



# Shepherd's Staff



FAMILY opportunity security friendship  
volunteer harmony solutions altruism  
service TEAMWORK cooperation inspire  
inclusion. SHARE awareness  
community charity GENEROSITY unconditional  
contribution kindness HELP  
unite NETWORK connect  
diversity SAFETY support trust NOW  
together GIVING caring vision

The Monthly Newsletter of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

July 2021



**Josh Brecht**  
Lead Pastor

## Future Worship Plans

Our worship life was completely changed in the spring of 2020. Since that time, we have been adapting, being creative, and adapting again as the waves of the pandemic have moved through our world. **I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support, flexibility, and grace as we have navigated this incredibly difficult road.** As Christians, we are called to love God and love our neighbors. As Luther says, "A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject of all, subject to all." You have embodied this faithfully, and I am so, so proud of Good Shepherd!

We are at a juncture where we do not yet know what the future holds, thus what the needs of our community will be for worship. Yet we are also at a juncture where we can and should make some firm plans for at least the next season. Staff and Council have been discussing the future of worship and what is needed to best help us fulfill the mission God has given us.

In normal times, we would invite a longer and more broad conversation about our communal worship life. However, with the uncertainty before us, current and expected participation trends, and the ministry God has given us, Council and staff feel that committing to **two Sunday morning worship services (9:00 & 11:00) with an education hour in between (10:00) will be the most effective and fruitful plan for ministry.** This is not forever, but a trial for the next season. We will evaluate along the way, and invite you join us in trying out this 'new normal' until such a time as our needs may warrant an additional or different worship services.

### WE WANT TO LISTEN

In July we will host opportunities for questions, discussion, and clarification.

- In Person Forum: **Sunday July 11 at 10:00 Room 150**
- Zoom Forum: **Wednesday, July 21 at 7:00**

○ [Meeting Link](#)

- Meeting ID: 850 7004 7136
- Passcode: 556678
- Dial In: +1 312 626 6799

We also invite those who regularly attended the Saturday night worship service to share your [feedback HERE](#) about what made that service meaningful to help us consider how we might incorporate some of those ideas into Sunday worship during this season.

We realize that this may be a deeply emotional and personal conversation for some. ***The question is not, “what do I want”, but rather, “what do we need to best live out the mission God has for us at Good Shepherd?”*** How can our worship best enable us to form faith in kids, foster community and care, and serve those in need beyond our walls? Remember, whatever we decide in this season is not forever. Who knows what God will do in the years ahead!

I humbly ask that you resist the temptation to email me about this, but rather join the opportunities for conversation or call me on the phone. These are not email conversations, but personal, face-to-face conversations. May we talk, pray, and listen to the Spirit together.

With much love and prayer,  
Pastor Josh

## Key Factors in the Decision

### **We cannot return to four worship services.**

- Prior to the pandemic, our weekly attendance did not require four worship service times. (There was a time, about 15 years ago, when weekly worship attendance did require this).
- Even prior to the pandemic, four services were incredibly difficult to sustain. The staff time and energy, and volunteer needs required was very demanding.
- Online Worship is an additional opportunity that will continue.
- Fewer worship services will free up time, energy, and resources (both people and material) to invest in our mission.

### **We should commit to a consistent Sunday schedule for the fall.**

- For the sake of Children’s Ministry, Adult Education and other planning needs.
- For the sake of stability and predictability for all of us *and* for new people.

### **Faith Formation in kids is most effective when Sunday School *is not* concurrent with Worship**

- We see an increasing trend of kids not attending worship. If they do not attend as kids, they generally do not attend when older and drift away from the Church.
- Worship is richer and more complete when the whole body of Christ is present.

## Key Recommendation

### **Sunday Morning Schedule: 9:00 Worship - 10:00 Education Hour - 11:00 Worship**

#### **Positives:**

- We believe this will enable more participation of kids in worship.
- We believe this will enable more adults to participate in Children’s Ministry, thus better fulfilling our mission of raising kids as disciples and supporting families.
- We believe this will open more opportunities for learning, community, and faith formation for all members.
- Moving to two, rather than three services frees up more energy, time, and

resources in other ministry areas.

**Challenges:**

- We recognize a tighter education window of time will be an adjustment.
- We recognize that there is loss for those who valued the 8:00 and 5:30 worship, time, style, and community. We would seek to incorporate some of what made these services special into 9:00 or 11:00 worship.

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



Happy Independence Day! This is also a great time to celebrate a return to enjoying freedoms we took for granted before the pandemic. We thank everyone who has been helping us get back to our cherished activities. The Wink logo is also back - without a mask for the first time in a year to acknowledge the planning and protective strategies used to move us and Good Shepherd forward. Psalm 107:1 explains what to do now:

*“Oh give thanks to the Lord for He is good; his steadfast love endures forever”*

So, what’s with the wink emoji? Six years ago, it was selected for this regular Newsletter article to imply a brief form of communications, like a hello or friendly greeting. Wink articles include thoughts and information about GSLC’s church-wide welcoming ministry.

The following Wink paragraph from the first wink is still true today.

“Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is filled with welcoming and caring people who were originally invited, as strangers, into this blessed church community. There is a great deal of data that indicates that people come to a church because of a personal invitation and they return because they feel welcome and are asked to come back. So please consider asking a friend, neighbor or colleague to attend a worship service and to take advantage of GSLC’s programs, activities and special events described in this newsletter or the weekly announcements.”

(Did you know that during those six years nearly 400 people became members of Good Shepherd?)

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