

# Shepherd's Staff

*Thanksgiving Blessings*



The Monthly Newsletter of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

November 2021



**Amy Stewart**  
**Pastor of Discipleship**

## **Parent Fellowship: Because You're Not the Only One**

After a year and a half of staying home and participating in virtual ministry, it is a joy to meet in person again (safely, with masks and distancing of course!). I hear from parents how much they've missed the opportunity to connect with other parents; relationships that must go beyond sitting near each other in worship. As a mom, I know it's hard to have deeper conversations in passing, especially when children might be pulling your attention elsewhere.

I hear parents longing for community.

At the same time, with the new worship schedule this year, we're encouraging parents and children to worship together. While this is crucial to forming faith habits in children, we also recognize that parents might not be able to engage in worship the same way they once did.

I hear parents asking, "What is there for me on Sunday morning to help me fill my cup?"

With these yearnings in mind, beginning on Nov 7th, we are kicking off a new Parent Fellowship group on Sunday mornings, at 10am, in Room 108. We are excited to offer parents a rest stop; a place to breathe and be yourself. A community of mutual support among those in similar life stages, as well as between generations of parents; those who have "been there, done that." Open to all parents, this will be a safe place to get to know others and to be known, and to wrestle together with what it means to be both a parent and beloved child of God.

Because you're not the only one.

You're not the only one who struggles with parenting challenges. You're not the only

one who wonders how to best support your children in their spiritual growth. You're not the only one who feels like their own spirituality and life are running on empty. You're not the only one who has more questions than answers. Parents, if you are hungry for authentic community, relevant conversation, and self-renewal, then this is where you belong.

See you there,  
Pastor Amy

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## Thanksgiving Meal Drive

Join us in Good Shepherd's long-standing tradition of providing Thanksgiving meals to people who cannot afford to buy their own. We will be providing a turkey and all the trimmings to brighten their holiday.



The meals will be purchased in bulk by Wings of Love and Care in St. Louis. Angie Liggins (the program coordinator for Wings) and her crew of volunteers will pack and distribute all of these meals. They have an amazing process and setup for feeding and supporting the needy throughout the year.

Please help! We will be supporting 150 families again this year. Since everything will be purchased in bulk, just \$35 will provide a Thanksgiving meal for one family, \$70 for two families, and \$105 for three families.

Mail a check to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and note that it is "For Thanksgiving Meals". Or donate electronically to the "Thanksgiving Meals Fund" using the [Good Shepherd Connect app](#) or through the [GSLC Donate page](#).

To learn more about Wings of Love and Care, watch this [video: https://www.crisisaid.org/wings/](https://www.crisisaid.org/wings/)

If you are interested in volunteering to help at Wings of Love and Care, a group of Good Shepherd members volunteers on Thursdays and/or Fridays to help with the meal packing and distribution. For more information contact Sandi Bahr at 636-236-1737 or [sandi1979bahr@outlook.com](mailto:sandi1979bahr@outlook.com).

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## Holiday Brass Concert

The 2021 Holiday Brass Concert has been cancelled due to Covid-19 and related safety and health issues for their patrons, musicians, and volunteers. Next year's Concert will be Monday, December 5, 2022 at 10:15am. If you would like to attend in 2022, please contact Annette Molitor before January 1, 2022 at [urbmolitor@aol.com](mailto:urbmolitor@aol.com) or 573-289-5140 (call or text).

The musicians of the Baltimore Holiday Brass Concerts will once again make their virtual Holiday Brass Concert available for free viewing from December 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. It can be accessed with the following link: [www.myiwbcc.org/holidaybrass/](http://www.myiwbcc.org/holidaybrass/)

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## Feed the Need STL - Feed My Starving Children

This is the story of Charles, the founder of Light Up Our Youth Foundation in Haiti. The foundation is a partner of Feed My Starving Children. Growing up as an orphan in Haiti, Charles ate MannaPack™ Rice at school, but he never knew where it came from. Years later, he was packing meals for Feed My Starving Children in Chicago. The moment he tasted the sample at the end of the session, he knew these were the same meals he ate as a child.



Charles was born in very poor village in Haiti. Orphaned at the age of 7, he lived on the streets of Port-au-Prince where he experienced starvation, poverty, and violence. The best part of his day was going to school where he was given a meal each day. Otherwise, he picked through trash cans for things to eat.

As a teenager Charles got the opportunity to live in the United States and to get an education. He went to school in the mornings and worked in the afternoons. After the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, he worked even harder to get an engineering degree. Ten days after graduation he went back to Haiti to help with the recovery effort working as a water resources engineer.

Charles encountered many starving and homeless children in the same community that he had lived in as an orphan. He established the Light Up Our Youth Foundation to help end the cycle of illiteracy and hunger. One child at a time, one block at a time. To learn more: [From Orphan to Engineer: Charles' Story : Feed My Starving Children](#) Feed the Need STL will be sponsoring a Feed My Starving Children pack August 18 to 21, 2022 at Queeny Park. To donate to help purchase ingredients, go to the Feed the Need STL website at [Donate – Feed The Need STL](#), or send a check to GSLC designated for FMSC.

\$88 Feeds a Child for a Year. \$365 Feeds a Family for a Year.

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## A "Wink from the Welcome Ministry Team By Elliott Haugen



**Happy Thanksgiving!** The tradition of Thanksgiving in America started as a celebration of a good harvest by Native Americans and the Pilgrims. Today some of us tend vegetable gardens and grow herbs, but few are farmers. However, we sow different things – helpfulness, kindness, teaching, leading, caring, loving, and serving. We usually don't think about or experience the eventual yields or benefits of such activities, but we do this in the spirit of following Christ, growing in faith, and sharing God's love.

***"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."*** 1 Chronicles 16:34

Recently the pastors and Worship Team organized an appreciation and training event for those involved in helping staff worship services. Some tasks are quite visible, e.g., readers and ushers; while others are behind the scenes, e.g., altar guild and sound/video operators. During the pandemic, many of these tasks have been performed by a small group of volunteers. For example, the outer door greeting has been handled by the Welcome Ministry Team.

We are hopeful that Covid's threat, impact and risks continue to trend in the right direction, and that more of us will be able to worship in person and be at Bible studies, education programs, service projects, and fellowship events. As this happens, we encourage you to volunteer to greet and assist with worship services. Please use the CONNECT app's SERVE function to sign up for openings.



Now, back to Thanksgiving – as we expand our thankfulness from harvests and food, let us share our gratitude for all the blessings we have received. Furthermore, let us also pray that God's love will help each of us be blessings to others at church, in the community, and around the globe.

And a special THANK YOU to all of you for what you do to invite, welcome and involve others in the mission and ministry of Good Shepherd.

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

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