



Shepherd's Staff



Good to Grow

The Monthly Newsletter of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

September 2020



Robert Finland A Message from the Council President

Good To Grow Update

Since the Stewardship special request to contribute to the Show Me! Fund for live streaming equipment, a few members have asked for an update on the recent capital campaign, **Good To Grow**. Our initial goals were to obtain commitments of \$2.0-\$2.5 million. We were pleased to receive a total of just over \$2.0 million (\$2,019,168) in pledges.

The projects were prioritized in the order listed, leaving the sanctuary renovation as the last project. Here is a summary of each project:

Project	Cost to Date
Campaign Costs (Walsh & Associates)	\$ 96,771
Kitchen Renovation	342,176
Restrooms Renovation	274,810
N. Parking Lot & Canopy, IT Update, Roof Replacement	831,708
Handicap Door	7,032
Sanctuary Concept Only (Architectural & Art Drawings, Consultants)	59,694
Capital Reserve Remaining Balance (Contingency)	128,636
Capital Reserve Expenses - HVAC, Integrated Facility Serv., Blade Tech (Roofing Cost is in N. Parking Lot above)	\$ 23,221

Total Spent to Date	--
	\$1,764,047
Contributions to Date	
Expected Total Contributions	\$1,712,679
Pledges	\$1,740,000
	\$2,019,168
Pledge Shortfall	--
	\$(279,168)

We appreciate everyone’s gifts and would like to offer further explanation of the campaign:

1. Each approved project was well managed by FMPC, our property committee, within the approved dollars.
2. The Capital Reserve fund was targeted to be 15% of contributions, but stands at just 7.5%. This is because this fund was used as planned to fund unexpected needs including, a partial roof replacement, handicap door, HVAC upgrades, etc. This is also lower because contributions have lagged our goals
3. The Sanctuary concept work was required to fully know what that project might entail. We are excited about this project, but understanding the total will exceed original projections and donations, and thus would require a new capital effort.

The unfulfilled commitments pertain primarily to the loss of involvement from a few large givers. The Council has therefore requested that the current need for the live streaming equipment be funded to preserve our capital reserve to repair and replace unplanned building needs.

Thanks again for your amazing generosity!
Robert Fingland, Council President



Pr. Josh Brecht
Associate Pastor/Interim Lead Pastor

Personal Care and Digital Discipleship

Every church leader is trying to figure out the question of this moment: how do we do ministry and be church together during this pandemic? I have been talking with other pastors, listening to podcasts and joining webinars seeking to learn new ideas and adaptations for ministry. Recently, Pastor Amy Stewart, Emily Harrow, and I were able to attend a short online course through Luther Seminary called, “Engaging Community Beyond Zoom.” Before we discussed anything about digital ministry, though, we were asked to first reflect on our Lutheran Theological foundations and the core values of our congregation. I took this exercise seriously and found myself thinking about this in light of the thoughts and feelings I have been hearing from many of you.

I came to the realization that Good Shepherd doesn’t necessarily have a *singular* set of core values. It may be more accurate to say we have two (or more?) distinct sets

of core values. Why? One of the greatest strengths of Good Shepherd is that we have an incredible balance of diversity across the age spectrum! One of the challenges, when trying to define our core purpose is that we have an incredible balance of diversity across the age spectrum!

Pause for a moment and think about what this means for our collective purpose.

With different seasons of life, come different needs, desires, and gifts. What do children, youth, young families, or younger adults need in their faith community? Often these seasons of are full of transitions, learning, and discovering our identity. From this perspective, core values may be challenge, growth, being transformed by God and finding our purpose in transforming the world. In this season, our guiding scripture verse might be Romans 12:2, "Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God."

What does ministry look like for those in the latter half of life, for whom this place will always be home? What are the spiritual needs for those have already spent decades serving our Lord, giving, building and being transformed by God? For many in this season of life, a ministry of care and support is the highest ideal. The purpose of the Church for many in this season is to provide community, stability, and familiarity in a rapidly changing world. A guiding verse might be John 13:34, "Love one another as I have loved you."

I see a lot of churches that get stuck in this dichotomy, focusing on either/or. I feel this tension in myself as a pastor. But what if it's not an either/or, but a both/and? I believe that the most authentic Christian community, the best representation of the kingdom is to have **both**. These two priorities are not mutually exclusive or competing values, but actually function a symbiotic balance that serve to strengthen each other!

Here at Good Shepherd, there are some ways in which we already recognize this and live this balance well. (Of course, there are also ways in which we can improve.) We have traditional worship and contemporary worship. We have Stephen Ministry and we have Building Blocks preschool. We have a full-time rostered minister whose primary focus in ministry with young people, Pastor Amy, and we have a full-time rostered minister whose primary focus is pastoral care, Deacon Suzie.

I believe it is especially important to reflect on these varied values and purposes that we embody during this season when so much of our ministry has had to change and become virtual. For some this is familiar and comfortable, but for others it is unsettling and difficult. So, as we continue to explore creative ways to be the church and do ministry digitally, we also must strive to find ways to continue to provide personal care. I believe that we can be a church where we help young people discover their identity in Christ, where we seek to be challenged and transformed as we follow Jesus, **and** a church that is a refuge of peace and community that lives out a deeply personal care for one another.

As Lutherans, we are both/and people. This is woven into our rich theology, and this theological treasure is a gift not only for us, but for the world.

News From our Transition Team

Last month's newsletter introduced the Transition Team and its members. I write this month to provide a brief update on behalf of the Team.

The Team's work has begun in earnest and will encompass three phases: Detailing GSLC's history; exploring where we are now and where we see God in action at GSLC, and discerning who we want to be and where we want to go in the future as a congregation. We will collect input from the congregation and insights from our past and present as we move forward through these phases and will incorporate them into the Ministry Site Profile at the conclusion of the process.

As an initial effort, we will invite the congregation to share their memories of life at GSLC through various methods (including a story sharing event over Zoom). More information on these will be forthcoming during the course of September, but our work on other aspects of the process will continue during that time.

Thank you for your support and prayers throughout the next months as we carry out this task.

In Peace,
John Fred
Transition Team Chair (on behalf of the larger Team)

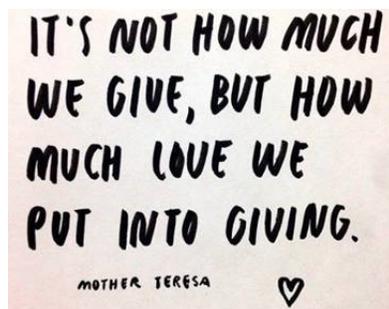
Stewardship

Good Shepherd is blessed with a wide membership of generous people. We know God loves us and we respond by caring, praying and working together to do God's work.

It's not a very Lutheran habit to share personal stories. However, we can be inspired to witness goodness as we observe it. Sharing can motivate and encourage s to realize that small acts, modest contributions and participation can work to create new habits.

Glenn's Story:

As a child of a Lutheran school teacher, the message of giving was simply that "You Should Give!", a tithe (10%) at that. I worked since I was 12, my first job being a paper route. As I sorted my coins and dollars on my bed, I separated the money required to pay my bill (for the papers). After that, I set aside a pile to put into the bank to save for a new bike and another small pile for "Pop" (Nebraska for soda). There were a few coins, but scarcely a dollar left for my church envelope. When I gave my envelope, I felt immensely guilty. I was so glad no one knew how much was in it. It was nowhere



near a tithe.

As a young adult, although Cindy and I had jobs, we jumped right into a world of payments. House, car and credit cards left us with only so much for living. It was stressful. Sometimes, the ATM would not give us \$20 for lunch. We did give to church regularly, but again, I felt so guilty that it wasn't enough. This guilt giving is not what God wanted.

Over time, we challenged ourselves to reorganize our priorities. As we increased our giving, we experienced no change to the quality of our life. It doesn't seem appropriate to say that, because we gave, that God blessed us. Yet, as we progressed through our careers and life, we found joy in giving. We learned through our intention to make a habit of giving. Regular giving at any level can move from habit into joy. Today we love the opportunity to give.

Please share your story by emailing me at gkraft@kraftpartnersllc.com . We will only share this story with your approval.

Have a super month!
Glenn

FLU Shots October 18th at Good Shepherd

FLU shots will be given drive through style, outside under the canopy, on Sunday, October 18 from 10 am to 12:30 pm. There are two shots: one for ages 7 – 64 and one for age 65 and up. The document attached needs to be filled out, insurance should cover the cost of the shots. However, Boeing employees must either get their shots at CVS or pay \$42.

Vaccine Form Large Print

Vaccine Form Regular
Print



[Chaplain Suzie Everingham](#)

Deacon

Covid Coping

*"Humankind never made any material as resilient as the human spirit" by Bern Williams**

I have had the gift of talking with many of you. In addition, many members are making phone calls from those who call each member A to Z in the alphabet, our connect callers, to the Caring Angels group readily available to help with grocery/meds pick-up, to a member of the congregation that checks-in on a regular basis with those who are in assisted living homes. We are all blessed to be a blessing at this time. I am always looking for more callers, too, – if you are interested – call me 314-413-1230 – Suzie.

Recently, at a meeting of the St. Louis Area Rostered Leaders group, named Eastern

Missouri Conference, the following was shared:

“Fear is a normal acceptive response, but fear plus uncertainty makes our brains spin out in anxiety. The best personal readjustment for anxiety is BREATHING!! Try this at those many taxing times during your days – take a deep breath and then slowly let it out to the count of 5 – repeat 3 times.”

I know it seems too simplistic – but I have, personally, found it helpful. Talking with you, I just keep thinking I wish I could help more with some of the issues each of you are working through at this time. I started looking for a resource and found a great help in the following website from University of California in San Francisco – Weill Institute for Neuroscience – Dept. of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. Attached is the link to this article. I was both thrilled and daunted by the volume of material. I’m going to pull out different facets of the article each month for the Shepherd’s Staff to share. However, know that you are most welcome to find that in the article which is most applicable to you. I am hopeful you will find solace in some of the helpful facets of this article

<https://psychiatry.ucsf.edu/coronavirus/coping>

Because of the timing with starting back to school and the level of anxiety in that I will start with the “Families” section. It is my hope to pull some highlights from this section that would be helpful. You can click on the links below that would be of most help for you as a family at this time.

How to talk with children about COVID-19

Helping children cope

Living well: Family harmony while under shelter at home

For families with mental health challenges

Learning resources and home schooling support

How to survive while maintaining distance: Activities during the Bay Area shelter in place

Staying well during pregnancy

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Staying well during pregnancy

If you do not have a computer or are unable to click on the resources, please let me know and we can print out a specific section from the above list and mail it to you. I miss all of you deeply, and, as many know, I get giddy just hearing your voice. I miss community, communion, singing and praying in church. I know many of you feel the

same way. In Romans 8:38-39 we hear the words that there is nothing in all creation that can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus - THIS includes COVID!! So - wherever we are, wherever we worship together via on-line, via prayers - God IS with us, and we are all TOGETHER by faith.

*By the way - I read this quote from a wine bottle and I thought it was "brilliant" even PRIOR to imbibing the wine. 😊" Joyfully in Christ - Suzie



Hygiene Kits for Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center

Pastor Dan Johnson, who used to work with the Youth here at Good Shepherd, has now moved and is working with the Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center in South

Dakota. For information about Pine Ridge here is the link: www.pineridgereconciliationcenter.org Pine Ridge's ministry is to foster mutual trust, respect and understanding while addressing the deep poverty that exists on the reservation.

The following is a way to help, if your small group would like to help put together Hygiene kits and mail to Pine Ridge.

Hygiene Kits

- Please give new items only
- The items on the list are the minimum, you may include additional items such as nail clippers, razors, or hair conditioners
- Please **Do Not** include hairspray or hand sanitizer
- Please do not donate items that are decorated with religious symbols, messages, or your group's name
- Please do not donate items that are decorated with military, political, or patriotic symbols

Assembling the Kits

Open the bath towel, place the items at one end of the towel. Fold the towel over the items and roll the towel so that nothing falls out. Tie the bundle with string, yarn, or ribbon.



Feed My Starving Children Update

Feed My Starving Children still needs our donations to be able to produce meals at their current packing capacity. But first, here are some interesting facts about FMSC that you might not know!

Founded in 1987, FMSC is a Christian nonprofit dedicated to seeing every child whole in body and spirit. FMSC has had a 4-Star Charity Navigator Rating for 15 years straight.

FMSC partners with organizations around the world to reach God's neediest children. They donate meals to an exceptional network of missions and humanitarian organizations who

work hard to get life-saving nutrition to those who need it most. More than 99% of FMSC meals have safely reached their intended destination in 70 countries around the world. With the goal of helping to break the cycle of poverty, these mission partners distribute FMSC meals in schools, orphanages, medical clinics and feeding programs.



The FMSC meals are not just a donation. FMSC's mission partners are part of the process to ensure the meals reach their destinations. These partners invest in FMSC meals by paying shipping costs, and they help get FMSC meals through customs and across borders. They must verify that every box of FMSC food has arrived safely and report to FMSC about how the food is impacting the lives of those they serve. Here is a recent video from one of FMSC's mission partners, Haiti Bible Mission, explaining how FMSC food is making a difference.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aeAi0vnsz9M>.

During this time of COVID, FMSC has been working to pack as many meals as possible using mostly machine packing. However, from March to May, FMSC packed and shipped only 37.7 million meals compared to 97 million meals from the same period in 2019. Sadly, this means 700,000 children are not getting the daily meals that they had been receiving. This is due to the decline in donations from the cancellation of MobilePacks and closure of permanent site volunteer packing. Without funds to pay for the food and machine packing costs, many more children will starve! Your donation will save children's lives.

Unfortunately, mobile packing events are still suspended until at least February 2021. But FMSC has recently been able to reopen their 8 permanent packing sites to volunteers, with socially distant procedures, which will increase production. Saving lives. Only \$88 feeds a child for a year. \$365 feeds a family for a year. Donate through our Feed the Need STL website: <https://feedtheneedstl.org/> Please help. *And thank you!*

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