

# THE FLOCK'S NEWS

APRIL 2019

## What if?

“What if...” There sure are a lot of them around today. “What if I lose my job?” “What if I fail the big test?” “What if I don’t get the big promotion?” “What if I don’t make the team?” I am sure you have some questions that you could add to this list. None of us know the exact future but we can guess at it, or like me worry about it too much. At these times it might be good to look to the Bible. God said, “fear not I am with you always I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you “. The Lord helps me to remember this at all times. When I am in need and when I am joyful, in the good times and the bad ones. Help me remember though all that You are with me, Amen.

Guy French, Council President

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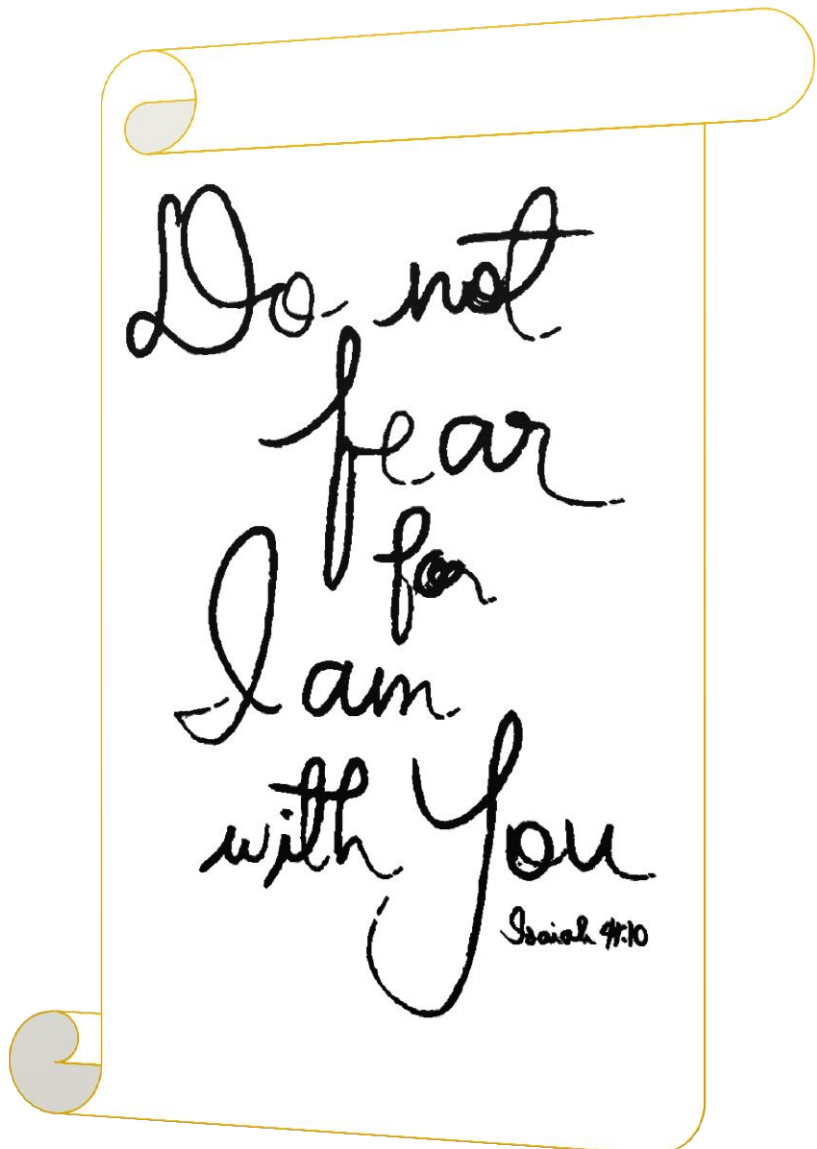
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# A Message from the Treasurer

Lent is a time to search and study our faith. This self-evaluation during Lent leads us to a closer understanding of our God. And part of this understanding, is learning to hear and listen to God. Unfortunately, for many of us, hearing and listening to God is not an easy task. It is so much easier to respond “Don’t send me, send (fill in the blank with whomever you think God should send)”. Good Shepherd leadership has heard God ask “Whom shall I send” and they have responded “it is I Lord, I have heard you, I will serve and I just need you to show me the way”.

Change is tough. Most of us are very uncomfortable when change is required. Good Shepherd has had significant change since last Spring. And the change has made each of us (not just the leadership) more focused on listening and hearing God. The response to requests to share time and talent are allowing us to continue a vibrant ministry. I’ve been told that sweeping the floor, running the vacuum and so on is not a request from God. I care to differ as this is God’s house and he wants his children to have a clean, comfortable space to share the Good News of Jesus.

This period of change also provides us an opportunity to strengthen our financial base. While are current expenses are much lower than they were when our congregation had a pastor, we still have weekly, monthly and annual expenses. At this point, our income exceeds our expenses; however, not to the point where we can begin to build up savings.

During this Lenten season, slow down and listen to God. If you hear him saying the ministry at the corner of South and South Main is important, consider your response.

***Reveal your will as you receive our prayers,  
and conform our ways to your ways;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord!***

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## FINANCE UPDATE

This is a new year (yes the Treasurer knows it is March)! Finance is going to play with some different ways of providing an update each month. Please remember the update will always be a month behind as the information for the previous month is not yet available by the newsletter deadline.

Weekly White Envelope giving consists of all funds contributed in a white envelope except for funds designated Building Fund.

	Income		Expenses
	Average Weekly White Envelope	Total	Total
January	\$1,762.42	\$7,579.90	\$6,800.97
February	\$2,088.81	\$11,200.76	\$8,758.07

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## 2018 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE, IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED YOUR 2018 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT AND DESIRE ONE FOR TAX PURPOSES. DUE TO MAILING COSTS, THE CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS WERE DISTRIBUTED AFTER WORSHIP SERVICES IN JANAUARY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF GOOD SHEPHERD.

**JIM PARKS, FINANCIAL SECRETARY**



***Gifts large and small make a difference to the congregation and the community. Many times we forget the small gifts, especially the mundane, when we acknowledge the work of various members and teams we acknowledge their contributions.***

**A special “Thank you!” to members of the counting teams.**

**March Altar Guild: Kay Korb, Charlene Moules, Karen Figel, Carol Phillips**

**Building Repairs: Gary Smith**

**Building Cleaning: Kay Korb, Jayson Yeager, Jane Hensley, Bea Bryan, Peg Wyda, Lois Myers, Donna and Gary Smith.**

**Building Cleaning Coordinator: Gary Smith**

**Snow Removal: Brian Yekel, Matt Yekel, Harry Heck**

**Add to the list of thanks! Send your suggestions for our thanks page to the church office.**

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## **COOKBOOK**

**The Good Shepherd’s cookbook is on sale after church services. Cost is \$10 per book. Checks may be made payable to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. See a team member for a cookbook.**

**\*We still have some cookbooks available so “get ‘em while they are hot!”\***

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## LENDING LIBRARY



Interested in developing your faith? Looking for something different to read or watch? Good Shepherd has a library of resources available for loan. The library is in the Conference Room (also referred to as the Counting Room) adjacent to the Pastor's Office. Stop by on a Sunday morning or during the week when the Intern is available to see the wide array of materials available.

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## SERVANTS NEEDED

Do you have a free hour or two? Do you like to visit with others? If yes, please join the team to visit shut-ins. Kay Korb is coordinating the visitation team. Call the Church Office and leave a message if interested in assisting with this vital congregational ministry.



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*Think Spring*

*Think Summer*

*Think VBS*

**Mark your calendar for important Vacation Bible School dates.**

**Our theme is "Follow your Dreams" (The story of Joseph)**

**For ages 3 thru grade 6.**

**Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup> thru Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup> 2019**

**From 9:00 am to 12:10 pm**

**Sponsorship Forms available the beginning of April.**

**Registration is from April 21 thru June 2.**

**Monday June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm there will be a work session to prepare kits for daily VBS activities.**

**There are many volunteer opportunities for VBS. Phone callers and Game Team openings have been identified. Please contact Donna Smith, 507-474-2912, for additional information.**

**Your ideas and help are much appreciated!!!!**





## WELCA: BIBLE STUDY

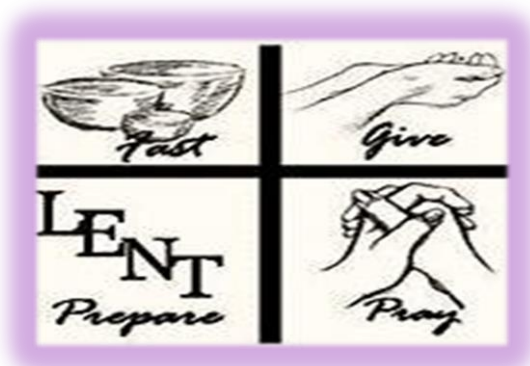
The Women of the ELCA will meet on Tuesday, April 9th, at 6:30pm in the Good Shepherd Center. We will continue the Bible study on "Meetings with Jesus" based on the Gospel of John. Session 3 is "Friends for life in Christ" from the March issue of "Gather" magazine. Come and join us as we discover how biblical characters' lives are transformed through their interactions with Jesus. Call Jane Hensley, 570-829-4394, for more information.

## Pre-Confirmation Class

Martin Luther was a strong proponent of education. Lutherans have always provided a firm foundation in the religious and secular education of our young people. To insure, our children are ready for the Confirmation Program in September, the Faith Formation Team is holding a mandatory program this Spring. The 4 week educational program will be held during the Family Faith Journey time (9:45-10:45 am) on Sunday mornings starting April 28th.



Please contact the Church Office to register your child for this pre-confirmation education experience.



## LENT OFFERING

In our 2019 Lenten Journey, we are approximately halfway as of April 1<sup>st</sup>. During Lent, we open our hearts to God's grace and focus on the suffering and sacrifice of Christ. As part of this opening of our hearts to God, we take on various challenges such as not eating meat on Fridays, giving up simple pleasures (candy, chocolate, cake, alcohol) and attending additional faith based activities (Lenten Services at St Stephen's, Wednesday evening bible study). Good Shepherd supports many needed services for the community through use of our buildings. The number of people receiving services at Good Shepherd is great. As we journey through the 2019 Lent season, consider an additional gift in support of the mission and ministries of Good Shepherd and mark your gift as "Lent" offering.

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# SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2019

THE 2019 SYNOD ASSEMBLY WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 1ST AT GENETTI INN AND SUITES IN HAZLETON. THE GOOD NEWS IS ALL THE NECESSARY PROGRAMMING WILL BE IN ONE ACTION-PACKED DAY.



Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod

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## BOOK SWAP NOW OFFERED

A BOOK SWAP TABLE HAS BEEN SET UP IN THE FELLOWSHIP ROOM FOR PEOPLE WHO STILL LOVE TO READ "REAL" BOOKS ... COMPLETE WITH COVERS AND PAGES TO TURN.

YOU CAN LEAVE A BOOK OR TAKE A BOOK. BRING IT BACK OR PASS IT ON TO SOMEONE ELSE. IT'S A HOME FOR HARDCOVER BOOKS AND PAPERBACK BOOKS. NOVELS, CHILDREN'S BOOKS, ANYTHING YOU LIKED AND WOULD LIKE TO SHARE.

IT'S SELF-SERVICE, SO PLEASE DO YOUR PART TO KEEP IT TIDY. JUST KEEP READING!



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## PALM STRIPPING SATURDAY, APRIL 13

IN PREPARATION FOR PALM SUNDAY, GOOD SHEPHERD'S "STRIPPERS" ARE INVITED TO COME OUT ON SATURDAY, APRIL 13 AT 10 A.M. IN THE FELLOWSHIP ROOM TO PREPARE PALMS FOR WORSHIP ON SUNDAY AND FOR THE TRADITIONAL PALM PROCESSION AT 9:45 THROUGH DOWNTOWN WILKES-BARRE. BRING SCISSORS, BRING A FRIEND, AND GET READY TO STRIP! EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

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## **Palm Sunday Procession**

On April 14th Good Shepherd will take the message of Christ's triumphant ride into Jerusalem to the streets of Wilkes Barre. Our Palm Sunday procession will be led by children riding a miniature horse followed by participants carrying palms and singing. The procession begins at 9:45am at the corner of Main and South streets.



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## **CAMPERSHIP REQUESTS**

IT MAY BE COLD OUTSIDE BUT IT'S TIME TO START THINKING ABOUT BEAR CREEK SUMMER CAMP. THROUGH A MEMORIAL, GOOD SHEPHERD AWARDS CAMPERSHIPS TO HELP OFFSET THE COST OF SUMMER CAMP. CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN GRADES 1 THROUGH 12 CAN REQUEST A CAMPERSHIP BY SENDING AN EMAIL TO [FAITHFORMATION@GOODSHERPHERDWB.ORG](mailto:FAITHFORMATION@GOODSHERPHERDWB.ORG) OR DROPPING OFF YOUR REQUEST AT THE CHURCH OFFICE. THE REQUEST MUST BE WRITTEN BY THE CHILD EXPLAINING WHY THEY WANT TO GO TO SUMMER CAMP AND HOW IT WILL HELP THEM GROW IN THEIR FAITH.



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## **\*YOUR HELP IS NEEDED\***



IN THE ABSENCE OF A SEXTON, VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO HELP WITH THE CARE OF OUR CHURCH BUILDING. ANYONE WHO CAN DONATE TIME AND TALENTS, PLEASE CONTACT GARY SMITH AT 570 474-2912 FOR MORE INFORMATION. YOUR HELP IS MUCH APPRECIATED!

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## ***Helping Youth in Crisis***

If you search the Internet for information on how many youth experience some period of homelessness each year you will find estimates that range from 1.3 to over 2 million. Many are homeless due to abuse, neglect, abandonment, or some other crisis taking place in the home. It's difficult to measure the actual numbers. Many of them leave their home with little or nothing to provide for their basic needs. Beginning in May Good Shepherd will begin collecting items needed for an emergency youth shelter that provides temporary housing and crisis intervention for youth. Be sure to check the May newsletter for details on how you can help.

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# ***Our Church Family***

*Our prayers of sympathy are with the family of Robert Schrank who passed away. Rest eternal grant him, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon him.*

*Our prayers of sympathy are with the family of Joan Fisher who passed away. Rest eternal grant him, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon him.*

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## **APRIL WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS**

### **April 7**

**Communion Assistants:** Diane Martin, Helen Johns (8:30); Elizabeth Keator, John Daley (11:00)

**Lectors:** Gary Smith (8:30); Lisa Martin (11:00)

**Greeters:** Diane Martin (8:30); TBA (11:00)

**Ushers:** Cliff Jones, Gary Smith (8:30); Jane Newman, Tionna Mangino (11:00)

**Counters:** Sally Ritchie, Gary Phillips, Daren Bernecker

### **April 14**

**Communion Assistants:** Lois & Richard Myers (8:30); Libby Yeager, Wilma Gardner (11:00)

**Lectors:** Diane Martin (8:30); Susan Patsko (11:00)

**Greeters:** Barry & Doris Romanowski (8:30); TBA (11:00)

**Ushers:** Barry & Doris Romanowski, Richard & Fran Keil (8:30); Debbie Dirvinis, Gabby Gregoire (11:00)

**Counters:** Jane Hensley, Lynn Muchler-Stash, Carol Phillips

### **April 21**

**Communion Assistants:** Helen Johns, Evelyn Jones (8:30); Kay Korb, Libby Yeager (11:00)

**Lectors:** Dan Jacobs (8:30); Kay Korb (11:00)

**Greeters:** Evelyn Jones (8:30); TBA (11:00)

**Ushers:** Richard & Fran Keil, Barry & Doris Romanowski (8:30); Brooke Fisher, Dionne Fisher (11:00)

**Counters:** Guy French, Kay Korb, Viktoria Yeager

### **April 28**

**Communion Assistants:** Carl Hurst, Evelyn Jones (8:30); Brooke Yeager, Kay Korb (11:00)

**Lectors:** Doris Romanowski (8:30); John Daley (11:00)

**Greeters:** Helen Johns (8:30); TBA (11:00)

**Ushers:** Carl Hurst, Dan Jacobs (8:30); Brooke Yeager, Brian Yekel (11:00)

**Counters:** Liz Keator, Gary Smith, Chris Casazza

**Altar Guild:** Kay Korb, Charlene Moules, Karen Figel, Carol Phillips