

THE FLOCK'S NEWS

APRIL/MAY 2018

I AM ... Is Who We Are

Recently a member of Good Shepherd, Jane Hensley, lent me a book to read, "The Shack." The WELCA Bible study is planning its second movie night in April on Thursday, the 19th, and this story that has been made into a movie will be shown in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 PM. It is kind of odd that I haven't read the book since it came out ten years ago. And as I am now beginning to crack the binding, it is a book that is true to form. It is a hard one to put down.

Those of you who are avid readers know that there needs to be something in a book that grabs you and compels you to keep turning the pages to find out how the problem is brought to a resolution. How the mystery is solved.

And the very best books, what we call the classics, go even a step further by lifting up the human drama in such a compelling way that we find ourselves relating to the main characters in the book. These well-crafted tales contain the power to open us up, exposing our deepest doubts, our fears, our longings and, as a result, we finish the book feeling like a better person.

Well, each of the four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John tell the story of the life of Christ in their own unique way.

And throughout March our gospel lessons have been from St. John.

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Vacation Bible School Insert

There are unique qualities of John's Gospel that set it apart from the other three, one being that Jesus describes Himself through seven I AM statements. During our mid-week soup supper/Bible study during Lent, we have been exploring these, I AM, statements of Jesus. Some examples include: I AM the bread of life; I AM the light of the world; I AM the Good Shepherd.

In the first week of our Bible study, a couple of learned participants commented that the Hebrew word for God in the Old Testament, being Yahweh, is not a noun, but a verb in the Hebrew language. In talking to Rabbi Roger Lerner from Temple B'nai B'rith, he shared that the name God is so sacred that the name of God cannot even be spoken for fear of collapsing the power of who God is. So the word, Yahweh, the Hebrew word for God, is not a name at all but an utterance of the unutterable.

And in terms of the Hebrew Bible, what we as Christians call the Old Testament, all the, "I AM," statements in John's gospel, are reflective of the memorable conversation Moses had with God who was speaking from the burning bush. In this interchange, Moses is coming up with every excuse in the book why he is not the right candidate to liberate the Israelite people from their bondage in Egypt. In the midst of this impassioned discussion, Moses asks God, "If the people of Israel asks who sent me, what shall I say?"

And God thunders back to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM!! Thus, you shall say to the people of Israel, I AM HAS SENT ME TO YOU!!"

Our temptation is always to be like Moses, turning inward by saying, "I am not eloquent enough, I'm not outgoing enough, I don't have the time."

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OUR VISION

**"BUILD A STRONG COMMUNITY OF FAITH --
ACTIVELY SHARING GOD'S ABUNDANT GRACE
TO IMPROVE THE WORLD IN WHICH WE LIVE."**

Pastors

The Rev. Peter D. Kuritz
The Rev. Janell D. Wigen

Staff

Director of Music: Sandra Keator
Parish Secretary: Mollie Rance
Sexton: Delwin Parsons

Officers

President: Daren Bernecker
Vice President: Chris Casazza
Secretary: Kay Korb
Treasurer: Libby Yeager

Congregation Council

Daren Bernecker
Chris Casazza
Guy French
Harry Heck
Tammy Ioanna
Kay Korb
Lynn Muchler-Stash
Mollie Rance
Gary Smith

Ministry Team Leaders

Worship: Elizabeth Keator
Faith Formation: Guy French
Connection Building: Lynn Muchler-Stash
Witness and Service: Deb McGuinness
Outreach: Guy French
Finance: Libby Yeager
Property: Brook Yeager
Administrative: Kay Korb

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Web Site: goodshepherdwb.org

I AM...is Who We Are (continued from page 1)

The good news during this Easter season is Jesus, the living verb, is able to proclaim, "I AM the resurrection and the life, because He did rise from sin, death and the power of the devil. A victory that liberates us to be all that we can be as we follow Jesus and do His will.

Jesus, the great, I AM, the living verb, is always at work in your life every minute of every day converting you from being like Peter when he denies ever even knowing Jesus when Peter utters, "I AM NOT," to being all you can be when you repent and turn outward and open your lives up to the great, "I AM," so that in response we are set free to proclaim, "I AM YOURS!!"

Peace, Pastor Janell Wigen

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

MAY 6, 2018

The semi-annual Spring Congregational Meeting of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday, May 6, 2018, immediately after the 11:00 am worship service (approx. 12:15 pm) in the sanctuary of the church.

The agenda will include:

- Congregational Council Elections
- Nominating Committee Elections
- Financial Reports
- Ministry Reports

All voting members are encouraged to attend.

Who are voting members of our congregation?: *"Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation." *C8.02.c. Constitution of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.*

Annual reports will be available later in April. Printed copies will be at the usher's table as you enter the sanctuary. It will also be on our web site at goodshepherdwb.org under Member Resources.

FAITH CAN BE NURTURED BY NURTURING OTHERS

By Eileen Bernecker

On a particular hard day at VBS I was folding the t-shirts that we had done that day and I read the message on the back of a 6-year old's t-shirt, "JESUS LOVES ME!". The message was so clear. That child understood perfectly.

VBS is about seeing children living their faith. The excitement they exude when learning the songs and dancing in the aisles of the sanctuary demonstrates that the Holy Spirit is alive and present in the kids. Their enthusiasm feeds my soul. It's faith

at the very When we nurture faith
basic. Pure in a child we inevitably
and sweet. get nurtured ourselves.

Watching

kids put thought and feeling into their projects, games, and skits is incredible. Raw emotion witnessed...God's glory through children's eyes.

My favorite Kid to Kid project was during Serengeti Trek. The kids brought in pennies for the for the purchase of Bibles in the native language of the Serengeti. They raised enough money to buy more than 20 Bibles that were sent to Africa. Kids spreading God's Word...awe inspiring.

It is wonderful to visit the homes of children who have attended VBS and see their projects year after year displayed. The frames and t-shirts are a lasting memory of a week well spent. When we nurture faith in a child we inevitably get nurtured ourselves. We see the spirit refreshing and renewing us at the very core. Jesus is alive!

Eileen nurtures faith in children as our VBS craft leader. What talents can you share as God's servant to nurture your faith?

WIDER EXPRESSIONS OF OUR CHURCH IN ASSEMBLY

2018 Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Mission District Festival and Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 28, St. James Lutheran Church, 827 E. County Road, Wapwallopen, 18660.

Come, join other Lutherans from around our mission district for worship, fellowship, and a choice of three workshops: Liturgical Dancing; Alternative Resources for Worship; Sensitivity & Inclusiveness.

Lunch is included with registration. Let Pastor Kuritz know of your interest by April 15.

2018 Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly

"Sharing Ministries, Building Relationships", June 8 – 9, Mohegan Sun Arena, Wilkes-Barre Township.

This year's assembly is in our backyard. This is an opportunity to join over 600 Lutherans from around northeast PA in worship, fellowship, and unique to this year, going out on service projects at Bear Creek Camp and around Wilkes-Barre. Volunteers from our local congregations are needed. See Pastor Kuritz, Lynn Muchler-Stash, or Jim Parks for more information. Go to the synod website, godslove.org to see more information about the assembly.

LEADERS WANTED

Leaders are needed to guide our congregation in fulfilling the mission and vision of Good Shepherd. Has God provided you or someone you know with the gifts needed to lead and grow our ministries?

We are also in need of nominees for the audit committee. Financial background not required. If you can read a bank statement you can serve on the audit committee.

Names for congregational council or the audit committee can be submitted by calling the church office at (570) 824-2991 or emailing churchoffice@goodshepherdwb.org.

THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION HAPPENING ON PENTECOST SUNDAY – MAY 20, 2018

On Sunday, May 20th, we will observe the Day of Pentecost when we recognize the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in the world. The Holy Spirit is symbolized as a dove and also as flames of fire that settle upon the heads of the first disciples. Therefore, the color of the day is red, and everyone attending worship this day is invited to wear red.

We will mark this day in a special way at Good Shepherd when, during the 11:00 worship service, five of our young people will become full members of the church by affirming the faith in which they were baptized through the Rite of Confirmation.

An important component of Confirmation at Good Shepherd is the mentoring program. Each of the third level confirmands is teamed up with an adult member who together share their respective faith journeys while at the same time, putting their faith in action through service projects.

This year, the mentoring program prepared and served a meal for the homeless men when Mother Theresa's Haven were our guests at Good Shepherd in November of 2017. The mentors and confirmands also made and decorated cookies that were delivered to the homebound members of Good Shepherd for Valentine's Day.

The culmination for the mentoring Program is the confirmands working together with their mentors so as to design a faith based personalized cinderblock for the, "Wall of Faith," located in the back stair well of the church.

The Mentoring Program is coordinated by Guy French. This year's five confirmands and their respective mentors include: Summer Balbuena and her mentor, Kay Korb; Logan Davison and his mentor, David Klevinsky; Brooke Fisher and her mentor, Carol Phillips; Colin Moorhead and his mentor, Gary Phillips; Samantha Williams and her mentor, Adrienne French. A special thanks goes out to these adult members who have shared their time and talents so as to make a difference in a young person's life.

FAST NACHT 2018 GETTING ABOARD THE G.S.L. EXPRESS TO OUR EASTER CELEBRATION

Fast Nacht is a wonderful fellowship event that happens annually at Good Shepherd. It is a special evening chocked full of fun that begins with a potluck meal; continues on with home grown entertainment and is topped off with delicious fast nachts or donuts which were made this year by Michelle Saxe.

The Connection Building Ministry Team coordinates this event each year with Gary and Carol Phillips taking a central role in the planning of this creative event. We always get a good turn-out from both Good Shepherd as well as the community. This year we had 65 children, youth and adults attend.

Fast Nacht is always planned around a specific theme. This year our theme was, "All Aboard the G.S.L. Express!!" So, as to chug along with this focus, we had macaroni and cheese made with train wheel pasta. Snacks served from train car containers. And, of course, our Masters of Ceremony, Gary Phillips, was our train conductor.

Both the silly and serious homegrown entertainment was excellent this year. Good Shepherd is a congregation that is richly talented, especially our youth. And, even though the evening is all about having a good time, at its heart, it was also about getting ourselves on the right Lenten track so as to prepare us for our ultimate destination, the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, on Easter.

MOVIE NIGHT IS COMING AGAIN

Good Shepherd's first movie night was such a great success in January, that the WELCA Bible Study group is planning another.



On Thursday, April 19th, we will be gathering at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall to watch the movie, THE SHACK. As we did in January, when we watched, "Jesus Christ Super Star," we will start off the night serving a light dinner as well as popcorn during the movie.

Come out and enjoy good food and fellowship while watching a movie that will inspire you in your faith journey.

Graduation News ?????

Send information about member graduations and their future plans to the church office at churchoffice@churchshepherdwb.org

WOMEN AND JUSTICE

DRAFT SOCIAL STATEMENT

INFORMATION SESSION AND HEARING

In keeping with its practice every synod of the ELCA is providing time and space for a live hearing for the purpose of gathering feedback regarding this draft social statement in the ELCA. The purpose of the hearing is to allow any member to share constructive insights about the draft social statement with the task force. The hearing in our synod will be on Wednesday, April 25 at Bear Creek Camp, from 1 – 4 pm.

In addition to the hearing there will be an information session about the development of social statements and details of this particular statement addressing the needs of Women and Justice. Both sessions will be led by Pastor Lori Kochanski who is a member of the "Women and Justice: One in Christ Social Statement Task Force." For more information about this hearing and reservations, contact Pastor Peggy Wuertele, peggy@nepsynod.org.

BEAR CREEK CAMP GALA – 2018

CAMPFIRES & COCKTAILS

Friends of Bear Creek Camp are invited to an evening of food, fun, fellowship, dancing, live and silent auctions on April 28, 2018 at the Homewood Suites, 3350 Center Valley Parkway, Center Valley, PA.

6:00 pm - cocktails, dinner to follow. (Black Tie optional.) For more information or to purchase tickets visit Bearcreekcamp.org/gala.

INCREDIBLE CREATIONS

KIDS CLUB

RETURNS JULY 11TH

Helping kids explore their God given talents through drama, dance, music, and art.

More information is on the way.

PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION

Once again Good Shepherd took to the streets of downtown Wilkes Barre with our Palm Sunday procession. Our congregation braved cold and snow to deliver the message of Christ's triumphant ride into Jerusalem. The cross led the procession followed by children riding on a miniature horse and everyone singing while carrying palms. The procession stopped several times to reflect on Bible passages. Visit goodshepherdwb.org and click Ministry News to see more photos of the procession.



VBS SUPPLIES NEEDED

You can help keep costs low for Vacation Bible School by donating some of the supplies needed to carry out this important ministry.

Craft Supplies Needed

- Craft Jewels
- Foam Brushes – 1 inch wide
- Craft Foam – bright colors
- Wooden Dowels - ¼ inch diameter
- Tan Canvas Frabic
- Sequins – various shapes

Food Needed

- Bottled Water – 8 ounce size
- Fruit Juice – Juicy Juice, Apple Juice
- Fresh Fruit – melons, grapes, strawberries
- Pretzels
- Crackers – Goidfish, Cheese its
- Cheese Puffs
- Fruit Snacks
- Cookies
- Rice Krispy Treats

Please deliver craft supplies and non-perishable food to church by Sunday, June 10th. Deliver perishable foods on Sunday, June 17th.



Vacation Bible School

June 18-22, 2018
9:00am to noon

Vacation Bible School is coming for kids 3 years through 6th grade. Kids will learn how to share God's love by helping others. Each day will be an interactive Bible experience through music, drama, crafts, and games. Please register by June 11th to insure we have sufficient supplies for all children. Complete the registration form below or register online at vbs.goodshepherdwb.org.

VBS Registration

(Please complete a separate form for each child)

Child's Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____ Grade Completed _____

Adult Contact _____ Relationship _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Emergency Contact (if different) _____

Relationship _____ Phone _____

Allergies _____

Special Needs _____

Other Information (Dates not attending, authorized pick up person, etc.)

Be a Volunteer/Sponsor

I would like to volunteer for VBS. Please contact me.

I would like to sponsor VBS with a donation in the amount of \$ _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Volunteer/Donor Name _____

APRIL WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

8:30 Worship Service

April 1

Communion: Carl Hurst; Richard Raspen
Lector: Gary Smith
Greeters: Evelyn Jones
Ushers: Cliff Jones; Doris & Barry Romanowski;
Dan Jacobs

April 8

Communion: Sally Ritchie; Lois Myers
Lector: Doris Romanowski
Greeters: Barry & Doris Romanowski
Ushers: Richard Raspen; Dan Jacobs

April 15

Communion: Diane Martin; Evelyn Jones
Lector: Diane Martin
Greeters: Diane Martin
Ushers: Doris & Barry Romanowski

April 22

Communion: Richard Raspen; Evelyn Jones
Lector: Dan Jacobs
Greeters: Helen Johns
Ushers: Richard Raspen; Dan Jacobs

April 29

Communion: Carl Hurst; Helen Johns
Lector: Jane Hensley
Greeters: Gary & Donna Smith
Ushers: Carl Hurst; Cliff Jones

April Alter Guild:

Wilma Gardner, Lisa Cardoni, Betty Derr, Susan & Mary Alice Patsko

APRIL WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

11:00 Worship Service

April 1

Communion: Wilma Gardner; Kay Korb
Lector: Melody Hawkey
Acolyte: Lauren & Alex Martin
Greeters: Lisa & Darren Martin
Ushers: Brooke Fisher; Bob Ward; Brooke Yeager; Guy French
Counters: Liz Keator, Jane Newman, Gary Smith, Chris Casazza

April 8

Communion: Wilma Gardner; John Daley
Lector: Libby Yeager
Acolyte: Eli Scaramastro
Greeters: Bea Bryan
Ushers: Brian & Fran Yekel
Counters: Sally Ritchie, Daren Bernecker, Gary Phillips

April 15

Communion: Wilma Gardner; Kay Korb

Lector: Wilma Gardner
Acolyte: Gianna Valenti
Greeters: Brian & Fran Yekel
Ushers: Daren Bernecker; Debbie Dervinis; Jane Newman; Brooke Yeager
Counters: Jane Hensley, Lynn Muchler-Stash, Carol Phillips, Debbie McGuinness

April 22

Communion: Wilma Gardner; Elizabeth Keator
Lector: Lisa Martin
Acolyte: Sawyer Scaramastro
Greeters: Wilma, Gary, and Matt Gardner
Ushers: Harry & Elizabeth Heck; Gary & Wilma Gardner
Counters: Victoria Yeager, Guy French, Kay Korb

April 29

Communion: Wilma Gardner; Carol Phillips
Lector: Susan Patsko
Acolyte: TBA
Greeters: Charlene Moules
Ushers: Chris Casazza; John Douglas; Cathy & Angelina Jones
Counters: Liz Keator, Jane Newman, Gary Smith, Chris Casazza

MAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

8:30 Worship Service

May 6

Communion: Lois Myers; Helen Johns
 Lector: Gary Smith
 Greeters: Barry & Doris Romanowski
 Ushers: Cliff Jones; Carl Hurst

May 13

Communion: Evelyn Jones; Diane Martin
 Lector: Doris Romanowski
 Greeters: Diane Martin
 Ushers: Doris & Barry Romanowski

May 20

Communion: Lois Myers; Helen Johns
 Lector: Diane Martin
 Greeters: Evelyn Jones
 Ushers: Richard Raspen; Cliff Jones

May 27

Communion: Carl Hurst; Richard Raspen
 Lector: Dan Jacobs
 Greeters: Jane Hensley
 Ushers: Richard Raspen; Cliff Jones

May Alter Guild: TBA



MAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

11:00 Worship Service

May 6

Communion: Kay Korb; Elizabeth Keator
 Lector: Kay Korb
 Acolyte: TBA
 Greeters: Brian & Fran Yekel
 Ushers: Harry & Elizabeth Heck; Daren Bernecker; Charlene Moules
 Counters: Liz Keator, Jane Newman, Gary Smith, Chris Casazza

May 13

Communion: John Daley; Elizabeth Keator
 Lector: John Daley
 Acolyte: TBA
 Greeters: Charlene Moules
 Ushers: Karen Figel; Jane Newman; Bob Ward; Brooke Yeager
 Counters: Sally Ritchie, Daren Bernecker, Gary Phillips

May 20

Communion: Wilma Gardner; Carol Phillips
 Lector: Fran Yekel
 Acolyte: TBA
 Greeters: Debbie Dervinis
 Ushers: Brooke Fisher; Brian Yekel; Cathy & Angelina Jones
 Counters: Jane Hensley, Lynn Muchler-Stash, Carol Phillips, Debbie McGuinness

May 27

Communion: John Daley; Kay Korb
 Lector: Elizabeth Keator
 Acolyte: TBA
 Greeters: Bea Bryan
 Ushers: Debbie Dervinis; Chris Casazza; John Douglas; Samantha Perkins
 Counters: Victoria Yeager, Guy French, Kay Korb

Please notify the coordinator if you cannot serve when scheduled.

Coordinator	8:30 Worship	11:00 Worship
Communion Assistant	Lois Myers (570) 735-2877	Kay Korb (570) 829-4748
Lectors	Helen Johns (570) 822-9923	Melody Hawkey (570) 855-2202
Acolytes/Crucifers	Debbie Derviness	
Greeters	Diane Martin (570) 824-0242	Betty Derr (570) 822-5411
Ushers	Evelyn Jones (570) 654-3402	Brian Yekel

Counters must find a substitute if unable to count as scheduled.