



# Shepherd's Staff



The Monthly Newsletter of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

July 2020



## **Robert Fingland Council President**

I just wanted to send a quick note to the members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church as I step into the Council President roll. I've been a member of Good Shepherd for over 30 years and have seen this congregation grow in so many ways. Not only have our numbers grown, but we have grown in our mission outreach and our ability to support our local community in new ways in these challenging times. I pray that we keep our mission to Follow Christ, Grow in Faith and Share God's Love in front of us and work to find ways to continue to reach out to those who may be going through difficult times or need support.

It has become very clear to me over the years that Good Shepherd is blessed with so many talented people and I'm very excited to be in a leadership role with this Congregation at this time. I ask that we keep the communication lines open and suggest that you express not only your concerns, but also show appreciation for those that on a daily basis are working to keep our church functioning and relevant every day.

As we move forward together, it is important to continue to support Good Shepherd financially and also with your time & talents. Although we may not be worshipping in-person, the church is certainly not closed and the need for the programs and services of our church are even more important. We are still targeting July 12 to restart our in-person worship, but that could potentially change depending on the trends of COVID related hospitalizations. I pray that God will give us the strength to work through these challenges keeping Christ at the center of our lives. I look forward to working with you and invite you to join me in the exciting mission of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

Robert Fingland



**Pr. Josh Brecht**

**Associate Pastor/Interim Lead Pastor**

### **Navigating the Unknown**

When God freed the Israelites from slavery under Pharaoh, it did not take long for the people to become afraid and yearn to return to the comfort of the familiar. They were thirsty. They were hungry. They were wandering through a wilderness without homes nor any idea where they would end up. They said Moses and Aaron:

*“If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.” – Ex. 16:3*

The LORD heard their cry, and once again, God provided:

*“The LORD spoke to Moses and said... ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’ In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground.” - Ex. 16:12-14*

In many ways, these past months have felt like a season of wilderness and wandering. So much of what we knew has been disrupted and we continue to live in the tension of uncertainty. Yet God is with us, providing and guiding. We are thankful for all the ways ministry has happened digitally and the ways the Spirit has continued to work, yet we are filled with hope at the prospect of gathering together again. As we slowly return to worship and various ministries in our facilities, many aspects of this experience will be different for a while. It is our goal to keep you informed as much as possible so we can keep one another as safe as possible.

As we return to worship in our building, we are implementing a worship plan to keep our members safe. This includes:

- Limiting the number of people to allow space to socially distance
- Advance sign up for worship
- Wearing masks
- Modifying parts of the service to worship without physical contact
- Thorough sanitizing and preventative treatments
- Clear signage and checking temperatures (with touchless thermometers)

As smaller groups begin meeting in our building, we will be asking that groups:

- All enter through the main entrance (North door)
- Sign in with names of all attendees
- Wear masks and socially distance
- Meet in larger rooms and schedule all meetings with the office (so we can sanitize)

We give thanks for your patience, support, and flexibility as we continue to navigate these changing waters. These next few months will continue to be ever-adapting to meet the needs of keeping members safe and doing ministry. Even as we begin relaxing some of our restrictions, we may find ourselves reverting to a more restrictive phase if there is a resurgence of infections. We continue to plan, monitor, adapt, and communicate.

As we navigate these uncertain times and sail through these unknown waters, we pray that God will continue to lead us. God led the Israelites from slavery to freedom, and from the wilderness to the promised land. We trust that God will lead us today, as well.

*“The LORD went in front of them in a pillar of cloud by day, to lead them along the way, and in a pillar of fire by night, to give them light, so that they might travel by day and by night.” – Ex. 13:21*

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Josh

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Operation  
Food Search

### **Shop Out Hunger/FeedtheNeedSTL Drive-By Food Drop Off Saturday, July 25 - Noon until 2 p.m.**

At the FeedtheNeedSTL pack - we planned to have everyone bring food for Operation Food Search. Operation Food Search distributes more than 35 million dollars worth of donated food and necessities to 330 community partners in 31 Missouri and Illinois counties and in the city of St. Louis. Our plans were changed by COVID - but hunger needs have dramatically increased. Please click on the link [HERE](#) for needed food items in the drive-by food parade on Saturday, July 25, or bring to church services. Bins will be provided for the food.

Thank you for your caring support.  
FeedtheNeedSTL Team

If you have questions, please email Suzie - [severingham@gslcelca.org](mailto:severingham@gslcelca.org).

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### **JOUST for FeedtheNeedSTL**

The Goerss Family, who are members of Good Shepherd, were searching for a home school project which morphed into a fundraiser for our FeedtheNeedSTL pack. They put together an amazing medieval themed jousting event, scheduled drive-by presentations, and asked for a donation of a quarter per person. They were hoping to raise \$88 which will feed one child for one year. They also put a video of the event on FaceBook along with a donation button linked to FeedtheNeedSTL. Thanks to very generous family and friends, they have raised over \$600.



To the Goerss Family - thank you so much for this ROYAL effort!!!

[Click on this link to watch the video](#)

In respect for the children, the family asks you to please not share this link further than Good Shepherd Members.

As you are aware, our pack was cancelled due to COVID. However, children's starvation continues and is rapidly increasing due to COVID. Feed My Starving Children is in need of funds to purchase ingredients for the meals that they are currently able to machine pack. These meals will go to the neediest communities.

Please **Donate!** Go to on our website: [feedtheneedstl.org/donate](https://feedtheneedstl.org/donate) and donate on-line or by check to Good Shepherd adding in memo line: FeedtheNeedSTL.

Another idea! Do you have kids at home who are bored and in need of a new project? Perhaps your family could put together your own unique way to raise funds to feed a child for one year. It does not have to be as elaborate as the Goerss family's Joust. But kids can be creative, and it can be as wild and crazy as you want. Or it can be as simple as art projects made by the kids that could be 'sold' to family and friends for a donation to FMSC. For some great fund raising ideas go to:

[feedtheneedstl.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/20-FundraisingIdeas-General-2020.pdf](https://feedtheneedstl.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/20-FundraisingIdeas-General-2020.pdf)

As part of this project, kids could explore the Feed My Starving Children website to learn more about the communities that FMSC serves. The website even has an interactive world map which shows where MannaPack meals have been shipped. For example, Zambia was shipped 14,6161,816 meals on May 26<sup>th</sup>. Wow!

<https://www.fmsc.org/impact-of-our-work/where-we-serve>

Questions? Contact Suzie Everingham, [severingham@gslcelca.org](mailto:severingham@gslcelca.org).

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



**Happy Independence Day!** Beyond the fireworks and picnics, this is a great time to celebrate and reemphasize freedoms promised to each of us. Our freedoms of choice are extensive, but the varied and historical practices of equality, fairness, and social justice still provide challenges and opportunities. It is amazing how the Bible is always a step ahead of us and our thinking. Even our view of religious freedom is expanded in Paul's letter to the Ephesians:

*In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. Ephesians 3:12*

Some of our freedoms are now impacted by the pandemic and related precautions. However, the Council, pastors, staff and member groups are working on plans to resume in-person worship services while safeguarding personal health. The Welcome Ministry Team is also discussing how we and you can help welcome, greet, and include members and visitors. As Good Shepherd's re-opening plans emerge,

there will be several roles for volunteers to help welcome church attendees. Ways you can help are being developed and you will hear from the Council and pastors about how you can volunteer - if you feel safe in filling those roles.

Returning to in-person activities at Good Shepherd will be a personal decision based on your health safety concerns; but whenever that is for you, remember what King David wrote:

*I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!" Psalm 122:1*

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Good Shepherd Lutheran Church | 636-391-6685 | [goodshepherdlutheran.com](http://goodshepherdlutheran.com)

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