



# Shepherd's Staff



The Monthly Newsletter of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

November 2022



**Josh Brecht**  
Lead Pastor

## Ministry of the Month: Worship - The Space Between

Every week people gather in this ancient, sacred practice worship. Worship is a liminal space where we exist between two realities. We exist in temporal, yet we begin to experience the eternal. We exist between what has been and what could be. We exist in the paradox of being both sinner and saint, both sorrowful and forgiven. We exist in the kingdom of this world, yet we begin to see the kingdom of God breaking through. worship is the space between.

People gather as strangers yet as beloved siblings in Christ. Sometimes we come with joyful expectation, smiling, and laughing with dear friends. Sometimes we come broken and desperate, bearing scars, and desperately seeking a new beginning. In worship, we are still the person of our past, yet we begin to believe in the new creation Jesus is moving us to become.

In this liminal space of worship, we encounter God, and we are changed.

We get to partner with God in creating this beautiful, transformative, between-space for one another.

When we **greet** people at the door with kindness, the world becomes brighter.

When we **read** the Word of God, hearts are awakened.

When we move **audio** faders and focus camera lenses, we carry the Gospel to the souls of those who long to experience it.

When we **serve communion**, we place the presence of Jesus into the hands of another and proclaim, "given for you".

When we **prepare the table**, we infuse our love and prayers in the bread and wine for those who will be renewed.

When we **usher**, we welcome *all* to the table bringing the kingdom of God closer.

“At the start of the Covid Pandemic the world had to shift in many areas and Good Shepherd was not immune to this. Good Shepherd reacted quickly and pivoted in a matter of weeks to provide a worship experience that, while different, was still meaningful and impactful. The AV team needed people that could help with that change, and I was able to step in to fill a need running the primary camera that allowed people to stay connected and involved. Up until then I had not planned on being part of the AV team, but it has been a great opportunity to serve and have thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the team.” – **Paul Dreher**

“It is fun helping with video. It feels good to be a part of the worship service and know that you are making a difference.” – **Erik Oswald**

It is an unbelievable joy to serve in worship, creating this liminal space where heaven meets earth and people experience the love of God in Jesus Christ. There is always a place for YOU to be a part of this incredible ministry of worship.

“As the head usher I was able to get to know so many different people and get to know people I never would have connected with otherwise. It feels great to know that you are a part of things.” - **Chuck Aper**

“As a part of Altar Guild, I enjoy the care and attention to detail that goes into preparing for Communion for the services. In preparing the wine and bread for the next service and the following weekend, we are making sure that the table God lays out is ready to celebrate with Communion for all. It's a meditative way to join in the body of Christ even beyond my personal Communion experience.” – **Ariana Karst**

There is little that brings me as much joy in life as seeing my own children spending time with seniors on Sunday morning, teaching them how to light candles, or serve communion. I give thanks to God for the phenomenal volunteer leaders who teach and guide others in these roles! If you want to learn more about how you can grow spiritually, serve others, and connect with amazing people, contact any of our great leaders!

Usher Ministry – [Andrew Leach](#)

Altar Guild Ministry (preparing bread and wine for communion) – [Janie Wolfangel](#)

Greeter Ministry – [Andrew Leach](#)

Reading Ministry – [Andrew Leach](#)

Communion Serving – [Andrew Leach](#)

Audio/Video Ministry – [Andrew Leach](#)

(You can sign up for any of these opportunities in the **Good Shepherd Connect** mobile app or our Worship Volunteer Scheduler [here](#).)



**Jill Thompson**  
Council President

**“What Does this Mean?”**  
**2022 Fall Conference Gathering – Central States Synod**

“What Does this Mean?” Isn’t that the core question of all faith traditions? We, in the ELCA faith tradition, find meaning in the key tenants of our faith. Recently the Central States Synod adopted a new mission statement based in the tenants of our faith:

“United with Christ in baptism. Traveling the way of Jesus. Joining God’s reign of justice and radical love for the world.”

On Sunday, September 18, The Rev. Susan Candeia, Bishop of the Central States Synod reminded Rostered and Lay Leaders that the very word “synod” means “walking together.” She helped us center our thoughts on the current status of the Central States Synod. With five conferences within two full states, Kansas and Missouri, there are 153 congregations. Some of her key points about the status were:

- 96 of those 153 are unable to afford full-time pastors without the help of us all “walking together”
- Congregations were already straining with a changing world and COVID added to the stress and anxiety
- Very few of our congregations have seen a return to pre-COVID in-person participation.
- In society, there seems to be a greater mean-spiritedness that is affecting our congregational life
- Congregations are expressing a reluctance, a caution related to discussing anything ‘political’

Bishop Candeia offered three keys to address these issues. “We are united with Christ.” We are “stuck” with each other as siblings in Christ. We must ground ourselves in that reality even if we lack trust. We must ground ourselves in the reality that “...nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord...” What does it mean for GSLC to be united with 96 congregations that cannot afford full-time pastors? What does it mean for GSLC to be united in Christ when there is a lack of trust of leaders in general and even within the Church? We are united in Christ, stuck together.

The Bishop’s second key was “Traveling the way of Jesus.” What was Jesus’ way to travel? Feeding those in need, touching those to heal, challenging institutions to care for those oppressed...relationships and loving neighbor is to travel the way of Jesus. What does it mean for GSLC to “Travel the way of Jesus?” How can we build relationship within our walls, within our Synod and throughout the world, loving our neighbors, and growing love as the antidote to mean-spiritedness?

Finally, traveling the way of Jesus takes us into “God’s reign of justice and radical love for the world.” Jesus cared about the systems and institutions that caused harm to people. That in and of itself is political. “God’s reign” is an inherently political term. Jesus teaching about the “kingdom of God,” and his identity as ‘son of God,’ were political challenges to the kingdom of Caesar, to Rome. What is key, is to connect difficult topics and difficult issues, including seemingly political ones to the Gospel of Love. How do we at GSLC live out God’s reign of justice and radical love? It may lead us to discuss difficult topics but we can do so in light of the Gospel of love.

The Bishop offered these words of hope in challenging times. I was grateful to be a part of this conference with our siblings in Christ, Sharon Misuraca, Larissa and Rick Hautekeete and Pastor Josh. Thanks be to God!

### **Council Update**

Your GSLC Council has been busy learning all that this wonderful congregation is doing related to our four focus areas of Children, Youth and Family, Belonging, Spiritual Growth and Service. The Council is then considering what policies and fiscal actions

the Council should take to advance those areas. Council hopes to prioritize the policies and fiscal actions in January 2023 and determine the time frame for accomplishing those actions across three years.

Council has convened a Leadership Retreat where church leaders learn best practices to recruit volunteers and support members participation as volunteers. These key principles were from a book by Dr. Cynthia Thero called “How Can I Help?”

The other part of the retreat engaged key committees to plan how they can advance our key focus areas. They were invited to create timelines and a three-year plan.

We are blessed to have a very thoughtful and engaged Council who is forward-looking to fulfill our mission: Following Christ, Growing in Faith, Sharing God’s Love.

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## **Ukraine Relief Efforts**

### **Lutheran World Relief**

### **Dan Engle - Endowment Committee**

“Until your love reaches every neighbor”

Good Shepherd has been so richly blessed. In response to that abundance, GSLC through its endowment fund, has provided monetary assistance to Lutheran World Relief in its ongoing efforts in Ukraine to provide relocation assistance and to address other urgent needs. Lutheran World Relief’s motto is “Until your love reaches every neighbor”.

In 2020 as the conflict in Ukraine was beginning, the GSLC endowment committee approved a \$5,000 donation to Lutheran World Relief to be used for its Ukrainian relocation efforts. In 2021, the endowment committee again approved another \$5,000 to Lutheran World Relief for the same purpose, as the needs continued to mount in Ukraine. Lutheran World Relief has been very appreciative of Good Shepherd’s commitment in assisting Lutheran World Relief in its efforts in Ukraine.

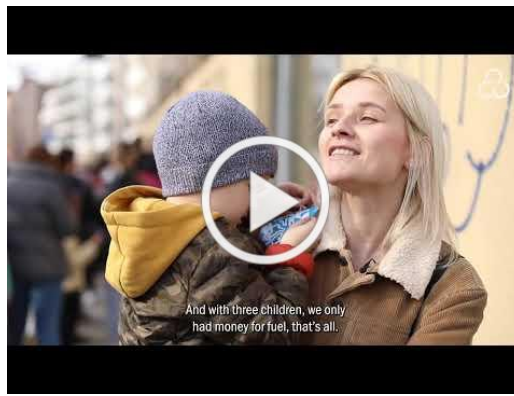


In April of 2022, our youth and adult volunteers assembled many hygiene care kits to be sent to Ukrainians in need through LWR at our annual Be Like Jesus retreat.

Rev. Tim Krick from Lutheran World Relief recently met with Pastor Josh and members of the endowment committee and service team to express their appreciation for the donations. Some of the highlights from his presentation:

- Lutheran World Relief to date has provided \$12.1 million in aid to Ukraine and is partnering with other NGO’s in this effort.
- There are 17.7 million Ukrainian people in need of aid
- 7 million who have fled to other countries and
- 6.9 million internally displaced persons in the country.

More information can be found on the Lutheran World Relief website at [www.LWR.org](http://www.LWR.org), and we encourage you to take a moment to watch this powerful video about the impact of our support for LWR in Ukraine.



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## Thanksgiving Basket Drive

### Karen Kallansrud

Join us in Good Shepherd's long-standing tradition of providing Thanksgiving meals to people who are struggling with food insecurity. We are again partnering with Wings of Love and Care/Crisis Aid. They have been feeding and supporting the needy throughout the years.

Angie Liggins, the program director for Wings works closely with 3 schools in St. Louis who have families living below the poverty level, who will be receiving meals this year.

This year Good Shepherd will buy all the staple items for the baskets. Each box will include:

- 2 cans 15 oz. yams or sweet potatoes
- 2 cans 14 oz. green beans
- 2 cans 14 oz. corn
- 1 can 14 oz. cranberry sauce
- 2 boxes 6 oz. stuffing
- 2 cans (no glass) 12 oz. gravy
- 1 turkey baking bag
- 1 roasting pan

Look for the display in the narthex to pull off the tabs for the items you are willing to purchase. All items need to be back at church by Nov. 13.

In addition, Good Shepherd will collect \$25 donations to buy a turkey for each box. Use the the yellow envelopes on the display marked "Thanksgiving Turkey Donation" for your donations that are placed in the offering baskets during the service. If writing a check please put "Thanksgiving Turkey Donation" on the "memo line" of your check. Or you can donate electronically to the "Thanksgiving Turkey Donation" using the Good Shepherd Connect app or through the GSLC website.

Good Shepherd will also have a group go down to Wings on Thursday, Nov. 17 from 9:00am – 12:00pm to pack the boxes to be handed out on Friday, Nov.18. We will carpool from church leaving at 8:30am. The Wings address is 3137 S. Jefferson. Look for the sign-up sheet on the Thanksgiving display board.

What a blessing it is to be able to work together this year to provide meals for families in need.

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## Welcome Team Wink Article

### Elliott Haugen



Happy November! As Thanksgiving nears, we think about what we are thankful for in our lives. Many go around the table at meal time, to hear why each person is thankful. As St. Paul wrote:

"Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

While expressing gratitude during this month (and everyday), remember to include what you have received and from whom and how it was provided.

"Every good gift and every perfect present comes from heaven; it comes down from God," James 1:17

Having and expressing gratitude help us get closer to God by recognizing our blessings – the gifts and the givers. Emphasizing gratitude in our lives makes it easier to focus on the positives.

Good Shepherd's Welcome Ministry team is very thankful for how this congregation invites, welcomes and includes each other and guests. We are especially thankful for you - including those who serve as front door greeters; ushers who greet worshipers as they enter the sanctuary; and all who share a smile or greeting with those around them.

(Please wear your name tags, and invite visitors to the next new member orientation sessions on Sundays, November 13 and 20.)

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**To access your Good Shepherd Connect "member profile",  
click the button below:**

[Good Shepherd Connect Profile](#)

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Weekly Services Sunday 9am (traditional) & 11am (contemporary)  
[goodshepherdlutheran.com](http://goodshepherdlutheran.com) | 636-391-6685 | [Calendar](#)