

# Good Shepherd

LUTHERAN CHURCH

930 Edgewood Road Wausau, WI 54403

(Change Service Requested)

JULY: 2022

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Brokaw, WI 54417  
Permit No. 1



The office will be closed Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup>.

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

JULY 2022 . Volume 58 . Issue 7

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JOIN US FOR LIVE WORSHIP!

Sundays @ 9:00 am

&

Wednesdays @ 5:30 pm

ONLINE WORSHIP  
AVAILABLE

Sundays & Wednesdays



*Storm Cleanup & First Communion*



When in-person worship resumed about a year ago, congregations across America experienced a significant decrease in our pre-pandemic attendance rates – though they had already been declining noticeably for quite some time. While there were congregations who grew in the last 27 months, the far-more-frequent story is decline - in some cases (including ours), up to 40% or more.

There are many reasons: some folks are still concerned about safety as exposures and infections continue rise and ebb, others now prefer worship online even though in-person is now pretty universally offered, and still others gave up and walked away. We still do not know how all this will ultimately play out nor settle. But as I have suggested along the way, the pandemic did not cause anything new to happen. It just accelerated what was already happening - a deeper cultural shift that has been underway for decades.

Looking to history, post-American Revolution, institutions built around voluntary association. Churches that were organized under a state church model in Europe evolved in America into religion that was independent. Congregations organized around voluntary association, with individuals choosing to join or support the organization, thereby claiming at least a piece of their identity from membership in it. This changed the way church had always been done and led to great innovation in the religious realm. Groups organized, and folks joined, participated, and served in and through them. Denominations developed that allowed for greater association, organization, resources, and influence. While unleashing a lot of fresh activity, innovation and progress, these institutions also became exclusive (to their detriment). The ELCA (in its various expressions) and its partner ministries were basically designed amid and largely for the Age of Association.

Since the late 1960's, the Age of Association has given way to what is called the Age of Authenticity. People find identity much less from the institutional attachments, and more from their individual choices. The focus is now on discovering and expressing their true selves, not affiliating with or serving institutions. In fact, institutions now elicit deep suspicion. In this new age, people feel free to leave voluntary associations and institutions without embedding themselves elsewhere. Things are far less rigid, and social and economic responsibilities once carried by institutions (ie. defined benefit pension plans) continue to shift to individuals. So, it is no real shock that the weight of membership declines is debilitating. Leaders of other voluntary associations - scouts, unions, PTA, band boosters – say the same thing. A larger cultural transformation is afoot, and we need to be open and willing to think outside the box, but we largely have not been.

There is incredible loss and grief associated with this, especially among older generations for whom the association model made sense and worked well. Lots of congregations are now sustained by faithful elders who understand building, serving and sustaining voluntary associations. They cannot comprehend how their children and grandchildren take a hard pass on affiliation and participation. Attempting to promote affiliation and participation (and financial support) is proving a **touch** proposition.

I have been asking along the way for us to focus our holy curiosity on how we can embrace this new age rather than resist it with all our might. The Age of Authenticity offers us a great opportunity to share the gospel in a culture where people are told to go their own way and find their own meaning, purpose and community. It is clear we all want deeper connections than those facilitated by social media, more adequate stories than those provided by consumerism, and more just and sustainable ways of patterning human life than we see around and within us. There is isolation, despair and division. I cannot think of a better God-moment for the church to uplift and make known the promises of God in Jesus Christ! We must awaken ourselves to embrace and model the gracious way the gospel provides to this culture that has been trained to go its own way, and find its own meaning, purpose and community.

If the church is going to make those promises known in this new age, we must embrace ministry outside the old boxes of association and assimilation. Our core values of Christian faith and community will not change, but we must learn to express them in new, culturally sensitive and welcoming ways. We must be extra gentle with each other, experiment, and faithfully innovate. Instead of expecting people to come to us, we need to find ways to spend time where people already are and learn how to connect the gospel into our daily living, especially in its longings and lostness. We must embody the richness of Christian spirituality in simple, accessible practices that people can see in ordinary lives and try on for themselves. People are seeking real, honest expressions of spirituality, community, justice and hope ... and THAT is a good thing.

May we meet them where they are with the good news of Jesus.

Peace ... Pastor Kemp *(with special appreciation this month to Dwight Zscheile, Ted Smith, and Charles Taylor for inspiration and information these last three months)*


**OFFICIAL ACTS**

**Baptism: 6-12-2022**

*Lia Rose Lashua*

Good Shepherd  
**FIRST COMMUNION**  
 Milestone  
 June 26, 2022

We ask God's blessings for  
 Charlotte Doering  
 Chase Majewski &  
 Brexton Zastrow  
 On this special day.



**The Need Continues...**

**BLOOD  
 DRIVE**

Consider  
 Donating:

- ◆ SNACKS
- ◆ BLOOD
- ◆ HELPING

Contact Barb  
 715-498-4245

Thur, July 14



1-6 pm

**OUTDOOR WORSHIP**

July 31 \* August 28 \* September 25

*Jul / Aug @ 9 am, Sep: tbd*

Be sure to mark your calendars for the last Sunday of the month. We will enjoy our beautiful outdoors as we worship together. In September we will have our annual Blessing of the animals and quilts service.



Joint venture VBS

**Make Waves**

DATE: Aug 15-18, 2022

TIME: 9am-noon

LOCATION: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
 930 Edgewood Rd

Hosted by First Presbyterian Church, Grace United Church of Christ and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

WATCH FOR A SUPPLY  
 WISH LIST MID JULY!

YOU CAN HELP MAKE THIS  
 YEAR'S VBS A GREAT  
 SUCCESS!

# 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)

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!**

*Office closed Monday, July 4*

## 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

## JULY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

<i>Date</i>	<b>3-Jul</b>	<b>10-Jul</b>	<b>17-Jul</b>	<b>24-Jul</b>	<b>31-Jul</b>
<b>Assisting Minister</b>		Tim Holcomb	Andy Walters	MJ Horvat	Geri Luer
<b>Greeter 1</b>	K Toth	Cheryl Rocheleau	Bonnie Anderson	K Toth	Barb Denfeld
<b>Greeter 2</b>	Jean Korpela	Jenn Holcomb	Barb Denfeld	Susan Mazique	Bonnie Anderson
<b>Usher 1</b>	Greg Behrendt	Laurie Sturzenegger	Marty Krahn	Paul Grewe	Greg Behrendt
<b>Usher 2</b>	Hank Pleuss	Mike Sturzenegger	Paulette Keough	JoAnn Grewe	Hank Pleuss

## J U L Y Birthdays



- |    |   |    |  |    |   |
|----|---|----|--|----|---|
| 2  | Thomas Domka  | 11 | Rand Krueger                                 | 21 | Jay Kamrath                                       |
| 3  | Landry Guldán<br>Lilyn Peterson                                   | 12 | Carly Davis<br>Kathleen Selby                |    | John Lakus  |
| 4  | Richard Wichlidal<br>Sarah Kroening                               |    | "K" Toth<br>Les Toth                         | 22 | Mary Sue Damgaard<br>Garret Kath<br>Oliver Lakus  |
| 6  | Lorraine Beyersdorff<br>Jill Falkowski                            | 13 | Elisha Doering<br>Lucille Pfantz             | 23 | Rhonda Hallam                                     |
| 7  | Ray Liebers<br>Katie Mattice                                      | 14 | Robin Falkowski                              | 24 | Gary Klofstad                                     |
| 8  | Alfred Beyer<br>Kyiah Walters                                     | 15 | Skyler Schalow                               | 25 | John Josiger                                      |
| 9  | Tabitha Bartz<br>John Enk<br>Bonnie Krubsack<br>Benjamin Schuette | 16 | Beth Champine<br>Sheryl Lauby                | 27 | Nancy Salli                                       |
| 10 | Pat Falkowski<br>Kartika Putri                                    | 17 | Kyle Bartz<br>Vicki Young<br>Brexton Zastrow | 28 | Anita Behrendt                                    |
|    |   | 18 | Laurie Sturzenegger                          | 29 | Eunice Bauer                                      |
|    |   | 19 | Henry Merkey                                 | 30 | Marlene Babcock<br>Dylan Mork<br>Cheryl Rocheleau |

## J U L Y Anniversaries



- |    |                         |    |                                  |
|----|-------------------------|----|----------------------------------|
| 2  | Ken & Stephanie Martell | 20 | John & Colleen Sickels           |
| 5  | Annette & Chris Lauby   | 22 | Jacelyn & Chad Majewski          |
| 6  | Robert & Pat Barofsky   | 23 | Keith & Diane Peterson-Laszewski |
| 9  | Jahn & Tracey Sandman   | 24 | Cara & Dakota Klinger            |
| 11 | Mike & Kathleen Selby   | 30 | Scott & Karen Worden             |
| 17 | Ryan & Gina Ramthun     | 31 | Jim & Fran Carmichael            |

# GOOD SHEPHERD JULY CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>Online Worship Available Sundays</b></p>			<p><b>Online Worship Available Wednesdays</b></p>		1	2
<p>9:00am Worship <b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b> Office closed <b>Independence Day</b>  Mon. Nt AA 7:00pm</p>	<p><b>5</b> LWR Quilters 9:00am  String Rehears. 5:00pm</p>	<p><b>6</b> Wed AA 9:00am  Midweek Worship 5:30pm</p>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<p>9:00am Worship <b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b> Kwik Trip Mtg 4:00pm  Shepherd Strummers @ River Walk/ Briqs 5:30pm  Mon. Nt AA 7:00pm</p>	<p><b>12</b> LWR Quilters 9:00am  String Rehears. 5:00pm  Church Council Mtg 6:30pm</p>	<p><b>13</b> Wed AA 9:00am  Midweek Worship 5:30pm  <b>OFFERING COUNT</b></p>	<b>14</b> Blood Drive 1:00pm	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<p>9:00am Worship <b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b> Shepherd Strummers @ River Walk/ Briqs 5:30pm  Mon. Nt AA 7:00pm</p>	<p><b>19</b> LWR Quilters 9:00am  String Rehears. 5:00pm</p>	<p><b>20</b> Wed AA 9:00am  Midweek Worship 5:30pm</p>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<p>9:00am Worship <b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b> Shepherd Strummers @ River Walk/ Briqs 5:30pm  Mon. Nt AA 7:00pm</p>	<p><b>26</b> LWR Quilters 9:00am  String Rehears. 5:00pm</p>	<p><b>27</b> Wed AA 9:00am  Midweek Worship 5:30pm  <b>OFFERING COUNT</b></p>	<b>28</b> Corks n Covers 1:30 pm  Riverview Neighborhood Mtg 6:30pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<p>9:00 am Outdoor Worship <b>31</b></p>	<p>Shepherd Strummers @ River Walk/ Briqs 5:30pm  Mon. Nt AA 7:00pm</p>	<p>LWR Quilters 9:00am  Kitchen in Use 4:00pm  String Rehears. 5:00pm</p>	<p>Wed AA 9:00am  Midweek Worship 5:30pm</p>			

# Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Wausau WI

Church Council meeting minutes

May 10, 2022

## Call to Order & Attendance

6:32 pm – **Present:** Pastor Kemp Jones, Josh Stumpner, MJ Horvat, Jenny Samperisi, Corey Toth-LaPointe, Laurie Sturzenegger, Mike Sturzenegger, Cheryl Rocheleau, Chad Majewski. **Absent:** Shelly Ellenbecker

## Gathering Litany

Pastor Kemp

## God's Word

**Devotional Time** – Jenny Samperisi – shared article by Pastor Ken Smith – Madison, WI on hope

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

## Review/Approval

- Agenda Review/Approval (MSC with below changes: Cory/Laurie)
- Add #3b – Church Yoking
- Add Reimaging Task Force Update
- Mar. Minutes Review/Approval (MSC: Chad/Jenny)
- **Treasurer/Financial Report**
- (MSC: Mike/Cheryl)
- \$2500 Comprehensive Deductible
- April income was \$\$21,327, Expenses were \$20,374 for a \$953 total net income
- Although positive this month, things still not good
- \$100,000 projected budget shortfall for the year at current rates

## Our Response to the Word

### GSLC Task Force for Financial Options

- Current Members: Pastor Kemp, Josh Stumpner, Laurie Sturzenegger
  - Could use a few more members
  - Tony O, Andy W were contacted
  - Tim L. was as well, but not as willing
- Tim L and Josh S. will be doing a Q&A type podcast on 5/12
- Tim L offered to do a temple talk as well if necessary
- Need to get council members to talk in front of congregation
  - Schedule was discussed and Sundays were dispersed
  - MJ had feelings that an Executive Team member should be 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Tim L to do May 15<sup>th</sup> to start a series of council members presenting each Sunday
- Expected giving should be mentioned at \$35/mo. or \$8-10 /wk. from our roughly 200 regular contributors
- Record June messages for posting online

### Recording of Services

- Still not great as we don't have dedicated folks running cameras/sound
- 1 shot to record during a service. If it doesn't work well, we have nothing to post
- Mike stopped and talked to Sound World for ideas
- PK not sure if a system issue or a platform issue (YouTube)
- Don't have someone to sit at soundboard in back of church
- Chad to email a cousin who is a pastor as well as a friend who does music recording in Madison for any ideas

### Bishop Anne Meeting

- Josh gave recap on his discussion with her
  - Holy Closure – keep things positive



- Estimated to take 3-6 months
- A decision to close is a congregational decision
- Yoking with another church
  - Yoking is basically just a sharing of a pastor
  - Typically done prior to a merger
  - ECLA prefers a yoking to be done with thriving churches, not one's looking to survive
  - Josh reached out to St. Stevens
- Josh suggested a task force to investigate yoking further
  - Motion to explore Chad/MJ)

### **Kartika Update**

- She received her EAD in late April meaning she got an extension to work for GSLC while her Green Card application is being approved
  - Possibly a 3 month wait
- Her Visa states she can work for GSLC ONLY and has to be employed by GSLC for the next two years.
  - Bad news is if GSLC ends up closing

### **Technology Update**

- Comparison of Tithe.ly vs Vanco
  - Moving to Tithe.ly and removing similar products would save us about \$1025/yr.
  - Will discuss and potentially decide in June Council Meeting after members are provided documents for review
    - Move would be a lot of work, but may be worth it in the end
- PCI Compliance
  - Chad working on getting us compliant
- Chad to looking into having an online payment available for the plant sale
- Chad to work with Angie to get Vanco Mobile Giving moved higher on website Home page

### **Narthex Beautification**

- Discussed removal of removing sink and upper cabinets to make it more of a useful space
  - All work to be done by volunteers
  - Seldomly used now. Only for watering plants
- Chairs
  - Replace with something easier to get out of and cleanable
- Josh to start planning

### **Tabled**

- Good Shepherd Constitution review, update, amendment(s)
- Strategic Planning
- Re-start the visioning work that we had begun toward the end of last year

### **Action Items**

- Narthex Beautification
- Engaging our congregation
- Task Force Member Search
- Service Recording Options

### **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 8:00 pm (MSc: Cory/Mike)

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