

The Shepherd's Staff

The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

4503 Old William Penn Highway

Monroeville, PA 15146

Office: 412-372-2934 • **Fax:** 412-372-2437

Website: www.goodshepherdlife.org

March 2009

Dear Friends,

After an accident people often say, "It all happened so fast." For me, it was like an eternity. Melanie and I were heading down Route 48 on a Friday night. We were going to the movies. The van in front of us stopped suddenly. I hit my breaks hard and stopped well behind the other vehicle. Melanie and I glanced at each other as if to say "Whew! That was close!" But before we could utter a word we felt the impact. Someone had struck us from behind, hard. The car pitched forward to the sound of breaking glass and bending metal. It seemed to go on forever.

"Are you alright?" I asked Melanie when the car finally came to rest. She said she was, although her chest and neck hurt. She could wiggle her fingers and toes, but we thought it best she stay right there until the ambulance came. Running on sheer adrenaline, I got out to check on the other drivers. The van in front of us was transporting an elderly woman in a wheelchair with oxygen. She had fallen out of her wheelchair and the driver asked me to help lift her back in. That is when I realize that my arm, noticeably swelling, would not bend. The rest is kind of blur. The EMTs came and took us to the hospital. It was the most terrifying thing I had ever seen, Melanie on a backboard being wheeled on a stretcher, her head immobilized.

The bottom line is that neither of us broke any bones or burst any major blood vessels. It hasn't been easy or comfortable for us since the accident. We have whiplash and contusions and abrasions and soft tissue damage, and we'll need some therapy. Our car was a total loss. Dealing with doctors and insurance companies, etc., has been an inconvenience. But the bottom line is WE ARE ALIVE. We thank God for that. We are grateful. And the love and support we have received from our congregation's members has been wonderful. (And I tell everyone I talk to that had it not been for seat belts, we would not be here today. Please, please wear your seat belts.)

A brush with death has a way of focusing one's attention. It makes one stop and appreciate the things in life we often take for granted. It reminds us of what is really important. And it increases our sympathy for those who are not as fortunate, not as blessed, as we are.

As we enter the season of Lent, we will be paying especial attention to Jesus' passion and death. I know that any pain I have experienced is miniscule to what Jesus suffered for my sake. I know that because Jesus died we will live eternally. Pain and loss are great mysteries that we cannot fully understand on this side of the grave. But no doubt they may teach us something if we willing to learn. This Lent, may we listen to our lives within the context of Jesus' life and death, and hear the Good News of the gospel once more.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Eric

Worship Services

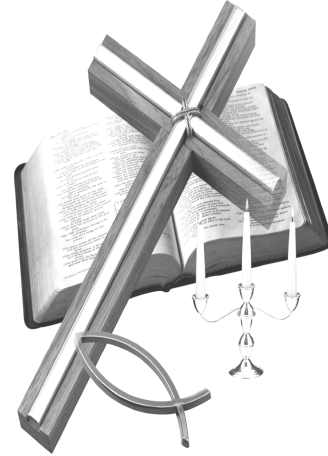
Sunday 8:00 AM / 10:30 AM
Gladssound 6:00 PM / Saturday, March 14th
Pew Communion 2:00 PM / Sunday, March 15th

Our Mission

*The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
proclaims the Good News of Jesus Christ
through Word and Worship,
Fellowship and Service to all people.*

Who's Who In The Bible...

According to the prophet Ezeziel, this man was one of the three most righteous mortals who ever lived, the others being Noah and Daniel. He survived an undeserved catastrophic destruction of his family, his health and his wealth. Through all of these problems he protested his innocence while experiencing virtually indescribable agony and still showed devotion to God. This man offers a model of Endurance In Faith so that he could overcome the terrors of undeserved suffering. In spite of his friends advice to confess sin, he knew that these calamities weren't because of his own wrong doing - and God eventually affirmed this. His story and the Endurance of his faith in God should be a good example for all of us in the world today.



NEW!

Recycle at Church!

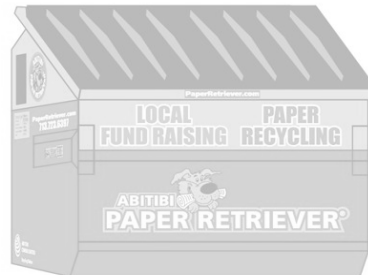
Bag up your newspapers, magazines, and junk mail and bring it to church. Good Shepherd Lutheran is now offering an on-site collection point for all your discarded paper. Recycling is good stewardship of God's Creation, reducing our landfill use the amount of energy required by the paper production process. (Did you know that 40% of everything that is in a landfill is paper!) As an added bonus, our church's youth ministry receives funds for every ton of paper recycled.

YES!

- Newspaper
- Magazines
- Junk mail
- Catalogs
- Office paper
- Colored paper
- Envelopes

NO!

- Plastic
- Glass
- Metals
- Trash
- Wet paper
- Phone books
- Cardboard



Recycling Is Good Stewardship!

Holy Hodge-Podge... Things Seen, Read and Heard...
...That May Give You Pause To Think...

...February was a month of birthdays and celebrations...

...02-01-09 that was a Super celebration of Sixburgh's Super Bowl win...talk about the game goes on and on...02-02-09 Phil, that furry rodent, saw his shadow again to predict 6 more weeks of winter (How could he not see his shadow when surrounded by lights, cameras etc?) Andrew Imblum celebrated his birthday that same day, the recuperating Ash's had their 37th wedding anniversary on Valentine's Day, my daughter Laura turned 50 on 2-10 (that just doesn't seem possible) Abe Lincoln and George Washington's birthdays were combined on 2-16 for Presidents sales day and Irene Anderson, the "Hats Lady," turned 87 on 2-24. A momentous month for many.

...Wednesday, Feb. 25th, we observe Ash Wednesday with services at 12:00 Noon and 7:30 pm with the Imposition of Ashes and the beginning of the Lenten Season. Please watch the bulletins for times and dates of Lenten Events.

...It's been a long and cold winter, hasn't it? According to that furry rodent Phil, there's more to come. My Christmas cactus decided to bloom red blooms for Valentine's Day and the other cactus looks as though it will bloom for Easter. The birds, mainly woodpeckers, are eating a hanging basket of suet a day...with help from squirrels and the biggest black crow I've ever seen. Though I have a habit of hating five layers of clothing, high heating bills, salt and cinders tracked in, single-digit temperatures and cold winds, I know that spring will come eventually. Let's just all hang in there. God will warm the earth again.

...The renovation is going so quickly. Every time I stop at the church I bump into Dave Lanzer. While the contractor's men are working, Dave and helpers are doing odd (hard) jobs on their own - see the new ceiling and recessed lighting in Room 3, just one example of volunteerism in our midst. Thank you, gentlemen.

...Our secretary, Bernadine, deserves a star in her crown, too. How she gets everything done is beyond me - one full day the water was turned off in the entire building - the sound of hammers and drills is constant and so is the sound of a ringing telephone. Hang in there, friend, soon it will be moving day.

...Ed Sites spent a week in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, with our synod working on relief for the victims of Hurrigan Katrina.

...Our paper recycling program has collected more than 21 tons of paper in the last seven months.

...Someone passed along a money saving tip to us. If Dominion Peoples is your gas supplier, call 1-800-400-5648 (have your account number ready) and ask for a "commodity reduction." You can lock in a lower rate through March 2010.

All God's Blessings,
Jan Roth, Editor

Lenten Devotions

Lenten Devotion booklets for adults and a Lenten calendar for families with children are available free in the literature rack in the Narthex. Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday, February 25th**.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

The **Easter Egg Hunt** is **April 4, 2009, at 9am**.

We can use your help.

Anyone who would like to volunteer their time to help that day would be appreciated. It is only a four to five hour commitment. We need cooks, helpers for activities & crafts, clean up crew, donations and others. There will be sign-up sheets in the hallway by room 3 or you can contact **Rose Shirer** at rmshirer@comcast.net or (724) 327-0482. As always we will be collecting wrapped candy for the eggs and donation boxes will be placed in the Library and Narthex.

Pictorial Directory

The weather has kept church attendance down, so the number of sign-ups for picture taking is also down. The more people we sign-up, the more pages for extra pictures we are given. Our last sign-up at Church was February 1st.

BUT families can call **Olan Mills** at **1-800-866-2263** (M-F 9-9). You will need to tell them our contract number **39350** or Good Shepherd's phone number **(412) 372-2934**. Olan Mills is to call active members who have not signed up. They gave us another day, **Tuesday March 10 from 3 PM to 9:30 PM**.

Families with sons and daughters in the military or away at college can submit 4 x 6 pictures. Olan Mills can not use professional photographs from other companies because of copyright issues. Please **DO NOT** submit a professional photograph. Pictures could be placed in Jim Peterson's mailbox. The mailboxes are on the wall near the nursery and Room 3.

Simple Suppers and Vespers

Once again we will be gathering on Wednesday evenings in Lent (**March 4, 11, 18 & 25 and April 1**) for fellowship and worship. We begin with a simple supper of soup, salad, and bread in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 PM. At 7:00 PM we will move to the chancel for Evening Prayer (Vespers). The worship will include a series of sermons with the theme "**The Hard Sayings of Jesus.**" Everyone is invited. A sign-up sheet to provide food for the Simple Suppers is in the Narthex.

Help Needed

Acolytes & Cross Bearers are needed for Palm Sunday and Easter. Please sign-up on the sheet on the wall by the Library.

Servant List

The **Servant List** will be returning after the renovations are completed in April. Please consider volunteering your time for this great ministry.

Thank You

Pastor Ash and Melanie would like to thank everyone for their cards, emails, offers of assistance, and, especially, prayers as they recover from their injuries after their automobile accident. Special thanks to Mr. Harry McCollum and everyone who helped with the memorial service, worship and annual meeting that weekend. And, please, **always buckle up... Seat belts save lives!**

Food Pantry

Nancy and Steve Smith delivered **14 bags** of food to the **Cross Roads Food Pantry** on January 21st.

Thank you for your continued support of this much needed ministry.

Attention Married Couples



Time is running out to register for the **April 17-19 Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend** at the Olmsted Mansion and Retreat Center in Ludlow, PA. The facility would like a count by early March, so please register as soon as possible. Weekends are designed for the enrichment of ALL MARRIAGES, and all costs are covered by a **\$45.00 per couple** registration fee plus a confidential contribution of whatever amount you choose that you are given the opportunity to make at the end of the weekend. If you have questions or would like a brochure with a registration form mailed to you, contact **Fred & Julie Schamber**, Western PA Chair-couple at: fjschamber@comcast.net or phone **724-325-3166**, or please go to the national website: www.GodLovesMarriage.org for more information or to register online.

Calendar of Caring - March

This month we support work with the persecuted church around the world through Voice of the Martyrs (VOM), a ministry founded by Lutheran Pastor Richard Wurmbrand. The main purposes of VOM are:

1. To encourage and empower Christians to fulfill the Great Commission in areas of the world where they are persecuted for their involvement in propagating the gospel of Jesus Christ. We accomplish this by providing Bibles, literature, radio broadcasts, medical assistance and other forms of aid.
2. To give relief to the families of Christian martyrs in these areas of the world.
3. To equip local Christians to love and win to Christ their enemies who are opposed to the gospel in countries where believers are actively persecuted for their Christian witness.
4. To undertake projects of encouragement, helping believers rebuild their lives and Christian witness in countries that have formerly suffered communist oppression.
5. To emphasize the fellowship of all believers by informing the world of atrocities committed against Christians and by remembering their courage and faith.

Contributions are tax-deductible.

For a free subscription to the VOM newsletter, or for book and video information and ways to help the suffering church, contact:

The Voice of the Martyrs

P.O. Box 443
Bartlesville, OK 74005-0443
tel: (918) 337-8015 fax: (918) 338-0189

VOM is a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability. Financial statements are available upon request.

Easter Flowers

Name: _____

Dollar Amount: _____ Envelope # _____

___ Lily Blooms for Easter Cross	\$3.00
___ Lilies (5-6 flowers)	\$8.00
___ Tulips (6 flowers - Assorted)	\$6.00
___ Hyacinths (3 flowers - Assorted)	\$7.00
___ Azeleas (6" pot)	\$10.00
___ Hydrangeas (4 flowers)	\$12.00
___ Spring Combo (12" pot)	\$13.00

In Memory Of / In Honor Of:

Given By:

Deadline for Orders: Monday, March 23, 2009

Who's Who In The Bible

Answer: **Job**



Parish Prayer Concerns

SERVICE MEN & WOMEN

Bill Davey, Joey Gross, Keith Humes, DJ Price, Eric Bently, Christopher Beatty (US Air Force)

RECENT BIRTHS

Benjamin Thomas Mueller

GENERAL

Grant Lucas

FOR HEALING

Georgia Solomon, Elizabeth Rhinehart, Joseph Gatto, Sarah Miller, Bishop Kurt Kusserow, Marian Beam, Dotty Braughler, Pastor Ash, Melanie Ash, Shane Ging, Burnie Tharp, Rich Nale, Lisa Segal, Howard McFarland, Olga McFarland, Dorothy Glick, Rosemary Martz, Corey Madia, EJ Ash, Dick McClain, Donna Shubert, Sam Storm, Patty Macino, Esther Saul, Tim Shumbat

RECENTLY DECEASED

Kevin Jurgas, Dorothy Morgan, Jane Hall

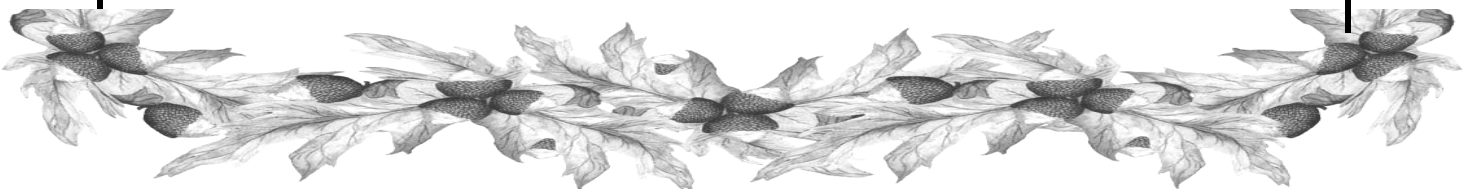
CONTINUING CONCERNS

Jayne Kuhn, Chris Wadding, Amanda Conte, Tom Napfel, Joan Bradshaw, Robert Coddington, Sr, Robert Coddington, Jr., Katie Sechrist, Don Emberg, Joye Hickman, Jaina Sapp, Carson Rudick, Frank O'Connor, Christina Frank, Jenn Applegate

WE ALSO REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Sophie Baranuk, Joanna Fest, Edna Lee, Edna Neild, Marian Beam, Nancy Gardner, Wayne Scheutz, Merle Baron, Clyde Hillwig

*If you would like a name placed on the prayer list,
please use the card in the pew rack or contact the church office.*



**Homebound
Members Birthdays**

Sophie Baranuk

Arden Court
120 Wyngate
Monroeville, PA 15146

Birthday: 09/01

Joanna Fest

c/o Paul Fest
934 Harvard Road
Monroeville, PA 15146

Birthday: 05/01

Lois Fleming

317 Wellness Way
Strabane Trail Village
Washington, PA 15301

Phone: 724-229-8121

Birthday: 10/18

Edna Lee

The Cedars Room 233
4363 Northern Pike
Monroeville, PA 15146

Phone: 412-373-3900

Birthday: 07/30

James Litzinger

118 Kelvington Drive
Monroeville, PA 15146

Phone: 412-372-2280

Birthday: 07/16

Edna Nield

Beatty Point Room 232
700 Beatty Road
Monroeville, PA 15146

Phone: 412-373-3702

Birthday: 11/26

Serving the Month of March

Acolytes (8:00 am)

03/01 Matt Molnar-Strejcek
03/08 Altin Molnar-Strejcek
03/15 Mason Settino
03/22 Anna Marie Kun
03/29 Daniel Kun

Acolytes (10:30 am)

03/01 Josh Young, Matt Innes
03/08 Jordan Zdinak, Luke Hall
03/15 Ryan Satira, Noah Krieger
03/22 Josh Young, Matt Innes
03/29 Matt Molnar-Strejcek, Altin Molnar-Strejcek

Altar Guild

8:00 am Diane & Annamarie Kun
10:30 am Elsie Weber, Sarah Weber

Greeters (8:00 am)

03/01 Mark & Rose Shirer
03/08 Jim & Adriane McCurry
03/15 Paul & Emily Jadgmann
03/22 Jim Ellrod
03/29 Joan Rorabaugh

Greeters (10:30 am)

03/01 Jamie, Noah & Max Krieger
03/08 Amy, Don, Alex & Nicholas Turowski
03/15 Laura, Tim, Jeremy & Nathan Mauser
03/22 Jackie Stevens
03/29 Peggy Hickey, Bill Kerr

Ushers

8:00 am James McCurry, Aaron & Lynn Madden
10:30 am Clyde McFall, Amanda McFall,
Clyde Hillwig

Counters

Nancy Smith, Elsie Weber

~ March 2009 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8am Worship 9am YABS 9am Sunday School 9am Sunday Morning LIVE! 10:30am Worship 2pm Regional Bible Bowl (FH)	2	3 9:30am Tuesday Bible Study(3) 1pm Parkinson's (PH) 5pm Quilting Friends (3) 5pm Jubilation Ringers 6:30pm OPUS II (FH) 7pm Joyful Noise	4 9:30am Mom's Club (3 & N) 6pm Simple Suppers (FH) 7pm Vespers 7:15pm Recovery (3)	5 9am China Painters (PH) 12:30pm Cluster (3) 7pm DACC (3) 7:30pm Adult Choir	6 7pm Al-Anon (3)	7 10am OE (3) 7pm Franklin Squares (FH)
8 8am Worship 9am YABS 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	9 7pm Aglow (FH) 7pm Thrivent Cares	10 9:30am Tuesday Bible Study(3) 1pm Parkinson's (PH) 3pm Olan Mills Pictures 5pm Jubilation Ringers 6pm Youth Band 6:30pm OPUS II (FH) 7pm ASG (3) 7pm Joyful Noise	11 10:30am UP Garden (3) 6pm Simple Suppers (FH) 7pm Vespers 7:15pm Recovery (3)	12 12:30pm Cluster (PH) 7pm DACC (3) 7:30pm Adult Choir	13 10am EIS (N) 7pm Al-Anon (3)	14 10am OE (3) 4:30pm Element 6pm Gladsound 7pm Franklin Squares (FH)
15 8am Worship 9am Timeout 9am YABS 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 2:00pm Pew Communion	16 6pm Hangtime 7pm Church Committee Meetings 8pm Church Council Meeting	17 9:30am Tuesday Bible Study(3) 1pm Parkinson's (PH) 5pm Jubilation Ringers 6:30pm OPUS II (FH) 7pm Joyful Noise	18 6pm Simple Suppers (FH) 7pm Vespers 7:15pm Recovery (3)	19 12:30pm Cluster (PH) 7pm DACC (3) 7:30pm Adult Choir	20 7pm Al-Anon (3)	21 10am OE (3) 1pm PA Railroad (3)
22 8am Worship 9am Sunday School 9am YABS 10:30am Worship	23 Deadline for Easter Flower Orders	24 9:30am Tuesday Bible Study(3) 1pm Parkinson's (PH) 5pm Jubilation Ringers 6:30pm OPUS II (FH) 7pm Joyful Noise	25 6pm Simple Suppers (FH) 6:30pm PGH Knitting (3) 7pm Vespers 7:15pm Recovery (PH)	26 12:30pm Cluster (PH) 7pm DACC (3) 7:30pm Adult Choir	27 10am EIS (N) 5pm Al-Anon (FH) 7pm Westmoreland Civil War Round Table (PH)	28 10am OE (3) 7pm Franklin Squares (FH)
29 8am Worship 9am YABS 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	30	31 9:30am Tuesday Bible Study(3) 1pm Parkinson's (PH) 5pm Jubilation Ringers 6:30pm OPUS II (FH) 7pm Joyful Noise	Notes:			

March Birthdays

March 1 Janet Combs
Robert Duggan

March 5 Dawson Zvolensky *

March 6 Wayne Smeltz

March 7 James Barr
Jeanine Snyder
Anthony Maszgay
David Fasso

March 10 Joan Rorabaugh
Jennifer Coleman

March 11 Charles Gibson, Sr.
Eric Festa

March 12 Dawn Cumpston *
Michael Swierczk
Adam Fest

March 13 Birnetta Vogel
Nicholas M. Figel
Jaemie Cotter

March 14 Ruth Goetz
Jacqueline Stevens

March 15 Deborah Shook

March 16 Diane Demitras
Meredith Sites

March 17 Matthew Williams

March 18 Donna Silvio
Xaiomin Shi Lanzer*
Kimberly Harvey

March 20 Gary Spacht, Jr.
William Lewis
Shannon Hellested

March 21 Erma Schwartzmiller
Donald Rhodes
Dolly Hodgson
Kevin Hillwig

March 22 Ann Bowser
Nancy Smith

March 23 Jennifer Stoll

March 24 James Hredzak
Victoria Berdis

March 25 Ann Schwartz
Paul Geisler
Joseph Rossetti

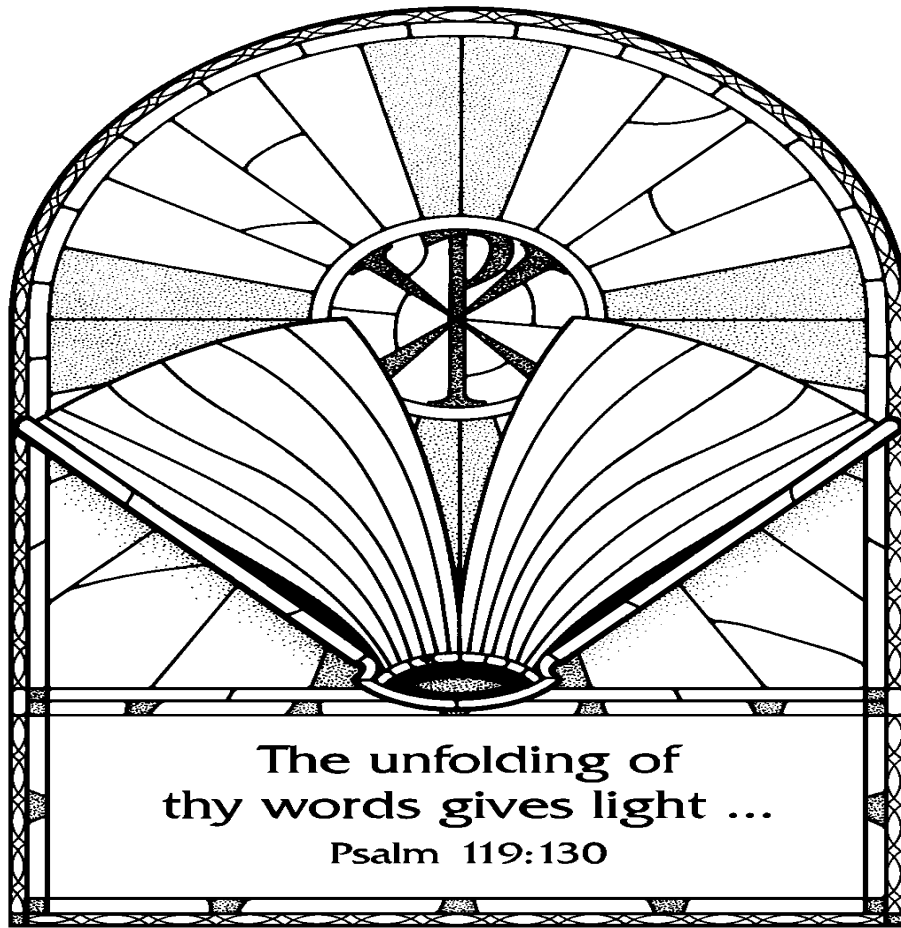
March 27 Greg Motz
James Peterson
Matthew Satira
Juliana Rossetti

March 28 Matt Runquist
Chad Custer

March 29 Nancy Gardner
Chad Shumaker
Noah Krieger

March 31 Bette Hamill
Bonnie Worrall
Ethel Farrell

* Friend/Visitor



The unfolding of
thy words gives light ...
Psalm 119:130

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U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PITTSBURGH, PA
PERMIT NO. 4139

The Shepherd's Staff is published monthly to serve as a means of communication among members and friends of **The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**. *News items, comments or letters may be submitted to the Editor.*

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Editor: Jan Roth

Volunteers: The Mailing Ladies

DATED MATERIAL — DO NOT DELAY