

# Shepherd's Staff



The Monthly Newsletter of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

July 2022



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

Dear beloved,

In Galatians 6 Paul writes, *“Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”* We are living through some of the most rapidly changing, challenging, polarizing, and defining years that we have ever experienced in our lifetimes. We feel the burden of these times. Our nation (and our world) continues to crash up against highly emotional, highly complex issues for which there are no simple solutions and for which there is likely no going back to the status quo. On Friday, June 24 the Supreme Court overturned the long-held precedent of Roe vs. Wade, sparking intense emotions and reactions all across the country.

This is an extremely important issue. It is also a phenomenally complex and emotional issue. Within the Church, good people of faith have a wide range of feelings about and experiences with abortion. For some this is deeply, deeply personal. Within our own congregation I am sure we have differing perspectives and feelings in response to this dramatic and sudden change. My goal today is not to tell anyone what to think about these questions, but to offer words of hope, encouragement, and guidance as you navigate your own emotions and about how we might move forward as the people of God.

First, ***I invite us to listen deeply.***

Listen to one another with empathetic hearts. Be compassionate. Be curious. Be kind. When we can listen to one another in love, especially in the Church, I have most often found that we have more in common that we would have ever thought. It is only in moving beyond the binary either-or, us-them, all-or-nothing extremes that we find healthy paths forward. We must reject the cultural battle cries to label one another. The truth is (at least in my experience) almost *none of us* fall into these clear-cut extremes, but rather find ourselves on a journey, wrestling with complex questions somewhere in the middle.

One of the things I have long valued about the ELCA is the willingness to acknowledge different perspectives and live in the messy space that exists when we wrestle with difficult questions. I have found [the ELCA Social Statement on Abortion](#) helpful because it probes the depths of the moral complexity of this issue. I appreciate how our statement rejects either/or thinking and draws to light the many difficult emotions and questions we must face when we think about abortion, including both the life of a woman and the life developing in a womb.

Every week in worship we pray, “Thy kingdom come.” I believe we all long for a world where every human being has enough to eat, has a home, and is cared for. We all long for a world where every person knows the joy of having loving, healthy, and supportive relationships. We all long for a world where no one finds themselves facing the painful circumstances of considering ending a pregnancy. So even while we wrestle as a society, a state, a nation with laws, we Christians will continue to work for God’s kingdom to come. We will continue to feed the hungry, care for the poor and downtrodden, continue to help all people live lives of dignity and worth. We will continue to support and care for any in need. May we continue to love one another, pray without ceasing, and strive for God’s kingdom come every moment of every day. *As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body.* - **Colossians 3:12-15**

With much love and deep gratitude,  
Pastor Josh



## Changing the World with Lovingkindness by: Emily Hintz, Youth and Family Director and 2022 VBS Director

We had such an amazing and empowering week at VBS (June 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>). I watched as 49 campers and 41 volunteers worked together to grow in their faith and share compassion with the world.

Each morning started with singing and dancing led by Pastor Josh Brecht and Kyra Christiansen. At first, the kids were mainly focused on saying the right words and doing the right motions. By the end of the week, however, they were singing as loud as they could, dancing as much as possible, and filling the entire sanctuary with laughter and joyful noise.



Throughout the day, campers went to five different stations: Bible Story, Create & Play (crafts), Movement (yoga), Recreation (games), and Snack. Each station taught our campers valuable skills to help them continue growing and learning outside of VBS. I was amazed at how well the campers stayed focused and showed that they were always ready to learn something new.

On Friday, our day looked a little bit



different, but it was extraordinary! We celebrated our Water Day by having a firetruck hose down all the campers. It was the biggest sprinkler ever! We also gave the firefighters two giant cards to thank them for all they do. These cards were covered

with kind words from every single one of our campers, and the firefighters were so grateful.

I saw God in so many ways throughout VBS this year, whether it was the hard work and unending support from volunteers, the proud parents at Family Night, or the joyous singing of “Every Move I Make” at the end of every camp day. I am so proud of our campers and volunteers, and I am happy that I was able to help make this week happen. We did it!

Emily Hintz  
*VBS Director*



**Feed the Need STL**  
**By: Dianne Unverfehrt**

**Feed the Need STL food packing event – new date, location, and higher goals! Help pack food for Feed My Starving Children.**

St. Louis County Parks Department has informed us that due to construction delays encountered during their renovations, they are unable to host our Feed the Need STL food packing event previously scheduled for August.



However, we have found a great alternative: the Kennedy Recreation Center in South County. Kennedy recreation center is nearly a twin to the Queeny facility and is located just 10 miles south of Good Shepherd Lutheran. Kennedy is available September 8th thru 11th. Because we have an extra month for fundraising, and due also to your significant generosity, we are raising pack goals to 1 million meals feeding 2,750 kids for a year. There will be almost 4,000 volunteer opportunities at the Kennedy pack including spots for helping with set-up, clean-up, and registration and also to help as greeters and guides. Please sign up for a shift or two and invite friends and family. Note the new packing dates September 8th through the 11th.

To register for packing you can sign up at <https://feedtheneedstl.org/event-info/>  
We also will be feeding the need locally by collecting canned food for Operation Food Search. When you come to Kennedy to pack meals, drop off your donations in one of the many blue Operation Food Search barrels. Kennedy Recreation Center is located at 6050 Wells Road, St. Louis, MO 63128

**Sign Up Now!**

**Chronologically Gifted**

**CG Pickleball - Introduction and**

**Training.** Thursday, July 21, 10:30 AM, in the Gym. Pickleball is fun, social and friendly. The rules are simple and the game is easy for beginners to learn. If you are interested in learning this sport, or just interested in having fun, please come and enjoy the introduction and training. You don't need to have paddles or balls. Just dress casually, wear tennis shoes, and you will have a chance to learn about this fun sport. And if not interested in pickleball, join with us to encourage (or laugh with) those who are learning a new game. Sign-up on CG Bulletin Board. Questions, Urb Molitor 573-289-2556.

**CG July Activity: MUNY & The American Theater** - will be presented by Ed Golterman on Thursday, July 14, 2022, 10:00 AM, in Room 108 at Good Shepherd. For those interested, lunch will follow at Lazy River Grill, 631 Big Bend Rd, Manchester.

In the Spring of 1917 the world is in turmoil and St. Louis has a huge decision to make. Ed Golterman tells and shows us the story of The MUNY, the number one Summer footlights venture of all the world, and it is right in the heart of St. Louis' spacious and beautiful Forest Park. Sign-up on CG Bulletin Board. Questions, Urb Molitor 573-289-2556.

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

Happy July! It is amazing how fast the summer flies. Well, maybe not so fast if you have been on a car ride or long trip and heard or thought "are we there yet?" Maybe that is why some like to imagine time machines and watch movies like "Back to the Future" where one can get into a DeLorean car and be transported through time. Or perhaps you are a fan of the "Dr. Who" series where a police phone/call booth, called the Tardis, allows travel through time and space. These adventures included being in times and places that are new and different to the traveler and often pose "what if I did ..." questions.

Some of us attending Good Shepherd recently, may wonder "where am I", "who are all these people here", "why don't I know more of them", or "am I out of touch?" No, you are in today's reality. Good Shepherd is fortunate to have more members returning and a growing number of visitors attending worship and our activities and programs, even during the busy summer months.

So, what do time machines and these connection feelings have to do with our congregation-wide welcome ministry? Well, think back to when you first attended Good Shepherd. We have heard many positive first impressions about our worship, theology, educational programs, music, service projects, and outreach opportunities. And, most mentioned the welcoming, friendliness and kindness of the people they met here. It can feel awkward to initially connect with others – but we do it. Because in the Gospel of John (15:12), we hear "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."

The Welcome Team asks you to reflect on your past first impressions and bring them into the future as we continue to help others feel at home, included and loved at

Good Shepherd - just as we all once were.

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