



Shepherd's Staff

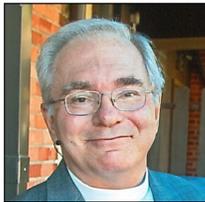
August, 2017

[Website](#)



[Like Us on Facebook](#)

[Calendar](#)



Rich Wolf
Senior Pastor
rwolf@gslcelca.org

A Reason NOT to Attend Church

The statistics confirm it, across the nation fewer and fewer people are attending church. Even among so-called active members people simply do not attend worship as often as they did in the past. There's all kinds of reasons: Sunday morning soccer games, the availability of worship services on TV and online, frequent travel for work, and of course, the overall busy-ness of our days where we seldom have time to rest at all anymore.



For centuries, the church was the social and cultural center of people's lives. But now, people can connect 24/7 through social media and can find top-notch Christian music to suit their tastes. With a click of the browser, one can easily find almost every kind of "spirituality" at their fingertips.

So why go to church at all? I know of two compelling (and scriptural) reasons to do so:

#1-You Don't Attend Church. YOU ARE THE CHURCH. Being the church is much more than just sitting in the pew consuming what the church has to offer. You ARE the church. (1 Corinthians 12:27) Being the church is about finding ways to serve God and neighbor in the company of others. Being the church is about moving from being simply a consumer of what the church can provide for you and becoming instead a contributor of what you can give to others. You don't just go to be served but to serve. You gather in order to make a difference not only in your personal life, but to make a difference in the lives of others. It's about discovering ways to live your life for Christ-and it's very difficult to do that all

alone.

2-Christ is There. Being the church is about experiencing the very real presence of Christ "wherever two or three (or more) are gathered." (Matthew 18:20) I know, God is present in all of creation (even on the golf course), but God is especially among us when the Gospel is proclaimed and the sacraments are shared. In Word, water, bread and wine Christ makes himself known to us. And this happens in community as we gather together to *Following Christ, Growing in Faith, and Sharing God's Love*. As we are in mission together Christ is truly there among us.

So that's it, you don't attend church... you ARE the church-and Christ is at work among us.

Pastor Rich



Luther Tree Planted for Good Shepherd

On June 26th to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, Rudy and Dorothy Schaser planted a tree in the Luthergarten in Wittenberg, Germany. This was part of the international "500 Trees in Wittenberg in honor of Good Shepherd" Project. Our tree (#405) is directly across the street from the Luther Haus.



Jim Anderson Council President

Good Shepherd is a "large" church. That is a bold statement: congregations are communities of faith, the heartbeat of the church. Regardless of size, congregations are where the people of God gather together to worship, to celebrate, to serve, and to let the pulse of God's Spirit move them to an even greater future of witness and service. Large congregations are unique in the ELCA and every other Christian denomination. Because the percentage of large congregations is relatively small, they are often an unknown quantity to the rest of the church body.

Church Worship Size	Number of ELCA Congregations	Percentage
750 + average per week	94	.9%
500 - 749 average per week	170	1.6%
300 - 499 average per week	614	6.0%
200 -299 average per week	954	9.0%
100 -199 average per week	2,652	25.5%
50 - 99 average per week	3,198	31%

We are blessed. We are active and vibrant. Our outreach to the local community and the world never ceases to amaze me. However, there are some trends we need to pay attention to; our average worship attendance over the past 8 years has declined by 13.1%, while our baptized membership has slipped by 3.9% over the same period.

Your Council will be studying these trends and will be thinking long term at our retreat in August. Questions we will tackle include:

- "Is it possible to grow our worship attendance?"
- "How do we support our ministry in a time where monetary commitment (pledging) is in decline?"
- "Where do we see the congregation/church five years from now in 2022?"
- "How do we become a more agile church for the future?"

Please pray for our efforts.

The planning phase of our Capital Campaign continues. It is not a great time to launch a campaign during the normal summer doldrums of the church year, so as the TV news people say: "Stay tuned for News at 11!"

I'm proud of our church's effort to pull together Area 10 to support a Habitat project to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. GSLC will be part of a build in the Tiffany Neighborhood (off of Grand behind Cardinal Glennon Hospital). We will work on 3 homes in that neighborhood. An interesting note is that there is a home, on the same street where we will be building homes, that was dedicated to Pope Francis in 2015. Choosing this site means that our build will begin in September. In a few weeks we will know the exact dates. We will work with area congregations together on the build. We're planning a kick-off celebration at the build site. A big thank you to Suzie Everingham, for her efforts of pulling together Area 10 support and to Beckie Fingland, and Della Bretscher who are coordinating our build efforts.

We continue in our Mission: *Following Christ, Growing in Faith, Sharing God's Love.*

1 Rev. Mark A. Grorud

Director for Relationships with Large Membership Congregations

What in God's Name Is Going On Here?

Hear, Here!

Join us for our
**Good to Grow
Campaign Kick-Off Celebration
Sunday, August 27
At 6:30 p.m. in the Gymnasium**



Enjoy fine food and fellowship with your fellow members. Listen to inspirational talks. View our newly produced campaign brochure and video and learn first-hand of our needs, our hopes and our dreams. You'll hear it all here. So please plan to attend our Campaign Kick-Off Celebration to discover just what in God's Name is going on here.



A Capital Campaign to Improve Our Church for Others

Kitchen Project Update

Submitted by: Lyle Ziemann & Paul Proefrock

The kitchen project is progressing well. As with any "church home improvement" project, we planned for contingences, but we had a few curve balls thrown our way. The St. Louis County government now regulates church kitchens. So instead of one hand washing sink, we will have two (something to do with the distances between food prep areas and sinks), all the sinks will have to have grease traps, and we will be inspected by the Health Department going forward. Sometimes the original plans you use to design your renovation don't quite tell the whole story. One of the main footers where we planned to add new sewer lines was a bit bigger than shown, so we made accommodation for that surprise. Our friend, the Fire Marshall, also wanted four new sprinklers added in the kitchen. Thankfully, we had contingency funds built in for these changes to the plan.

With those challenges successfully dealt with, the project is moving forward. Demolition is complete and reconstruction has been going on for the last couple weeks. The new kitchen hood has been installed, curbs for the new cabinetry in place, new plumbing lines run and floor concrete patched. You may have noticed the new doors have been installed. Work is still continuing on the window. The biggest change will begin this week as the tile setters begin the process of tiling the walls and floor. Our contractor tells us we are "close to being on schedule." We're still counting on substantial completion by August 31st.

Here are some pictures of the progress since the first of June.



Music Ministry
Jamie DeGeer
Director of Music Ministry
jdegeer@gslcelca.org

Choir News - Exciting Changes Ahead for One Choir!

As summer winds down we start thinking about all of the activities that will start up again in the fall. One of those will be returning to the regular choir rehearsal schedule. However, there will be changes made to that schedule this fall for the Faith Choir (SATB Mixed Group). Starting in September, the Faith Choir will be singing only at the 9:30 service twice a month and the

choir will rehearse on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays each month at 7:00 pm. LOLs, also known as Ladies of the Lord Singers (Treble Clef voices), will continue to rehearse twice a month on Sunday at noon. And, the Celebration Chorus (Bass Clef voices) will continue to rehearse on the 3rd Thursday each month at 8:15 pm. If you have previously been a member of a choir; either here at GSLC, at another church, in college or even in high school; please prayerfully consider how you can share your talents in worship. Not only is choir a place where you can learn new music and serve the church by leading worship, it is a place where you can meet new people or become re-acquainted with old friends and most of all have fun in a loving, supportive and caring small group. Singers are welcome to join choir at any time during the year, but fall is a great time to start new things, so come on and check out one of our choirs.



Children and Family Ministry
Becky Howard
Director of Children & Family Ministry
bhoward@gslcelca.org



Confirmation Journey
Mentors Needed! We are



looking for adults who would be interested in mentoring our sixth grade confirmation students during the three years of their confirmation instruction. This is an awesome opportunity to learn and grow along with these terrific young people. We have planned three group events throughout the school year with Sunday morning and Wednesday evening one-on-one connection time opportunities to support and encourage these young people as they journey through middle school and confirmation instruction. If you are interested in connecting with a middle schooler in this way, please contact Becky Howard.

Middle School Calendar Reminders:

Aug. 2	12-2pm Xtreme VBS for middle school VBS volunteers
Aug. 13	12-2pm Back to School family build-a-meal lunch & games; potluck instructions to follow – no cost. RSVP by 8/10
Aug. 20	First day of Sunday School
Sept. 13	First night of S.O.S. Confirmation programming!

Children's Ministry Programming Opportunities We are excited about a new year in Sunday morning learning and would love to have you join us as part of a leadership team! Whether you are a first-time leader, parent, grandparent or seasoned teaching pro - there is much to do from 9:30-10:40am starting this August!

- **Classroom Leaders:** We are currently looking for folks to join our four-person teaching teams in our Little Lambs (age 2-3); Preschool (age 3-4); Elementary Rotation classrooms (ages K-5th grade; as well as, our middle school group. We have a solid, easy-to-use, minimal preparation needed curriculum. Our goal is to have a large enough team where each leader is only responsible to be in class twice a month.

- **Classroom Shepherds:** No preparation required here! You would be that extra set of hands, eyes and ears, guiding our Little Lambs, Preschool and PreK children through Sunday mornings here at Good Shepherd. Great opportunity to get to know our young people while assisting classroom leaders.
- **Music Leadership Team:** Partnering with others, help lead our preschoolers, K-2nd grade and 3rd - 5th graders in large group opening music time each week (with more folks involved, comes more flexibility in weeks responsible for leadership).

In addition to our Sunday morning faith connection time, we also have **Wednesday evening Youth Club** for 3rd - 8th grader September through April. We would love to have you join our Wednesday evening fun by serving as an elementary or middle school worship skill leader (we welcome your input in leading our kids in three to four-week sessions focused on art, music, community building, etc.) ... or join the kitchen crew to help prepare the evening meal. You can sign up for one or more weeks per month!

Meet the Teacher



Meet the Teacher Sunday, August 13! The fun starts at 9:30 with youth and parents meeting in the sanctuary for a blessing and official kick-off to the celebration of learning and growing together in Christ. This will be a celebration of the opportunities ahead for God's

children of all ages to learn and grow together. We hope you'll join the celebration! After the blessing in the sanctuary, opportunities to learn more about our new year in learning will follow in the classrooms.



Fellowship of Lutheran Youth - FLY
Pastor Amy Stewart
Director of Youth Ministry
astewart@gslcelca.org

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles
 Isaiah 40:31



College Sendoff and FLY Back to School Family Pool Party

When: Aug 13; sendoff in worship, party at 4-8pm

Where: Cool Dell pool (414 Dietrich Rd)

Food: we will grill hot dogs; families should bring a dish or dessert to share and drinks Cost: \$10 per family or \$5 for individuals

RSVP: by Aug 6th

* College students: please email PA at astewart@gslcelca.org with your college address, email, and cell (if you want to be on a college GroupMe), even if it hasn't changed.



Upcoming FLY events:

Aug 2: 5:45-7:15pm, Escape the Room (drop off/pick up



at Breakout Games, Manchester) - pay \$13 to reserve your spot (they're limited!)

Aug 9: 6-8pm, PJ's, movie, and popcorn in the sanctuary

Aug 13: see pool party info above

Aug 20: 12pm, 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering interest meeting for all 8-12th graders (FLY room)

Due to the congregation-wide Capital Campaign kickoff on the evening of Aug 27 and Labor Day weekend, Fall Sunday night FLY will kickoff on September 10th.

**Great never becomes old.
It becomes vintage.**

BREWS & HYMNS

NEW DATE!!!
WEDNESDAY
Aug 23@7pm
The Wolf.

Lutherans. Singing vintage hymns since 1517

Bible Studies & Adult Education

The Thursday Lunch Bunch will begin the study by Beth Moore titled *The Patriarchs: Encountering the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob* on Thursday, August 31 at noon in Room 205. This study will cover the span of 11 weeks, discovering Genesis 12-20, and will explore the concepts of blessing, covenant, and promise, and how each concept has a bearing in the New Testament. Every week each participant will delve deep into the book of Genesis with an interactive study for five days, then on Thursdays, the group will discuss that week's study and watch a video. If you are interested and would like to purchase a Participant's book, please let me know by Monday, August 28. The cost is \$15.99. Bring your lunch and drink on August 31, and join us for this study! Any questions please contact Joanna Brooks at 314.640.4946 or email joannabrooks2000@gmail.com. All are welcome to join us on this faith building journey.

Men's Bible Breakfast - Thursday Mornings 6:15-7:15 at St. Louis Bread Co. Winchester. Join us Thursday mornings for coffee, fellowship, and lively discussion. New study: *Reclaiming the "C" Word Daring to be Church Again*, by Kelly A. Fryer. For info contact Shawn Geurkink at sgeurkink314@gmail.com.

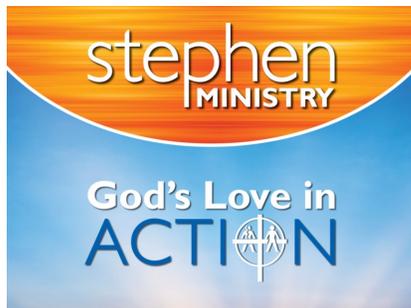
Sunday Morning Bible Study - 9:30 AM - Room 214 resumes August 20th. Reading and discussing Matthew Themes: Jesus is the promised Messiah,

his teachings and his resurrection. Join us as we discuss what God is saying to us and how we can put it into practice. ALL ARE WELCOME! Questions? Contact Steve Spoerle at fsspoerle@gmail.com.



Father Figure
CELEBRATE THE STRUGGLE

Sunday, August 20 @ 4 pm.
Potluck. Conversation. Campfire.



Stephen Ministry
Submitted by Beckie Fingland

Would you like to be part of a ministry that makes a real difference in others' lives when they need it most - and in your own? Consider becoming a Stephen Minister!

Stephen Ministers provide one-to-one caring ministry to people experiencing grief, divorce, job loss, and many other life difficulties. Stephen Leaders will equip you to do an excellent job as a Stephen Minister. Training classes begin in October.

If you would like to learn more about how to become a Stephen Minister, contact Pastor Wolf at 636-391-6685, rwolf@gslcelca.org. You can also check out the Stephen Ministry website at www.stephenministry.org.

A Nurse Comes Face to Face with Cancer

"My medical career as a registered nurse with a master's degree and years of experience working with cancer patients in three states, the Netherlands, and northwest Haiti did not prepare me for the shock of being told that I had bone cancer, or for the many challenges that I've had to face.

The book ***Cancer-Now What?*** has been an unexpected blessing to me. My family and I use it every day as we journey through our own experiences with cancer.

CANCER
Now What?
MINISTRY

"My world has completely changed and, in many ways, has become foreign. My husband, my three sons, and the rest of my family are devastated too. This book has been an absolute treasure in guiding us through all this chaos.

"I write with a heart full of gratitude to everyone who had a part in writing, publishing, and giving this book to me."

Donna Kier, Stephen Minister
New Richmond, Wisconsin

Every Good Shepherd member has the opportunity to provide an unexpected blessing to a person with cancer and his or her family by giving a copy of ***Cancer-Now What?*** These books and a Giver's Guide are available at the Information Desk in the narthex.

Service Team - Janie Wolfangel

As you know the Service Team helps to organize many service-related activities within the church. In July we collected "back-to-school" items for Beyond Housing for students in the Normandy School District. Again, your generosity has been overwhelming and we thank you for making this collection such a success.

Plans for our project with Habitat for Humanity are going well. We will be working on three homes in the Tiffany neighborhood, which is off of Grand Avenue, behind Cardinal Glennon/SLU Hospitals. We will have the exact dates for building in the next few weeks. Please check the Narthex for more information on this endeavor.

The Food Bin for August/September Our donations are going to the Food Pantry that is supported by the Maplewood/Richmond Heights School District, specifically their Weekend on Wheels food program. They need individual snacks that could be added to backpacks that are sent home on weekends. Here are their needs: individual fruit and/ or pudding cups. Cracker packs, granola bars, small boxes of raisins or nuts. Please do not bring large boxes of snacks unless they are packaged for individual use.

Monthly Benevolence Fund: Each month the Service Team has a theme which helps the selection of recipients for that month's Benevolence Fund disbursements. The theme for July was Children/Youth. The Team researched agencies in the St. Louis area and we were able to help: Project Backpack, St. Louis Crisis Nursery and Lutheran Family and Children Services. We were also able to allocate funds to GSLC Helping Hands.

One of the agencies we supported in July was St. Louis Crisis Nursery. This agency is committed to the prevention of child abuse and neglect and provides emergency intervention, respite care and support to families in crisis through: short-term care for young children in a safe and nurturing environment; helping families resolve crisis; follow-up ongoing support and education to families; community outreach and awareness; and advocacy for children and families.

The Service Team meets on the first Tuesday of the month; our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 1st at 7:00 p.m. in Room 205. We are always looking for new members to support this worthwhile ministry at Good Shepherd -

please join us!

Feed My Starving Children Hunger Does Not Take A Vacation

**Reminder: Our 11th FMSC
MobilePack.**

2017 IN 2017

2017 CHILDREN FED
FOR AN ENTIRE YEAR!



Pack dates are October 18th - 22nd. Registration opens August 19th & 20th for Good Shepherd members/families first. Tables will be in the narthex if you prefer to register in person before or after church that weekend. Otherwise, please check the church website for the FMSC link.

Registration opens August 21st to the public. Invite your co-workers and friends to join you. There are jobs for all, sitting or standing.



What can you be doing before October?

Our goal for the 2017 Pack is to feed at least 2017 starving kids for ONE YEAR. \$162,000 is needed to pay for the food. Have some fun and do some creative fundraising. Here is a fun event that was held by another church that packs with us: The VBS of this other church had a coin challenge. Boys against the girls and the winners got to throw a pie in the face of the other team's

adult leader. The result: so close that both leaders got a pie in the face. Much laughter and fun happened and the best part is they raised \$500, enough money to feed over 6 starving children for a year.

You must have some ideas as well, please share with the FMSC team so we can pass them on. Need some ideas? Check the GSLC web site under Feed My Starving Children, (link) and the FMSC web site under fundraising (link). Have some fun and joy while saving children lives.



Looking for Ladies interested in Summer Gathering!

Ladies will explore Kelly Fryer's "**All Anew**" theme from the WELCA Gather magazine. In this lesson Kelly will share her experience of 20 years as Pastor, teacher, entrepreneur and communicator.

Join us for tea or lemonade on **August 26** from 2-4pm. We will gather at the Haugen residence 14625 Timberlake Manor Court, Chesterfield.

Interested in gathering on this Saturday? RSVP to Vicki at 571-235-3935 or vicki.haugen2@gmail.com. Hope to see you there!

Building Homes in celebration of 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

Area Lutheran and Catholic congregations will work together on a Habitat build. A kick-off celebration is being planned for the build site. If you have questions, please talk with Beckie Finland, Della Bretscher or Suzie Everingham.

Please see Jim Anderson's article above for details.



A "Wink" from the Welcome Ministry Team by: Elliott Haugen



It's August! Are you kidding me? Well, it is actually a time for kids. Many schools will be starting this month and Good Shepherd's Sunday School (and Adult Education) will be restarting too. Did you know that 13% of Good Shepherd's members are under 10 years of age (about 175 of them)?



Many relationships with God start at an early age. Therefore, we want all children to feel welcomed, loved and included. These "Children of God" need, are nurtured by, and contribute to worship. Worshiping together affirms that we are all part of God's loving family.

Here are a few ideas for parents and all of us to help children feel part of our worship service:

- Smile! Greet children you see or who sit near you. Let them know how happy you are that they are here.
- Help families with children find a place to sit in your pew.
- Help children find pages in the hymnal and follow the order of service. Use the children's Bible located in the pew.
- Respond to children's questions and follow-up after worship.
- Pass the offering plate to them, not over their heads and help them sign the red pew pad when it is passed.
- "Share the Peace" with children. Help them feel like they belong here.
- Encourage children to participate in our worship events; e.g., gather at the altar for children's sermons or near the font for baptisms.
- Check the worship bulletin, GSLC newsletter and our web for information about educational and participation opportunities for youth.
- Pick up a children's activity bag, located near the Sanctuary's main doors.
- Take advantage of our staffed nursery, if needed. It is near the north entrance.

Developing a relationship with God is a core focus of our worship services. Worshiping together helps God's children experience the Word, grace, forgiveness, and love of God.

"Let the little children come to me" Matthew 19:14

Note: A "wink" is a brief form of communications that implies a hello or friendly greeting. Watch for future Winks with thoughts and information about Good Shepherd's welcoming ministry.



Building Blocks Preschool
Kathy Rebholz, Director
krebholz@gslcelca.org



What is Building Blocks Preschool?



A few spots remain! Contact [Kathy Rebholz](mailto:krebholz@gslcelca.org) for an appointment!



Health Notes

Norma Anderson, Parish Nurse

Most of you are aware that I subscribe to a number of health newsletters from some of our most prestigious medical centers; recently I found an interesting article about strokes in "Women's Health Advisor" from the Cornell Univ. Medical Center. Stroke is the fifth most common cause of death in the U.S. and a leading cause of disability. According to a report issued by the American Heart Association, a stroke causes approximately one out of every 20 deaths in this country, and someone dies from a stroke about every four minutes. If you experience any symptoms of a stroke, minimizing the time it takes you to receive treatment is the absolute key in achieving the best outcome for you.

Most major hospitals have stroke teams that quickly mobilize neurologists who can administer a clot-dissolving medication called tissue plasminogen activator (tPA) intravenously to prevent brain damage if a patient has had an ischemic stroke. (tPA is not used to treat the other most common type of stroke, hemorrhagic stroke.) To be effective, tPA must be given during the three hours after symptoms first occur. Stroke teams rely on the patient to get to the ER as quickly as possible. You should be able to recognize these key symptoms of

stroke: 1) Sudden numbness or weakness, especially on one side of your body, including your face. 2) Difficulty speaking or confusion. 3) Blurred vision or other sudden changes in vision. 4) Sudden severe headache without an identifiable cause. 5) Sudden loss of balance, dizziness, or trouble walking.

If you experience any of these symptoms, call 911 immediately and have them transport you to the closest ER, preferably one with a stroke team. You'll likely have a CT scan to rule out bleeding in the brain, an indication that a hemorrhagic stroke, rather than ischemic stroke, occurred. (An ischemic stroke is caused by a blood clot that blocks the blood flow to your brain.) If tests show you suffered an ischemic stroke, you will receive a medication that will break up the blood clot, as described earlier above.

You have the highest chance of surviving a stroke with minimal damage and deficits if you are evaluated and treated within the first 48 to 72 hours; during this time, additional testing may be done to determine what caused the stroke so appropriate measures can be taken to lower your risk of having a second stroke.

I decided to focus on strokes this month because one of my neighbors here at Meramec Bluffs had a small stroke about two weeks ago. She was taken to the hospital ER, treated appropriately and is back home again. Her main symptom was difficulty speaking and confusion. She had a minor stroke, often called a TIA (transitory ischemic attack) and recovered quickly after prompt treatment in the ER.

Our Staff

Pastor Rich Wolf
Senior Pastor
rwolf@gslcelca.org

Pastor Josh Brecht
Associate Pastor
jbrecht@gslcelca.org

Pastor Amy Stewart
Director of Youth Ministry
astewart@gslcelca.org

Ch. Suzie Everingham
Deacon
severingham@gslcelca.org

Jamie De Geer
Director of Music Ministry
jdegeer@gslcelca.org

Becky Howard
Dir. of Children's Ministry
bhoward@gslcelca.org

Julie Deay
Church Business Administrator
jdeay@gslcelca.org

Brenda Ogroski
Administrative Assistant
bogroski@gslcelca.org

Jennifer Makowski
Accountant/Communications
jmakowski@gslcelca.org

Kathy Rebholz
Dir. Building Blocks Preschool
krebholz@gslcelca.org

Cathy Putz/Leslie Markovits
Office Assistants
cputz@gslcelca.org
lmarkovits@gslcelca.org

Keith Kolander
Organist

Karen Kallansrud,
Accompanist

