



## *Shepherd's Staff*

The Monthly Newsletter of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

November 2018



### **Reflections on the St. Luke's part of our History by: Dave Egertson**

On Sunday October 18, 1964, on our present site, the St. Luke's part of our history officially began when the new "Package Mission" of the American Lutheran Church (ALC) was chartered with 88 baptized members (40 family units). This group assumed a debt of \$138,000 covering the cost of our acreage sized lot, the building with furnishings including

organ, and the parsonage at #10 Cloverleaf. That was a lot for the money by today's standards, but also a lot of debt for 40 families to assume in those days. Edith and I with our four children were privileged to be in this group. Other current Good Shepherd members who are charter members of St. Luke's are the Randle and Virginia Dennison family and the Bill Otto family. In 1964, Woods Mill Rd. was just a winding two-lane street, and there was a narrow gravel driveway from there to the church and the small gravel and grass parking area.

The events leading up to charter day began with the faith, foresight and stewardship of our "church at large" when the ALC purchased the land in 1962, then built and furnished the church, and bought the parsonage. They then called the original Pastor John Walker who with his family moved to Manchester in August 1963 and started making house to house calls. There were no members, and no

name for the mission, so his first task was to name the future church. He chose "St. Luke's". In September, the ALC sent two parish workers from their mission board to conduct a two-week canvass of 3,000 homes in the area and invite people to the



first worship service. That service was held on October 6, 1963 with 103 persons in attendance which included both potential members and curiosity seekers. Soon after, a steering committee was formed toward organizing and becoming chartered. Randle Dennison was on that committee.

During that first year before charter, we received subsidy as needed from the ALC to cover the pastor's salary and incidentals, but upon charter in 1964, the 40 families became a self-supporting congregation assuming all expenses and the debt (temporarily interest-free). We also voted to send not less than 10% "off the top" of our offerings in benevolence to the ALC even though we often had to defer some current bills until we could scrape the funds together. Our thankful monthly benevolence payments to support other missions were never missed.

During the next 5 years there was a lot of door-to-door calling by lay members which produced steady growth. In 1969 we were able to refinance and pay off the ALC in full. By that time, we numbered 188 families, and the growth made it necessary to purchase a house adjoining our property at #17 Cloverleaf for added Sunday school space. We had to build an outside entrance to the basement for added classrooms which was done by members and can still be seen on the house at the southwest corner of our property. I recall teaching a class seated around the floor drain of that basement. We also rented classrooms from The John F. Kennedy Catholic high school (across Woods Mill) until our expansion and new building were completed in 1980. Both houses on Cloverleaf were then sold, the parsonage to Pastor & Mrs. Hartenfeld. The Sunday school house rendered a nice profit, mostly due to inflation.

In 1978, the congregation initiated a major expansion and building campaign. In addition to the capital pledges, bonds were sold to members, and weekly offerings were increased by 50%. In 1979 a \$450,000 loan was obtained, and construction began. In April 1980 the first service and dedication were held in the new church at which time we numbered 475 confirmed and 660 baptized members. Through all this, the congregation continued sending their tithe of all offerings as benevolence to the ALC which became understood policy of St. Luke's

In 1971 John Walker had accepted a call to Overland Park, MO. Senior pastors succeeding him were Garland Gotoski (1971), Robert Hartenfeld (1977), and Charles Mueller (1984). Other milestones of St. Luke's include the ordination, call and installation of the first female pastor to serve in pastoral ministry in the ALC. That was Mrs. Gloria Weber who was installed as Associate Pastor of St. Luke's in June 1974.

Edith and I have fond memories not only of the joys, but also the struggles and challenges during the first 17 years until we temporarily moved away in 1981. During that period, all four of our children were confirmed and two of them married at St. Luke's. Edith served as volunteer organist for several years until the congregation could afford to hire one. I sang in the choir and held (as everyone had to do) leadership positions including 3 terms as president, the first at charter in 1964 and the last one ending in 1981 following occupation of the new building. Both Randle Dennison and Bill Otto served with me on the first council following charter. The church became (as Good Shepherd still is) the focal point of our lives, both spiritual and social.

By the time Edith and I returned upon my retirement in 1992, both the creation of the ELCA on January 1, 1988 and the merger of St. Luke's with Mt. Tabor just 4 months later had taken place. It was a joy to rejoin many friends and this fine congregation which is already 26 years ago. Mt. Tabor also has an interesting history dating back to the late 1950's. Hopefully a member who recalls this can favor us with some reflections on the early days of that congregation.

God has richly blessed Good Shepherd, and I think that the legacies of the two founding congregations contributed much to the present faith-based spirituality, vitality, strength, and strong outreach programs of this church. My hope is that we will never forget that the very land we occupy, and our beginnings were made possible in a large part by the benevolence gifts of other Lutherans as we spread God's message and help establish other missions through support of our National church, the ELCA.

Dave Egertson



## A Thanksgiving Story

Every year Good Shepherd generously collects a Thanksgiving offering to help Wartburg Students with unexpected medical costs. Here is the story of how Gail and I first heard of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

We were in seminary. It was August 20, 2010, the night before our 6 year anniversary, and we would be celebrating the next day by leading the music for my cousin's wedding back in my hometown of Central City. Gail, Elijah and I were staying with my parents and had enjoyed a great day with family. That night, around 3 am I awoke to the most excruciating pain I had ever experienced. This was no ordinary ache or pain, this was something serious. My whole abdomen was on fire, and I was terrified that I had appendicitis! What else could this be?! Unless I somehow ate a bowl of broken glass or was abducted by aliens in my sleep (I've watched too many X-Files episodes), appendicitis had to be it, right?

In agony, we drove to the emergency room, where I was quickly admitted and given some wonderous pain medicine (thank you E.R. staff!). They ran their tests and put me in a scanner, and found the culprit. I had kidney stones. Kidney stones?! That's it? I had heard this was painful, but now I knew first hand! Apparently, these were not even serious kidney stones and would pass on their own, but the financial damage had already been done. Being on seminary-level health insurance, we had very significant financial obligations after a VERY expensive visit to the ER. Who knew that such a tiny stone could rack up \$4,000 of medical bills.

We were filled with worry about the financial fallout from this excursion. Then, out of the blue, like an answer to prayer, we received an email from the Wartburg Seminary office about a church that offers to help cover unexpected medical expenses for Seminary students around Thanksgiving! There was money available to those who needed it, so we submitted our application and received just what we needed to help cover the costs we could not on our own!

This was Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Imagine my surprise, years later, when I began serving at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and discovered THIS is that congregation who supported our family years ago! THIS is the church that is still giving generously to Wartburg Seminary students, and giving generously in so many more ways than I could have imagined!

Thank you, Good Shepherd, for helping my family, before we even knew each other, in our time of need. Thank you for all you continue to do. This Thanksgiving, when you are invited to give to this cause in gratitude for what God has given you, please know that this gift is so, so deeply appreciated!

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Josh

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## Continuous Reformation

It's a bit of a letdown this year to experience the year after the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. The celebrations are past and we continue our church activities as Lutherans, fading into the midst of neighboring Christian churches. Perhaps we like that. After all we certainly aren't bold Baptists!

The Reformation was a time that shook the foundation of the church at that time. 500 years later, our challenges have changed. Our society no longer requires church affiliation to legitimize your place in society. In fact, many of you feel like a minority when you leave for church on Sunday. Children are being taken to sporting practices and games, lawns are being mowed, the Gyms, Costco and Home Depot lots are filling up as working parents maximize their weekends. Church? Maybe if it's raining and there's a cancellation in the schedule.

One positive aspect of today, is the past guilt of not attending church is gone. I don't think God smiled when we just went to church, "high-fived" the pastor and rushed out to lunch and errands. Today, going to church (whether on Sunday or to attend the many functions) is a choice. We chose to find a way to place God in the center and at the beginning of our week. The message, fellowship, worship and prayer focus our lives. God gave us everything and we try to keep God in the center. We try.

At Council we are reading a new book, "Shift", by Mark E. Tidesworth. This book is helping us to learn that although society's perspective of church is changing, we have new opportunities for relevancy and vitality today. I know I held my breath when that new Pastor Josh wanted to initiate "Brews & Hymns". I thought, "singing and imbibing as a church event?" At least call it Hymns & Brews! It's a small, but successful example of how our church is a bit different. It even seems a little Baptist to go outside of the church and let the public know what we do. Daring!

As Lutherans we are grounded in grace and hold dear meaningful traditions. Yet our reformation is a continuous process that involves you. If you have thoughts

about how our church may illuminate God's work even more, please contact me. At Council we are discussing one central question, "where are we going?" Bishop Gustafson was here recently for Gail's consecration service and referred to our church as a beehive. It's exciting to struggle with the direction question when we possess so much energy and potential.

Glenn Kraft, Council President

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## Stewardship Team

There is no substitute for the simple wisdom of children. Though we adults may plan and craft and hone the messages we wish to teach, the best and simplest lessons often come from the students themselves.

Earlier this month, Stewardship team members Claire Guerink and Daryl Molskness were invited to speak to young members of the congregation about the meaning of Stewardship. They worked hard to prepare an interesting and engaging message, and yet were upstaged – a pleasant surprise! – by a second-grade girl whose simple definition of Stewardship hit the nail on the head:

"Stewardship is when you take care of the things that are important to you."

We encourage all our members, young and old alike, to take that clear definition to heart and look for ways to be good stewards in all facets of your lives. The coming Christmas season offers many opportunities. We can be gracious hosts or guests, loving family members, and joyous children of God. Consider the ways that you can expand the joy of Christ, both within and beyond your hearts and homes.

As we prepare to enter the season of joy, think especially about the joys you've felt as a member of Good Shepherd. What caused that joy? What joy have you brought to others, both within and outside of our congregation? How can you expand that joy, for yourself and for those around you?

Most importantly of all, don't stop at consideration – act! Even the simplest things can help expand the joy. Something as simple as a pleasant introduction in the narthex to a new face, or adding a few extra items to your grocery cart for Meal-a-Month, can bring joy to those who need it, and expand the joy within your own heart.

Yours in Christ,  
The GSLC Stewardship Team

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## An Update from the Facilities Management and Planning Committee (FMPC) By: Mike Kelley, Chair

The FMPC wants to keep the congregation updated on everything that is going on with the upgrades to



our building, especially involving the Capital Campaign. We know that you cannot see all the moving parts, so we wanted to keep you current on both the boring but necessary projects, as well as what will be more exciting to the eye.

As you know, over the last year we have finished both the kitchen upgrade and the bathroom makeovers. We have had positive feedback from many of you on both projects and they certainly make for a more functional and pleasant facility.

We are now onto the very specific projects as part of the capital campaign and you should see progress before year's end. We are now receiving bids on re-roofing the flat parts of our roof, most of which date to the early 2000's, but parts of which go back to 1991. We knew this was coming, and the leaks in September confirmed we needed to move as quickly as possible. We have solicited bids from three companies and expect those in hand shortly, with the intent to award the contract and start the job as soon as possible.

The larger project of expanding the upper level parking lot is even further along. As you may remember, this includes a canopy covering a drop off area, additional parking and lighting on the upper level, required water run off engineering, landscaping and irrigation, etc. For this project we are ready to award the contract pending approval from the city of Manchester at their planning meeting this month. With that approval we believe that the contractor can commence the project in mid-November.

The early planning for the re-design of the sanctuary has begun, with committees having already met several times conceptualizing with the design architect. This project is being led by Glenn Kraft, and we have additional meetings coming up. As things become more focused, Glenn and this committee will keep you advised about some of the exciting things being considered.

If you have any questions on any of these projects, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the the committee members.

Mike Kelley, FMPC Chair

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## New Prayer Labyrinth

Caleb Messerly created a Prayer Labyrinth for the congregation. Here's what he wants you to know about it:



"I created this Prayer Labyrinth on the North hill, for my Eagle Scout project. A prayer labyrinth provides a meditative and spiritual experience for members of the congregation and community. This ancient practice can be used in several ways, but here's what I suggest: walk slowly on the path, taking in the natural surroundings. Try to focus your mind on each step you take. When I walk in a labyrinth, I try and let go of my worries and stresses and focus on just walking. As long as you keep putting one foot in front of the other, you will reach the center. Once you reach the center, spend as long as you need to, centering your heart, mind, and body on God. Be still, breathe, listen. When you are

ready, turn around and walk back out the way you came. By the time you leave, you will feel refreshed, calm, and closer to God. Enjoy this gift!"

**Note:** The construction of the Prayer Labyrinth was completed on October 20, 2018 by BSA Troop 680. Thanks to all who contributed their time and effort, tools and other resources, including Dave and Verill Johnson, George Graham, Mike Kelley, Sam's Club, Kirkwood Material Supply and Jimmy John's at 14173 Manchester Rd. This project could not have been finished without you!

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## A "Wink" from the Welcome Ministry Team Elliott Haugen



Let me be one of the first to wish you a happy Thanksgiving. For some that means gathering with family or friends to enjoy a meal and time together. For others it may be a quiet time for reflecting on previous get-togethers. In either case, Thanksgiving is about being thankful for blessings that we have received and for sharing our thankfulness with others.

At Good Shepherd we get to experience Thanksgiving every week as we gather to rejoice in God's love through worship, prayer, song, and educational and service programs. John 10:4 explains the connectedness we experience as "The sheep follow him, for they know his voice." These shared times help strengthen our relationship with God and each other.

In John 21:17, we read – "Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep.'" We are reminded that we do not just follow God individually, but together as a flock. We are called to welcome, love, and serve one another. And that's the point of this message – that our relationship with God and each other is a "we" experience as we follow Christ, grow in faith and share God's love.

So thanks for showing your "we" side by welcoming and supporting others. And you can extend this even further by inviting anyone interested in learning more about Good Shepherd to orientation sessions on Sunday, November 11 at noon (room 205) and November 18 at 9:30 (Fireside Room). Persons interested in joining will be officially welcomed on December 2 at the 9:30 service.

*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.*

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**The Wellness Team** is pleased to provide regular yoga classes with instructor Erin Dittmer-Dempsey, from Yoga Underground. Classes are designed for all abilities, and participants can pick and choose which classes they'd like to attend. Except for Christmas Eve, yoga will run through the end of the year (and beyond, if we have good attendance!). Here is a description of each session:



- **1st Saturday of the month, 12-1 pm Spirit Flow:** Start the month off fresh with

a prayerful intention.

- **2nd and 4th Mondays of the month, 6:30-7:30 pm Spirit Stretch:** Come care for the body, mind, and spirit through simple flows, deep stretch, and breath practice.
- **3rd Thursday of the month, 7-8 pm Slow Flow Restorative:** Time to prayerfully move the body, with resting poses throughout class, to establish a meditation/yoga practice. Bring a blanket and pillow.

Please wear comfortable clothes, bring a mat (a few extras will be available), and a freewill donation (suggested \$10 or more) to each class. There will be options to give in cash, check, or online. All classes are in Room 150 and participants are asked to arrive a few minutes early to prepare the room and stay a few minutes late to set it back up.

Whether you practice yoga regularly, or are a beginner, grab a friend and give yourselves the gift of physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being!

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