

January 2021



**OFFICE CLOSED**

The office will be closed  
January 1, 2021 in observance  
of New Years Day.

**GATHER** in Blessings \* **GROW** in Purpose \* **GO** with Passion

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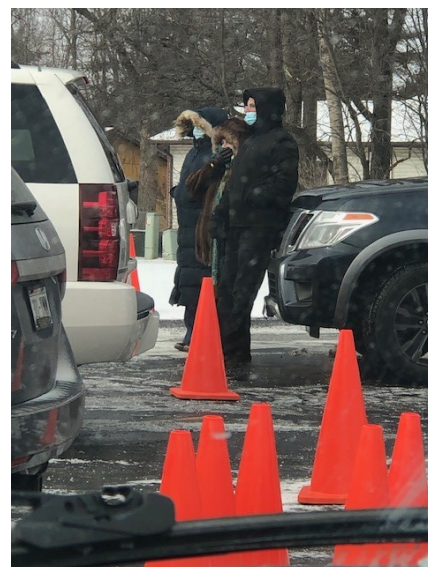
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*Good Shepherd*  
*Annual Meeting*  
Via ZOOM \* Phone  
& Limited RSVP  
January 24 \* 9 am  
see page 3 for details

## Christmas Eve Worship

Thank you to all who helped make our Christmas Eve services meaningful. Our outdoor decor made the season bright for staff, congregational members and our neighbors. Our super decorators include Mike Sturzenegger, Josh Stumpner, Jenn Tryba and Tim Holcomb. Our outdoor Jesse Tree was decorated by confirmation students. We all also appreciate the work which went into planning and providing the opportunity for us to worship safely outdoors. Special thanks to Pastor Kemp, Kartika and Angie for all their hard work and to all who helped with set up, communion and cleanup. We hope you all had a Merry Christmas!



## Reimagining Worship Update

Your task force on Reimagining Worship continues to meet monthly to discuss and make recommendations regarding worship during the pandemic and provide safe outreach services such as drive up communion and WeCare Bags. We are working on a plan to resume onsite worship which we hope to implement when it is safe to do so. We recently received guidance from Bishop Anne Edison-Albright regarding worship and gathering safely.. Based on information from sources such as Wisconsin Council of Churches, Bishop Edison-Albright has asked all churches in our synod to commit to providing worship and gatherings in the safest way possible (online) through at least February 14. She had also asked that churches develop plans to provide low touch/low contact Ash Wednesday services. Your staff, council, task force and lay leaders will be following the guidance provided by our Bishop in order to keep us all as safe as possible. We ask that you continue to support us with your participation in worship, your prayers and your gifts.



This picture was used to help advertise.  
See the bell?

# ANNUAL MEETING:

January 24, 2021

9:00 am

**Please put January 24<sup>th</sup> on your calendar for our annual meeting.**

It is a very important part of our church calendar, and the life of our church.

**This year there are three ways to participate.**

1. Limited in-person attendance, to the first 20 people, masked and socially distant.

*Please call the office to reserve your spot.*

2. Attend via zoom; link available on our web site, Facebook page or below:

3. Call in on phone, number on web site, Facebook and page or below:

Thank you for your participation in, and support of our ministry.

Watch the mail the week of January 11th  
for the Annual Report, your year end financial statements  
and instructions for joining the Annual Meeting via Zoom or by phone

Your Good Shepherd Lutheran Church council

IF YOU HAVE AN EMAIL ON FILE, YOU WILL RECEIVE A NOTIFICATION

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9896048261?pwd=Rng5aGEycnNuTDBvaUlU0dzUmdiQT09>

**Meeting ID: 989 604 8261**

**Passcode: 9112020**

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcearwiZa0>



Welcome to a new year! I imagine many among you join me in desperately hoping '21 will be a much better year than 2020. And by the grace of God, I suspect it will, though I'm not sure we all mean the same thing when we say that.

Back in early December, I had a (safe, socially distanced = online) conversation with a colleague who I deeply treasure. We were venting a little bit to each other about the challenges of being in parish ministry at this particular time in history. While it certainly is not the only time pastors have probably had conversations like this one, I imagine those of us who will one day have weathered the season of COVID-19 will have a breadth of stories and experiences to share with those who will fill pulpits someday.

So, the colleague I was chatting with is a retired guy (which actually sounds pretty inviting these days), and knowing he had many years of wisdom from which to share with me some golden nugget of truth, there was a point when I just stopped grumbling and simply said, "This is just hard."

His reply? "I can't imagine." To which I sort of glibly said, "I never wanted to imagine, much less have to respond to something like COVID."

"Well," he said, "we call these 'Opportunities.' This is just another damn opportunity."

To which I replied, "If I am that over and over again will I begin to believe it?"

Obviously, there is a typo there. But it grabbed my attention immediately because of the biblical implications, and as I began to give it some thought, I left him with, "Interesting typo. I may have my next newsletter article!"

So, follow me here ... all the way back in the Old Testament book of Exodus Moses asks God whom he should say has sent him back to the children of Israel, God says, "I AM WHO I AM ... Thus, you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" And then we scratch our heads from that all the way to the Gospel of John where there are seven similar designations of God: "I AM the bread... (6:48)," "I AM the light...(8:12)," "I AM the door...(10:7)," "I AM the Good Shepherd...(10:11)," "I AM the resurrection and the life...(11:2)," "I AM the way...truth...life(14:6)," "I AM the true vine...(15:1)." For the sake of simplicity (and brevity), I'll leave it that, but essentially God declares that God's name is "I AM."

So, back to my typo ... "If I God that over and over again will I begin to believe it?" I have discovered over and over again since March that the answer is a resounding "YES!"

There is no way we would have survived this year at Good Shepherd without the commitment to leave it all up to God over and over again.

When we were faced with creating and distributing worship services online without EVER having done anything like that before, we forged ahead anyway remembering ... "I AM."

When it became clear that our worship benefitted greatly from having volunteers bear some of the important weight of leading worship, we forged ahead and made invitations to people to do things they had never done before remembering ... "I AM."

When we recognized that we were going to need a task force to manage the mountains of ever-changing COVID-19 data, and then make prayerful and faithful recommendations on how we would proceed with worship and other in-person gatherings (a crucial and thankless task), we forged ahead and sought volunteers remembering ... "I AM."

As our finances ebbed and flowed throughout the year, we forged ahead faithfully during the leaner times by reminding and inviting regular generous partnership remembering ... "I AM."

While these are only a few examples from many, we have learned that the message of hope through the Gospel cannot be silenced because "I AM" is in charge, and we are not. And the gospel has been proclaimed and the sacraments have been faithfully shared, even if it looked and felt a little bit different.

Beloved, as we enter 2021, we are stronger for having experienced such growth through the "opportunities" that landed in front of us this year, even if they weren't always what we would have chosen. But we have always been a resilient bunch at Good Shepherd, and I thank you for your continued, faithful partnership in the gospel and for everything you will do to keep shining your light into the darkness in the year to come.

Blessings ... Pastor Kemp

Hello Good Shepherd,

As a Riverview Roadrunner myself, it's an honor to be asked to service your congregation as your Thrivent representative. My background is in education, so I'd like to help you all leverage your Action Teams and Choice Dollars as effectively as possible, while helping your family gain confidence in clarity in your own financial path. At Thrivent, I've joined a fantastic team with Eric Jacobson that includes over 50 years of combined experience in the Wausau Area.

Thank you for your time.

I look forward to serving your congregation. Feel free to contact me directly at 715.551.1303 or [mandy.wright@thrivent.com](mailto:mandy.wright@thrivent.com).

Sincerely,

Mandy Wright

**Mandy Wright**

Licensing Trainee  
Wisconsin/Upper MI Region

3506 Stewart Ave.  
Wausau, WI 54401

O: 1-715-551-1303

**STEWARDSHIP DRIVE UPDATE:** Thank you to everyone who has filled out your pledge card for 2021 and remained current or caught up with 2020 pledged intended giving! We are very aware of the unusual year and greatly appreciate the support directed towards Good Shepherd during these isolated and difficult times.

If you missed the opportunity to return your intent card, there is still time. Each returned card helps immensely!

As we know, the ministries of Good Shepherd rely solely on the generous and prayerful giving of this congregation.



## Worship & Resources

### Good Shepherd is online:

**YOUTUBE:** type: **GSLC Wausau WI** (Hit SUBSCRIBE and you will get notified when there are new videos)

**FACEBOOK:** <https://www.facebook.com/gslcwausau/>

**GSLC WEBSITE:** [www.gswausau.org](http://www.gswausau.org)

**ZOOM:** Watch your email for the opportunity to join in online group chats

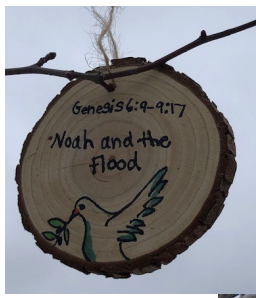
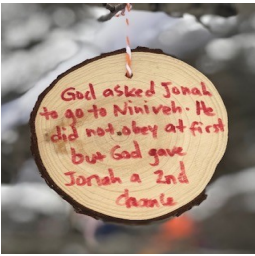
### Other Resources:

<http://elca.org/PublicHealth> Guidance resources for congregations and members from the ELCA

**LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES/ Daily Devotions:** [lhm.org](http://lhm.org)

**DAILY DEVOTIONALS ARE HERE:** Christ in Our Home & Portals of Prayer

# SOCIAL CONCERNS & CHRISTIAN OUTREACH



Thank you to our Confirmation Class for decorating and adorning the Jesse Tree with ornaments and hats / mittens



**Community Supper**  
**January 10, 2021**  
**First Presbyterian Church**  
**Meal Served 4:00-5:30 pm**  
 Meals are prepared and bagged for pickup outside the door in the parking lot.  
**Contact Ruth Henkelman 715-432-1589**  
**For ways you can help**  
**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED AT NOVEMBER'S DINNER. YOU ARE BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING!**

**THANK YOU  
GOOD SHEPHERD!!**

**BAGS / BOXES OF MITTENS & HATS**  
**239 PR OF SOCKS**  
**DOZENS OF FACE MASKS**  
**3 CARLOADS OF FOOD**  
**\$620**

**Helping folks be warm, full and safe was a great way to finish out 2020!!**

**WELL DONE GSLC!**

**New to Sunday School?**  
 Contact Jenny to get on her Sunday School email list for weekly newsletters and her latest Sunday School opportunities!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

### Reminders

Sunday school leader:  
 Jenny Samperisi  
 3855 Henry St.  
 Wausau, WI 54403  
 715-218-2175

Purpledaisy42@hotmail.com





# JANUARY Birthdays



- 1 William Samperisi
- 3 Diana LaCerte
- 4 Warren Ament  
Brielle Wozniczka
- 5 Janet Herring  
Kinley Kriewaldt
- 6 Chandler Czeck
- 7 Dustin Chapman
- 9 JoAnn Grewe
- 10 Marie Teige
- 12 Paul Boettcher  
Richard Henke  
Emma Janke
- 13 Brittney Hildebrandt
- 14 Arden Baumgardt  
Thomas Craven  
Alivia Heise
- 15 Rick Buntrock
- 16 Michael Fremming  
Stephanie Teske
- 17 Mark Bartz  
Scott Mattice  
Kennedy Scribner  
Elisha Wirt
- 18 Gail Koehler  
Nita Kay Logemann  
Nicolas Mulder  
Collyn Neitzke
- 19 Roberta Salzmann

- 21 Paul Daigle  
Stanislaus Sobiesczyk
- 22 Mark Haase
- 24 Samuel Buntrock  
Brian Denfeld  
Heath Edens  
Miranda Kath  
Mary Omernik  
Cathy Winters
- 26 Sylvia Herzog  
Colleen Sickels
- 28 Jack Barthels  
Cheryl Gallagher  
Brian Merkey
- 29 Susan Domka
- 30 Ella Huckbody

# JANUARY Anniversaries

- 15 Chris and Laura Petterson
- 25 Arden and Barbara Baumgardt
- 26 Bernard and Nicole Graveen

## Revised Common Lectionary

**January 3**  
 Jeremiah 31:7-14  
 Psalm 147:12-20  
 Ephesians 1:3-14  
 John 1:[1-9] 10-18

**January 10**  
 Genesis 1:1-5  
 Psalm 29  
 Acts 19:1-7  
 Mark 1:4-11

**January 17**  
 1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]  
 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
 1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
 John 1:43-51

**January 24**  
 Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
 Psalm 62:5-12  
 1 Corinthians 7:29-31  
 Mark 1:14-20

**January 31**  
 Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
 Psalm 111  
 1 Corinthians 8:1-13  
 Mark 1:21-28

From your Parish Nurses

JANUARY

*Your Parish Nurses,  
Barb & Mary*

GrapeVine



Partnering Together  
for Women's Health



### What is Grapevine?

GrapeVine trains nurses to lead health education sessions in their communities. Nurses complete annual training on WWHF curricula developed with input from academic partners. They then use toolkits to provide free one-hour education sessions on women's health topics. The goal is to educate Wisconsin women about disease prevention and healthy lifestyle changes.

**COVID-19 Update:** For the health and safety of GrapeVine partners and the community, all in-person sessions have been cancelled until further notice. Visit the [WWHF Facebook](#) for any available virtual opportunities. Thanks for your understanding.

**Parish Nurse Barb Denfeld will not be available from mid January through Mid March.**

930 EDGEWOOD RD  
WAUSAU, WI 54403  
(715) 675.1997  
info@gswausau.org  
www.gswausau.org

We are also offering  
online worship  
services  
Released for:

**Sundays  
Wednesdays**

go to

GSLC Wausau WI on Youtube,  
www.gswausau.org

Facebook

**(they remain available at  
our youtube channel)**

#### STAFF

**Rev. Kemp Jones**

Senior Pastor

pastork@gswausau.org

Office: 715.675.1997 ext.: 306

C: 920.410.9210

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kartika@gswausau.org

Office: 715.675.1997 ext.: 303

C: 319-230-0250

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Parish Administrator

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Office: 715.675.1997 ext.: 301

C: 715-574-6321

**Brian Wiese**

Interim Financial Secretary

Brian.gslcfinance@advanit.com

Office: 715.539.6700

**Barb Denfeld**

**Mary Omernik**

Parish Nurses

nurses@gswausau.org

**Cory Toth LaPointe**

Treasurer



# Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Wausau WI

## Church Council meeting minutes

November 10, 2020 Socially distanced via Zoom online

**Call to Order** –6:30 pm \*Present: Pastor Kemp, Tim, Josh, Dorie, Heidi, Jenny, M. J., Steve, Brad, Geri, Paul

**Gathering Litany** – Pastor Kemp

### God's Word

- Devotional time – Prayer for the Church and the World [December – Dorie, January - Tim]
- Sharing how you have seen God at work lately – ALL

### Review

- Agenda review - Dorie / Brad – Item 3 corrected “Reimagining Worship” APPROVED
- Minutes review – Josh/ Jenny - APPROVED
- Treasurer / Financial Report – Cory - (October income was \$14,848 expenses were \$25,486. We transferred \$787 of funds so the total net income was (\$9,715). Current reserves are \$29,805 in the general fund, \$11,273 in the building fund, and \$13,131 in work of the church. It is anticipated that the PPP loan of \$41,500 will be forgiven. Presuming this, reserves should return to a level which will allow us to continue operating safely into at least the middle part of next year. Our mortgage lender has allowed for interest-only payments during the pandemic crisis.) - Geri / Steve APPROVED

### Our Response to the Word (old business)

- **Stewardship for All Seasons & Strategic Planning – update** – Dorie – Announcement letter was posted October 11. Print materials have been mailed, lifting up Good Shepherd's mission. Stewardship Focus is being lifted up for 1) the need for technology upgrades to reach our congregation under 'distancing;' 2) taking advantage of building access for improvements such as interior painting and concrete repair; and 3) sustaining ministry excellence. Commitment responses have begun to arrive, which is extremely important during this pandemic uncertainty. Follow-up telephone calls are being planned. A SFAS meeting is slated for November 12. Council expresses our deep thankfulness to our staff for again working tirelessly to carry this forward and we heartily thank those who recorded earnest, open messages to the congregation. Tim offered to compose a reminder postcard to assist our congregants in pledging.

(new business)

- **Budget Consideration for Approval:** - The 2021 budget provides expandingly deeper detail. Anticipated possible costs of technology to allow for continued online worship was adjusted upwards as information became available. This is the only change to the suggested budget from last month. A MOTION was offered by M.J. that Council accept the proposed 2021 budget as it stands. Seconded by Paul. MOTION passes unanimously.
- **'Reimagining Worship' Committee Update** - 'Drive-through' Communion on Wednesdays and Sundays continues to be very well utilized and appreciated. An earlier time is offered on Wednesdays to adjust for shorter daylight hours. The importance of our conscientious communion policies became apparent as we were able to accommodate the positive test results of one of our servers (who remains in our prayers). The second tranche of "We Care" packages of treats and daily use items are in preparation for December 15th delivery to congregation members who may be isolated by Covid health risks or other circumstances. A tangible worship service for Christmas Eve, outdoors in a drive-in fashion in our parking lot, is being planned; weather and infection status allowing. This is expected to offer the Christmas story, candle-lighting and sung experience of "Silent Night." Two services are in planning.
- **'Annual Meeting during a pandemic' planning** - Following synod suggestions and intense research by Pastor Kemp, carefully implemented to adhere to our Good Shepherd Constitution, the 2021 Annual Meeting will follow a hybrid format building on Zoom virtual technology and telephone attendance to carry out the vital communication and decision making for the coming year.

### Action Items:

- ✓ Contact M.J. to receive "We Care" packages for council members to deliver.
- ✓ Plan to attend the Annual Meeting and offer help to those with limited technology experience to participate.
- ✓ Prayerfully consider SFAS commitment for November
- ✓ Tim will author an information postcard regarding SFAS pledges, to be sent to the congregation

### Prayers of the Church / Lord's Prayer

**Sending** (motion to adjourn) Geri / Brad PASSED Adjournment 7:35 pm

Respectfully submitted, Paul Grewe, GSLC Secretary