



# Shepherd's Staff

The Monthly Newsletter of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

October 2021

## **Pumpkin Patch!** **Dawn Schwab & Karen Kallansrud**

Pumpkin Patch is back and we need your help!

October is finally here, and with autumn comes.... pumpkins! Join us on October 3rd at 12:00 pm to help unload the pumpkins. Unloading takes about 3 hours, so join us for the entire time, or drop in when you can. There are many ways to help – if you can't heft a big pumpkin, you can help with the many smaller pumpkins. The Patch really has a place and a task for everyone.

This year the Patch is making a few changes to protect against Covid: We strongly recommend that Volunteers be fully vaccinated and masks are required. We will be providing our volunteers with a special pumpkin patterned mask, handmade by the wonderful ladies of No Mask Left Behind. The Patch will look a little different, as we are altering some picture spots and changing some of our games.

Please consider volunteering for the Patch – after more than a year of not being able to be “church together” this is a great opportunity to spend some time in the beautiful fall weather catching up with other members, and meeting members of our community.

We will be hosting two Fall Festivals at the Patch this year. Our CG group will meet on October 21 at 10:00 am for a campfire, sing-along (starring Gail and Pastor Josh!) and lunch. And Sunday, October 24 from 12:00 – 2:00 pm we are inviting our members – especially our youth! – to join us on the hill for crafts, spooky science, s'mores and soup!

This year the Pumpkin Patch will support three missions:

- [FLY Youth Gathering](#) – Our teens will travel to Minnesota for an inspiring ELCA youth gathering!
- [Home Sweet Home](#) – A nonprofit organization devoted to helping under-served families in the St. Louis area with basic household furnishings

- With God's Little Ones Mission of Rudy and Dorothy Schaser – A charity working to ensure the health and safety of children and families in Cambodia and Madagascar

#### Important Dates:

- Sunday, October 3 at 12:00 pm - delivery There are jobs for all ages, so bring the family! Join us for the entire time or just an hour – whatever time you have available will help make the job quicker. Students, scouts and sports team – come earn service hours!
- Fall Festival, October 24: 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm –, crafts, science experiments, s'mores...an afternoon full of fun! We need extra volunteers to make the Festival extra fun! The Bridge will have Fair Trade items to sell from 10am-2pm!

#### Pumpkin Patch Sign-ups:

We're using SignUp.com this year – Go to [gslcpumpkinpatch.com](http://gslcpumpkinpatch.com) and click on Ready to Volunteer? This will take you directly to our signup. Or click this link to go to Signup.com - <http://signup.com/go/uUkreKz> (Enter your email address (you will not need to register an account or keep a password))

1. Review options listed and choose the spot(s) you like
2. Sign up!

Thank you for your time and talents! Our volunteers are what make the Pumpkin Patch a great place and an enduring tradition!

For questions, or for more information, contact Karen Kallansrud at [kkallansrud@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kkallansrud@sbcglobal.net), or (636) 527-0402 or Dawn Schwab at [drhschwab@gmail.com](mailto:drhschwab@gmail.com) or (314) 223-2040.



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

#### **Loving Our Neighbors**

*“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ – Matthew 22:36-39*

As Christians, we talk a lot about loving our neighbors. This is a command first given by God through Leviticus and then reaffirmed through Jesus in the Gospels. We understand this as central to following Christ, but what does that look like today? One simple, yet profound expression is to wear a mask and get vaccinated. I do these partly for my own protection, but largely to protect and show care for those around me.

Another simple, yet impactful way is to show extra grace, patience and kindness when we interact with people in the community. We know that school administrators and educators hear angry voices far too much right now, so we sat down as a family and wrote thank you notes to their principals. Last weekend we held our Council retreat. When a Council member went to pick up our breakfast order at Bread Co. it was not

there. There was a mix up and the order never arrived. The staff were apologetic and worked hard to fill the order, and the Council member said, "it's ok. It's not your fault. It was just a mistake." The worker broke down in tears and shared how she was yelled at by another customer that morning. These simple gestures of intentional kindness are powerful ways to share God's love with our neighbors.

One could argue that this is needed now as much as it ever has been. One could also argue that following this command from our Lord to love our neighbor is a **counter-cultural expression of the Gospel** in our present society. All too often, the cultural pressure around us says to love neighbors **who are like me**, those who agree with me, or think like me. **Beware** of neighbors who disagree because they are the enemy! This message hits us from so many angles, and before we know it, we are swirling with anxiety, defensiveness, and suspicion. We live in an ever-increasing me-first culture. Christians have a unique opportunity to share a counter narrative, a different way, a Jesus-way.

When we love our neighbors, we put others first.

Love isn't just a feeling.

Love is a choice.

Love is an action.

When we interact with people who think different than us, are we seeking to love them or convince them? We may disagree fiercely with someone and choosing love can seem impossible! But...when we see a *human being* in front of us, rather than an *issue*, love can overcome. When we see a *person*, rather than an opinion, we have a friend rather than an opponent. In all my conversations these days (and yes, even on Facebook!), I try to act with love, kindness, and curiosity. My goal is always to open doors, rather than put up walls. This is not easy. It is not accidental. It is an intentional choice to choose love.

You may be wondering, "But Pastor Josh, what happens if that person's other perspective is hurting others? Isn't choosing love in that instance allowing a person to continue doing harm?" Sometimes love looks like correction, protection or challenge. Sometimes loving my neighbor means correcting that neighbor to protect another. Loving my neighbor means I need to be ready to offer correction, but also willing to **receive** correction from others when I may be wrong. Even in correction, we can choose to do so in love.

My encouragement to all of us in these anxious times is to be intentional about loving our neighbors. Choose love and choose kindness in all that we do, whether in our families, our schools, our workplaces, or out with strangers. This love may mean all the world to the person who needs someone just like you in that moment. Let's choose love today.

In Christ,  
Pastor Josh

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### FLU Shots

Sunday, October 10 - 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m at Good Shepherd. They will bring: Regular Flu Shots, High Dose Flu shots for over 65, and Pneumonia Shots  
Please bring your insurance cards - the shots are free for most.

If you are employed by Boeing, please contact CVS as employees are covered through that pharmacy.

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## CG's Pumpkin Fest - Thursday, October 21st, 10am

You are invited to Good Shepherd's Pumpkin Patch. If you like pumpkins, are curious and hungry, join the Haugen's and Robin Spence on the Pumpkin Patch Hill.



Bring a lawn chair and join us for a variety of lawn games, a sing along with Pastor Josh and Gail and a box lunch from Firehouse Subs will be provided (Thrivent Financial). Photo opportunities are available at our beautiful mission-driven pumpkin patch. Sign up on the CG's board by October 19. Contact Vicki or Elliott Haugen a@ (636) 399-7759.

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## Good Shepherd Crafters Barb Rouse

Greetings and welcome to Good Shepherd Crafters. Some years ago a ministry was started, called Needles and Knots. It was a variety of handwork including counted cross stitch, card making, embroidery, and crocheting. Changes took place over time and the craft group came to an end. Then the Prayer Shawl Ministry began which continues to serve and witness God's caring love to others. While it continues to be a strong outreach program, the other craft people have been overlooked and neglected with their talents to share.

As our church members gather together again, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to combine both areas of our talents and gifts. Should anyone want to come for a few hours break from a busy routine, this is the place to kick back, get acquainted and enjoy the conversation.

We meet in the fireside room on the upper level from 10am-noon, on the third Tuesday of the month. Just come and check it out; it may become habit forming. The door is open to everyone and we'll be glad to see you. Want to know more? Give me a call at (314) 759-8448. Blessings, Barb Rouse

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

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