

TOGETHER



Skipping Round Stones
and Following Jesus

FAITH THAT WORKS

WORSHIP: SUNDAY,
WEDNESDAY, ONLINE!

SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL BE
A HYBRID APPROACH

CAMDEN PROMISE CLOTHES
CLOSET IS TRANSFORMED

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AUGUST 2021



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SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship with Communion onsite at 10:00 a.m. every Sunday and online at goodshepherdmpls.org

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ON THE COVER:
Skipping round stones. Photo by Walt Polley.

TOGETHER



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

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD: FAITH THAT WORKS

As I write this letter, we are surging towards the Fall – both in terms of how the days are flying past and as we are experiencing more and more cases and complications due to the virus. We are planning for a full Fall of worship and education and service and joy in our life together, and we will make adjustments as necessary along the way.

It will be good to be back.

I have been thinking a great deal this summer about what coming back will look like. Have people's patterns changed in major ways? Will comfort levels with COVID and church gatherings keep some away? Will new habits have replaced the old ones? Will the church have the same place in our lives as it did 17 months ago, or have other things taken its place?

All of these are possible, of course, and understandable. But I have a suspicion that as the fall begins, what we will see most is hunger – hunger to be together, hunger to worship and sing and learn and serve, hunger to be the people of God. Just what that will look like, who knows? But that hunger for the Word, for our shared life, for the well-being of this world in which we live, will need feeding. And this is what we are all about.

We don't want to be, and don't need to be, the same congregation we were 17 months ago.

We don't want to be, and don't need to be, the same congregation we were 17 months ago. We have a chance to come back together and be the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd that our neighborhoods and families, friends and strangers need. And that is exciting.

I do wonder what this Fall and this year ahead of us will bring. But I take comfort in what Jesus said, in a little different context. About his second coming, Jesus said,

“about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father” (Mark 13:32).

What tomorrow brings, we cannot know either. But, with faith, hope, and love as our foundation, we can be aware, keep alert, and be ready for whatever comes our way.

Blessings to you and yours as the program years for church and school take off. May God bless the days ahead of you richly. In Jesus' name. . . .

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

Surviving Survival: What Happens Next?

As I write this, the Delta variant continues to stymie and upend the reopening process. Care facilities are going back into lock-down. School boards are debating mask mandates and best practices for what will be the third school year impacted by COVID. It feels like we're slipping backwards into what was before. Before we had vaccines. Before we had information about the virus. Before when we were washing our groceries. Before when we stayed home and missed out on family and community milestones.

The Israelites knew a thing or two about recurring difficulties. The Assyrians, a terrifying empire based in what is now northern Iraq, destroyed the northern kingdom of Israel. Then, the Babylonians destroyed the holy city of Jerusalem and scattered the southern kingdom of Judah to the four winds. The Persians defeated the Babylonians and let some of the Judahite survivors return home to their ruins. The exiles never reached the pinnacle of their former lives and kingdoms. No kings. No independence. They rebuilt their temple and tried to move forward with what they had. The Greeks eventually came to power, outlawing Judaism. There was a period of deep unrest and revolt. Then the Romans came to power. They introduced crucifixion and eventually destroyed the holy city of Jerusalem once again.

The Israelites took hit after hit against their tiny kingdom. The Hebrew Scriptures highlight the unimaginable pain, despair, and helplessness that come from being a defeated people. The Bible is an honest book when it comes to the depth and breadth of human suffering.

And somehow, we have been gifted with hopeful, miraculous, grace-filled texts from these same sufferers. This is why the Bible

endures and all the ancient texts about human power and victory died along with their empires.

We have a God who holds the pieces when we are shattered – a God who was shattered himself. We have a God who speaks mercy and love when we are shocked into silence. We have a God who draws near when we are isolated. Who reminds us that he holds our lives and futures in his capable hands when we realize we have no control. The coming months will require grit, humility, and decency in bigger portions than we might feel we have available in us. But our Savior leads us on the way, and the Holy Spirit is chomping at the bit to give us more and more gifts. We live in a gifted community exactly so that we can carry one another through the shadows.

Throughout the Scriptures, Jewish people and Christians had their sense of purpose and identity shredded time and time again by external happenings and circumstances. Israel was destroyed by the Assyrians, so the southern kingdom of Judah took on the identity of a destroyed Israel. Judah was destroyed and sent into exile. The exiles came home only to eventually come up against the Greeks, who wanted to obliterate them. The Romans tried to terrorize both Jews and Christians out of their devotion to one God. Each time, the community had to figure out who they would be now that they had survived.

We become inheritors of a difficult history whenever we read the Bible. But what is more amazing is that we are inheritors of God-powered resilience, too.

Here are some texts from our Jewish and Christian ancestors that have carried me through difficult days lately:

Psalm 145:13b-18

¹³ The LORD is faithful in all his words,
and gracious in all his deeds.

¹⁴ The LORD upholds all who are falling,
and raises up all who are bowed down.

We live in a gifted community exactly so that we can carry one another through the shadows.



Our brother Damien with his parents, sponsors, and pastor.

- ¹⁵The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.
¹⁶You open your hand,
satisfying the desire of every living thing.
¹⁷The LORD is just in all his ways,
and kind in all his doings.
¹⁸The LORD is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.

Philippians 4:4-7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Psalms 62:8

Trust in him at all times, O people;
pour out your heart before him;
God is a refuge for us.

Isaiah 40:28-29

²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
²⁹He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.

Jesus says to dear Peter in the Gospel of Luke 22:31-32, "... but I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

Our God prays for *us*. Taking a page out of the best book, let us strengthen one another as we gather to worship our God who promises to give us his own limitless strength.

[IN OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH]

LIFE PASSAGES

BAPTISMS

DAMIEN DUANE MARTIN

BAPTIZED AUGUST 1

DEATHS

PERRY BERGLUND

JUNE 6

NEW MEMBERS

CONNIE BLOM

MIKE FOX

KATIE STROMBAUGH

YVES & LINDSAY LEEMANN,

REMY LEEMANN

KYLE & RACHEL NELSON

SKIPPING ROUND STONES: Do You Know How to Follow?

BY PASTOR KARL N. JACOBSON

Do you know how to follow Jesus?

This question is simple, but profound. Simple, but full of nuances. Simple, but important. Simple, but often unasked. This fall we will ask this question – in worship and in adult education.

When it comes to the life of faith, we can sometimes live it unreflectively, assuming that we are on the right road, that we are actively living the faith and not just observing it. This can happen in small ways and in larger ways as well.

Do you know how to follow Jesus?

It is a simple question. The Christian life is similarly simple, and yet similarly nuanced, important. If we are honest with ourselves, it is hard. Hard, because it often runs counter to what seems to make sense (think of Jesus saying, “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” or of Ephesians inviting us to know the love of God in Christ Jesus, which actually surpasses knowledge); hard, because it often looks different than the life promised by our culture and times (think, “deny yourself, take up your cross” or “those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life”); hard, but rewarding for all of its difference.

One way that I have been thinking about this is through the metaphor of skipping stones.

Every child knows that the key to skipping stones is that you need to find one that is flat, ideally smooth as well; a stone that fits well in the curve of your hand, one that you can send skimming along the surface of the water, striking parallel to it and taking flight, once, twice, three times, more. . . .

To try to skip a round stone is foolish, because it is so much harder to make it go, harder to find the little spot that can catch the water cleanly and lift off. But, if you want a challenge, if you want to fly – skip – in the face of what seems to make sense to so many, skipping the round stone brings with it the great joy.

The life that we are offered in Christ Jesus is like this. It is hard and counter to what makes sense to many; challenging to live. But the joy that it brings is incomparable.

WORSHIP: Gathering Sunday Online and in Person, Wednesday in Person

BY PASTORS KARL N. JACOBSON & ELISE POKEL

Following the theme, “Skipping Round Stones: The Challenge of Following Jesus,” we’ll be exploring texts all over Scripture that compel us to walk in the ways of Jesus, though the way ahead sometimes remains uncertain. In September, we will look at three stories that deal with hopeful, but reluctant God followers. In October, our focus will be on stewarding our lives to better serve God’s kingdom. In November, we will weigh three similar Gospel texts to gain a deeper understanding of what it means to take up our crosses and follow the Crucified One. We are so blessed to be on this path together.

On Sunday mornings, we will worship at 10 a.m. Lifelines, our adult education hour, will begin at 9 a.m. Masks will be expected for worship and education.

On Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m., we will pick up the Scripture text from the Sunday before and explore it against the backdrop of bluegrass, pop, and Gospel music. Participation during the sermon time is welcome, but not required! We will gather in our beautiful courtyard as long as weather permits.

Our Sunday worship services will be live-streamed so that our beloved members who aren’t able or comfortable joining in for in-person worship services will feel even more a part of things! If you need communion organized and brought to you, please reach out to Pastor Jacobson or Pastor Pokel. In the narthex and Heritage Parlor, the audio and video from worship will be available. If you and your family would feel more comfortable worshipping in a different part of the church on Sundays, please feel free!

We’ll see you soon for a wonderful Fall!

Follow the Leader

September 12, 15 (Rally Sunday): Mark 9:14-29
“I Believe. Help My Unbelief.”

September 19, 22: Judges 6:11-24
“The Lord Is With You, You Mighty Warrior”

September 26, 29: Psalm 51
“Restore to Me the Joy of Your Salvation”

Follow the Money (Stewardship Month)

October 3, 6: Deuteronomy 6:1-9
“So That Your Days May Be Long”

October 10, 13: Matthew 19:16-30
“But for God, All Things Are Possible”

Choir Rehearsal Schedule

Good Shepherd Choir (18 years and above) – Wednesdays, 7:40-8:40 p.m. (following worship), Sanctuary.

Cantáre (grades 7-12) – Wednesdays, 6-6:45 p.m., Choir Room.

Chorister Choir (grades 4-6) – Wednesdays, 6-6:45 p.m., Sunday School Room (or Multipurpose Room 2).

Rehearsal times and location for the **Alleluia Choir** (3 years-Kindergarten) and **Caroler Choir** (grades 1-3) to be announced. Laurie Dehmlow is retiring from her position as director of those two choirs, and we are in the process of seeking her successor.

October 17, 20: Deuteronomy 14:22-29
“In the Presence of the Lord Your God”

October 24, 27: Luke 11:37-54
“Did Not the One Who Made the Outside Make the Inside Also?”

Take Up Your Cross and Follow

November 7, 10: Mark 8:31-9:1
“For What Will It Profit Them to Gain the Whole World and Forfeit Their Life?”

November 14, 17 - Matthew 10:34-39
“Those Who Lose Their Life for My Sake Will Find It”

November 21, 24 - Luke 9:21-27
“The Son of Man Must Undergo Great Suffering”

November 28, December 1: Habakkuk 3:17-19
“Yet I Will Rejoice in the Lord”

Follow the Signs: Season of Advent

December 5, 8: Hosea 14
“They Shall Again Live Beneath My Shadow”

December 12, 15: Amos 9:11-15
“The Time is Surely Coming”

December 19, 22: Micah 2:12-15, 4:1-7, 5:2-5a
“A Strong Nation Made Up of the Weak”

December 24 (Christmas Eve): Luke 2:1-20
“Good News of Great Joy”

December 26, 29: Zechariah 9:9-12, 16-17
“For What Goodness and Beauty Are His!”

LIFELINES: Learning to Follow Jesus

BY PASTORS KARL N. JACOBSON AND ELISE POKEL

Following (sorry for the obvious reuse of that word) the themes in our worship services this Fall, Lifelines will be exploring what it means to follow Jesus.

God called people like Abraham and Sarah, Miriam and Moses to follow. Jesus called the disciples to follow. And the Spirit calls us.

The truth is that this calling that we share can be a difficult one. Do we know what it means to follow Jesus? Do we understand what it requires? Do we have what it takes? Do we really want to?

Join us for a powerful series of conversations, starting with Biblical stories and ideas, as we explore these questions and answer them together, taking up the words of the prophet Isaiah, “Here am I, send me.”

Sept. 9, 26: Do We Dare to Follow?

How our willingness to answer when God calls can change our lives and the life of the world

Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24: Following with Our Whole Selves

How our money, our time, and our unique giftedness can work together in Christ's kingdom

Oct. 31: Lutheran Followers

How the heritage of Martin Luther can help us follow Jesus

Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28: The Patterns of Prayer

How our prayer-lives shape, support and sustain us in our following Jesus

Dec. 5, 12, 19: What to Expect When We're Following

How waiting for Jesus informs the way we follow

Whoever sees
Christ as a mirror
of the Father's
heart, actually
walks through
the world with
new eyes.

MARTIN LUTHER

Worshiping Online: Learning As We Go

BY MARK HALVORSON, DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

We have learned a lot since bringing our worship services online on March 15, 2020:

- We experimented with a couple of different cameras and microphone set-ups.
- We used the sanctuary, the chapel and many other nooks and crannies throughout our building for filming, including the bell tower.
- We recorded parts of worship on the mission trip, from our homes and cabins, as well as traveling throughout the Twin Cities to record images and video for backgrounds and other parts of worship.
- We added in text for the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles Creed as well as the responsive parts of our liturgy. Kid's Time became a creative outlet to teach about the love of God through humor, games, and stories. Parable Patty joined the worship staff and brought her own flair to worship.
- We made sure to have words and music for all of the hymns. Guest musicians and preachers were as much a part of the online worship as they were when we were in person. When we returned to in-person worship in the sanctuary on June 6, 2021, we made a decision to continue creating online worship services for people who were not able or ready to join in person quite yet.

On Rally Sunday, we will transition from recorded online worship services to streaming our Sunday



morning worship service, which will remain online and accessible throughout the week.

Here are some interesting statistics of past recorded worship services from March 15 to Aug. 15, 2021:

Sunday worship services	75
Holy Week worship, Holden Evening Prayer services, Christmas worship	13
Kid's Time	73
Vacation Bible School	8
Stand-alone musical offerings	31
Confirmation material toolkit	30
Funeral services	3
Performing Arts	3

More statistics show the breadth and outreach of the recorded worship services:

Total videos uploaded	236
Total views	19,454
Total time watched:	301 days, 9 hours, 16 minutes, 36 seconds
States reached	50
Foreign countries reached	27
India, Canada, United Kingdom, Ethiopia, Mexico, Norway, Switzerland, Spain, Uruguay, Australia, Ireland, Germany, Ghana, Sweden, Hong Kong, France, Korea, South Africa, Nigeria, Puerto Rico, Netherlands, Denmark, Brazil, Greece, Taiwan, Russia, Singapore, Portugal	

Here We Go (Again)

BY MARK HALVORSON, DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

This Fall is possible partly because we didn't take a break or stop ministry during this weird time of being separated and then back together and then separated again and then online and then in person. We stayed connected to each other's lives and our lives of faith together. That strong connection is what makes it exciting to head into this Fall. We will get to do some things we weren't able to do last Fall and continue on in some of the conversations that never really stopped.

We will hold a Fall kick-off gathering for all students and parents in the courtyard (Fellowship Hall if it rains) at 9 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 12. Toss on that mask and join us for an overview of all the Fall stuff . . . like:

Worship together as a family each Sunday at 10 a.m. in person. There will be space for you. If you're not at that point yet, the worship services will be streamed at the same time and available throughout the week. So, feel free to worship together as a family in your living room wearing pajamas.



Repairing the roof of a mobile home in Appalachia

Middle School Youth Group

Each Sunday this Fall before worship, at 9 a.m., there will be a time for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders to gather for Middle School Youth Group. If you are heading into 6th or 7th or 8th grade, then this is for you. We will use the 45 minutes before worship to meet and talk about scripture, and who you are, and what makes you you, and the stuff of life and faith. This will be a fun time to gather together before worship. In addition to that Sunday morning opportunity, there will be other random events for middle school youth. We will find times to serve and play together outside of that Sunday morning time to deepen our relationships.

High School Youth Group

If you are heading into 9th or 10th or 11th or 12th grade this Fall, you have the chance every Wednesday at 7 p.m. to gather together for High School Youth Group. Week-to-week, we will laugh and lean on each other, we will play games and dig into scripture and navigate high school life together.

In addition, high school students who are interested in helping on Sunday morning – either with elementary school Sunday School or Middle School Youth Group – should get in touch with me, and we will get kids plugged in as leaders with younger students.

At this time, the MEA getaway at Camp Castaway will be happening Oct. 21-24 in Detroit Lakes. This opportunity is open to students entering 9th through 12th grade. We missed this trip last year and are hopeful that we will be able to get back up to that beautiful property for a long



Putting up a ceiling in Kentucky.



The tent is up on the Boundary Waters canoe trip

weekend of singing, laughing, building new friendships, and deepening the ones we already have.

Getting Ready for Confirmation

Lastly, since last Fall we had to pause our Confirmation service for those 9th graders (now 10th graders). We will be celebrating the day of Confirmation (affirmation of baptism) on Oct. 31, Reformation Day, at the 10 a.m. service, for students entering 9th and 10th grade this Fall. Families should have received emails already, but we will have two prep sessions for those students, parents, and sponsors to help get everyone ready for that wonderful day.

Actually, this opportunity of working with 9th and 10th grade students and families in preparation for the day of Confirmation allows us the chance to evaluate how we best prepare not just students but families, too, for that day and beyond. As we move through the next month of starting Fall programming and being able to have these really important Confirmation conversations, we will be able to think about the best way that as a congregation we can welcome middle school students into a deeper understanding of their faith, invite them and their families to own that faith more deeply, and stay involved after that decision to be active participants and leaders in their congregation.

Guide Ben Brandt and his mom Andrea, an adult leader, on the Boundary Waters trip.

Summer Youth Activities

This summer, we were able to travel back to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area wilderness and the hollers of Appalachian Kentucky. We volunteered with Vacation Bible School and began worshiping together in person.

As we move closer and closer to the start-up of Fall, it's important to remember that the ministries and things that make us Good Shepherd have not stopped. They may have looked a little different over these past months, but whether we have met online or in person, inside or outside, face-to-face or in those little zoom boxes, we are at our core Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd: a congregation of disciples young and old, committed to sharing the Gospel.



Sunday School Goes Hybrid This Fall

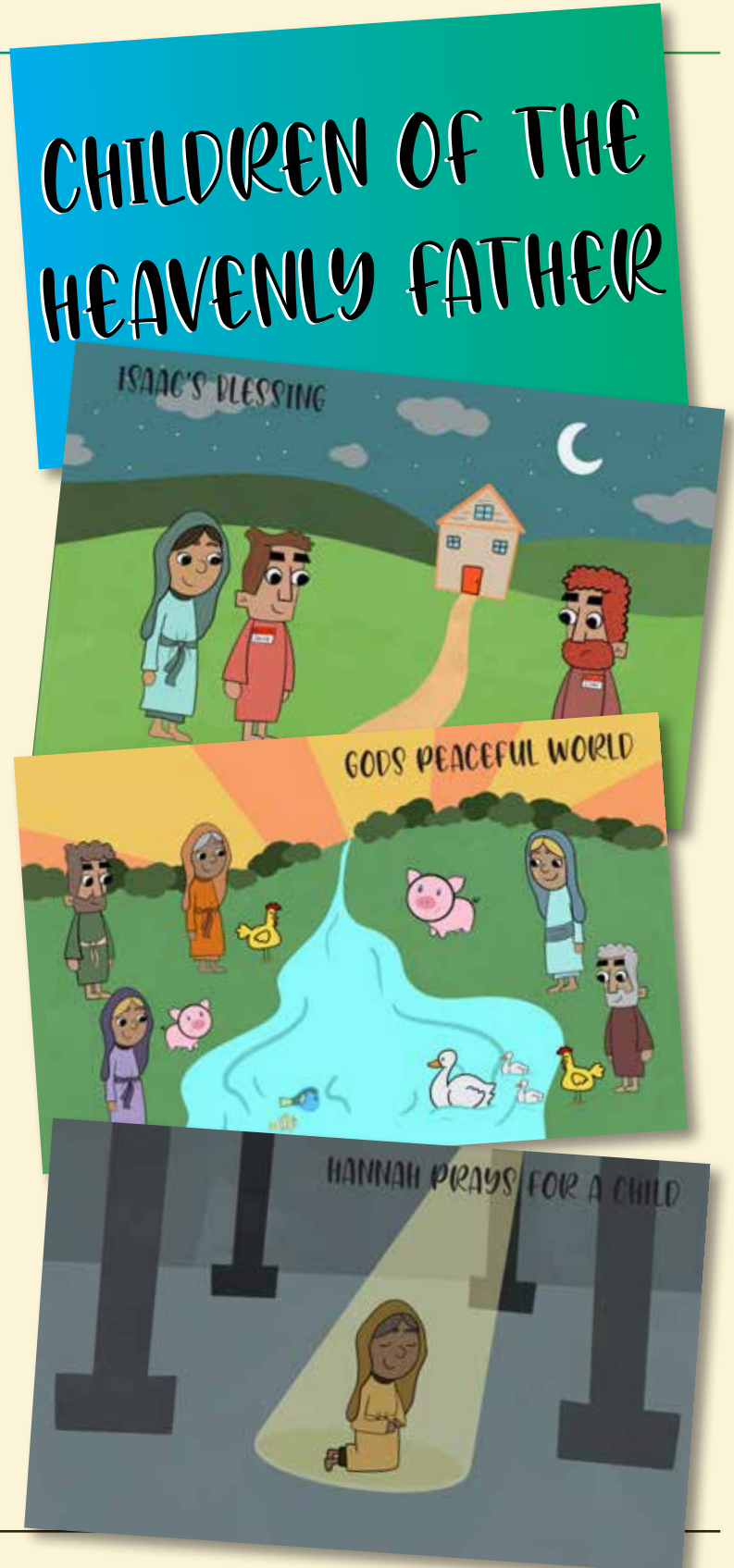
BY TOR JOHNSON, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES AND PERFORMING ARTS

Children's Ministries has been alive and kicking, in spite of the pandemic. From September 2020 through May 2021, we had weekly Zoom Sunday School classes and in June, we had in-person Vacation Bible School. This fall, we're going to be doing a hybrid version of Sunday School, using Zoom again while also being in-person with masks.

The theme for Sunday School this upcoming school year will be "Children of the Heavenly Father." We'll be focusing on stories of the Old and New Testaments that revolve around children. Stories about biblical characters such as Jeremiah, the boy Samuel, and Jesus as a child will occupy lots of our Sundays.

For the third year in a row, Mara Halvorson will create lovely thematic art work and designs for us that you will see around various parts of the church and in the Sunday School rooms.

I will be keeping everyone abreast of any changes as we enter the school and church year. In the meanwhile, if you have any questions regarding Sunday School, please contact me at tor.johnson@goodshepherdmpls.org



100 Years of Faith That Works

BY ELAINE MATYI, CHAIR
GOOD SHEPHERD 100TH ANNIVERSARY TEAM

Good Shepherd is about to celebrate 100 years of ministry, and the anniversary team has been busy planning for this milestone celebration. I'm chairing the anniversary team that consists of Linda Kerker, Nancy Liddy, Brita Taracks, Mary Zeleny Arimond, Ron Hovland, and Morgan May.

One hundred years is a good time for us to look back on the rich history of our congregation as well as celebrate the present and look forward to our future together. The 100-year anniversary date is Feb. 17, 2022, so we plan to kick off the celebration with an evening to honor our music heritage.

Throughout the year, you can anticipate special events and lots of information about our history of service, learning, and faith together. We will be digging up interesting tidbits about our church building, members, art, and service through information in the Heritage Room. We'll encourage various individuals and groups within the congregation to share their memories. In addition, ministry groups are encouraged to consider a special project to commemorate the milestone.

The celebratory worship will be held on Rally Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022, followed by lunch.

Throughout this Fall, we'll be providing detailed information as we get closer to the anniversary date.



100th Anniversary Team (l-r): Morgan May, Ron Hovland, Mary Zeleny Arimond, Brita Taracks, Elaine Matyi, Linda Kerker, Nancy Liddy



The 2011 production of "Oliver"

Holiday Musical Returns!

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

As many of you know, all performing arts activities during the pandemic took place via Zoom meetings. Though it was fun to be able to stay connected, it doesn't compare to conducting rehearsals and giving performances in person.

Thankfully, that will be changing this fall as we bring back our Fall/Holiday Musical for the first time since December 2019. Our production will be the wonderful musical, "Oliver Junior." We performed "Oliver" way back in 2011, and it's still one of my favorite musicals.

As COVID continues to rear its ugly head, we need to keep abreast of any changes in protocol. But at this point, we're putting on a show! The performance dates are Dec. 2, 3, and 4 at 7 p.m. with a matinee at 2 p.m. on Dec. 4.

Auditions for children will take place Sept. 16 and 17, from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Adults need not audition.

Please contact me if you have any questions or if you're interested in performing arts: tor.johnson@goodshepherdmpls.org.



10 QUESTIONS WITH IAN JOHNSON

ABOUT HIS EXPERIENCES WITH THE APPALACHIAN SERVICE PROJECT MISSION TRIP

BY MARK HALVORSON,
DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

4 HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE HOMEOWNERS YOU GET TO MEET AND WHOSE HOMES YOU ARE WORKING ON?

Grateful, friendly, and generous. Almost immediately you are welcomed as family,

5 WHAT STANDS OUT ABOUT THE AREA OR COMMUNITIES THERE AS YOU LOOK BACK ON THESE EXPERIENCES?

Everyone's a little bit closer. Communities feel very tight-knit. The people don't just know *of* their neighbors, they *know* their neighbors.

6 WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE POWER TOOL?

Oscillating multi-tool.



1 HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU PARTICIPATED IN THIS MISSION TRIP AS A STUDENT AND NOW A LEADER?

Four years in high school, three times as a leader.

2 WHEN YOU WERE A KID, WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF THE TRIP?

That's a toss-up between really getting to know the families and driving the mountain roads in the morning mist.

3 AS A LEADER, WHAT DO YOU NOW LOOK FORWARD TO ON THIS TRIP?

Watching students make connections with each other, learning new skills, and being proud of those skills.

7

WHAT IS SOMETHING IMPORTANT THAT PEOPLE NEED TO HEAR ABOUT THESE MISSION TRIPS?

These trips are an opportunity to make someone's life a little bit easier. We don't solve all the problems of substandard housing, but I think God uses us to help make a difference in the lives of the people we can.

8

IN A FEW WORDS, HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE GOOD SHEPHERD YOUTH WHO HAVE BEEN ON THESE TRIPS WITH YOU?

Hard-working and always willing to do what's needed. And I'll say hard working again, because it can't be stated enough.



9

WHAT IS SOMETHING THAT YOU LEARNED FROM THESE TRIPS THAT HAS BEEN HELPFUL IN YOUR LIFE BACK HOME?

Everybody you meet can bring value to your life; everyone you meet has something to teach you.

10

WHO LIKES ALE 8 MORE THAN ANYONE?

Mr. Shay.

BONUS QUESTION

HAVE YOU EVER SKIPPED PAYING A TOLL?

Not on this trip, no, but check with Amanda Sykora on that one.



Transformed!

The Camden Closet Offers Resources

BY KAREN WALHOF, DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH

In late July, Terry Haugen-Sjostrom and Pat Sykes joined me at the former Camden Promise food shelf. With the new Gethsemane Lutheran Church Farmers Market building in place and serving the neighborhood so well, it was decided the old food shelf would be renovated into a space where neighbors could shop for clothing and household goods. Terry and Pat had been two loyal Camden Promise Clothes Closet volunteers (when the clothes closet was a mere closet size), and they volunteered to take the lead in the renovation. We found lots of dirt and dust, with litter and boxes scattered about. Good Shepherd had volunteered to take the lead in renovating the space. And we had our work cut out for us!

Several dedicated volunteers have joined in, sorting through the clothing remaining there and adding new donations, while scrubbing walls, floors, and display shelves. We painted the walls, which immediately brightened the space (but left the murals painted in the late 1990s by Gethsemane's youth group – the one restriction on our rehabilitation of the space). Stained and worn stairs were painted, which gave new life and uniformity to the room. And what will be the entry area to this new facility was relieved of an ancient carpet, decluttered, and painted. What a difference! It's now a welcoming entry way to those who will come.

At our first visit, along with the dust, we found many heavy-duty shelving units (once used in the food shelf) which would become primary display and storage hardware for the folded clothing and housewares. In addition, we purchased eight round clothing racks (at a deeply discounted rate from an outlet that sells used commercial-quality retail display units). Adding actual sizing disks on those racks makes the space look like a real-life clothing shop!

Then, on Aug. 19 and 20, we collected donations of clothing and

The former Clothes Closet was 242 square feet. It was jammed tight with clothes and hard to browse. The new space is more than 1500 square feet and offers room to shop.



Volunteers Rob and Evelyn Albright (above) and Pat Sykes, Laura Stein, Deb Ellsworth, and Terry Haugen-Sjostrom (below), along with several others, have transformed the space at Camden Promise.





housewares from you in the Good Shepherd parking lot. Those donations filled out the shelves and provided stock for the future. If you missed that opportunity, have found additional donations, or want to share your bounty, contact me at k.walhof@goodshepherdmpls.org.

It is easy to see, now – after the cleaning and organizing – what a rich resource this shop will be to our neighbors in North Minneapolis. Once upon a time, the room was a gymnasium, then it served the neighborhood as a food shelf, and now it offers families a pleasant place to shop for clothes for the whole family, shoes, hygiene items, paper products, linens, lamps, blankets, pots and pans, dishes, and a million other things that will make their daily lives more pleasant and their days more joyful. And the new name has been chosen: It will be the Camden Closet!



Good Shepherd volunteers will continue to serve here on the first and third Saturdays of each month, assisting shoppers and restocking shelves. Other partner congregations of Camden Promise will assist on other days. Stories from Good Shepherd volunteers about interacting with shoppers are legion, and they are heartwarming. We have helped shoppers find a party dress, a suit for a job interview, work shirts for a hard-working laborer, a white shirt for a funeral, lovely clothing for a newly-employed woman, and more school clothes than you can imagine. One man took several shirts and a sportscoat that had been Phil Jacobson's. He said, "I have pulled myself up out of a terrible life, and now I aim to stay healthy and employed." We told him the clothes he was taking belonged to a godly man, which he should remember every time he wore them. "Every time," he said. "Every time. I will remember that."



This shop is another opportunity to share our bounty with others. Camden neighbors are eager to shop for back-to-school clothes and shoes. And when the weather turns cold, we will put out winter coats, hats, and mittens so everyone stays warm.

It's one way we care for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Tragedy Strikes Mekane Yesus Seminary Campus

BY KAREN WALHOF, DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH

On Aug. 17, 2021, the campus of Mekane Yesus Seminary in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, was devastated by a sudden flood that swept through the campus.

A river lies behind the seminary property, and the excessive rains caused it to engulf the campus. The water came nearly to the roofs of the one-story buildings, causing much destruction. Some of the homes where expatriate and local instructors lived were destroyed, and all their possessions were lost.

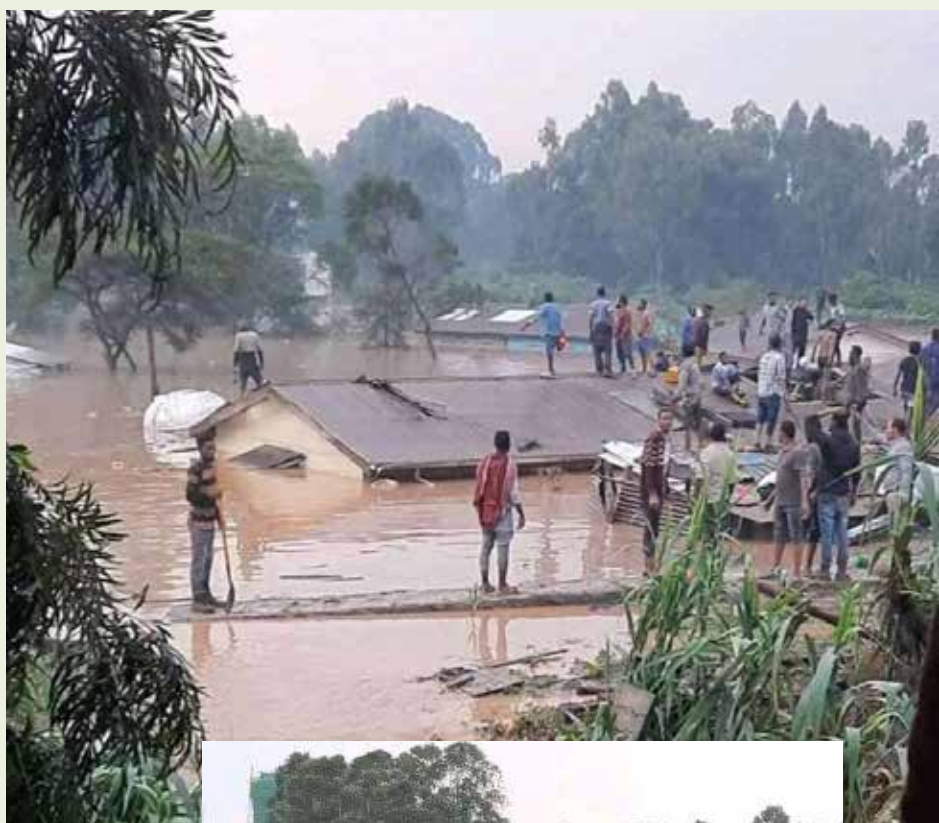
The greatest heartache is that eight people were killed in the flood, including Evan, the two-year-old son of Amare Teklu, the dean of the school of music and media, who visited us in July. We mourn with Amare and his wife.

Evaluation of the administration, office, classroom, and lodging buildings has determined that many are no longer viable. The school term was scheduled to begin in mid-September, so seminary administration is working quickly to come up with alternate plans. Dr. Bruk Ayele, president of the seminary, has written to us: “Thank you so much for your prayers and comforting words. God is good all the time, and his mercy is abundant!” So they persevere, relying on God’s goodness and God’s people’s help.

The Evangelical Mekane Yesus Lutheran Fellowship in North America has set up a Go-Fund-Me page to support individuals impacted by the flood: Mekane Yesus Seminary Flood Disaster Fund. Discussions are being held here at Good Shepherd to see how we can assist the seminary as it rehabilitates its campus and encourage other ELCA institutions to do the same.

Mekane Yesus Seminary is the sole churchwide seminary in the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus. There are several regional seminaries, including Onesimus Nesib Seminary in Aira. Mekane Yesus Seminary offers bachelor and masters degrees in theological studies and has plans to begin a doctoral program in the next few years. In addition to the theological school and the school of music and media, it offers a degree in management and leadership.

Good Shepherd travelers spent time at the seminary in Fall 2019, when Ralph Johnson conducted workshops on American choral



singing, and then directed a 150-voice choir for the seminary chapel service. Pastor Jacobson had conversations with President Bruk. They were warm and generous hosts.

Now our hearts and prayers turn to Mekane Yesus Seminary as they begin the seemingly impossible task of rebuilding and restoring the resources they have lost. We stand with them.

SCRIPTURE STORY

PAUL'S JOURNEY (NOT JOURNEYS!)

BY DUSTIN HAIDER, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia; and from there they sailed to Cyprus. When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews (Acts 13:1-5).

What a journey Paul (called "Saul" in this passage) is called to! When most people talk about Paul's journeys, they talk about one of the times he went sailing and travelling between different cities and regions in Asia Minor. Yet, one of the most remarkable journeys Paul went on was when he came to follow Jesus.

Paul started out as a Pharisee (Philippians 3:5). He was an expert in Jewish law and followed it to the letter. He felt it was his duty to destroy the early Christian church (Acts 8:3). To go from that kind of a person to one who would become one of the most prolific champions of Christianity is a remarkable feat that only has one possible explanation: Jesus. This kind of journey is one that is only possible in the presence of the life-changing, reason-defying, world-transforming power of Jesus.

I cannot even begin to imagine how difficult it must have been for Paul to completely alter every conviction and every belief he ever held. I wonder if those of us who have grown up in the church can really appreciate the kind of transformation we are talking about here. Maybe that is why Paul was called to that purpose, because he was the right person with the right background to start the spread of Christianity that spans the world today. Following Jesus looks different for us today, but like Paul we are being called by the Spirit and sent out.

Paul spent a lot of time in the communities that he travelled to which is one of the aspects

of Paul's journey we often forget about. The chapters of Acts 13-21 slide by as we can read them quickly. However, these nine chapters cover over ten years of Paul's ministry. Ten years of living with people, walking with them, and talking with them about Jesus.

In a way, we can think of all of Paul's journeys as one journey where Paul is following Jesus. That is the same journey we are called on each and every day. We live in community and work toward making it a better place. To do so, we have to look outward and inward. We look outward at the needs of our community and show love in whatever way we can. But like Paul, we also have to look inward. We need to examine the convictions that we have about the world and be open to the way that God's transforming love is calling us to be different. In all that we do, let us proclaim the word of God! It is a word of love that has the power to utterly upend everything so we might live in right relationships with God, creation, and people.

"Paul Preaching at Athens" by Raphael





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