



# Shepherd's Staff



The Monthly Newsletter of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

May 2022



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

## **Ministry Among Children and Youth Blesses Everyone**

One of the four areas Good Shepherd has decided to focus on in the next few years is “Children, Youth and Family.” This focus is evident in the support of the young people who attended “Be Like Jesus” or recently took their First Communion. It’s evident in the fact that we are in the process of hiring two full time positions for ministry with and among birth-college aged students.

It’s evident in the fact that so many of you have stepped up to fill the gaps for those positions until they are filled. I am incredibly grateful for those who have offered to help prepare for the Easter Celebration and VBS, and to those who have been serving as RiSE mentors and SHiNE and Sunday school leaders. These ministries take the work of a whole congregation, and they would not be happening without you all, especially right now! You are sharing the gifts of faith and belonging with our young people, and it is making a difference. Please keep it up for them and for the support of the staff (both current and soon to join us!).

Moreso, being in ministry with children and youth is a gift to adults as well. Leading young people, hearing their experiences and doubts, and watching them move through the world is a way to explore and enrich our own spiritual lives, find deeper purpose and meaning, build our sense of community, and live out our own faith. Being in ministry with and among young people is a win-win for everyone. Hear it from the point of view of one of our Confirmation mentors:

*“Meeting with our small group is one of the highlights of my week. It is a wonderful thing to gather with young people as they ask difficult questions about what it means to be a believer. I find that as they work on forming and strengthening their faith, mine is also being reformed. I think it’s really valuable to have intergenerational discussions about faith and for mentees to hear that adults have struggled in some of the same ways they may be struggling to live out their faith, and I know that it has been valuable for me to remember what it was like when I first started to really know Jesus on a deeper level.”*

As we seek to deepen cross-generational connections and grow as a faith community of all ages, we remember promises we have made as a Body of Christ. When people are baptized, especially young people, we promise to rally around them and walk with them in their faith journey. We promise to teach the faith as we understand it and to learn from their faith. We promise to share our gifts and to help them discover and share theirs.

One of the opportunities we will have to celebrate these promises is on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Our 8<sup>th</sup> graders will affirm their faith at the 11am service. We hope you will join them for this milestone. No matter which service you attend, we also hope you will join these confirmands for a reception in the gym from 10-10:50am. We want our young people to be celebrated and surrounded by the people who have kept those baptismal promises for them. We want our older members to see, know, and rejoice with the 8<sup>th</sup> graders who are taking this faith on in a bold, new way. Because this is an important chance for the whole congregation to be together, this will take the place of Sunday School. We hope to see you there.

In the meantime, if you feel called to be in ministry with and among our young people, there are countless short and long-term opportunities to do so. Please reach out with any questions or interest!

Peace,  
Pastor Amy

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

### **Good Shepherd Staff Transition Updates**

Hello everyone! Thank you to all those who shared their time, talents and presence to make Holy Week and Easter such a glorious experience this year! It truly felt like resurrection as we were able to come together in these semi-normal ways this spring. I continue to be filled with awe and gratitude that I get to serve our Lord Jesus with such an amazing community of people.

Many of you may be wondering about what comes next with our staff at Good Shepherd, so I wanted to share some updates with you. We have nine full-time positions on our Good Shepherd staff (plus three part-time and our Building Blocks staff). We currently have three vacancies, which means we are at 66% of our normal full-time staffing! First, thank you for your grace, patience and support through this transition. All our staff are working very hard to ensure ministry continues, and we are so, so thankful for the ways many members have stepped up to help. We also realize that during this transition, some things may get missed or not be able to happen as we would like. (We promise to do our best and thank you in advance for your grace!)

Our Call Committee has been working very hard and is interviewing candidates for the **Pastor of Congregational Care**. Bret Spoerle has done a fantastic job as the chair and will continue to update the congregation along the way.

We have been receiving applicants for both our **Youth & Family** position (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>

grade) and our **Children & Family** position (birth-5<sup>th</sup> grade). Pastor Amy has assembled two excellent search teams that will begin the process of reviewing applicants and interviewing for these positions soon.

I am grateful for all those members that have given their time and expertise to serve on these three teams. Please continue **to join us in prayer** for our future staff and the work of the Call Committee and search teams. This will be a busy few months, but I am confident that the Holy Spirit is already at work and that the season ahead will be remarkable!

In Christ,  
Pastor Josh Brecht

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### **Kajsa Recks** **Music Camp 2022!**

My name's Kajsa Recks, and I'm in 8th grade. I've loved to sing and act since I was little, so when my mom started helping out with music camp, I came with her at the age of 4. Throughout the years, I've always looked forward to camp. I would even count down the days until I got to audition! Not only do you get to practice and perform a musical, You also get to make connections with people and play lots of fun games.

Music camp will be held this summer on July 11-15 from 9am - 3pm with performances on July 16th at 4pm and July 17th at 11am during worship. Kids who have completed 1st - 8th grade are welcome to attend. The cost is \$110 for the week and includes a book, CD, and a camp t-shirt. You can use this link to register

<https://goodshepherdlutheran.tpsdb.com/OnlineReg/110>

If you want to audition for a special speaking part or vocal solo, you need to register by May 9th to participate in the auditions on May 18th or 22nd.



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## A "Wink" from the Welcome Ministry Team

By Elliott Haugen



**Happy May Day!** May 1<sup>st</sup> used to be celebrated as a day of unity, togetherness, and rebirth; a day for everyone to come together and rejoice in life. May Day traditions changed over time, but included town festivals, maypole dances, May baskets of treats left at front doors, and the exchange of flowers.

However, it's also appropriate to say **Happy Easter!** (That's because the Easter season lasts 50 days from Easter Sunday through June 8.) I also feel like saying **Merry Christmas!** What? You may wonder if I ate too many chocolate treats because I lost you on this one. Let me explain. We think of Christmas as a time of light and hope that leads us through the ups and downs of the Church year and into Easter, a time of darkness and grief. However, Easter, like Christmas, is also a time to rejoice in new life and new beginnings. I felt that on a joyous Palm Sunday and especially on Easter Sunday when more than 500 members, families and friends returned to in-person worship. Amid shouts of "He is risen" we renewed our sense that we are a family again.

So, what does this have to do with Good Shepherd's Welcome Ministry? Well, inviting, welcoming and conversing are all ways that we minister to and connect with each other. This is how we affirm that we and others belong. Good Shepherd is certainly a spiritual place, but it is also a community of people - gathering to build relationships with God and each other. We need each other, and whether in-person or on-line, we were created to share our lives, hopes and love by being together. That's why Easter was like Christmas – Good Shepherd's sanctuary, narthex and online audience were filled with God's gifts (presents), namely you and your amazing presence!

As we face the busy months of spring and the start of summer activities, please share your "presence" with each other at Church or online. Easter and St. Paul remind us that we are also resurrected:

***"...and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me"*** Galatians 2:20



**Feed the Need STL**

**By: Dianne Unverfehrt**

### **Feed The Need STL Lenten Challenge Results**

Due to your generosity, we have raised enough money to feed over 125 children a nutritious MannaPack meal every day for an entire year! What an amazing response to such great need! Many thanks from the Feed the Need STL committee. Your generosity touches our hearts.

We will be hosting our next Feed My Starving Children packing event on August 18-21 at Queeny Park. Your donations are appreciated! Visit [feedtheneedSTL.org](http://feedtheneedSTL.org).

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