

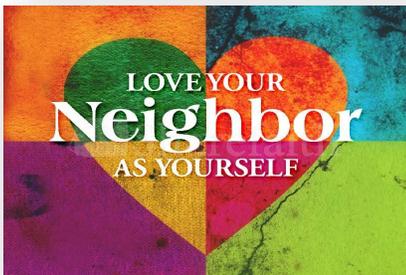


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July 2020



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

JULY 2020 . Volume 56 . Issue 7

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



First, there was a friend who reminded me about it via a social media post. Then, it appeared again two days later in a book I am reading. So, I guess when something pops up twice in quick succession, it probably needs to be written about.

One of the most popular *Saturday Night Live* sketches of all time was called “More Cowbell,” and it aired all the way back in 2000. Actor Christopher Walken played famous record producer Bruce Dickinson who was working in a recording session with the rock band Blue Oyster Cult. The group is working very hard laying down tracks for a new song and band member Gene Frenkle (played by Will Ferrell) ruins the first take by banging loudly on a cowbell. Producer Dickinson steps out of the booth and tells the group that what will really improve the track is ... more cowbell! This happens again a second time, and a third. Each time Dickinson demands more cowbell, exactly the opposite of what’s really needed. He explains his reasoning: “Guess what. I got a fever! And the only prescription is *more cowbell!*” And a catchphrase still used to this day was born (online readers can check out the skit here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cVsQLlk-T0s>)

It is probably one of the dumbest things ever created, but the combination of the energy of the cast, the silly innocence of Will Ferrell, and the stone-faced seriousness of Christopher Walken turned it into something iconic that has lasted a generation!

And it’s oddly ironic how art appears to be mirroring life right now. Just last night I saw an interview on TV where two folks of polar opposite positions were “debating” with one another about who was right and who was wrong. It was so interesting to watch how the host kept providing more facts and data to make his point, and the interviewee kept pushing back against it, digging herself in deeper and deeper into her current mindset on the topic. The host kept giving her “*more cowbell!*” to try and strengthen his position and convince her to change her mind ... and things only got worse and worse.

Life has been like that for a LOT of years now. We are all so dug into our own viewpoints that there is no room to even hear anything else, much less have an open mind about adjusting our own positions. Who would have ever thought that a virus would become entrenched in politics? But it has, and again ... “*more cowbell!*” is not the answer. Fact-based arguments do not appear to convince anyone of anything. We actually refuse to use new information when we have entrenched beliefs. And while that absolutely happens on BOTH sides of the aisle of most any argument (it’s called “confirmation bias”), we would ALL do well to get a handle on it and behave differently as a result, because it isn’t helping at all.

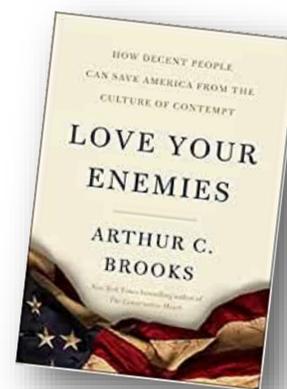
My suggestion (which may not be much of a surprise) is that we look to Jesus. To my recollection, Jesus NEVER came at unconvinced people with, “According to the latest surveys, priests and Levites are 43% less likely than Samaritans to help travelers on the side of the road from Jerusalem to Samaria, which has seen violent crime increase ten-fold in the last decade.” Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan. Why? Because stories are a gateway to mutual understanding and regard. Jesus knew that stories bring people together. He knew that they possess the power to unite. He knew that if you want people to learn something and remember it, put it in a story about people. To quote Arthur C. Brooks (the author of the book I am reading, *Love Your Enemies*, p. 135), “... *it turns out that, just maybe, my effort to bring people together who disagree isn’t an exercise in futility after all. I was just doing it wrong.*” And further, “*When we tell stories, our brains unite, giving us the chance to at least understand one another, whether we ultimately agree or disagree. We can break down prejudice and division – we can defeat myside bias and induce openness, if not agreement – two brains at a time.*”

This sounds pretty exciting to me, mostly because I have seen the power of story at work at Good Shepherd. Do any of you remember the story I shared about “Roberta” whom our staff met when we went and made dinner for some homeless folks near the Stewart Avenue bridge? I’m sure a bunch of you do, and that story opened up the homeless situation in Wausau that Sunday in profound ways. It was humbling seeing folks come together around such a simple effort. We may not be able to solve the homeless problem in Wausau by ourselves, but thanks to your generous support, we are able to have an impact!

Very soon we are going to dive more deeply into the power of story to help battle this culture of contempt that we live in through a study of the book I’ve mentioned here *Love Your Enemies* by Arthur C. Brooks. Our staff is starting to go through it together and we will be widening the circle very soon, so stay tuned! In the meantime, pick up a copy and start reading if you are so inclined. I pray you will be moved to action in some way as I have been.

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Kemp



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](#)

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY TO ONE AND ALL!

In recognition of this special time,

the office will be closed the week of July 6-10.

You can contact Angie if there are issues or pastoral concerns.

Angie@gswausau.org

715-574-6321.

Be sure to check out the worship resources prepared for this week!



CRITICAL BLOOD DRIVE SCHEDULED

Good Shepherd Church has agreed to host a blood drive for the Red Cross.

Thursday, July 16, 2020 * 1-6 pm

With the challenges of Covid-19, drives are in greater need than ever!

If you choose to donate, please follow the guidelines given at the time of scheduling.

Please note that the staff will be working from home that afternoon.

If you have questions, please contact Barb Denfeld @ 715-498-4245.

P L A N N E D !

August 16 Outdoor Worship:

The Reopening Task Force is working hard to design an opportunity for you to worship with others later this summer. Since the emergence of Covid-19 we have had to think carefully about how we can bring our congregation together safely. Many of us have risk factors, sometimes invisible but important to consider. In addition, members have different tolerance for risky behavior. When we are in doubt about the best approach, we are choosing to err on the side of caution and love for our congregation.

We are planning an outdoor worship service on August 16th at 9 am in the front lawn of the church. If you planning to attend, we ask that you do the following things out of respect and love for your fellow worshippers and our staff:

Agree to park where instructed by those managing church parking. We want to assure that even during entering and exiting vehicles you are socially distanced.

Agree to bring your own lawn chair. We will have Council members available to help carry your chairs if needed.

Agree to disinfect your hands immediately upon arriving at the worship site. We will have hand sanitizer available at sign-in.

Agree not to have physical contact with anyone from outside your household. This means no hugs, no hand shaking and no high fives.

Agree to remain at least 6 feet from people who do not live with you and sit where you are directed by ushers.

Agree to wear a face covering. If you do not have your own, we will have them available.

Agree to supervise children and keep them within eyesight at all times.

Agree to follow directions of those who are coordinating parking, seating and worship.

We are eagerly looking forward to seeing you once again and to worshipping together as a congregation. Please know that our staff and leadership pray for you and understand that that this has been a difficult time for all. We have missed you all and we anxiously await the day that we can consistently gather together without undue risk and restrictions. Because our online worship has been so well received, we will continue to offer it for those who feel safer at home or who prefer an online worship experience. Know that even though our building is closed, our church is open and working for the good of our congregation and community. We welcome your feedback as we move forward together safely, respectfully and lovingly.



MJ Horvat,

Good Shepherd Re-Opening Task Force

CORKS n COVERS BOOKCLUB New guidelines during the Covid-19 pandemic:

We will meet ONLY out doors for the duration of the Covid-19 virus or until a vaccination is provided for us. Bring your own lawn chair and something to drink. At this time the Good Shepherd building is not open to the public so there are no bathrooms available to use (i.e. use your facilities at home before attending, and drink responsibly). We will be meeting several times each month through the month of September on Thursdays at 1:30 PM at Good Shepherd.

Rain dates will be the following Fridays at the same time and location.

Thursday, July 16, 1:30PM - Book, **Before They were Yours** by Lisa Wingate, discussion leader Bonnie.

Thursday, July 30, 1:30PM - Book , **1000 White Women** by Jim Fergus, discussion leader Marilyn.

J U L Y Birthdays



- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Sabrina Weller | Julie Rhyner | John Lakus |
| 2 Thomas Domka | 12 Sandra Mork | Roger Schwede |
| 3 Landry Guldan | Jody Radke | 22 Kathleen Czeck |
| Lilyn Peterson | Kathleen Selby | Mary Sue Damgaard |
| Robin Schmirler | Les Toth | Garret Kath |
| 4 Richard Wichlidal | "K" Toth | 23 Rhonda Hallam |
| Sarah Kroening | 13 Anthony Cucchiarelli | Merlyn Leih |
| Christofer Trantow | Elisha Doering | John Viergutz |
| 6 Lorraine Beyersdorff | Lucille Pfantz | 24 Sara Boettcher |
| Jill Falkowski | 14 Robin Falkowski | Roxanne Charnowski |
| 7 Ray Liebers | Lilith Kroening | Gary Klofstad |
| Katie Mattice | 16 Beth Champine | 25 John Josiger |
| 8 Alfred Beyer | Sheryl Lauby | 27 Nancy Salli |
| Kyiah Walters | 17 Kyle Bartz | 28 Anita Behrendt |
| 9 Tabitha Bartz | Alice Duginske | 29 Eunice Bauer |
| John Enk | Carlie Kluz | Troy Krezine |
| Bonnie Krubsack | Vicki Young | 30 Marlene Babcock |
| Benjamin Schuette | Brexton Zastrow | Dylan Mork |
| 10 Pat Falkowski | 18 Laurie Miles-Kroening | Cheryl Rocheleau |
| Kartika Putri | 19 Henry Merkey | 31 Leah Reorowicz |
| 11 Oliver Bushman | 20 Ken Schnoor | |
| Rand Krueger | 21 Jay Kamrath | |

J U L Y Anniversaries



- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2 Ken & Stephanie Martell | 9 Jahn & Tracey Sandman | 22 Jacelyn & Chad Majewski |
| 5 Annette & Chris Lauby | 11 Kelly & Henry Mulder | 30 Keith & Diane Peterson-Laszewski |
| 6 Robert & Pat Barofsky | 13 Mike & Kathleen Selby | Scott & Karen Worden |
| Michael & Lynn Fremming | 17 Ryan & Gina Ramthun | 31 Jim & Fran Carmichael |
| 7 Eugene & Barb Madden | 20 John & Colleen Sickels | |

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Wausau WI

Church Council meeting minutes

June 9, 2020

Socially distanced via Zoom online

Call to Order –6:30 pm *Present: Pastor Kemp, Tim, Josh, Dorie, Jenny, Cory, M. J., Brad, Steve, Paul

Gathering Litany – Pastor Kemp

God's Word

Devotional time – Brad “A Reason for Joy – Psalm 149” [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 - Brad / Steve APPROVED

Minutes review – Cory / Jenny APPROVED

Treasurer / Financial Report - (May income \$22,464 / expenses \$19,157. Contributions are below budget but steady, and because physical Worship expenses are on hold, our position is maintained. PPP funds usage window was extended from 8 to 24 weeks. PPP allowed funds usage shifted from 75/25 payroll/non-payroll to 60/40 with repayment period extended from 2 years to 5 years. We anticipate ~80% loan forgiveness.) - Josh / M.J. APPROVED

Our Response to the Word (new business)

Physical Re-Opening Planning Task Force – A MOTION was offered by Tim – “Moved that Good Shepherd Council authorize the formation of a planning task force to research, plan and advise regarding the processes, policies, timing and form of Worship and church activities returning to physical interaction in such ways that minimize the risk of exposure to SARS-CoV-2 to Good Shepherd congregation, staff and community. Also that a letter of related information be sent to our rostered congregation.” Seconded by Brad – PASSED

Physical Re-Opening Planning Task Force will be lead by M.J. and includes Laurie Miles-Kroening (nursing insight), Jackie Majewski (young family insight) Barb Denfeld (homebound nursing and community outreach insight), Mike Sturzenegger (physical plant insight), Tim Holcomb (engineering perspective), and Joyce Nick (age demographics insight).

'Re-opening' / Sharing insights, perspectives and opinions from each councilperson: - Council members shared their thoughts on physical re-opening, including: eagerness to return to physical community, number of services, contradicting feelings of concern for emotional connectedness versus medical safety, Summer attendance generally falls, risk of changing attendance habits, emotional attachment to our church building, benefits and limitations of on-line Worship and sharing venues – and increased staff work necessary to create and maintain on-line venues, how to include those without technology tools and comfort, meaningfulness of in-person participation, we are the church regardless if we are physically together, staff safety, how to be God's hands even without touching, providing church and community leadership.

Action Items:

Reach out to cross barriers to participating in worship together

Brainstorm practical non-touch ways to be God's hands

Prayers of the Church / Lord's Prayer

Sending (motion to adjourn) Steve / Dorie PASSED Adjournment 7:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Grewe, GSLC Secretary

July is a great time to spend some family time outside appreciating God's gift of nature and natural resources. Here are three activities which are ideal for an outdoor environment such as a lake, stream, park, or nature trail.

GALILEAN BREAKFAST – Eat an early morning breakfast of bread, tuna, cheese, and fruit by a lake or stream. Share the story of Jesus' breakfast by the Sea of Tiberias from John 21.

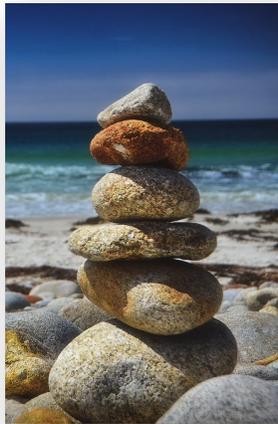
JACOB'S ALTER- Gather stones and make a small family altar. Share the story of Jacob from Genesis 28: 10-22. Worship or pray together at the altar.

BIRDS and FLOWERS- Take a walk together and list as many animals, plants, birds, and flowers as you can find. Sit down on a comfortable spot and talk about how living things are alike and different. Discuss the significance each provides in our lives and how we can be good stewards of the earth. Share the creation story from Genesis 1 and Jesus' parable from Luke 12:22-31.

God's peace-

*Your Parish Nurses,
Barb & Mary*

*Do not be afraid for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom."
Luke 12:32*



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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www.gswausau.org

**CORPORATE
WORSHIP
IS SUSPENDED
UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE**

We are offering online worship services that are Released for:

Sundays

Wednesdays

go to

GSLC Wausau WI on Youtube,

www.gswausau.org

Facebook

(they remain available at our youtube channel)

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Barb Denfeld

Mary Omernik

Parish Nurses

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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"/> Weekly: Mondays <input type="checkbox"/> Biweekly: Monday every other week <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: ____/____/____ Amount of each payment: \$ _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> One-time: 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.