

930 Edgewood Road Wausau, WI 54403

(Change Service Requested)

June 2020



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

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



Simply put, the last sixty days have shown us there are no easy answers, dear friends in Christ.

On May 13, the Supreme Court of the State of Wisconsin issued a ruling that, whether one agrees with it or not, has left many of us rather confused about what is next and when. Guidance and detailed strategies have been largely abandoned. But I want to assure you that our leaders at Good Shepherd are working on strategies for how we will faithfully and safely proceed from this point forward, including how we might re-open for services in our worship space. As of right now, there are no projected dates for resuming activities, and full disclosure, it will probably still be a while before that can happen because there are so many important considerations to address. Your prayers and patience are coveted as we begin to take steps in this direction.

In the meantime, what are the people of God to do? For now, we remain cautious and considerate. Emotions range from jubilation to dejection, and these feelings are real and running hot in both directions. Regardless, Jesus' command to love each other as God loves us must ground who we are, and everything we do. So as always, I remind us to be kind and loving to each other, both church folk and neighbors, even if we are not quite seeing eye to eye. Listen to each other ... and please remember none of us can (or should) be completely defined by any one particular belief about any one issue.

Also, please bear in mind that the ongoing illness and death from COVID-19 and all of the risk factors did not just go away the moment the Supreme Court ruled. People are still being infected, still suffering and still dying. Our amazing healthcare workers still struggle on the "front lines" with decisions of life and death every single day. Those in the workplace still must wrestle with whether they will contract COVID-19 every day. Many of our neighbors will continue to struggle financially, mentally, and physically for a long time to come ... and our neighbors are not just the ones we can physically see or run into in the neighborhood. When Jesus says "Love your neighbor," he literally moves the focus away ourselves and our own needs and preferences, toward those who need our love, concern and care, wherever they may be. We can just as earnestly pray for those in need whom we do not know as those we do. Whether it is a family member or close relative, or a friend from school or work, might we commit ourselves even more toward making a difference in their lives during a time that remains difficult for so many? Much has been said about freedom recently, and the lifting of restrictions certainly frees us in these times to be God's healing hands in this world around us, doesn't it? What might that look like for you?

As we continue to figure all of this out, we remain hopeful and prayerful for guidance from civic and religious leaders, and from the Holy Spirit, that holds in highest regard the well-being of everyone. As a church, our advocacy and commitment to that will not change. While we wait, our leaders and those of local ELCA congregations remain committed to hearing the well-researched voices of local health officials, the Wisconsin Department of Health, the Wisconsin Council of Churches, the CDC, and the World Health Organization as part of the important conversation on our next steps together as a community of faith.

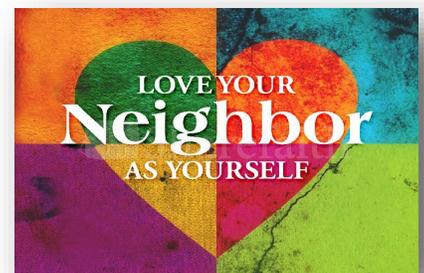
In line with that guidance, we will continue to worship online for the foreseeable future. The church building will remain closed as we learn what we must do to keep everyone safe and well. Please know that no matter where, when or how we gather for worship, God is there, and God's love has never been bound by the walls of a building, no matter how sacred we may proclaim it to be. The word of God has always traversed every barrier and boundary, and it still does. It does not matter whether we are fully dressed or still in our sleeping attire when we celebrate God's goodness, even in this season of COVID-19.

For now, we carefully move forward in love for all of you. Our Executive Committee and Church Council are in frequent conversation and have convened a Re-opening Task Force to attend to the various issues that must be addressed. We are already aware with absolute certainty that any final decisions will not please everyone, but we pray you will trust that they are faith-filled and driven by our desire to keep everyone safe and well. They will be made in good faith and with deep care for each one of you in mind. We ask you to keep the leadership in constant prayer, to have patience, and to offer extra grace as we attend to some of the most difficult and important work that we have ever been called to do.

Jesus did some of his best work amid rough waters.

May it be so for us as well.

Peace ... 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. 7 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

CHALLENGE GRANT! Congratulations Good Shepherd!

We had a great response to the challenge grant this spring with over 200 separate mailed in contributions, and also a good increase in on-line giving and Simply Giving (our scheduled giving platform). This means together we reached the challenge and the \$5000 grant. What a great testimony to God working in our lives, the value of and the commitment to our ministry.



Way to go, thanks to all, let's keep it going and alive here!

Good Shepherd Stewardship Committee

Hello Good Shepherd Family and Friends:

I'm happy to be taking a few minutes to talk to you today. I have missed you all and I am looking forward to a time when we can safely reopen our building and worship together in person again. I am part of a task force that is working on a plan that will lead to reopening our church building when it is safe. Keep in mind that we have never closed our church, just our building! Our worship and connection have remained vibrant because of the hard work of your Good Shepherd staff and members of our congregation who have remotely assisted in worship.

Worshiping together in our church building isn't like going to the grocery store where we walk quickly from one area to another. Here are a few of the things we must consider: How do we assure people come in and out of the building while maintaining a safe 6 foot distance from others? Once in the building how do we assure folks stay socially distanced? How do we thoroughly clean the worship space between and following services? Knowing that singing and unison readings have the potential to spread Covid-19, how do we structure our worship to take this into account? How do we effectively minimize touching shared surfaces like collection plates etc? What about our restrooms? Do we keep them closed or develop a plan to clean between each person who uses them? How do we continue to encourage our most vulnerable members to stay safe? Those of you who are over 65 like me have been cautioned to be particularly careful about gathering in groups. Do we continue to produce an online worship once we are physically reopened to encourage our most vulnerable and distant worshipers to stay connected?

This is only a portion of what we are considering. We know that our county has had a low number of cases of Covid-19 and we want to do our part to see that continues. Please know that we all want to see each other again when we can do that safely. Your church staff, council and leadership will be working to assure that we can do that with confidence when the time is right. In the meantime, reach out to others in a safe way to stay connected. If you have ideas on how to accomplish a safe reopening of our building, give a council member or staff a call. Please continue to support Good Shepherd with your prayers and with your financial gifts. We are one in Christ's body and we stay united in our mission to safely Gather...Grow...and Go. Thank you for listening.

MJ Horvat,

Good Shepherd Re-Opening Task Force

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, a percentage goes to the designation of your choice. Choose Good Shepherd!

JUNE Birthdays



1 Mason Blank
2 Howard Drebenstedt
3 Danielle Delange
4 Loren Beyersdorff
4 Jack Graveen
4 Jamie Schoessow
5 Duane Doering
6 Ross Klatt
6 Jaden Malzahn
7 Carol Easter
7 Harold Eisenman
7 Kathryn Londerville
9 Carol Carmichael
9 Morgan Cummings
10 Ashlee Birkholz
10 James Carmichael
10 Taylor Murkowski
10 Jane Ziebell
11 Sophie Becker

11 Arlene Henke
11 Kip Luebke
12 Anne Buntrock
12 Jane Cloutier
12 Sawyer Grubb
12 Danica Sturzenegger
13 Tricia Maier
14 Nicole Graveen
15 Reid Bodenheimer
15 Frances Carmichael
15 Debra Clemens
16 Steven Martell
19 Barbara Krautkramer
20 Dawn Thorwaldson
20 Darrell Worden
22 Sara Edwardson
22 Makayla Malzahn
22 Oliver Merkey
22 Malibu Springer

23 Clarice Kohnhorst
23 Allan Teige
24 Riley Jones
24 Timothy Worden
25 Karrieann Bargender
25 Megan Bresnahan
25 Taylor Graveen
25 Mark Selby
26 Arlyn Westberg
27 Wendy Baeseman-Roddy
27 Karen Bliese
27 Caden Guldan
28 Samantha Bartelt
28 Adam Pleuss
28 Dawson Stapleton
30 Fox Klein
30 James Nick
30 Emersyn Reich

JUNE Anniversaries



3 Brent & Melissa Kriewaldt
5 Rick & Tracie Andreshak
6 Mark & Pam Hildebrandt
9 Ken & Sheree Schnoor
10 Jason & Stephanie Teske
12 Alex & Ashley Kreger
12 Christopher & Julie Rayburn
12 Greg & Janelle Turinetti
13 Charles & Amber Emerson
14 Jesse & Kathryn Londerville
17 Dustin & Rebecca Chapman

17 Duane & Elisha Doering
18 Paul & Pam Daigle
19 Lawrence & Jean Korpela
19 Steve & Janet Herring
20 Carley & Jenna Blado
20 Paul & Sara Boettcher
21 Brian & Amy Merkey
21 Earl & Juliann Taylor
22 Andrew & Shawna Fromfeld
22 Paul & Joann Grewe
22 Ross & Michelle Klatt

22 Kenneth & Yvonne Sitko
24 Brian & Michelle Schueller
25 Rick & Debra Clemens
26 Brian & Barb Denfeld
26 Tom & Sue Domka
28 Charles Jr & Marjorie Schwede
29 Dean & Bonnie Krubsack
29 Rand Krueger & Nancy Bergstrom
29 Dan & Diana LaCerte

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Wausau WI

Church Council meeting minutes
May 12, 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 – M.J. "Coping in the Midst of Worry" [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 - Geri / Paul APPROVED

Minutes review – Cory / Josh APPROVED

Treasurer / Financial Report - (April income \$24,840 / expenses \$25,112. Income is below budget but steady. PPP loan received.) Jenny / Brad APPROVED

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

Stewardship for All Seasons – update form recent task force meeting – DORIE – Review of Season One including progress toward 3 goals: Faith Formation Director; placed on hold pending financial constraints. To be reconsidered if/when financially feasible. Parish Nursing program is receiving increased support. Season Two is much impacted by the pandemic, yet focuses on Engagement. For discussion is the timing of seeking congregational commitment to goals. (Likely around Thanksgiving) The committee is staffing up for Season Two.

Small Business Administration – Payment Protection Program – TIM / Pastor KEMP - Guaranteed loan application was approved. Funds were transferred in April 21. Funds must be used permanent staff compensation and some fixed costs over an 8.5 week period. The bulk of the loan should qualify for forgiveness, with the exception of costs calculated on last year's non-permanent position wages. Working with bank staff and our accountant to confirm details of which wages are forgivable.

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. Tim contacted the consultant and the Initiative is indefinitely postponed, along with any fees, pending resolution of COVID-19 barriers.

Our Response to the Word (new business)

Endowment Fund grants modified purpose in response to pandemic response – Summer Dinners- Evangelism/Hospitality (MJ Horvat): \$800, A/V Equipment (Kartika Putri): \$500, Pastor's Fund: Possible Covid-19 Needs (Angie Huckbody): \$633.84, A **MOTION** was advanced by DORIE to approve the Endowment Fund disbursements as recommended by the Endowment Fund committee, allowing disbursed funds to be adjusted for pandemic response. Seconded by Steve - PASSED

E – Worship / Reach and Engagement: - We are optimistically surprised by the response to E – Worship platforms. We are now sharing Worship with people as distant as Kentucky and Switzerland. People who have been out of contact with GSLC are back in contact through these conduits. Staff and others are brainstorming other viable venues such as public access local cable or distributable physical media such as CDs. One area of concern remains those without access or experience with digital media. M.J. reports that she remains in contact with a large proportion of confirmands who share that they often participate in worship digitally. We continue to wrestle with questions surrounding sharing Eucharist.

'Reopening' / Time course, and ideas of what reducing "social distance" may look like: - Council firmly agrees with following State and Federal guidelines regarding precautions and grouping of people safely. We are particularly saddened by medical findings that singing in any enclosed place or in physical proximity creates unacceptable risk of viral transmission. Our worship and relationship will continue to increase and evolve as creativity, technology and medical knowledge advance. Present understanding makes physical gathering unlikely in the coming months or greater. Consideration is being given to increasing general awareness of the likely time scale of continued physical distancing among the community of GSLC.

Action Items:

Reach out to cross barriers to participating in worship together

Brainstorm practical venues to expand access to worship

Prayers of the Church / Lord's Prayer

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

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Grewe, GSLC Secretary

Staying healthy in mind, body and spirit requires us to develop healthy habits. Just as exercise builds muscles, building your resilience strengthens your ability to bounce back from problems and challenges. The American Psychological Association has an article entitled Building Your Resilience which is very well written. It can be found at <https://www.apa.org/topics/resilience>. The article can help empower you to withstand and learn from difficult and traumatic experiences. It discusses building your connections, fostering wellness, finding purpose and embracing healthy thoughts. If you are feeling less connected to others during this time of social distancing you can always contact our faith community. Our church has been reaching out to stay connected to members. Please feel free call the office to let them know if you or someone you know could benefit from a friendly call or zoom chat.

Peace,

*Your Parish Nurses,
Barb & Mary*



"The Lord is my strength and shield. I trust him with all my heart. He helps me, and my heart is filled with joy." Psalm 28:7 NLT

SUMMER NOISY OFFERING: Crossway Camping Ministries

While the pandemic has been difficult for everyone, it has been brutal for one of our ministry partners. Crossways made the agonizing decision to cancel all camps for the entire summer of 2020. This will be catastrophic for their well-being! We are inviting our congregation to help out by including a noisy offering along with your financial gifts. Just attach a note to your envelope, online giving option or make a call at the office.

Your support is greatly appreciated!

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info@gswausau.org
www.gswausau.org

**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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**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: <input type="checkbox"/> One-time: <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly: Mondays <input type="checkbox"/> Biweekly: Monday every other week Process payment no earlier than: <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly: 1 st <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-monthly: 1 st & 15 th <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly: 15 th <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly: 1 st day of each quarter _____/_____/_____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ Earliest date of first payment: ____/____/_____ Payment amount: Amount of each payment: \$ _____ \$ _____			
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.