



*The Evangelical Lutheran Church
Of the Good Shepherd
501 Fairfield Drive
Greensburg, PA 15601*

May 3, 2015

Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
**A congregation of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

*"We are a caring family of God nourished by the Word, guided by the Holy Spirit to share
the love of Jesus Christ."*

The Rev. Frank S. Podolinski, Jr., Pastor
Pastor's Cell Phone -- 724-858-7816
Pastor's e-mail -- preacherpod@comcast.net
Pastor's Office Hours:

Monday: 9:30 am. – 2:30 pm.

Tuesday: 11:30 am. – 1:30 pm.

Church Phone -- 724-834-1940

Church's e-mail -- Shepherd501@yahoo.com

Church website – www.goodshepherdgbg.org

Rocking Horse Preschool – www.rockinghorsepreschool.com

Parish Secretary -- Jenny Luffy

Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 9:00 am. to 2:00 pm.

Music Director

Nancy Flinner

Organist

Jean Brunot

We welcome all visitors with us and ask that you sign our guest register. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to consider the Good Shepherd family.

ALL BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Children may come forward for a blessing. During communion, we offer wine and grape juice, if you would like to receive grape juice do not bring a cup, it will be provided by the Worship Assistant.

Our congregation's Stephen Ministry equips gifted lay people to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian Care to individuals in our congregation who are experiencing difficulties in their lives and extends the care that Pastor Frank continues to provide. If you could benefit from the confidential, one-to-one care and support of a Stephen Minister, please speak to Pastor Frank. Or you may refer to the Stephen Ministry flyers and cards available in the pew racks.

Please take a moment to fill out a yellow RCR card located in the pews. Please place completed cards in the offering plate.

When you see the following symbol "+", please stand.

Service of the Word and Sacrament
May 3, 2015
“Fifth Sunday of Easter”
8:30 am. & 10:30 am.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“ARIA”

J.S. BACH

+ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who call us beloved children, who gathers us into one flock, who guides us into all truth.

Amen.

Let us confess our sins, trusting that God will forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Faithful and just God,

We confess that we are captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death.

We have not loved our sisters and brothers as you have first loved us. Forgive us, God of mercy. Let your Holy Spirit work in us to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the abundant life given in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen

In this love,

not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent the Son to atone for our sins. In the name of +Jesus Christ, I announce to you that your sins are forgiven. Let the perfect love of God cast out fear, fill you with joy, and inspire you to live for others. Amen.

+ GATHERING HYMN

“JESU, JESU, FILL US WITH YOUR LOVE”

ELW 708

+ APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

+ HYMN OF PRAISE (WOMEN VERSES 1 & 3, MEN VERSES 2 & 4)

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was
slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26–40

²⁶Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 22:25–31

²⁵From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the LORD give praise!
May your hearts | live forever!**

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow | before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs | to the LORD,
who rules o- | ver the nations. R**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead,
shall kneel be- | fore the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn,
saying to them, "The | LORD has acted!" R

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7–21

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

+GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: JOHN 15:1-8

The holy gospel according to St. _____, the _____ chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

"JESUS, JOY OF LOVING HEARTS"

ELW 658

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Or, "who proceeds from the Father." The phrase "and the Son" is a later addition to the creed.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Confident that the resurrection of Christ has defeated sin and death, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

For the mission of the church throughout the world, that all be led by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the good news that God is love, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For plants and animals, for clean water and air, for favorable weather, and for the whole of creation, that you guide us to serve as good stewards of the earth, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For judges, lawyers, and all court officials, for the leaders of government, and for all who seek justice in this world, that all be treated with fairness and equity, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For those who are poor, hungry, bereaved, distressed, and sick (*especially*), and for those who provide care and comfort, that all find assurance of God's unending love for them, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For those who yearn for meaning and community with others, that the Holy Spirit lead them to mentors in the faith; for those visiting this congregation; and for those who are away with family and friends, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In thanksgiving for the confessors of the faith in past generations, especially those who have died in the Lord, that they inspire future generations to proclaim the gospel, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Holy God, by the death and resurrection of your Son, you have granted new life, abundant renewal, and salvation. Hear our prayers for the sake of the one who has set us free, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (8:30)

“O BLESSED SPRING”

D. CHERWEIN

ANTHEM

“BREAD OF LIFE”

SENIOR CHOIR

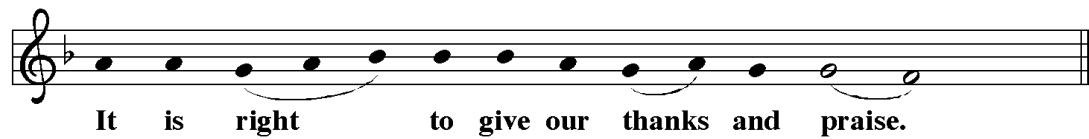
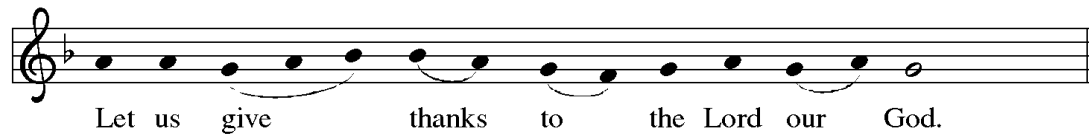
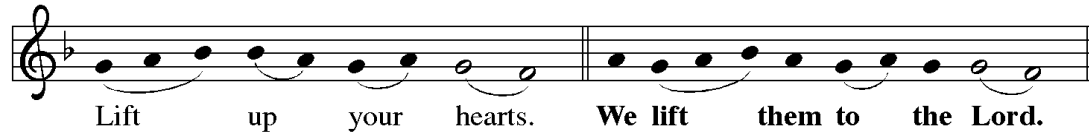
OFFERTORY

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

+ OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth.
C **Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

+ GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup

we remember our Lord's passover from death to life

as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us

and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Bless this feast.

Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.

Breathe new life into us.

Send us forth,

burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With [name/s and] your holy ones of all times and places,
 with the earth and all its creatures,
 with sun and moon and stars,
 we praise you, O God,
 blessed and holy Trinity,
 now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus said, "I am the true vine, Abide in me as I abide in you."

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

During the distribution the congregation and choir shall join in singing Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

Please continue singing during distribution of communion the following hymns: ELW 397, 482, 488.

+ POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise

Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.
 Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
 Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with
 shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
 Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
 Text and music © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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+ POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Eternal God,
Whose glory is revealed in the crucified and risen Lord, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with our sisters and brothers who are sick/homebound/imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this communion in the body and blood of your Son, that we may all feast upon your abundant love made known in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

+ BENEDICTION

Almighty God, who raised our Lord from death, lift you up and restore you to wholeness.

Amen.

Jesus Christ, the Word of life, bless you and send you to be his witnesses.

Amen.

God the Holy Spirit, who renews the whole earth, refresh you in the gift of baptism this day and always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN *“LORD, DISMISS US WITH YOUR BLESSING”* **ELW 545**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“RECESSIONAL”

A. CORELLI

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ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the honor and glory of God by Bill & Janet Ambrose in loving memory of son, Jim.

The rose on the altar is in honor of the birth of Hayden Michael Johnson, grandson of Shelley & Joe Cottrill.

LIVING GIFTS have been designated by:

Jim & Carol Stewart to the Building Fund in honor of parents, Jim & Dorothy Stewart’s 64th wedding anniversary.

Jean Crosby to the purchase of furniture for Pastor’s office in loving memory of husband, Eugene “Skip” Crosby.

SERVING TODAY:

	8:30	10:30
Worship Assistant	Open	Open
Lector	Morgan Ryan	Jean Mathers
Acolyte	Morgan Mull	Abigail Podolinski
Crucifer	XXX	Michael Hook
Torchbearers	XXX	XXX
Greeters	Open	Bill & Janet Ambrose
Ushers	Open	Joe Cottrill & Jack Rutter
Altar Guild	Open	Janet Ambrose
Counters	Jack Gesalman & Bill Benton	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be considerate to those around you and observe silence during the prelude and service. This time is designed for personal meditation.

Synod Assembly is quickly approaching (June 11, 12 & 13). We are able to send Pastor Frank and two delegates. If you are interested in attending, please contact Pastor Frank or the church office.

There will be new locks on the outside and office doors on May 15. Make sure you stop by the office during office hours to exchange your keys before that day.

BLANKET SUNDAY - MAY 10, 2015

Mothers' Day weekend this year is May 9th and May 10th, and once again Good Shepherd Church members are invited to share our blessings with our less fortunate brothers and sisters who are suffering from disasters. You can help victims of earthquakes, storms, fires, or the ravages of war by your gift of blankets. These simple pieces of cloth that we take for granted in the comfort of our homes can serve as protection from the hot sun or from wind-blown dust and sand in arid climates, and also provide warmth during cold weather. Families forced to evacuate their home areas can wrap their belongings in a blanket to more easily carry them as they seek refuge. For the small sum of \$5.00 you can make a gift of comfort to God's children who need assistance. In honor of our mothers, who have given generously of themselves to make our lives better, let us also give generously to help our brothers and sisters across the nation and around the world. Please use the Blanket Sunday envelopes provided with your weekly bulletin or in the commons area to make your donation in honor of or in memory of a mother, grandmother or other special woman this Mothers' Day.

Important Dates

May 12	WELCA May Women's Dinner
May 15	Locks Change
May 30	Picnic at Idlewild
June 6	Chicken BBQ
June 10	Blood Drive
June 15 – 19	Vacation Bible School
June 19	Family Fun Night



EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN **MAY WOMEN'S DINNER**

May 12, 2015

\$15.00

Tickets will be on sale at services for two weekends **ONLY!**

April 25 & 26

May 2 & 3

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mary Ann Smith is celebrating her 90th birthday and would like to invite the Good Shepherd members to a small celebration on Saturday, May 9th from 6:30 – 8:00 in the Social Room.

Please call the office to RSVP by Thursday, May 7th.



June 10

1:00 pm. – 6:30 pm.

Watch for posters and sign up sheets.

CALENDAR FOR WEEK OF May 3 - 10, 2015

Sunday	8:30 am.	Holy Communion
	9:30 am.	Sunday School
	9:30 am.	Fellowship Coffee
	10:30 am.	Holy Communion
	5:30 pm.	6 th Grade Pre-Confirmation
	5:30 pm.	Troop 416 Patrol
	6:00 pm.	Pack 416 Committee
	6:30 pm.	7 th & 8 th Grade Confirmation
	7:00 pm.	Troop 416 Committee
Tuesday	9:00 am.	Brunot - Sanctuary
	10:00 am. – 1:30 pm.	Chat-n-Sew
	3:00 pm.	Kindermusik
	7:00 pm.	Chairperson Meeting
Wednesday	9:30 am.	Kindermusik
	6:45 pm.	Troop 416
	7:00 pm.	Bible Study
Friday		Rocking Horse Mother's Day Tea
	12:00 pm. – 4:00 pm.	Bridge Club
Saturday		Troop 416 Pie Pick Up
	10:00 am. – 4:00 pm.	Bridge Club
	5:30 pm.	Holy Communion
	6:30 pm. – 8:00 pm.	Smith Celebration
Sunday		Happy Mother's Day
	8:30 am.	Holy Communion
	9:30 am.	Sunday School
	9:30 am.	Fellowship Coffee
	10:30 am.	Holy Communion