

# Good Shepherd

LUTHERAN CHURCH

930 Edgewood Road Wausau, WI 54403

(Change Service Requested)

JUNE: 2022

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

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JOIN US FOR  
LIVE WORSHIP!

**Sundays @ 9:00 AM**

ONLINE WORSHIP  
AVAILABLE

**Wednesdays  
Sundays**



### FIRST COMMUNION MILESTONE

**This year was a hybrid effort. The first round had in-person instruction May 7 and celebrated their First Communion with the congregation on May 8, 2022. Round 2 gathered remotely with Zoom over 2 lesson times and will celebrate their First Communion in person when they are able to be here. We give thanks for these young children of God and the various ways we are able to learn and grow in God's love together. Thank you Ms. Jenny & Pastor Kemp for your leadership!**



#### ROUND 1 STUDENTS:

Joshua Gruna  
Felicity Helke  
Finn Helke  
Liliana Jensen  
Addison Stumpner  
Kyiah Walters



#### ROUND 2 STUDENTS:

Charlotte Doering  
Chase Majewski  
Ollie Merkey  
Henry Merkey  
Benji Merkey  
Brexton Zastrow







## Affirmation of Baptism

5-15-2022

Bailey Patrick Berndt  
Trevor Allan Doering  
Logan Gerald Glovinski  
Jacob Jeremy Gruna  
Dylan Jeffrey Mork  
Avari Grace Ramthun  
Natalie Ann Stumpner

We ask  
God's Blessings  
on this special day!

Thank you to everyone  
who supported the faith  
journey with this  
Confirmation class  
throughout the last three  
years. Our prayers and  
blessings be with you all!  
We offer a special thank  
you to the leaders, Pastor  
Kemp, Tim and Jenn  
Holcomb, MJ Horvat and  
Susan Mazique.



Hopefully, you recall that last month I began to set the stage for some important work that our congregation needs to begin together just as soon as possible. I ended my article with three themes that seem to be informing the stagnation and decline of congregations according to researchers and consultants, Dwight Zscheile and Michael Binder:

- 1) **We live in a culture that makes it hard for people to imagine and be led by God.**
- 2) **We aren't clear about what's distinctive about being Christian.**
- 3) **For these reasons, church isn't helping many people make meaning of their lives.**

I suggested that the process of honestly addressing this begins with family and self-reflection and examination, ownership, repentance, discerning the best version of our congregation, and finding ways to lean back into Christ's plan for the church from the very beginning – to love our neighbors in the same way that Christ loves us. This month, I want to lean particularly into the last two actions we need to take as a congregation.

We are already seeing the shape of the institutional church and various denominations changing, likely leading to what we know as church looking dramatically different sooner rather than later. How do we respond to this? I would suggest the essential element of this is to learn to receive it as gospel rather than law, as an opportunity to rediscover our identity rather than a threat to how things have always been. We simply must stop using the same old methods in hope of seeing different results. That said, there is much about allowing the Spirit to work in all this that could best be called “tried and true,” through re-adopting things that we have allowed ourselves to get away from for much too long, and to our detriment:

- 1) Rediscover and reclaim the core Christian faith practices directed and modeled by Jesus. Can we make prayer, worship, studying scripture together and connecting with to daily life, service, Sabbath-taking, radical (even reckless) inclusion, generosity, reconciliation, and stewardship of the vision of the church the core of our personal and congregational life?
- 2) Shift to being worship participants instead of recipients. Are we willing to be trained ourselves and to train others to practice faith in daily life, and together to adopt spiritual habits and practices that help us walk our talk and be distinctive as Christians in our community and beyond?
- 3) Curate stories. Are we willing to become good listeners and caretakers of each other's stories to help each other make meaning through connecting our stories to the larger story of faith?
- 4) Make faith and culture accessible to each other. Can we reclaim our Lutheran legacy of translating church language and culture so it can be received by everyday folks living in our neighborhood?
- 5) Try diligently, fail faithfully, and take risks courageously for the sake of the Gospel. Can we be innovative, and adopt new practices that will help us learn to experiment more freely and effectively so we can learn what God and God's people would like to teach us?
- 6) Partner. Can we learn to take on this load together, to learn and discern together? Can we become peers on a mission rather than members of an organization? Can we learn to practice mutual support and sharing so we grow into a community of care?

The short answer from my perspective at this moment in time is, “I don't know.” There is work to be done and I cannot do it all myself, nor can your staff ... nor should we. This is your church (actually, this is Christ's church, but it is your/our congregation), planted here to be stewarded by those who would take on all the roles and responsibilities when they became “members.” We will not reverse all the forces, spiritual and otherwise, that have gotten us where we are, but we're here and our challenges in this moment are real, particularly our financial challenges. Any change is completely dependent upon the Holy Spirit, and our willingness to be guided and led by this Spirit toward a new beginning. I would like to see this congregation come alive and take on this challenge, and I hope you will.

Next month, I will unpack a couple modern cultural trends that are impacting the congregation's ability to thrive and connect with emerging generations and suggest a shift in understanding that could be helpful and life-giving.

## A Letter from our Good Shepherd Finance Committee:

Good Shepherd's ministry is vital and alive, but it is under pressures of change. These changes have been going on for some time in our modern world, with more choices for people to spend their time, less time in general, and more pressures on the religious community from the secular. This has led to national trends of lower church attendance, lower participation, lower membership, and lower donations. Good Shepherd is not immune to this, and is in fact part of a national trend for all major denominations. These trends have been going on for years, and have been accelerated by the pandemic.

Our congregation now faces a significant challenge. So far for this calendar year our contributions are \$26,000 less than our expenses. We have about a \$6,500 a month shortfall that we have covered by depleting reserves. This means our reserves will be gone, and we may be unable to pay all our bills around October. I know we have had financial calls and issues in this past. These have involved shortcoming of \$20-40,000 and asking for increasing donations of 5-10%. We have not faced a shortfall of nearly \$100,000, requiring increasing donations of nearly 30% before.

Your leadership team at Good Shepherd is committed to finding ways to continue this vital ministry and mission. We are looking at ways to increase donations, decrease expenses, and increase participation, but the outcome for Good Shepherd is in doubt. We may need to join another church in some way or transfer our ministry to someone else. Cutting our expenses further so fundamentally changes who we are that it is not clear that would help. Some of these choices may be uncomfortable to consider but we must open our minds to possibilities. We pray we can find ways to not just continue but expand our ministry and mission here. We ask for your prayers, your questions, your participation of time, talents and donations. If we could get 200 people to increase their donation by \$35 a month, or \$9 a week, or \$1.25 a day, our deficit would be erased. I really believe we are worth \$1.25 a day here. It is possible to fix this. We ask for your guidance and participation as we all consider what the future holds here for Good Shepherd. This ministry is vital, valuable and worth fighting for. Our staff is highly motivated, loved and dedicated to our mission. My family and I love this place, miss it when we are gone, are comforted when we come back, and are dedicated to trying to find a way to keep it going.

Your Council President Josh Stumpner and I did a much longer discussion of this that is available on SoundCloud, Facebook, YouTube and our web page and I strongly ask you to look or listen to this as we think it will answer many of the questions you will have. We get much more specific as we take more time to discuss all these issues.

Thank you for your support of Good Shepherd



# 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 chats

## 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 (Jul-Sep)



**Time to schedule a “Win-Win” activity! Save the date for September 25 @ 9 am. A team is being formed to participate in the Purple Passion Alzheimer Walk. Parish Nurse Barb Denfeld and Dia Arpon are working together to organize participation.**

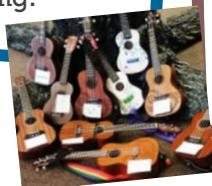
**Go to [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org) to sign up or donate. Call Dia at 443-359-9001 for details. Texts and messages are acceptable.**

## Shepherd Strummers

are taking their  
strumming to the river!

Join us Monday nights at 5:30 pm on the Riverwalk next to Briqs for an informal singalong. Bring friends, instruments, water and your requests, or just a desire to spend a little time together being grateful for the beauty, community and music.

Will cancel if raining.



## STRINGS ?!?!

**Tuesdays at 5 pm  
starting June 7**

Yes! We are starting a strings group. Violins, Violas, Cellos & Basses all welcome as well as all experience levels. You will need to provide an instrument. We can help you find one if you are looking. Contact Kartika for details.



930 EDGEWOOD RD  
WAUSAU, WI 54403  
(715) 675.1997  
[info@gswausau.org](mailto:info@gswausau.org)

**Sunday Worship @ 9 am  
Online Worship on  
Sunday @ Wednesday**

go to  
GSLC Wausau WI on Youtube,  
[www.gswausau.org](http://www.gswausau.org)  
Facebook

(they remain available at  
our youtube channel)

**LIKE & SUBSCRIBE TODAY!**

## STAFF

**Rev. Kemp Jones**

Senior Pastor

[pastork@gswausau.org](mailto:pastork@gswausau.org)

Office: 715.675.1997 ext.: 106

**Dr. Kartika Putri**

Minister of Worship and Music

[kartika@gswausau.org](mailto:kartika@gswausau.org)

Office: 715.675.1997 ext.: 103

**Angie Huckbody**

Parish Administrator

[angie@gswausau.org](mailto:angie@gswausau.org)

Office: 715.675.1997 ext.: 101

**Brian Wiese**

Interim Financial Secretary

[Brian.gslcfinance@advanit.com](mailto:Brian.gslcfinance@advanit.com)

715.539.6700

**Barb Denfeld**

Parish Nurses

[nurses@gswausau.org](mailto:nurses@gswausau.org)

**Cory Toth LaPointe**

Treasurer

## J U N E Birthdays



2 Howard Drebenstedt  
4 Loren Beyersdorff  
5 Cara Clemens-Krueger  
5 Duane Doering  
7 Harold Eisenman  
8 Nicholas Boulanger  
9 Carol Carmichael  
9 Morgan Cummings  
10 James Carmichael  
11 Arlene Henke  
12 Anne Buntrock  
12 Jane Cloutier

12 Danica Sturzenegger  
13 Tricia Maier  
14 Nicole Graveen  
15 Frances Carmichael  
15 Debra Clemens  
16 Steven Martell  
19 Barbara Krautkramer  
19 Katherine Krueger  
20 Dawn Thorwaldson  
20 Darrell Worden  
22 Oliver Merkey  
23 Clarice Kohnhorst  
17 Dustin & Rebecca Chapman

23 Jessica Pergolski  
24 Riley Jones  
25 Karriann Bargender  
25 Mark Selby  
26 Arlyn Westberg  
27 Karen Bliese  
27 Caden Guldán  
28 Samantha Bartelt  
28 Adam Pleuss  
30 Fox Klein  
30 James Nick



## J U N E Anniversaries

3 Brent & Melissa Kriewaldt  
6 Mark & Pam Hildebrandt  
10 Jason & Stephanie Teske

17 Duane & Elisha Doering  
18 Paul & Pam Daigle  
18 Lawrence & Jean Korpela  
21 Brian & Amy Merkey  
22 Paul & Joann Grewe  
22 Kenneth & Yvonne Sitko

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

### Moment of Gratitude:

### GS LC PLANT SALE: THAT'S A WRAP!

Plant Sale 2022 was a success! We had great conversations with shoppers, good times with helpers and met neighbors, family and new friends and.....we earned \$2,242! We are very grateful to Tom and Sue Domka and their son Rick for providing the plants for us to sell, for all the hands that helped set up, sell, water, carry plants and especially buy!!

**It takes a village folks, and just want you to know  
we love and appreciate our village!**



# GOOD SHEPHERD JUNE CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Online Worship Available Sundays			Online Worship Available Wednesdays			
9:00am Worship	30 Office closed Memorial Day Mon. Nt AA 7:00pm	31 LWR Quilters 9:00am Kwik Trip Mtg 9:00am & 4:00pm String Rehears. 5:00pm	1 Wed AA 9:00 am	2 Homemaker Meeting 8-3 pm	3	4
Day of Pentecost 9:00am Worship	5	6 5:30pm Shepherd Strummers @ River Walk/ Briqs Mon. Nt AA 7:00pm	7 LWR Quilters 9:00am Kwik Trip Mtg 9:00am & 4:00pm String Rehears. 5:00pm	8 Wed AA 9:00 am	9	10
9:00am Worship Baptism: Lia Rose Lashua	12	13 5:30pm Shepherd Strummers @ River Walk/ Briqs Mon. Nt AA 7:00pm	14 LWR Quilters 9:00am Kwik Trip Mtg 4:00pm String Rehears. 5:00pm Church Council Mtg 6:30pm	15 Wed AA 9:00 am  OFFERING COUNT	16	17
9:00am Worship	19	20 5:30pm Shepherd Strummers @ River Walk/ Briqs Mon. Nt AA 7:00pm	21 LWR Quilters 9:00am String Rehears. 5:00pm	22 Wed AA 9:00 am	23 Corks n Covers 1:30 pm Riverview Neighborhood Mtg 6:30 pm	24
9:00 am Worship	26	27 5:30pm Shepherd Strummers @ River Walk/ Briqs Mon. Nt AA 7:00pm	28 LWR Quilters 9:00am String Rehears. 5:00pm	29 Wed AA 9:00 am  OFFERING COUNT	30	



# Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Wausau WI

Church Council meeting minutes

April 12, 2022

## Call to Order & Attendance

4:30 pm – **Present:** Pastor Kemp Jones, Josh Stumpner, MJ Horvat, Jenny Samperisi, Corey Toth-LaPointe, Laurie Sturzenegger, Mike Sturzenegger, Shelly Ellenbecker, Chad Majewski. **Absent:** Cheryl Rocheleau,

## Gathering Litany: Pastor Kemp

## God's Word

**Devotional Time** – MJ Horvat – Matthew 11:28- slowing down; rest. 'Calm expectations'

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

## Review/Approval

Agenda Review/Approval (MSC: Mike/Jenny)

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

## Treasurer/Financial Report

(MSC: MJ/Mike)

- I. Income vs Expenses
  - a. Expenses were lower
  - b. +2408 in Building Fund (not negative)
- II. Quarterly
  - a. -\$17,000 to budget, normally a negative budget the last few years
  - b. Negative contribution income
  - c. Not going through expense money as fast
    - i. Attributed to: Professional Services are lower
    - ii. A couple significant donations were made
    - iii. **DO NOT** assume trend will continue
  - d. Gas/Electric are much higher
  - e. \$2500 Deductible
    - i. Still trying to get ahold of our rep, but assumed to be in place
    - ii. Angie can verify

## Our Response to the Word

### Finance Committee

- I. Initial request for Congregational meeting on May 15 to answer questions/take thoughts and vote to access the Endowment Funds
  - a. May not be a good weekend due to Confirmation
  - b. Motion requested specifically for the purpose of voting to access the Endowment Fund
    - i. Laurie makes motion/Chad 2<sup>nd</sup> for discussion among council
    - ii. Discussions revolved around the need for that action now, whether or not it was just a band aid to prolong closure, is this the right action now, or will it scare people? What will it take to 'save' Good Shepherd?
    - iii. Cory stated a 5mo. avg \$5800/mo. had to borrow from General Fund to pay bills. Based on what is in General Fund, we would make it about 6 months.
    - iv. Various ideas brought up by Council Members
      1. MJ, Office space. Found lots of office space for rent.
      2. Chad asked about publishing weekly giving in bulletin
        - a. PK has worked with many stewardships who showed it was a bad idea.
        - b. Feels it is more a giving problem
        - c. People do not see giving as obligatory anymore
        - d. We need Stewardship Committee to do this, but PK has been unable to get it going.
        - e. Combine with another congregation
        - f. Day Care
          - i. Large Startup Costs and regulations likely as we do not have f
- II. Discussion among council focusing on NOT accessing the endowment fund.
  - a. Would rather donate and plan closing.
  - b. Fear of people using the Endowment fund being a crutch.

- c. Discussed showing what giving to budget looks like now vs. what a slight increase in giving could look like to help us meet budget.
- d. Want to hold Endowment in back pocket and not offer it up.
- e. Jen asked if we could have just an informational congregation meeting. Those meetings are usually for voting or asking them to do something.
- f. Do Temple Talks instead of meeting?

### III. Motion fails, will revisit later

#### 2021 Fall Stewardship Update\ Engaging Congregation

- I. ~200 Givers as of Jan. 1.
  - a. Will need to tailor the message to category of givers to give more.
  - b. Can we layout avg. giving now vs. what we need in a mailing?
  - c. Sustainable amount we need to achieve to operate.
- II. How to get the word out (Our Path)
  - a. Step up communication to educate the congregation on creating sustainable income
  - b. Discussions on council members reading a prepared script during services
  - c. Thoughts on a task force and who would be good members
  - d. PK asked if he had thoughts on who would be good communicating based on numbers
    - i. Tim Logemann has been good at drafting letters in the past and has been on camera in the past.
    - ii. Task Force Possibilities: Tim Logemann, Graphic Designer/Artist, Accountant or good with numbers to be able to create visuals, Andy W., Helke's, Jen Holcomb
    - iii. Use older members as advisory
    - iv. Keep small enough to not cause issues
    - v. Letters, online recordings, Temple Talks, each week congregation voice heard
- III. Josh to meet with Bishop Anne next Tuesday
  - a. He asked if anyone had questions, they would want to share to let him know
- IV. Reevaluate each month or earlier to see if meeting request with congregation is then necessary.
  - a. If things go sour, next steps will be Holy Closure, and planning starts to close.

#### IT Update

- I. Not able to get ahold of other vendor
- II. Experimenting with recording things as they happen, then posting to YouTube

#### Reimagining Worship Task Force

- I. Motion to suspend meetings (MSC: Jen/Cory)
- II. Keeping in touch and watching numbers
- III. Team will be recalled if/when numbers change
- IV. Monitor numbers, and reconvene when numbers increase

#### Mobile Giving Options

- I. Chad to work with Angie to get new mobile giving site setup on website with Vanco
- II. Chad to complete PCI compliance
- III. Chad to lay out cost comparison of Tithe.ly vs Vanco

#### 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.

#### Action Items

**Vanco vs Tithe.ly Mobile App Comparison (Chad)**

**Josh to Talk to Bishop Anne**

**Engaging Congregation**

**Improving Mobile Giving with Vanco**

**Nominating Committee process**

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

- I. Confirmation kids wrote their own version of The Lord's Prayer

#### Sending/Motion to Adjourn

Meeting Adjourned 7:51pm (MSC: Mike\Cory)

Respectfully submitted by Chad Majewski, council Secretary

We are **E X C I T E D** to be partnering with Wausau's First Presbyterian and Grace United Methodist Church of Christ. That means 3 times as much energy, input, creativity, kids, helpers and most of all **F U N!!** I think it's fair to say that our most memorable VBS's have been when we all joined in. Young and young at heart, adult mentors, middle and high schoolers, parents / grandparents, Please mark your calendars today! Contact numbers and details are listed below. Help make this the best year ever!!



## August 15-18, 2022- 9am-noon, family program Thursday evening 6pm

Welcoming children who have completed grades 4K-5 in 2022

Volunteers aged 12 and up, are invited to help!

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ In 2022 completed grade : \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Text: Y N

Home e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to participant: \_\_\_\_\_

Known allergies or other medical concerns: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Release: I consent to allow the above person(s) participation in the listed program, consent to medical treatment in the case of emergency, and in the event of disruptive behavior, agree to pick up the above person(s) upon notice.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Home church: \_\_\_\_\_

I authorize that the above person(s) image may be photographed, filmed and be used in print, video, or web use related only to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, First Presbyterian Church, Grace United Church of Christ **YES NO**

Small group:

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church \* 930 Edgewood Road, Wausau WI 54403 \* (715)675-1997

First Presbyterian Church \* 406 Grant Street, Wausau WI 54403 \* (715)842-2116

Grace United Church of Christ \* 535 S 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, Wausau Wi 54401 \* (715)845-7051