

930 Edgewood Road Wausau, WI 54403
(Change Service Requested)

M a r c h : 2 0 2 1



Sunday March 14



Daylight Saving Time Begins

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

MARCH 2021 . Volume 57 . Issue 3

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

LENTEN SEASON
2021

ONLINE WORSHIP
AVAILABLE
WEDNESDAYS & SUNDAYS

"SOUP TO GO" AVAILABLE
DURING COMMUNION PICKUP
WEDNESDAYS 1-2 & 6-7 PM
SUNDAYS 9-10 AM
(until gone)



Am I missing something?

I cannot tell you how many times I have asked that question in the past twelve months. You? And the answers I can conjure up seem to be endless. If I chose to do so, I could quickly and easily sit down and make a list of all the things that I might normally be doing that I am not doing right now because I want to do so I can by my own initiative care for the vulnerable among my family, friends, neighbors and church folks. It has been an amazing time of reflection, centering, and re-learning a bunch of things that I suspect God intended as common sense about “Love God and love your neighbor.”

I continue to discover that common sense is not common. Now, please know, I do not mean that in a glib, self-righteous, “holier-than-thou” sort of way (even if being glib is probably one of my spiritual gifts. I confess that daily). Nope, I don’t intend it that way at all. I mean it in the truest, most fundamental sense of those words. What I am experiencing are huge differences among folks with respect to what constitutes good old basic “common sense.” Common sense is NOT common. Not at all.

But, for me, the bottom line would be this: ***There can be no such thing as common sense without community, commonality, common courtesy, common decency, common respect, common values, communication, co-mingling of thoughts and ideas, compromise.*** I’m not suggesting there should be some sort of blanket understanding of everything under the sun. That is not realistic ... or even a good thing. But, might we all show up at the party with a goal of walking out unified in terms of WHO we are together instead of WHAT we are missing?

It seems that common sense may have never been common. If you look at community thousands of years ago, specifically with the Israelites, you quickly discover a group of people who did not have much of a sense of the “common” in terms of how they treated each other either. Moses was terrified of being their leader at first, presumably because he doubted his leadership skills as a strong orator capable of keeping this motley group together. So, God provided a helper (Aaron) and handed Moses the tools to hold the community together and keep everyone safe.

We tend to interpret the Ten Commandments as a “list of things you shouldn’t do.” And with the way they are written it is easy to do so. But they are actually a list of things that ought to be “common sense!” Don’t steal from each other! Don’t kill each other! Don’t speak badly about each other! Don’t covet your neighbor’s stuff! I mean, come on?! Hello?! This is not meant to cramp anybody’s style. It is guidance for how people ought to be when we are together in community. And these “laws” are filled with grace! If we commit to being in beloved community together, there is no need to steal, kill, covet, etc. And life opens up in profoundly beautiful (and liberating) ways.

To come full circle, we no longer need to make lists of what we are missing, what we do not have, what we cannot do! We have the freedom to live in celebration and thanksgiving for what we already have. And in doing so, we can think about how we are best called to lean into that right now at this time and place in history ... even with all of the challenges. Folks, while the times we are living are new to us, they are not new! There have been tough times before, and there will be tough times again. God is calling us to lean into and grow amid the challenges and circumstances, and to figure out how to minister faithfully in ways we have never considered before! Will we do that with joy and anticipation and expectation of God being at work ... or with our list of inconveniences and grievances firmly in hand?

It was not easy for Moses and Aaron and all the Israelites out in the wilderness roaming around. I suspect it will be challenging for us as well. To be candid, I do not see church being “the same” in a whole bunch of ways on the other side of this pandemic for a whole bunch of reasons. But we inhabit a world with potential so boundless that it would have made Moses’ head spin. God had big plans for Moses, and Moses had arguably the best unifying tool there has ever been ... a story.

And God has big plans for us. And that same story is our story ... and we have incredible opportunity to share it.

My prayer is that we will not miss it.

Peace ... Pastor Kemp



INTRODUCING OUR 2021 GSLC CHURCH COUNCIL



BRAD BARTERLT-Vice President



SHELLY ELLENBECKER



HEIDI FALSTAD



PAUL GREWE- Secretary



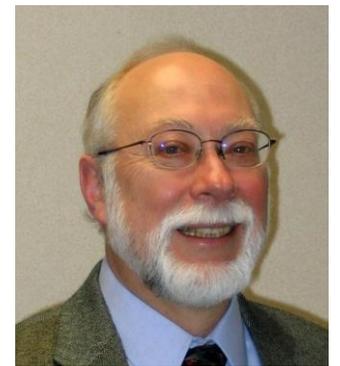
STEVE HERRING



MARY JANE (MJ) HORVAT



GERI LUER



TONY OMERNIK



CHERYL ROCHELEAU



JENNY SAMPERISI



JOSHUA STUMPNER-President



CORY T-LAPOINTE-Treasurer

Lenten Soup Suppers

A meal steeped in tradition here at Good Shepherd has been the Lenten soup supper. Due to Covid restrictions our meals together will have to wait until it is safe to gather. We all have enjoyed these simple homemade soups in the past. Through the generosity of members of the congregation, we will be handing out containers of homemade soup and prepackaged crackers for you to enjoy at home at both our 1-2 pm and 6-7 pm drive by communion on Wednesdays beginning February 24. If you are interested in helping by furnishing homemade soup, please leave a message at the church and we will contact you. Join us for communion and enjoy homemade soup as our gift to you!

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

Reimagining Worship Update

The Reimagining Worship Task Force continues to meet once a month and stays updated by reading what national and local experts are recommending, participating in webinars and listening to advice from our Bishop and the Wisconsin Council of Churches. Like all of you, we are encouraged by the lower number of positive tests and the decrease in Covid hospitalizations. Despite these encouraging numbers, every expert recommends continued caution until vaccination rates are higher and the effects of COVID-19 variants are more fully understood. Our online worship presence continues to be robust and we hope you can join us online for Wednesday evening and Sunday worship.

In the meantime, the Task Force continues to coordinate Holy Communion on Wednesdays from 1-2 pm and 6-7 pm in addition to serving from 9-10 am on Sundays. You may have also seen the WeCare bags we are delivering to our “offline” community and our elders. The contents of these bags varies but includes simple treats, small gifts and devotional materials. We are blessed to have been gifted with Thrivent Action Grants, endowment funds and personal donations which make our WeCare connection possible.

Get Your Covid-19 Vaccination

One of the most important way we can help get our church life back to normal is to get vaccinated against Covid-19. If you are age 65 or older or a front-line health worker you are eligible for a vaccination. The Wisconsin Council of Churches recommends that we encourage each other to get vaccinated as quickly as possible. You may want to register in more than one place to increase the possibility that you get an appointment in a timely manner. You can register for a vaccination by phone with Aspirus at 715-847-2812 and press 2 when given options. You can register for a vaccination by phone with Marshfield clinic at 877-998-0880. Both Marshfield and Aspirus also offer online registration. Your primary care physician or pharmacy may also be taking registrations for vaccinations. If you believe you are eligible, but are having problems maneuvering the registration process we have volunteers who will help you. Leave your name and number with Angie at the church office and one of our volunteers will call to help you. Due to overwhelming volume, expect that the line will be hard to get through and at times, even go down. Be patient and show grace!

From your Parish Nurses MARCH

It is hard to imagine a time when we didn't know COVID-19 existed. Now when people say, "virus," we know what they mean. The impact of COVID-19 on our lives, our activities, and our freedom has affected us all. We all want everyone in our community to be safe and get back to hugging our families, attending church and other large group activities in person. To achieve our goal of returning to some form of normalcy in our everyday life we need to come together and use all the tools we have available to stop the pandemic. Those tools include wearing masks and staying 6 feet apart from people who don't live with you, avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces, washing your hands frequently, and **getting vaccinated**.

Each state has been given the task of the vaccinating its citizens and the process is happening in our area. The CDC on 2/26/21 stated 55,220,364 vaccines have been given. Anthony Fauci, MD director of National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases states, he was watching the vaccine approval process like a hawk and that it was done in an entirely appropriate manner. He stated the application of extraordinary scientific advances and the billions of dollars to pre-purchase vaccines provided for a quick development of the vaccines.

Covid-19 vaccination will help keep you from getting COVID-19. All COVID-19 vaccines currently available in the United States have been shown to be highly effective at preventing COVID-19. Based on what is known about vaccines for other diseases and early data from clinical trials, experts believe that getting a COVID-19 vaccine may also help keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19. The most common vaccine side effects are pain in the arm where you get the shot, feeling tired, headache, body aches, chills and fever. Getting COVID-19 may offer some natural protection, known as immunity. Current evidence suggests that reinfection with virus that causes COVID-19 is uncommon in the 90 days after initial infection. However, experts don't know for sure how long this protection lasts, and the risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 far outweighs any benefits of natural immunity. **COVID-19 vaccination will help protect you by creating an antibody (immune system) response without having to experience sickness.**

Doctor Fauci states, that if enough people decide not to get vaccinated, we will not reach that protective umbrella of herd immunity, and this infection will always be a threat in society.

Information for this newsletter is from the CDC and an article in Nutrition Action Health Letter Center for Science in the Public Interest.

CDC (centers for disease control) is the nation's health protection agency.

CDC guidelines can be found at [cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19)

Biotechnology Innovation Organization: <https://www.covidvaccinefacts.org/>

PhRMA: <https://www.phrma.org/Coronavirus>

Wisconsin Immunization Advocacy Coalition: <http://www.cwag.org/>

"Love your neighbor as yourself," Mark 12:31

*Your Parish Nurses,
Barb & Mary*

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

We are also offering
online worship
services
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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Mary Omernik

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Cory Toth LaPointe

Treasurer



M A R C H Birthdays

- 1 Jacklyn Dehnel
Laurel Schmieder
- 2 Daniella Edens
Ally Kane
- 4 Jason Teske
- 5 Joshua Stumpner
- 8 Tami Cummings
Lauren Mattice
- 9 Virgine Mattice
Katherine Ramthun
- 10 John Gwidt
- 11 Thomas Bargender
Paulette Keough

- 13 Marri Bootz
Donna Guldan
- 14 Natalie Edens
John Ellenbecker
Amy Gulsvig
- 15 Jean Korpela
Adam Schneider
- 16 Samson Hafner
Tanner Kostroski
Landyn Neitzke
Laura Petterson
Rockwell Robarczyk
- 17 Jeremy Crawford
Mark Salzmann
Jill Stumpner
Braxton Wozniczka
- 18 Kevin Yolitz
- 19 Patricia Barofsky
- 20 Keenan Kriewaldt

- 21 Caden Chapman
Carter Chapman
Kaitlin Daigle
Tina Drescher-Carver
Mary Jane Horvat
- 22 Dorie Madden
- 24 Rick Barthels
Kathryn Schneider
- 25 Anne Jones
Bertram Koehler
Thea Kordus
- 26 Patricia Anderson
- 27 Gus Johnson
Jack Johnson
Liam Michael Schulz
- 29 Elijah Grubb

M A R C H Anniversaries

- 7 Leonard & Dawn Thorwaldson
- 19 Ronald & Barbara Budimlija
- 20 John & Barb Viergutz
- 28 Tony & Beth Champine



Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Wausau WI
Church Council meeting minutes

January 12, 2021 Socially distanced via Zoom online

Call to Order –6:30 pm *Present: Pastor Kemp, Tim, Josh, Dorie, Heidi, Jenny, M. J., Steve, Brad, Geri, Heidi, Paul [all]

Gathering Litany – Pastor Kemp

God's Word

- Devotional time, Dorie – Water; sometimes we must cross troubled waters [February – Pastor Kemp]
- Sharing how you have seen God at work lately – ALL

Review

- Agenda review - Dorie / Steve – Addition of Phase II 2021 PPP to New Business APPROVED
- Minutes review – M.J. / Brad - APPROVED
- Treasurer / Financial Report – Cory - (December income was \$26,439 expenses were \$29,837. We transferred \$2,207 of funds so the total net income was (\$2,178.) Current reserves are \$31,484 in the general fund, \$14,451 in the building fund, and \$13,242 in work of the church.
January through December: We received \$292,219 in unrestricted contributions, \$21,236 was transferred from the building fund, and we paid \$313,107 in regular expenses.
Our PPP loan of \$41,500 was forgiven.) - Geri / Jenny APPROVED

Our Response to the Word

(old business)

- **'Annual Meeting during a pandemic' planning** - The 2021 Annual Meeting is slated for January 24th at 9:00 a.m. in the Damgard Worship Space and online, Pastor Kemp, officers and our Treasurer attending in-person (masked and distanced) to address all questions from membership. Dr. Putri (graciously) will manage technology. Notification efforts are ongoing. A Motion was offered by Steve that the Council, on behalf of the membership, deem that due to unanticipated and unprecedented Pandemic complications whatever number of members attend the Annual Meeting shall be certified to constitute a Quorum. Seconded by Dorie - MOTION PASSED unanimously.
- **2021 Church Council candidates and leadership – update** – Three Councilmembers will be completing two terms of office, and two will be completing their first term. We wholeheartedly thank them for their contributions and good work. We are blessed to have candidates willing to fill each of these seats. Combined with others willing to take on other leadership roles, we have a full slate of candidates for all positions which will be voted upon at our upcoming Annual Meeting. New Council member orientation is planned for February 4th. Deepest thanks to retiring Council members Dorie & Tim.
- **'Reimagining Worship' Committee Update** - The committee will meet during the week of January 17th. Covid-safe 'drive-through' Communion continues steady. A Lenten delivery of "We Care" gifts is planned; including more spiritually oriented gifts. Contingency planning for some forum of Ash Wednesday worship is in planning. Pastor Kemp will be attending a 'Returning to in-person Worship seminar January 14th.
- **Stewardship for All Seasons & Strategic Planning – update** – Dorie – Despite the limitations of the pandemic, pledge returns for 2021 approach the level of responses from 2020 (72 versus 108). Angie is attending a meeting regarding productive follow-up. While the lower response complicates budget planning, usable projections are being tallied and will be reported to the incoming Church Council next month. Dorie and Tim have committed to remain involved into the future despite leaving Council.

(new business)

- **Payroll Protection Loan Phase II for 2021** – Within the last 72 hours the Federal government announced a second phase of the PPP loan program. Council leadership and staff have already prepared documents to immediately apply for this relief which may provide 2 ½ months of payroll cost relief. The ethics of participation were discussed, concluding that we are in alignment of the stated program purpose of supporting employment during a pandemic crisis.
A Motion was offered by Josh that Council authorize participation in the second phase of the PPP forgivable loan program. Seconded by Brad. MOTION PASSED.

Action Items:

- ✓ Plan to attend the Annual Meeting and offer help to those with limited technology experience to participate.
- ✓ Contact M.J. to help with the next round of "We Care" packages.

Pastor Kemp lead a Liturgy of Confession & Forgiveness (regarding events in Wash D.C.)

Prayers of the Church / Lord's Prayer

Sending (motion to adjourn) Heidi / Geri PASSED Adjournment 7:40 pm

Respectfully submitted, Paul Grewe, GSLC Secretary

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS: MISSIONS PURSUED!

Good Shepherd wants to express appreciation to all Thrivent members who have and or are considering directing their choice dollars towards Good Shepherd. These designated funds have assisted us in the missions that we are called to carry out. If you are considering GSLC this time around, the deadline is March 31st, and THANK YOU for joining the mission!



ENDOWMENT FUND

Fund Objective:

The mission of this Fund is to provide a tool that allows people to give a gift or legacy as a means of extending the mission of Christ's church. The application of the funds received and disbursed will be consistent with the mission and purpose of the church in its Mission Statement. (Include additional sheets if more space is required.)

GRANT APPLICATION

NAME: _____

COMMITTEE / GROUP (if applicable): _____

DATE ESTABLISHED: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

MAILING ADDRESS (if different): _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

CONTACT PERSON: _____

PURPOSE OF ORGANIZATION (include brief description of services provided):

PURPOSE FOR FUNDS REQUESTED:

TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT FOR PROJECT: \$ _____

TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$ _____

HAS THE ENDOWMENT FUND SUPPORTED THIS ORGANIZATION IN THE PAST? Y / N

IF YES, HOW MUCH: \$ _____ DATE: _____

NOTES:

All requests will be acted upon following review by the Good Shepherd Endowment Fund Committee. Specific dates may be obtained by contacting the church office at 715-675-1997. All Requests must be submitted to the church office by March 31 to be considered that year.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE

930 EDGEWOOD RD * WAUSAU, WI * 54403 * 715-675-1997 * INFO@GSWAUSAU.ORG

