



Shepherd's Staff

The Transition Team wants to hear from you!



The Monthly Newsletter of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

October 2020

Transition Team Update John Fred, Chair

As you hopefully have seen, the Transition Team has started an effort to collect stories and memories from Good Shepherd's past as a way of discerning together the present state and future direction of our congregation. Although it may seem counterintuitive to delve into the past while preparing a forward-looking process, it actually is an important tool to determine trends and assess challenges that Good Shepherd has faced or is facing now. It also is inspiring to remember how God has sustained Good Shepherd in the past, even as we trust God will guide us into the future. Later this Fall, we will be talking together about where we are as a congregation now and discerning how God is calling us to be church together.

The memory gathering effort will continue throughout the month of October in the hope that each member will have an opportunity and willingness to contribute. We will share these stories and memories in the coming weeks and will use those contributions as inputs into the [Ministry Site Profile](#) to be prepared thereafter. Active participation from the congregation is critical for the process to move along as smoothly and quickly as possible.

To that end, we encourage each of you to take a few minutes to fill out our memory gathering [survey here](#), participate in the upcoming Zoom story sharing event at 7:00 on October 13 (see details below), or both! We look forward to hearing from you.

In Peace,
John Fred

Zoom Story Sharing Event Information:

The Transition Team invites you to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church's Zoom Story Sharing Event! Our unique individual experiences will collectively help us to weave together Good Shepherd's past, present, and future. As Maya Angelou once said, "... all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter what their color." We can't wait to hear all of the memories and stories that make up the rich tapestry of your experiences within our church community.

As discussed above, this virtual forum will take place on October 13, 2020 at 7:00 PM. [Please register here](#) by October 11. Children and youth are encouraged to participate with parental permission. A Zoom link will be emailed to you before the event. If you have any questions regarding the registration process, please contact Rebeca Hilleman at beca_millan@hotmail.com.



Robert Fingland
A Message from the Council President

It was such a beautiful day last Sunday September 20 that welcomed those able to attend the outdoor worship at Good Shepherd. If you didn't have a chance to attend the "Church On The Hill" service, make sure you go to [Good Shepherd Lutheran Church's Facebook page](#) and watch the video recording. Although you may miss some of the in-person excitement that only being there can bring, the video recording is the next best thing and it was very nicely done.

I think the staff and many volunteers deserve a big thank you for making the outdoor worship service occur without a hitch. The service was also locally broadcast to car radios for those who wanted to attend in their cars, and it was also video recorded for online viewing for those not able to attend. It was great to hear the congregation sing and respond to the liturgy in-person. There were 246 folks who attend Sunday's service. Sometimes I take for granted in-person worship, but this outdoor service reminded me of how much I miss seeing each other every Sunday morning. I encourage you to attend the next outdoor worship service in-person at Good Shepherd on October 25 which is Reformation Sunday. It will be an opportunity for you to once again be blessed with the ability to worship and commune together as a community of believers. In the meantime, we will continue to record services in the sanctuary for online viewing.

In Christ
Robert Fingland, Council President



[Pr. Josh Brecht](#)
Associate Pastor/Interim Lead Pastor

Plans?

I once heard a joke, "How do you make God laugh? Make plans." That seems less like a joke and more like sage wisdom in 2020, right? Every time we think we have a plan, or think we understand what is going on, another curveball comes, and we have to adapt and pivot. If nothing else, 2020 is teaching us to be flexible, to cherish the little things, to trust in God and develop a resilient hope. The future is nothing more than a hazy fog right now, and the only clarity to be found is in the present and in the past.

While I mourn the pain, suffering, and struggle of this year, I have also tried to listen and learn what God might be able to teach us through this experience. I'm reminded

of what Paul says in Romans 5:3-5:

“And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.”

In this season where we anxiously await a brighter future, perhaps the Holy Spirit is inviting us to be more deeply present in the present. Perhaps the haze of the horizon is an invitation to look back and reflect on our history and how God has shaped us through the years. If we forget our past, we endanger our future.

We have begun the transition process as we seek to discern God’s vision for pastoral leadership for the future of Good Shepherd. The first step in this process is collective self-reflection. We want to remember the stories, the people, and the events that have shaped this community over the years. We want to learn from our joys and our hardships. We must look closely and prayerfully to see how God has been present through success and strife. Only after a clear picture of our past, can we truly see a clear picture of who we are today. Only then will the fog begin to dissipate as the Spirit begins to give us vision for our future.

We hope and pray you will join us in this process.

It involves us all.

Your story is our story.

Our story is your story.

Together, our stories weave into God’s story.

Join us by sharing memories [HERE](#), and participating in the **Story Sharing event** on **October 13**.

There are a number of things that have come into focus for us during this season of reflection. One of those is understanding some gaps in our communication processes that we have discovered. For example, most of our communication is via email, but we mail the Newsletter + Announcements monthly to those without email. We realized this was not enough, so we will begin sending bi-monthly mailings to those without internet access. We also realized the need to make our Council minutes more visible (especially with all the decisions we have had to make during the past six months!), so those are posted on the church bulletin board outside the office and they are available on the [Website](#) (about Good Shepherd – Council & Ministry Leaders - Council Minutes).

Finally, one thing that God has taught me this year is the value of community life. We long to be together, seeing the smiles reflected in one another’s eyes, hearing the sound of a laugh, and meeting new person, transforming a stranger into a friend. With this in mind, your staff and leadership are working hard to create opportunities to come together over the next couple of months. We look forward to seeing you soon!

October 11: Hymns on the Hill + The Bridge (fair trade store), from 3-5pm outdoors on the hill.

October 17: Pumpkin Glow Event – Pumpkin carving contest + Family outdoor movie night.

October 25: Outdoor Worship – 9:00 (Welcome new members) & 11:00 (Confirmation!)

Remembering you in prayer and sending much love,
Pastor Josh

Stewardship Church Ministry Fund

Each year, the Stewardship Committee asks you to commit to giving for the following year. We celebrate the existing giving and encourage new or increased giving to accommodate our primary mission; that of running the church. We know our members are energized to serve God in so many ways. The budget reflects this by giving to our Synod, local needs and to the world. The main budget, anchors everything we do. People, place and programs make the wheels of all our missions function.



We have always referred to our primary operating budget as the **“General Fund,”** but this fund is really about the ministry of the church. Therefore, we want to think about and refer to this main operating budget as the **Church Ministry Fund**. This is the same fund and function we have historically called the general fund, but this description more completely communicates that our operating fund is the primary ministry of the church. We will kick off the annual pledge process **Sunday, October 18th** to be completed by **Sunday, November 15th**. Within the next 2 weeks you will receive a simple pledge card by mail. An envelope will be included for you to seal. You may submit that any time before November 15th, including bringing it to that service. You may also bring it by the church or mail it to the office. Included with the pledge card, we will share with you the ministry options available for you to consider and the key contact information for you to learn more about each way you may **step in, step up or even lead in 2021**.

Your pledge helps the Church Council determine the budget for the next year. If you have not pledged before, please consider making a commitment that we can count on. This is important for the church to set its course.

We look forward in ministry together.

Glenn Kraft
Stewardship Chair



[Chaplain Suzie Everingham](#)
Deacon

COVID Coping

Coping ideas for our journey together as a community of faith amid COVID. Sometimes, personally, I feel less and less able to read another article about COVID. Yet, at the same time, there are so many things that I need *more* support to cope and understand. So for this month’s article I chose **“ Resilience and Emotional Well-Being Video Series”** from the University of California in San Francisco – Weill Institute for Neuroscience. This series has a variety of free videos that can be watched . A sampling of the videos on the link below are: “managing anxiety”,

“coping with forgetfulness”, “helping children feel calm and regulated”, “parents need stress management, too”, “grief in the time of coronavirus”, “getting a good nights sleep”, “health care workers – how to prioritize your own well-being”, “reduce depression by doing things you love”, and “ways to stay socially connected”. So, if you are tired of reading about COVID, as I feel sometimes, I pray that watching some of these videos will be helpful.

<https://psychiatry.ucsf.edu/copingresources/videos>

On a personal note, as many of you are aware, I will be leaving for an 8 week sabbatical for the months of October/November. I am deeply thankful for this gift of time provided by the congregation. I am supported by the staff, council and many volunteers who are helping while I’m away. We have a pastoral care team who are making calls (along with the pastors), many individuals who have stepped up to lead a particular ministry effort going on, and the continued efforts of the A – Z connect callers, and the Caring Angel group, all make this sabbatical possible. I will be spending my time relaxing, being a grandma to a 6 month old granddaughter (Micah Wren), reading for fun and reading for professional enrichment. For professional enrichment, I have the following books with me: “Recalling our own Stories” spiritual Renewal for Religious Caregivers, by Edward Wimberly; “The Coaching Habit, Say Less, ask more and change the way you lead forever”, by Michael Bungay Stanier and “Abundance Creating a Culture of Generosity” by Michael Ward. All of these publications hit within the genre’ of some of the classes I had been hopeful to take at the ELCA Rostered Gathering, which was cancelled due to COVID. A sabbatical is inclusive of rest and of continuing education, and I’m looking forward to both. Again, I am so grateful for this gift and look forward to sharing my learnings and . . . albums of pictures of my granddaughter . . . when I return 😊!

Joyfully in Christ -
Suzie

A "Wink" from the Welcome Ministry Team Elliott Haugen



Greetings and happy to say “we’re back!” Yes, “Wink” is back after a two-month hiatus. During our staying-close-to-home time, many of us began reading more of just about anything – how-to instructions, the “fine print”, soup labels, and even “Wink”. Regular readers (at least six!) of this feature noticed it was missing, so Wink has returned to keep you updated on Good Shepherd’s Welcome Ministry. A much greater and more joyful return was the wonderful outdoor worship on September 20. It reminded us of how important our faith community is to all of us. Let’s hope it is the beginning of a fruitful journey to being fully back.

Our original 2020 plans had us welcoming new members on September 13, but, alas, the pandemic changed that schedule. However, we continue to stay in touch with and respond to those expressing a desire to join. Therefore, we will hold two informational/orientation sessions via Zoom on Sundays - October 4 (2pm) and October 11 (noon). We hope to personally welcome new members at an outdoor/in-person service later in the month.

Here is how you can help the Welcome Ministry. First, since visitors may not see this newsletter, please share the news about these new member sessions. Anyone

interested in learning about Good Shepherd and joining, should contact the church office and provide contact information. Secondly, continue to invite your family, friends, neighbors, colleagues, and classmates to watch online worship services; to check out our many virtual opportunities; and to be assured that faith and hope will sustain us.

And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, establish, and strengthen you.

1 Peter 5:9



Feed My Starving Children Update

When you donate to Feed My Starving Children, you are doing more than feeding kids. You are helping to break the cycle of poverty for children and families around the world.

Good nutrition is critical to a child's education and education is vital to breaking the cycle of poverty. About 26% of FMSC's meals are distributed to children through school feeding programs.

"If you don't start with food and meet the nutritional needs of these children, the education has no impact. The reality is that food is as much a game changer as education is." – a quote from Isak Pretorius, Executive Director of Joint Aid Management Group (JAM). This group is one of the many organizations that FMSC partners with. JAM serves the most vulnerable children and communities in Sub-Saharan Africa (South Sudan, Uganda, Mozambique, Angola, and South Africa). Check out their website: <https://jamint.com/>



When COVID-19 became a global pandemic, school closures left nearly 370 million kids without access to the nutritious food that they get only from school, according to the World Food Programme. Whether or not their schools have reopened, FMSC's partners are working to get students the nutrition that they need to thrive. Hope starts with food. Please donate to FMSC through our Feed the Need STL website: <https://feedtheneedstl.org/donate/>.

Thanksgiving Basket Drive

Normally in mid-October, we start gathering roasting pans, turkey bags, stuffing and all the other fixings for our annual Thanksgiving Basket drive for Wings of Love and Care in south St. Louis City. But this is not a normal year! Instead of collecting food items, we will be asking for donations to purchase the meals. When purchased in bulk, \$35 will cover the cost of one Thanksgiving meal. The food will be purchased by Wings of Love and Care, and needy families will receive their Thanksgiving meal fixings. More details will be coming soon!



To learn more about Wings of Love and Care, watch the video 'Angie's Story'. <https://www.crisisaid.org/wings/>

Wings/Love A Child

Volunteers are needed for a few hours each month.

Wings/Love A Child has stepped up the need for feeding the hungry in St. Louis area. Their goal is 4000 boxes of food per month, check you calendar and come join us!

- October 13-15 from 9am - 1pm or
- October 27-29 from 9am - 1pm

Volunteers are needed to assemble boxes, pack boxes or bag canned goods.

The address is 3137 Jefferson Ave, on the west side of Benton Park. You will see the red brick building , parking on the street. Face masks are required!

This is a great opportunity for small groups or those looking to help out in your city.

Since March, they have distributed over 15,000 boxes which has helped 16,000 families or 30,000 children. Contact either Julie Patthoff @ 314-591-2528, **jtomato50@gmail.com** Or Sandi Bahr @ 636-236-1737 or **sandi1979bahr@outlook.com**.

Thanks Be to God that we can help feed the hungry in our backyard. Click on the logo above for more information.

FLU Shots October 18th at Good Shepherd

FLU shots will be given drive though 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](#)

To Our Church Family:

Hi! I'm Emily Goerss...Robert and I have been attending GSLC with our daughters Evie (6) and Nora (almost 4!) for two years now.

When quarantine began, I ended up homeschooling the girls. Like most people we knew, we all began feeling lonely and kind of helpless. The news was (and remains) frequently exhausting and frightening, and everywhere we saw tragedy.

When we heard that Feed My Starving Children had to cancel all packs, we were even more unhappy. Evie helped pack last year and it meant so much to us as a family to be able to help others in that concrete way. So we began wondering if there wasn't a way to help.

Our solution was unorthodox to say the least--we decided to hold a drive-by joust! The girls had asked to learn about castles and princesses, so we were all ready diving into medieval times. So we made some horses and poles, got out our costumes, and invited family and friends over to donate quarters and enjoy a little social distance silliness.

In the end, we raised over \$600. The sense of connection and meaning was overwhelming and filled us up in a way that is hard to come by during quarantine.

Now that it is clear that quarantine will continue, we are planning another event...a drive-by rodeo! Unfortunately, we can't invite all of you over (our driveway isn't that big!) but we wanted to offer you the chance to make a donation and view the festivities online. It would mean a lot to us to share this with all of you, and it would really help FMSC. Please see the attached information, and donate if you can (even if you don't watch our silliness!) We found that reaching out helped fill us, too.

God's blessings to you and your family at this time. We can't wait to see you all in person again next year.

The Goerss Family



At the FMSC Pack in 2019!



At the Joust in April!



Jousting!



**People donated quarters to vote who would win--girls or parents?
(It was girls by \$250)**



The agony of defeat!



**The fierce
and
terrible
dragon!**



Good Shepherd
LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
Manchester, Missouri



DRIVE-BY RODEO FACEBOOK LIVE EVENT!

TO BENEFIT FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3RD

JOIN US ONLINE!

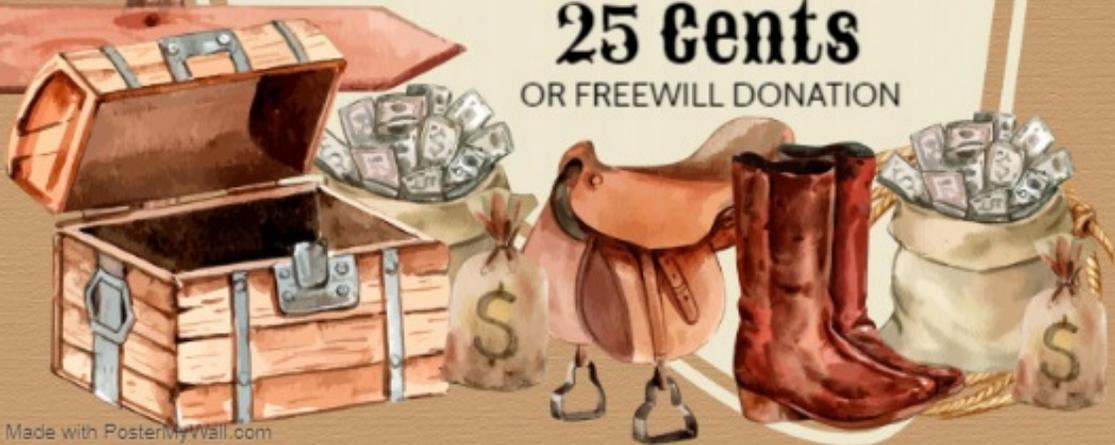
10:30 AM

GOERSS FAMILY

"BULL" RIDING!
BARREL RACING!
ANIMAL ROPING!

25 Cents

OR FREEWILL DONATION



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What is it?

We are inviting friends over to chat (from the car) and watch us compete in silly "rodeo" events. We are inviting our church family to participate via video!

And it's for charity?

Sure is! You are asked to go online and make a donation directly at <http://feedtheneedstl.org>. If you want your donation to count towards deciding on the "winning" team (Girls Vs. Parents!) please let us know by e-mailing us at spacepotoos@gmail.com! For example:

"We donated \$5 towards the Girls."

"We donated \$15 towards the Parents."

Who will be Rodeo Champions?



FREQUENTLY

ASKED

Where?

GSLC Facebook Live at 10:30 AM!
We will keep a running tally of donations starting now, so feel free to go donate today!

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Visit our Website

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

[Good Shepherd Calendar](#)

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