



Shepherd's Staff

Congregational Meeting
Sunday, June 6th - 12:15pm
Sanctuary or Zoom

The Monthly Newsletter of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

June 2021

Congregational Meeting June 6th - Please join us for the Mid-Year Congregational meeting at 12:15pm in the Sanctuary. If you prefer, you may join us via [Zoom Here](#). You may also join us **by phone by dialing 312.626.6799 and use Meeting ID 886 2007 7432 and Passcode 489377**. If you are attending via Zoom, please remember to mail your ballot to the church office by June 11th.



Josh Brecht
Lead Pastor

Summer Sermon Series We Are Called

Children - Community - Service

The past year has caused me to reflect deeply. I have been asking questions about myself, my ministry and our congregation.

What is my purpose?

What is the desired outcome of this ministry I've been called to?

What is **our** collective purpose as Good Shepherd?

If someone stopped you on the street tomorrow and asked, "Why does Good Shepherd exist? What is its mission?" would we know the answer? Would we all have different answers?

Every morning as I pray, (including prayers for many of you), one thing remains consistent. I pray, "God, give me clarity about the mission of this church. What is the mission you have called us to?"

The pandemic helped us realize what is most important,

revealing what we had perhaps taken for granted, and what is not as necessary as we once thought. The tremendous work of the Transition Team invited us to reflect on our primary values, our core purpose, where we have been and where God is leading us. Through all of these conversations, and if you simply pay attention to the heartbeat of Good Shepherd, three things always rise to the surface. There are three things that energize us, without which I do not think Good Shepherd would be Good Shepherd. Those three things are children, community, and service.



Children. We exist to pass on faith in Jesus Christ, and our unique Lutheran heritage to the next generations. We exist to support families in raising their kids to be disciples of Jesus that make a positive impact on the world.

Community. We exist to create the beloved community, forming rich, deep and authentic relationships. We do life together, server together, grow in faith together and care for one another through life's challenges. We practice radical hospitality, making space for anyone and everyone to join this mission.

Service. From FMSC to Pumpkin Patch, from Wings of Love to Mission Trips we exist to serve and provide for those in need. There is no need this church will not meet when we come together with purpose and passion.

So this summer we will take time to dig into these three pillars of our calling together in worship. As we wait for fall and a return to something closer to normal, let's pray. Let's discern. Let's remember where we have been, what God has done and who we are. Let's listen to the Spirit together so that **every** decision we make aligns not with our own desires, but with the mission God has given us as Good Shepherd, the mission to which every single one of us has been called.

"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, on baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all." – Ephesians 4:4-5

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Josh

Updated Worship Plans & Covid Guidelines

Based on the recent updates from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) we have updated Good Shepherd Covid-19 plans. These updates are based on the CDC recommendations for those who have been fully vaccinated (These can be viewed [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)). These state that those who have been fully vaccinated do not need to wear masks or socially distance (except in certain settings). As we are revising our policies to reflect this new information, we are cognizant of the various comfort levels that exist among our members, whether vaccinated or not. Some may want to continue masking and social distancing even after full vaccination for themselves or

their family members. Children, age 11 and under cannot be vaccinated yet. It is imperative that no one is excluded from any ministries at Good Shepherd based on vaccination status or eligibility.

Therefore, beginning on **June 6**, we will continue to have **two worship services** that will have **different levels of restriction** to accommodate the needs of the congregation. **9:00 Worship will shift to lessened restrictions**, and **11:00 Worship will continue our current protocols**.

WORSHIP: ALL SERVICES

- Both Worship Services fall within CDC guidelines.
- **Anyone** can attend either service regardless of vaccination status. (The distinctions are to give people an option based on comfort level)
- We will utilize screens/projection for worship rather than bulletins at this time
- Communion elements will be in pre-packaged, individual sets, available upon entry
- Offering baskets will not be passed.
 - Online/Mobile/Mail-in giving is encouraged.
 - Offering box will be available in the Narthex
- Congregational singing is not encouraged at this time
- No food or drinks will be served
- Outdoor fellowship is encouraged (congregating in Narthex is discouraged)

WORSHIP: 9:00 – LESSENE RESTRICTIONS

- Pre-Registration is no longer required
- Capacity is increased (only limited by ability to allow social distancing for unvaccinated people)
- Unvaccinated individuals must mask and socially distance from others not in their household
 - Any others who prefer to wear a mask, for any reason, are still encouraged to do so. This will help alert others to social distance around you and/or your family.
- Fully Vaccinated individuals are *not required to mask or socially distance* from other fully vaccinated individuals
 - Even if *you* are fully vaccinated, we ask that you please socially distance from those who are masked

WORSHIP 11:00 – SAME RESTRICTIONS

- Pre-Registration is required
- Capacity will remain limited to 100 people
- Masks will be worn by all attendees
- Attendees will socially distance from those not in their household

FULLY VACCINATED INDIVIDUALS

- May meet at Good Shepherd without masks (with the exception of 11:00 Worship)
- When ministries are meeting that include children who cannot yet be vaccinated, we encourage masks be worn by all (vaccinated or unvaccinated) to ensure safety of our children
 - (VBS, Music Camp, and any other ministries for children and families will continue to mask)

SMALLER GROUPS AND MINISTRIES

- May meet at Good Shepherd without masks (please be sure all in your group

are comfortable)

- May meet indoors or outdoors
- Zoom will continue to be available, offering hybrid meetings for those who prefer to meet virtual at this time.

SUMMER OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICES

- We plan to have one outdoor worship per month throughout the summer
- **June 20, July 25, and August 29** we will have ONE blended worship service at 9:00 outside. This will give us a chance to all be together as one church for worship!
- Outdoor worship will use the same protocols as 9:00 worship (vaccinated people do not need to mask, unvaccinated people should still mask and socially distance)

FAQ's

Why did you pick 9:00 worship vs 11:00 worship to have less restrictions?

- Based on the informal feedback we have heard, we have had many more requests by regular 9:00 Worshippers to consider lessened restrictions for worship.
- While all our worship services are intergenerational, the 9:00 worship has been trending a bit older, and the 11:00 trending a bit younger with a higher percentage of children present. Thus, it made sense to delineate our options this way.
- Again, anyone can attend either worship service!

Why can't we sing yet?

- Singing continues to be one of the riskier activities as it spreads aerosols widely. The recommended threshold of vaccination is 70-85% of the total population. As of writing, the country is at 39% (and STL County is at 35%). We will continue to evaluate data and recommendations regularly.



Emily Harrow
Director of Children and Family Ministries

Be Like Jesus Reflection

Be Like Jesus is an overnight weekend service event held each year for our upper elementary-middle school kids in partnership with other area churches. This year, like many other things, we had to make adjustments to make it happen. Good Shepherd was offered a 6-hour event on April 24 for the entire family in which they learned to love their neighbors just as Jesus loves them! 15 families, with 50 people total, and 6 volunteers worked together to serve over 6 different charitable organizations and their next door neighbors!

Carrie Santel took a moment to reflect on the day.

“The Be Like Jesus Event was a wonderful chance to grow spiritually as a family. It allowed our children to see the smallest acts of kindness can really make a positive, lasting difference in this world. We had a delightful time walking around our neighborhood together and passing out flyers for Operation Food Search. When we went back to collect the food this allowed our boys to see the generous hearts of so many. We also did several random acts of kindness together as a family that day. Our family enjoyed all of the activities. Some



of our boys' favorites included making sandwiches and blankets for the shelters. We were so thankful for this opportunity to help serve our community and those in need. We hope this experience sets an example for our children to continue looking for ways to serve and help others throughout their lives."

Confirmation Reflection

Just before lock down in March 2020, I sat down with Pastor Josh and Pastor Amy to create a new plan for Confirmation instruction as our circumstances were changing in our pastoral team. Little did we know how much circumstances were changing for us in other ways. Thankfully our plan to move to a small group model with leadership from mentors translated seamlessly to virtual meetings. 12 people from Good Shepherd committed to being a mentor, supported by 3 ready substitutes, to meet with our confirmation students each week and dig into questions and ideas from the Bible and Small Catechism.



Each week students, mentors, Pastor Amy, and I logged on to gather and grow in faith. Because of this unique and remote gathering, we were able to include one student who moved hundreds of miles away to Houston, TX. Derek had completed 2 years of confirmation instruction at Good Shepherd and was able to do a third and final year thanks to the adjustments that were forced upon us by a pandemic.

Derek's mother Angela Borchardt, reflects on their experience:

"Confirmation was always written on the paper calendar and in our phones with zoom link attached. Although Derek would sigh some nights as I nudged him to log on, he truly enjoyed the quiet time to "reconnect" with Jesus, his friends, and leaders. When Confirmation Sunday arrived, he was ready and confident to be "on the screen" to affirm his faith. When the zoom didn't connect, and the live service acknowledged Derek and his verse, it suddenly became very intimate for us as a family. Much like his time spent behind a closed bedroom door, logged into zoom, every Wednesday night."

Against many odds, the Borchardt family, along with the rest of the families of our confirmation students, worked to uphold the promises they made at their children's baptisms; to live among God's people and hear the Word of God. 15 committed adults, upheld the promises we made at their baptisms on behalf of Good Shepherd and the entire Christian people. A huge change in circumstances forced us to get creative, to look at our approach differently so that we could continue to say to our young people, "We are here for you. We will struggle with questions along side you. We will serve with you. Together we will be the Body of Christ."

In Peace,
Emily Harrow

A "Wink" from the Welcome Ministry Team Elliott Haugen

Welcome to June – the official start of summer and the ramping up of activities like baseball, softball, music and band camps, tennis and swimming. We usually enjoy these the most when we are prepared. Most benefit



from skilled instruction or mentoring, while everyone gets better through repetition. As we learn to play and enjoy these summer activities, we often hear that practice makes perfect, although my golf game shows little evidence of that! But as in life, be sure to have fun and be comforted by St. Paul:

“Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.” Philippians 4:9

The word “practice” is also associated with religion, such as what religion do you practice, what are your religious practices, and even practice what you preach (and preach what you practice). Definitions of practice indicate actions that improve and reinforce a focus, foundation or tradition. As we reestablish our in-person worship services, activities and involvement, it also takes a bit of refocusing and recommitment, in other words – practice. We need to re-welcome, reintroduce and reengage each other. Thankfully, we are blessed with everything we need – God’s love, Jesus’ teaching, and the Holy Spirit’s empowerment (God’s power in action). Paul also provides guidance by reminding us about connecting with each other:

“Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.” Romans 12:13



Amy Stewart
Director of Youth Ministries

Congratulations to our High School Graduates!

We celebrated and prayed for these seniors in worship on May 16th. Join us in giving thanks to God for these high school graduates, as well as their plans for next year:

- Kayla Adams – University of Missouri
- Quin Bader – Missouri State University
- Lauren Bles
- Veronica Dienhart – Lindenwood University
- Will Eastlund
- Sophia Essig – Missouri State University
- Sarah Fatzinger – Saint Louis University
- Adelline Geistler
- Cora Hautekeete – California Lutheran University
- Jasper Krayne
- Maddi Mahoney – St. Louis Community College
- Matthew McClain – University of Wisconsin
- Caleb Messerly
- Karl Oswald – University of Kentucky
- Breanna Schroeder
- Evan Schultz
- Aaron Schumacher
- Sophie Smith-Gackstatter – St. Louis Community College
- Owen Stevenson – Ohio State University
- Marjie Ware

Congratulations to our College Graduates!

Join us in celebrating our members who have recently graduated from higher

education:

- Hope Bretscher – Cambridge University, PhD in Physics
- Mark Butler – Missouri University of Science and Technology, Chemical Engineering
- Michael Butler – Missouri University of Science and Technology, Electrical Engineering
- Kyra Christiansen – Ball State University, Elementary education
- Katherine Franz – University of Notre Dame, Environmental Science and Anthropology
- Rachel Griffard – University of Kansas, Behavioral Neuroscience
- Tyler Huse – Elmhurst University, Exercise Science
- Jakob Molskness – Purdue University, Computer Science
- Colton Ridenhour – Ozark Technical College, Construction technology
- Noah Stelmachowicz – Truman State University, Mathematics

Congratulations, graduates!



Kathy Rebholz
Director of Building Blocks Preschool

Year-End Reflection and Video

This year required everyone to make sacrifices and work *harder* for the greater good; to work harder for your children, our students, and this amazing church ministry I have been blessed to be a part of for the last 12 years. The words “thank you” are just too simple of words to adequately express my sincere gratitude to our Building Blocks families, our dedicated teachers, church staff members, the Building Blocks and Good Shepherd Task Force Teams, and ALL Good Shepherd’s church members. I am beyond grateful for your trust and cooperation this year.

Building Blocks began in 1989 as a *Mother’s Morning Out* program and officially became an early childhood center in 2001. It has been in operation for over 30 years. God has a way of working things out for us. It might not be on our timeline, but He works it out. Also, God surprised all of us last week and we were able to close our school year with an abbreviated, yet extremely special Completion Ceremony for our Preschool Graduates in Good Shepherd’s very own church sanctuary! Attached is the **2021 Year End Video**! Turn up your speakers! The song by Need to Breathe entitled *Forever on Your Side* was a perfect song choice as it truly depicts how Building Blocks was able to make it through the school year.

Kathy Rebholz, M.Ed.
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Director of Building Blocks Preschool



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Good Shepherd Calendar

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