

The Shepherd's Staff

Volume 55, No. 1, January 2019



SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY **JANUARY 27**

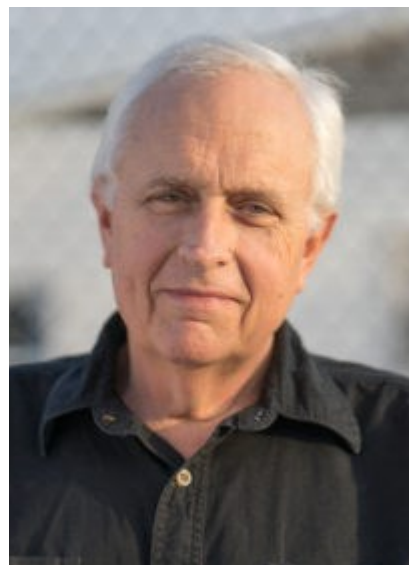
Rev Kirk van der Swaagh will be the guest speaker for our observance of Sanctity of Life Sunday.

He has served as pastor of Neighborhood Church of Greenwich Village since 1987. In addition, he serves as vice-president on the board of the National Pro-life Religious Council. Kirk has led workshops with fellow NPRC board members at the annual National Right to Life convention and contributed devotional selections to the 40 Days for Life prayer guide.

In the late 1980s, Kirk was an active participant in Operation Rescue, working with others to impede access to abortion clinics, while challenging the clinic workers to examine their consciences in the light of the practice they were supporting.

He also serves as director of the Expect Hope project, which is a Christ-centered residential, restorative program offered as an alternative to abortion for single pregnant women. Women are housed free for two years and receive life skills teaching and assistance in job placement as well as physical, emotional and spiritual support from mentors and staff.

Kirk graduated with highest honors from New Brunswick Theological Seminary, obtaining a Master of Divinity. He and his wife Barbara have six children.



Rev Kirk van der Swaagh

**Sanctity
of Life**



March For Life — Washington D.C.

January 18

Bus sponsored by Friends for Life

Lv: SOTH—6:00 a.m.

Cost: \$25

Sign up at the Information Desk or speak to John Brown



Martin Luther King Service

January 21, 7:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the Boyertown Area Ministerial Association

Location: New Hanover United Methodist Church
Gilbertsville



Revelation Sermon Series

CD—a 2-volume set — Cost: \$25

Available for purchase in the church office.

New series beginning in January

"The DNA of a Godly Church"



Pastor Lucas Hahn

Making a Career Change

Youth Pastor Lucas Hahn announced to the congregation on December 9 that he plans to make a career change. His last day at Shepherd of the Hills will be December 31. In his personal message below he shares about his future plans.



It is bittersweet that as of December 31st, I will no longer be the Youth Pastor here at Shepherd of the Hills Church. This decision was not an easy decision to make. I spent a lot of time in prayer with God, and talking to my wife, Rachel, seeking if this was really the direction God was leading me. This is the decision that God has for me. If there is one thing I have learned from this, it is that when God has something planned for you, He makes it known and He shows you the way. However, we have to be open to His guidance. I feel that is what I am doing now.

Ever since I was a kid, I have had a huge passion for music. I have always loved listening, performing, watching, and seeing how it all comes together. Growing up in church, there were a lot of opportunities for me to grow in my interest in music. I always got to participate in the worship bands, Christmas and Easter Orchestra concerts, and so forth. I am so grateful for that experience! However, there is something else that goes into music that I have some knowledge in, but not nearly enough, and that is the audio engineering aspect. So, I will be going back to school at Lehigh Carbon Community College to get my degree in Audio Engineering starting in January.

With this degree, I will be able to work for TV stations, radio stations, church ministries, etc. There are a lot of great opportunities out there in this field. I can't wait to explore them, and make an impact for Christ while doing it. There is a great lack of Christ in the media, and if I can make Him known in any way, that would be awesome. That is my hope!

As I said, it will be bittersweet to leave, but I feel God is leading me in this direction. I am so thankful for the relationships I have gotten to build in my year and a half here at Shepherd. The youth and my youth leaders have been so great to me, and we have made so many memories that will stick with me forever. It is my prayer that as a church you can all surround the youth with love and encouragement, as they have done that for me. Thank you all so much for your continued prayers and support. Rachel and I greatly appreciate it!

God Bless,
Pastor Lucas

Coming Events

Feb. 3
Bloodmobile

Feb. 10
Scout Sunday

Feb. 22
Scout Charter Banquet

Confirmation Class Retreat

Saturday, January 27

8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Missions Commitment

The Mission Commitment Project for January and February is Jeff and Karen Grant of Cru. The Grants live in Florida where they work at Cru Headquarters in Orlando.

Jeff serves on the national team as the Church Partnership Specialist for campuses in the US as part of Cru's Student LINC Ministry. LINC is focused on launching new ministries on campuses all over the United States, in areas where CRU is not currently active. Recently he was in Los Angeles to help launch new ministries in the city.

While there he was able to connect with a former student of the New York Film Academy. With her help he was able to access this private facility and together they found 20 students interested in starting a CRU group.



Jeff, & Karen Grant with Arthur and Katherine

The Vision Project for January is Peace Proclamation Ministries International. This is an evangelistic and church planting ministry to those living in the state of Andhra Pradesh on the southeastern coast of India. PPMI was established in 2011 by Dr. Paulus Thalathoti, who is the chairman of Penn Bible Fellowship in Hatfield, PA.

The efforts of PPMI are carried out by a team of Indian pastors with a heart for sharing the good News of God's forgiveness through Christ. The team not only preaches the gospel of Jesus Christ, but also offers practical help whenever possible.

Both Paulus and his wife Sumantha grew up in India.

Empowered

The One who calls you to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature is the One who by your consent, goes into all the world and preaches the Gospel to every creature through you!

— W. Ian Thomas

Youth Club

Wednesdays, 6:15- 8:30 p.m.

Beginning January 9

4 years to Grade 6

Term 2 will conclude on April 3

Dismissal is from the lower level at 8:30 p.m.

H2O Youth

Wednesdays, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Shepherd's Den

Children's Church

Pre-K to Grade 4—every Sunday during both services.

Sunday School

9:15 a.m.

Toddler—2 years—Room 14

3 years—K—Room 12

Grades 1-3—Room 24

Grades 4-6—Room 25

Grades 9—12—Den

Confirmation Class (Grades 7-8) Library

Adult—Room 25

Discussion—Parlor East

Spiritual growth—FH





The annual **March for Life** in Washington D.C. will be held on Friday, January 18. Friends for Life is sponsoring a bus, leaving Shepherd at 6:00 a.m. with an estimated return of 10:30 p.m. The cost is \$25 per adult.

2018 Statements of Giving will be mailed to those who have contributed \$100 or more in 2018. Those who have contributed less than \$100 may obtain a statement by request.

2019 sponsorship Charts are posted on the bulletin board outside the church office. Be sure to visit this spot soon and sign up to sponsor bulletins or flowers on the special dates in your life. ~~Potom~~flowers are \$25 per vase; bulletins are \$20.

The **2018 Annual Report** is being compiled. Members will receive a copy in the mail along with a notice of the congregational meeting for approval of the report.

Recent Deaths: Matthew Hausman, Ed Weiss

SPOT-LIGHT ON... MISSIONS

The great commission states clearly the directive of the church, to go into all the world and preach the gospel of Jesus. Everyone is called to fulfill the great commission but there are some who are called leave everything and spread the gospel internationally. It is our desire to support them in fulfilling their calling. We do this by supporting our monthly mission's commitments, missionaries we support the same months year after year. We also do this by supporting our vision projects, missionaries or organizations who are nominated and selected monthly based on the work they are doing.

The missions committee meets monthly to pray for our missionaries, discuss their needs, and to select upcoming vision projects. All the missionaries we support align with our statement of beliefs and have been approved by our church elders. The committee normally meets the third Monday of every month; if you have a heart for missions and are interested in join our missions committee speak with Pastor Charles.



Clockwise from left: Keith & Sandra Leonard, Uwe & Mary Beck, Jessica Brown, Bill Greiner, Roger Lightcap, Brad Smith

Sunday Services

8:00 a.m.
Traditional Service

10:30 a.m.
Contemporary Service

Wednesday Service

7:00 p.m.
Magnifi!



Pastoral Staff

Collin Monger
Senior Pastor
Charles Rowden
Executive Associate Pastor
James Jessum
Associate Pastor of Visitation

Shepherd of the Hills' regular office hours are Tuesday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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