



Shepherd's Staff

May, 2018

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Josh Brecht
Associate Pastor
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I am grateful for a gift given to me a few years ago. The bishop of the synod in which I was serving recommended a book to all of the council presidents serving in our synod. He invited them to consider reading it together as a council. We did and I found it so helpful I brought it to our council here at Good Shepherd, and we read it together a few months ago. The book is called "The Agile Church: Spirit-Led Innovation in an Uncertain Age," by Dwight Zscheile. Zscheile wrestles through and offers insights into what is perhaps the most challenging question facing the modern Church. How do we innovate and adapt so we can effectively minister in a changing uncertain world yet hold fast to the sacred heritage that is the foundation on which our faith is built? Here are a few passages to ponder.

"The central challenge facing churches today is rediscovering who they are in a society that has in many ways rejected Christianity. Christian community cannot be assumed; it must be cultivated intentionally, both within established congregations and with new neighbors....It invites the church into a different posture - a posture of learning, vulnerability, and creativity."

"Scholars of innovation observe that in the face of complexity, organizations must have good conversations about assumptions. Each church in its context is unique... the church can no longer take the assumptions by which it operates for granted. In the face of significant cultural change and complexity, assumptions must be articulated and wrestled with. When they no longer fit where we are today, they must be revised and adapted, which requires holding the life and patterns of our churches lightly enough to change them for the sake of loving our neighbors in Christ."

Zscheile then goes on to recommend what he calls "Traditioned Innovation" as a response.

"Innovation must remain rooted in the riches of Christian wisdom and practice from other times and places in order to offer deep, sustaining, faithful Gospel witness. Innovation grounded in tradition is what God's people have always done...[We] tend to frame the question as either/or, tradition versus innovation. It must be both/and."

One of the things that I value most about Good Shepherd is that we are both traditional and innovative. We value tradition and cling fast to the roots of our Lutheran heritage, but we are bold and adaptive as we seek ways to serve, worship, and connect different types of people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

"Innovation involves learning. Learning is not easy for any of us - it is risky."

May we be wise enough to steward ancient treasures, and at the same time be brave enough to adapt, to innovate, and to risk. After all, we follow a God who risked it all in Jesus for our sake. This same God invites us into this bold and daring life of risking for the sake of the world.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Josh



Jim Anderson,
Council President

The 2016 State of the Plate survey is a survey conducted by several ministries and church businesses. MAXIMUM Generosity, Tithe.ly, ChurchMag, Elvanto, ChurchOS, and Apollo Church Apps all sponsored the survey, according to its summary report.

The survey, although not scientific, canvassed almost 1,600 Christian pastors, leaders, and laypeople about giving and generosity in their own church settings. The results showed continued trends from the last survey round, 2013. Those findings for 2015 giving (the year covered by the 2016 report) include several important changes, including flat or decreased giving for almost 6 in 10 ministries (59%).

Since 2010, churches offering website or online giving has increased from less than 3 in 10 (29%) to nearly 8 in 10 (79%). Only a slightly smaller percentage of churches (73%) offered "Bank EFT Autopay" as a giving option in 2015. One of the greatest growths in giving options, however, is cell phone/text giving, which increased more than tenfold in the last six years to 46 percent of churches (up from 4% in 2010).

Are these digital giving options resulting in bigger giving to churches? Overall-not really. Over 4 in 10 churches (41%) did see an increase in total giving of at least 5 percent over the past year, but an almost equal number of churches (39%) said their giving had flat-lined, and the rest (20%) said their giving decreased at least 5 percent.

Good Shepherd continues to see our stewardship flat to slightly up over the past

two years. After several years of little to no planning, we are turning the corner. We have a much more robust team on board and plans are being laid for a more robust stewardship effort. As a vital part of our strategic plans, we need to be able to forecast our income more accurately in order to build sustainable budgets. We know as a Church we have the financial resources, having just completed a successful capital campaign. I ask that each member pray for our stewardship efforts and stay tuned for new stewardship news.

Jim Anderson



Becky Howard
Director of Children & Family Ministry
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Thank you to all involved with this year's Be Like Jesus Weekend. A huge thanks to the many folks who gave of their time and talents to make this year's Be Like Jesus 23-hour Service Event for 3rd - 8th graders a huge success over the April 13-14 weekend. Though the Saturday rain altered our plans a bit, our awesome young people persevered and put their hands and hearts to work and had a ton of fun along the way! Here are some of the highlights from our Be Like Jesus weekend:



- 73 3rd - 8th graders
- 29 high school color group leaders
- 49 adults
- 164 hygiene kits assembled for the homeless at Trinity Soulard
- \$284 raised for Feed My Starving Children during our Wash Away Hunger Car Wash
- 181 greeting cards lovingly crafted for Project Boomerang
- 22 beautiful windchimes created to share with families in the Humanitri Transitional Housing program
- 31 prayer rocks created for women at Magdalene House STL
- 363 bologna sandwiches packed for Trinity Soulard Homeless Outreach program
- 85 pet toys made out of recycled t-shirts
- 100 "Prayers for Soldiers" reminders made
- 72 prayer rocks made to share with neighbors and around the community
- 1 group visited Briarcrest Senior Living Center to share music and energy with residents there
- 4 groups helped with clean-up (painting, brush-clearing and plane-washing at Wings of Hope)
- 2 groups visited Meramec Bluffs Care Center - they shared music, led bingo and had a ton of fun!
- 1 group visited Brookdale Senior Living Center

- 4 groups helped spread much and rake at Schroeder Park
- 3 groups gleaned groceries from shoppers at the Lafayette Center Dierbergs - they collected 412 non-perishable food items and \$220 in donations for Circle of Concern and Trinity Soulard food pantries.



SO many great memories within a supportive and caring community - PLUS, the energy during worship and celebration was moving to all who were present. Thank you, Good



Shepherd, for your support of this children's ministry event!



May Parenting Group Meeting | May 13 - 9:30-10:30 in Room 108 - Please join us as we end our school year of Sunday morning meetings with a discussion focused on family-friendly ideas for summer fun around St. Louis as well as consideration for possible future discussion topics as well as plans for a summer gathering.

Family Fellowship & Sunday SUNDAES! Family Fellowship Sunday is May 22 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the gym. Join us ice cream sundaes and some summer-focused fun!



Confircamp 2018! For all current 6th & 7th Graders | June 18-22, 2018 | Registrations due May 10!



Save the Date for VBS 2018 | July 30 - August 3 | 9 am - Noon Registration is Open - Print [Form!](#)



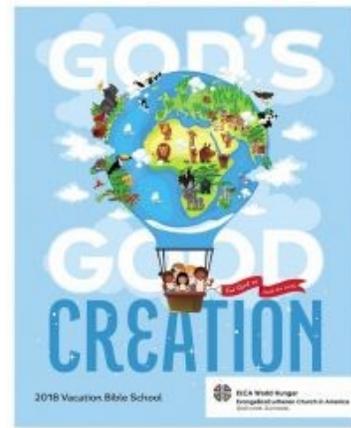
VBS is offered to children age 4 (by August 1) through those entering 5th grade in August. Registration info online and in the Narthex. We are putting together TEAM VBS! Whether you are in middle school, high school or an adult with a passion for sharing your love of faith-filled fun with our youth, we'd love to have you on our team!

Please email [Becky](#) or call her to find out how you can be a part of this year's VBS adventure.

Summer Sunday School/Children's Church Begins June 10th!

This summer, we will once again offer Children's Church during the 9:30 service for preschool through elementary age children. Children's Church will begin June 10 and run through July 29. During this eight-week program, children will begin in worship with their families at the 9:30 service. After a short children's message during the service, our Children's Church leaders will lead them to nearby classrooms for child-focused activities during the sermon, prayers and offering. We will be focusing our

discussion time on the ELCA's God's Good Creation curriculum. Children will rejoin their parents in worship just prior to Holy Communion. While the transition might be tough for our younger preschool friends, they are free to hang out with Miss Lisa and Miss Colleen in the nursery during the worship service. Looking forward to a great summer learning, laughing and growing together!



Mark your calendar! May 20th | 12:15pm

Join Amy Kallansrud as she presents stories and pictures from her time in Madagascar.

Gather in the gym for a time of food, sharing, and laughter. Please bring a dish to share for a potluck style meal. All are welcome!



Our Neighbors, Our City

OUR YOUTH

Monday, May 7 | 6:30 - 8:00 pm | Rm. 150
Two of our F.L.Y. youth will share about their work in Cultural Leadership Programs.



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



FLY Schedule

May 2 6:15-7:15am, Fresh Start at Six North Café, Ballwin

May 6 9:30 am, C+ warm-up in the music room; 11 am, Senior Sunday (senior recognition and C+ lead worship); 12:30 pm, FLY families/8th grader end of year picnic @ Schroeder Park (pavilion by the main office); bring a side to share

Summer FLY kicks off on June 6! We'll meet on Wed evenings, and a few Sun afternoons.

Welcome 8th graders!!

FLY extends a big welcome to our incoming freshmen/women for the 2018-2019 school year! Join us at the FLY picnic on May 6th, as well as summer FLY events. Please make sure Pastor Amy has your current youth and parent email addresses and cell numbers.

No Garage Sale in 2018

As a friendly reminder, FLY will not be hosting a garage sale this month. Thank you for supporting us through our various other fundraisers this year! Please feel free to share any saved treasures with other organizations around town, many of whom will even come pick them up for you! A few suggestions of worthy causes include:

<http://homesweethomestl.org/>

<http://humanitri.org/>

<https://www.habitatstl.org/>



Jamie De Geer
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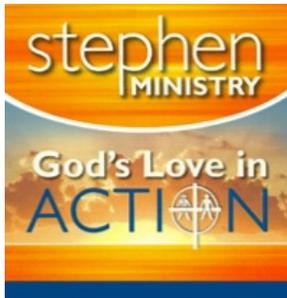
Calling All Youth Who Are Currently in 1st Through 8th Grade.

Angels and shepherds and ... talking sheep? Oh, my! Come journey to the little town of Bethlehem overflowing with people arriving from out of town to register for the census. Join your church friends for Summer Music Camp which will be held June 4th - 8th from 9am - 3pm daily. We will work together on "ALL ABOUT THAT BABY", a sheepishly fun

Christmas musical, which we will present in worship services on Saturday, 6/9 at 5:30 pm and Sunday, 6/10 at 11:00 am. We will paint the set, make props and decorations for the set, do crafts to take home, learn Bible verses, have recreation and fellowship with our friends and meet new ones and best of all is WATER DAY! Check out music camp table in the narthex and pick up a registration brochure. Space is limited so sign-up now. Registrations will be



What Do Stephen Ministers Do?



Stephen Ministers are members who have gone through 50 hours of training to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to people who are facing a crisis or simply going through a difficult time. A Stephen Minister meets with his or her care receiver once a week for around an hour to listen, care, pray, and provide emotional and spiritual encouragement. Men are matched with male Stephen Ministers, and women are matched with female

Stephen Ministers. To find out more about how someone you know could be matched with a Stephen Minister, contact Pastor Wolf at 636-391-6685, rwolf@gslcelca.org. To learn more about this ministry, check out our website at www.goodshepherdlutheran.com

Stewardship

by: Christina Kling-Garrett, Chair

What is Stewardship?

This month, my challenge for every member is to think about how you define Stewardship here at Good Shepherd. It is tithing? Your weekly giving? Sharing your time? Your talents? All of these? Or possibly, something else entirely.

Before our last Stewardship meeting, I was discussing an agenda point with my husband. I told him the direction I wanted to take it, and he said, "I don't think that is a good idea. That will make everyone uncomfortable." To which I responded, "That is the problem, and, the point. Conversations about Stewardship have the ability to make people uncomfortable and that is the stigma we need to get away from." Our team wants to listen to how you think about Stewardship, how you want it shaped and messaged, both now and in the future. It's a point so important to us, we have made it one of our goals to achieve with Council.

So, over the next few months, members of the team will reach out across various small groups. We might ask you a few questions, we may want to follow up with you for more insight, but we absolutely want to hear your comments. We will also be doing a congregation-wide survey where you can share your thoughts and ideas if that is your preference. Stewardship is an important ministry, and we'd love your help in making it the best it can be.

Together in Christ,
Christina

Monday Night Bible Study-This Pastor led Bible Study meets the 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month at 7:30pm in Room 108.

Men's Bible Breakfast-Winchester Bread Co.-6:15-7:15 am -Strengthening Your Grip: How to Live Confidently in an Aimless World by Charles Swindoll. We'll discuss living a Christian life - thought provoking, inspirational, encouraging. God is speaking to us. For all who need encouragement for themselves and to be an encouragement to others. Join us for coffee, fellowship, and inspiring discussion. For more info contact [Shawn Geurkink](mailto:Shawn.Geurkink).

Sunday Morning Adult Topical Discussion - 9:30am-10:30am - Rm. 205

Sunday Morning Bible Study - 9:30am-10:30am in Room.214

May 20th Last Day of Sunday School. See you in the Fall! We explore what Biblical stories mean to people around the world. "Multiple meanings: Learning from other interpretations" Four sessions by seminary Prof. Mark Powell. All are welcome! Questions? contact Steve Spoerle at fsspoerle@gmail.com

The Thursday Lunch Bunch - 12:00pm - Fireside Room

Naomi Circle-Meets the 2nd Thursday of the month at 9:30am. May 10th will be hosted by Annette Molitor and led by Barb Rouse. For information contact Brenda Jansen at 636-273-6876 or luvsflowers@charter.net.

All Anew Women's Bible Study - Meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00pm in the Fireside Room. For more information contact Vicki Haugen-571.235.3935, Kim Sherwood-636.236.8601 or Marilyn Jones-636.394.3904.

CG's Bible Study-2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month at 10:00am in Room 205. Join us as we study the book of Acts.

Afternoon Gamin' Gals - 1st Monday of each month at 1:00pm in Room 108. Join us for cards, snacks and fellowship.

A New Parenting Group

A new parenting group is being created for the specific needs of parents of children who identify as LGBTQ. This will be a very confidential and accepting group to help parents navigate the path of parenting a child(ren) who identify outside of the hetero-normative expectations of society. This group is for all LGBTQ parents regardless of where they, or their children, are on this journey.

Meetings will be held in the Fireside Room on:

- Tuesday May 8, 7:00pm
- Tuesday June 12, 7:00pm

Contact Laura Neuwirth for more information: 314-749-6386 or lkneuwirth@gmail.com



CANCER Now What? MINISTRY

This is the Hebrew word for shalom that the Bible uses to convey God's gift of wholeness, health, welfare, soundness as well as peace and rest. We especially pray God's shalom upon all who suffer



from cancer, a disease affecting every dimension of a cancer patient's life and relationships.

Throughout April and May, weekend worship announcements carry articles about God's shalom through Good Shepherd's Cancer-Now What? Ministry.

You can take a free copy of the book Cancer-Now What? from the Information Desk just behind the fellowship tables in the narthex and give it to anyone you know-a family member, friend, neighbor, coworker-who is dealing with cancer.

Giving the book Cancer-Now What? is a tangible way you offer God's gift of shalom to help someone you care about deal with the impact of cancer on all aspects of his or her life. Let your gift of Cancer-Now What? be your way of saying: "Christ's peace-shalom-be with you."

Service Team - Janie Wolfangel

The Service Team helps to organize many service-related activities within the church and during the month of May we will be sponsoring a "baby shower" with items going to Lutheran Family and Children Services. Please check the bulletin for more Information.



The Food Bin (Meal-a-Month) for May will support St. Trinity Church. Items requested are: Jelly, Pasta Sauce, Corn Beef Hash, Beef Stew and Chili. Please stop by the Service Team Corner in the Narthex - updates on upcoming events and additional information on the agencies we support is on display.

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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 April was International Outreach. The team research several agencies and we were able to help International Crisis Aid, Project Peanut Butter, and With God's Little Ones.

Who are the agencies we support: Project Peanut Butter

This agency was founded by Pediatrician, Dr. Mark Manary. The purpose of this organization is to advance the treatment of severe malnutrition, the single largest cause of child death in the world today, using effective, locally produced

ready-to-use therapeutic foods. This nonprofit was formed to provide needed nutrition and medical support to children suffering in sub Saharan Africa and beyond.

The Service Team meets on the first Monday of the month - our next meeting will be Monday - May 7th at 7:00 p.m. in Room 205! Please join us!

A "Wink" from the Welcome Ministry Team

by: Elliott Haugen



The end of April means tax season is over and we can stop thinking about numbers. Sorry, but I have a few numbers for you to consider regarding Good Shepherd's Welcoming Ministry. The following data is derived from several resources, including "The Inviting Church", theologian Win Arn, researcher Thom Rainer (Lifeway), and other church-related sources.

Churches over 15 years old, like Good Shepherd, gain 80-90% of their new members through relocations or those moving from other congregations. This has been my experience the last 4 years listening to those attending our new member orientation sessions.

Nearly 90% of people come to a church because of a personal invitation. A survey of over 10,000 church members revealed 75-90% said "I began attending because someone invited me." (Less than 20% indicated they came because of flyers, newspaper ads or promotions.) Many visitors find Good Shepherd on the Web, but most find us because they ask for, or were given, a recommendation from a friend. They join, however, because Good Shepherd is a welcoming, friendly church that meets their needs and expectations.

Effective churches expect annual invitations to equal 10 times the average worship attendance - not everyone accepts an invitation. Unfortunately, only about 2% of church members invite someone to church. I do not know if we extend 5,000 invitations a year, but Good Shepherd is good at inviting people to worship and activities - because we believe in them. For example, consider the successes of the invitational approaches involving our youth programs and Feed My Starving Children.

Good Shepherd is doing well, but we must continue to be invitational, because inviting churches tend to be healthier churches. So please invite a family member, friend, neighbor, classmate, or colleague to attend a worship service with you. This sounds daunting, but think about the blessing this may be to you and them.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20



Kathy Rebholz
Director, Building Blocks Preschool
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Our classrooms are filled with investigation and creativity! Our Preschool One and Two classrooms have enjoyed their new ball ramps causing them to think about basic physical concepts. Each of the two tracks features a unique design that causes balls to roll at different speeds, allowing children to explore speed, momentum and slope. In addition, the balls have different melodies adding an additional sensory component to these ramps!



The new light table in this wing has been a huge hit as well! Toys look different with light beneath them and colors look more vivid. These purchases have been a great precursor to our Science Discovery Room which is open to our preschoolers three years and older.

Our Preschool Three students were quite surprised one day when they learned they had the chance to milk a cow in their classroom! Yes. You read this correctly! After reading about various farm animals, our Building Blocks Preschoolers tried milking a "pretend" cow that was placed in their classroom. Thank you to our Building Blocks Teachers for their creativity and igniting curiosity in little minds!



Chronologically Gifted (CG's)

Seminar and discussion on Planning a Legacy

On June 21st, the CG's (Chronologically Gifted) together with the Endowment Committee will sponsor and host an informational/educational seminar together with noon luncheon at Good Shepherd. The principal speaker and discussion leader will be Mr. Steve Phelps, Regional Gift Planner for ELCA. All are invited to join this informal gathering and light luncheon.



This will be strictly informational and will be about Legacy planning including all alternatives, charities of choice, family considerations, tax advantages, and methodologies. There will be no solicitation, but rather will be focused on use of last wills and other instruments in planning.

The focus will be upon help for people who wish to pass along a Legacy of both their financial and spiritual values in estate planning. Endowments are just one of the choices, but can memorialize the giver (or families) and render annual gifts in perpetuity whether to GSLC, the ELCA, or any charity or institution of choice.

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