

Good Shepherd Monthly News

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills

Volume 2, Issue 7

VBS 2021: Thank You!



Rocky Railway Vacation Bible School was held during the week of June 21st to June 25th. Through this important ministry, we were able to reach 64 kids as well as their family members with the message that Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through. Each day, that theme was reinforced with a Bible Point: Jesus' power helps us do hard things, Jesus' power gives us hope, Jesus' power helps us be bold, Jesus' power lets us live forever, and Jesus' power helps us be good friends. Kids visited Bible Adventures, Exploration Station, Kid-Vid Cinema, snack, crafts, and games. A huge thank you to everyone who helped in any way - from prayers to monetary donations, help with decorating and clean-up, getting the snacks prepared, leading a station - we simply wouldn't be able to have this program without our amazing 50 plus volunteers. Some of the highlights from the week can be seen in a [video posted on our YouTube Channel](#). Mark your calendars for next year's VBS (June 20 to 24, 2022) for **Treasured - Discovering You're Priceless to God**.

Your Sister in Christ, Jean Barone

*Love each other in the same way I have loved you. —
John 15:12*

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Reopening Update

Masks are no longer required at Good Shepherd. However, if you prefer or feel more comfortable wearing a mask, we want you to feel welcome doing so. Leadership appreciates the grace and Christian love shown to one another throughout our reopening process.

Ministry News

Thrivent Members Live Generously

As a fraternal organization, Thrivent helps inspire generosity and provides the tools and resources for members to take action and make an impact. Donating **Thrivent Choice Dollars** and initiating a **Thrivent Action Team** are two ways in which Thrivent members can give back to their community.

Along with many other nonprofit organizations, both Good Shepherd Christian Preschool and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills may each be designated as the recipient of **Thrivent Choice Dollars**. [Click here to learn more about Thrivent Choice Dollars](#) and to check if you are eligible to donate.

Thrivent members who apply for and are approved for a **Thrivent Action Team** receive \$250 in seed money to aid their service project, fundraiser, or educational event to benefit the community. Each benefit member is eligible to lead two action teams per calendar year. Since 2019, Good Shepherd Thrivent members have received seed money for approximately 30 projects. Some examples of the Action Team Projects include Journey to the Cross, an Ice Cream Social, a Trivia Night/Pasta Dinner Fundraiser, an Eagle Scout Project, a LWML Four Season's Luncheon, a Missional Pathway Training, and the Being Challenge. Are you a Thrivent member and do you have an idea for an action team? [Click here to get inspired and learn more about how to launch a Thrivent Action Team](#).

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. – Romans 12:9-13

Worship Wednesdays in July

This month, join us on Wednesdays at 7pm, for a half hour of evening worship and praise. This will be a time of worship music, followed by fellowship and light refreshments. If you want to learn more or have questions, speak with Jeremy or Amy Frantz.

Good Shepherd Receives Esther 4:14 National Grant Award

In February 2021 Good Shepherd received information from the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) Office of National Mission about a new [Esther 4:14 National Grant Program](#). LCMS launched the program to help congregations use new technologies and communication techniques to proclaim the Lord's timeless truth in new and exciting ways during these challenging times. Congregations were encouraged to apply for a grant of up to \$1,500 by April 5th.

Scott Thurston asked me to work with the technology committee (Tim Marcovecchio, Jeremy Frantz and Jim Marlowe) to develop and submit the grant application. During subsequent discussions we recognized that while many improvements have been made to our Audio Visual (A/V) system in the past several years (screens in sanctuary, live streaming services and more), usage during the COVID-19 pandemic uncovered some problems. Older components, capacity limits, reliability problems and issues with ease of use needed to be addressed to allow us to better serve Good Shepherd and share the Gospel within our community.

After several discussions with the committee our grant application was finalized and submitted on April 5th. On June 4th we learned that our application was one of 225 proposals accepted out of about 450 applications received by LCMS. The National Grant office indicated that they were overwhelmed with the response and unfortunately could not fulfill all grant applications with the \$250,000 available. So, we are thrilled to have been awarded a grant of \$1,150.

So how will the funding be used? Our vision is to use the funding to improve the A/V system in order to:

- Better serve existing members who worship with us in the sanctuary as well as those who are unable to do so.
- Share the gospel in new and creative ways with non-members in the surrounding community including:
 - ◊ Good Shepherd preschool families
 - ◊ Church seekers
 - ◊ Organizations that use our facility but may not know Jesus as their Lord and Savior
 - ◊ Other community organizations and local citizens
- Support other LCMS churches as they strive to use technology to share the gospel with their members and surrounding communities.

We plan to achieve this vision through a phased approach with a portion of the costs to be covered by funds received from the Esther 4:14 grant. Phase I will begin immediately and serve as the foundation upon which we will continue build to achieve our vision and related community outreach ministry plans. Plans for Phase 2 will be finalized later this year following discussions with congregational members, preschool leadership, and various organizations that could benefit from improvements to our A/V system and related technology used in our facility.

Special thanks to Tim, Jeremy, Jim, Sandy Marcovecchio and Scott Thurston who all contributed the preparation and submission of our proposal, and to the LCMS Office of National Mission for accepting our grant application!

Your Brother in Christ, Larry Krueger

Be sure to check goodshepherdpittsburgh.org for a live calendar and up-to-date information.

July 2021

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<p>Worship Sermon Schedule: 7/4—Pastor Reholma McCants 7/11—Pastor Barry Keurulainen 7/18—Pastor David Weeks 7/25—Pastor Barry Keurulainen</p>				1 <i>5p Soccer Shots</i>	2 <i>7p Plastic Model Society</i>	3 <i>9:15a Soccer Shots</i>
4 <i>10a Worship</i>	5 Church Office Closed <i>5p Soccer Shots</i> <i>7p Boy Scouts</i>	6 <i>6p Scrapbookers</i>	7 <i>7p Worship Wed.</i> <i>7:30p Narc Anon</i>	8 <i>5p Soccer Shots</i>	9	10 <i>9:15a Soccer Shots</i>
11 <i>10a Worship w/ Communion</i>	12 <i>5p Soc Shots</i> <i>7p Boy Scouts</i> <i>7p Council Mtg</i>	13	14 <i>7p Worship Wed.</i> <i>7:30p Narc Anon</i>	15 <i>5p Soccer Shots</i>	16	17 <i>9:15a Soccer Shots</i>
18 <i>10a Worship</i>	19 <i>5p Soc Shots</i> <i>7p Boy Scouts</i>	20 <i>6p Scrapbookers</i> <i>7p Elders' Mtg</i>	21 <i>7p Worship Wed.</i> <i>7:30p Narc Anon</i>	22 <i>5p Soccer Shots</i>	23	24 <i>9:15a Soccer Shots</i>
25 <i>10a Worship w/ Communion</i>	26 <i>5p Soccer Shots</i> <i>7p Boy Scouts</i>	27	28 <i>7p Worship Wed.</i> <i>7:30p Narc Anon</i>	29 <i>5p Soccer Shots</i>	30	31 <i>9:15a Soccer Shots</i>

Sunday morning worship continues in-person at 10am and it is also being live streamed.

[Click here](#) Sundays at 10am to join us in worship via our YouTube Channel.
 Complete the [Online Worship Fellowship Record](#) to let us know you have joined.

July Birthdays

7/1—Piper Frantz	7/19—Marsha Episcopo
7/5—Dee Moore	7/21—Al Nagy
7/6—Joneen Betler	7/22—Jennie Zeman
7/12—Lily Winters	7/24—Jeremy Frantz
7/13—Gavin Glasser	7/26—Marcia Colgan
7/15—Ken Meyer	7/28—Walt Meyer
7/15—Sandy Overfield	7/28—Izabella Sebastian
7/16—Maria Ressler	7/29—Susan Davies
7/17—Debbie Malenky	7/30—Leigh Ann Bates
7/18—Katie Zeman	



July Anniversaries

7/1—George and Rose Ann Zimmerman (22)
7/6—Scott and Laura Thurston (25)
7/16—Pastor Tim and Pam Bickel (38)
7/18—Mike and Jen Rea (12)
7/25—Walt and Alice Meyer (36)



Concordia Summer Festival 2021

When: Sunday, July 25 from 12:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Where: Concordia at Cabot Campus

Details: Sunday, July 25 marks the 140th Concordia Summer Festival, with a picnic lunch served at 12:30 and entertainment by the Pittsburgh Doo Wop Big Band beginning at 1:30 p.m. At 4 p.m. the traditional worship service will be held with Concordia Chaplaincy Director Rev. Jack Hartman giving the sermon. A car cruise will be on-site from 12:30 - 3:00 p.m.

A mini fishing derby for kids 12 and under will highlight the children's activities beginning at 12:30. Crafts and games at the pavilion will keep the kids busy for the rest of the day, and they are entitled to one free drink and one free food item from our quick food tent, such as a burger, hot dog or chicken tenders.

The entire event is open to the public, and admission is free. For more information, [click here to visit the website](#) or contact Public Relations at 724-352-1571, ext. 8268.

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Prayer Requests for Members, Family and Friends:

Jan Kleiser, Sherri, Betsy Thurston, Lisa Brady, Lou Pingel, Don Matthews, Phyllis, Don Richards, Pastor Tim, Debbie Volland, Tiffany, Jennifer Meyer, Earl and Mary Jane Richards, Mary Jane Forrest, Evie Jones, Fred "Butch" Taylor, Dottie Tritsch, Florence Christiansen, David Hesse, Scott Garretson, Hope Leydig, Dennis Lee, John Wilson, Sam Langol, Linda, Barb Hentsch, Melissa Medved, Anne Malone, Gary Cooper, Carolyn Uhlyar, Joan Steigerwald, Norma Mikoleit, Rose Spencer, John Simpson, Tillie Koerth, Pam Spechtold, Rose Marie Koehnke, Joan Uhrinak

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[Instagram.com/goodshepherdpgh/](https://www.instagram.com/goodshepherdpgh/)



[Youtube.com/channel/UC3Vh06JeoKM-rVRkXRRVpvQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3Vh06JeoKM-rVRkXRRVpvQ)

(or, go to YouTube and search for Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills)

If you are receiving this newsletter in your home mailbox, consider giving us an email address, and you'll receive the newsletter more quickly each month. And just a reminder, the Monthly Newsletter and Weekly Tidings can be viewed on the website at: <https://www.goodshepherdpittsburgh.org/news-to-note/>.