

Shepherd's Staff

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

In Person and on Zoom | Sunday | June 5 | 12:15pm

The Monthly Newsletter of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

June 2022



Josh Brecht
Lead Pastor

Roller Coasters, Holy Spirit, and Food Trucks.

As summer approaches we find ourselves with a mix of emotions. Many of us are feeling hope and joy, as life starts getting back to something closer to normal! Easter, confirmation, CGs and many of our ministries have been joyous celebrations. Yet, you may also feel this strange, contradictory sense of sadness or loss. Sound familiar? These days I find myself holding these intense feelings in tandem, swinging dramatically from one to the other at any given moment. Why?

My friends, it has been a hard season. *We have been through a lot.* The pandemic has thrust us into collective trauma. We are still feeling the aftershocks from it. Even if Covid did not directly affect you or your family, the tension, the uncertainty, the ever-changing recommendations and expectations robbed us of normalcy and stability. For us at Good Shepherd, the pandemic began immediately on the heels of our own collective struggle. 2019 was a difficult year for Good Shepherd. We adopted a Welcome Statement which has been a beautiful, guiding document that has brought us many new friends, but the road to get there was difficult. Some of us lost old friends. In our deep, faithful passion, many of us experienced hurt or perhaps unintentionally hurt others. When the pandemic came and prevented us from gathering, we lost the opportunity to celebrate or grieve, to heal or restore.

Now, when we look around there is SO much wonderful ministry happening at Good Shepherd... and yet so much feels different. So, we feel hope and joy, but then a wave of nostalgic lament may hit us out of nowhere.

When you take all of this, and add the war in Ukraine, economic worries, political divisions, and devastating mass shootings in Buffalo and Uvalde, is it any wonder our emotions are on a never-ending roller coaster! Anxiety is at an all-time high. ***You are not alone in this.*** I feel it. Others feel it. God feels it with us. Where do we go from here?

This summer, ministry will not be taking a vacation! We are going to dive into some intentional, prayerful work *together*. We will do three key things this summer.

1. **Re|Connect:** Have fun together and strengthen our sense of belonging.
2. **Reflect:** Engage everyone in conversation, reflecting on the past season, what we have learned, and how that informs our plans for the future.
3. **Discern:** Where is God leading us next and how do we best get there together?

RE|CONNECT

In anxious times, laughter is one of the most effective remedies. Therefore, we will have **three** church-wide parties this summer. We need to have some fun together! We need to remember that we are all connected, that we belong to one another. We will gather around food and fun, with activities for all ages, bringing generations together in joyful fellowship.

- **Sunday, June 26** – All Church Lunch Party. 12:00
- **Sunday, July 31** – All Church Brunch Party. 10:00 (food trucks?!)
- **Sunday, August 28** – All Church Party! 12:00

REFLECT & DISCERN

Much of our ministry has been in flux, experimenting along the way with what made the most sense in these fluctuating times. We will have three gatherings this summer specifically to reflect on our worship schedule, Sunday education ministries, and our local service ministry. We will prayerfully reflect on what has worked well or needs adjustment with our worship schedule. We will begin to share our hopes and dreams for a local service partnership and seek to discern where the Holy Spirit might be leading Good Shepherd to pour ourselves into in the season ahead. Your voice is key as we reflect on the past, look at our present, and discern our future!

- **Sunday, June 12** – **Where have we been?** - Reflection Conversations 10:00
- **Sunday, July 10** – **Where are we now?** – Reflection Conversations 10:00
- **Sunday, August 7** – **Where is God leading us?** – Discerning Conversations 10:00

In the coming months we will welcome new staff and new people. If we all invest in this season together, when fall of 2022 comes we will be ready! Ready to do **incredible ministry** together, and experience God each week as we grow spiritually and continue creating a place where everyone belongs. I will be praying that you will join us this summer as we attune ourselves to the Spirit so we might join God's dream for this church and for the world.



Amy Stewart
Pastor of Discipleship

I am thrilled to introduce to you two new staff members whom we welcome to Good Shepherd this month! Join me in giving thanks to God for:

Emily Hayden Horning – our new **Director of Children and Family Ministry**. She will begin June 15th and will focus her ministry on birth-5th grade children and families. Emily has been a member of Good Shepherd for 16 years, and in that time has volunteer led every area of children's ministry at one time or another. She has the joy of already knowing many of the children and families of Good Shepherd and looks forward to getting to know others and helping to welcome them back after a

challenging pandemic. She is passionate about sharing faith with children, and is highly gifted for this position. We are so excited for her leadership!

Emily Hintz – our new **Director of Youth and Family Ministry** . She will begin June 1st and will focus her ministry on 6th-12th grade youth and families. Emily has been a member for Good Shepherd for almost her entire life. As a youth who experienced our middle and high school ministry, she knows firsthand how important this time of faith formation can be. Before college, Emily shared her leadership skills in several areas of Good Shepherd’s ministry and she relates well to youth of all ages. She is excited to help youth know that God truly loves them just as they are. It has been a dream of hers to serve in ministry at Good Shepherd and we are so excited for her leadership!

Many thanks, as well, to those who worked with me on the search teams. They gave their time and energy to interview several candidates and discern the best fit for Good Shepherd’s children, youth, and families. Those who served on the Children and Family search team are John Baluka, Denise Sept, Viki Longfield, Jen Wade, and Angela Yonker. Those who served on the Youth and Family search team are Haley Bostrom, Kim Deitzler, Sara Oswald, Kajsa Recks, and Travis White.

Our congregation is blessed to include so many young people. We are equally blessed to include so many adults who care deeply about partnering with them in life and faith. Thank you all for your extra support as we filled in the gaps of these positions during the hiring process. I hope and pray you will continue to support both Emily and Emily as they step into these leadership roles. They already appreciate the amazing volunteers that you are!

With gratitude,
Pastor Amy

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



Welcome to June! Hopefully, you will be attending some picnics, reunions or family gatherings during this and other summer months. And of course, we hope church is in your plans too. Isn't it wonderful when you show up for those events and someone greets you and is excited to see you? Our Welcome Team is asking you to provide a similar welcoming experience to the increasing number of people who are returning to or visiting Good Shepherd. We would appreciate you volunteering to be a greeter at the 9 am or 11 am worship services. Families can serve as greeters too.

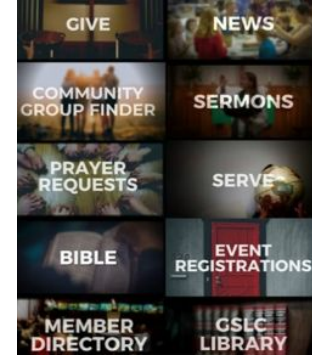
Here's what you will need to know to provide this important welcoming service:

1. Pick a Sunday and time (9 or 11 am) to welcome at the north or east doors.
2. Sign up (see process below).
3. Arrive 15 minutes before worship and greet until a few minutes after the service starts.
4. Be prepared to use your best smile and to say "welcome to Good Shepherd", "glad you are here", "thanks for being with us today" or your own personal greeting.

It is easy to volunteer by using the Good Shepherd Connect App and selecting the "Serve" tab. Then select "Greeter" and

check available dates and times. (You can also volunteer to usher, read, assist with communion, or help with sound/video or altar guild.) If you need help using the Connect App, let Elliott know and he will connect you to someone who can help.

If you are not a Connect App user, please just let Elliott or Vicki Haugen know the date(s) and worship service (9 or 11) when you can help greet.



“Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” Romans 15:7



Feed the Need STL

By: Dianne Unverfehrt

Feed the Need STL Matching Gift Campaign

Good Shepherd is hosting a Matching Gift Campaign to raise money for our August packing event for Feed My Starving Children thanks to a generous gift from a Good Shepherd family. Your donations will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$10,000. Together we will feed even more children. Double your impact!

With the Matching Gift Campaign, your donation of \$88 will now feed 2 children for a year, and \$365 will feed 2 families for a year. If we reach our goal, \$10,000 will be doubled, and we will be able to feed two villages for a year! Give today on the Good Shepherd Connect mobile app or by check to GSLC. Designate your gift to FMSC.

[DONATE NOW](#)

FMSC has been a big part of Good Shepherd’s history. We have hosted packing events yearly from 2007 until 2019. In 2020 and 2021, we raised money to send to FMSC to feed children. In total we have fed 20,459 children a meal a day for a year, and our meals were sent to 17 different countries around the world!

We are looking forward to our 2022 Feed The Need STL Mobile Pack August 18 - 21. More information to follow!

