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G A T H E R in Blessings * **G R O W** in Purpose * **G O** with Passion

MAY 2021 . Volume 57 . Issue 5

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Drive-up Communion Paused

Starting Sunday, May 2, Holy Communion will be available at the 9 am outdoor worship. There will no longer be drive-up Communion under the overhang on Wednesdays & Sundays.

JOIN US FOR
LIVE WORSHIP!

**Starting
Sunday, May 2
9:00 AM**

GSLC PARKING LOT
RAIN OR SHINE

BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIR
IF ITS NICE OUT

ONLINE WORSHIP
AVAILABLE

**Wednesdays
Sundays**

Spring greetings!

It is difficult to share this “out loud,” beloved, but I find myself at a place where I have not dwelled recently, or very often. In fact, the last time was a year or so after September 11, 2001. Randy was a member of one of my first congregations. He was 44 at the time and had lived a big chunk of his life struggling with a major illness. If memory serves, he died in the Fall of 2002, leaving behind a lovely wife and two daughters and a lot of life left to live. The prior year had been difficult as we all tried to manage the feelings freshly associated with the terrorist attacks of the previous September. By this point, I found myself at a place where I had no more words. I could not say anything new, fresh or noteworthy beyond what I had already said about it. The grief was deep and sometimes debilitating. There was no room for any more sorrow. Bandwidth was depleted. Compassionate space had been crowded out by sorrow and uncertainty, and honestly a lot of unresolved anger. I could feel it welling up, particularly when folks would direct their own anxieties toward me. Believe me, it is super tough when you start feeling the potential to hurt people inside of yourself. But it is real.

And I am feeling it again. It is lonely and frustrating and incapacitating. I don’t have any more words about COVID-19, nor about people (whomever they are) continuing to take other peoples’ lives seemingly every day without hesitation somewhere in our country. There just aren’t any more words for the countless additional appalling things directed toward our fellow citizens that we witness and hear about every single day. Which brings me back to Randy. It was a dry, empty season, and there were no words only hours before his funeral. None. So, I just started digging around in the Psalms ... looking for a way to offer some hope and comfort into a devastating time, and I landed at the following. They were good news then, and they have been good news for me again recently ... and they are good news for all of us right now.

I need good news. We all need good news, and God’s forever presence meets us in these fragile, delicate places.

Peace ... Pastor Kemp



Psalm 139 – The Inescapable God

O God, you know me inside and out, through and through.
Everything I do, every thought that flits through my mind, every step I take, every plan I make, every word I speak,
You know, even before these things happen.
You know my past; You know my future.
Your enveloping presence covers my every move.
Your knowledge of me sometimes comforts me, sometimes frightens me, but it is always far beyond my comprehension.
There is no way to escape You, no place to hide.
If I ascend to the heights of joy, You are there before me.
If I plunge into the depths of despair, You are there to meet me.
I could fly to the other side of the world and find You there to lead the way.
I could walk into the darkest night, only to find You there to lighten its dismal hours.
You were present at my conception.
You guided the molding of my unformed members within the body of my mother.
Nothing about me, from beginning to end, has been hidden from Your eyes.
How frightfully, fantastically wonderful it all is!
May Your all-knowing, everywhere-present Spirit continue to search out my feelings and thoughts.
Deliver me from that which may hurt or destroy me, and guide me along the paths of love and truth.

– Version copied from *Psalms Now* by Leslie F. Brandt

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

Reimagining Worship Task Force Update: Weekly Outdoor Worship Starts May 2!

We are pleased to announce that regular outdoor worship will begin at 9:00 am on Sunday May 2. Please bring your own chair if possible and join us outside in the parking lot. In the event of rain, bring your umbrella or plan on worshipping from your car! Masks and social distancing are required at this time. Online worship will continue on Wednesdays and also on Sundays for those who prefer to worship at home. Musicians are invited to bring the instrument of choice and play from your seat! Chords and music are provided in the worship bulletin.

Drive Up Communion Paused:

Drive-up communion on Wednesday and Sunday will be paused effective May 2. You may take extra elements during worship on Sunday or stop by the office during business hours to pick up elements for use during online worship.

We Care Ministry Update:

WeCare Ministry has been expanded to include a weekly meal delivery on Wednesdays. If you know someone who would benefit, please call the office. We are also always looking for folks to cook or deliver meals. If you are interested in helping, please let us know.

Affirmation of Baptism: Confirmation Sunday, May 16

Confirmation services for our 8th grade students will be held online on May 16th. We are proud of these students who despite the pandemic have faithfully met the requirements to participate in reaffirmation of baptism. We hope you will tune in to this meaningful service.

Church Clean-up Day: Saturday, May 22 @ 9:00 am

Our Confirmation Team and students are planning a community/church workday on May 22. We will be picking up trash by the river, working in the flower beds and yard and painting the Sunday School room! We would love to have you join us. Call the office if you'd like to help. Lunch will be included so let us know if you are planning to join us so we can plan!

From your Parish Nurses MAY

*Your Parish Nurses,
Barb & Mary*

930 EDGEWOOD RD
WAUSAU, WI 54403

(715) 675.1997

info@gsausau.org

www.gsausau.org

We are offering online
worship services

Released for:

Sundays

Wednesdays

**Outdoor Worship
Begins May 2, 9:00 am**

go to

GSLC Wausau WI on Youtube,

www.gsausau.org

Facebook

(they remain available at
our youtube channel)

Virtual Events for Caregivers:

Wisconsin's Family Caregiver Support Programs is happy to announce that there are many support groups, memory cafes, conferences, and other events that have moved to a virtual platform. Since these events are held via telephone or videoconference, people across Wisconsin are invited to participate.

A list of Support Groups, Memory Cafes, Ongoing Events, Upcoming Events, and Powerful Tools for Caregivers classes hosted by Wisconsin agencies can be found at the address below.

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/aging/caregiver.htm>

WOMEN OF
GOOD SHEPHERD
ANNUAL MEETING

MONDAY

May 10th @ 10:00 am

Come help review the funds
raised in 2019 and help
disperse to worthy causes.

THE OFFICE WILL
BE CLOSED

MONDAY, May 31st

IN OBSERVANCE OF
Memorial Day

CORKS N COVERS
THURSDAY, May 27th

How the Irish Saved Civilization
(NF) by Thomas Cahill /
Discussion leader Judie Urbanek

Host - Kris Kamrath at River Life
community room, 1000 River Dr. .
Enter parking lot at end of Fulton St. and
River Dr. Park in lot near apartment, but
not adjacent to building. Enter on main
floor and walk straight ahead and the
windowed community room will be on
your left.

CHURCH SOFTBALL IS
WARMING UP!

There is room for a few
more players.

Contact Greg Behrendt
for information on how
to get involved!

715-842-9358

STAFF

Rev. Kemp Jones

Senior Pastor

pastork@gsausau.org

Office: 715.675.1997 ext.: 306

C: 920.410.9210

Dr. Kartika Putri

Minister of Worship and Music

kartika@gsausau.org

Office: 715.675.1997 ext.: 303

C: 319-230-0250

Angie Huckbody

Parish Administrator

angie@gsausau.org

Office: 715.675.1997 ext.: 301

C: 715-574-6321

Brian Wiese

Interim Financial Secretary

Brian.gslcfinance@advant.com

Office: 715.539.6700

Barb Denfeld

Mary Omernik

Parish Nurses

nurses@gsausau.org

Cory Toth LaPointe

Treasurer

M A Y Birthdays



1	Daniel Young	14	Jacob Drescher	24	Jackie Krubsack
2	Nicole Batterman		Bob Guenthner		William Lakus
	Kelsi Kroening		Marion Kloth		Joel Mattice
	Diane P. Laszewski	15	Trevor Doering	25	Kristine Boulanger
4	Ralph Kohnhorst		Ryan Ramthun		Ann Kunkle-Jones
	Dale Thurs	16	Jackie Baranowski	26	Eugene Koehler
6	Jane Johnson		Mike Sturzenegger		Geraldine Luer
	Joyce Nick		Brianna Ullenbrauck	27	Lynn Fremming
	Jahn Sandman	17	Mindy Haase	28	Clyde Babcock
7	Wesley Salzmann		Ellen Hamilton		Shelly Ellenbecker
8	Deborah Huckbody	18	John Boulanger		Sarah Kane
	Jamie Oswald	19	Gregory Glovinski		Paisley Thoma
9	Lois Smith		Kaylen Majewski	29	Bonnie Beyersdorff
10	Judith Westberg	20	Jovid Schuette	30	Bonnie Anderson
12	Bethany Schneider	22	Iva Belle La Fontaine		Brooke Heise
				31	Greg Huckbody

M A Y Anniversaries

2	Harold & Beverly Eisenman
13	Les & K Toth
14	Rick & Sue Gering
	Chris & Sadie Trapp
21	Cyrus & Laurie Bootz
22	Alan & Jamie Oswald
27	Jovid & Mindy Schuette
30	Robin & Jill Falkowski



WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

This has been a year of old-fashioned communication. ie...phone calls and letters. We have a ways to go to get updated mobile numbers for those who have forfeited their landlines. 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 MAY CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Online Worship Available Sundays			Online Worship Available Wednesdays			1
2 9:00 am Worship outdoors	3	4 Exec Mtg 5:30 pm Zoom	5 LWR Quilters 8:30 am Wed AA 9:00 am Confirmation Zoom 6-7:30 pm	6	7	8
9 9:00 am Worship outdoors	10 LWR Quilters 8:30 am Women of GSLC Meeting 10:00 am	11 Church Council Mtg 6:30 pm Zoom	12 Wed AA 9:00 am Confirmation Zoom 6-7:30 pm OFFERING COUNT	13 ASCENSION DAY	14 Synod Assembly via Zoom 4:30 pm	15 Synod Assembly via Zoom 8-5:00 pm
16 9:00 am Worship outdoors Affirmation of Baptism (online) Synod Assembly/ Installation Worship	17 LWR Quilters 8:30 am	18 LWR Quilters 8:30 am End of season lunch out to follow	19 Wed AA 9:00 am Confirmation Zoom 6-7:30 pm	20	21	22 GSLC Clean Up Day 9:00 am
23 PENTECOST SUNDAY 9:00 am Worship outdoors	24	25	26 Wed AA 9:00 am Confirmation Zoom 6-7:30 pm OFFERING COUNT	27 Corks n Covers 1:30 pm	28	29
30 TRINITY SUNDAY 9:00 am Worship outdoors	31 Office Closed Memorial Day					

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Wausau WI
Church Council meeting minutes

March 9, 2021 Socially distanced via Zoom online

Call to Order –6:30 pm *Present: Pastor Kemp Jones, Josh Stumpner, Brad Bartelt, Cory Toth-LaPointe, Cheryl Rocheleau, Shelly Ellenbecker, Tony Omernik, Heidi Falstad, Jenny Samperisi, M. J. Horvat, Steve Herring, Geri Luer, Paul Grewe, [all]

Gathering Litany – Pastor Kemp

God's Word

- Devotional time, Paul –[consideration of Meta Herrick Carlson's "For Good Enough" from "Ordinary Blessings: Prayers, Poems, and Meditations for Everyday Life," commended by Bishop Anne Edison-Albright]
- Sharing how you have seen God at work lately – ALL

Review

- Agenda review - Correction of devotional schedule Shelly / Jenny – APPROVED
- Minutes review – Corrected spelling of Cheryl's name. Last names added. Steve / Shelly - APPROVED
- Treasurer / Financial Report – Cory - February income was \$16,930, expenses were \$27,988. We transferred \$2,552 from the building fund for a negative \$8,505 in total net income. Current reserves are \$12,253 in the general fund, \$16,986 in the building fund, and \$13,253 in work of the church. The monthly transfer from the building fund covers the mortgage and snow removal. These funds come in via monthly contributions designated to the building fund (income) and we then transfer them out (expense). Josh's video brief regarding the financial need will be posted. - Geri / Brad APPROVED

Our Response to the Word

(new business)

- **Interest-only mortgage loan payment opportunity** – Angie contacted our mortgage lender regarding extending interest-only payments during the pandemic. They offered an option of pre-paying \$15,000 of principal to allow for two years of interest-only payments followed by a two-year extension of our loan. Alternatives for amassing the up-front payment were considered. A MOTION was offered by Tony that our GSLC Finance committee review this and other alternatives, calculate costs and savings, and present a proposal for consideration by Council in time for the April meeting. Seconded by M.J. - APPROVED.
- **Task Force update (in-house worship)**– Our task force planning and analyzing worship safety continues to work tirelessly as rapid changes (vaccine availability / emergence of deadlier variants) occur. They rest decisions upon Synod recommendations, best available science, and local and regional trends; including decisions by area churches. They are strongly committed to facilitating the most tangible, personal worship opportunities we can safely offer.

(old business)

- **Education update**
 - **a) Confirmation** - Planning continues for Confirmation classes this year for ~20 expected confirmands, with a meeting of Confirmation Leaders scheduled tomorrow, March 10th. Confirmation education is anticipated to kick-off mid-May.
 - **b) Sunday School** - Jenni Samperisi is generously volunteering her leadership, teaching both online and using safe tangible resources including: weekly newsletters, readings, activity kits, prayers and journals. The response from children and parents is overwhelmingly positive.
- **Social media evangelism opportunities** - The pandemic has both forced many people to seek Christian connection online, and forced GSLC to hone our capabilities of connecting with our Christian family online. Recent emphasis on interacting ("like" "share" "comment") with our GSLC online content has resulted in immediate additions of people watching our content. But the interaction must continue for more people to join us. Regular worshipers must interact ("like" "share" "comment") for us to grow. We seek ways to communicate the importance of this. Blessedly, 4 new families – from online interaction, who have never set foot in our building, intend on joining GSLC. One intends on joining confirmation.
- **a) GSLC website** - Council will work to improve the accuracy and ease of our website, and tie it with other online venues.
- **b) YouTube / Facebook** - These are our 'front door' to online worshipers. Both increase our visibility only insofar as we interact ("like" "share" "comment").
- ❖ **1.) 'Boosting' fee** - Online venues offer "boosting" of visibility for a fee. Council members have agreed to individually sponsor one month each of the cost of online boosting as an experiment in evangelism.
- **Stewardship for all Seasons planning decision** – GSLC will be completing our second year of Stewardship for all Seasons (SFAS) consultation. Council discussed the positive result that we are beginning to learn the sometimes uncomfortable but always important value of communicating why to participate tangibly and financially in the life of our Church. We weighed the consulting fee (\$1,900/yr). Council also discussed Strategic Planning consultation, which has been put on hold during the pandemic. A MOTION was offered by Steve to engage in another year of SFAS while tabling Strategic Planning for the coming year – to resume May/June. Seconded by Tony, the motion was APPROVED.

Action Items:

- ✓ Visit our GSLC website [gswausau.org] and poke around checking information.
- ✓ Share GSLC via Social Media.

Prayers of the Church / Lord's Prayer

Sending (motion to adjourn) Shelly / Steve PASSED Adjournment 8:00 pm

Respectfully submitted, Paul Grewe, GSLC Secretary