Let the Conversation Begin!!

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:19

In the words of the Lord written by the prophet Isaiah, we are reminded that God continues to do new things. New things that will not only lead us through the challenges that the world presents to us, but new things that provide us with refreshing waters as we journey through the deserts of our lives. But, do we perceive the new things that God is doing in our lives? Or, are we so distracted with just keeping up with our everyday challenges and/or trying to recreate what has worked so well for us in the past that we miss God presenting us with new things that are now springing forth.

This year we, the people of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will engage in a Renewal Process to listen for and discern God’s call for us. You are invited to join in. On the Second Tuesday of each month beginning on September 12th, we will be gathering at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall to engage in conversation about what it means to be church in this place today. To structure the conversations, we will be reading and discussing the book Reclaiming the “C” Word by Kelly Fryer. Copies of the book and a sign-up sheet are available in the Gathering Area on the Discipleship Material Shelves (to the left of the ladies room).

I am looking forward to some exciting and lively conversations as we wrestle with what and how God is calling us to use our resources, our gifts and our talents to do God’s work here in this place.

Your Sister in Christ,

Pastor Denise
Sunday, September 3rd - The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering, yet finds in God’s words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn’t grasp Jesus’ words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world. The readings for today are: Jeremiah 15: 15-21, Psalm 26: 1-8, Romans 12:9-21, Matthew 16: 21-28.

Sunday, September 10th - Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus’ words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation. The readings for today are: Ezekiel 33: 7-11, Psalm 11:- 33-40, Romans 13: 8-14, Matthew 19: 15-20. Come join us at Jim Dietrich Park for our Annual Worship Service/Picnic beginning at 10:30AM. We always have a GREAT time!

Sunday, September 17th - In today’s second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus’ challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God’s boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world. The readings for today are: Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm: Psalm 103: [1-7] 8-13, Romans 14:1-12, Matthew 18:21-35. Today we will have our Sunday School Rally day during the normal Sunday School hour beginning at 9:15AM. Come help us celebrate the beginning of our new Sunday School year. We will also begin the new year for our Youth Group with a “Minute to Win It” game immediately following the worship service. Sounds like a fun filled day here at Good Shepherd!

Sunday, September 24th - Matthew narrates one of Jesus’ controversial parables, in which Jesus says the reign of God is like workers who get paid the same no matter when they start. When God changes his mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Luther wrote, in the presence of God’s mercy we are all beggars. The readings for today are: Jonah 3:10--4:11, Psalm 145:1-8, 2 Corinthians 5:11-21New Revised Standard Version (NRSV).

SEPTEMBER “JINGLE” OFFERING

Our “Jingle” offering for this month will help with the meal we serve at the Opportunity House. Please help us feed these people in need. They are always so appreciative of the meals that we serve. So please make a generous donation with your “jingle” which will be collected on September 17th. Thank you.
WELCA NEWS

WELCA will be selling 11oz. squeeze bottles of Alfalfa and Clover Honey from the Dakota Girls and Boys Ranch in the gathering area after the service on Sunday September 27 and Sunday October 1. To purchase the honey you must fill out a mailing label for each bottle. The price is $7 per bottle, to be paid at the time of order. The honey will be mailed to the address on each label. Allow 2-3 weeks after the first week in October for your delivery. WELCA keeps 30%. Barbara Greth has sampled this honey and says it is delicious. Please consider helping us with this fund raiser by ordering some yummy honey. Questions? Ask Barbara Greth or Barbara Huegler. Thanks.

Worship and Music Notes

Fall Schedule Begins

Our last 9:30 service of the year will be a Communion service on Sept. 3. We will then switch back to 10:30.

Our annual outdoor service and picnic will be held on Sept. 10 at Jim Dietrich Park, off of Stoudt’s Ferry Bridge Road. We have the pavilion on the right as you come down the hill. The worship service starts at 10:30, followed by the picnic. Bring a side dish or dessert to share. Children’s activities will start after the picnic. Come join us for a time of worship and fellowship.

Senior Sunday will be held on Oct. 8, in conjunction with the Harvest Home celebration. This service recognizes our members in their fifties and beyond. We need volunteers to read parts of the service. If you’d like to help, contact Betty or Dale Nelson (610-462-2475 or 610-207-6263).

We hope to see you on Sunday mornings.

CHOIR FROM GLORIA

Our new year of music will begin with:

- Senior Choir rehearsals: Wednesday, September 13th @ 7:30
- Handbell rehearsals: Monday, September 18th @ 7:30PM
- Cherub Choir rehearsals: Monday, September 25th @ 6:45PM

**** If your child likes to sing, please see Gloria Pegg and sign them up. They always have a great time singing & they learn things about the church also.

CONFIMATION ORIENTATION

A meeting for the parents and confirmands will be held on Monday, September 11th @ 7:00PM. All youth who are in 7th grade or above are welcome to participate.
REFORMATION 500 EMPHASIS

This is part of a series of articles relating to the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation this October. This article (adapted from the Reformation 500 Sourcebook) focuses on ecumenical interaction with others in our community.

There are four key principles involved in dialogue with other believers that should always guide the many discussions we have with other denominations, as well as our Jewish neighbors, as we seek to come closer to the one church which Christ intended for his people. From a Lutheran perspective, these principles are:

+ God adopts people solely out of God’s generosity, without any prerequisites. Humans are in no position to control or limit this generosity. Faith is primarily a matter of trusting God’s promises. The benefit of faith is not that it makes us eligible for grace; the value of faith is that it celebrates and receives the benefits of God’s generosity. Faith acknowledges what God has done, is already doing, and will do. What too often happens, however, is that “justification by grace through faith” gets understood to mean that a human must first have faith in Jesus, and then God will do the saving. This view (“you must first have faith”) then produces a boundary that separates Christians from non-Christians in a way that limits God’s generosity. To say that we do not know the limits of God’s generosity is also to say that we do not know how far the good effects of God’s generosity extend. In other words, with regard both to other Christians and to non-Christians, the mysteries of God’s judgment and salvation ultimately remain beyond our knowing.

+ God is active in the world in such a way as to empower but not to control. Nothing can exist without God’s sustaining power. Creation is ongoing. God is active in every realm of life, working in and through nature and other human beings, through social structures and individual actions, to bring good gifts to humans. The gospel enables us to see the consistency between the way God treats the chosen people (Israel and the church) and the way God treats the world as a whole. Every human is gifted by God. No one, in whatever religion, is beyond the pale of God’s gifting. (Whether any specific person recognizes and acknowledges God as the source of her or his gifts is another question.)

+ Luther clung to a theology of the cross. This was Luther’s alternative to scholasticism. The medieval scholastics endeavored to answer questions that the Bible did not. They began with a biblical or doctrinal idea and then used logical inference to fill in the gap. As the distinction (between what was revealed and what was inferred) faded from view, every part of scholastic teaching seemed equally authorized by revelation. People were tempted to believe that they could have the whole truth in one package. Luther objected. He emphasized the limits of our knowing. God has disclosed enough for us to know God’s gracious disposition toward us and to know something of God’s character and purpose, but this knowing does not answer our every question or provide us with the whole truth. If our knowing were complete, there would be no point in dialogue. Because our knowing is limited, dialogue—interreligious or otherwise—is valuable.

+ Luther had high regard for vocation as a calling from God. The person who benefits from God’s generosity is called to serve the neighbor and the community. To serve is to listen attentively. To serve is to care actively about the whole person and about the quality of relationships in the community as a whole. To serve is to exercise the radical freedom that accompanies grace. It is to be informed by the scriptures but not enslaved to any detailed codes of conduct, such as those sometimes drawn up by various Christian authors. As Jews and Christians alike recognize, the scriptures teach that God’s goal is shalom (peace, wholeness, justice). We who enjoy God’s generosity are called to participate in God’s project of fostering this shalom. This principle of service to the neighbor can undergird all interreligious cooperation.
RENEWAL CONVERSATION – ALL ARE WELCOME – SEPT 12 @ 7:00 p.m.

This year, we will engage in a Renewal Process to listen for and discern God’s call for our future. On the Second Tuesday of each month beginning on September 12th, we will be gathering at 7:00PM in the Fellowship Hall to engage in conversation about what it means to be church in this place today. To structure the conversations, we will be reading and discussing the book *Reclaiming the “C” Word* by Kelly Fryer. Copies of the book, the reading schedule and a sign-up sheet are available in the Gathering Area on the Information Shelves (to the left of the ladies room).

**BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**

On Sept. 24th at 10:30AM worship service. Children (young & the young at heart), bring your backpacks or school bags to worship for a blessing for the current school year.

**ANIMAL LOVERS**

If anyone is interested in helping to organize “A BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS” service for some time in early October, please talk with Pastor Denise.

**WELCA NEWS – ATTENTION**

Fall Cluster meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 27th @ Nativity Lutheran Church. Topic – Speaker from Clare of Assisi House. In Kind Gifts: dish towels & cloths, dish rack, mixing bowls, storage containers (all sizes), toilet paper, cleaning products; Toiletries – absolutely NO products that contain alcohol, nail polish, nail polish remover pads ONLY, toothbrush-soft, toothpaste, shampoo, soap, Tylenol, Ibuprofen, First Aid Kit, Band-Aids (all sizes), ice packs, Q-tips, hand lotion, hand soap & refill; Misc. - toaster 4 slice, Swiffer wet mop, vacuum cleaner, wet mop & swivel bucket, microwave. Good Shepherd Ladies are in charge of registration. Please meet at the church @ 5:30PM to car pool.

**What is our Attitude?**

When we think about our attitude,
   Is it one of Gratitude?
Or do we always complain,
   Whether there is sunshine or rain?

There is so much joy we miss,
   When all we do is moan and hiss.
Instead, put on a big smile,
   And enjoy life for a while.

Think of the blessings we receive
   Don’t let the devil deceive
Give as much joy as you can make
   And thank God for being so great.
Wow, where did the summer go? I can’t believe we are discussing fall events here already. I hope everyone had an easy transition with starting back to school this year and I wish you all a great 2017-2018 school year!

If you are in 5th grade through and including college you are invited to join Youth Ministry! The youth ministry will be having their annual fall kick-off event on Sunday September 17th right after church. We will be having a minute to win it competition and then ending the event with a nine foot ice cream sundae complete with all the toppings! Even if you too old for youth ministry please stay and enjoy the entertainment as we compete in minute to win it games.

New for this fall year we will be having contemporary Holy Communion services the 3rd Saturday evening of every month at 6:00 P.M. beginning on Saturday September 16th. These services will be led in music by our own praise band “The Awakening!”

The youth are also sponsoring our 2nd annual Favorite Jersey Sunday on Sunday September 24th! During this worship service you may wear your favorite sports team jersey. Be sure to stick around after church for our Tailgate party as well in the fellowship hall and out on the fellowship hall parking lot. We just ask that everyone bring a covered dish or dessert to be shared with everyone. The youth ministry will supply the drinks. If you have a favorite game you would like to share with everyone out side during the tailgate please bring this along also.

We will be watching the Philadelphia Eagles vs the New York Giants at 1:00 P.M. in the fellowship hall. All are welcome to join us! We had a great time last year and would like to make it even better this year.

Once again the youth will be sponsoring a trip to The American Music Theatre in Lancaster on Friday December 29th for their Christmas show “Home for the Holidays!” We have the first and second row of the center orchestra seating area reserved. We have a total of 23 adult tickets at $34.50 per person and 10 tickets for children 17 and under available for $18.00 per child. We will be carpooling from the church. We will meet at church at 4:30 p.m. and travel to Cracker Barrel for dinner (this is directly across the street from the AMT). You are responsible for your own spending money for dinner.

These are just a couple of the events we have scheduled so far. Please join us on September 17th for our annual kick off and give us some ideas of what you may be interested in so we can plan that event and make this an awesome year!

If you ever have a question with a youth event please don’t hesitate to contact me on my cell phone at 610-207-0699. If I am not able to take your call at that moment please leave me a message and I will get back to you. If you are on Facebook be sure like to and follow us at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Youth Group! Remember Youth Ministry is open to youth from 5th grade and up including our college kids! God doesn’t have an age limit to enjoy his love and neither do we! We always love to have more of our church family join us in our events!

Kathlynn
AKA Mama Knarr

Please Please Please

I am sorry to keep this in the newsletter but there are so many of you that are not signed up to this system yet! This is the best way to receive all our updated events and cancellations! Get connected now before you miss out on the next activity! Need to know when the next LYO event is? Now there’s more ways than ever. Try our Text Alert System. It’s easy and free to sign-up! We’ll send out texts to remind you of events. To sign-up, please send a text to 81010 and message: @gselcyouth! Sign-up today and get connected. Don’t have unlimited texts? No problem - call the church at 610-926-4201 and follow the automated prompts to hear the latest church announcements! This is the best way to hear about schedule changes especially once winter weather comes around!
LYO Activities for September

Tuesday September 5th at 7:30 P.M.: Youth Ministry Committee will be meeting in the conference room Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. Any youth 5th grade and up may join us to help plan our remaining 2017 events and give opinions of past events.

Saturday September 16th at 6:00 P.M.: Please join us for our first Holy Communion Contemporary Worship Service. We will be led in music with our own praise band “The Awakening”! We could use youth as ushers readers and acolytes. Please join us for what is going to be an uplifting worship service.

Sunday September 17th right after church: All youth 5th grade and above are invited to join for an amazing "Minute to Win It Competition" and a 9 foot long ice cream sundae party! We have a lot of ideas for some great activities this coming year but none of them are possible without your help! Bring a friend everyone is welcome! Bring ideas if there is something that you want to see us do that we haven’t tried yet let us know! Please sign up at the youth bulletin board so we have an idea of how many to expect. We want to make this year GREAT! See Kathlynn or Joe with any questions!

Sunday September 24th Favorite Jersey Sunday: Once again the youth will be sponsoring a Tail Gate Party immediately following church! No need to go home and change because you are welcome to wear your favorite sports team jersey to worship service today! Then join us for a “Pot Luck” covered dish tailgate party in the fellowship hall! We will be watching the Philadelphia Eagles’s vs New York Giant’s at 1:00! There will be outdoor games as well in the fellowship parking lot before the game. Please sign up at the youth bulletin board so we know how many to expect!

Friday evening December 29th @ 4:30 P.M.: The Youth Ministry is once again sponsoring a trip to The American Music Theatre in Lancaster for their annual Christmas Show! This year’s theme is “Home for the Holiday’s”! We will meet here at the church at 4:30 to carpool to Cracker Barrel for dinner. After dinner we will enjoy a fantastic show that starts at 7:30 P.M. We have 23 adult tickets available for $34.50 per person and 10 tickets for children 17 and under available for $18.00 per child. Our seats are once again in the 1st and 2nd rows of the center opera seating area! You are responsible for your own dinner and spending money. Never know what to get someone for Christmas this is the perfect gift! Please see Kathlynn for your reservation! Your nonrefundable deposit of half down is due by October 1st and the balance due by December 3rd. We had a great time last year and are looking forward to another great night with our church family!
PRAISE BAND

Please join us for the following Saturday evenings in fall as we begin a new adventure! We will be offering contemporary worship services!

- **Saturday September 16th at 6:00 P.M.**
- **Saturday October 21st at 6:00 P.M.**
- **Saturday November 18th at 6:00 P.M.**

Each service will be musically lead by our own Praise Band “The Awakening”!

The praise band will be rehearsing every Thursday evening from 7 – 9 in the music room unless otherwise notified!

College Ministry

Please email me at knarr.gfs@gmail.com with your child’s college mailing address. If you think I already have it please send it to me again just to be sure I have the correct address just in case anything may have changed. I don’t want anyone to miss out on getting mail from us and letting them know we are thinking of them. In your email please include their mailing address, year of college they are in, what they are studying, and their birthday. Any other interests they have that you would like to share would also be appreciated! This program is for commuters as well as living on campus students and also any military service personnel.

Congratulations to the class of 2017 Eugene Burkhart Scholarship Recipients

**Meghan Havens** is a 2017 graduate of Muhlenberg Senior High School. She is the daughter of Dennis and Fran Havens. Meghan has an older brother Matt who is studying at Temple University and two younger sisters Morgan and Makayla who are students in Muhlenberg.

Meghan will be furthering her educacation at Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences to pursue her degree in nursing.

We are all very proud of Meghan and wish her well in this next chapter of her life!

**Dylan Okonski** is a 2017 graduate of Muhlenberg Senior High School. He is the son of Chris and Tracy Okonski. Dylan has a younger sister Taylor who is in her Junior year at Muhlenberg High School.

Dylan will be furthering his education at Albright University. While at Albright Dylan will be pursuing his degree in business with a specialty in international business and pursuing a minor in German. Because not many people pursue a degree in German he will need to do an independent study and will most likely need to study abroad!

Dylan is commuting back and forth to Albright but is still spending a lot of time on campus because of sports he is involved in. Just like Meghan we are all very proud of Dylan and wish him well in this next chapter of his life!
Fellowship Committee

We’re back!!!! Please plan to join us Saturday September 9th from 7:00 – 11:00 A.M. for our monthly all you can eat breakfast! Enjoy scrambled eggs, southwest scrambled eggs, hash browns, French toast, sausage, bacon, and toast, cookies, coffee and orange juice! Wow! All this food and service with a smile for only $6.00! Children age 4 – 10 are only $5.00 and 3 years and under are free! Bring all your friends as all are always welcome!

Sports Ministry

Our next volleyball fun night is Wednesday September 6th from 7 – 9! All are welcome to join us every other Wednesday night for our volleyball fun night in the multi ministry hall from 7 – 9! As always food and drinks will be served. We generally have sandwiches and snacks to eat; along with water, lemonade, orange drink and ice tea to drink. If you enjoy to laugh this is the place to be! Bring a friend the more the better!

Ever wonder how to get a church event put on our Facebook page for Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church? Please just email Kathlynn at kknarr.gfs@gmail.com and she will make sure it is advertised on our page! So check us out and like our page!

PRESCHOOL NEWS

“It is time again to look to next school year’s enrollment (‘17/’18) for Good Shepherd Preschool. If you know anyone who might be interested in enrolling their child for next year please have them call the church or Diane Rothenberger at 610 926-0274 or email dianerothenberger@gmail.com. And you can always check out our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/gspreschool or the church website for more information!
The West Berks Mission District is a coalition of area Lutheran Churches working together to do effective, cooperative ministry. YOU are a member of the West Berks Mission District! The WBMD office is located in St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, 1015 Windsor Street, Reading PA 19604.

WBMD Director – Dawn Baxter  
Dawn@westberksmissiondistrict.org
Office Staff/ Bookkeeper - Jane McClellan Renner  
Jane@westberksmissiondistrict.org
Ministry Partnership Coordinator – Tracey Ormsbee  
tormsbee1209@gmail.com  484-431-1048
Office Phone – 610-375-8303  Website: www.westberksmissiondistrict.org

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**WBMD Fall Assembly Event – Thursday, November 9, 2017**
*Hosted by Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Tuckerton*
Plan to join us for a night of fellowship and education, as we share information on how our community is working together to help a “refugee” family, as they seek a safe environment to raise their family. We will gather at 6:30 pm for a light dinner, followed by the program. The only “Order of Business” for the evening will be to review/adopt the 2018 WBMD budget. Plan now to attend.

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**TASTE of HOPE**

**Family Promise fund-raising event with a goal to raise $50,000**

Taste of Hope is an annual fundraiser that provides critical operating funds for programming. FP is celebrating many years of success in lifting Berks County families and youth out of the unimaginable circumstance of homelessness. This year’s event will be held at the Doubletree Hotel at 701 Penn Street, Reading on Thursday, September 28th from 5:30-8:30 pm. The event will include a sit-down dinner, cash bar, live testimonials, auctions and more. We would be honored to include you in our evening of celebration. Together we can make a difference!

Tickets $65.00/person
For tickets call Family Promise at 610-373-3323 or order online at www.familypromiseofberks.org
Did you know???

WBMD helps support 8 Lutheran Pantries

Your financial support for the Lutheran Pantry through the WBMD, and your donations of food to these 8 pantries has helped to feed 23,613 individuals so far this year! More than 13,000 of them were either children or elderly. 5770 households have been served. But donations to the Lutheran Pantry have been less than usual this year. Your continued support helps your neighbors in need!

Please consider a special offering or a food drive to support the city pantries. We know many other community pantries have opened and our congregations help them as well, but Reading continues to have the greatest need and the least local resources.

Thanks!

TableTalk II –
Wed. October 11 at 7:00 PM
at Alvernia’s McGlinn Conference Center

My Neighbor is Muslim
Exploring the Muslim Faith

What do Muslims and Christians have in common?
How are we different?
How can we work together for good?

Our invited speaker will be Ms. Tahara Akmal, a member of the Islamic Center of Reading and Director of the Clinical Pastoral Education Program at the Reading Pastoral Hospital.

All are welcome to come and learn and be part of the conversation!

Together in Hope:
A Reconciling Reformation

Sunday, October 22 at 3:00 PM

A special ecumenical Worship Service of Word and Music will be held at St. Ignatius Roman Catholic Church in West Lawn. Our worship together will focus on the themes of Thanksgiving, Repentance and our Call to Common Mission. The liturgy is built around the words of reformers from different denominations, celebrating our common faith in a loving and reconciling God. You are invited to be part of this special service.

Information regarding singing in the festival choir can be found on the WBMD website.

More than 60 singers have already registered!

For more information contact
Rev. Mark Rigg at 610-678-2411

Women of Atonement invite you to a luncheon on Saturday, September 16 at Noon

The Speaker is Julia Coffin of Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services and she will be sharing information about issues facing refugees seeking asylum in the US.

Cost for the luncheon is $10. You are also welcome to just attend the speaking event beginning at 1 pm if you cannot attend the luncheon.

To register for lunch or for more information contact: jsturgis@atonementwyo.org or call 610-372-1131.

WBMD Calendar of Events

Sept. 14 Isaac’s fundraiser for CROP walk
Sept. 28 Family Promise Taste of Hope event
Oct. 8 CROP Hunger Walk at Gring’s Mill
Oct. 11 TableTalk – My Neighbor is Muslim!
Oct. 16 Giant Lutheran Potluck Dinner
Oct. 22 Reformation Service – Together in Hope
Oct. 24 WBMD Council – Advent 7 pm
Oct. 25 Table Talk follow up event
Nov. 9 WBMD Fall Assembly Event