



Shepherd's Staff

*January, 2017
Happy New Year!*

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Pastor Rich Wolf
Senior Pastor
rwolf@gslcelca.org

Now is the Time

A while ago, I mentioned in a sermon the distinction between the Greek words Chronos and Kairos and the different perspective they might bring to our lives.

The first, Chronos refers to time as we typically think of it. We think of having 24 hours in a day and defining our workweeks by the number of hours that we work. We have so many things to do and only so much time to get it all done. Our time is limited and we never seem to have enough.



Kairos on the other hand, is often used to describe what I call "God's time." These are the points in our lives when God seems especially present or when we get just a glimpse of God working in and through us. Of course, God is not bound by the confines of space or time (chronos) as we know it. God flows into our daily lives at times (kairos) and in places that we least expect. It is then, that God shows up and accomplishes amazing things. This is the "time" when the Holy Spirit is most powerfully at work and accomplishes things "beyond our asking or imagining." (Ephesians 3:20)

I believe that this time in the life of Good Shepherd is one of those "kairos moments." God is already powerfully at work in this place. The Gospel is proclaimed in word and deed. God is praised, the hungry are fed, those in need are given aid, those broken by life's circumstances are offered healing and compassion.

In a more strategic sense, Good Shepherd is in a position "at this time" to really move forward on a mission that makes a difference in people's lives. We have a dedicated and talented staff who are poised to lead us in even more exciting and significant ministry. We have been richly blessed with material and financial resources. Of course, one of our greatest resources is "people power" as our

members seek actively to "Follow Christ, Grow in Faith, and Share God's Love." We cannot take credit for any of this... it is all a result of God's gracious giving and providing.

I personally sense the Spirit moving in this place. "Now" may very well be the time (kairos) that God does some really amazing things here. We will need everyone's support and prayers. Most of all, we rely on God's grace and direction as we begin a new year. I, for one, look forward to seeing what God can do!

Pastor Rich



Josh Brecht
Associate Pastor
jbrecht@gslcelca.org

These past couple of months have been exciting and scary, sad and joyful, uncertain and defining. As our family said goodbye to a season in South Carolina and dear friends there, we said hello to a new season and began meeting new friends here in St. Louis. Elijah, Evan, Miles, Gail, and I are grateful for the opportunity to join with Good Shepherd to follow Christ, grow in faith, and share God's love.

Following Christ is not easy. Following Jesus is rarely certain, or safe, or predictable, but it is worth it. Sometimes following Christ is as simple as living with kindness and generosity in our daily lives. Sometimes following means moving our family across the country. Following Christ means living our whole lives as Jesus' disciples. To be a disciple is to hear God and to obey. It is this simple and it is this hard. We do this as individuals in our homes, our schools, our workplaces, and our neighborhoods. We also do this as community as we seek to be Church together for the sake of the world.

I am excited to get to know the people and work of Good Shepherd. My primary goal for these first months together is to listen, learn, and form new relationships. I would love to grab coffee or lunch, or join your small group or Bible study and spend time getting to know you and your story. My heart is filled with holy anticipation as I think about where God is going to lead us in the months and years ahead!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Josh



Jim Anderson
Council President

The Christmas season is a time for celebration and reflection. We've had a good year at Good Shepherd. Our church family has grown. Our care and support - from Feed My Starving Children to the Pumpkin Patch to our support of Gateway 180 - has made a real difference in our community and our world. And our dedicated

and long-serving call committee brought us together with new Associate Pastor Josh Brecht and his wonderful family. 2016 has been a blessed year for GSLC.

But with the coming of the new year, this is also an opportunity to look forward. In 2017 we will work to achieve our WHIRL goals and meet new challenges. Our continuing work through the WHIRL committees will challenge us to adopt and embrace positive changes. We must also challenge ourselves to strengthen our commitment to giving of our time, talent and treasure. I challenge all of us to aspire to play a larger role in our synod. And above all we must challenge ourselves to remain focused on our mission: "Following Christ, Growing in Faith, Sharing God's Love." Together, we will meet and exceed the challenges we have set for ourselves, and make 2017 our most successful year yet at Good Shepherd.

By the time you read this, we should have new microphones in use at our services and we will have ordered new speakers to improve the sound in the sanctuary. We hope to have them installed long before Easter. We are blessed by a special gift to support this improvement in our sound system.

We will be convening the Congregation for our Annual Meeting on February 5th, 2017 in the gym. A light meal will be served. Please mark your calendars to attend, as we will present our budget and talk about WHIRL . We will also be approving a campaign for growth, which I talked about at the Mid-Year meeting in June, 2016. I promise to have the meeting completed in plenty of time to allow you to be home for the Super Bowl game.

Jim Anderson



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

Luther College Symphony Orchestra is Returning!!
Concert Sunday, January 29th 4:00 PM

The music and worship ministry teams invite you to join them in welcoming Luther College students to our church home when they visit on January 29th to present a concert in the gym. We will be serving them an afternoon meal before the concert and then hosting about 80 students overnight after the concert that evening. We need many people to help make this event happen.



Overnight hosts pick up their students after the concert on Sunday evening, take them home and provide an evening meal, a bed to sleep in, breakfast in the morning and return them to the church on Monday morning around 6:30 am. This is a wonderful experience for both the visiting singers and the host families, and a great way to share God's love.

Please check the Narthex for sign-up sheets for OVERNIGHT HOUSING or contact kkallansrud@sbcglobal.net .

To volunteer to HELP WITH MEAL, contact Dianne Unverfahrt dcbu8891@charter.net .



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



Children's Ministry Needs/Opportunities!

As our children's ministry programs continue to grow, we are looking for folks interested in being part of our special event ministry teams. We are team driven and would love to collaborate and coordinate with YOU. Please contact Becky Howard at 636.391.6685 if you are interested in being part of any of these event teams!

Easter Egg Hunt April 15 - looking for a team of 3 or 4 folks to plan this family-friendly celebration of Easter event scheduled for Saturday morning.



Be Like Jesus 24-hour Service

Event - March 31 - April 1. Over 100 3rd - 8th graders from area ELCA churches will gather at Good Shepherd for a lock-in focused on serving others. We will need help preparing snacks on Friday evening, and then to prepare and serve breakfast Saturday morning, pack lunches Saturday morning and to lead outreach events such as crafts, woodworking from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm on Saturday. We would love your partnership for this great outreach event (time commitment needs from two-hours to ten)!



Team VBS (July 31- August 4)

Looking for a team of folks to work on planning, recruiting and communications for this annual week of fun, faith-growth and community!



First Communion: Classes for 3rd-4th Graders starting Soon

Instruction four consecutive Wednesday evenings January 11th, 18th, 25th and February 1st from 6:45-7:30 pm in Room 150. Classes are offered to all third & fourth graders & to youth above fourth grade who have not received this instruction. Parents are asked to attend these evenings as this is an important event in their child's faith journey.

Training for the new First Communicants to serve as acolytes and cross bearers will also be included during the January 25th session.

Sat. Feb. 4 - First Communion family event 7 -

8:30 pm for the whole family, including extended family & baptized sponsors. There will be discussion & active learning to prepare for the celebration the next day.

Sun. Feb. 5 - at the 11 am service - the children will receive their First Communion! Contact Becky Howard for more information.



Sunday School - January Family Fellowship Sunday Jan. 8 - 10:40-

11:15 Parents, join us in the gym for refreshments and coffee. Meet some new friends or catch up with some old friends while the kids have indoor snowball fun!

Parenting Group - Jan. 8 Join us as we kick off a new year in this monthly ministry focused on bringing parents together to learn, grow, support and laugh together. 9:30-10:30 in Room 108.

Youth Club Both PREP and SOS will begin the new year on January 11.

- Jan 11 PREP & SOS begins (New Year Rec night after dinner for SOSers!) First Communion classes for 3rd & 4th graders & parents-6:45-7:30pm in Room 150; first night dinner for these families at 6:00 in Room 150.
- Jan 18 PREP & SOS-Week Two (Wear your Youth Club T-Shirt Night!) First Communion classes for 3rd & 4th graders & parents-6:45-7:30pm in Room 150.
- Jan 20-22 Quake Youth Ministry event for registered 7th-12th graders
- Jan 25 PREP & SOS-Week three First Communion classes for 3rd & 4th graders & parents-6:45-7:30 in the Sanctuary
- Feb 1 PREP & SOS - week four (Inside Out & Backwards Night!) First Communion Classes for 4th graders & parents-6:45-7:30pm in Room 150.



TheMiddle - Middle School youth, meet Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:40 in TheMiddle (Room 147). We're excited about a new discussion series starting this month - come join us for warm conversation among friends!

Save the Date! - Fly Trivia and Silent Auction Night

Mar. 4: Doors open at 6:30; Trivia starts at 7:30 pm. Sign-ups and more information to come.

Would you like to donate something for the silent auction? Contact Kim Deitzler at kdeitzler@att.net (GSLC Small groups: please consider putting together an auction basket!)



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

A huge thank you to those who helped bake, prepare, and sell cookies for our fundraiser!!

- Jan 8 11am FLY friends lead worship;
4:15-6:30pm C+ Harmony Praise Band rehearsal and dinner;
6:30-8pm FLY kickoff
- Jan 9 "Digging Deeper" Bible study
- Jan 13 7pm Venture Crew ice skating (meet at Steinberg rink with \$15)
- Jan 15 6:30-8pm FLY
- Jan 20-22 Youth Quake
- Jan 29 12-2pm "8/9/10 Gathering" for 8th-10th graders (FLY room);
4:15-6:30pm C+ Harmony Praise Band rehearsal and dinner;
6:30-8pm FLY night
- Jan 30 "Digging Deeper" Bible study

"Fresh Start" (Between 6-7:17 am)

- Jan 11 McDonald's, Valley Park
- Jan 18 Six North Café, Ballwin
- Jan 25 Bread Co, Frontenac
- Feb 1 Einstein Bagels, Ellisville

Super Bowl Sunday: FLY Service Project and Fundraiser

Feb. 5th: At all four services youth will hold the "Souper Bowl of Caring" pots, to collect money for people in need of food. Please consider bringing cash and spare change. On Sunday, FLY will also be selling frozen pizzas to help you host your Super Bowl parties. Look for more information and a pre-sale sign up in the narthex!

Lutherans Caring for God's Creation - from Pr. Amy

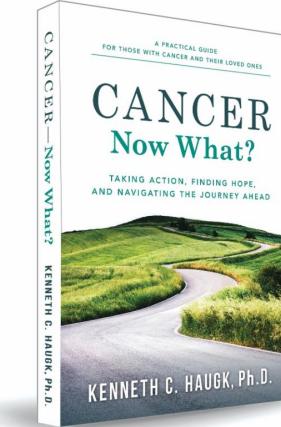
"Lutherans Caring for God's Creation" (LCGC) is a new addition to the newsletter, which will give easy, practical tips and ideas for individuals or families to do to be good stewards of creation.

Plastic bags are rapidly filling up landfills. Cloth grocery bags came into style in a big way in the last decade, and while most people own one or two, you still don't see them at the store very often. Leave your cloth bags in the car, so that you don't have to remember to get them from the coat closet. In the meantime, as a family, see who can come up with the most creative re-use idea for the plastic bags in your home. Make sure you have a prize for the winner!

Cancer-Now What? Ministry

Whom to Contact

We invite you to be part of the new *Cancer-Now What?* Ministry Team. Contact Diaconal Minister Suzie Everingham or Healing Ministries Team Leader David Paap dapaap@hotmail.com or 636-821-1182 for more information.



From the Healing Ministries Team

This month Good Shepherd is launching a new ministry, called *Cancer-Now What?*, to help people handle the challenges they may encounter after a cancer diagnosis.

The Need

All too often we hear that someone we know—possibly a friend, relative, neighbor, church member, coworker, or client—has been diagnosed with cancer or has a family member who was diagnosed. We want to reach out with care and support, but we may not be sure what to do or how to do it.

The Response

Good Shepherd's *Cancer-Now What?* Ministry provides our members with access to a book called *Cancer-Now What?*, which anyone can give to people with cancer or their loved ones.

About the Book

Cancer-Now What? was written by Dr. Kenneth Haugk, a clinical psychologist and pastor who walked alongside his wife, Joan, during her cancer journey. In writing this book, he worked with a research team that included Good Shepherd members Joel Bretscher & David Paap to gather firsthand knowledge and experiences from more than 3,500 cancer survivors, loved ones, and medical professionals. Visit the website www.cancernowwhat.org to learn more about the book.

Three Simple Actions You Can Take

1. Obtain a copy of *Cancer-Now What?* available here at Good Shepherd. You will also receive a *Giver's Guide* with ideas for giving the book, such as what you can say when giving someone the book.
2. Give the book to someone with cancer, or a loved one of that person.
3. We ask that, as you are able, make a donation to Good Shepherd's *Cancer-Now What?* Ministry so we can make the book available at no charge to everyone who needs one.

Where You Can Obtain a Copy of the Book

Go to the information desk across from the coffee station to find the *Cancer-Now What?* display, along with instructions for obtaining a copy of the book and *Giver's Guide*.

Special Gifts of Good Shepherd Members Make This Possible

Each book, along with an accompanying *Giver's Guide*, costs \$20. Your gift may buy one or several books. Even if you donate a smaller amount, each gift will help us make this book available for those who need it.

Stewardship Team Update

Christina Kling-Garrett, Co-Chair

With every new year, comes a new set of resolutions. In reflecting upon how God has blessed your life, have you thought about sharing your time or talents with the people of Good Shepherd? Stewardship isn't solely about financial giving; it also includes ways each one of us can help support the ministries our church offers. If you've ever considered serving on a committee or team, joining a Bible study or small group, becoming an assistant minister, reader, greeter or usher, now's the perfect opportunity to participate.

Good Shepherd is blessed to offer many different ways God's love can be shared both within our walls and out in our community - from providing flowers for the altar, to helping at VBS, or unloading the truck of pumpkins for the Pumpkin Patch, there is something for everyone here at Good Shepherd.

Our Ministry Opportunity Form highlights all the offerings where your time and talent would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions about an opportunity listed or a new suggestion, please feel free to call the Office, or speak with a pastor, council member or member of the Stewardship Team. We'd love to hear your thoughts and ideas!

Blessings for a wonderful 2017,
Christina Kling-Garrett
Stewardship Co-Chair



Lutheran Campus Ministry in St. Louis is hosting its annual Trivia Night!

Sat., Feb. 4: We need you for our biggest fundraiser of the year! The cost is \$20/person with teams of eight. There are exciting questions, great prizes for the top

three teams, and fun for all involved! Register in advance at www.lcmstl.org/trivia or by calling 314.863.8140. The doors open at 5:30 pm and play begins at 6:30 pm. (Bethel Lutheran Church, 7001 Forsyth Blvd). Can't make it to trivia, but still want to help out? Contact us about donating raffle prizes or using a Thrivent Action Grant for our event!



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



**BUILDING BLOCKS
PRESCHOOL**

This month, we wrapped up the first half of the school year celebrating Jesus's birthday at our annual Christmas program. The sanctuary was packed while children sang their hearts out about the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ. This was a happy occasion for everyone involved. During preschool hours, the children went Christmas caroling around the building to spread Christmas cheer to our church staff and thank them for their friendly support throughout the year.



talented teachers, flexible substitutes, generous church volunteers and a supportive church staff. This ministry is a true blessing and has a profound impact on all involved in it. Thank you Good Shepherd!



We look forward to the upcoming year as we prepare for 2017-2018 Preschool Registration the week of January 23rd. Building Blocks Preschool is blessed with wonderful families,



Service Team - Janie Wolfangel

There are always many service-related activities going on that the Service Team helps to organize or coordinate. This past month was a busy time for everyone, but with your unselfish giving, it was a blessed time for many unfortunate people.

We were able to help 150 families at Thanksgiving with our food filled baskets. Operation Christmas Child was amazing, we delivered 195 shoe boxes for children, the Christmas Giving Tree was also amazing, giving 6 families from Circle of Concern a wonderful Christmas, plus helping 20 teenagers for the First Step Back Home party.

Project Boomerang ended the year with a fantastic 8,782 cards made and distributed to different agencies. Please keep this ministry in mind when taking down your Christmas cards - the donation box is now under the mailboxes.

Meal-a-Month for January will again support the Maplewood/Richmond

Heights School District Food Pantry. Needed Items include: peanut butter & jelly, canned vegetables, & fruit, breakfast items, soups, mixed meal starters, such as Hamburger Helper.

Monthly Benevolence Fund: Each month the service team has a theme which helps guide the selection of recipients for that month's Benevolence fund disbursements. The theme for December was - Christmas Giving. We chose to support World Servants, Village of Hope School, 100 Neediest Cases and Santa's Helpers.

One of the agencies we supported was Santa's Helpers, an organization that provides gifts to poor children at Christmas, which are delivered by an "elf" dressed as Santa to the child's home. It is an ALL volunteer group which believes no child should feel overlooked at Christmas. Recipients are identified by local social agencies and hospitals.

The Service Team meets on the first Tuesday of the month - the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 3rd at 7:00 pm in Room 205.

We are always looking for new members to support this worthwhile ministry at Good Shepherd - Please join us!

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



Happy New Year! Welcome to 2017 and the next chapter in our spiritual and personal journeys. It is both exciting and daunting to think about what may lie ahead, but we are guided by the message and meaning of Jesus' birth and Christmas. Therefore, let us joyfully and resolutely take advantage of all those opportunities that strengthen our faith, our lives, and even Good Shepherd. Of course, there are unknowns and challenges ahead, but these Bible verses remind us that as Children of God we are not alone:

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

"...but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:31

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful." Colossians 3:15

On behalf of the Welcome Ministry Team, "Thank You!" for everything you do to welcome, support, love and include each other, visitors, and those who benefit from Good Shepherd's worship, educational and music programs, and service/outreach projects.

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 GSLC's church-wide welcoming ministry.



Good Shepherd Men's Retreat

When: Friday evening January 20 through 11:00 am Sunday, January 22

Where: Camp Wartburg, a Lutheran Camp near Columbia, MO (about 40 min away)

Why: To deepen relationships through fellowship, to build discipleship within our

families and within our church and to grow spiritually

How: Through time together in service, bible study, games and activities and meaningful discussion meals

Themes: Spiritually growing in Discipleship through Right Relationships and an active faith

- Relationship with ourselves - knowing our gifts; knowing our limitations. seeing our vocation as applying to church ministry as well as our weekly jobs.
- Relationship with others - Choosing a specific person to be more intentional about deepening a relationship with. Making a commitment. To listen, to support, to grow with.
- Relationship with God - Discern how to grow in this most important relationship outside worship service. Discern what is and where is God leading me?

Please see the Table Top Display for Sign-up in the Narthex.

Sunday Morning Adult Education

Topical Class - 9:30 am - Room 205

Jan 1	Happy New Year! - No Class
Jan 8	Mission Work in Haiti through Community of Hope. Brian Tucker speaker. The Tucker family, from St. Louis, uprooted their comfortable life style about 3 years to follow God's calling. They landed on remote island off Haiti and help villagers become self sustaining. They receive food from Feed My Starving Children and you can see the videos of food arriving. They partner with village communities to identify, strengthen, & establish self-sustaining, life-giving resources.
Jan 15	Remembering Martin's Dream. John Howard speaker. Martin Luther King Day is Jan 16.
Jan 22	Trip to India with International Partners in Mission. Speaker Gary Kallansrud.
Jan 29	Truth & The Bible. Dale Naas speaker. Join us as we discuss one of life's hardest questions: What about Truth and the Bible?

Bible Study - 9:30am Room 214 - Study of Psalms resumes January 8. All are welcome! Questions? contact Steve Spoerle at fssspoerle@gmail.com

Bible Studies During the Week

Monday Night Bible Study

Mondays at 7:30 pm in Room 108. (Meets on the 2nd and 3rd Mondays of the month).

Men's Bible Breakfast - Thursday Mornings 6:15-7:15 at St. Louis Bread Co. Winchester. Join us for coffee, enlightening discussions, and great fellowship. We are presently discussing the book - *"The Deeper Journey -Reflections on Life and the Good News"* by Rev. Dr. Tom Schoenherr. A thought provoking collection of Pastor Tom's blogs that invite us to integrate contemporary issues with a Christian perspective and spiritual depth. For more info contact Shawn Geurkink at sgeurkink314@gmail.com.

CG's Bible Study meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 10:00 am in Room 205.

Praying Moms Bible Study Meets each Thursday at 9:30 am in Room 107.

Naomi Circle Call Barb Rouse at 636.256.1933 or Joanna Brooks at 314.640.4946. The Naomi Circle meets the second Thursday of the month either at church or in homes to discuss the lesson from the Women of the ELCA Gather magazine. All are welcome!

Thursday Women's Lunch Bunch will resume in January. Watch bulletin for dates and study. Email Joanna Brooks joannabrooks2000@gmail.com for more information.

Celebrations

Baptisms

Rebecca Lynn Keithly
Daughter of Brian & Sarah Keithly
Niece of Bob & Brenda Ogroski
Granddaughter of Barbara Brooks
December 3, 2016

Alexandra Ji Otto
Daughter of Jackson & Hannah Otto
December 18, 2016

Our Staff

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