



Shepherd's Staff

THE PUMPKIN PATCH IS BACK THIS FALL!

The Monthly Newsletter of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

September 2021

Pumpkin Patch!

Dawn Schwab & Karen Kallansrud

In just a few weeks the north end of our property will be filled with pumpkins! This year will see a few Covid accommodations – volunteers must be vaccinated and masked when needed, and sales will be credit/debit only - but still provide the activities and fun familiar to our community. Families from all around our area will be coming to share time together, choosing pumpkins and enjoying the fall weather with outdoor games and our perennially popular jokes (What is black, white and orange, and waddles? A penguin with a pumpkin!).

Pumpkin Patch is an open-air activity, so this year is the perfect time to volunteer! It's been so long since we've had the chance to spend time with our church family. Grab a friend or go solo and sign up for a shift – you'll spend a couple hours in the gorgeous fall weather – where you'll roll a few pumpkins (we'll explain why in training!), chat with other volunteers, engage with members of our community and perhaps witness one of our "Hallmark Moments". Our Patch has been a part of pregnancy announcements, homecoming pictures, and families that return year after year for an annual "picture in the patch", among many other special moments.

In addition to being a great community outreach event, this year the Pumpkin Patch profits will support these three projects:

- Home Sweet Home
- Good Shepherd's FLY Mission Trips
- With God's Little Ones Mission

Important Patch Dates

- Set-up Sunday, September 26 at 12:00 pm - we'll lay out our pumpkin pods and transform the hill into the Pumpkin Patch!
- Sunday, October 3 at 12:00 pm - THE PUMPKINS ARE HERE!! Pumpkin delivery time may change so check your email or the Good Shepherd Facebook page for updates. Join the fun on the north hill as we pass the pumpkins from the truck to their pods. 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. We need LOTS of hands to unload LOTS of pumpkins! Attention students, scouts and sports teams – come earn service hours!

- Pumpkin Patch cashier/sales trainings dates – Wednesday, September 29, 6:15 pm and another date TBD. Learn open/close procedures, hygiene protocols, sales procedures and pumpkin care tips!
- Fall Festival, October 24: 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm – Games, tattoos, fun fall science experiments, an afternoon full of fun! Check the Pumpkin Patch display in the Narthex or SignUp.com to volunteer!

Pumpkin Patch Sign-ups

We're using [SignUp.com](https://signup.com) to organize our upcoming Pumpkin Patch. Here's how it works:

1. Click this link to go to Signup.com - <https://signup.com/go/uUkreKz> (or go to <http://gslcpumpkinpatch.com> for a link to Signup.com)
2. Enter your email address (you will not need to register an account or keep a password)
3. Review options listed and choose the spot(s) you like – and sign up! (Note: Signup.com does not share your email address with anyone – they also send shift reminders)

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

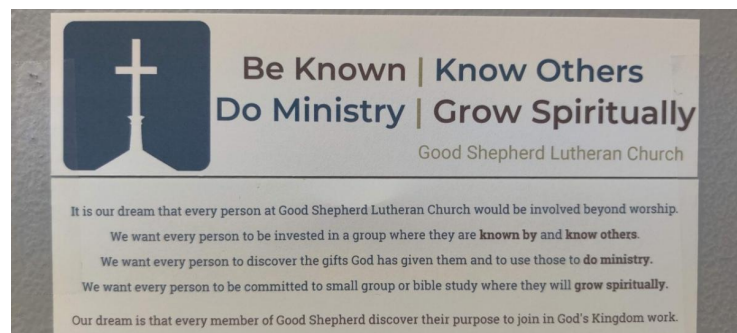


Josh Brecht
Lead Pastor

Together Again: Where is God Calling You?

I have this taped to the wall over my desk. Every single morning when I come into the office this is the first thing I see. This is our dream for Good Shepherd, and for each of you, and a constant reminder of the ministry to which God has called me.

Staff, Council, ministry team leaders, and many of you have been working diligently over the past weeks as we prepare to begin another season of ministry at Good Shepherd! We still exist in the midst of pandemic reality, and flexibility and uncertainty have become a regular part of our lives. Wherever the coming months take us, I am so excited to be coming together again and helping people do ministry, grow spiritually, and connect with one another.



We will begin the fall with two worship services at 9:00 and 11:00, and a dedicated education hour in between (10:00-10:50). Again, this is a season, and while we considered many different possibilities, we want to start here and learn along the way. Thank you to all who participated in conversations about this plan and offered very helpful feedback. Some of the key things we heard were:

- Fellowship time in the Narthex is important for building community. We need to be sure we do not lose this.
- The schedule may be tight to move from worship to education, and may be shorter than ideal for adult education.
- Some are missing other worship styles and opportunities we've had in the past. I believe that all of these are important insights we will attend to as we move into this Sunday schedule, evaluate along the way, and consider ways to improve our desire to accomplish our mission of Following Christ, Growing in Faith, and Sharing God's Love.

I do not know what ministry will look like at Good Shepherd (or any church) a month from now, six months from now, or a year from now. I do know that we will figure it out together. If we continue to faithfully seek God's leadership, walk with each other in patience and humility, and lean into our core values of raising children as disciples, building Christian community, and serving our neighbors, God will guide us to a future that is both beautiful and holy.

It is my hope and prayer that each of you will find new, exciting ways to join in the work God has for us in the year ahead. How can we help you discover opportunities to deepen your discipleship? How can we help you align your gifts and passions with God's work?

There is nothing better than finding that place where the passions of your heart, the gifts you have been given, and purposeful work align with the world's deep needs.

May you find that place where God is calling you to do ministry. May you discover the place where you can be known and grow spiritually. May we all answer the call to join God's mission in this time and in this place as we come together again.

In love and gratitude,
Pr. Josh

Stewardship Committee Glenn Kraft

"Giving Wright"

We are fortunate here at Good Shepherd to have many talented members who are knowledgeable regarding the tax code. Ken Wright has helped us to learn more about

giving options during the last Capital Campaign and has offered his knowledge for a series of articles. Please grab a cup of coffee and learn more about whether there are new ways you may consider your gifts to Good Shepherd and which options may also offer the best tax advantages. Click on the following link to view the first article of the Giving Wright series, "[**A Primer on Charitable Contribution Deductions**](#)", by Kenneth K. Wright. Keep in mind that seeking your best options may require that you seek the council of your investment or tax advisor.

Stewardship Committee



GSLC Garden Sandi Bahr

Good Shepherd Church Garden Mission Statement

- Following God's Sun
- Growing Crops in Faith
- Sharing God's Food



Following God's Sun: Did you know since 2014 there has been a small dedicated group of gardeners getting up with the sun or going to "the beds" with the sun to plant, tend and harvest a small mission garden on the GSLC property? The garden is located beyond the lower parking lot easily viewed from above. Come check it out.



Growing Crops in Faith: Gardening is an act of faith never knowing what the weather may do to our crops or what critters may want to share from our garden. The garden has evolved from its beginnings growing crops in 25 straw bales to currently growing in 13 raised beds. Our crops have included beans, peppers, tomatoes, zucchini, cucumbers, eggplant, okra, cantaloupe, sugar snap peas, spinach, spaghetti squash, kale, and zinnias. Through our years of garden experimentation and God's guidance we have settled into a more or less set list of crops of beans, cucumbers, tomatoes, sugar snap peas and okra. This year we planted marigolds and zinnias with the possibility of planting more Missouri native flowers in the future for the pollinators.

Sharing God's Food: Since 2014 we have donated over 4,000 pounds of produce to various food pantries. Again with lessons learned through the guidance of God's hand we have arrived in 2021 donating to a West County First Baptist church. We made connections with Reverend Leon through our volunteer work with Wings of Love and Care. He delivers food from them along with our produce to those he knows of that are in need. Bouquets of flowers have also been given to those possibly in need of a little bit of sunshine brought indoors.



A "Wink" from the Welcome Ministry Team Elliott Haugen

In the early "stay home" days of the pandemic, I saw a cartoon from the *New Yorker* that showed a dog sitting at the front window and wagging its tail vigorously whenever someone passed by. The owner, also looking out the window, remarked "I know just how you feel!" This joy was also evident this summer when we took a family vacation to Minnesota lake country and reunited with siblings and relatives we had not seen in a long time. Similarly, I've enjoyed being a front door greeter at Good Shepherd's Sunday worship services. I can't wag a tail or hug everyone, but it is exciting to welcome regular attendees and those just now returning to in-person worship.



Good Shepherd will end August with “Rally Sunday” which launches this year’s educational programs, Bible studies, and service activities. We will also welcome eight new members to Good Shepherd. During orientation sessions, we learned about them, their backgrounds, and faith journeys. It was great to hear how much they valued our Lutheran and ELCA foundations, relevant sermons, and welcoming environment.

Your Welcome ministry gives ceramic cups to visitors with the message “Come Share the Spirit”. However, we also invite **you** to share the Spirit and the joy of reuniting so together we can “Follow Christ, Grow in Faith, and Share God’s Love.”

“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all.” Ephesians 4:4-6

[Visit our Website](#)

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church | 636-391-6685 | goodshepherdlutheran.com

[Good Shepherd Calendar](#)

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