



CARE MINISTRY

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GOOD SHEPHERD

MAY 2023



Good Shepherd Care Ministry By Edwina Kelley

How does the Visitation and Care Ministry work at Good Shepherd? This ministry reaches out to the homebound and those in the hospital through phone calls, cards, visits and flowers.

Every week the Flower Ministry crafts the altar flowers into smaller bouquets and delivers them to our members to show the continued love and care from their Good Shepherd family.

For example, flowers were delivered to Virginia Stemme's residence. We didn't know at that time that she had just gone to the hospital. Virginia's daughter discovered the flowers when she arrived to bring personal items to the hospital. She told us Virginia's spirits lifted and she was so moved that Good Shepherd had remembered her and sent this gesture of love and care. In her last days she had flowers from Good Shepherd on her table reminding her of God's presence and love.



Jane Lochmoeller was also a long-time member of Good Shepherd. When Pastor Josh went to visit her as she drew near to the end of life, the flowers from Good Shepherd were there on her table. Her husband Don was deeply thankful for our remembering her as part of Good Shepherd.

This ministry is about caring for others, loving and reaching out. It comes from the heart. No one should feel alone.

We welcome others to join us in caring for each other.

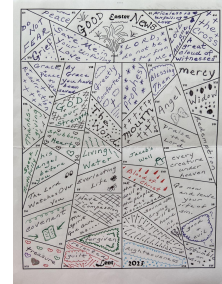
Amy Stewart
Pastor of Discipleship

"Praying In Color" Reflection



One of our members shares about their experience with the "Praying in Color" Lenten discipline:

"I enjoyed this Lenten activity a lot, and shared it with a friend, sending her the coloring sheet and readings each week. It has been a good way to start or sometimes to end my day, and it has made me focus and pay more attention to scripture. This daily discipline made me think! I found myself reading and rereading some of the Bible verses several times to clarify or understand what the writer was saying or attempting to tell me. Not only reading, but then writing something was a great way to focus and think about what I read. It made me marvel at how these words still hold such wisdom and power in our modern world.



I truly enjoyed doing Praying in Color with members of Good Shepherd during Lent as it offered me a sense of community. It was good to know others were reading the same verses and focusing on the same ideas each day. Thank you for a very meaningful activity!"

If you loved this activity, or if you missed it and want to give it a try, print a monthly calendar and use it for your drawings. You can find the daily lectionary at <https://www.elca.org/lectionary>. We are currently in Year A.



Varinia Espinosa
Pastor of Ccongregational Care

Altar Guild Training: May 20 | 10am - 12pm

People go to church to refocus. Focus on God. What you do for God matters.

The Altar Guild helps us to refocus. Focus on God the Creator then follow Jesus into the world.

The Altar Guild is charged with this awesome responsibility and privilege of tending to the Sanctuary and enabling our congregation to engage in worship that is filled with order, beauty, peace, and stillness.

What joy it is for us to set the stage for the "most joyful hour of the week."

It is an opportunity for us to experience spiritual reflection as we work with our hands and work in quiet meditation. While we know that God is everywhere and all of creation is sacred, there are some places where God's presence is more intensely felt, as in the sanctuary — a sacred space.

We seldom have meetings. Most of what we do is invisible to the congregation and is meant to be that way. The work we do facilitates and enhances our worship and particularly the Table of the Lord.

Joining the Altar Guild means learning many fascinating aspects of Church tradition. Most importantly, serving on the Altar Guild is a spiritual ministry.

Caring for the altar is a way to act out our relationship with God. It is quiet, prayerful work.

Anyone can be a member of the Altar Guild. You don't have to have any experience to join the Altar Guild. Your training will consist of hands-on instruction from experienced Altar Guild members.

Please contact Janie Wolfangel at janiewolfangel@gmail.com, or Pr. Varinia at vespinosa@gslcelca.org

Easter Celebration By Emily Horning

On April 8, we hosted our Children's Easter Celebration! There were games and crafts in the Narthex, with cookie decorating and egg hunts held outside. The gorgeous weather brought us 94 families, with only 19 families being from Good Shepherd. All 288 people (153 kids!) had a great time.



We had fifteen volunteers from the congregation (middle and high schoolers plus a few adults) run the games, plan and oversee the crafts, and hide 1,800 eggs! This community event wouldn't be possible without the help of all these generous people, and we look forward to even more fun next year.



The Good Shepherd Mission Garden By Laura McCommis

"Following Christ, Growing in Faith, Sharing God's Love"

"Following God's Sun, Growing Crops in Faith, Sharing God's Food"

The Vision Statement for GSLC's Mission Garden is directly inspired by GSLC's Vision Statement. We began cultivating produce in 2014, starting with gardening in straw bales, including those leftover from the prior year's pumpkin patch along with additionally purchased bales. This was a surprisingly successful gardening method, but by 2017, we decided to transition to permanent raised beds to minimize planting costs each year. With the permanent beds, we enhanced our repertoire. Last year we raised early crops of sugar snap peas, spinach, Swiss chard and summer to fall crops of beans, zucchini, yellow summer squash, okra, bell peppers, tomatoes and carrots. This year we will be debuting a potato crop as well as corn, squash and beans planted in the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) tradition, planting these three plants in community, each giving to and receiving from the other.



Through the years, the Holy Spirit has directed us to food insecure members of our community to donate



the produce to, via various food pantries, Wings of Love and Care, and to members of Good Shepherd, as well as members of First Baptist Church of Ballwin. If you are experiencing food insecurity please contact one of the pastors, who will let us know how we can get fresh summer vegetables to you.

The mission gardeners wish to thank the Men's Basecamp group for composting the planting beds and the Be Like Jesus youth participants for spreading straw in the aisles around beds to prevent weed growth and painting numbers on the beds for recording annual crop rotation and easing communications among gardeners. Planting has already started in the garden, but it is not too late to get in on the action...more planting to come and all of the harvesting. New garden team members are always welcome, with or without prior experience! Typically planting is done as a group and harvesting is done independently or paired up with someone with a bit of gardening experience.



To become involved, or if you have questions, please contact Laura McCommis at mccommishome@sbcglobal.net or 636-675-4085.

Be Like Jesus By Emily Horning

From March 31 to April 1, 47 kids from grades 3rd – 8th participated in a service lock-in. On Friday we had fellowship, worship (with some great songs), and then spent the night in the gym. On Saturday we prepared for a day of service. Each group, divided up by grade, had different service projects.



We made 350 bologna and cheese sandwiches for Trinity Soulard, spread hay and painted numbers on the beds in the Good Shepherd garden, created bracelets for With God's Little Ones to be sent to Madagascar and Cambodia, budgeted and

shopped for 21 meals for Circle of Concern- then delivered the meals there and went on a tour, organized and put on an egg hunt for the families of residents at Meramec Bluffs Senior Living Community, and raked piles of leaves and cleared lots and lots of lawn debris at the Hedgewood property. At LifeBridge we helped pack and inventory the items for 35 food boxes for Easter meals plus lots of fresh food to over 150 individuals. We helped pack hygiene kits for families and treat bags to welcome children who come and get food from the LifeBridge Market each week. We also participated in a game that taught about the budgeting needs of families and the struggles faced by families in poverty. Finally we stuffed 1,400 eggs for Good

Shepherd's egg hunt, made 50 dog toys out of old Be Like Jesus shirts for the APA of Missouri, assembled hygiene kits and made cards for Wings of Love and Care, made lots of other crafts for shut-ins, and cleaned windows around the church.

It was a very busy weekend! We had a lot of fun and we helped a lot of people. Thank you to all who helped with this awesome event!



Spotlight on Service Team By Judy Leach

The Service Team continues to be very active, mostly behind the scenes at Good Shepherd! We spend a lot of time planning and organizing collections in the narthex according to a Council approved calendar that we use every year. We just finished the Reverse Plate offering project and were amazed, once again, at the generosity of the congregation which supported Lutheran World Relief with 131 hygiene kits, Wings of Love and Care with 150 small bags of personal care items, and St. Patrick's Center with a huge donation of food for their food pantry! Many thanks to all who contributed and helped distribute the donations, particularly the Chronologically Gifted group that assembled the hygiene kits and the Be Like Jesus participants who filled the personal care item bags!

The Baby Shower for the month of May is coming up! There will be a Pack-n-Play set up in the narthex to collect supplies and clothes for babies and children, for Lutheran Family and Children's Services.

The Service Team also allocates Local Benevolence funds to non-profits that have been carefully vetted and whose missions align with ours. We choose themes for our giving. In January and February we used the theme of "Those Who Serve" and sent \$750 donations to the USO of Missouri, ELCA Missions for their work in Russia and Papua New Guinea, Missouri Veteran's Endeavor, (provides housing and support services to homeless veterans), and Lutheran Disaster Response for earthquake relief in Turkey and Syria.

Our theme for March and April was "Those Who Hunger". We allocated \$1,000 donations to Manna4Life, (serves impoverished people in a forcibly relocated village in Cambodia), the Peanut Butter Project (provides food to malnourished kids in several African countries), and Meds and Food for Kids, (provides food to starving children in Haiti).

Thank You Notes

We get a lot of them! Some are just acknowledgements of the gift received and some are more personal. Here's an excerpt from a note written by the recipient of money Good Shepherd gave to Warburg Seminary students (Thanksgiving offering), to help with medical expenses:

"We have utilized your gift towards paying off a surgery bill last fall. That surgery has led to an overall improvement in quality of life, and almost more importantly, has led to my wife and I expecting our first child in May of this year. God bless you in your continued ministries."

And, another from the Missouri USO:

"I wish you could see firsthand the magic your gift can help us create...the relief on the face of an exhausted soldier as she finds a USO center in a strange airport...the grin of

a recovering Marine as he enjoys a cookout with his family at one of our USO Warrior and Family Centers...the feeling that comes from a cold soda on a hot day, served with a friendly smile and an encouraging word..."

Your gifts help so many people in so many way. Thanks be to God!

Welcome Team Wink Article

By Elliott Haugen



Happy May! – Good Shepherd’s Welcome Ministry Team consists of members who are engaged in a wide variety of activities in this church; e.g., Bible studies, music programs, small groups, CG’s, fellowship events, worship assistance, or greeting. They are active listeners which helps us understand what is happening within Good Shepherd. This helps us connect with and inform members and visitors.

At our March team meeting we discussed the March 28, 2023 “Daily Grace” message from the Women of the ELCA (WELCA). It was excerpted from “Welcoming leads to belonging” by Gwen Edwards from the March 11, 2019, WELCA blog.

What brought you?

During a Bible study, our small group asked each other, “What brought you to (this) Lutheran church, and why do you stay?”

After we had all shared, we noted that each of our stories had one thing in common: someone greeted us and invited us to take part in the congregation once we got there.

We were invited to join the choir, attend an event, or participate in some other way. It was the come-and-join-us attitude of the church that made us feel welcomed.

We all had a variety of reasons of why we have remained members. But basically, it is because we have found wonderful relationships and purpose in our church groups. This is because we all need a sense of belonging, of knowing we are welcomed and a part of something bigger than us.

What brought you to this church? Why do you stay? How can you welcome and invite others to join our church?

During May, ask a relative, neighbor, friend, classmate or others to attend a Good Shepherd activity or worship service.

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

[Good Shepherd Connect Profile](#)

Weekly Services Sunday 9am (traditional) & 11am (contemporary)

