

930 Edgewood Road Wausau, WI 54403

(Change Service Requested)

MAY 2020



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

MAY 2020 . Volume 55 . Issue 5

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- PG:1: MAILING COVER/ INSIDE THIS ISSUE
- PG 2: WORK OF THE CHURCH / WORSHIP NOTES
- PG 3: PASTOR KEMP'S PAGE
- PG 4: CURRENT CONNECTIONS WITH WORSHIP
- PG 5: STEWARDSHIP / FINANCE / CHALLENGE
- PG 6: BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES
- PG 7: CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT
- PG 8: PARISH NURSES / STAFF INFO
- PG 9: SIMPLY GIVING ACH AUTHORIZATION FORM



We Miss You!
and we are
Looking forward
to
being together
Soon!
Stay Safe.
Choose Joy!



Work of the People



Thank you so much to all who have been involved in worship in so many ways! Reading, creating slides and title cards, leading prayers, providing music, and many more. Even when we can't physically gather together, worship remains to be the work of the people and your involvement is a loud proclamation of that. **We are grateful!**

Also, you may notice that we have been leaving a space for offering in our online videos. If anyone would like to provide music, Psalm reading, or other worship expression of your choice during the offering time, please let Kartika know!

(Notes regarding music:)

It has been wonderful to stay in touch with all our musicians through weekly "e-mail check-ins" and feedback regarding rehearsal videos that have been put up on youtube. I have been enjoying reading life updates when musicians reply to my e-mail check-ins and it keeps us connected. I will keep doing youtube rehearsal videos until the end of May, when choir season normally ends. If you are not on our music mailing list but are interested in getting my e-mails for video links and weekly check-ins, contact kartika@gswausau.org! If you are on the e-mail list and wish to no longer receive the music ministry e-mails, also let me know!

Hi folks! How is your “social distancing” going? These are certainly strange, unprecedented (for me, anyway) times. I have nothing enlightening or prophetic or even helpful to add to all the stuff that’s already out there. I encourage you to take in everything you hear, see, read, absorb, and share with heightened scrutiny, because I fear that much of it is meant more to manipulate than to educate. But that’s another sermon. Enough said.

Still, that does not mean I haven’t noticed some wonderful things that have kept me from turning completely cynical in my COVID-19 isolation!

And that is my short focus for this month.

So, let’s just get it out on the table, folks ... THANK YOU!

If you had asked me in January whether I could ever imagine a scenario where folks who wouldn’t have been caught dead leading worship up front on a Sunday morning would be taking their smartphones, or web cameras, or iPads ... turning them toward themselves and pressing the record button and LEADING worship individually or as family units in such incredibly rich, organic, powerful and heartfelt ways, I would have called you crazy!

But that is one of the most incredible things that COVID-19 has caused in a LOT of congregations, and particularly at Good Shepherd! I think we have all gone crazy (thank you, Prince!) ... crazy with the desire and fortitude to figure out how to BE the church together in these extraordinary times.

There is a fresh excitement and willingness to partner in online worship that just warms our hearts. Truly, when I suggested at the end of March that we try and recruit “a few” folks to do some of the parts of our liturgy (and then somehow try and edit it all together into a worship experience), I never thought I **NEVER** thought we would end up with a “waiting list” FOUR WEEKS LONG. That’s why you are seeing different faces every single week leading all of the various elements of the services. It took a pandemic, but we are truly doing “the work of the people” TOGETHER. Every. Single. Week.

I could go on and on. I have dreamed for YEARS about a congregational initiative I’ve called “A Community of Care”. I’ve talked about it in many and various ways forever, and it is what undergirds everything I’ve talked about in my newsletter articles in 2020. We are called through our baptisms to be the church for each other because we matter to each other. There just must be something to that beyond calling a “pastoral care professional” and some staff to do that work for us and defaulting through a deferment to THEM ... because we matter to each other. And because we matter to each other and we are all stuck in this current mess together, we are seeing peoples’ baptisms WAKE UP. You are writing notes to each other, and calling each other, and texting each other, and Zooming with each other, and dropping food off for each other – and nobody had to tell you or give you some sort of “permission” to do it. We are seeing your baptisms COME ALIVE. You are discovering that there is astonishing generosity in just being YOU, and I am humbled to see and hear about your amazing and real expressions of the good news toward all those who matter to you.

I cannot think of a better gift than Good Shepherd Lutheran Church during a struggle with an invisible force that could tear any group apart. But we are seeing evidence of new resurrection life again and again.

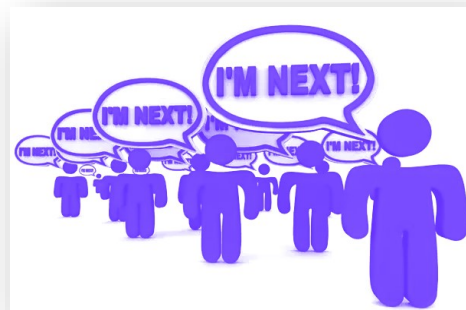
God is still good.

Christ is still risen.

A new day will dawn.

And the church will be stronger. Count on it.

Giving thanks, and wishing you peace and perseverance ... Pastor Kemp





For the time being, worship services and all church related ministries are suspended. We are following the recommendations of the President, WI Governor, our ECSW Synod and the CDC.

Our priority is for you to know that your church is available to you and while that looks different, we are implementing plans to reach out by phone to keep in touch, receive and lift prayers, and provide many choices for keeping an active faith life.

We need your help. We ask you to step in where you can if someone is in need. Where you can't, please let us know in the office so we can deploy someone.

Calendars have been removed from the website and this newsletter for the time being so that we do not cause further confusion. We will share information when there is a change.

The offer stands, You are welcome to call the church anytime. We will help in any way we can. We are working both from home and in the office, so leave a message and we'll respond at our earliest convenience. (see pg. 8 to reach staff)

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 chats

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

We have a challenge!: Extended Deadline– End of May

To say we have a challenge is a vast understatement in these times of staying healthy but home, connected but distant, spiritual but distracted. People feel people scared, frightened, anxious and now separated and lonely.

Good Shepherd's mission is more critical than ever! We continue our mission of gathering in blessings, growing in purpose and going with passion, especially when we don't gather. It has been very encouraging to see folks accessing our mission, through email, Facebook, phone calls and online.

Good Shepherd makes a difference! Our first online service has already had over 500 views. Wow!

Good Shepherd's mission continues with our support in these critical times.

A generous Good Shepherd family offers a challenge of up to \$5000 to help people continue to support our vital mission even when there is no offering plate to pass. The challenge comes in three parts, so we invite you to participate in a way that works for you.

Part 1. For every family that signs up for monthly automatic giving through the **Simply Giving Program** (automated weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly giving), a gift of \$150 will be released (up to \$1500). Contact the church office at 715-675-1997 or brian.gslcfinance@advanit.com for the necessary documents. A Simply Giving Authorization form is attached on page 9.

Part 2. For every family that donates on-line through our web site (**GIVE+**) a gift of \$200 will be released (up to \$2000). Simply go to www.gswausau.org and click on the donate button.

Part 3. You can still mail a check! For every family that turns in an offering envelope before Easter, an additional \$30 will be added (up to \$1500). Mail them to 930 Edgewood Rd, Wausau, WI 54403.

Our mission is critical, the time is near. Together we will keep worshiping, reaching out, ministering to each other, and **gathering, growing and going.**

T H A N K Y O U

To everyone who has already switched to online recurring giving options as well as mailing and dropping off your offering gifts. IT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!

IF YOU ARE SHOPPING ON AMAZON, by choosing [www.smile. Amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com), a percentage goes to the designation of your choice. Choose Good Shepherd!

Thinking Ahead: Softball & Dartball Greg Behrendt 715-842-9358

Is it not fair to say that most every young boy's first love is BASEBALL?

Reconnect with your childhood passion and find your own special GS community network by joining our own Good Shepherd Pointers softball team. Contact Greg Behrendt for now.

They play Sunday nights out at Sunnyvale Park. Families and crowds welcome!

Ps...There are lots of slots open so all players are being called in!

The Dartball Banquet is scheduled for June 1st at St. Marks in Wausau at 6 pm

Contact Greg to confirm if these events will take place as previously scheduled or will be rescheduled.



M A Y Birthdays

- | | | | | | |
|----|---------------------|----|---------------------|----|--------------------|
| 1 | Daniel Young | 12 | Bethany Schneider | 21 | Tara Murkowski |
| 2 | Nicole Batterman | 14 | Jacob Drescher | 24 | William Lakus |
| | Mike Crooks | | Marion Kloth | | Joel Mattice |
| | Diane P. Laszewski | 15 | Trevor Doering | 25 | Kristine Boulanger |
| 4 | Ralph Kohnhorst | | Ryan Ramthun | | Ann Jones |
| | Steven Manecke | 16 | Jackie Baranowski | 26 | Eugene Koehler |
| | Dale Thurs | 17 | Mike Sturzenegger | | Geraldine Luer |
| 5 | Mahriana Merkel | | Brianna Ullenbrauck | 27 | Lynn Fremming |
| 6 | Jane Johnson | 17 | Mindy Haase | 28 | Clyde Babcock |
| | Joyce Nick | | Ellen Hamilton | | Shelly Ellenbecker |
| 7 | Rick Jensen | | Ashley Klatt | 29 | Bonnie Beyersdorff |
| | Wesley Salzmann | | Ashley Zarda | 30 | Bonnie Anderson |
| 8 | Deborah Huckbody | 18 | John Boulanger | | Brooke Heise |
| | Jamie Oswald | | Charles Emerson | 31 | Greg Huckbody |
| 9 | Christopher Rayburn | | Renee Wenzel | | Michael Marciniak |
| | Lois Smith | 19 | Kaylen Majewski | | Clayton Schwede |
| 10 | Judith Westberg | 20 | Jovid Schuette | | |

M A Y Anniversaries

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|----|----------------------------|
| 2 | Harold & Beverly Eisenman | 18 | Ronald & Barbara Budimlija |
| 7 | Michael & Alice Duginske | 20 | Eric & Sara Edwardson |
| 11 | Nate & Susan Earl | | Cyrus & Laurie Bootz |
| 13 | Dan & Shannon Graveen | 22 | Alan & Jamie Oswald |
| | Troy & Kimberly Krezine | 27 | Heath & Daniella Edens |
| | Les & K Toth | | Jovid & Mindy Schuette |
| 14 | Rick & Sue Gering | 30 | Robin & Jill Falkowski |
| | Chris & Sadie Trapp | 31 | Nicholas & Jennifer Nelson |



If your contact information has changed,
don't forget to let us know!



WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

In recent weeks we have attempted to check in via phone calls and letters. We are finding that our contact information is drastically out of date. PLEASE consider sharing your mobile phone numbers if you no longer have a land line. In addition, if you no longer consider yourself connected to the ministries of Good Shepherd, we bless you and ask you to contact the office, thus releasing us so that our system can be accurately updated. **Thank You!**

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Wausau WI

Church Council meeting minutes

April 14, 2020 Socially distanced via Zoom online

Call to Order – 6:30 pm

Present: Pastor Kemp, Tim, Josh, Dorie, Jenny, Cory, Geri, Heidi, M. J., Brad, Steve, Paul

Gathering Litany – Pastor Kemp

God's Word

Devotional time – Geri [May – M.J., June – Brad, July – Steve, August – Heidi, September – Josh, October – Jenny, November – Cory, December – Dorie]

Sharing how you have seen God at work lately – ALL

Review

Agenda review - amended to include Strategic Planning as Old Business - Dorie / Paul APPROVED

Minutes review – Steve / Geri amended APPROVED

Treasurer / Financial Report - (First quarter is \$13,351 behind budget for revenue but expenses have been held lower by \$996.

Unexpectedly, March contributions were better than February. Reserves stand at about \$44K.). – M.J. / Geri APPROVED

Our Response to the Word (old business / open items)

Small Business Administration – Payment Protection Program – Guaranteed loan application was discussed. This U.S. Federal response could provide a loan to 2.5 x monthly payroll plus some additional expenses; the loan amount to be forgiven providing no staffing changes occur during that time. A MOTION was advanced by Paul to confirm the authority of staff and the Executive committee to apply for this Federal pandemic response funding source. Seconded by Brad – PASSED

Strategic Planning Initiative and Consultancy: - In light of the pandemic response, Council believes it is in Good Shepherd's best interest to postpone the Strategic Planning Initiative, likely until early 2021. Council President will discuss practical arrangements for this postponement with the consulting firm and is authorized to make changes as is amenable to the consultant. [Immediately following the meeting, Tim contacted the consultant and the Initiative is indefinitely postponed, along with any fees, pending resolution of COVID-19 barriers.]

Stewardship engagement: Council believes it is important to communicate the ongoing financial needs, as well as other support; and various convenient electronic means for members to continue support for Good Shepherd's vital mission. Geri graciously volunteered to craft a video message highlighting the current matching grant available for members' digital contributions. Council discussed the need to update contact information on Good Shepherd's membership roster, highlighted by the inability to contact members who might be helped during this unusual time.

Feedback / assessment of Virtual Ministry: Council enthusiastically recognized the value and success of the astonishingly adept transition to virtual platforms (YouTube video, Facebook, email, telephone...) to carry on ministry. It was highlighted and emphasized that this form of ministry requires immensely more work, time and effort on the part of our small staff. Council agrees virtual ministry should continue under the creative guidance of staff, with the understanding that we should all be wary of the specter of exhaustion or burn-out. A MOTION was advanced by Paul to authorize expenditure of no more than \$500 for video editing software and other incidental tools to reduce the staff workload required to carry on virtual ministry outreach. Seconded by Jenny - PASSED

Action Items:

Continue Strategic Planning Initiative

SBA – PPP application

Videos to communicate stewardship needs to socially distanced congregation

Rescheduling of Strategic Planning Initiative

Prayers of the Church / Lord's Prayer

Sending (motion to adjourn) Cory / Dorie PASSED Adjournment 8:30 pm

Special appreciation to Tim and Pastor Kemp for an excellent meeting using novel digital venue.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Grewe, GSLC Secretary



2020 ENDOWMENT FUND DISPERSEMENTS

Summer Dinners- Evangelism/Hospitality (MJ Horvat): \$800

A/V Equipment (Kartika Putri): \$500

Pastor's Fund: Possible Covid-19 Needs (Angie Huckbody): \$633.84

During this unprecedented time of the Corid-19 pandemic you or someone you know may need assistance due to circumstances related to the virus. People who have never experienced unemployment or financial insecurity may be experiencing it for the first time. Unforeseen changes in daily life activities or existing challenges may now be more difficult to manage with a need for assistance. There is resource help available at 211. 211 is a way to get connected and get help. It is free, confidential and available 24/7 serving Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage and Vilas counties. 211 is a non-emergency health and human services information and referral service that makes it easy for people to get connected with the appropriate community-based organizations and government agencies that can help them. It provides simple access to often complex and hard to find services. You can connect to 211 by phone just dial 211, text, or online chat. Email is another option to connect with one of the Information Specialists or you can search the online database at www.unitedwaymc.org/get-help. 211 will have the most up-to-date information regarding agency contacts and service hours. They can answer a wide variety of questions ranging from where to find parenting classes, how to find information on insurance options, interpreters services, child care, and many others. We hope you are feeling good and doing well during this time of social distancing.



“Keep the faith during times of difficulty there is always hope, remember that goodness and mercy are always following” 23 Psalm

“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of heavenly lights who does not change like shifting shadows,” James 1:17

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WAUSAU, WI 54403
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info@gswausau.org
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**CORPORATE
WORSHIP
IS SUSPENDED
UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE**

We are offering online
worship services that are
Released:
(they remain available at
our youtube channel)

**Sundays
Wednesdays**

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

STAFF

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Brian Wiese

Interim Financial Secretary
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Barb Denfeld

Mary Omernik

Parish Nurses
nurses@gswausau.org

Cory Toth LaPointe

Treasurer



CHECKING/SAVINGS ACCOUNT ACH AUTHORIZATION FORM

Effective date of authorization: ____/____/____			
Type of authorization: <input type="checkbox"/> New authorization <input type="checkbox"/> Change payment amount <input type="checkbox"/> Change payment date <input type="checkbox"/> Change banking information <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue electronic payment			
Last Name		First Name	
Address			
City		State	Zip
Email Address			
Phone Number			
Payment frequency: <input type="checkbox"/> Recurring – Select frequency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly: Mondays <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly: 1st <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly: 15th <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ Earliest date of first payment: ____/____/____ Amount of each payment: \$ _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> One-time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Process payment no earlier than: ____/____/____ Payment amount: \$ _____ 			
Fund designation: <input type="checkbox"/> Current Expenses / General Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Building Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____			
Please debit payment from my (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Savings Account <input type="checkbox"/> Checking Account		Routing Number: _____ <i>Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3</i> Account Number: _____	
<i>Contact your financial institution for Routing # or staple a voided check or deposit slip below</i>			
I authorize Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Wausau, Wisconsin and Vanco Services, LLC to process debit entries to my account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization.			
Authorized Signature: _____			Date: ____/____/____
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	MEMBER ENVELOPE #: _____	DATE RECEIVED: ____/____/____	DATE PROCESSED: ____/____/____

NOTE:

Due to our current Covid-19 practices, our Financial Secretary's hours have been modified to every other week which means that we are counting and depositing every other week. If you have questions on whether your offering has been received, please feel free to check in with the office.