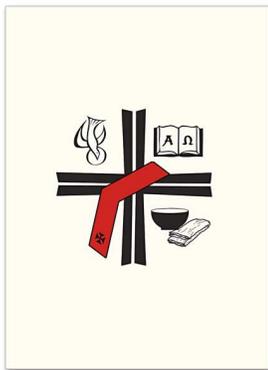




Shepherd's Staff

July 2019

*Come, Celebrate, and Join with us as we gather
to witness and affirm the Ministry of Word and Service through the
installation of*



Rachel K. Wolf

*as a Lay Pastoral Minister serving
Our Savior's Lutheran Church*

10:00 am Sunday July 14, 2019

Luncheon immediately following.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

628 Highway 68 N

Salem, Missouri 65560



Josh Brecht

Associate Pastor

jbrecht@gslcelca.org

We Are Church Together, For the Sake of the World

Eleven members of Good Shepherd were able to attend the Central States Synod Assembly June 6-8. It was an amazing time of gathering together from congregations across all of Kansas and Missouri, for worship, prayer, fellowship, and the business of the Church. Over the course of the event, by the guidance of the Holy Spirit we elected a new Bishop, the Rev. Susan Candea, and we are excited for her leadership in the years ahead! One of the things that made me proud to be a part of Good Shepherd is that we were able to provide the highest amount of financial support to the Central States Synod in the past year, as well as, the overall highest benevolent giving of the congregations in the synod. Your commitment to God's mission through Good Shepherd has an impact far beyond our walls, far beyond our city, all the way out into the wider Church. Thank you for your trust, your faithfulness, and your sharing of what God has given.

Over June 13-15 I traveled to the Northeastern Ohio Synod assembly as part of the Glocal team. I am always humbled and honored to serve with the Glocal ministry of the ELCA Global Mission. Glocal uses music and story to bring voices from around

the world and local contexts to our worship and ministry. I was privileged to serve with incredible musicians and Jesus-followers from a vast, diverse range of backgrounds. I see my role in this ministry as bringing some of my story from Good Shepherd to these spaces, but more importantly, learning new songs, stories, and expressions of worship that I can bring back to share with Good Shepherd.

I share this to say Christ's church is *alive*. The present narrative of the church in United States is often bleak, a story of decline and worry. There is truth to this, but as I have been able to gather with disciples across two synods and have heard and seen the stories of how God is moving locally and globally, I am filled with hope. The overall numbers of the North American church may have declined, but the passion, the spirit, and the purpose of those churches and disciples that remain are as strong as ever! While some might look simply at numbers and dollars see a slow death, the truth is a story of pruning and rebirth. Making space for new growth and life to flourish in the church.

How has Good Shepherd remained vibrant when others have struggled to survive? I believe there are two key ingredients that will be the marks of the Christian Church of the future: mission and radical Christ-like welcome. Good Shepherd has long had a deep commitment to mission, outreach, and service. Good Shepherd is committed to welcoming and including all people, and both of these attributes are essential ingredients for the Church that is emerging.

Our world desperately needs the Church, to share the love and light, the hope and healing of God. I am grateful for the opportunity to see the regional and global ways the Church is fulfilling its calling, over these past few weeks, and I am so excited to be a part of the work God is doing through Good Shepherd right here in St. Louis.

Peace,
Pastor Josh



Glenn Kraft
Council President

Abundant Possibilities

Cindy and I attended the recent Synod convention in Kansas City to share more about ELCA World Hunger with the Central States Synod attendees. It's always great to see the many lay and rostered leaders from Missouri and Illinois all in one place. This year, your church was recognized as the leading contributor to the Central States Synod. GSLC is Number One! The majority of those dollars pass through the Synod and support Churchwide (like corporate for churches). Certainly our contributions cover the people that make important administration of our church happen both at the synod and churchwide level. However, the majority of our contributions become dollars in service.

At Council and at the Stewardship Committee, we try to understand the trend of giving. Nationally, there appears to be a trend in church giving that is more energized when the purpose is named, specific and missional. As I have mentioned in our congregational meetings, giving to that "darn boring operating" budget just doesn't always resonate. Well, not only does our operating budget fund the Synod, Churchwide and through their work, the world; our staff and our building

accommodate important mission work each day. When we host baptisms, confirmations, weddings and funerals, we expect everything to function. Our church is unique in giving permission to initiate new programs and to be a platform for service to others. The space is offered freely and maintained regularly.

In the “good ole’ days” we remember what we think was true. We remember that everyone gave a lot on a regular basis and the money just flowed. Well, that’s probably not true. Today, we have many regular givers and we have episodic or even once per year givers. Of course we welcome all giving, big or small, regular or irregular. When we are tracking short, it makes some at Council worry and it keeps me praying. It’s embarrassing that we worry for two reasons. One, God’s got this. And, two, so do we. Our membership has sound financial resources. I’m not sure the origin of the old saying, “give until hit hurts.” But I am pretty sure few of us are doing that. Perhaps God doesn’t want our giving to hurt. Instead maybe we could **give because it’s His**. God gave us everything. Our church is imperfect for sure. But Good Shepherd is diligent in our spending and we seek to further dream about how God’s work can grow even more.

Thank you for your abundant contributions. Please consider further how you might expand your giving as you feel called and are able.

Looking forward to year two as your President.
Glenn

A Message from Rock Foster GSLC Council Treasurer

As mentioned at the mid-year congregational meeting and with the summer vacation season gaining momentum, council wanted to give a brief update to all on our financial condition. Through the month of May, we are \$30 thousand below our budgeted gifts. April was \$20 thousand below and May was \$10 thousand. We reached our budget through March because of a substantial single gift. As most are aware, our expenses are almost completely fixed with salaries, benefits and building upkeep and are slightly below budget with little variance in any one line. We believe the costs are being well managed.

Our giving has always been seasonally variable; however, this years trends are more severe than over the past several years. As we approach the busy summer months, we believe it’s proper for us to remember the needs continue. We all know we are blessed here at GSLC and our mission needs our time, talent and treasures. Council hopes this reminder and thoughtful prayer will get us back on track.
Rock

Stewardship Team Michael Kerber Co-Chairperson

I’d like to take this time and remember someone who had a major impact on my faith, my relationship with God and Good Shepherd – Carter Pederson.

Early in our time at Good Shepherd, you could find Sue, me and the kids at the 9:30

service nearly every Sunday. But the trick was..... “you had to find us” ☹

As parents of two kids under 2 yrs old, we tried to be stealth. Arriving late, attempting to go unnoticed by sitting where no one could hear the kids bouncing from one lap to the next or crawling under two pews to sneak up on Grandma & Grandpa.

But then, our biggest fear comes true..... the box of crayons slips through the back of the pew! With a bottle in my right hand and my foot stuck in the strap of the diaper bag, I think, “What would Ozzie Smith do?” So I dive to the left in an attempt to save said crayons, only to knock two Hot Wheels and a Spark Kids Bible with my elbow, causing an even louder crash. “We’ve blown our cover!”

Then after the closing hymn, we’d leave through the door near the organ and try again next week.

Despite our efforts to go unnoticed, someone did notice. It was Carter Pederson. I could tell early on that Carter was somebody’s guardian angel. With his deep angelic voice, a strong pat on the back and his signature handshake, he made sure we felt at home. Carter made it a point to come sit in our pew for a moment or two during service, every time he saw us. And while sitting there, he would invite us: Invite us to come back. Invite us to have a wonderful day. Invite us to the fellowship supper in the gym. Invite us to a choir rehearsal. He would simply invite us to be at home.

You see, we had been members for over a year and a half, but each Sunday, we would meet someone new and they’d say “Hi, welcome to Good Shepherd. Are you visiting our church for the first time?”

That’s when I knew something was missing. I knew that Good Shepherd was my Church, but I was not growing in faith the way I thought I would. I knew I was at the right Church, I just couldn’t tell what I was missing.

Well, one day, I got a phone call on the third Wednesday of that month. I knew who it was, because I had gotten this call each of the previous 4 months. “Hi Michael? This is Carter Pederson. I know we’ve talked about it before, but we’d sure love for you to join us tomorrow night for Celebration Chorus rehearsal. I really think you’re going to enjoy this.” I told Sue that I was thinking about going to choir that night, and she said the same thing, “I really think you would enjoy it.”

So I went. And they were right! I had an amazing time just as Carter and Sue said I would. But what happened next, was unexpected. Someone else in the choir came up to me and said, “Thank you for singing with us tonight. It was really nice singing alongside you tonight”. And then after we sang on Sunday, three members from the congregation said, “That was so beautiful. Thank you for sharing your voices with us today.”

And that’s when it hit me. By getting involved and “enabling ministry” (as Pastor Josh recently said in a sermon), we’re not only doing God’s work, but we’re also opening doors to experiences that in turn, build and grow our faith as well.

When my family enables ministry by donating our time, sharing our talents or our financial resources, we nearly always open a door to a new experience that strengthens our relationship with God.

So I would like to honor our good friend, Carter Pederson, by sharing this thought with you:

We belong to a unique Church, one that is fueled by the ministry of our members. And because of God's promise, our members are fueled by the ministry of our church. Ministry can be a reciprocating circle. I believe that God placed Carter Pederson in our lives to remind us of this very lesson.

I know that with all of the family commitments, work commitments, summer camps, school preparations, vacations and more, that it can be difficult to know when you'll have time to volunteer for a church committee or donate financial resources, but I would like to encourage you, as Carter Pederson encouraged Sue, Cooper, Andrew and me. When you are looking for opportunities to grow in faith, I'd take another step in your engagement with Good Shepherd. You never know what lessons you will learn, but the more time you spend engaging with the great ministries and great people at Good Shepherd, the more we can learn together and expand the joy.

So what is next for you in your relationship with God? How can Good Shepherd be a part of that growth? And what can we, as fellow members, do to support you in taking that step?

Sincerely,
Michael Kerber
Stewardship Team Co-Chair

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Good Shepherd Lutheran Church | 636-391-6685 | goodshepherdlutheran.com

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