



## Ministry of the Month: Music Ministry

***Be Known. Know Others. Do Ministry. Grow Spiritually.***

One of the ways to bring this vision to life is by participating in one of the many music ministry opportunities available at Good Shepherd. There are approximately ***seventy-five people involved in one or more music groups each month!*** Many people have found this to be a profound way to feel connected to others and connected to God.

*"I feel the most connected with God/Jesus when I am singing and praising His name. I love many old hymns, but Contemporary music really speaks to me in today's context, and it lifts me up. If I can do the same with others in worship by singing, then I want to share my love and spread joy." – Laura Ewald*

*"The Music Ministry is my lifeline to Good Shepherd. The different music groups are also small groups. We share laughter, support, and friendship while working towards the common goal of enhancing worship for the congregation. I am blessed to be called to this Ministry." – Nancy Stelmachowicz*

With the beginning of fall, many of the music groups have reconvened after a summer break and all groups are ready to welcome new participants at any time. Groups meet on a variety of schedules (*see below*) and serve in worship anywhere from once a month to once a week. If you are interested in any of these groups, you are welcome to join a rehearsal to see if it is a good fit for you or contact the leader/director for more information.

*"Music is one of the ways the Spirit moves in my life. I hear a song that speaks to me. I find comfort in the lyrics. Music adds to a celebration, and it also uplifts me in times of sorrow. Participating in the music ministry at Good Shepherd is a blessing for me. Taking part in a choir, praise band or cantata allows me to meet people who care and will support me as I try to Follow Christ, Grow in Faith, and Share God's Love." – Cindy Wright*

### **UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES**

The **Joint Choir** and **Christmas Cantata Choir** are great entry level opportunities which will help you decide if you want to participate more regularly. Here are the upcoming rehearsal dates/times:

- **Joint Choir** will sing on Reformation Sunday, October 30th at the 9am service. There will be a rehearsal on Tuesday, October 25th at 7pm in the Sanctuary.
- **Christmas Cantata Choir** will rehearse on Thursdays at 7pm starting October 6th in the Sanctuary. Use the registration link to sign-up. Additional information is on the registration form.

### Cantata Choir Registration

*“Singing in our choirs over the years has always been a time to look forward to each week. It brings me joy to share in making music with others and raising our voices together in praising God. I treasure the relationships I’ve formed and been inspired by the music we’ve made through the years.” – Kim Sherwood*

*“I really love playing for Good Shepherd and the community. You have embraced me with open arms from the start, even when I had red hair and black nails, I was still embraced and loved. I love sharing my gifts and helping people with their faith just by singing, because Good Shepherd has a chill (awesome) thing going.” – Jimmie Miller*

Learn more about any of these groups on our [website](#), or contact any of the group leaders.

Thank you to all the volunteers who participate in music groups throughout the year and seasonally. You are so important to the ministry of Good Shepherd and the gift of your time and talents is so appreciated. Thanks to our music staff and volunteer leaders: Keith Kolander (organist/instrumental arranger-leader), Marcus De Geer (special music accompanist), Gail Brecht (contemporary worship director), Kelly Witt (hand bell director) and Dianne Unverfehrt (tone chime director).

In addition, many thanks go to Larry Gustafson who has led a gospel quartet, The Four Crossmen, for many years and we welcome the group back to worship on October 16th at 9:00 am after a temporary hiatus due to the pandemic. There have been several volunteer and staff led small groups over the years so if you are interested in forming a new group contact Jamie to find out how to do that.

If you are interested in vocal or instrumental music and have the gifts to participate, this is a great time to get involved. Keep an eye on the church calendar for rehearsal times/dates or contact me [jdegeer@gslcelca.org](mailto:jdegeer@gslcelca.org) for more information.

In Christ,  
Jamie De Geer

### **VOCAL MUSIC GROUPS**

*Contact Jamie De Geer for all vocal music groups.*

**Faith Choir** (SATB) Mixed choir is open to 9th grade and above. This group meets on 2 Thursdays per month at 7pm and serves in worship 1-2 times a month.

**Celebration Chorus** (TTBB) Bass clef choir open to singers who are 9th grade and

above. This group meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 8:15 pm and serves in worship once a month.

**LOLs** (Ladies of the Lord Singers) is open to treble clef singers who are 6th grade and above. This group meets on Sunday morning at 10:00 am as scheduled and serves in worship once a month.

**Contemporary Choir** is a mixed voice choir that meets on Thursday or Sunday as scheduled and sings in worship every 4-6 weeks at the 11am worship service accompanied by the worship band.

**Joint Choir** is comprised of singers from all choirs as well as others from the congregation who like to sing occasionally. This group sings on Festival Sundays like Reformation or All Saints in the Fall; Transfiguration in the Winter and Pentecost or Holy Trinity Sunday in the Spring/Summer.

**Christmas Cantata Choir** is also comprised of singers from all choirs as well as others from the congregation who like to sing during this 10-week season. This group rehearses from early October through mid-December to work on a Christmas Cantata which will be presented in worship the 2nd weekend of December and is accompanied by an orchestra.

#### **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC GROUPS**

*Contacts for each group listed below.*



**Hand Bell Choir** meets 3 Mondays each month at 6:30 pm and plays in worship once a month. This group is open to new and experienced ringers. Contact Kelly Witt [kellymwitt@hotmail.com](mailto:kellymwitt@hotmail.com).

**Tone Chime Choir** meets 3 Mondays each month at 9:30 am and plays in worship once a month. This group is also open to new and experienced ringers. Contact Dianne Unverfehrt [dcbu8891@charter.net](mailto:dcbu8891@charter.net).

**Festival Instruments** are needed to enhance the worship experience on Festival Sundays or Special Services. These are Intermediate/Advanced level musicians, especially brass, flute, and percussion. Contact Keith Kolander [ktkman57@gmail.com](mailto:ktkman57@gmail.com) or Jamie De Geer [jdegeer@gslcelca.org](mailto:jdegeer@gslcelca.org) if you are interested in being contacted to participate at future services.

**Christmas Cantata Orchestra** is open to High School age and up instrumentalists who play at an intermediate/advanced level. This group meets on Tuesdays at 7pm early October through mid-December and accompanies the Cantata Choir when they present a large musical program of songs and readings on the 2nd weekend in December. Contact Jamie De Geer [jdegeer@gslcelca.org](mailto:jdegeer@gslcelca.org).

**11:00 Worship Band** is looking for drummers, guitarists (acoustic, electric, bass) and keyboard players who are intermediate level musicians. This rotating group leads the Contemporary Worship service each Sunday morning and rehearses on Wednesday evenings and/or Sunday mornings. Contact Gail Brecht [gbrecht@gslcelca.org](mailto:gbrecht@gslcelca.org).



## Lead Pastor

On September 18-19, I was able to spend time with our Bishop, Susan Candea, along with other Central States Synod staff and area ELCA church leaders. Bishop Candea shared updates about things happening in the Synod and the state of congregations. One of the challenges she talked about was not surprising. “There is so much division in our country today and it has been creeping into our congregations.” As we talked about these difficult stories, I felt grateful because my experience at Good Shepherd has been quite different.

Over the past few years, I have heard stories of pastors leaving ministry. The anger, vitriol, and mistrust became too much to bear. I’ve heard personal stories from colleagues, and I listen to a *lot* of podcasts about the state of the Church (some fantastic podcast resources came out during the pandemic to help us walk together through these unprecedented times). Pastors hear angry feedback that they are too political/liberal/conservative, and after the *same sermon* have other members upset that they are not political/liberal/conservative enough! During the pandemic many church leaders experienced anger and fighting, where some members said, “we are too restrictive on these safety measures,” and at the same time others shouting, “we are not doing enough to keep people safe!” For many, there seemed only to be lose, lose scenarios on multiple fronts.

As I hear these stories two emotions well up inside me. First, heartbreak for our siblings in Christ and concern for the Church. Second, gratitude. deep and abiding gratitude for *this community*, Good Shepherd. I am so proud of this church. My experience at Good Shepherd over these past few tumultuous years has been one of grace, patience, kindness, and understanding.

When we made difficult decisions about how to respond to the pandemic, did we all agree? No, but we talked with kindness and came together for the well-being of one another. We continued to love one another and unite around our mission. When tensions in our government or social issues in society threatened to overwhelm, I have experienced a holy respect here. You listen to one another. We refuse to put others in a box, but recognize that we are all unique individuals with varied experiences and feelings. I have seen you approach one another with understanding and curiosity, *antidotes* to the anger and judgement to world so quickly professes.

At Good Shepherd, we believe that in Christ’s Church there is no such thing as ‘the left’ or ‘the right’, but only fellow siblings in Christ, beloved children of God for whom Christ died. The freedom and joy found in this truth releases us from the power of anger, fear, and resentment and opens the path to deeper, richer relationships. I have been so deeply blessed by holy conversations with many of you around topics of which we don’t always agree. I have found these opportunities don’t necessarily *change* our mind, but *expand* our mind. When we listen with love and curiosity, we often find new perspectives revealed, different ways to see a complex challenge in light of the Gospel.

Some may say, “we should not talk about politics in church,” but I believe that the Church is the one place we *can* talk about these things! After all, our unity is in Christ Jesus our Lord, and we are all humble sinners, saved by grace alone. Because of this, when my fellow Christian has a different view of something in the world, my love and respect for them frees me to listen fully and trust that they, too, desire abundant life for every human being.



Every week we pray, *united as one voice*, “thy kingdom come, they will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” We may have different ideas on the best path to create this reality, but we are wholeheartedly united in this prayer, God’s dream for the world.

While the world is arguing, we are working and doing ministry. While the world is dividing, we are uniting around this table of grace. While the world feels despair, we are filling with an everlasting hope. Thank you, Good Shepherd, for being the body of Christ. Thank you for shining kindness, compassion, and love for all to see.

With deep gratitude,  
Pastor Josh



## **Building Blocks Preschool** **Kathy Rebholz, Director**

Building Blocks Preschool, Good Shepherd’s preschool ministry, is reaching beyond the walls of the church and touching hearts and minds of families throughout our community. Our classrooms are filled with curious children who are eager to make friends and explore the environment around them. To highlight just a few activities at Building Blocks, watch our

year-end **2022 Building Blocks Video**. Building Blocks is filled with love, consistency, laughter, and play. Our preschool team looks forward to a successful school year! Thank you for your continued support and prayers throughout the 2022-2023 school year.

## **Welcome - Wink Article** **Elliott Haugen**



Happy October! Fall and Halloween decorations are already in the stores and pumpkin-flavored drinks and foods are appearing. It will soon be Halloween and “trick or treat” youngsters will be coming to our doors. It is a bit weird that they knock or ring your bell, but do not want to come in or for you to come out. They just want a welcome and a treat and then go on their way.

As I am writing this, there is someone at my door now. For me, He is always at the door and I am reminded of that because on the wall behind me is a 1941 print of Warner Sallman’s “Christ at Heart’s Door” in which Jesus is knocking on a door. The painting’s intent was that Jesus wants to come into our hearts, and since there is no latch on the outside, it is up to us to open that door. However, we know Jesus is already within us, so maybe He just wants us to come out and join Him in sharing joy and God’s good news with others. The beauty of art is that it makes us think.

We have many doors or gateways in our lives that are opportunities or obstacles. It is only by walking through a doorway that changes us or our circumstances. Wonderful things can happen when we welcome Jesus into our lives and others into our community of faith.

*“Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you.” Matthew 7:7*

Good Shepherd is welcoming many of our members back to worship and our programs, and an increasing number of visitors are also worshipping with us. No one has to knock on our front door, but let us be sure to actively and joyfully welcome them in and share ourselves and our faith with them - as Jesus taught us.

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