

TOGETHER



**MEET YOUR NEW 2020
CHURCH COUNCIL**

FAITH THAT WORKS

2020 LENT, HOLY WEEK, AND EASTER
WORSHIP AND MUSIC HIGHLIGHTS

TEN DAYS IN
THE HOLY LAND

ADVENTURES GALORE
THIS SUMMER

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SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship with Communion
8:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Child care
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

TOGETHER TEAM:

Ann Burckhardt, Julie Burrows, Connie Fukuda-Clark, Pastoral Intern Dustin Haider, Pastor Karl N. Jacobson, Rich May, Pastor Elise Pokel, Laura Stein, Karen Walhof

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ON THE COVER:
Church Council members (left to right) Beth Helgen, Morgan May, Kathy Bench, Bill Kerker, Cathy Mooney, Pastor Karl Jacobson. Not pictured: Tim Matyi, Tryg Throntveit.

TOGETHER



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

**LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD:
FAITH THAT
WORKS**

Dearly beloved, grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.
And a blessed Lent to you all.

In February our newly installed church council – pictured on the front cover – met for the first time. As we met, we talked about a number of things, about the current state of our “union,” about personnel, building, and finance committees, about the need to think seriously about budget matters in anticipation of 2021 and the mortgage payments that will become a reality in a new way, and more.

I started my report to the council with a simple question, one that may seem obvious to some of us, but one that I think is of basic and deep significance. Before I share the question, first let me share what the primary charge to our church council is. Each of the duties and responsibilities of the council are outlined on page 16 of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd constitution, but C12.02.a. is of particular importance. The first duty of the congregation council is,

To lead this congregation in stating its mission, to do long-range planning, to set goals and priorities, and to evaluate its activities in light of its mission and goals.

The council exists in large part to identify and articulate the mission of the congregation, and to be about the business of getting that mission going.

With that in mind I asked each of our leaders to consider three things:

First, I put before them the tagline that we have been using for the past several months – *Faith that works*:

Faith that works is faith that makes sense; makes sense of our day-to-day life, of God’s promises for us, and of the struggles and fears that we may face.

And, faith that works is faith that is active and effective in our day-to-day living; it is energetic (Galatians 5:6), sharing the promises of God with others, and meeting the needs raised by the struggles and fears of our neighbors.

I asked them to consider this tagline and to react to it.

Second, and third were some questions, which I asked them to answer in their own way:

1. Why does our church exist/meet?
2. How would you describe God’s activity in the world? What is it that God does?
 - a. God _____s. or Jesus _____s. [looking for verbs here, like “God creates.” or “Jesus saves.” There are no limits here either; lots of answers are good.]
 - b. What is God/Jesus doing here, in this place, among this people?

Starting in March we will be answering those questions together, wrestling with them, wrestling over them, and resting with them. I will be asking our church staff to answer them as well. And, I would like to invite all of you who read this letter to consider offering your reactions and answers too. Talk to our president, Beth Helgen, and other members of the council; talk to me and other members of the staff; and share your insights into the life that we share in Christ Jesus.

Thank you, in advance, for your prayerful reflection and answers.

Yours in Christ,

Senior Pastor Karl N. Jacobson
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

**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

I'm wild about the book of Proverbs.

It's got everything you need for good reading: pithy maxims that will make you chuckle, sayings that will make you sweat and challenge you, speeches from Wisdom Woman (so fun, so bossy, so pre-existent), speeches from Dame Folly (watch out!), observations from an ancient worldview across hundreds of years, warnings, loving lectures, admonitions, sound advice, and more!

The book of Proverbs was compiled over many centuries. Some scholars believe it was started during the Iron Age (1200-1000 BCE), acquired some courtly pizzazz during the reign of King Solomon, and added to until about the fourth century BCE. It includes wisdom from ancient Israel, but has a wider worldview, too, drawing from the Near East and Egypt to give us a refreshingly global book. The book of Proverbs has a lot to say about how we are to behave in relation to God and one another. Proverbs is an excellent book to read whether you're feeling light-hearted or serious, because it truly has it all.

Even though Proverbs is written from an ancient perspective, I think it gives us important bits of wisdom to hold onto for modern living. Here are my favorite top five nuggets from the first half of Proverbs.

Proverbs 1:17 – “For in vain is the net baited while the bird is looking on.”

This verse comes in the first chapter, warning the listener about the need to be vigilant and not throw one's lot in with those whose prime motivator is greed. Wealth and influence might seem important, but instead of leading to the good life, they lead to a lonely and destructive existence.

Proverbs 3:5-8 – “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. . . . do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. It will be a healing for your flesh and a refreshment for your body.”

Proverbs 3:25-26 – “Do not be afraid of sudden panic, or the storm that strikes the wicked; for the Lord will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being caught.”

Proverbs reminds us that a life of faith involves humility and deep trust. One of the hardest things for me about Christian living is trusting in God's timing and wisdom instead of my own. We live in a complex world and in a politically divisive and fraught time. But wise, faithful people navigate an anxious world with calm and trusting hearts.

Proverbs 6:6 - "Go to the ant, you lazybones; consider its ways, and be wise."

Human beings can learn a lot from God's wisdom found in creation and in creatures! In chapter 8, Wisdom Woman expresses in her fantastic speech as God's personified wisdom that there is order and beauty in creation because God is and always has been wise. If we pay attention, we will be humbled by the incredible lessons we can learn from all of God's creatures. We aren't the wisest species, and we can actually celebrate that (and maybe reform)!

Proverbs 12:15-16 - "Fools think their own way is right, but the wise listen to advice. Fools show their anger at once, but the prudent ignore an insult."

This is a toughie! No one really likes instruction or correction, but a wise person accepts that they are not always right and are in need of guidance. Fools are quick to anger and refuse to be wrong. I'll be honest: I would categorize myself as a fool more than a wise person, but I'm still learning. How important is it right now for people to learn how to live together? To lovingly embrace correction? To not snap immediately to anger in the face of disagreement?

Proverbs 15:17 - "Better is a dinner of vegetables where love is than a fatted ox and hatred with it."

For me, this is about leading a life of simplicity and transparency. Andy and I are foster parents and will get re-licensed through Lutheran Social Services once our life stabilizes a tad after we get used to life with our son, Fredrik Amos. We watched in wonder as our foster kiddos grew into

these beautiful little people. They just needed consistent measures of love, good routines, simple and nutritious meals, and a little peace. They did all the heavy lifting of healing when these things were in place. We learned a lot about how to organize a family from our foster kids.

I hope you'll read Proverbs for yourself and highlight some ancient wisdom that has a lot to say about how we lead our modern lives! God bless you, and happy reading!

Love,

P.E.P.

[IN OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH]

LIFE PASSAGES

NEW MEMBERS: 12.15.2019

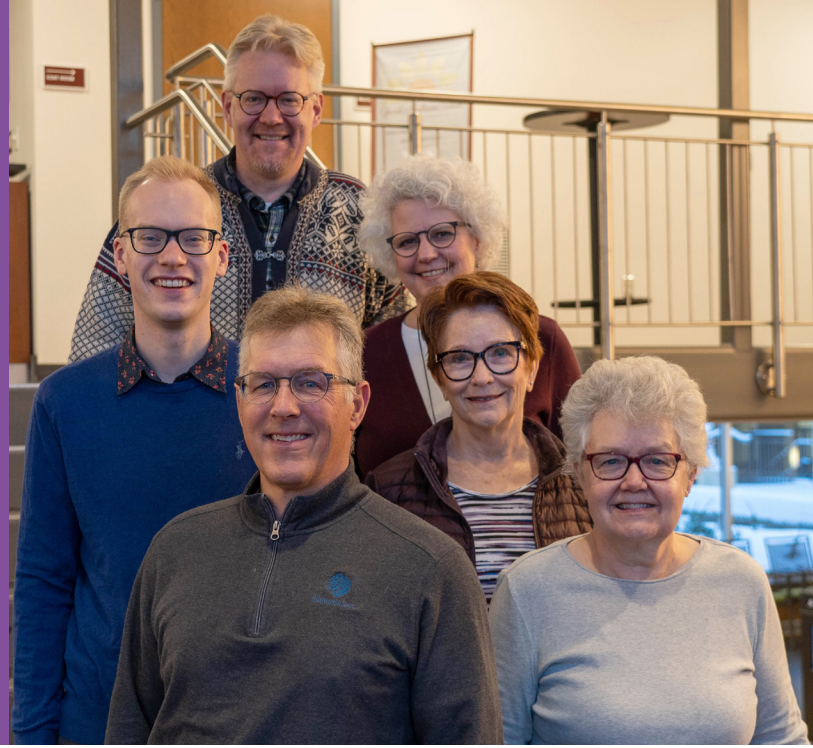
JIM AND MARGO BAUCK
MARY OLSON CORNILS BAICH
MARGARET SKIBBE

DEATHS:

2.28.1926-12.25.2019
JOYCE SIEBERZ
5.29.1926-1.27.2020
LOWELL HEGG

Meet Your New 2020 Church Council!

BY ERIENNE NELSON



There are seven people on the 2020 church council working hard for us, primarily behind the scenes. Their enthusiasm is high – self-described as committed, driven, persistent, hard-working, and relaxed yet responsive. Three generations are represented this year: Baby Boomers, Gen X, and Millennials. All are significantly invested in this congregation, serving outside the council in more activities than I can list. Let's get to know these dynamic servants.

Beth Helgen, president

Beth joined Good Shepherd with her husband and daughters 32 years ago. She recounts her decades here succinctly: "Through the years, our family has been held and shaped by the saints of this congregation. . . .Some of the years here have been difficult, but my heart has always been in this place, which for me has been a channel for God's grace." This is her third time serving on the council.

Beth has a unique work history that provided her with excellent perspective to serve as our leader and president. "I fell into a job with the Saint Paul Area Synod. . . .I observed that lots of the conflict in congregations arose because infrastructure did not get the necessary attention. Communication among the pastor, staff, council, and congregation was often inadequate. The constitution and bylaws were outdated or not followed. I learned that good infrastructure furthers good ministry, and I think I bring the gift of understanding the necessity of infrastructure to the work of the council."

Bill Kerker, vice president

Our current vice president and 2021 president is a quiet leader, describing his gifts as: "A strong personal faith with

inner calm, through grace." When asked what prompted him to accept the call to serve as the future leader of the council, his answer is succinct and poignant: "We are at a pivotal point, and we have everyone in place. It's time to establish our best means to work efficiently with maximum results. It's time to fill our nets!"

Bill sees our biggest short-term challenge as needing more members. "I believe that we can accomplish this by personal invitation and by creating irresistible opportunities to share and serve with sincere enthusiasm," he offered.

Bill serves outside the council in many ways, including on the property committee and sanctuary visual arts team, to name a few.

Morgan May, secretary

Morgan graduated from St. Olaf College in May 2019 and, at 22, is the youngest council member in the history of Good Shepherd. It's clear, however, that he doesn't take his election to the council lightly. Morgan elaborates: "Being the youngest member on council, I'd like to think I'll bring some #freshideas. In all seriousness, I'm very honored to be serving on council! I bring energy and excitement to a leadership role."

Morgan shares one of those fresh ideas: "It seems that congregations across the country are struggling with a new identity of what 'church-goer' means. As this affects Good Shepherd, I see us needing to adapt and welcome those into our congregation who seek to be part of a rich faith community, but who may not feel a calling to attend weekly services. I think our unique programming and heavy focus on community that we already do so well can be leveraged to

keep members feeling active and involved. The stronger the community that we build around faith, the deeper the connections run and the more likely members are to engage more regularly with scripture and each other.”

In his spare time, you can find this avid Harry Potter fan re-reading the series, searching for new podcasts, playing trumpet and piano, and laughing with family and friends.

Kathy Bench, treasurer

Kathy has extensive experience in the treasurer role, serving as treasurer for a different congregation for 13 years! She is a retired CPA, giving her good grounding in accounting and budgeting. “I’ve felt called to use my training for God’s purposes for a number of years, but while I was a practicing tax accountant, my winter months were consumed with work. Now that I’m retired, I have more time to devote to church service,” she explains.

As our financial lead, she defines our biggest short-term challenge as balancing our mortgage obligation with continuing to provide the programs our members have come to expect and that make Good Shepherd an active and growing congregation. Outside of Good Shepherd, she loves to read, knit, crochet, and do Hardanger embroidery.

Tim Matyi, treasurer-elect

Tim is a longtime member of Good Shepherd and sees service as a major calling in his life. “I have been given over 700 hours each month. I am honored to give back to Good Shepherd a couple of hours each month in this role.”

Tim’s gifts set him up well to serve as our future treasurer. “I have an understanding of how financial giving to the church and to other nonprofit institutions has been changing over the years, along with Good Shepherd’s place in continuing to provide a strong faith community and strong outreach programs,” he explains.

Tim’s service and outreach involvement is deep. He’s a part of the Stewardship Ministry Team, Camden Promise food shelf team, Psalms & Pscotch men’s group, and Sacred Grounds barista, to name a few.

Tryg Throntveit, member at large

Tryg is in his second year serving on the council. He is among the younger people on the council and a parent of two small children.

When asked about the short-term challenges our congregation faces, Tryg responded, “Keeping the budget balanced amid

fluctuating giving and expanding opportunities to serve our congregants and our local and global communities. We are going to have to resist the temptation to support every good cause now, in hopes of supporting many good causes for decades to come.”

It’s not all serious from his perspective though, adding, “I also try to bring a little humor to our meetings, though I’m sure the failure of such efforts is usually funnier than the efforts themselves.”

Cathy Mooney, member at large

Cathy is a retired educator who still teaches for NAMI. She loves being part of a team, has a good sense of humor, is a good listener and problem solver, and thinks out of the box. “I like being involved in activities that promote involvement of adults and children,” she says.

Cathy sings in the Good Shepherd Choir. Outside of church, you can find her volunteering at her grandkids’ school, attending their plethora of extracurricular activities, socializing with friends, spending time outdoors, and rock hunting.

Council Goals in 2020

Helgen outlines the current 2020 council priorities as:

- Updating the constitution and bylaws, and reviewing policies and procedures
- Developing a plan for monthly mortgage payments when the funds from Building Our Path have been expended
- Clarifying the role of the Ministry Board and defining the scope of its work

She concludes, “Each council member brings a wealth of gifts, experience, and commitment to our life together in this faith community. I’m so very grateful they stepped up to serve and so pleased to be working with them in the upcoming year.”

Throntveit agrees, “Serving on the council is a wonderful window into the hard work and love that many, many people put into this congregation and its work in the world, and that above all is most gratifying.”



Lent Focuses on Justification, Faith

BY PASTOR KARL N. JACOBSON

On Wednesdays during Lent this year we will be focusing on a single passage from Paul’s letter to the Ephesians. Each week we will explore the same text, but a little bit differently, as each week we take a step deeper into the text, getting to know it better.

The text we are using is Ephesians 2:8-10:

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹ not the result of works, so that no one may boast.¹⁰ For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Our weekly themes and steps are:

March 4	By grace you have been saved.	“Saved from what?”
March 11	You have been saved by through faith.	“How do we get such faith?”
March 18	This is not your doing; it is the gift of God.	“How to receive God’s gifts”
March 25	We are what God has made us—created in Christ.	“How to live as God’s creation”
April 1	Which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.	“The saved way of life”

What we find in Ephesians 2:8-10 lies behind what, for Lutherans, is the most important theological, spiritual, and religious idea/reality: the doctrine of justification. Lutherans have called this the “article on which the church stands or falls.” That is to say, justification is the center of our life, the one thing which we cannot compromise.

In the Augsburg Confession, Article IV, “Justification,” we read,

... it is taught that we cannot obtain forgiveness of sin and righteousness before God through our merit, work, or satisfactions, but that we receive forgiveness of sin and become righteous before God out of grace for Christ’s sake through faith when we believe that Christ suffered for us and that for his sake our sin is forgiven and righteousness and eternal life are given to us.

As we worship and dive deeper into Ephesians 2:8-10, we will be diving deeper into the idea of justification – what a justifying faith and a justified life look like.

Here’s a Lenten challenge for 2020: Join us for worship, as together we memorize Ephesians 2:8-10, and share in the life of faith that it promises.

This is a summary of our faith, and our life in Christ.

2020 Lent, Holy Week, and Easter Worship and Music Highlights

BY RALPH JOHNSON, DIRECTOR OF WORSHIP AND MUSIC

In this Lenten season we hear the story of Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection as told in the Gospel of Mark. Here are some highlights of our upcoming worship and music life during this rich and holy time:

Midweek Lenten worship – March 4–April 1, 7:00 p.m.

Holden Evening Prayer will once again serve as the musical and liturgical framework of our worship.

Bluegrass Service –March 8, 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

Good Shepherd musicians and friends lead these worship services.

Lenten Dramas – March 31, April 2 & 4, 7:00 p.m.

Good Shepherd Players present “The Messiah Inquest,” in the sanctuary.



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday) – April 5, 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

“Passion Reading” presented by the Good Shepherd Sunday School, written and directed by Tor Johnson. Procession of palms, with music by the Good Shepherd Choir, Chorister Choir, and the Bell Choir. Also featuring the premiere of the anthem “Behold Your King” by Gerald Stahl (winner of the “Conduct the Good Shepherd Choir” item in last spring’s Silent Auction).

Maundy Thursday – April 9, 7:00 p.m.

Dinner worship (featuring lamb roasted in the courtyard that day) with Holy Communion in the Sanctuary, with music by the Bell Choir. The service continues as we light the courtyard fire to begin our 24-hour vigil, which will conclude on Good Friday at 7:00 p.m. Sign-ups for night and day shifts will be available online.

Good Friday – April 10

12:00 noon – Preaching worship based on the Seven Last Words of Christ on the cross, featuring an array of distinguished guest preachers (with one or two of our own).

7:00 p.m. – Tenebrae Service (Service of Darkness) featuring music by Bach, Mozart, Johnson, and others, presented by the Good Shepherd Choir with instrumental ensemble.

Easter Sunday – April 12, 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Festival worship with Holy Communion, with music by all the choirs of Good Shepherd accompanied by brass and timpani.

Second Sunday of Easter – April 19, 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Celebration of Easter with a “Salsa service” led once again by members of the Salsa del Soul Orchestra. This is a not-to-be-missed worship event!

"Messiah Inquest" on Stage March 31 and April 2 & 3

BY TOR JOHNSON

The Lenten Drama this year is a fascinating piece called "The Messiah Inquest," an evocative and well-written drama which imagines a courtroom scene where many of the famous biblical characters leading up to the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus are questioned as witnesses.

The format will, once again, be the presentational, Reader's Theater style, which allows the actors to have their scripts in front of them the whole time.

The actors, all members of Good Shepherd, are: Cheryl Beckey, Trent Chaffey, Dustin Haider, Ron Hovland, Sasha Jensen, Ralph Johnson, Roger Krafve, Virginia Polley, Walt Polley, AnnaMarie Ronning, Carla Sykora, and Karen Walhof.

This is our tenth Lenten Drama, under the direction of Tor Johnson.

Experience this drama in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. on March 31, April 2, and April 3.

FOUNDATION ISSUES FOUR SIGNIFICANT GRANTS

BY RENEE RAETHER

The Good Shepherd Foundation's first meeting of the year focused on many grant requests, each of which were carefully reviewed by the board.

Decisions to approve a grant request are guided by the Foundation's mission statement and the following questions: Will the money be used as seed money for a new initiative that will be self-supporting over time? Is the congregation involved in some way to the initiative now or will it be in the future? Or is it a one-time capital expenditure not covered by the budget, and, by supporting it, will it extend the congregation's worship, educational, and ministry programs?

After careful consideration, three grants totaling \$17,350 were approved. They are wide ranging in their focus, but all have a tie to Good Shepherd.

- **Lutheran Social Service (LSS)** grant for \$15,000 was approved. The funds will be used to expand their Empowering Students to Achieve program by bringing a Freedom School to North Minneapolis. (We decided to support the program this year and next by giving them \$7,500 each of the two years.) A total of 30 scholars, ages 6-9, and their families will be involved in the six-week program. It will build skills around literacy while participating in programming that enriches their academics, culture, and social action. LSS shared that the addition of a Freedom School will enhance educational opportunities and energize learning for scholars in

North Minneapolis, historically an economically disadvantaged and underserved community.

- **Nuestro Salvador Congregation** in Montevideo, Uruguay, was granted \$5,000 to complete a roof repair project for their church. Rob Albright and other congregation members have maintained a relationship with Pastor Octavio Buroa and that congregation throughout the 12 years we have been companion congregations.
- **Onesimus Nesib Seminary** in Aira, Ethiopia will receive 18 boxes of donated theological books for their library. The grant of \$2,350 will cover the shipping expenses. The need was recognized by Pastor Karl Jacobson while visiting the seminary in 2019.

A fourth grant of \$2,500 was made in January to fund the bus transportation for Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, so 400 energetic, enthusiastic students could participate in the Feed My Starving Children South Metro meal pack event. Cristo Rey Jesuit High School—Twin Cities provides a quality, Catholic, college preparatory education to under-represented urban youth. It is located in south Minneapolis.

We were excited to support all these varied requests knowing that the money will be used to have a lasting impact on improving lives.



7500 York Women's Bible Study: (top) Shirley Brandt, Mary Ireland, Ruth Anderson, Ann Burckhardt; (bottom) Sharon Etemad, Nancy Shelstad, Diane Jacobson

WOMEN STUDY THE BIBLE AT 7500 YORK

BY ANN L. BURCKHARDT

Delving into the Bible and bringing the characters of this sacred book to life is the key to the success and longevity of the women's Bible classes held at 7500 York, typically led by Shirley Brandt.

"I like that, with a small group, we can have intimate discussions about the Bible passages that we study," says Nancy Shelstad, a regular participant. "The women in the group are open about sharing their experiences, and that makes the lessons come alive."

Ruth Anderson agrees. "Our recent discussion of Proverbs was excellent. I learn from the different viewpoints of the other women; each one brings something special."

Shirley Brandt provides leadership and continuity for the women's Bible studies. It was back in 2003 that she and Janet Fystrom began offering monthly Bible study for women under the auspices of the Women of Good Shepherd Council. She joined our church in 1985, having moved here after attending Augustana University in Sioux Falls. She honed her listening skills working as a Stephen Minister. "You have to listen to people to respond to what's going on in their lives," she explains.

Her organizational skills, well developed in her position as assistant to the chair of the residency program at Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC), were next put to work with Families Moving Forward, which she and John Mendesh launched at our church in 1996.

"I discovered my love of leading Bible studies and portraying

women of the Bible with those first lessons in 2003," said Shirley, who made time for the mid-afternoon meetings while still working at the hospital. She retired from HCMC 10 years ago.

Guided by material in *Gather* (formerly *Lutheran Woman Today*), Shirley gets busy studying supporting material and doing Bible research, often spending six hours in preparation for the monthly class. A favorite series was "Nine Women of the Old Testament" in 2013-14. The nine included Hannah, a promise keeper; Deborah, a determined leader; Miriam, a loving protector; and Abigail, a calm strategist. Other favorites were the Women of Christmas and Paul's missionary journeys. "And I want to acknowledge Borghild Gisselquist's support for me and thank her for her encouragement over the years," Shirley added.

In 2012, the Bible study presented at the church on the third Wednesday of the month began to be repeated at 7500 York for the Good Shepherd members there. Then in 2017, the class at the church was discontinued due to lack of participants.

The 7500 York Bible studies are held in the newly-decorated Social Room at 2:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of every month. There is plenty of room for Good Shepherd members who live in the area to come and join the 7500 York residents who attend regularly.

Shirley feels strongly that the classes should be firmly rooted in the Bible – "but no preachy stuff." What's more, says she, "it's all true."



Ten Days in the Holy Land

BY PASTOR KARL N. JACOBSON

From February 3 through 13, I had the privilege of traveling with 23 other pastors (Lutherans, Presbyterians, Methodists, and Baptists) on a trip to Israel. The trip was made possible as a gift to pastors who had never been to Israel, and was sponsored by the Knights Templar, the Christian branch of the Masonic Lodge. The Knights Templar see this gift as a service not only to the pastors who are chosen for the trip, but also to the congregations that they serve – and to the church at large.

The trip was meant to inform and perhaps transform one's understanding of Scripture, as we traveled in the footsteps of the life and ministry of Jesus.

We were on Jesus' heels for ten days, and it would be hard in a single article to make note of all of the highlights. So, for this issue of *Together*, I have chosen what was for me the highwater of the trip.

Day six was in many ways my favorite day.

The day began with worship in a tiny chapel located at what is identified as the seventh station (of the fourteen stations of the Via Delarosa), where Jesus fell for the second time carrying his cross to Calvary.

The chapel (right) is located just above the first century gate that Jesus would have walked through on his way to Calvary. The pillar in the center, which holds up Byzantine era (third and fourth century CE) arches, dates to the first century, and is the only logical gate through which Christ would have passed on that Good Friday. Praying together and receiving communion in that place was one of the most emotional moments for me of the entire trip.

Worship was followed by a visit to the old Western Wall of the temple, also called the Wailing Wall. Every morning hundreds of people come to the wall to begin their day in prayer. This wall is a part of the foundational retaining wall above which the temple of Jesus' day would have been located. This iteration of the temple was destroyed by the Romans in 70 CE.

While both of these experiences were meaningful to me, the highlight of an already great day was a hike through the tunnel Hezekiah had built to get water into the city ahead of the Assyrian invasion(s) of the 700s BCE.

The tunnel was cut to bring water inside the city walls, from the Gihon Spring into the Pool of Siloam – the location where the man born blind is sent by Jesus to wash himself (in John 9). This tunnel is mentioned in 2 Kings 20:20, where it was attributed to Hezekiah:

The rest of the deeds of Hezekiah, all his power, how he made the pool and the conduit and brought water into the city, are they not written in the Book of the Annals of the Kings of Judah?

The tunnel, or “conduit,” is 533 meters long (or 1,748 feet – almost six football fields).

But it wasn’t until 1838 that the text and the remarkable story of its construction were discovered.

Near the end of the tunnel, just a few yards from where it spills into the Pool of Siloam, there was an inscription written in paleo-Hebrew (that is a form of the Hebrew language/alphabet that predates biblical Hebrew) dedicating the completed tunnel. In my grad school days, studying ancient Hebrew inscriptions in a class called “Northwest Semitic Inscriptions,” we had to work to translate this inscription, among others.

There are six lines of script preserved, which are not all complete, so part of the text has to be reconstructed or assumed.



The Western Wall, with Pastor Jacobson wearing his disposable yarmulke (and Norwegian sweater) at the Wall



Wailing Wall



Chapel

Ten Days in the Holy Land (continued)

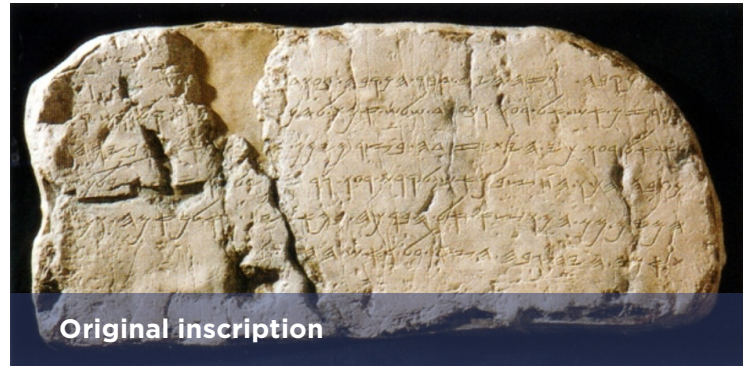
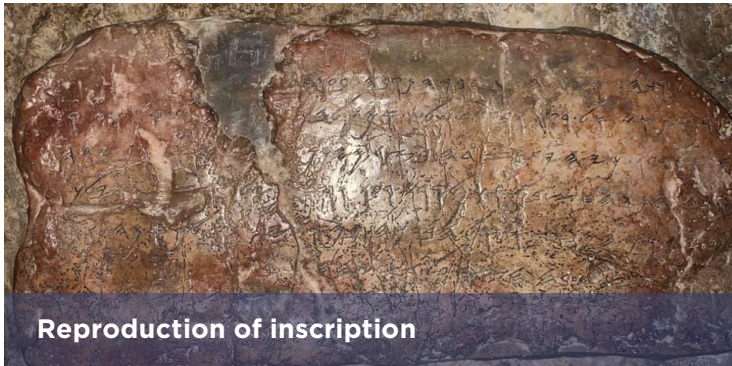
A reproduction has replaced the original inscription (see below pictures of both the replica and the original), which had been carried off by the Turks. A rough translation, cobbled together from memory but without my old notes from school days, goes like this:

1. [. . .] the tunneling. And this is the story of the tunneling: While [. . .]
2. the picks, one toward the other, while there were still three cubits to [go] the voice of one man was heard calling out
3. [to] the other, because there was a ZADAH (a word that probably means 'fault' or 'fissure' but is otherwise unknown) in the rock, from the right. . . . And on the day of
4. tunneling [through], the miners cut, one toward the other, pick to pick; and flowed
5. the water from the source to the pool, more than 1200 cubits. And 100
6. cubits was the height of the rock above the head of the miners.

A tunnel 1,748 feet long, varying in height from as tall as 18 feet to as now 4 feet, and in width between 18 and 28 inches, was dug by two teams working from opposite ends, meeting in the middle.

This inscription testifies to a remarkable feat of engineering, dating from the reign of King Hezekiah of Judah, around the year 700 BCE.

For me, to walk in the footsteps not only of Jesus, but to walk the lengths of a tunnel, the story of which I had learned in school, was a remarkable day I won't soon forget.





ADVENTURES GALORE THIS SUMMER!

BY MARK HALVORSON AND TOR JOHNSON

Vacation Bible School

June 8-12, age 3 through completed fifth grade,
9:00 a.m.-noon

\$25 per child

Our 2020 Vacation Bible School theme will be “The Adventures of Noah and His Ark!” Join us as we have fun with activities revolving around Noah’s Ark. We will perform a dramatic/musical presentation on Friday, June 12, for families. Come and join the fun!

Summer Musical Theater Camp

June 15-25, kids going into first grade through kids going into fourth grade, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

July 6 to 16, for kids going into fourth grade through kids going into eighth grade, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

\$325 per child

This is our tenth annual Summer Musical Theater Camp at Good Shepherd. Instead of doing a medley of songs from many genres, this summer we’re going to be doing songs from “Lion King Junior” exclusively. We’ll also add some group dialogue leading into the songs. Our morning routine will stay mostly the same with fun classes in singing, dancing, drama, art, and juggling. All are invited to performances at the end of each camp –June 24 and 25, 7:00 p.m., for the June camp and July 15 and 16, 7:00 p.m., for the July camp.

Wilderness Canoe Base

June 23-28, middle and high school students
\$400 (\$100 deposit)

Join us for a time at camp getting oriented to the woods and loading up supplies before heading out for three nights on trail, canoeing and cooking over a fire, and sleeping in tents. We come off trail to another night in camp, an amazing sauna, and the best camp food on the planet.

Wilderness Canoe Base Family Retreat

June 25-28

\$230 for adults 18+, \$200 for students 12-17, \$140 for children age 3-11, under 3 free

In addition to groups heading out on trail, Good Shepherd has space reserved at Wilderness Canoe Base for those looking for a shorter in-camp retreat this summer. Open to all ages, you are invited to spend time paddling around camp, hiking nature trails, staying in cabins, playing at the waterfront, sipping coffee on the porch, and unplugging for a few days.

High School Mission Trip

July 18-26, high school students
\$425 (\$100 deposit)

This high school mission trip experience is through Appalachian Service Project (A.S.P.).

Since 2000, we have traveled to these hills to meet and serve alongside the homeowners that make those hollers their home. All you need are a few tools and a willing heart, regardless of construction experience. We head south to serve, make homes warmer, safer, and drier, and build some amazing relationships along the way.



BY DONNA CLARK

QUESTIONS FOR EMMA COLEMAN

Emma Coleman is the new coordinator for Families Moving Forward (FMF) at Good Shepherd.

1 EMMA, I KNOW YOU HAVE BEEN A LIFELONG MEMBER OF GOOD SHEPHERD. WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF THAT PEOPLE WOULD BE INTERESTED TO KNOW?

I got married this summer, so I am now Emma Coleman, not Emma Stein. I am a science teacher at Woodbury Middle School, and I absolutely love it. At church, I recently joined the Coffee Shop Team with Ron Hovland, and I am now helping out Tor in Sunday School.

2 YOU ARE THE NEW COORDINATOR OF FMF AT GOOD SHEPHERD. JUST WHAT IS FMF?

Families Moving Forward is managed through a company called Beacon Housing. They place families experiencing homelessness in a variety of churches, synagogues, and other institutions for a week at a time. Each place welcomes these families three or four times a year.

3 WHAT ARE SOME OF THE REASONS FAMILIES COME TO FMF?

They come to FMF because they have recently experienced homelessness – whether it is because they were living with a family member who no longer can support them, they got cut from their job and no longer can pay rent, or they have a medical issue. There is an application process to get into the program.

4 HOW SUCCESSFUL IS FMF IN HELPING FAMILIES FIND HOMES?

I don't have any numbers, but for all the years I have been working with FMF I have known of only three or four families who have come back to Good Shepherd a second rotation. Normally, they find homes within a couple of months. The families who come to us are fantastic and so thankful for the opportunities. I am thrilled to work with them.

5 WHY DID YOU SAY YES TO BECOMING THE COORDINATOR?

I said yes because I love FMF. Some of my favorite memories at Good Shepherd come from working with the families we host. I love working with the kids, I love working with the families, and I love working with the volunteers. It is such an easy thing for us to provide a week's stay, but it makes a lasting

impact. When I heard the Campbells were going to step down, I thought this was the perfect opportunity. And I have such good resources at my disposal; I can talk to my dad and Allan & Louise, which will be so helpful.

6 AS THE NEW COORDINATOR WHAT WILL BE YOUR GREATEST CHALLENGE?

I think the greatest challenge will be the technical aspect of it – for example, figuring out how to do sign ups and pulling it all together. And a little bit of nerves. Maybe a challenge will be dealing with a problem that comes up that I haven't had to face before.

7 WHAT IS GOOD SHEPHERD'S COMMITMENT TO THIS PROGRAM?

The staff is fully behind it. They are extremely helpful. I am in the process of meeting with my mom (Laura Stein), Mark Halvorson, Tor Johnson, and Karen Walhof to talk about the possibilities. They are excited about getting new ideas and talking with our community about pitching in. We're also talking about how to use the church building. This is one of those ministries where not only is the congregation doing things, but the actual church building itself also is part of it.

As far as the congregation goes, I know there are quite a few people who always will be there as meal preparers, overnight hosts, or evening hosts. Here's one idea: Since I have a good relationship with the younger members of the church, I hope to tie in youth ministries and children's ministries. Tor and Mark also are eager for that. As a general principle, this congregation is committed to the idea of FMF, and I want to get more people involved.

8 HOW DO YOU PLAN ON DOING THAT?

In general, I hope to be talking to people and letting them know how they might participate. I've been going to FMF since I was 2, when my dad coordinated it. All my favorite memories of FMF have had such an impact on me. I would like parents to know what an impact it can have on their kids. I remember when Louis and Eleanor Walker came in to help; my dad talks about how Eleanor brought her own bears and stuffed animals to give to the children, and that inspired others to bring in more. I think we have gone through all those toys. Sharing stories like that with parents



Emma Coleman and Donna Clark

helps kids understand the problems of homelessness. When we were young and we would do it, we would ask my dad questions about these families, and it was such a great conversation. Just so today, conversations with your kids help them understand the realities of the world. The people experiencing homelessness are not statistics; they are real people with whom you can talk and empathize. I think telling these stories to parents will help them realize that this is how their children can act with Christ's compassion in caring for others.

Every time I go to work with FMF, I'm nervous. But as soon as the families come, the fear is gone. The kids just want to play, and they aren't nervous at all. They are so excited to have someone who will play with them, and they go down to the gym and have fun. It is so easy once they are there. The teenagers sometimes have a more difficult time, because they are so much more aware of their situation. So getting confirmation kids involved might be an option. When Fredo Larson came last time we did FMF, it was so great to have an older kid there. Little kids love having teenagers around. They adored Fredo. So I'm very excited to get the youth involved.

9 **YOUR FATHER, BOB STEIN, WAS ALSO A FMF COORDINATOR, WHAT ADVICE HAS HE GIVEN YOU AS YOU STEP INTO THIS NEW ROLE?**

He told me two things: The number one thing I learned, even when I was 5 years old, is to listen. People who are experiencing homelessness need someone to listen to

them. We can't find them a home, but we can give them a place to live for the week. And we can listen. Listening to their stories and relating to them on a personal level is huge. Number two: When volunteers come, they need to have something to do. Volunteers want to feel useful.

10 **WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR GOALS FOR FMF?**

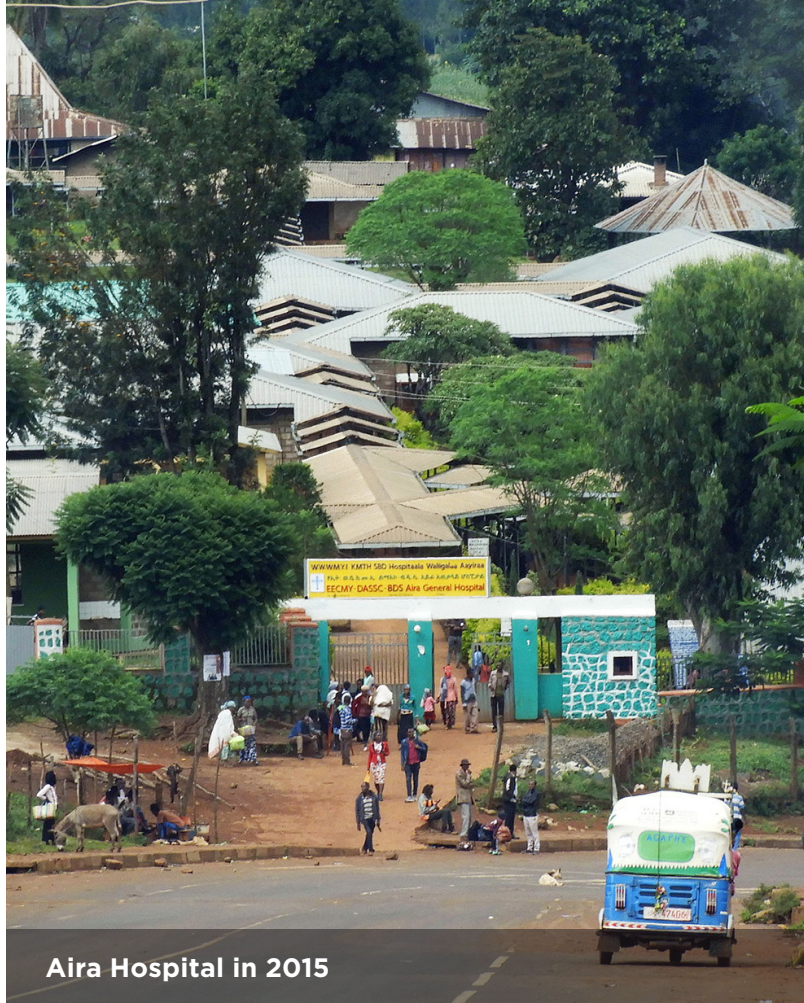
I think having an opportunity to volunteer in this way is such a good way to be Christ's people. It is pretty easy to give things or money. It may seem so much more difficult to give your time, but it is fun and impactful. And what a good opportunity to use our Christian values in a meaningful way!

I would like to develop activities each week for the kids especially – and maybe for the whole family! For example, Laurie Johnson came in and did art projects last year. I would love to have volunteers each week who would do something crafty, or share music, or introduce board games, or take kids on a hike, or lead a bike ride. The kids would be satisfied just to run around the building, but I hope we can provide more focused activities for them. And we have the talents in this congregation to do just that!

Most of all, I hope the congregation will learn how easy it is to enhance the lives of our guests while they are here. You get over the initial nerves pretty quickly, and then it is such a meaningful way to serve others. I hope parents will come to see what a great way it is to get their kids involved. It's a family affair – both for those who come to us and for our families here at Good Shepherd.



Ralph Johnson directing students at Mekane Yesus Seminary in Addis Ababa after he introduced American choral singing to them in 2019



Aira Hospital in 2015



REAL girls in 2006



The countryside near Aira in 2019

"The more genuine and the deeper our community becomes, the more will everything else between us recede, the more clearly and purely will Jesus Christ and his work become the one and only thing that is vital between us. We have one another only through Christ, but through Christ we do have one another, wholly, and for all eternity." —Dietrich Bonhoeffer

15 Years of Partnership!

BY KAREN WALHOF

On the Day of Pentecost 2005, a special congregational meeting was held in Good Shepherd's Fellowship Hall. Congregation members were asked if they were ready to embark on a global relationship whose details had been presented to the congregation.

It included three areas of ministry – with the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY), with Our Redeemer Oromo Congregation in Minneapolis, and a closer, then still-to-be-determined ministry in Central or South America. When then-President Rich Sykora asked for the vote, there was a loud “aye”; when he called for those opposing the measure, only silence. He said, “Then I guess it's unanimous!”

Before we came to that vote, one task force had been set up to gauge the interests of the congregation while another considered the many options available for broader ministry, in an attempt to see where those two things intersected. It quickly became clear that the interests of congregation members lay in children, education, and health care.

The second task force considered ministry suggestions from a number of sources. After weeks of interviews and discussions, the question was posed: “Where is God leading us?” One task force member immediately pointed to an EECMY ministry that the ELCA supported, assisting the Ethiopian church with the care of children orphaned because of HIV/AIDS. “I think this fits us. It includes ministry with children, education, and health care,” she said. “I think this is where God is calling us.” Amazingly, there was immediate, unanimous agreement in the task force.

To that program we added relationships with Our Redeemer Oromo Evangelical Congregation in Minneapolis; sponsors for the REAL scholarship program, a non-profit program that provides scholarships to girls in Ethiopia; and support of the Yubdo Project, an agricultural program near Aira, Ethiopia. Once the congregation approved the proposal, a mission appeal with a goal of \$600,000 ensued, which was actually over-subscribed, with a total of \$660,000 pledged to support those ministries. We lived out those commitments over the course of the next three years.

In the years that followed, the connection between God's people in Ethiopia and at Good Shepherd continued to evolve. Today, 15 years later, our relationship finds its focus in

Aira. We are a companion congregation with Lalo Aira Congregation, we support Aira Hospital as it serves as the hands of Christ in western Ethiopia, and we delight in the work of Onesimus Nesib Seminary.

When this relationship began, it was an attempt on Good Shepherd's part to “help them.” But God had other plans. Once we met our brothers and sisters in Ethiopia, we quickly saw that there 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. We thought the relationship with the church in Ethiopia might be a three-year experiment. But God had other ideas. We have been bound together with God's people in Ethiopia now for 15 years.

During that time, we have walked through difficult times together. In 2013, EECMY severed relationship with the ELCA because of actions around the issue of homosexuality. We decided, with the people of God in Aira, to continue our relationship in spite of our church bodies' differences. The Apostle Paul reminds us that whatever human categories may describe us, they do not define us, “for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.” To become a part of Christ is to become a part of the community of faith – with all its challenges, all its flaws, all its missed opportunities, and all of its great joy.

More recently, the church in Ethiopia has been challenged by the conflict that envelops their country. We were blessed to make a safe trip to Aira last fall – our fifth as a congregation – and were amazed at the power and purpose God's people there saw in our visit. Communication has been disrupted like never before, but we continue to pursue connections whenever possible and we trust in God's leadership as we live together in faith.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer writes beautifully in his book, *Life Together*: “The more genuine and the deeper our community becomes, the more will everything else between us recede, the more clearly and purely will Jesus Christ and his work become the one and only thing that is vital between us. We have one another only through Christ, but through Christ we do have one another, wholly, and for all eternity.”

We are 15 years into that eternal relationship which is ever growing, ever adapting, ever refining, ever blessed. We wonder what God has in store for us in the years ahead.



4801 France Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55410

Join in!

Several women from Good Shepherd are looking forward to a weekend women's retreat, April 24-26, at Dunrovin Retreat Center near Stillwater. Pastor Pokel will be guiding them as they explore the theme of spaciousness. Other opportunities throughout the weekend include worship and prayer, creative expression, social time which always includes laughter, and open/free time to relax. Some friends and family outside of the Good Shepherd congregation will join them!

Please hold these women in prayer throughout the weekend as they relax, relate, and revel in the concept of spaciousness.



Contact Andrea Brandt (aldbrandt@yahoo.com) or Gini Polley (virginia.polley@gmail.com) with questions or assistance with registration. All are welcome.