

Shepherd's Staff



**TOGETHER
AGAIN!**
Coming this fall

The Monthly Newsletter of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

August 2021



Josh Brecht
Lead Pastor

Together Again

This fall we are SO excited to launch our new Sunday morning ministry and education plans: Together Again! After a year and a half of uncertainty, constant changes, and being physically apart for so much of that time, we are thrilled to kick off this year together with in-person ministry opportunities! Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry, Adult Education, and Worship have all been revamped to best enable us to fulfill our mission in the season ahead. (Of course, we will have safety measures in place as needed.)

WORSHIP

Worship will continue with two Sunday morning services including Traditional Worship, drawing on our rich Lutheran liturgical heritage, and Contemporary Worship using modern music and a more informal experience to help people encounter Jesus Christ. We will continue to livestream both services to connect those at home or far away. We realize that this shift means the loss of certain things we have done in the past, yet it also brings so much possibility to meet our present needs.

- After much time apart, we are excited to be closer to one another in two services.
- Fewer worship services means more volunteers to serve in worship as ushers, greeters, communion servers, audio/video and more.
- More people will be able to experience more variety from our special music groups.
- Kids and families can be in worship together. (We plan to create a dedicated kids' space soon!)
- Planning and coordinating fewer worship services also allow your staff to dedicate more time to other ministry areas this year: relationships and discipleship.

DISCIPLESHIP

This plan allows us to have a dedicated education hour. Our dream is that every person at Good Shepherd would be invested in some ministry beyond worship where they can deepen their discipleship and grow relationships. A dedicated education hour will mean:

- More adults can be involved with Children's Ministry.
- More opportunities for adults to be involved in bible studies and adult education.
- Pastors will have opportunities to teach classes or studies on Sunday mornings! (Personally, I'm *really* excited about this. What will be my first study? Lutheran 101? Catechism 2.0? Creeds? Church History? Postmodernity & the Church? I can't wait!)

RELATIONSHIPS

As we begin ministry together again, we also plan to have in-person Sunday School, Confirmation, Shine, Rise, and Fly ministries this fall! (with robust safety plans, of course.)

Discipleship Class – We will be launching a 12-week, high commitment, high reward class focusing on discipleship and Christian relationships, led by Joel Bretcher, drawing on his extensive teaching experience with Stephen Ministries.

Mentor Opportunities - We look forward to having adult mentors for confirmation again this year, but together in-person!

Small Group Ministry – We will be forming a small group team and a plan to launch new small groups and grow this vital ministry.

We will kick it all off with a **Rally Day Party** on **Sunday, August 29** after outdoor worship!

All of this because of the vision God has put in front of us: to be a church where every single person would be known and know others, do ministry and grow spiritually.

In Christ,
Pastor Josh

PS. **Pumpkin Patch** will also be back this fall, too!

Chaplain Suzie Everingham - Retirement Announcement

Dear Good Shepherd,

We give thanks to God for Chaplain Suzie's many years of faithful service to the Lord and God's people at Good Shepherd. Suzie has announced that she will be retiring at end of December this year. Her joyful, caring presence will be deeply missed at Good Shepherd, but we have faith that the seeds she has planted over the years will continue to bear fruit through the ministry of this church. We pray God's blessing upon her and Charlie as they begin this new season of their lives. Please take moment to read this [letter from Suzie](#), and keep an eye out for opportunities to celebrate her ministry in the coming months!

Music Camp Reflection

by: Erik Oswald

If music camp could be represented as an equation, I would represent it as such: music camp = singing + dancing + crafts + games + community + happy + water day. Basically, if you didn't catch

on already, I love music camp. Being able to sing about God, dancing around as if I've gone crazy, mixing colors that really shouldn't go together and enjoying it, having fun and meeting new friends (and enjoying water day on Wednesday) always makes my summer amazing. I have looked forward to every music camp that I've ever been in and I look forward to helping as a counselor for the years to come. And, of course, it wouldn't be possible without all the helpful adults, who make the equation work. Happy summer!



New Member Gathering - If you are interested in finding out more about Good Shepherd we are having two gatherings: **Sunday, August 8 at noon** and **August 15 at 10am** (both in Room #150). New members will be joining on **August 29 at 9am**. Please contact Chaplain Suzie at (314) 413-1230 if you have questions. Looking forward to getting to know you!

A "Wink" from the Welcome Ministry Team Elliott Haugen



Welcome to the Dog Days of summer! This term refers to that hot, sultry time of the year that usually peaks in August. While Wednesday is the week's hump day, August is the "slump" between ending summer activities and pending fall schedules.

People in St. Louis especially like to escape the August heat by traveling. Many have already found ways to get out and about after more than a year of being cooped up. Unfortunately, Covid's resurgence has us rethinking travel and vacation plans.

Well, the Welcome Ministry suggests four cool, fun and enriching experiences for you during August:

1. Join your Good Shepherd friends and family for Sunday worship services. We are reminded in Matthew's writings (chapter 18, verse 20) - "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them."
2. Share the spirit by being a greeter at 9 or 11 am worship services. This is a great way to welcome and help check in attendees. Watch for announcements about how to volunteer using the Good Shepherd Connect app.
3. Invite friends, neighbors, and colleagues to attend services and activities with you and tell them about the "New Member Informational/Orientation" program which has sessions at noon on Sunday, August 8 and 10 am on Sunday, August 15.
4. Celebrate "Rally Day" at the 9 am outdoor worship service on Sunday, August

29 as Good Shepherd kicks off its fall schedule, educational programs, and other activities. It will also be a great time to welcome and talk with our newest members.

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ... Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.” Corinthians 12: verses 12 &:27

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