



# Shepherd's Staff

The Monthly Newsletter of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

April 2020



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I don't know about you, but it seems like a long time since we've gathered together in person for worship. I'm not a "touchy-feely" kind of person and just a little bit on the introverted side. Nevertheless, I miss seeing you all and interacting with you. Simply put, I miss worshiping with you on Sunday mornings. I miss sharing Communion together and celebrating that special experience of Christ's presence among us. I miss greeting so many of you as you arrive and as you leave. I miss hearing your stories of joy and struggle. I miss it all.

I am deeply thankful to Brandon Wade and to the many staff and volunteers who have generously shared their time and technical skill to produce our exceptional "virtual worship". Each week we have been able to stay connected in this, and other creative ways, since "social distancing" has begun. I've discovered things like *Zoom*, *WebEx* and *Facebook Live* and I love being able to connect with some of you in these ways. You are all a blessing to Good Shepherd and to me personally. But I still miss you all. We are in many ways really a family here at Good Shepherd.

I have to remind myself each day that we are STILL the Church that Christ has called us to be for this time and place. Christ's work does not depend upon how often we gather in the same building. Christ's work goes on whether we are near or far. Christ is present among us, fully empowering us for ministry no matter where we are or whatever we face. Christ is really present with us even if, for a time, we are prevented from sharing Communion together. We are the Church together, even now, despite the challenges we experience being apart from one another. We are the Church together because it doesn't really depend on us, but only on the power of Christ present among us.

We can and we must pray for those who are on the front lines of this fight— medical and emergency personnel, social workers, police and fire fighters. We can and we must pray for those struggling because their income has been drastically cut. We can and we must pray for our leaders at every level who are faced with difficult decisions every day which impact the lives of so many people. We can and must stay connected as family even though temporarily separated from one another. We can and must pray for each other in our joys and struggles. And we can and must continue to support the ministries of Good Shepherd in this time when our physical presence is not helpful or possible. Many in our community and around the world depend upon our shared ministry together. Our time, efforts, and monetary gifts make a substantial difference, perhaps more now than ever.

Friends, I pray for your safety and continued well being. I pray that the time will come soon when we can be together again. I pray that we might find creative ways to meet the daily challenges of being the Church in this time and place. And I pray that we might grow each day in a deeper experience of Christ's presence among us.

**Pastor Rich**

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**Glenn Kraft  
Council President**

**Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song (ELW 808)**

Fellow members of Good Shepherd,

We have all been challenged beyond our wildest imagination to experience this new world of the threats, risks and fears of the Coronavirus. Each day, the evolution of this outbreak and the related

consequences reach even more aspects than simply health, personal isolation and financial stability. As of today, we just don't know what to expect. I was discussing this challenge with a friend of mine, Ron Glusenkamp an ELCA Pastor working at the ELCA churchwide office. He reflected that if this was happening in one country, ELCA Disaster Relief would rush in and assist. However, it's not one country. Instead, the world is sick. How do we help the whole world?



***“As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant, to carry your cross and to share all your burdens and tears. For you saved me by giving your body and blood. As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant.” (vs. 3)***

I am hardwired to move into action and to do my part to fix this. As a nation, we are encouraged to stay home and isolate. We cannot build ventilators, go to work or do much of anything. This is very hard for me and likely for most all of us. Verse three reminds me that we can carry each other's "burdens and tears". As Pastor Amy reminded us in her first remote sermon, this is Lent and perhaps Lent will feel much longer this year. However, as Easter people, we reside in the peace and joy of everlasting salvation. Today, we are forced to slow down, reflect and simply pray that we all may heal and find our way forward:

***“I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey; but courage will come with the sound of your steps by my side. And with all of the family you saved by your love, we’ll sing to your dawn at the end of our journey.” (vs. 4)***

As Christians in Lent, we certainly know that Jesus is with us and will guide us. Jesus saved us from our sins already and we have eternal life. Joy may seem far away, but we can share joy and love as we move through this time. I encourage you to share your day with others in our church. Call or email members you know well and perhaps others you don’t know so well. We have the ability to communicate and can stay connected. Let’s celebrate our community as we journey through this time together:

***“Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey; I’ll tell everybody about you wherever I go: You alone are our life and our peace and our love. Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.” (vs. 1)***

In Peace,  
Glenn, Council President

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



I usually start this monthly Welcome Ministry update by referring to a holiday, seasonal phenomenon or religious observation. That is hard to do now because a) March came in like a lamb and we know how it is leaving; b) I enjoy a good April Fool’s prank, but this health emergency is no joke; and c) I try to give up something for Lent, but now even skydiving and dunking a basketball are out. But seriously, who would have predicted this?

During difficult times we usually find comfort by gathering to share our love, concern, and support for each other. Our worship experience lifts us up and our shared communion meal sustains us. But, now our need to physically distance ourselves makes that very difficult. However, Good Shepherd is not a place – it is people. Rejoice in the thoughts of those who welcome or greet you, share a pew with you, lead and support worship, guide Bible studies and educational programs, and are part of your extended family. Turn those thoughts into actions by making a phone call, sending a text or email, or video chatting to stay connected to each other. This monthly update is called a “wink” because it is a form of communications that implies a hello or friendly greeting. So here is my virtual wink ; ) to you.

I miss seeing the wonderful people of Good Shepherd, but am thinking about and praying for them and looking forward to the time we can be together in person. Pray for, think about, and reach out to them as well as family, friends, neighbors, and others in need. May God continue to bless and lead you during this most unusual Lenten journey. And as always:

***“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” Psalm 46:1***

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**Feed My Starving Children/Feed the Need STL**

Good Shepherd has hosted a MobilePack for Feed My Starving Children every year since 2007. And every year we have grown in the number of volunteers and in the number of meals packed. We have outgrown the gym and are moving to the Queeny Park Recreation Complex so that we can pack more meals and feed even more children!



We have a new name: **Feed The Need STL**. And a new website: [FeedTheNeedSTL.org](https://FeedTheNeedSTL.org)

Our packing dates this year are **August 14, 15 and 16**. Mark your calendars now!

If you haven't experienced a FMSC MobilePack, it is amazing! The shifts are 2 hours and 15 minutes with training included. There are many opportunities for volunteers: scooping ingredients into bags, weighing, sealing, boxing, keeping the tables' bins filled with ingredients, and other opportunities. It's a beehive of activity and fun! People of all ages participate. Individuals, families, scout troops, school groups, church groups, businesses, sports teams, clubs, and community groups.

Join us! Bring your friends and family. Registration for the event will open in July. And please donate! \$88 feeds a child for a year. \$365 feeds a family for a year. For more information: [FeedTheNeedSTL.org](https://FeedTheNeedSTL.org).

To learn more about Feed My Starving Children's amazing impact on children and communities around the world, go to [FMSC.org](https://FMSC.org).

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