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August 2020

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

AUGUST 2020 . Volume 56 . Issue 8

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In compliance with the recent direction of mask wearing, we ask that anyone entering Good Shepherd please be masked.

If you arrive without one, you will be asked to wear one provided by us.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation!



Hi folks!

Midsummer's greeting to everyone! As I write this month, I am swiftly coming to the end of my vacation. And truly, the only thing on my mind right now is how thankful I am for so many things. So, at the top of August, I simply want to spend a few words saying, "Thank you!"

Thank you ... for truly making the call to be your pastor an absolute honor and privilege! Times of rest and reflection always reveal how blessed I am to "wear" that role at Good Shepherd.

Thank you ... for your **patience and flexibility (grit)**. We are truly living in times without precedent and although I am certain that there are MANY things we would much prefer to be doing in all realms of life, you are leading the way in your various venues with your patient and flexible spirits!

Thank you ... for your **resilience (gritty grit)**. You might think you are anything but resilient, but I hear stories every single day of the countless and faithful ways that you are bouncing back from the cacophony of disappointments that seem to accompany life in this moment, and it is both humbling and inspiring.

Thank you ... for your **truth (speak-y grit)**. Without fail, when we have connected with you and asked you to speak your truth into the many and various situations that we face as a congregation, you have done so without fail.

Thank you ... for your **reliability (show'n up grit)**. Words fail here but suffice it to say that your staff could not have built and developed and evolved our online worship experiences these last four months without YOUR grace and willingness to participate. We learned early on that as a faith community, we needed to see each other somehow while remaining physically separated. Our worship experiences are now filled with your faces working together in rightfully reclaiming the work of the people (Greek = leitourgia, meaning "public service") every single week. This has never been work reserved only for "professionals," and I see the leadership of "the people" continuing into the future.

Thank you ... for your **curiosity (wonder-y grit)**. When this all began, I would suspect none of us every dreamed we would be doing some of the things we are now doing. Creating, producing, and presenting online worship? Accessing online content on a phone, tablet or TV? Setting up a Facebook or YouTube account? Felt Zoom fatigue? The list goes on and on. But that is exactly what you have done because God built us to worship, and options led to opportunities and opened new doors. There is SO MUCH potential here for the future. How can our curiosity help us to explore that further?

Thank you ... for your **generosity (fund-y grit)**. You have shown through your consistent financial support during this challenging season that you have a deep, affectionate heart for our ministry and mission. Your leaders truly did not know what to expect in terms of ongoing giving with such a sudden and unexpected (and massive) shift in everything we did. But your response has been both noble and inspiring as we continue to steward Good Shepherd faithfully through times that for so many congregations have been VERY lean ... and even devastating. We cannot praise you enough for your generosity, and I thank you in advance on behalf of your leaders and staff for your continued generous giving in support of all that we do together.

Finally, thank you ... **for the reminder that God is GOOD!** In difficult times, it is SO easy to think that the entire burden lies upon our shoulders. But if we have learned anything at all from our experiences during COVID-19, it is that most often the best strategy is to just try and step out of the way and watch God do great and mighty things ... and provide wonderful possibilities where we see nothing at all. Clearly, God is reforming and raising up the Church to be better able to respond to many new opportunities to come.

May we as Good Shepherd continue to faithfully discern and embrace our places and roles ... and find renewed curiosity and energy in response to everything that God will reveal.

With grit and gratitude ... 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

GRACE * GRATITUDE * GRIT

Even though we are not meeting weekly, our church community remains active and kept to task.
Here are a few examples and folks to be thanked...

Lawn Property and Gardens Upkeep:

Brian Denfeld, Marilyn Feindt, Ron Fritz, Paul Grewe, Bob & Faye Hale, Tim Holcomb, Marty Krahn

Card & Note Writing: Kay Logemann, Adam Pleuss, Pastor Kemp

Reopening Task Force: Barb Denfeld, Tim Holcomb, MJ Horvat, Pastor Kemp, Laurie Miles Kroening,
Jackie Majewski, Mike Sturzenegger

Emergency Blood Drive Coordination: Barb Denfeld

Food Delivery to The Neighbor's Place: Angie Huckbody

Sunday Worship Screen Contributor / Editor: Janet Herring

Sunday Worship Various Assistants and participants: You know who and what you are (Awesome!)

Handbell Maintenance: JoAnn Grewe

Collected Postage Stamps Mailing: Howard Drebenstedt

Quilt Supplies Management: Dorie Madden

Building Unity Wisconsin Rally: Barb Denfeld, Kartika Putri, Angie Huckbody

ALSO A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT GOOD SHEPHERD FINANCIALLY. IT MATTERS DEEPLY AND IS CRUCIAL TO THE WELLBEING OF THE CHURCH!

**REOPENING UPDATE:
OUTDOOR WORSHIP DELAYED**

Your Reopening Task Force has continued meeting every two weeks throughout the summer. Our hope had been to hold an outdoor worship service in August, keeping the safety of our congregation first and foremost in our planning and decision making. One of the criteria we had set to determine whether gathering was safe, was the infection rate and it's trajectory in Marathon County. As you are likely aware, Marathon County is now considered high risk for transmission of the virus and the infection rate in our county has been steadily rising to over 6%. With the rise of the infection rate, the designation of our county as high risk and the decision of the Wausau Board of Education to delay onsite instruction, the Task Force has decided it is prudent to delay our outdoor worship. Although we have not set a date to reschedule outside worship, we will be reassessing and reconsidering dates at every Task Force meeting with the hope that we see virus transmission rates decline. We all want to feel confident that we can keep our worshippers safe to the best of our abilities.

Just because we are not worshipping in our sanctuary, does not mean our church is closed. We are working hard to meet congregational and community needs whenever possible. The response to our online worship has been robust, but we understand that many of you miss elements of in person worship. You have told us that you have missed communion (as have we) and we are working on a plan to provide you the opportunity to commune. Watch for more information on this!

In the meantime, we want to reiterate that we welcome and encourage you to contact Task Force members to express your thoughts on reopening. Below are the names and phone numbers of Task Force members who will be happy to discuss our decision and/or our planning process. Please continue to pray for our staff and leadership as we work to provide meaningful worship opportunities for our entire congregation. We also ask that you wear masks, socially distance and practice good handwashing. We care about your health and safety!

- Pastor Kemp-Jones 920-410-9210
- Mary-Jane Horvat 715-205-9195
- Laurie Miles-Kroening 715-551-3275
- Barb Denfeld 715-498-4245
- Jackie Majewski 715-216-4256
- Tim Holcomb 715-212-3633
- Mike Sturzenegger 715-297-2823

***MJ Horvat,
Good Shepherd Re-Opening Task Force***





AUGUST Birthdays

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 Samantha Milanowski
Connie Miskowiak
Mark Westberg | 11 Ella Scalcucci
12 Verna Erickson
Mason Ramthun
Eric Semling | 21 Christine Emerson
Amanda Hayes
Patti Yolitz |
| 2 Marilyn Baumann
Amy Merkey
Hunter Schalow
Mindy Schuette | 14 Kay Dins
Carson Reich | 22 Allyson Schreiber |
| 3 Paige Blank
Cameron Bushman
Tim Cucchiarelli
Christa Kuehl | 15 Adrianna Sturzenegger | 23 Ron Budimlja
Grace Edwardson |
| 4 Emma Dehnel
Greg Glovinski | 16 Karen Maier | 24 Deb Pensinger
Yvonne Sitko |
| 6 Jaden Baumann
Ava Bootz
Jazmine Springer | 17 Wendy Kreager
Ella Schmieder | 25 Roger Pensinger
Diane Zeger |
| 7 Emily Grubb | 18 Jennifer Nelson
Mikayla Schultz
Chip Steppert | 27 Steve Herring |
| 8 Brenda Grubb | 19 Gavin Emerson
Mya Grunewald | 28 Donald Howard
Denise Mattice
Elijah Pergolski |
| 9 Bruce Beyersdorff | 20 Aaron Bodenheimer
Mike Duginske
Dustin Foth
Connie Heise
Chad Kane
Barbara Klofstad | 29 Sophia Bootz
Kallie Majewski |
| 10 Hannah Baumann
Aubriella Weller | | 30 Buck Birkholz
John Bresnahan
Lori Ann Wunsch |
| | | 31 Emilie Teclaw-Birkholz |

AUGUST Anniversaries

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1 Tim & Jennifer Cucchiarelli | 12 Roger & Jane Ziebell | 23 Jacob & Jamie Hoover
Roger & Deb Pensinger |
| 3 Gary & Barbara Klofstad
Tony & Mary Omernik | 13 Dean & Jan Slaminski | 25 John & Donna Gwidt |
| 5 Tim & Cari Logemann | 14 Greg & Jenny Glovinski | 26 Adam & Alyssa Johnson |
| 7 Barry & Rhonda Hallam
Dave & Jane Johnson | 15 Jay & Kris Kamrath
Merlyn & Jean Leih | 28 Allen & Kathleen Czek |
| 8 <u>Ryan & Sarah Kroening</u> | 16 James & Karen Bliese | 29 Robert & Shelly Waldinger |
| 9 Dennis & Cindy Weinkauff | 19 Tom & Brenda Bargender | 31 Mark & Tabitha Bartz
Keene & Cathy Winters |
| 11 Andrew & Connie Heise | 20 Dale & Pat Anderson
Stan & Sarah Sobiesczyk | |
| 12 Peter & Ashley Kluz
Brian & Lynda McLaughlin | 21 Keith & Jennifer Samperisi | |
| | 22 Bruce & Bonnie Beyersdorff | |

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

Jesus said, "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you," John15:12. We are called to be disciples and show God's love to one another. An old familiar song, "and they will know we are Christian's by our love," sums it up very well. We are to love others. Our actions do not go unnoticed by others. We can choose to show love and kindness during this pandemic by following the CDC's guidelines for community contact with others by following these recommendations:

WEAR A FACE MASK- Covering your mouth and nose when in public places and when around people who don't live in your household. (Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.)

SOCIAL DISTANCE-Keep 6 feet between yourself and others. A face mask is not a substitute for social distancing.

WASH YOUR HANDS OFTEN- Especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing. If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

MONITOR YOUR HEALTH DAILY- Stay home when sick and follow CDC illness guidelines. CDC (centers for disease control) is the nation's health protection agency. Stay informed regarding any updates to recommendations.

CDC guidelines can be found at www.CDC.GOV.
Phone contact number is 800-232-4636.

God's peace be with you,

*Your Parish Nurses,
Barb & Mary*



SUMMER NOISY OFFERING: Crossway Camping Ministries

This is the final month we will be designating our virtual noisy offering to our ministry partner,

CROSSWAY CAMPING MINISTRIES

If you are interested in supporting this awesome faith builder, you may send a financial gift separately or include it with your regular offering and include a note indicating your intended amount.

Your support is greatly appreciated!

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WAUSAU, WI 54403
(715) 675.1997
info@gswausau.org
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)**

STAFF

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Barb Denfeld

Mary Omernik

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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"/> 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.