Racquet Club, 1850 Five Mile Line Rd., Penfield, NY. Funds raised at the event will support the 2018 Bishop's Appeal.

The golf outing will begin at 12:00 noon with a "shotgun" start, followed by dinner, awards and auction at 6:00PM. Last year's event exceeded \$10,000 – let's see if we can double that for 2018!

Recruit your team of four or sign up and we will create a team. You may also just register for the dinner festivities. Early bird registration for foursomes is \$400.00, with individual registration at \$100.00. Early bird "dinner only" rate is \$30.00. The early bird rates expire on July 15 so register early.

We are in need of lawn sign sponsors – it's awesome to see the number of churches committed to sponsoring this event! Volunteers needed to help with planning and on the day of the event.

Online registration will open on June 1, 2018. Contact Keith Nickoloff for more information, [knickoloff@pharos.com](mailto:knickoloff@pharos.com).

**Mark your calendars now, recruit a team of four and plan to join us!**

## **GSLC Picnic**

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The annual GSLC Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, August 26 immediately following the 9:30 Service. This year it will take place in our own beautiful back yard! Please bring your favorite dish!

## **Yoga Classes to Start in September**

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Yoga Classes will be held on Monday evenings at Good Shepherd, starting in September. \$7 a class -\$35 for 7 classes  
Watch for details!



## **Eighth Annual Community Fun Day**

Please mark your calendars as this year's **Eighth Annual Community Fun Day** on **Sat., September 29** from **11:00 AM to 2:00 PM**. We invite our neighbors, friends, families in the surrounding neighborhood to join us for children's activities, informational tables about GSLC and other organizations in the area, flu shots, and pony rides. We will also be serving hot dogs, chips, potato nuggets, homemade lemonade, coffee and cookies at no charge. If you have any ideas and contact people, please speak to Danny Patrick or Carol Phelps.

## **Thanks to Good Shepherd...**

*Dear Members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,*

*We wanted to reach out and thank you for your generous donation of \$700.00 to support Catholic Charities Tri County's Sister Maureen Joyce Soup Kitchen. Your donation will be used wisely to purchase food for the Center that is only possible because of people like you.*

*With Sincere Thanks, Gayle Pausley, Program Coordinator, and Renee Wendover, Program Assistant*

*Dear Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,*

*Thank you for your \$350 contribution to Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Capital Region. Your generosity allows us to offer families a place to stay, home cooked meals, the service of caring volunteers, and help with the many needs that arise when a child is seriously ill. On behalf of everyone at RMHC, and especially the children and families we serve: Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!*

*Jeff Yule, Executive Director*