



Shepherd's Staff

Hurricane Disaster Relief Trip
South Florida - March 18-24



PRAYING
PELICAN
MISSIONS

The Monthly Newsletter of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

January 2023



Josh Brecht
Lead Pastor

Hurricane Relief Service Trip - South Florida – March 18-24

A few years ago, a dedicated group from Good Shepherd made big plans for a mission trip to Guatemala with Praying Pelican Missions (PPM). We planned and fundraised and generated all kinds of enthusiasm for a life-changing experience in July of 2020. This was the initial year of the pandemic when so many lives were disrupted or lost. We had to cancel plans for an international mission trip, with hopes of rescheduling in the future.

Three years later, we have a new, different opportunity to respond to a different need. When Hurricane Ian hit southern Florida this fall, Praying Pelican Missions began the work of assessing needs, building partnerships, and working to create opportunities for people like us to go and serve communities devastated by this disaster. Praying Pelican Missions has held our initial deposits from 2019 and is excited to have us pivot and put those funds towards a hurricane relief trip this March.

The beautiful thing about a service trip with Good Shepherd and PPM is that we can serve intergenerationally alongside one another. Families can serve together. Adults and youth can build relationships while making a real impact in the world! This is a fantastic opportunity to put our time, our talents, and our treasures to work to help people who are struggling to recover. At Good Shepherd we value service, and this is just one of the ways we live out our mission of Following Christ, Growing in Faith, and Sharing God's Love.

How can I help?

If you are able to go, we hope you will join us on Sunday, January 8 at 10:00 in Room 212 for an informational meeting.

If you are not able to go, you can support this cause through your prayers and likely

tangible needs as we get closer.

Cost:

\$475 plus travel (but previous fundraising and deposits will offset this cost. Final amount will be less, determined by how many people sign up and travel cost).

Who:

Adults and youth ages 6th grade and up (although if parents/families go together there is flexibility on age limit)

Registration Due:

January 29 is the sign-up deadline. There is a \$150 non-refundable deposit (however, if you have previously paid a deposit for Guatemala, those funds will be applied to this trip, and you will not need to pay a deposit.)

Find out more about Praying Pelican Missions at www.ppm.org. Contact [Beckie Fingland](#) or [Pastor Josh Brecht](#) for more information.

Process to Identify a Local Service Partner

David Franz

I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me. - Matthew 25:35-36

Local service is one of our strategic focal areas of ministry together for the next three years and work is progressing to identify a partner and service ministry to build on Good Shepherd's strong legacy of serving those in need. Our congregational survey identified a strong interest in the area of helping children and families in need.

To further determine the right local service ministry, a small team has been meeting to develop an inclusive process for deciding the right local partner for our church. Building on the existing knowledge and experience of our Service team for reviewing organizations to support through local benevolence and service projects, the team has developed goals and criteria to guide a decision for selecting the right partner. This includes a partnership that would enable the engagement of all ages of members and opportunities for relationship building and learning. The right partner would demonstrate the capability and commitment to steward the deep resources of our church including the passion, gifts and talents of our members.

To select the right partner, the team is designing a process for vetting potential partners that includes gathering additional strategic information and organizing team site visits over the next several months, with a goal of choosing a partner by mid summer. This would be followed by a year long engagement of jointly planned programs and events. The team is inviting wider participation of our members to help nominate potential organizations, participate in team site visits and engage in ongoing planning activities. Please reach out to [David Franz](#) (david.franz@sbcglobal.net) for more information or to get involved.

More details about the background and criteria for this process can be found here:

[Local Service Background and Criteria](#)

Local Service Partnership Team:

David Franz

Judy Leach

Gary Klopf

Ed Seuc

Kendra Hines

Bob Fingland

Pastor Josh Brecht

Pastor Varinia Espinosa



Amy Stewart
Pastor of Discipleship



Delaney Rhea
Youth & Family Director

Building Belonging Through Trivia

One of Good Shepherd's focus areas right now is BELONGING. We believe that a crucial part of membership and ministry is that everyone know, and be known by, others in our community. Belonging is how we build relationships, build trust, and build a sense of identity together. Belonging is where faith gets deeper, where spiritual growth happens, and where we can accomplish even more together. Belonging is how we feel safe and cared for, and when it's done well, belonging also creates a space where we can let go and have some fun!

To that end, we want to make sure you save the date for our annual Trivia Night and Silent Auction, the evening of March 4th. This fellowship event is a great chance to be brave, invite somebody you don't know yet, and make some friends with tables of eight, while sharing in trivia knowledge (or lack thereof!), fun games, and laughter. You can sign up a whole table or on your own and we'll help you meet some new folks. Nobody will be left out. This event has been helping forge new friendships for years!

As a bonus, trivia night helps support our high school youth group (FLY) and their summer trips and ministry. This means that by attending, you are also helping to build their sense of belonging in community, so it's a win-win for everybody! Look for registration in the coming weeks, and start looking out for folks who might need to make a new friend. We'll see you there!

-Pastor Amy (Pastor of Discipleship) and Delaney Rhea (Director of Youth and Family Ministry)



Gratitude from the Scrappy Ladies! Vicki Haugen

The scrappy ladies of Project Boomerang continue to create new greeting cards and recycle unused cards for the holidays.

Meeting on Wednesdays at the Haugen's residence, the scrappy ladies of Project Boomerang distributed a total of 5,702 greeting cards in 2022.

Cards were created and items collected all year and distributed as noted:

Before each holiday, care cards and other items were delivered to the St Louis Fisher House for Veterans and their family's usage. Cards and other items were sent in February and July to deployed ELCA Chaplains. In May and October, unused donated cards were delivered to Lutheran Senior Services for low-income residents. Care and holiday cards were provided to Good Shepherd and Peace Lutheran Church in Alexandria, VA. This is also the fourth year supporting LIRS (Lutheran Immigrant and Refugee Service) "Hope for the Holidays". The scrappy ladies wrote supportive messages and the words for "Away in the Manger" in Spanish on Christmas cards. The cards, and a gift card to buy presents, were sent to St. John's Lutheran Church in Bloomington, IL. to distribute to needy immigrant children.

Thrivent Action Teams and personal donations supported this year-round project. Thank you for your help with donations!

Welcome Team Wink Article

Elliott Haugen



Happy New Year! The Welcome team hopes you had a blessed and wonder-filled Christmas, shared time with family and friends, and attended a Good Shepherd worship service.

We ended 2022 with Advent's message of preparing for Christ and celebrating the birth of Jesus. Now, news and social media are reminding us to make 2023 resolutions that will prepare us for a happy new year and better selves. It is more fun when we share our goals with others, and especially those at Good Shepherd. Here are a few suggestions that will be good for all of us:

1. Stretch your comfort zone by greeting those around you - at Church and elsewhere.
2. Jog your memory by checking out the newest member photos on the bulletin board, and then find and greet them (near the north door and across from the coffee station).
3. Jump into a new activity and meet other wonderful people who share your faith.
4. Lift your voice in song and prayer to praise God and support others.
5. Walk or run to your phone or email and sign up to be a door greeter on Sundays.
6. Meditate and reflect on how your faith, joy and hope can sustain you and those around you.

For most of us, resolutions do not last very long, so Isaiah 40:31 has an inspiring message:

"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength; they will fly up on wings like eagles; they will run and not be tired; they will walk and not be weary."

Let's have a happy and hopeful new year!

To access your Good Shepherd Connect "member profile",

click the button below:

Good Shepherd Connect Profile

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