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

APRIL 2022 . Volume 58 . Issue 4

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

LENT & HOLY WEEK

WEDNESDAY LENT SERVICE
APR. 6 @ NOON & 6:30 PM

PALM PASSION SUNDAY:
APR 10 @ 9:00 AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY: APR 14 @ 6:30 PM

GOOD FRIDAY: APR 15 @ 6:30 PM

SAT. EASTER VIGIL: APR 16 @ 8:00 PM

EASTER WORSHIP:
APR 17 @ 8:00 & 10:30 30 AM

ONLINE WORSHIP
AVAILABLE
WEDNESDAYS & SUNDAYS



And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory ... from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace – John 1: 14-16

A colleague shared this little story recently: “*Last Sunday a couple of families with young children who are usually in church worshipped online. The kids noticed that during the children’s sermon I gave out candy. One kid who had decided to stay home couldn’t help but express his dismay. Dad explained, “When we don’t go to church we miss out.”* It’s true even during a pandemic.

As I write this month’s newsletter item, it is not lost on me that we just marked an anniversary this week. Two years ago, the third Sunday of Lent, March 15, 2020, was the last Sunday we worshipped together in-person as the pandemic had been declared on March 11. There were 86 people in worship over two services that weekend, and a journey began in earnest toward developing online church the following weekend. Though we dabbled with in-person gatherings outdoors a time or two (including a VERY cold Christmas Eve), we did not fully come back together until May 2021. The tide was turning with the pandemic, and we chose to dig in full steam ahead, first with parking lot worship and then indoors. We have proceeded cautiously utilizing guidance from our synod, the Wisconsin Council of Churches and the CDC ... but at every juncture we have moved ahead and been able to worship in person for nearly a year for a number of reasons: 1) the availability of effective vaccines, 2) Good Shepherd’s faithful safety protocols and the use of masks and social distancing, and 3) internet connection and online worship for all who wished to do so, including the medically fragile, unvaccinated and uncertain. I am grateful for all these precautions and for the mutual care and concern for others. None of this would have been possible without the dedication, grit, and persistence of our Re-imagining Worship Task Force. They have faced everything from fury to favor with grace and dignity. Still, while we may not all have been in full agreement as the right steps, through our collective efforts and care (even though MANY of us have been directly and significantly impacted by COVID), we have had no reports of viral spread through Good Shepherd. Our community case numbers continue to decrease as well!

Which is why I want to encourage all members, partners and friends of Good Shepherd who can do so comfortably and safely to come back to church this Lent/Easter ... and to continue worshipping together regularly.

I know the couch is an easier and more comfortable location to worship. It’s also handy. I did a lot of household chores with our worship services on in the background. You can eat breakfast or fold laundry during the sermon; you don’t need to get the kids dressed or find your coat when you stay at home. Commutes to your favorite spot are a breeze and nobody ever asks you to join a committee when you don’t see them at coffee hour. And yet, something central is missing. Being together helps us grow as a community. There is something about seeing each other, hearing other’s prayer concerns and needs, passing the plate and the peace, and communing together that makes us the body of Christ much more effectively.

God knew this. We remembered at Christmas that God is not a virtual presence but came to us as Jesus, living among us, sharing our common life, so that we could know God’s love. At Lent we remember how Jesus endured even the messy parts of humanity, suffering and even dying for our sake. At Easter we will recall how Jesus rose again, not as some kind of ghost but as a real human being that disciples could talk to and touch. Only then was their joy complete.

I realize that some of you may not feel ready to return to in person worship just yet – we must all make good choices for our health and well-being. Rest assured, we aren’t planning on shutting down our online services! But I know that just as the disciples needed to physically be with Jesus, we need to physically be together too. For those who are homebound or too young to be vaccinated our staff and volunteers are still willing to make special effort to come to you so everyone can have the opportunity to gather in person – even if it’s on a smaller scale. It may not always be easy or comfortable – but it is living together through the messy and challenging parts that makes the most difficult stretches of life endurable. And being together will make our joy complete ... a little bit of heaven on earth!

Midweek worship during Lent continues every Wednesday at noon and 6:30pm. We are also offering soup in pints and quarts to take home with you after worship. Holy Week services begin April 10 on Palm Sunday at 9am. Maundy Thursday (4/14) and Good Friday (4/15) services will be at 6:30pm. We will worship on Holy Saturday (4/16) this year at 8pm with the Easter Vigil. Easter Sunday (4/17) services will be at 8 and 10:30am. Masking is no longer required in our building but is still respected and affirmed for those who feel more comfortable doing so.

God is doing something special right now in the church, and I believe Lent is only the beginning – Easter’s promise is just around the corner!

Easter Egg hunt
Sunday, April 10
10:15 am



Good Shepherd welcomes the neighbors and all the littles to join us for a little celebrating!

Following worship we will have a story, activities, hot chocolate and the highly anticipated Easter Egg Hunt!

We will be outdoors unless the weather is severe.

Thank you to everyone donating eggs, treats and goodies.

All are welcome and guests are invited!

Community VBS
"Making Waves"

Good Shepherd, First Presbyterian
& Grace United Church of Christ
ARE PARTNERING TOGETHER FOR VBS!



Dates: Aug 15-18

Times: 9am-12pm

Possible program Thursday evening

Location: Good Shepherd

Contact Jenny to find out more!

SAVE
The
DATES!

Affirmation of Baptism:

Mark your calendars for Sunday,
May 15!

first communion:

Children 3rd-5th grade are invited to participate in First Communion instruction. This consists of a Saturday workday and then the celebrating First Communion during worship. Scheduling is tentatively in May. Stay tuned.

BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday April 5 * 1-6 pm
For appt call 1-800-redcross
1-800-733-2767 Or
Visit redcrossblood.org

GOOD SHEPHERD'S

TOMATO
& Plant SALE



Saturday, May 21

8:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Sale continues after worship on

Sunday, May 22

Located in the Damgaard Rm

Contact the church office for information
@ 715-675-1997

THANK YOU!!!

To the Tom Domka Family for donating the famous and beautifully homegrown assortment of tomatoes and potting plants!

LOOKING FOR HELPERS
SATURDAY & SUNDAY!

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

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

Other Resources:

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

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES/ Daily Devotions: lhm.org

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

Lent Music Schedule!

Monday rehearsal:

5:30-6:30 Ukulele practice

Lenten Wednesday schedule: April 6

5:30-6:15 Bell practice

6:30-7:00 Lenten worship

7:10-8:00 Choir rehearsal

April 13: Hallelujah Chorus Rehearsal 6:30 – 7:30 pm

You are all invited to Lenten Organ Meditations at St. Paul's UCC on Fridays during Lent from 12:15-12:45 pm. April 8 – Patrick Burkhardt and Jim Holt

Congregational singing of "HALLELUJAH CHORUS" for Easter: all are invited!

Let's celebrate this Easter day by singing Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah! Everyone in the congregation are invited to sing and if you would like to familiarize yourself with the music before the big day, come to our choir rehearsal on Wednesday, April 13 at 6:30 and practice the piece for an hour!



Date	3-Apr	10-Apr	4/17/2022 8am	4/17/2022 10:30am	24-Apr
Asst Minister	MJ Horvat	Andrew Walters	TBD	Holcomb	Ollie Merkey
Greeter 1	K Toth	Bonnie Anderson	MJ Horvat	Barb Denfeld	K Toth
Greeter 2	Susan Mazique	Helen Vance	Jean Korpela	MJ Horvat	Helen Vance
Usher 1	Greg Behrendt	M Sturzenegger	Greg Behrendt	M Sturzenegger	Marty Krahn
Usher 2	Hank Pleuss	L Sturzenegger	Hank Pleuss	L Sturzenegger	JoAnn Grewe
Holy Week	14-Apr	15-Apr	16-Apr		
Asst Minister	Cari Logemann	Tim Holcomb			
Greeter 1	Tim Holcomb				
Greeter 2	Jenn Holcomb				
Usher 1	MJ Horvat				
Usher 2	Susan Mazique				
Music	Adult Choir	Shep Strummers	no music		

Reimagining Worship Task Force

March 15, 2022 Meeting Notes

1. Opening Prayer.
2. What are we seeing? Schools, stores, states are dropping restrictions. Influenza, stomach flu are more common now.
3. Marathon County/Hospital status: Lower numbers in hospital than in a long time. Only 8 beds are dedicated for Covid patients, with currently 2-5 patients there. Only 59 new daily cases in Wisconsin; 4 in Marathon County.
4. Good Shepherd Mitigation Strategies: Over past 3 weeks, we have been loosening some of the policies. The Task Force agreed to suspend all three published mitigation strategies (Onsite Worship, Funeral and Social Gatherings). Leaders in any capacity (worship, music, small groups, education, staff) can request any mitigation strategy such as masking at any time. Further, anyone is welcome to continue mitigation on their own, including masking, distancing, no-touch greetings, etc. We believe for now communion will remain prepackaged and taken in the pews. Passing of the Peace will remain shorter and local to our pew.
5. Review WI Council of Churches and ECSW Synod recommendations. Task Force members have read these updates regularly and believe our plan is in concert with their recommendations.
6. Next Steps: The Reimagining Task Force will suspend meetings and policy-setting, pending approval by Church Council. We will continue to monitor pandemic trends and reconvene if we become concerned or at direction of Council. Anyone may direct questions to any Task Force member.
7. Closing prayer.

Blessed to serve in this manner,

MJ Horvat, Tim Holcomb, Laurie Sturzenegger, Mike Sturzenegger, Barb Denfeld, Jackie Majewski, Pastor Kemp Jones

GRAB-N-GO SOUP: THANK YOU to everyone who helped cook, serve, deliver, set up / clean and supply ingredients. It has been appreciated by worship attendants, but did you know that we have delivered to between 6-12 homebound neighbors and members who wanted all the helpers to know how much a warm cup of soup has been appreciated!

OFFICIAL ACTS

Funeral: 3-4-2022

John Viergutz



Ukraine Relief:

Matching funds

Challenge

up to \$422,000

**Deadline extended to
Easter!**

Lutheran World Relief

Our help is urgently needed!

We are nearing \$1000. Thank
you, supporters!

**THRIVENT CHOICE
DOLLARS: MISSIONS
PURSUED! GRATITUDE
SHARED!**

Good Shepherd wants to express appreciation to all Thrivent members who directed their choice dollars towards Good Shepherd.

This time we received a deposit in the amount of \$1,190!! THANK YOU for joining the mission!

APRIL CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT 9:00 am Worship Baptism: Kennedy Grace Thoma 10:00 am Sunday School Adult Forum	4 5:30 pm Shepherd Strummers	5 9:00 am LWR Quilters 6:30 pm Church Council Mtg	6 9:00 am AA 12:00 pm worship 5:30 pm Confirmation 5:30 pm Bell Rehearsal 6:30 pm Lent Worship 7:10 pm Choir Rehearsal	7	8 HCE Community Ed Day Setup	9 9:00 am HCE Community Ed Workday
10 PALM PASSION SUNDAY 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Adult Forum No Sunday School 10:15 am Easter Egg Hunt	11 5:30 pm Shepherd Strummers	12 9:00 am LWR Quilters 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting	13 9:00 am AA 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Choir OFFERING COUNT	14 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Worship	15 6:30 pm Good Friday Worship	16 8:00 pm Easter Vigil Service
17 EASTER SUNDAY 8:00 am Worship 10:30 am Worship	18 OFFICE CLOSED	19 9:00 am LWR Quilters	20 9:00 am AA 5:30 pm Confirmation	21	22	23
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School	25 5:30 pm Shepherd Strummers	26	27 9:00 am AA 5:30 pm Confirmation 5:30 pm Bell Rehearsal 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal OFFERING COUNT	28 1:30 pm Corks n Covers 6:30 pm Riverview Neighborhood Mtg	29	30

APRIL Birthdays

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1	Michael Selby	21	Pam Daigle
2	Anne Krueger	23	Tyler Beyersdorff
3	Camden Majewski		Christian Boulanger
5	Susan Jirgl Evelyn Trapp		Pastor Kemp Jones Helen Vance
6	Brandt Schreiber	24	Ali Ramthun
7	Cody Beyersdorff Gary Jarntowski Tara Krezine	25	Jan Bootz-Dittmar Annette Lauby John Sickels
8	Katelynn Hayes	26	Keith Laszewski
11	Katelyn Leopold		Emily Sickels
12	Thomas Cloutier Brenda Bargender	27	Jennifer Samperisi
16	Jenny Glovinski Stephanie Martell	28	Chad Majewski Karen Lakus Blake Waldinger
17	Luke Gallagher	30	Dale Anderson
20	Bev Korpita Chris Petterson		Kaitlynn Bargender Jarret Miles-Kroening

APRIL Anniversaries

11	Richard & Arlene Henke James & Kay Walters
15	Dave & Brenda Blaubach
28	John & Michelle Ellenbecker



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www.gswausau.org

Sunday Worship @ 9 am
**We are also offering
online worship
services
Released for:
Sundays & Wednesdays**

**See front cover for
Lent / Holy Week Schedule**

go to
GSLC Wausau WI on Youtube,
www.gswausau.org
Facebook

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

STAFF

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Cory Toth LaPointe

Treasurer

Good Shepherd Church Council Meeting Minutes: February 8, 2022

Call to Order & Attendance

6:30 pm – Members Present: Paster Kemp Jones, Josh Stumpner, MJ Horvat, Jenny Samperisi, Cory Toth-LaPointe, Laurie Sturzenegger, Mike Sturzenegger, Cheryl Rocheleau, Chad Majewski

Appointment of New Members to the Church Council

New members Chad Majewski, Mike Sturzenegger, and Laurie Sturzenegger were appointed to the council

Gathering Litany

Paster Kemp

God's Word

Devotional Time – Pastor Kemp – Wasu's Cab

Where have you seen God's work lately – ALL shared their experiences

Review

Agenda Review

Minutes Review

Treasurer/Financial Report

Our Response to the Word

Executive Team Nominations and Election – Chad Majewski elected Secretary; Mike Sturzenegger elected Vice President

New Council Member Orientation – decided to be done 'on the fly' with additional questions/clarification addressed during future meetings

2021 Fall Stewardship Update – discussion of ways to get updated contact information for church members

IT Upgrade Update – council members filled new members in on details. We are awaiting quote from contractor. Josh requested to review quote when it's received.

ECDC – Cheryl provided update on status and expressed difficulty in getting ahold of people

Re-Imaging Worship Update – discussion around keeping masks mandatory or allowing them to be optional

Lenten Services Schedule/Plan - Pastor Kemp stated we will be having these services and they will most likely be a daytime service

Church Mutual Insurance Update - discussion revolved around increasing the deductible based on the frequency of need

Action Items

Vanco Mobile App Alternatives (Chad)

Engaging our Congregation

Prayers of the Church/Lord's Prayer

Sending/Motion to Adjourn

Meeting Adjourned 8:15 pm

Respectfully submitted by Chad Majewski, council Secretary