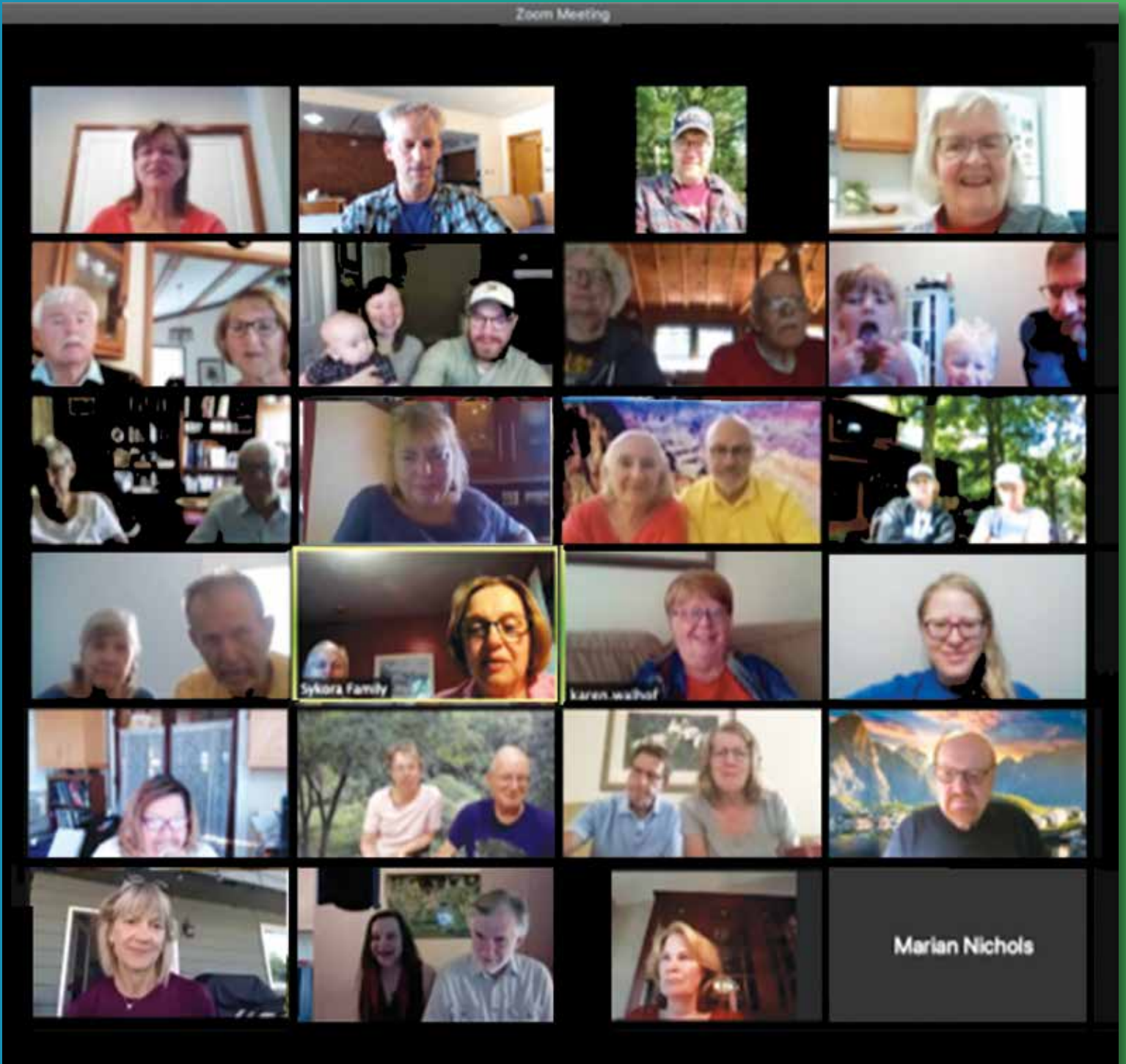


TOGETHER



FAITH THAT WORKS

FROM THE COUNCIL:
TOGETHER AGAIN,
BUT NOT YET

SUNDAY SCHOOL
BEGINS VIRTUALLY
IN THE FALL

LEAVING THE
BUILDING TO LEARN
AND GROW

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SUNDAY WORSHIP
Worship with Communion
online every Sunday at
goodshepherdmpls.org

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May Advertising and Design, Inc.

TOGETHER (USPS 493-740)
Published QuarterlyA
Lutheran Church of the Good
Shepherd
4801 France Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55410
Periodical Publications
Postage Paid St. Paul MN

Postmaster: Send address changes to:
Together
4801 France Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55410

Vol. 10 #3 – September 2020

ON THE COVER: The people of God at Good Shepherd
during an August 16 Virtual Coffee Hour

TOGETHER



THIS IS WHO
WE ARE
HERE, AND
WHAT WE
ARE ABOUT:

LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD:
FAITH THAT
WORKS

“Church Has Left the Building”

What a strange winter, spring, and summer it has been – and fall looks no more familiar. We are not able to be together in the ways we are used to, for worship, fellowship, service, and more. We are not able to visit together over coffee at church, in the courtyard after worship, in our homes, or even in hospitals. These are strange times for us in so many ways.

And yet, strange as things may seem, we still are who we are. This has always been the case for the people of God. When “the going gets hard,” when we are joyful, when we struggle, when we are confident, when we are uncertain, when we believe and, yes, even when we doubt – we still are God’s people. And this is true now too.

We do not know fully, yet, what all of fall will look like. (Please read Council President Beth Helgen’s article on pages 6 and 7 about how we are approaching fall activities for details.) What we do know is this: *Church has left the building.* This has always been the case for us of course. As the old camp song goes, “The church is not a building,” and we don’t simply show up at the church building on Sundays, get church taken care of, and then get back to the real world. We never have. No, the church is what we – each of us – embody, what we take with us everywhere we go, who we are as we work with colleagues, learn with friends, live with neighbors.

And so it should be no surprise that although,

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Church has left the building, | Still we are worshipping together. |
| Church has left the building, | Still we are caring for one another. |
| Church has left the building, | Still we are learning. |
| Church has left the building, | Still we are serving those in need. |
| Church has left the building, | Still we are the church. |

“Church Has Left the Building” is our theme for the fall – in worship, in education, in service, in all that we are together as Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. To mark that theme, we are making available yard signs that we can use to show our neighbors that while church has left the building, we are still the church, everywhere and every when we are. Look for a chance to drop by the building and pick one up.



Dear friends in Christ, know this: “You are the body of Christ and individually members of it” (1 Cor. 12:27). Individually, and together, we are the body of Christ. No matter what . . . or where.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Karl N. Jacobson

FAITH THAT WORKS IS FAITH THAT CAN TRANSFORM
THE WORLD – “MINE,” “YOURS,” “OURS,” “THE.”

P.E.P. TALK

DURABLE FAITH FOR A GRITTY WORLD

BY PASTOR ELISE POKEL



The book of Proverbs continues to be at the top of my list of favorite Bible books. I love the observational and courtly wisdom side by side. Even though it was compiled across hundreds of years and in an ancient setting, its wisdom still stops us in our modern tracks. In my P.E.P. Talk in March *Together*, I selected my top five favorite nuggets from the first half. In this article, I'll include my favorite moments from the second half.

The book of Proverbs reminds me that God is present, eternal, and solid when life feels precarious, small, and tenuous. Proverbs re-centers me and calms me. It restores my defiant hope in a God who cares about the oppressed, cares about my little life, and challenges me to be better. I hope you'll pick it back up with me!

Proverbs 16:11 - Honest balances and scales are the Lord's; all the weights in the bag are his work.

There are many proverbs that deal with fairness and economics. I love that we have a God who is invested in our working lives! When work is safe, equitable, and honest, God is honored. I'm praying constantly these days about our economic situation as a nation with over 30 million needing unemployment benefits.

Proverbs 16:24 - Pleasant words are like a honey-comb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.

I enjoy the connection made here between kind words and a healthy body. I often forget that my mind and soul are housed in my body. Maybe that sounds strange, but if you think about it, our society treats physical problems differently from mental health issues. When I'm struggling spiritually, I forget to run down my checklist like I normally would for fatigue. Did I drink enough water? Did I have an adequate lunch? Did I shower and brush my teeth? (Luxuries with a baby around!)

When unkind words are carelessly thrown our way, it hurts us in our bodies and souls. When someone makes a heartless comment on social media, my shoulders go to my ears and stay there until I remember to drop them. When someone raises their voice in anger, I curl up inside. As Christians, we are called to speak the truth – but in love. When we are around someone who takes time to choose their words and speaks tenderly to us, it is sweet like honey.

Proverbs 25:21-22 - If your enemies are hungry, give them bread to eat, and if they are thirsty, give them water to drink; for you will heap coals of fire on their heads, and the Lord will reward you.

For me, this is the most exciting way to say, "Kill them with kindness." I've always believed in my heart of hearts that this must have been one of St. Paul's favorite proverbs. He spends a lot of time in his writings dealing with the idea that vengeance should not be a human endeavor. We should leave such a complicated task to the God who notices and takes account. Personally, I love keeping stock of every little wrong or slight that comes my way. But it turns out that that is a pretty big waste of my time and efforts (sadly.)

Proverbs 26:20 - For lack of wood the fire goes out, and where there is no whisperer, quarreling ceases.

This proverb is aspirational for me. These days, everyone is living with extra stress in our bodies and souls. We're in a difficult, global health crisis. It seems that every state is fending for itself. Our lives will never be the same again. Simple decisions seem impossible to make. We're all constantly calculating the risk of each little interaction and encounter. Oh, and it's an election year.

I'll be honest; it's hard for me not to throw my two cents in. It's difficult to refrain from adding fuel to the fire. But this proverb tells us that when we wait to speak and move away from reactionary living, our lives are generally more peaceful. God desires for us to live just lives so sometimes we will have to enter the fray. But not every fray is my fray. When we focus our energy on humble service and simple living, life is full of God's goodness.

Proverbs 27:14 - Whoever blesses a neighbor with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, will be counted as cursing.

Clearly the best proverb for night owls. I think it would make a lovely yard sign.

There's no topic that Proverbs won't touch. Finances, child-rearing, romance, feuds, politics, religion. There's truly something for every occasion! Thanks be to God for a versatile, powerful book that keeps us on our toes. Stay safe, my dear ones.

Love, P. E.P.

Celebrating the Gifts of Women

BY PASTOR ELISE POKEL

“A capable woman who can find? She is far more precious than jewels” (Proverbs 31:10).

In 2020-2021 we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and our predecessor churches. We praise God for the years of expanded perspectives and gifts our churches have been blessed with by our women pastors.

As we celebrate, we are starting our church program year in worship with a series of stories on important and influential women in the Bible – some you know, but all of them you should.

Join us in worship as we learn from these great women, whose stories mirror and inspire our own.

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| September 6 | Rebekah, the Mom with a Favorite Son Genesis 24:1-67, 25:19-34 |
| September 13 | Tamar, the Crafty Widow – Genesis 38 |
| September 20 | Shiphrah & Puah, the Mighty Midwives Exodus 1:8-22 |
| September 27 | Miriam, Tambourine Queen Exodus 2:1-10; Exodus 15:20-21 |
| October 4 | The Daughters of Zelophehad Numbers 27 |
| October 11 | Deborah, the Prophetess & Jael, the Avenger – Judges 4-5 |
| October 18 | Ruth & Naomi, BFFs – Ruth 1:1-22 |
| October 25 | Esther, Queen of Courage – Esther 4 |
| November 1 | Hannah, The Zealous Pray-er 1 Samuel 1:1-2:10 |
| November 8 | Abigail, Smarty Pants in a Man’s World 1 Samuel 25 |
| November 15 | The Widow of Zarephath & Elijah 1 Kings 17:1-24 |
| November 22 | The Shunammite Woman & Elisha 2 Kings 4 |

A HISTORY LESSON

In June 1970, a bylaw was amended in a simple but genius way with the change of one small word; man. It now read, “A minister of this church shall be a person whose soundness in the faith, aptness to teach, and educational qualifications have been examined and approved in the manner prescribed in the constitution, and who has been properly ordained.” The resolution passed by a simple voice vote. The change from “man” to “person” opened the door to women’s ordination in the U.S. for ELCA predecessor churches.

I grew up in the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. I was surrounded by powerful women who were not given the right to vote or teach any male over the age of 12. Women were necessary for the functioning of the church and all of our evangelical outreach, but they had no voice within the four walls of our building. Women were responsible for the resplendent church dinners and meaningful gatherings, but could not serve communion. I could see that women were doing just as much heavy lifting as the men of our beloved community, but there was no honor for them.

When I was 10, I joined Messiah Lutheran with my Grandma June. On my first Sunday, I sat with Grandma in her usual pew (this is a thing for all Lutherans) and was surprised to see a woman in the pulpit. The woman turned out to be Pastor Kathy Valan, and she had an incredible impact on my interest in the Bible. I actually didn’t think the Bible applied to me before I heard her preach. I was inspired actually to listen in my Sunday School classes and find myself in the ancient stories. I could actually hear that the Gospel was meant to free me and compel me to service just like the boys. Because of Pastor Kathy, I fell head-over-heels in love with Scripture.

There were other pastors – male and female – who would light my way in the years that followed.

I have been so blessed to have pastors lead and inspire me who truly had a soundness of faith and an aptness to teach! But there have been critical moments in my life where I needed to be attended to by a woman pastor and – by the grace of God – was.

When I was struggling to understand if God could ever want me or use me in his kingdom, Pastor Jacqueline dispelled the clouds.

When I was a bundle of nerves about entering into a pastoral internship, there was Pastor Debra Samuelson. (She taught me pretty much everything I know about being gentle and tough. Thanks, Pastor Deb!)

When I entered my first call in a little town and prayed for a colleague who would truly walk with me, there were Pastors Karla, Michelle, Kelly, Karen, and Joy fearlessly and lovingly serving their country parishes without fanfare.

When I was in the process of losing my first pregnancy, there was Pastor Kristina, who drove me to a hospital and held my hand. In my cloud of sorrow, Pastors Laurie, Chelle, Laura, and Leah guarded me and didn’t flinch from my lamenting.

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd has been blessed to have had Pastor Marilyn Breckinridge and Pastor Debra Samuelson at the helm. There are Lutheran bodies globally that still don’t allow women to preach or preside. There are women who are gifted and called, but are not heard because of their gender. I am privileged to preach and teach, and I don’t take it lightly. I carry the lessons and love that have been given to me over the years by so many faithful women leaders. I rejoice that with every woman ordained, we gain expanded perspectives, experiences, and stories. Men make excellent pastors, but without women, we only get half of the story.

We deserve fullness, and Jesus promises to give us abundant life. Ordaining women is good for all of us! Happy 50th!

From the Council

BY PRESIDENT BETH HELGEN

Together again eventually – but not yet

I've been struck how in these pandemic times, the profound collides with the ordinary, personal freedom conflicts with the common good, and sacred moments – if we watch and listen – permeate the isolation, yearning, and anxiety that seep into lives. The ache and loss run deep for most everyone. Fatigue has set in. We are eager to return to church, to rest in the embrace of the art and architecture of our sanctuary, to hear sacred texts and preaching, to sing hymns and share the wine and the bread, to recite prayers together and greet one another in the narthex.

But not yet. Eventually – but not yet.

Last spring when Pastor Jacobson, treasurer Kathy Bench, Laura Stein, and I gathered to talk about suspending worship and activities, none of us imagined that we would be apart for so long, that observances of deaths, baptisms, and celebrations of milestones like graduation, staff departures, and births would pass without community participation, that we would be worshipping in front of computers and tablets, or that our church building would figure so prominently in our loss.

For several weeks this summer, the Reopening Task Force – Pastors Karl Jacobson and Elise Pokel, Dr. Allison West, Bill Kerker, Louise Campbell, and Jeff Paurus – has been meeting to address the evolving health issues of the coronavirus (along with the potentially lethal combination of COVID-19 and seasonal flu) and to identify a timeframe for the return to worship, resumption of activities, and opening of the building to internal and external groups. Using a variety of sources of information for guidance and bearing in mind the context of our congregation, the group sought to be cautious and faithful in its deliberations, focusing on three areas:

- Staff work and activities
- Internal and external small group meetings
- Worship

At its August 11 meeting, the congregation council approved (with several amendments) the recommendations of the Reopening Task Force, summarized here:



STAFF WORK AND ACTIVITIES

Staff are asked to use their own judgment and determination for working onsite in the building or remotely from home. Staff may set up one-on-one meetings or small group meetings following the guidelines outlined. If a member has concerns about working onsite, Pastor Jacobson will assist in identifying expectations and priorities.

The church building will remain closed, unless prior arrangements are made.

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL MEETINGS

Small groups of 20 people or fewer may meet in the building, with space limited to the courtyard and Fellowship Hall.

Masks are required.

Outside materials (pamphlets, food, beverages) may not be brought into meetings. (The council made an exception for the quilting group, allowing them to bring in fabric and other notions.)

For the purpose of contact tracing, each group will identify a point person who will collect names and phone numbers or email address.



Group meetings – with the exception of the quilting groups – may last no longer than one hour, and participants will be expected to go directly to the meeting location and leave promptly when the meeting concludes.

Restrooms will be restricted to those in the hallway outside the choir room, which are accessible from Fellowship Hall and the courtyard.

The kitchen will not be available for group use.

Rooms will be staged for social distancing with the expectation that groups will self-enforce.

Roger Krafve will handle routine cleaning between meetings, and a cleaning service will provide deeper cleaning twice a week.

Tor Johnson and Roger Krafve will serve as distanced event hosts.

Meetings will be spaced out throughout the week.

Small baptisms, funerals, and weddings are at the discretion of the pastoral staff.

The staff, in consultation with the congregation council, may revoke meeting privileges at any time if guidelines are not observed or if public health concerns dictate.

WORSHIP

After much discussion about the risks of resuming in-person worship, the task force recommended that we not reopen until Advent (November 29) at the earliest. The council will revisit this decision at its October meeting and make changes accordingly along the way, if appropriate.

The task force noted that the components of worship – singing, corporate prayer, confession, and communion – are unsafe at this time and have resulted in super-spreader events in some parts of the country. In addition, they acknowledged that reopening would leave behind those who are vulnerable and at-risk. The task force saw online worship as effective, well-received, and the best and safest use of staff time and talent during this period.

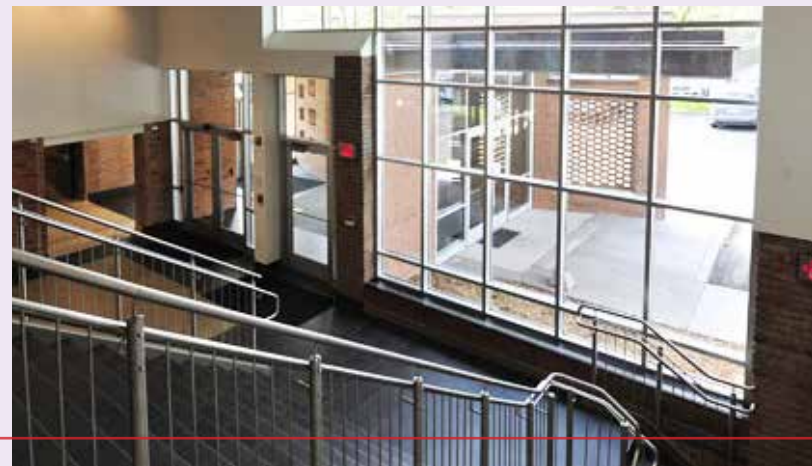
While many ELCA congregations in the Twin Cities continue to discuss how and when to resume worship and other programming, Good Shepherd joins a growing number of local churches – among them Gloria Dei, St. Paul; Edina Community Lutheran; Bethlehem–Twin Cities; Christ the King, New Brighton; and First, Columbia Heights – that have delayed a decision on resuming worship until further notice or have suspended worship for most or all of the remainder of 2020.

A FINAL WORD

On behalf of the congregation council, I thank you for your faithful generosity during this time. While we have financial challenges ahead of us, we are grateful that your gifts have allowed us to keep staff at full salaries and to maintain our obligations to our ministry partners. Thank you for the ways you have checked in with members and have ventured out to care for the most vulnerable in our community. And thank you for stepping up to participate in worship, serve on task force groups, pray for community concerns, or share words through TableT Talk.

In addition, I want to thank Pastors Jacobson and Pokel for their leadership and the staff for the ways in which they have worked together to provide creative worship and daily devotions, to stay connected with children, youth, and families, to offer hope to those in need of additional reassurance and comfort during this time, and to maintain the administrative infrastructure that – while largely unseen – fuels the engine of our ministry.

Thank you, all, for the blessing of being the church together.



Managing Our Building during the Pandemic

BY LAURA STEIN, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

My assignment for this issue of *Together* is to talk about the church building and how we're moving forward with scheduling and cleaning. So many things have changed since the start of the pandemic. At times it's hard to process everything, but, as I read the other articles in this issue and talk with staff about plans for this fall, I'm excited about what's happening!

STAFFING CHANGE

There was a staffing change this summer. Most of you know that Ron Johnson had to step away from his position at Good Shepherd. As Ron explained in his message to the congregation in July, due to health reasons, he is no longer able to serve as custodian. Ron has been valued by this congregation and will continue to be so. He and Ruth are part of our family. If you haven't yet had a chance to send him a card or a thank you, I encourage you to do so. If you do not have a directory, please send it to the church office, and we'll get it to him. Help us thank Ron!

After much planning and discussion, a decision was made not to refill Ron's open position. Roger Krafve will continue to work his regular schedule, taking on a few additional responsibilities. We have also secured EMD Cleaning Services to clean twice a week. (EMD is the service we used last year during the six months when

Ron was out on medical leave, and we were pleased with their work.) We believe this arrangement will work well and will also be beneficial to our budget.

CURRENT STATUS

Girasol Montessori School leases space at Good Shepherd. With the exception of a few weeks in March/April, they have been open and, as you read in Beth Helgen's letter on page 7, we will begin opening to other groups of 20 or fewer.

The preschool area is currently being cleaned and sanitized each evening. As other small groups begin meeting, those rooms will be added to that nightly list. If more than one group meets on one day, the area will be sanitized between groups. The staff has been working primarily from home, but several have begun to work from church on a more regular basis. Therefore, the staff areas are also being cleaned.

SMALL GROUPS

I have been contacting all of the small groups who meet at Good Shepherd to find out which ones are interested in returning. If you have a small group and have questions, please contact me. The church building will remain closed but, as always, the staff is available via phone or email. In-person meetings at church need to be by appointment.

VOLUNTEERS

One last reminder: There have always been, and continue to be, jobs at church for volunteers. If you're interested in washing windows, vacuuming pew chairs, doing yard work, performing minor repair and maintenance work, etc., please contact me (l.stein@goodshepherdmpls.org) or Craig Brandt, chair of the Property Committee (craig.brandt@lawmoss.com).

Thank you!



ONLINE CABARET

Performing Arts Plans for the Fall

BY TOR JOHNSON, DIRECTOR OF
CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES &
PERFORMING ARTS

Performing Arts, like all our ministries, has taken a big hit because of the virus. We were not able to hold Musical Theater Camp this past summer for the first time in ten years, and we will not be able to stage the annual Holiday Musical.

Instead of a musical this fall, we're going to feature an Online Cabaret. Berit Johnson, Ralph Johnson, and I will be putting it together. People – young and old, members and non-members – will be asked to perform a favorite show tune from their homes. We will put those performances together for an evening of musical theater. The date is yet to be determined – but watch for it!

If we are able to perform a live production in the new year, we will try to do a Spring Musical and the Lenten Drama. Unfortunately, we will not know if we can do these things for quite a while yet.

Don't miss the Online Cabaret! If you're interested in singing – from your home, no less – or would like to know more about what it will entail – please contact me at tor.johnson@goodshepherdmpls.org.



[IN OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH] LIFE PASSAGES



◀ BAPTISM

SEBASTIAN
THOMAS
BELTOWSKY

Baptized
in the Courtyard
at Good Shepherd
8.6.2020

DEATHS

AXELSON ADELAIDE

12.1.1928 – 7.1.2020

CAROLYN BOCKELMAN

12.14.1931 – 6.2.2020

LAVON ENGEN

11.5.1931 – 8.3.2020

WANDA HAMMOND

8.10.1929 – 5.23.2020

MELVIN HOUGEN

8.8.1918 – 7.16.2020

RUTH LOFGREN

4.8.1924 – 3.30.2020

LOIS RIES

12.26.1925 – 4.29.2020

JULIE TATE

2.25.1964 – 8.19.2020

WORSHIP & MUSIC AT GOOD SHEPHERD

BY RALPH JOHNSON, DIRECTOR OF WORSHIP AND MUSIC



As we continue to navigate the various challenges of being Church in the age of COVID-19, we at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd know that worship is the foundation of our life together as a community of faith and service. Since the beginning of the current “shutdown,” those of us on the worship team (which in reality is our *whole staff* when it comes right down to it) have tried our best to offer meaningful and authentic worship experiences online each week. In the process we have hopefully evolved and improved those offerings as we continue to learn new techniques and gain new insight into how we might share God’s love and inspire God’s people, even though we are physically separated from one another.



One of the most significant elements of our worship together, be it online or in-person – and the one for which I am specifically responsible – is music. Music frames our service at beginning and ending (prelude and postlude), offers inspiration and solace to our hearts and souls as we offer our gifts and receive the sacrament (musical offerings by choirs, vocal soloists and instrumental musicians), and draws us together as we raise our voices in lament and praise (hymns and liturgical songs).



When things are “normal,” and we are able to meet and worship together in person, we have a well-established infrastructure for planning, rehearsing, and carrying out the musical aspects of worship. But when everything is done remotely, the worship service becomes a bit more complicated. For our online services we have made use of both the musical offerings of Good Shepherd members and friends, as well as a number of pre-existing recordings from non-Good Shepherd musicians. This fall, we will continue to include music from a number of sources as we work to provide worship that is meaningful and in sync with the scripture readings and themes of each Sunday.

As we approach the fall season, it is my hope that we will be able to see an expansion of the musical offerings provided by you, the members and friends of Good Shepherd. One way we hope to do this is to create occasional “virtual choirs,” in which each singer records their own part of a hymn or anthem at home on a phone or computer with the help of a reference or accompaniment track, and then sends the recording back to the director (me) to be put together in a software program. We invite anyone (of any age!) who wants to be part of one of these virtual choirs to contact me at ralph@lutheran.goodshepherd.org.



Giving Options

BY LAURA STEIN,
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

Our Good Shepherd family has been generous. Many of you have gone above and beyond during this pandemic. We are grateful.

GIVING ONLINE

It's easy to give online. There is a link on our homepage. You may set up a one-time payment, or you may set up weekly or monthly recurring payments. You may use your credit card or your checking account. (Please note that there are less fees for Good Shepherd when you use your checking account.)



GIVE BY CHECK OR CASH

You may mail your offering to the church office at:
4801 France Avenue S.
Minneapolis, MN 55410

If you'd like to drop it off personally, contact me at l.stein@goodshepherdmpls.org, and we'll arrange a time.



GIVING KIOSK

If you are in the building for a small group meeting, you may still use the kiosk located in the narthex. If you'd like to stop in and use it, contact me to arrange a time.



johnson@goodshepherdmpls.org – whether or not you are currently involved in a choir – and we'll add you to the list.

Another exciting possibility for those who play instruments (and also for individual singers) would be to record solo or small ensemble pieces that can be used as special musical moments in the service. The process can be similar to the virtual choir: You record your solo or part on a phone or computer while listening to an accompaniment track, and then send out your recording to the director to put together. Again, if you are interested in adding your string, wind or brass instrument, keyboard, bagpipe, or voice – in any configuration or combination – contact me and we'll work something out.

And so I invite all of you who love to play and sing, no matter how large or humble your musical ability, to offer up your voice/mouthpiece/bow/fingers/cowbell in praise to God and in loving offering to your neighbor, so that we all may hear and feel the Holy Spirit move through your gift of sacred sound.

Thanks be to God!

Sunday School Begins Virtually in September

BY TOR JOHNSON, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES & PERFORMING ARTS

Sunday School was discontinued last March because of a pandemic whose name shall remain unmentioned. Through the summer, we've tried to keep a connection with our Good Shepherd kids through virtual Bible School in June and online Kid's Time as part of each Sunday worship.

The theme for Sunday School for the next year is "Foundations of Our Faith." Mara Halvorson and I have created a family booklet titled – surprise! – *Foundations of Our Faith*, with fun illustrations of well-known stories from the Old and New Testaments.

Sunday School will meet via Zoom meetings on Sunday mornings. I will conduct a Zoom meeting on Sunday mornings for pre-kin-dergarten to 2nd grade from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m. The Zoom meeting for 3rd to 5th grade students will be held from 10:00 to 10:30 a.m. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact me or check our website.

In the fall, up to the start of Advent, the stories will be from the Old Testament. New Testament stories will start on November 29 and will continue on into the new year and spring. Another booklet with just New Testament stories will be available in January 2021.

Kid's Time will continue this fall as part of online worship.

FROM THE ILLUSTRATOR

Working on the illustrations and piecing together this book was a super fun and challenging project!

I always start my illustrations with rough sketches and ideas, while having my Bible open to each specific story to reference. I then create and illustrate each of the characters individually. After that, I draw each of the backgrounds/scenes and add unique color and texture to each shape.

Once I have all of them illustrated, I take the backgrounds and the characters into Adobe InDesign and piece them together. This process takes the most time because of the alignment and precision necessary.

This project was a great new learning experience for me, and I really enjoyed it!

– Mara Halvorson



The Heart of the Bible: Lifelines Goes Hybrid

BY PASTOR KARL N. JACOBSON

Starting on Rally Day, September 13, Lifelines – our Sunday morning adult forum time – makes its return. Lifelines returns every fall, like more pleasant climates and the beginnings of changing leaves, but of course this year that return looks a little different.

Lifelines is going hybrid. For those who are anxious to return to in-person activities at the church, there will be opportunities to sign up to attend Lifelines in person. And, as in years past, we will meet at 9:30 on Sunday morning, in Fellowship Hall.

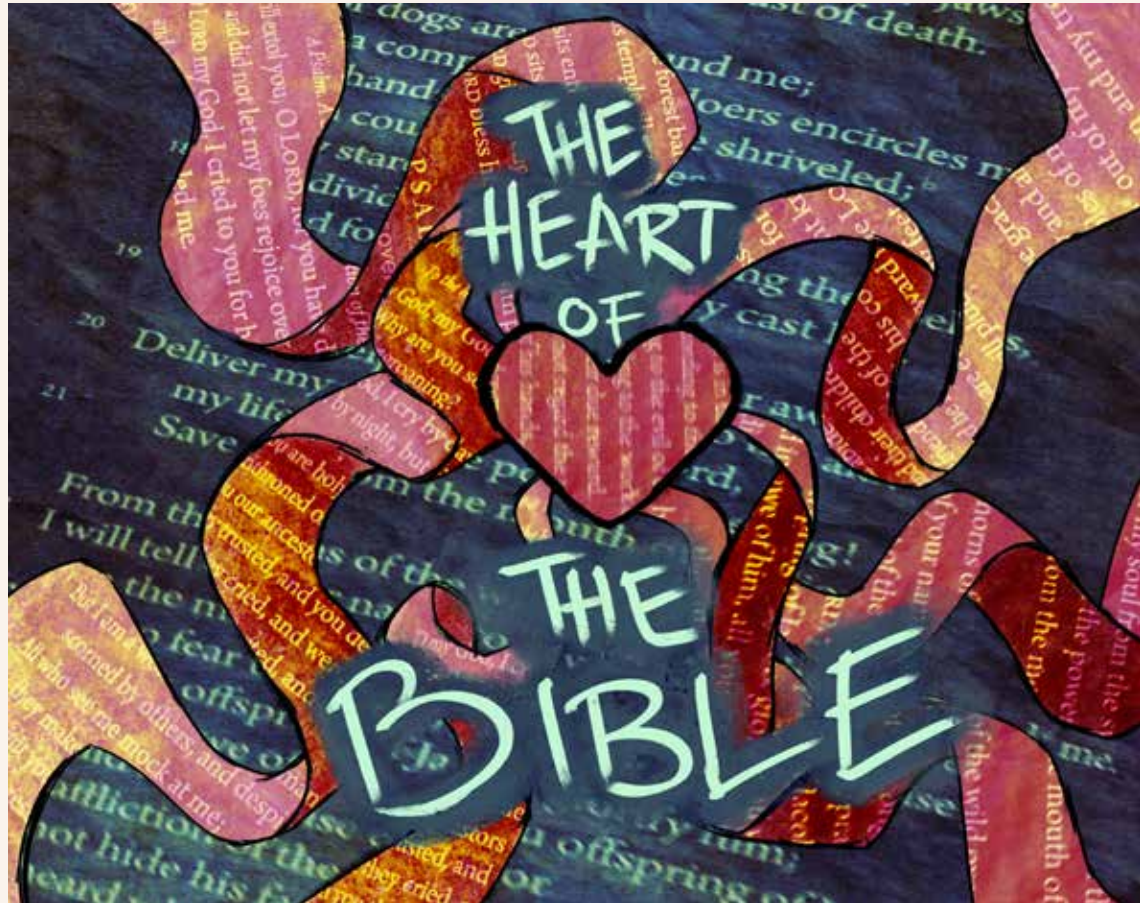
NOTE: Small group meeting rules will apply, which means that there will be room for twenty people – no more, so sign up soon!

In addition to the in-person setting, we will also be offering Lifelines via Zoom at the same time. We will set up multiple cameras and microphones in Fellowship Hall so that those who attend from home can see and hear both the teacher and those who are in attendance. More, using the projector and sound system in Fellowship Hall, the Zoom meeting will be projected on the large screen so that those in-person can see and hear from folks at home.

This will be a bit of a hybrid, holy experiment, and we hope that you will join us.

For the eleven weeks running up to Advent (September 13 through November 22), our Lifelines classes will be an in-depth introduction to and engagement of the Book of Psalms.

That course is titled, “The Heart of the Bible,” because the Book of Psalms is, both literally and figuratively, at the



center of the Scriptures. What is more, the Psalms give us situations and language that help us to hold our emotions and our faith together; they give voice to our joys and to our sorrows, help us to sing praise and to utter question and complaint; and they make up, as Martin Luther famously remarked:

. . . a precious and beloved book, if for no other reason than this: it promises Christ's death and resurrection so clearly—and pictures his kingdom and the condition and nature of all Christendom—that it might well be called a little Bible. In it is comprehended most beautifully and briefly everything that is in the entire Bible.”

Join us, in-person or online, as we study the Psalms together, and are fed for our lives of faith.



QUESTIONS FOR KAREN WALHOF

BY ELAINE MATYI

1 WHAT EXPERIENCE IN YOUR LIFE INFLUENCED YOUR INTEREST IN HELPING OTHERS?

My baptism. I didn't know it then, but that's where it all begins – when we are made children of God, brothers and sisters in Christ.

2 WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST MISSION/OUTREACH EXPERIENCE?

In college I occasionally helped serve in a nearby “soup kitchen.” My initial reaction was not loving and positive. I was moved when I saw how hungry the people were, but for me it was not a pleasant task. Then, when I produced a video for the American Lutheran Church in the '80s for their Momentum for Mission campaign, we visited several outreach ministries around the country. I was struck each time by the delight of those who served, even as they waded into the confusion, need, and desperation of the people who came. I saw that it was joy to serve others in Christ's name. I heard again and again how God had called them to this work! It opened my eyes and my heart.

3 HOW LONG HAVE YOU SERVED AS DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH, AND HOW HAS THE JOB EVOLVED OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS?

I started in this role in 2012. Responsibilities which were scattered then have been consolidated. But the great joy is that, increasingly, some Good Shepherd members have claimed a specific ministry and then have committed to serve there on an ongoing basis. It's wonderful to build a team, support each other, feel at home with it, and grow together!



4 IN WHICH OUTREACH MINISTRIES IS GOOD SHEPHERD CURRENTLY INVOLVED, AND HOW HAS OUR INVOLVEMENT CHANGED DURING THE CURRENT PANDEMIC?

The list is long. (See the sidebar on the right.) Although the pandemic has forced us to change how we serve others, it has not stopped us. I am so grateful for the bold volunteers who have given their time and energy, protected by face masks and empowered by the Spirit, to be the hands of Christ. And the situation keeps changing! So, another important role during this pandemic is walking with our mission partners through the uncertainty and changes they continue to face.

5 MANY OF US ARE HUNKERED DOWN AT HOME RIGHT NOW. HOW CAN WE BE INVOLVED IN OUTREACH WHILE ISOLATED? AND HOW CAN FAMILIES BE INVOLVED?

There are two ways, both powerful and effective: First, continue your giving to Good Shepherd. The benevolence money identified in the budget pays for these ministries. This work cannot happen without your financial gifts.

Second, pray for those who do go out to serve. For example, on the first and third Saturdays of every month, at 10:30 a.m., pray for those who are assembling boxes of food at Camden Promise. On the second Saturday at 8:30 a.m., pray for those who gather to renovate metro-area homes with Urban Homeworks. Watch the calendar on the Good Shepherd website. I can't tell you the power of knowing that individuals are praying while we work! And please, let me know that you are praying for us. I'd love to share that with our volunteers.

6 WHAT OUTREACH MINISTRIES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE GOOD SHEPHERD EXPAND IN THE COMING MONTHS/YEAR?

First, we need to find new and effective ways to reach out to our neighbors and invite them into our community of faith!

Next, I'm intrigued by the micro-financing and/or mentoring possibilities we might explore in Ethiopia, Uruguay, and on Lake Street in Minneapolis. We have people with great business expertise and success at Good Shepherd. How might they use their talents to help others develop businesses and improve their lives?

Then, my heart is deeply invested in our Ethiopian brothers and sisters. When the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted, I want to bring together local organizations involved in Ethiopia, so we can better share successful experiences and strategies, work together on common interests, encourage one another, and learn from each other. Several congregations in our area have established ministries in Ethiopia, and many Ethiopian-immigrant congregations are eager to be in conversation and action with ministry partners. How can we be more effective and efficient together?

7 DO SOME MINISTRIES NEED ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS?

We have had difficulty serving Loaves & Fishes at times in the past, specifically when the Boy Scouts stopped volunteering and several longtime volunteers retired. During Covid-19, we only need eight people there, and faithful workers have stepped up.

I certainly recognize that not everyone can expose themselves to the general public because of their own health issues, but I am grateful for the fearless ones who continue to help faithfully. Post-Covid-19, we'll need to encourage additional volunteer involvement.

8 YOU'VE BEEN VERY INVOLVED IN GOOD SHEPHERD'S RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR FRIENDS IN ETHIOPIA. HOW MANY TRIPS HAVE YOU MADE TO ETHIOPIA? WHAT HAS THE EXPERIENCE TAUGHT YOU?

I've made five trips to Ethiopia. I *love* God's people there! Two specific experiences come to mind:

First, when we were in Aira during our initial trip, the elders (council members) at Lalo Aira Congregation invited us to pray with them. We knelt at the altar, and they placed their hands on us while one began to pray. All the time she prayed, the other elders ran their hands over our backs and shoulders, "kneading" like bread the prayer into us. We did not understand a word that was said, but we knew that God was there. Something was happening beyond our well-thought-out plans. It was holy ground.

Remember when Moses was herding sheep and he saw the burning bush? God told him it was holy ground. Then God called Moses to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt. We were assisting with agricultural projects and girls' education and care of orphaned children, and then God surprised us with brothers and sisters to love. And that has changed our life as a congregation.

Second, we witnessed several baptisms at the beginning of a worship service while there. When we stood by the font to be welcomed, it struck me that, though we had started this global mission adventure intending to help "them," there really is no "them." There's only "us" – God's people. Different faces, different places, different life experiences – but the same Lord who redeems us, the same faith that gives our lives meaning and purpose, the same baptism that binds us together as family. That realization took my breath away as I stood there. It shapes my life now.



9 WHAT BRINGS YOU JOY? HOW DO YOU SPEND YOUR FREE TIME?

Reading always has been a delight for me. Now that I've sold my publishing house, I have time to read all kinds of books; my favorite is history.

During Covid-19 restrictions this spring and summer, I have had the great joy of spending a lot of time with my niece's daughter, Elena, who is nine years old. We have investigated the length of the Mississippi in the metro area, explored Stillwater and the St. Croix, biked in various areas of the city, created artwork with Elena serving as the instructor, and more. She's fun, she's interested in many things, we share a common ethos, and she keeps me on my toes.

10 WHAT QUESTION DID YOU HOPE TO ANSWER THAT I FORGOT TO ASK?

I think that may be cheating, Elaine. But try this: "Why would (or should) I be involved in Good Shepherd's outreach ministries?"

Here's my response: Because God calls us to care for our neighbors – especially those who are poor, wounded, and in need of our assistance. I love Martin Luther's quote: "God doesn't need your good works. Your neighbor does." That sums it up for me. Plus, just as the Good Samaritan didn't question who needed his help, but bandaged the traveler's wounds and paid for his ongoing care, so we are called to selfless, loving, persistent service, without judging those we serve.

Noting that salvation is God's gift and not anything we earn, Pastor Jacobson likes to quote Dr. Gerhard Forde: "What are you going to do, now that you don't have to do anything?" Good question. Here's my simplest answer: Proclaim the good news. Care for the neighbor.

Outreach Ministries at Good Shepherd

FEEDING OUR BROTHERS & SISTERS

Bread for the World
Camden Promise Food Shelf
Camden Promise Hot Dog Dinners
Camden Promise Parking Lot "Sale"
Community Emergency Services
Feed My Starving Children
Loaves & Fishes
Meals on Wheels
Simpson Shelter

HOSTING FAMILIES

Families Moving Forward
LSS Homeless Youth

REPAIRING HOMES

Urban Homeworks

BEING A FRIEND

Christmas Giving Tree
Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota
Plymouth Christian Youth Center
The Quilters

OUR GLOBAL RELATIONSHIPS

ELCA Global & Domestic Mission
ELCA World Hunger Ethiopia
Aira Hospital
Ethiopian Evangelical Church
Mekane Yesus

Lalo Aira Congregation
Mekane Yesus Seminary
Onesimus Nesib Seminary
REAL Scholarships
Global Health Ministries
Luther Seminary Global Student Scholarship
Uruguay - Nuestro Salvador
Young Adults In Global Mission

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS

Halloween on Ewing

Outreach Ministries Continue with Adjustments

BY KAREN WALHOF, DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH MINISTRY

Although we have had to make some modifications in the way we have worked with our companions in ministry, people from Good Shepherd have continued to serve others throughout the spring and summer, in the face of Covid-19. We will maintain that approach in the fall.

The coronavirus situation has required that we be nimble and responsive to the always-changing requirements of each ministry and state health guidelines. And though those changes have brought confusion at times, we all have been blessed as we learn new ways of working together and develop increasing trust with our partners.

Because organizations are ever vigilant in trying to keep the people they serve safe, access to those we serve has been modified, with protocols developed to reduce personal contact.

Some ministries, especially those offering food to our neighbors, have become even more important during the pandemic. So many people have lost jobs and suddenly face reduced incomes. And families still must be fed! Camden Promise, for example, has worked hard to reach out even farther than ever before.

Although continuing changes in how we work together can be frustrating or seem limiting, we recognize that it is important to walk with our ministry partners during this troubled time, through the confusion, offering our support and our prayers as we continually move toward a different reality.



Walt & Gini Polley and Deb Ellsworth have been at Camden Promise every month!

Obviously, some faithful Good Shepherd members have not been able to continue serving as they have in the past because of health challenges. We miss the teams that had developed and long for the day we all can work together again. And, we are so grateful for volunteers who have continued to work on site, serving with our

partners to help people in need. Great thanks to them for their consistent work, observing appropriate distances, armed with face masks and gloves, continuing to be the hands of Christ. Sometimes it allows you to see friends who have been away for a time – Dave Matyi and Gaby Brussa joined us at Camden Promise in August! We packed boxes of food together and welcomed them back on a hot, humid Saturday morning.



Dave Matyi & Gaby Brussa are behind those masks, packing boxes of food at Camden Promise. Welcome back to Good Shepherd!

Here's a look at specific outreach ministries and how our interaction continues, though modified, since March:

CAMDEN PROMISE FOOD SHELF

Rather than inviting shoppers into the food shelf in the building, we assemble boxes of food outside that people may pick up.

CAMDEN PROMISE HOT DOG DINNERS

We have served hot dog dinners in June and July again this year. We have not had nearly as many diners as in past years, as people are sequestering themselves at home.

CAMDEN PROMISE PARKING LOT "SALE"

The third annual Camden Promise Parking Lot "Sale" was held on Saturday, August 15. On the two previous days we accepted donations in the Good Shepherd parking lot. People were generous, and it was such fun to greet friends after so much time apart!

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SERVICES

Food for Community Emergency Services (CES) has typically been collected on first Sundays of the month. However, since we have not come together for worship, we have not gathered donations since March. We are going to start again! On the first Sunday



Volunteers (l-r) Debbie Anderson, Tim Matyi, Bob Stein, Chuck & Nancy Liddy, Karen Walhof, JoAnn Newland, and Elaine Matyi packaged food at Loaves & Fishes. John Chrisney helped prepare it.

of each month (beginning in September), bring your donations to Good Shepherd's parking lot between 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. We'll be happy to see you! Russ Fystrom has volunteered once again to deliver the food collected to CES. Their clients need our help!

ETHIOPIA - AIRA HOSPITAL

The Ethiopian government informed Aira Hospital that it was required to establish an evaluation center where people with Covid-19 symptoms can be monitored. If patients are diagnosed with the coronavirus there, they then are moved to a hospital in Nekemte, a nearby city. Aira Hospital decided that they would set up the Covid-19 center on the Onesimus Nesib Seminary campus, so the hospital could continue to care for all other patients. They also identified educating people about the virus as crucial. However, the government did not provide financial assistance to the hospital for protective equipment or training supplies. The Good Shepherd Foundation provided a grant of \$10,000 for Aira Hospital to purchase needed masks and gowns, prepare the seminary for patients, and provide training through their clinics about the virus. Thank you, Foundation directors, for your generous and life-saving gift! Our ministry partners at Global Health Ministries also provided a \$5,000 grant for this purpose.

FAMILIES MOVING FORWARD

Families Moving Forward (FMF), managed by Beacon Interfaith Housing, has been a ministry of our church for 20-plus years. The way FMF hosts families has had to change because of Covid-19.

Emma Coleman, Good Shepherd FMF coordinator, tells us that "families have been housed in hotels since April in order to ensure their safety as well as the safety of volunteers. FMF families will stay in hotels through September, with congregations resuming hosting in October (fingers crossed!), so our hosting week of September 20 will look different."

Looking toward the September hosting week, Emma says, "We are being asked to provide all breakfast supplies and a hot dinner at the hotel for Friday and Saturday. As the week approaches, we will need those supplies as well a few volunteers to help serve the dinners, so stay tuned for a list of donations and signups in September!"

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Mark Halvorson has been in touch with Feed My Starving Children. He tell us that "all mobile packs have been cancelled through the end of February 2021." We will continue to see how we might support that ministry. *We will miss that week of packing in January!*

LOAVES & FISHES

We prepare hot food, put it into take-out containers, add milk, bread, carrots, and apples, bag it all, then share it with those who come. It's a difficult and confusing time for homeless or sheltered people.

MEALS ON WHEELS

We continue to deliver food to our homebound neighbors, with meals for all five days delivered on Mondays and Thursdays.

REFRESHMENTS & RESTROOMS

The Edina Art Fair has now been cancelled for 2020. We'll welcome fairgoers again in 2021.

SIMPSON HOUSING

We collected personal health supplies last month for Simpson guests. Thank you. They are so necessary and greatly appreciated!

URBAN HOMEWORKS

Because work is primarily inside houses, it was suspended March through July. Our team was back at it in August though!

We continue to serve our neighbors. It's been a challenging and eye-opening journey this year. But that's life in the Kingdom!

Wednesday U Adult Education: Leaving the Building to Learn and Grow

BY PASTOR ELISE POKEL

I couldn't be more excited for Wednesday evenings! First of all, I'll finally have a reason to know that it's a Wednesday. This fall, we will be focusing on the intersection of study and service. We will be hearing faithful and diverse voices from all over the Twin Cities. On certain Saturdays, there will be service or devotional opportunities that will tie in to our discussions from Wednesday. (Whoa! You'll actually need to know when it is Saturday AND when it is Wednesday.)

Our theme this fall is "Church Has Left the Building." What a perfect time to get out into our beloved city and create new and deeper friendships! (With proper social distancing guidelines in place.)

In the season of Advent, we'll be looking at Mary's song, the Magnificat, verse by verse. Andy Pokel has some special music in the works that we will get to hear each Wednesday as we reflect on such a powerful piece of Scripture.

We will be gathering via Zoom with a small group of people meeting in-person in the Fellowship Hall. Mark Halvorson and Pastor Jacobson are working on a fancy way to have a "Zoom wall" projected so that everyone will be able to see one another.

I can't wait to experience a wonderful fall with you. Check out our schedule at right.

Wednesday U & Service Saturdays

Saturday, September 5

Camden Promise

Wednesday, September 9

Lamentations 1 & 2

Meeting the Funeral Singer and Daughter Zion: Learning to Protest.

A conversation with Courtney Green, activist and mom, and Kyle Parsons, equity and inclusion organizer



Saturday, September 12

Prayer Caravan
Locations TBA

Wednesday, September 16

Lamentations 3

The Strong Man: Learning to Persist

Saturday, September 19

A Visit to Camden Promise

Wednesday, September 23

Lamentations 4

The Scoffer: Choosing Investment Instead
Getting skin in the game

Wednesday, September 30

Lamentations 5

Voices of the Community:

Holding Together

*A conversation with Lutheran Social Services
Pastor Paul Slack & Pastor Julie Wright*



Saturday, September 26

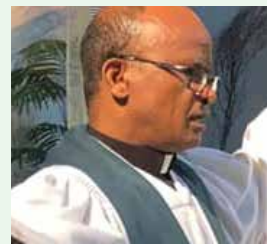
Housing & Homelessness Prayer Caravan
Locations TBA

Wednesday, October 7

Acts 8:26-40

St. Philip and the Ethiopian Convert
Who are the Oromo People?

*A conversation with Pastor Wondimu Legesse,
pastor at Our Redeemer Oromo Congregation
and Ph.D. student at Luther Seminary*



Saturday, October 10

Celebrating Our Ethiopian Neighbors
Injera and coffee break via Zoom

POUR OUT YOUR HEART LIKE WATER BEFORE THE P

Wednesday, October 14

2 Samuel 6; Psalm 150

Dancing Before the Lord in Difficult Days

A conversation with

Beverly Tipton Hammond



Saturday, October 17

Distanced Liturgical Dancing with Beverly

At Camden Promise parking lot

Wednesday, October 21

2 Kings 4: Elisha Feeds 100

The Story of Camden Promise and Loaves & Fishes

A conversation with

Karen Walhof and friends

November 4

Hope in a Time of Hurt

A conversation with Joe Davis, artist & activist



November 11

Hope in a Time of Hurt

A conversation with

Pastor Kelly Sherman-Conway



November 18

Hope in a Time of Hurt: Daniel 10

A conversation with Dr. Michael Chan



November 25

No Wednesday night meeting

(Thanksgiving Eve)

December 2 – Luke 1:46-48

“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.”

December 9 – Luke 1:48b-50

“Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.”

December 16 – Luke 1:51

“He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.”

December 23 – Luke 1:52-53

“He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.”

December 30 – Luke 1:54-55

“He has helped his servant, Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and his descendants forevermore.”



I am one who has seen affliction under the rod of God’s wrath; he has driven and brought me into darkness without any light; against me alone he turns his hand, again and again, all day long. . . .

He has made my teeth grind on gravel, and made me cower in ashes; my soul is bereft of peace;

I have forgotten what happiness is; so I say, “Gone is my glory, and all that I had hoped for from the Lord.” . . .

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. . . .

You came near when I called on you; you said, “Do not fear!” You have taken up my cause, O Lord, you have redeemed my life.

PRESENCE OF THE LORD. Lamentations 2:19

FROM LAMENTATIONS 3

Youth Ministries - Fun, Flexible, Faithful

BY MARK HALVORSON, DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

Looking at the upcoming months, the back-to-school advertising, fall calendars, and schedules surely seem different this time around. It feels odd that we've missed so many of the things that lead up to this season.

There were no vans of students heading up to the Boundary Waters to paddle and portage. Likewise we didn't caravan south for a week of home repair in ministry deep in the Appalachian hollers. We did not get to cross paths in the narthex or the courtyard before or after summer worship. We missed out on movie nights and games of dodgeball and worshipping at the bandshell.

Summer was different, so of course the turn into fall feels different as well. All that being said, we did remain and grow as a community. Through email, text, and Zoom, by dropping off donations for the Simpson Shelter and Camden Promise, we got to see each other from safe distances and were reminded and assured of how we are still connected in this strange time.

Normally this would be the article about the Rally Day open house in the youth area and how families should pack that room to hear about all the on-site and retreat opportunities that await. There's a little bit of that still, but as you know, this fall will look different. Here's how we are going to partner with families and seek to share times of learning and fellowship and laughter together in the months to come.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMMING

Students entering grades 6-8

This fall Good Shepherd will have its own hybrid version of confirmation (middle school ministry) programming. Each week we will post a toolkit that can be used by families to facilitate conversations and prayer and service projects, and explore scripture.

In addition we will stay connected through email, text, snail mail, smoke signal, and phone calls to remain in community as these new months unfold.



Lastly, we'll plan a socially distanced driveway meetup with each of our students to be able to talk and check in and stay connected.

Ninth grade students are invited to affirm their baptismal vows this fall as planned. (Well, kinda as planned.)

Ninth grade students and families are invited to an on-site confirmation planning session on Sunday, September 13, at 11:00 a.m. We will meet in the courtyard or the Fellowship Hall, weather dependent. We will use that time to talk about what we have learned and how, in the midst of all of this uncertainty, we can still cling to our faith and walk together as these young adults affirm their baptisms later this fall.



HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

Students entering grades 9-12

We're going to need to be a little flexible on this, but here's the plan for now: Starting on Wednesday, September 16, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at church, we are going to gather as a high school youth group. If the weather cooperates we will meet in the courtyard, if not we will use the Fellowship Hall. Information will be shared with you about how we are going to do this safely, but for now that's our plan - so mark calendars and set reminders.

As this fall progresses, if we have more flexibility, we hope to be able to participate in service projects with both Feed My Starving Children and the Simpson Shelter, continue our blessing bags assembly, and find new ways to keep the discussion about our faith front and center.

We'll do these things safely, with precautions, masks, and hazmat suits as needed. For now this is the hope and plan. As situations or regulations shift or require us to change course, we will keep you updated. Look for some more specific emails and information about these programs, sent directly to families and posted to the Good Shepherd website.



JONAH: Is It Right for You to Be Angry?

BY PASTORAL INTERN DUSTIN HAIDER

I asked Aislynn what her favorite Bible story was. With a grin on her face she said, “Jonah.” To be fair, she is right, this story has everything! It has a cowardly saint of a prophet. Faithful sailors. Miraculous salvation. It shows us how caring God is toward all people. Most importantly, it has a big fish.

Most people remember the middle part of the story, where Jonah gets saved from the big fish. But the part important for us today is the part after the fish. Jonah preaches God’s word to Nineveh, and they repent! Praise be to God, right? Well, Jonah isn’t too happy. How often do we despise others for getting good things when we don’t think they deserve it? Way more than we should. God asks Jonah a question that we should answer for ourselves too: “Is it right for you to be angry?”

This isn’t to say that we shouldn’t be angry with what we see going on around us. God never tells Jonah not to be angry. But it does seem that God is encouraging Jonah to be more than just angry. Be angry, but consider things from a different perspective than your own and see how it matches with the anger you feel. This advice is good for us to consider today as we struggle for justice at the intersection of a pandemic, racial tension, political unrest, and a list that goes on and on. We should be angry, but we can’t *only* be angry. We struggle to help make the world more just

for those being oppressed, and get disheartened because we don’t seem to make a difference. The problems seem too big. I want to write that we are making a difference, but the message from God in Jonah isn’t to answer the question – instead God asks another one. Perhaps we can relate to the uncertainty of not having a clear answer. Whether we have an answer or not, God calls us to work toward justice for our neighbors.

Aislynn told me she likes the story of Jonah because it is silly. She likes him getting eaten by a fish and then saved. I like the story too; it is a serious story wrapped up in silliness. We may not remember all of the ins and outs of the story, but the silliness helps us remember the most important parts. We remember that Jonah needed a second chance to do what was right, and we often need that second chance too. When we don’t have clear and easy answers, it can be easy to make a mistake and need the grace and forgiveness of a second chance. In that second chance, we see God reaching down into the depths of the sea (and the depths of a fish) to save a person God has claimed as God’s own. Likewise, God continues to reach down and provide salvation through Christ. Each day we find ourselves caught in the anger of sin and doubt. And each day we are called to live in Christ through our baptism and asked the question: Is it right for you to be angry?



Jonah Under
His Gourd

Painting by
Maarten van
Heemskerck
(1498-1574)

Exploring the Present, Celebrating the Past

BY PASTORAL INTERN DUSTIN HAIDER

I am grateful for this time to think about and work on the ministries of our church in different ways. I feel blessed that the congregation wants to experience worship in different ways. I am excited to continue my learning by preaching more regularly and continuing to help with education and pastoral care, while getting more involved in confirmation.

For the fall, I am hoping to do a few extra things that will enrich the community we continue to create together:

WORSHIP WATCH-PARTIES

I hope to begin hosting some worship watch-parties. Even though we may not be able to join together as a large group, we can still join together over Zoom and create a sense of togetherness in worship. We can worship together! We can join our voices in the responsive parts of our liturgy. We can add our own prayers to the prayers of the church. We can spend time talking about the sermon. And most importantly, we can share in the Lord's Supper together. We hear the promise every week, and now we can share the promise with our church family. Be watching your email to RSVP!



SPIRITUAL PRACTICES AND COMMUNITY

I am curious about the ways that spiritual practices can deepen the relationships we have with each other and with our God. Whether it is joining in prayer, engaging a piece of art, or meditating and responding to scripture, we can grow together as a community in experiencing God. I am hoping to gather some courageous people

who are interested in deepening their own spiritual lives. By joining together in these practices, we enrich the lives of each other and have our own lives enriched as well.

In these times of limited physical exposure, my hope is that we are each able to find a practice that is deeply meaningful and enriching. In these kinds of experiences, we become more aware of the ways that God shows up in our lives and are better able to see the way that God is present in others and in the world around us.



INTERNSHIP PROJECT: 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Finally, my internship project. As Good Shepherd is nearing its 100-year anniversary, it is important for us to celebrate and reflect on all of the gifts God has provided to us! My internship project will be to have people share stories about their experiences at Good Shepherd and talk about grace-filled ways we are called to live out our Christian identity in our community. My prayer is that this will help us celebrate the wonderful impact we continue to have on our community and help us listen to the ways that God continues to call to us.



The Hands of Christ at Work

2020 CAMDEN PROMISE PARKING LOT “SALE”

BY KAREN WALHOF, DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH MINISTRY

The third annual Camden Promise Parking Lot “Sale” was held Saturday, August 15. Good Shepherd people stepped up with a great quantity of donations, others accepted donations in our parking lot on Thursday and Friday, a team helped set up the sale, and tended it.

We collected donations in the Good Shepherd parking lot for two days. The bonus was seeing so many friends once again



– no hugs, but great fun! We filled a 16-foot truck, a cargo van, a car, and two SUVs with household items; clothing for kids, women, men, babies, and toddlers; toys, books, and games; and a lot of other stuff.

Saturday morning we set up the sale in just over an hour, so shoppers could dive in at 10:00 a.m. And they were voracious shoppers! I was a bit taken aback at the intensity, especially at the beginning of the sale. They began filling boxes and bags with an urgency that was stunning. We trust they found things they needed – things that will make their lives easier, happier, more beautiful, and blessed.



One woman said to me, “I just need to find some queen sheets! And there they were – a new set of cream-colored sheets that fit the bill. I heard

another woman say to a friend, “I got a microwave! Now you’ll have to show me how it works.” A teacher cradled a small box of children’s books like it was a great treasure.

Around noon, one young teen biked up, picked out a suit for his dad and several t-shirts for himself as Cathy Mooney helped find appropriate sizes and styles. When he wheeled off, he was carrying a suit, three ties, and several t-shirts!

A woman came to pick up boxes of food at noon. When invited to shop, she said, “But I don’t have any money.” When she learned it was free, she went to work, carefully shopping for nearly an hour. At the end, she had three bags of clothes and some shoes. She said, “Thank you so much! I have three daughters who need clothes. They will be so happy!”

Another woman wanted a high chair and one of the baby walkers there, but she didn’t think they would fit into her vehicle. She didn’t know our ingenuity! We stowed them in her car, along with her granddaughter and her boxes of food.

When we packed up at 2:00, there were two boxes of clothes for Camden’s staff to distribute, along with several men’s shirts and suits on hangers. Because the Clothes Closet is not open now, and we don’t know when it will open, we packaged the remaining clothing and shoes to go to Goodwill. I gathered one small box of housewares to keep for next year. Cathy Mooney collected the good games, toys, and books remaining. And it was done.

Thanks to everyone who donated so many wonderful things. Thanks to those who worked at Good Shepherd and at Camden Promise. Thanks for your prayers as we worked. Thanks be to God for the perfect weather – and for bringing us so many brothers and sisters to love and serve.

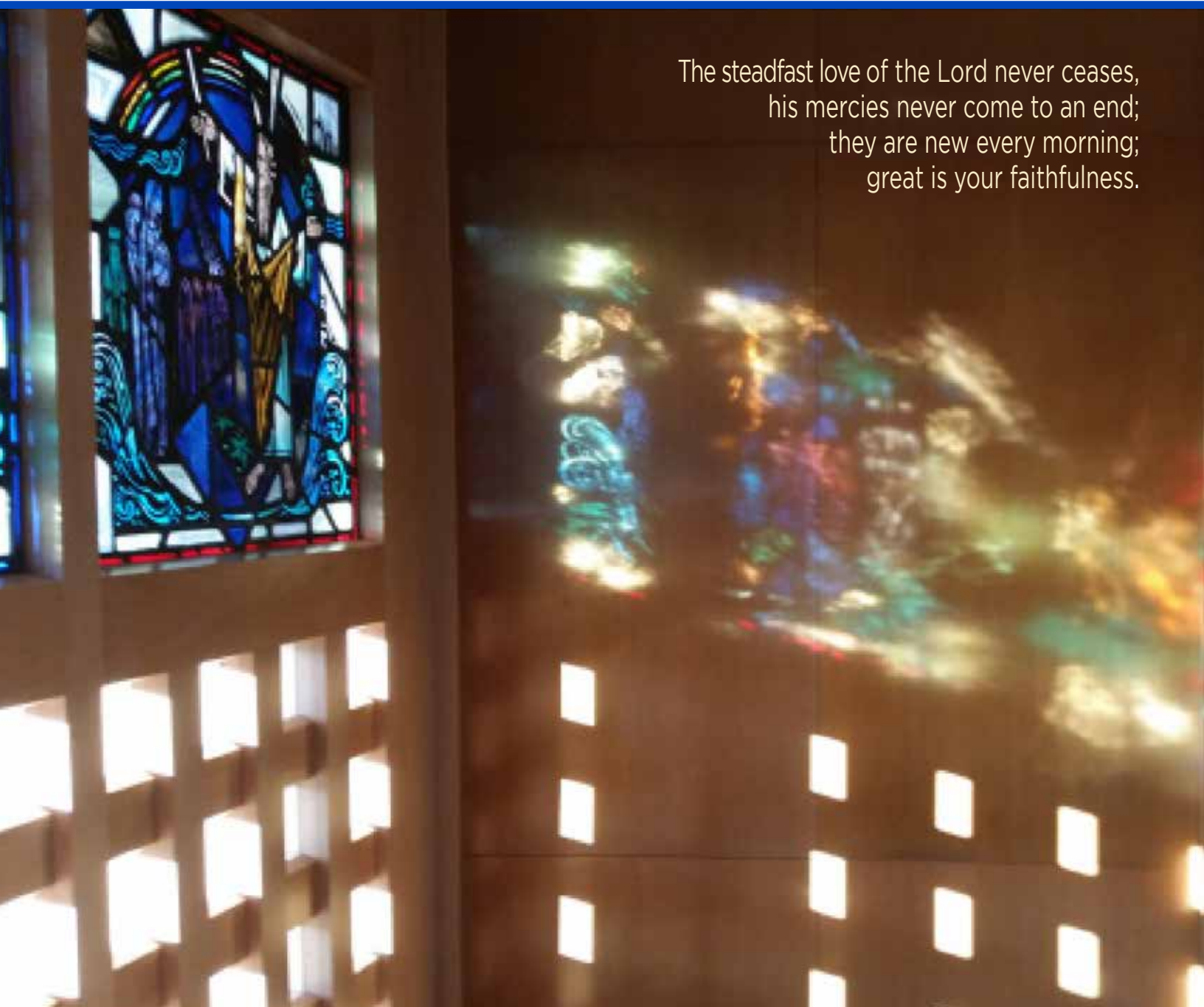
Thanks. It’s a word we heard often at the sale.





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The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.