



# Shepherd's Staff



The Monthly Newsletter of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

April 2021



**Josh Brecht**  
**Lead Pastor**

## **A New Day**

It feels like a new day, like the sun beams breaking through after the long rain, the thaw after a cold winter, the first day in that new house. Change is in the air. Not the overwhelming or frightening change, but the change that brings calm and hope, peace and possibility. We have been through a lot. Each word in this simple sentence carries tremendous weight.

*We have been through a lot.*

The pandemic punctuated our past year with disruption and discovery, pausing and recreating, loss and learning. As a society, we have been through a lot. Prior to that, Good Shepherd had a season of pain and joy, gain and loss, hurt and healing. We have been through a lot. Then over this year we had significant transition in our congregation as we said goodbye to a beloved pastor and worked through a transition process, finally arriving here. It is a new day.

Vaccines are being administered. In-person worship is beginning. Spring is in the air, and you have entrusted me with the tremendous honor of serving as Lead Pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Thank you for this incredible opportunity, this unbelievable blessing. In many ways, this is a dream come true for our family, and we could not be more excited to be in mission and ministry with all of you! While we have been on this journey together over the past four years, I recognize that you have called me to a new role. I accept this role with humility and acknowledge the magnitude of this calling. I promise, by God's grace, to give you my very best. As your Lead Pastor I promise to love you and challenge you, lead you and listen to you.

Ephesians 4 is the core of the vision God has put in my heart for ministry.

*"But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some*

*pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.”*

This is my prayer for us. It is my dream to help deepen our discipleship, and help everyone discover the purpose God for their lives. I also believe that the Church is the greatest gift God has given us to do this because we do it *together*.

I see a future where we continue to do incredible work toward eliminating hunger and poverty, growing our impact in the community and the world. I see a church where every person who walks through those narthex doors for the first time knows that they have a place here and that they will be welcomed without reservation, loved without exception, and have a purpose in our shared mission. I see a community where kids and families thrive, and where we revere the wisdom of our elders and build beautiful relationships that span the generations.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church has an **amazing** history, an incredible foundation built by those who came before us. May we carry this torch into the future, with faithfulness, gratitude and joy. I cannot wait to see all of the wonders God has in store for us in the years ahead. It is a new day, and the best is yet to come.

With much love and deep gratitude,

Josh Brecht  
Lead Pastor



## Welcome Home Good Shepherd! In-Person Worship Begins: April 18

We are thrilled to finally gather for in-person worship in our sanctuary again! This has been a long and difficult season, but we have learned that we continue to be the Church, the hands and feet of Jesus, no matter where or how we worship. As you prepare to return to worship at Good Shepherd, we want to share how we have prepared to keep one another safe and what to expect when you come. Worship will look and feel a bit different when you return. We will not have gathering in the narthex, shake hands, or have a building full of kids in Sunday school yet, but worship with our gathered community will still be a beautiful thing!

### Pre-Registration

- We ask that everyone who would like to attend worship **sign up in advance**. This will help us ensure we are abiding by capacity guidelines (100 people per service), allowing ample space to socially distance from those outside your household, and have an accurate list of attendees in case there is ever a need for contact tracing.
- Online sign up is preferred, via the **mobile app** or ([Online Registration \(tpsdb.com\)](https://www.tpsdb.com)) If you need assistance, however, please call **Brenda Ogroski** in the

### **Worship Times**

- We will begin with two worship services at **9:00 (traditional)** and **11:00 (contemporary)**.
- Worship will be livestreamed at 9:00 and 11:00. Online worship will be available anytime after the livestream on Facebook, Youtube, Vimeo, or our Website [goodshepherdlutheran.com](http://goodshepherdlutheran.com).

### **Communion**

- At first, we will use pre-packaged, individual elements for Holy Communion. These can be picked up as you enter the Sanctuary.
- Since worship will be live-streamed, you are welcome to participate in Holy Communion if you are worshipping at home, providing your own elements.

### **Music**

- We will have music during worship, but singing is not encouraged at this time. We invite you to hum along or reflect on the words.

### **Other Worship Components**

- We will not pass baskets for offering, but have a box available in the Narthex.
- We will not use bulletins or hymnals at first, as it would be extremely difficult to sanitize. For now, we will utilize screens for worship.
- We will share peace through waving or saying hello, but not shaking hands.

### **Safety**

- We will wear **masks** to protect one another. Even those that have been vaccinated will wear masks, as the virus may be able to spread after vaccination. (Children under age 2 should not be masked)
- **We will not serve coffee**, and ask that no food or beverages come into the building for worship.
- You will be asked to **socially distance** from others not in your household.
- **We will not congregate in the Narthex** before or after worship, but invite you to have fellowship outdoors!

### **Preparation & Sanitation**

- The church facilities are thoroughly cleaned and sanitized by our expert cleaning staff each week, and high-touch surfaces will be sanitized between services.
- Airflow has been increased and filters have been upgraded in our HVAC system.
- Pews will be marked to facilitate social distancing.

### **FAQ's**

#### *Will two worship services be enough?*

- We anticipate that beginning with two services will allow ample capacity for those who desire to worship in-person at first, and this also helps make sanitizing and staffing volunteer needs more manageable. We will be prepared to add additional worship times when needed.
- The online registration form has a waitlist available if we reach capacity for a given service.

#### *Can Lutherans still have worship if coffee and donuts are not served?*

- Yes. While it may seem like a biblical mandate, coffee is, in fact, not mentioned

anywhere in the Bible or the Book of Concord.

- We highly recommend bringing high-quality travel mug in your car so you can have coffee on the way, and it will be waiting for you in your car right after worship!

*Will there be Sunday School or Nursery?*

- We will not offer in-person Sunday School for the remainder of the spring. We encourage you to continue utilizing our Family Faith Formation at Home ministry for the remainder of the school year.
- We will not offer nursery care at this time, but children are very much welcome in worship!



## Feed My Starving Children Giving Challenge

For Lent, we took on the challenge to feed 120 children for one whole year. Through your generosity, we have raised enough to feed 103 children so far. And we are continuing the challenge through April 18<sup>th</sup>. The initial goal was 120 kids, but let's see how many more lives we can touch. For only \$88 you will feed a child a nutritious meal a day for one whole year.

Here is Lauza who lives in Uganda.

To see her story: [Lauza's Beautiful Transformation: Feed My Starving Children \(fmssc.org\)](https://www.fmssc.org).

To Donate:

- Send a check to Good Shepherd (FMSC in memo)
- Donate at [Online Giving \(tpsdb.com\)](https://www.tpsdb.com) or on the Good Shepherd Connect App. Use the drop-down menu to choose Feed My Starving Children
- Donate *directly* to [Feed The Need STL](https://www.feedtheneed.org)



## Glenn Kraft Stewardship

We are excited to share some opportunities to enhance our stewardship journey:

1. **Financial Peace University** by Dave Ramsey- please email Glenn to register your interest at [gkraft@kraftpartnersllc.com](mailto:gkraft@kraftpartnersllc.com) We'd like to help you get started. This program is easy, fun and has helped millions of people take control of their finances.
2. **Giving Wright**- GS member Ken Wright is a skilled tax attorney and professor who will be offering periodic tips on ways you can give offered in the current tax structure. These tips will be offered periodically.
3. **Sharing**- The Stewardship team is eager to talk to you about your giving story. Why do you give? Can you share what sparked your giving habit? See Glenn's story on The Habit of Giving. [LINK HERE...](#) Please email [Glenn](mailto:Glenn) to discuss how we can share your story!

Thank you for your continued generosity!

Glenn Kraft  
Stewardship Team

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



***Happy Easter!*** While understanding the gloom of the crucifixion, we rejoice with Christians everywhere to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. There is tremendous meaning and impact of these linked events for us, our faith, and the world. While exploring the religious significance of Easter, historians also looked at the origin and meaning of the word "easter". Some connect it to an old German word for east while others suggest it means dawn – both related to the wonder, warmth, and joy of seeing the sun rise in the east. An early sunrise also signaled the start of springtime.

Since we are on word meanings, have you heard the term earworm? Despite being confronted by the insidiousness of Covid-19, it is okay to have an earworm – that's when a song or piece of music continues to play in your mind – seemingly forever. Well, I am sharing an earworm I've recently had when thinking of Easter, spring, and ongoing successes in dealing with Covid. Please sing along:

Oh happy day (oh happy day), Oh happy day (oh happy day).  
When Jesus washed (when Jesus washed), when Jesus washed (when Jesus washed),  
When Jesus washed (when he washed); washed my sins away. (Oh happy day).  
Oh happy day (oh happy day).

He taught me how to watch and pray, (watch and pray); And live, rejoicing every day  
(every day). Oh happy day (oh happy day). Oh happy day (oh happy day) ...

We have indeed been watching and praying for Easter, spring and a return to gathering to celebrate God's glory, love and caring. As you learn more about Good Shepherd's in-person worship opportunities, please help invite, welcome, and engage returning members and our visitors. Thanks be to God! All together now - "Oh happy day" ...

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

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