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M A Y : 2 0 2 2



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

MAY 2022 . Volume 58 . Issue 5

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JOIN US FOR  
LIVE WORSHIP!

**Sundays @ 9:00 AM**

ONLINE WORSHIP  
AVAILABLE

**Wednesdays  
Sundays**







At the end of March, I began a sermon with the following statement, “*Data are our friends.*” I want to share some statistics with you this month in hope of igniting some conversation. Your leaders are eager for dialogue on this because we are entering a season where it appears we will need to make some very difficult decisions. We cannot do this alone and will need your partnership. While I am not alarmist by nature, it is fair to say these statistics point to a reality that cannot be ignored much longer, because the trend outlined has been steady for at least 50 years. The full truth may not be obvious for a while, but together as a congregation it would be wise to wrestle with it now rather than later when/if grim reality does come to pass. I anticipate following up on this topic for the next several months because there is much to unpack and digest ... and suggest.

Back in May of 2017, our synod began a visioning process with Dwight Zscheile, VP of Innovation and associate professor of Congregational Mission and Leadership at Luther Seminary. Many of us went through Dwight’s amazing book, ***The Agile Church***, which encourages cutting-edge thinking on innovation to help churches flourish when so many are struggling amid upheaval and uncertainty. In 2019, Dwight wrote a piece based upon fresh (at the time) research from the ELCA that was/is startling. It is on my mind now because it has been floating around in clergy circles again recently. Essentially, according to current membership and participation trends, the ELCA could essentially cease to exist within the next generation, projecting fewer than 16,000 in worship on an average Sunday by 2041. The pandemic has not been kind to churches at all and has even accelerated declining trends. Certainly, data can be interpreted in multiple ways, so this is not necessarily the last word. And this decline is not exclusive to the ELCA by any means, but we are neck-in-neck with the pace cars. And based on what I hear and observe, it appears frighteningly accurate. We could be entering the ELCA’s final generation, and our congregation is in a very fragile state right now.

Please take a moment and let that soak in. I’m not interested in whose fault it is, but I would welcome the opportunity to engage in some creative thinking with congregational leaders and members about how to respond proactively rather than react in fear ... and too late, which it could possibly already be. Additionally, it is accurate to say bigger, deeper cultural forces are imbedded in this. I’m not going to sugarcoat things, the threat is real, it is apparent every day, and it is menacing.

Zscheile and his partner Michael Binder offer three themes that appear to be informing the rapid decline among mainline denominations:

- 1) **We live in a culture that makes it hard for people to imagine and be led by God.** Many see God as unnecessary for living a good life. A transcendent God is improbable and unconvincing. Meaning, purpose, identity and community are found on our own. Faith can be helpful, but it’s optional.
- 2) **We aren’t clear about what’s distinctive about being Christian.** The church does a poor job of telling its story and what sets it apart from any other organization. There are other options for being in a social, cultural, or community service organization, if that is the point. There is no particular vision being articulated as to how church practices make a difference in people’s lives.
- 3) **For these reasons, church isn’t helping many people make meaning of their lives.** Faith may be helpful to have, but it is not the center of life for very many. They are turning elsewhere to find meaning, purpose, etc.

I want to encourage you to prayerfully consider what truth lies in these themes for each of you and your families, as well as for people you may know. While the future of the church and congregations is entirely in God’s hands, for us to be the partners God has called us to be in all of this, we need to come to a place of honesty about how true these are for how we and our neighbors operate and engage in mission together. And wherever we see ourselves reflected in these trends, we must own what needs to be owned, repent of what needs to be repented, discern what is the best version of our congregation, and find ways to lean back into Christ’s plan for the church from the very beginning – to risk loving others in the same way Christ loves us.

Next time, I’ll share some things we ought to consider moving forward. Stay tuned. I expect much will be happening in the next few months.



## A Note from our Parish Nurse.

### Mary

Thank you! Good Shepherd for the opportunity to share my nursing knowledge as a parish nurse. I appreciate the understanding and kindness you have shown me. I want to inform you I am no longer able to serve as a parish nurse. The congregation is a vital partner of parish nursing. Together, we are the church, a community called to care for one another. Some ways in which we can be a part of this partnership is by assisting someone to obtain groceries, sharing a kind word, a trip to a medical appointment, and a gift of food or a meal. There are many ways in which we all can be a partner of our health ministry and I will be partnering with you in this mission as one of the flock.

God's peace be with you, Mary

## 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 @ 9 am!

## first communion:

Children 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to participate in First Communion instruction. This consists of a Saturday workday on May 7 (9am-noon) and then the celebrating First Communion during worship on May 8 @9 am worship.

RSVP needed for materials.

## BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday May 5 \* 1-6 pm

For appt call 1-800-redcross

1-800-733-2767 Or

Visit [redcrossblood.org](http://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](http://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](http://lhm.org)

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

Date	1-May	8-May	15-May	22-May	29-May
Asst. Minister	MJ Horvat	Cari Logemann	Tim H/MJ Horvat	Andrew Walters	Paul Grewe
Greeter 1	K Toth	Barb Denfeld	Bonnie Anderson	K Toth	MJ Horvat
Greeter 2	Susan Mazique	Helen Vance	Jean Korpela	Barb Denfeld	Susan Mazique
Usher 1	Greg Behrendt	Marty Krahn	L. Sturzenegger	Paul Grewe	Greg Behrendt
Usher 2	Hank Pleuss	Paulette Keough	M. Sturzenegger	JoAnn Grewe	Hank Pleuss

## Ukraine Relief:

**Total Collected:**

**\$3,473.78**

**Your efforts make a  
difference!**

**Lutheran World Relief**

*The need continues*

You can give directly to  
Lutheran World Relief!

## OFFICIAL ACTS

**Baptism: 4-3-2022**

*Kennedy Grace Thoma*

Have you been hitting share?  
Did you know this expands  
the reach of Good Shepherd  
ministries at no cost?  
**GIVE IT A TRY!**

## **CALLING FOR HELPERS: YARD CLEANUP DAY – Sat, May 7 @ 8:30 am**

Our yard is ready for it's spring cleanup day! We can use all aged hands topick sticks and pinecones, rake and prepare for lawn mowing season. Bring rakes, friends and lots of helpers. Call Marty Krahn if you have questions. 715-297-6449

# MAY CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Adult Forum Sunday School 10:15 am	<b>2</b> 5:30 pm Shepherd Strummers	<b>3</b> 9:00 am LWR Quilters	<b>4</b> 9:00 am AA 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b> 1:00 pm Blood Drive	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9:00 am First Communion Workshop
<b>8</b> 9:00 am Worship/ First Communion Milestone  10:00 am Adult Forum Sunday School 10:00am	<b>9</b> 5:30 pm Shepherd Strummers	<b>10</b> 9:00 am LWR Quilters  6:30 pm Church Council Meeting	<b>11</b> 9:00 am AA 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Choir  OFFERING COUNT	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> ECSW Synod Assembly	<b>14</b> ECSW Synod Assembly
<b>15</b> 9:00 am Worship Affirmation of Baptism  10:00 am Adult Forum Sunday School	<b>16</b> 5:30 pm Shepherd Strummers	<b>17</b> 9:00 am LWR Quilters	<b>18</b> 9:00 am AA 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Plant Sale 8-1 pm
<b>22</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School  Plant Sale	<b>23</b> 5:30 pm Shepherd Strummers	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 9:00 am AA 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b> 1:30 pm Corks n Covers  6:30 pm Riverview Neighborhood Mtg  Ascension Day	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> OFFICE CLOSED Memorial Day	<b>31</b>  OFFERING COUNT	<b>1</b> 9:00 am AA 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>

## MAY Birthdays



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

## MAY Anniversaries

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

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

Sunday Worship @ 9 am

**We are also offering  
online worship  
services  
Released for:  
Sundays & Wednesdays**

go to  
GSLC Wausau WI on Youtube,  
www.gsausau.org  
Facebook  
(they remain available at  
our youtube channel)

### STAFF

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**Barb Denfeld**

Parish Nurse

nurses@gsausau.org

**Cory Toth LaPointe**

Treasurer

## Good Shepherd Church Council Meeting Minutes: March 8, 2022

### Call to Order & Attendance

6:30 pm – Members Present: Pastor Kemp Jones, Josh Stumpner, MJ Horvat, Jenny Samperisi, Corey Toth-LaPointe, Laurie Sturzenegger, Mike Sturzenegger, Chad Majewski. Zoom: Cheryl Rocheleau, Shelly Ellenbecker.

### Gathering Litany

Pastor Kemp

### God's Word

**Devotional Time** – Josh Stumpner – shared reading on growing as Christians

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

### Review/Approval

Agenda Review/Approval (MSC: Cory/Mike)

Feb. Minutes Review/Approval (MSC: Laurie/ Jenny)

### Treasurer/Financial Report

MSC (MJ/Chad)

- Expenses were high for month
  - o Professional Services & IT Services
    - PCs, Internet, Phone = \$482 /mo.
  - o Brian fees (IT & Finance)
  - o Kartika Attorney fees for Visa
    - Moving to different category as a cleanup item
    - May be more in the future, but we are good for now
  - o Kerber Rose
    - Jan/Feb bill assumed to have year-end work included
  - o Stewardship
    - Covered all of last year
  - o Utilities

### Our Response to the Word

**2021 Fall Stewardship Update** – Josh volunteered to make some phone calls on his own.

**IT Upgrade Update** – Quote received and was much higher than expected at \$32,000. Josh to reach out to Audio Architects to see if they would be interested in job. Pastor Kemp to share quote with Josh and Chad.

**Re-Imaging Worship Update** – 1<sup>st</sup> service with masks not required went fine. Discussed moving coffee and snacks back to lobby from the hall and moving 2<sup>nd</sup> tall table back to lobby as well to try and get more people. Plan to continue up to Confirmation Sunday at minimum.

**Engaging Congregation** – Continue to request those in attendance to fill out the pink cards. Chad to work with Angie on setting up Google form so we can send out to congregation members to update their contact information as we have a reliable list of emails. May also use it as a way to walk around and talk to members at Sunday service.

**Church Council Assistance During Lent** – GSLC is doing 'Grab & Go' soup til gone after each service. Discussed Council assistance by either making soup or donating monetarily. All weeks covered except Mar.30, which Laurie and Cheryl will cover making, with the rest giving money for ingredients.

**Easter Egg Hunt** – Discussed if we should/should not and was decided to bring it back on Palm Sunday after service. Went over process to get eggs filled and backup plan in the case of inclement weather. Jen volunteered



to setup some craft tables for kids. Will advertise on Riverview Neighborhood Facebook page as well as in the bulletin.

**High Priority Concerns** – Briefly discussed ideas on how to raise money for church as concerns are high for GLSC's well-being. A few ideas were shared with renting office space or the hall as top items. Decided to meet again prior to the April Council meeting with all tasked with bringing their ideas.

#### **Action Items**

**Vanco vs Tithe.ly Mobile App Comparison (Chad)**   **Engaging our Congregation**  
**ECDC Update**   **Nominating Committee process**

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

- Confirmation kids wrote their own version of The Lord's Prayer which Pastor Kemp shared with Council

#### **Sending/Motion to Adjourn**

Meeting Adjourned 8:15 pm (MSC: Cory/Jenny)

Respectfully submitted by Chad Majewski, council Secretary