



Shepherd's Staff

2021

Monthly Newsletter of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

January 2021



Bob Fingland
Council President

Your Good Shepherd Church Council has been updating the GSLC Constitution and Bylaws over the last few months to align with the ELCA Model Constitution as well as GSLC initiated updates. Both the Constitution and Bylaw documents have been highlighted in **green** to show the updates made by GSLC Council and highlighted in **yellow** to show the updates initiated by the ELCA Model Constitution. You are encouraged to read through these and then attend a special Zoom Town Hall noted below to review these updates and answer questions from the congregation.

GSLC Constitution
Edits

GSLC Bylaws
Edits

A Zoom Town Hall to review the budget is scheduled for January 17th and the Zoom Congregational meeting is scheduled for January 31st. Additional information is forthcoming.

Below is the link to the Constitution and Bylaw Zoom Meeting on January 24 at 2 PM. There will be a short presentation and some time to answer any questions the congregation may have. This Town Hall Zoom meeting is an effort to expedite the review and approval of the Constitution and Bylaws at the Congregational Meeting on January 31, 2021.

Join Zoom Meeting for Constitution and Bylaw updates:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84977693350?pwd=aEJyU0JicHc5c2dwaWhoYm92cGtPQT09>

Meeting ID: 849 7769 3350

Passcode: 494043

Dial by your location

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+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

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GSLC Mission and Purpose: An Update on the Transition Team Process

Dear Good Shepherd,

As discussed in prior updates, the Transition Team's focus over the past few weeks has been on our congregation's mission and purpose and how we are being called to live those out. We greatly appreciate the response we have received on these points, including at the congregational Zoom conversation in December. To that end, we wanted to take the opportunity to provide you with a summary of the input and learnings generated by this process thus far.

Living out our mission: We are following Christ by providing opportunities for all ages to engage within and outside the church. We also follow Christ by seeking to welcome all and sharing Christ's love with one another and our neighbors. We are growing in faith through worship by enriching our knowledge via the numerous programs and learning opportunities that GSLC offers. We are sharing God's love through our outreach programs that support local and global communities.

Why our mission is important to us: Our response to God's love for us is to share that love through our actions, connecting and flowing into the community. It provides a focal point to spread God's word and be with others seeking to follow Christ, growing together in unity and serving the community.

Ways in which our mission could be more effective: Make More Connections by shifting methods to meet evolving needs and by using a variety of methods to connect with people; encourage more individuals/couples/families to get involved and seek ways to increase the diversity of our congregation. Better Meet Needs by being good neighbors in our community and providing more neighborhood outreach, including developing a plan to reconnect members and the community to foster healing and reengagement once restrictions on gatherings are lifted. Build Greater Awareness by taking steps to make the community aware of our welcome statement; enhance community awareness through various venues, such as social media, to share the good news of Jesus Christ and the welcome of GSLC.

Our top assets and gifts to fulfill our purpose and mission: GSLC has been blessed with outstanding and dedicated pastors, staff and members who participate with their time, dollars and talents in our many programs. We have a willingness to help others in many ways. GSLC's ministry is focused on living out the Gospel in a manner that is adaptive within the church & for our community.

Thank you again for your input on this important stage of the pastoral transition process! If you have further comments or questions, please reach out to John Fred

(john.fred@gmail.com). The Transition Team and Council currently are in the process of incorporating this input into the Ministry Site Profile, which is the next step toward calling our next Senior Pastor.

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



Deacon Suzie Everingham
Chaplain

Dear Congregation: As many of you know, at the end of 2020 I took a sabbatical. This is a gift from the congregation, given after 7 years of service. I have now been at Good Shepherd for 21 years full-time (23 including a couple years part-time). Thank you so much for this amazing gift of a sabbatical. It was such a blessing to have the time away. During that time, Charlie and I were in Scottsdale, Arizona – where (as we say) my daughter is holding our granddaughter hostage. Our Granddaughter, Micah, will turn one in March, 2021. (I came back with a few hundred pictures on my phone I can show you) 😊 During my sabbatical, I spent my time in “grandma awe”, reading many books (some to help professionally) and merely time to be.

When reading, I love when you stumble across great “ah ha’s” that resonate with you. Here are a couple: A good quote from Madeleine L’Engle was, “The minute we begin to think we have all the answers, we forget the questions.” Most important, genuinely listen to the answer when you ask the question. Basically, never should you show up to a conversation, or a meeting, with the answers you want already in your “pocket.” Another quote, I liked was from Winston Churchill who said that people, “occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing ever happened.” Also, I recently heard the statement, “When “happiness” shows up, always give it a comfortable seat.” I share these with you because I think that life sometimes goes so fast that we don’t take the time to sit, absorb our surrounding, to think, to discuss, and mostly, to pray. This year, of all years, we have needed each other (even though socially distant) – we are emotionally. and through Christ, prayerfully bound together. I am deeply thankful for all of you, for the gift of TIME, and for your personal prayers. I am so humbly grateful – Joyfully in Christ – Suzie

Stewardship Committee
Glenn Kraft



November and December giving to the Church Ministry Fund (the General Fund) was strong and we are please to report that pledging to date for 2021 exceeds the number and dollars pledged for 2019 (the last comparable year). See the pledges received so far:

2021 Pledged

Dollar Range	Donors	Dollars
0-100	1	55

101-250	4	860
251-500	8	2,995
501-750	5	2,945
751-1,000	6	5,515
1,001-2,000	22	32,700
2,001-3,000	17	43,460
3,001-4,000	13	45,464
4,001-5,000	10	45,060
5,001-10,000	36	253,694
10,001-20,000	9	139,200
20,001+	3	103,300
Totals	134	675,208

You are a generous congregation indeed! YTD giving to the Church Ministry Fund (General Fund) is \$1,074,417 so far. However, 475 total Good Shepherd donors gave \$1,325,796 through the church to Church Ministry Fund and to all other funds combined.

The Stewardship Committee would like to invite more members to pledge, as this helps Church Council to more accurately plan. We will continue to receive your pledges for 2021 through the Annual Meeting (January 31, 2021). If you are able, please consider stepping up a level to support the core ministry of our church. 2021 will be an exciting year as we complete our leadership transition and resume our full schedule of activities, virus permitting.

May God work in you through your commitment to move our ministry forward in 2021.

Glenn Kraft
Stewardship Committee



Feed My Starving Children Update

It has been a challenging year for FMSC with the cancellation of the MobilePacks. At the end of May, FMSC had only produced 30% of their planned production to that date. But with many generous donations, by the end of August, they had produced 41% of the meals planned YTD. And by the end of November, they produced 57% of the meals planned YTD. Thanks to all the generous givers, FMSC's growth rate has been significant.

And thanks to the amazing giving of our Feed The Need STL supporters from Good Shepherd and others in the St. Louis area, your donations will feed over 2,160 children for one year. This is 65% of our original goal of feeding 3,300 children in 2020. Even though we were unable to pack meals in St. Louis, we are still saving children's lives.

All MobilePack™ events have been postponed through June 1, 2021.

Your support is more critical than ever until we return to mobile packing. Please

help fund meals. As FMSC continues to increase packing capacity, funding for ingredients is the limiting factor.

Following is the link to donate to Feed The Need – STL 2021. Our new pack number is 2110-023SC.

[Donate – Feed The Need STL](#)

The Lord's miracles and provisions sometimes make the seemingly impossible possible.



Gratitude from the Scrappy Ladies!

The scrappy ladies of Project Boomerang distributed a total of 8,398 greeting cards in 2020.

During the first quarter of 2020 the ladies gathered on Wednesdays to create handmade greeting cards for holidays and other occasions such as thinking of you, thank you, etc. at the Haugen residence....in April with pandemic restrictions; they continued to meet on Zoom weekly to make cards and visit.

1. Three care package mailings of 372 cards and donated items in five boxes were sent overseas to an Any Sailor recipient, Poland and Qatar.
2. Before each holiday, baskets of cards and donated calendars were placed at the Fisher House for the veterans and their families to use.
3. Deliveries of 3,840 donated unused cards were given to Lutheran Senior Services for low income unit residents and 980 cards to Evelyn's Hospice.
4. Parkway middle school French and Spanish students/teachers signed 154 Christmas cards to accompany gifts for immigrant children for the program "Hope for the Holidays ". Thrivent funding helped First English Evangelical Lutheran Church in Baltimore, MD to deliver these cards and gifts to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services. Three Thrivent Action Team (TAT) events and generous donations from others supported Project Boomerang. Blessings abound as we continue to create connections with the community and overseas to those who use the cards. *Thank you for your donations and the scrappy lady creativity that make this service available to the deployed and others!*

A "Wink" from the Welcome Ministry Team Elliott Haugen



Happy New Year! At this time of year, some make resolutions and set new goals. Most of us will probably revise the one about spending more time with family – by adding “outside our house!” Most will also add one about spending more in-person time with others.

Good Shepherd's church building is a wonderful place of worship, education, and

fellowship, but we have been blessed that our worship services and many activities have continued online during the pandemic. While we miss this physical connection, we have reaffirmed our focus on Jesus Christ, prayer, and that the church is really its people. We, as children of God, continue to find unique and fulfilling ways to “Follow Christ, Grow in Faith, and Share God’s Love.” As a reminder and challenge for us in a transformed 2021, I am sharing a prayer that the Welcome Team ends each meeting with:

*Dear Lord: Your church is composed of people like me. I help make it what it is.
It will be friendly, if I am. Guests will feel welcome, if I welcome them.
Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them. It will do great work, if I work.
It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver.
It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship, if I invite and bring them.
It will be a church where people grow in faith and serve you, if I am open to such growth and service.*

With your help Lord, let us dedicate ourselves to the task of being all the things you want your church to be. Amen.

Visit our
Website

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

[Good Shepherd Calendar](#)

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