



Shepherd's Staff



The Monthly Newsletter of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church June 2019



Rich Wolf
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Congratulations Rachel Wolf!

Please extend congratulations to Rachel Wolf who has recently received a call to serve as the Pastoral Minister of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Salem, MO. She will be leading services and providing pastoral care for this congregation each weekend. Please extend your prayers and well wishes as she begins her new ministry!

Dates for her Installation at Salem as well as a Celebration here at Good Shepherd are still to be determined. We will pass on that information as soon as we have further details.

Rachel is a 1995 graduate from Wartburg Seminary with a MA in Theology. She previously served as Associate Director of the Triangle



Community Ministry in Madison, Wisconsin. Following that she was Visitation and Outreach Minister for ten years at First Lutheran Church in Decatur, Illinois. During that time, she was also a part-time chaplain at both St. Mary's Hospital in Decatur and Memorial Medical Center in Springfield, Illinois. Moving to Houston, Texas with her husband Rich she was on temporary leave from call until moving back to the St. Louis area.

This year she was rostered as a Deacon in the Central States Synod, ELCA and has already been serving the congregation in Salem for some time.

Please wish her well. Rachel is pleased to once again be serving in ministry in the ELCA.

My Opportunity For Life Russ Dion



I lost one kidney to disease in 2012 and have impaired efficiency of my other kidney. My remaining kidney functions at less than 15% of a normal one. I am not now on dialysis but will likely need to be in the future.

My End-Stage Renal Disease (Chronic Kidney stage 5) leaves me three paths:

1. Dialysis
2. Transplant,
3. Death.

Dialysis has several side-effects including fatigue, low blood pressure, cramps, itchy skin and more. The positive side is that dialysis does keep you alive!

Death is not a viable choice so let's consider option 2; Transplant.

I am seeking a kidney from a living donor because:

1. It eliminates or reduces waiting or dialysis time.
2. It allows someone else on the wait-list behind me, to move up and be eligible sooner.
3. Living donor kidneys usually function immediately and last longer than one donated from a cadaver.
4. The transplantation process is historically safe for both donor and recipient.

What can you do to help?

- Contact my transplant center (Barnes/Wash U) at 1-800-633-9906. They have

experts ready to answer all questions.

- Visit Transplant Center at barnesjewish.org for online information. Click on "Transplant" located on lower left portion of the home page.
- Share this message with others via social media. More information is found on my Living Donor App website at url <http://www.thedonorapp.com/p/rQeWXgsa/>. That media-product is part of the study project Shelly and I are involved with in the Living Donor Champion project.

Recent studies have shown that those waiting for a kidney are 6.6 times more likely to find a living donor when they purposefully make others aware of their need.

Thank You for reviewing My Opportunity For Life.

Russ



Glenn Kraft
Council President

Why Do We Disagree?

From the early days of one church and one Nicene Creed, our Christian religion has grown in numbers and influence. Over hundreds of years, we have also split off and gone our own ways over so many and various issues. Today, according to the Pew Research Center, over 41,000 organizations identify themselves as Christians. That's amazing. It's unfortunate that disagreement (and our own humanity) has fostered focus on our more perfect belief often at the cost of discipleship. Why do Christians disagree about so many things?

I'm no historian, but in a nutshell, we humans are sinful. Good Christians disagree. We just do. And as we focus on our correct views, we argue, rebuttal and lose our center. Sharing God's love with others as our primary focus requires us to honor God, love others over self and winning. It's tough.

Recently our small group studied this issue. At the end of the study, we went through a quick list of the most important issues for Christians, and guess what? It appears the core beliefs of most all Christians are solid and grounded. That's so refreshing to realize.

I was raised to think we had the sole saved brand. Appreciation for the gifts of other religions and of different views requires me to constantly work on my own humility. What can I learn? Why are good Christian people thinking so

differently? Am I right? Do I have to be?

Thank God, for God. He brings us together. He reminds us that we are all so terribly flawed, yet loved.

I hope you agree...

Glenn

A "Wink" From the Welcome Ministry Team Elliott Haugen



For gardeners and farmers, June is a time of growth after the spring planting. Although with the rain and flooding, the plants with the best chance of growing may be rice, cranberries, “water”-melons, and “leeks”. Harvest is a ways off, but all look forward to a fruitful result. We are reminded, however, that early farmers would first set aside some of the crop as seed for the next growing season. I once heard a conference speaker from Iowa State University stress the importance of the “seed corn” model in developing young people to be future leaders. It takes investments now to ensure a successful and continued future for them and us.

During my childhood, I took for granted the commitments and sacrifices made by congregational members to ensure there was a church for me then and in the future. Good Shepherd is blessed with members who share their time, talents and money and prove that while we look upward, we also look forward. The “Good to Grow” project also demonstrated that we are investing our blessings (our seed corn) to provide a church home for people now and in the future. As a welcoming congregation, we value providing a place of worship, programs and support for current and future members. (The next new member orientation is on **July 14** and **July 21** with joining on **August 2**.)

(Jesus) said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.”

John 21:17

In closing, the Welcome Ministry team and I extend prayers of support to the family of Carter Pederson. We miss him as a friend and Welcome Team member, but are blessed forever by his shared life, legacy and love of God, family, friends, and Good Shepherd.

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Good Shepherd Calendar

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