

TOGETHER



We Celebrate
Affirmation of Baptism
After a Missed Year

FAITH THAT WORKS

GOOD SHEPHERD
VISIONING PROCESS

I (WE) BELIEVE . . .
CONFIRMATION 2021

MEET THE NEWEST MEMBERS
OF GOOD SHEPHERD

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WORSHIP

Worship with Communion onsite at 10 a.m. every Sunday and online at goodshepherdmpls.org. Evensong onsite Wednesday at 7 p.m.

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ON THE COVER Young adults who affirmed their baptism on Nov. 31 (l-r) – front row: Anna Prange, Oskar Berg, Lydia Martin; middle row: Jack Hartwell, Sonja Holtey, Anderson Stark, Colton Davenport; back row: Trygg Opsahl, John Quello, Nathan Benson, Lyle Dietrich, Emerson Sullivan. Photo by Chris Martin.

TOGETHER



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

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

Dear friends in Christ,

You are welcome.

“For what?” you might be wondering, but that is not what I mean. I mean, a little more literally, that you are *well come*.

Well come, back into the rhythm of church life and activities here at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. Sunday School and youth group and choirs and bells and service to those in need. All of these are off and running anew. We are off to a wonderful start to our programmatic year.

Well come, no matter how you find yourself engaging – whether in person or online or some combination. We regularly have between 90 and 125 folks in person for worship in our sanctuary as well as 25-40 “screens” worshipping with us via live stream, and then, throughout the course of the week another 60-80 viewings of (and one hopes participation) in worship via the recording. These numbers are a positive indication that in the midst of this ongoing pandemic, the vibrant life of faith that is ours in Christ is still here to be shared.

Well come, to find new ways to plug into this vibrant life that we share here, and to keep it central in your life.

You are *well come*, in your commitments of time, and in your engagement, and your generosity.

The time will come, I have no doubt, when this pandemic will have run its course. And when that time comes, we will settle into a new kind of normal – different perhaps than what was normal before, and different, I have no doubt, than what we are doing now. And that will be welcome as well.

In the meantime, we come together as we are able, sharing in the love of God that is ours in Christ Jesus; a love that empowers us in the hard times, strengthens when we are weak, delivers us from sin and sorrow, and makes us whole. And thanks be to God for that.

You are welcome.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karl Jacobson', written in a cursive style.

Pastor Karl 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

Following Jesus Through the Valley

By the time you read this, All Saints' Day (Nov. 1) and All Saints' Sunday (Nov. 7) will have been celebrated. November is often a reflective month. We give thanks for the ones who have cheered us on, galvanized and taught us on the rugged walk of faith. We remember the ones who lost sleep over our antics, blessed us with their steadiness, and taught us to sing and rejoice in God's presence always.

I'm always awe-struck by Martha's boldness. Her voice brings out of the darkness all the things I say in my heart, but am sometimes nervous about speaking out loud.

When All Saints' rolls around each year, I think about John 11. Jesus' dear friends and disciples, Mary and Martha, send an urgent word to Jesus that their brother, Lazarus, is gravely ill. By the time Jesus arrives, Lazarus has been entombed for four days. Martha, the go-getter sister with a restless heart, approaches

Jesus. I imagine she was angry at how long it took Jesus to get to Bethany. Through tears and gritted teeth, she says, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him."

I'm always awe-struck by Martha's boldness. She is one of his best friends and a faithful disciple. Her voice brings out of the darkness all the things I say in my heart, but am sometimes nervous about speaking out loud. Lord, if you had been here, this would not have happened. Where were you? Why don't I understand your ways? Why won't you act inside of a timeline I can comprehend?

²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

This conversation between Jesus and Martha has carried me through difficult days. I can hear Martha's frustration even as she confesses her faith that she will see her brother again on the last day. I can hear her sadness at the prospect of waiting for that day. And then Jesus says something startling. "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." Jesus is the Resurrection today. Jesus is life itself. On Oct. 31, we reminded our twelve confirmands that far from an ending, confirmation is a new beginning. When they were baptized, they were baptized into Jesus' death – which certainly sounds like an ending! We don't focus on that fact much when we celebrate baptisms in worship. It's a strange and disturbing thought. But if we are baptized into Jesus' death, we also claim all that is rightfully is – especially life and more life to come.



We live with God among us, too.
A God who holds us with tenderness
and gives us the gift of faith
so that we can truly live.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus is usually presented as confident, calm, and purposeful. Everything he says and does points to the glory of God. Every word, every miracle, every interaction – they’re all signs that he is the Messiah, the long-awaited King and Lord of all. But even in the Gospel of John, where Jesus declares that he is the Good Shepherd who knows what he’s doing by laying down his life for the sheep, he still weeps. Death diminishes his beloved creation and harms the people of the world that he so loves. The Resurrection and the Life – capital R, capital L – enters into the places where death and grief are real and raw. The Light of the world holds our darkness with us.

One of the many wonderful things the Bible does is it offers many voices for us to try out, no matter the emotion. Jesus weeps and the crowd is sharply divided about what it means. Some are upbeat and compassionate and say, “See how he loved him!” But some of them are critical and bitter, and say, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?” There are days when we sit with our grief, but still hold onto the wisdom and deepest hope that Jesus is holding our loved one at that very moment. But there is room for our rage, frustration, and sorrow. God always makes room for us.

As Revelation puts it so beautifully, the home of God is among mortals. God lives here. God wipes away our tears, soothes our grief, and heals pain because God creates and loves. He does not destroy or cut down or take. The ones we love that have gone before us in the life of faith lived with God among them. We live with God among us, too. A God who weeps with love for us. A God who enters into the fray for us. A God who holds us with tenderness and gives us the gift of faith so that we can truly live.

Thanks be to God!

**The Resurrection
and the Life –
capital R, capital L
– enters into the
places where
death and grief
are real and raw.**



Our brother Lincoln is baptized.

[IN OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH]
LIFE PASSAGES

BAPTISMS

LINCOLN JAMES ALLARD
BAPTIZED NOV. 7

DEATHS

CARLA SYKORA
HAROLD HARRIS
HAROLD LUNDIN

CONFIRMANDS

NATHAN BENSON
OSKAR BERG
COLTON DAVENPORT
LYLE DIETRICH
JACK HARTWELL
SONJA HOLTEY
LYDIA MARTIN
TRYGG OPSAHL
ANNA PRANGE
JOHN QUELLO
ANDERSON STARK
EMERSON SULLIVAN

Good Shepherd Visioning Process: Language in, with, and for Mission

BY PASTOR KARL N. JACOBSON

What is the purpose of a congregation? That may seem like a question so basic that we wouldn't (or maybe shouldn't) need to ask it, but there is danger in assuming that we know the answer or in resting in the ways we've always answered it. And there is value in, if you will, taking our temperature and reflecting on how we think about our purpose.

With help from John Mendesh, I have been leading our staff and Church Council (and a few other folks) in an exercise meant to help us answer this question. When we ask "What is the purpose of a congregation?" This question might be asked any number of ways:

Why do God's people gather together?

What do we stand for?

What are we about?

When we seek to answer these questions, we are answering God's call to be fellow workers in and for God's Kingdom.

Here is first look at the language we have been using to answer these questions in 2021 on the eve of this congregation's 100th anniversary.

WHO ARE WE, AS GOD'S PEOPLE HERE?

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd stands for "Faith that Works."

WHAT DOES "FAITH THAT WORKS" MEAN?

This is a congregation of God's people founded in a faith that works; a faith that works by helping us make sense of daily living, and is *at* work through us for the good of the world.



We believe that "the Church is a people created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and sent to bear witness to God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world."

There are many ways in which we live this out, in worship, service, learning; in caring conversation that is open to questions and welcoming of new ideas; in music, theater and the arts; but above all, in our shared life as people of God and followers of Jesus.

Jesus calls his church to make disciples (Matthew 28:19), and this is our purpose.

What are WE, as God's people in this place, all about?

WE center ourselves in worship

WE develop christ-centered relationships

WE make disciples

WE focus on other-centered service

In the months ahead as we celebrate our centennial, we will be doing so much more than looking back at our past and celebrating our history. We will be looking back so that we can look ahead – reflecting on and celebrating the ways in which we have lived out our calling as a congregation since 1922 will help to answer these questions:

What is the purpose of a congregation?

Who are **we**, as God's people here is this place?

What will **we** be about in 2022 and beyond?

Come and see.



Holiday Musical and Children's Winter Drama Return to Good Shepherd

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



HOLIDAY MUSICAL: "OLIVER JR."

The Holiday Musical is back after a two-year hiatus! It's hard to believe that, come December, it will be two years since our last Holiday Musical. We're bringing back my personal favorite, "Oliver." Actually, it's "Oliver Jr." – the shorter, family-friendlier version of the Charles Dickens classic with all of the songs and drama from the original.

We did "Oliver" 10 years ago, believe it, or not! Of course, not everything is perfect because we're still stuck in this endless cycle of COVID drama.

Just as we are worshiping with our masks on, so we will be wearing masks for all rehearsals and will also be wearing them for the performances. But, the show must go on! The performances are Thursday through Saturday, Dec. 2, 3 and 4 at 7 p.m. plus a 2 p.m. matinee on Saturday, Dec. 4. All shows will take place in the Sanctuary.

The cast is smaller than in years past; 32 kids and 8 adults, but still good sized. Ralph Johnson, Good Shepherd's Director of Worship and Music, is reprising his role as the mean Mr. Bumble. Paul Grangaard is playing the kindly man who takes Oliver into his home. Sharon Vicic is the accompanist, and Ingrid Krafve is doing costumes and so much more. Several other stalwart Good Shepherd members and guests will help to bring Dickens' world to life!



Oliver, in Good Shepherd's last production, was played by Ella Krafve.



CHILDREN'S WINTER DRAMA: "WIZARD OF OZ: THE DELETED SCENE"

The Children's Winter Drama is also making a comeback! We've only done one other Children's Winter Drama, right before the COVID shutdown almost two years ago. This time around, we're going to be doing "Wizard of Oz: The Deleted Scene," which is a spoof on the original story. Performances will be on the Fellowship Hall Stage, Thursday through Saturday, March 3, 4 and 5, 2022, at 7 p.m.

Contact Tor Johnson at tor.johnson@goodshepherdmpls.org for more details about Performing Arts opportunities at Good Shepherd.

2021 ADVENT/CHRISTMAS WORSHIP AND ARTS

BY RALPH JOHNSON, DIRECTOR OF WORSHIP AND MUSIC

We come to Advent this year in many ways changed people – and a changed congregation. We’ve made a pilgrimage through a very difficult time, often feeling cut off and alone, and now we rejoice in the sheer fact of sharing time, space and Christ’s feast of love with one another in person.

Our journey through this season takes place under the theme “Follow the Signs.” The prophets Habakkuk, Hosea, Amos and Micah will share signs of God’s promised Messiah, pointing the way to Bethlehem and the newborn baby who will change everything. How wonderful it will be to worship together again during Advent and Christmas this year!

In addition to our 10 a.m. Sunday morning services, we continue to offer our wonderful 7 p.m. Wednesday Evensong under the gifted musical leadership of Andy Pokel. This is a contemplative and meaningful worship experience – perfect for centering your spirit in the middle of the week. (See page 9 for more information about that service.)

Here are the Good Shepherd worship and arts events for December. Please note the revised schedule for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and the Sunday after Christmas (also known as Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 24, 25 and 26).

ADVENT

1 FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

Worship

Sunday, Nov. 28, at 10 a.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 1, at 7 p.m.

Yet I Will Rejoice in the Lord (Habakkuk 3:17-19)

Good Shepherd Holiday Musical: “Oliver, Jr.”

Thursday and Friday, Dec. 2 and 3, at 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 4, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

**The Good Shepherd Christmas Orchestra is made up of Good Shepherd instrumentalists (members, families, and friends of all ages) who want to play some wonderful – but not too difficult – Christmas music for our 5 and/or 10:30 p.m. services on Christmas Eve. Please contact Ralph Johnson, Director of Music (ralph.johnson@goodshepherdmpls.org), to sign up.*

2 SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

Worship

Sunday, Dec. 5, at 10 a.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m.

They Shall Again Live Beneath My Shadow (Hosea 14)

3 THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

Worship

Sunday, Dec. 12, at 10 a.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 15, at 7 p.m.

The Time is Surely Coming (Amos 9:11-15)

Good Shepherd Christmas Orchestra rehearsal

Saturday, Dec. 18, at 10 a.m., in the Sanctuary.

4 FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

Worship

Sunday, Dec. 19, at 10 a.m. – Fourth Sunday in Advent

Wednesday, Dec. 22, at 7 p.m.

A Strong Nation Made Up of the Weak

(Micah 2:12-15, 4:1-7, 5:2-5a)

Sunday School Advent/Christmas Program

Sunday, Dec. 19, at 9:15 a.m.

The Sunday School Advent/Christmas Program is back. It’ll be a very lovely and low-key event as the kids present a Reader’s Theater adaptation of the beloved story from the Gospel of Luke.





Wednesday Evensong: A Spiritual and Musical Experience

BY ANDY POKEL
WEDNESDAY NIGHT WORSHIP COORDINATOR

CHRISTMAS

Family Christmas Service

Friday, Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve), at 4:30 p.m.
With music by the Alleluia Choir and Chorister Choirs, with a special prelude by the Good Shepherd Christmas Orchestra.*

Good News of Great Joy (Luke 2:1-20)

Christmas Candlelight Service

Friday, Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve), at 10 p.m.
with music by the Good Shepherd Choir and Cantare, with an extended Christmas prelude by Good Shepherd musicians and the Good Shepherd Christmas Orchestra beginning at 9:30 p.m..

Good News of Great Joy (Luke 2:1-20)

Christmas Day

Saturday, Dec. 25

No service

First Sunday After Christmas

Sunday, Dec. 26, at 10 a.m. –
Festival Service with music by the Good Shepherd Pop-up Choir.**

For What Goodness and Beauty Are His!
(Zechariah 9:9-12, 16-17)

***The Good Shepherd Pop-up Choir is for anyone who wants to come and sing some beautiful, easy-to-learn Christmas choral music for this wonderful service! Just show up for our rehearsal in the Choir Room at 9:20 a.m. on Dec. 26. No audition required!*

One of my favorite things about Good Shepherd is the diversity of opportunities for connecting with God and God’s creation: education, outreach, performing arts, Sunday worship, giving, answering phones -- you name it! Since June, I’ve been working with Pastor Karl, Pastor Elise and Ralph Johnson to develop a new worship service out of an ancient tradition, called Wednesday Evensong. It’s quickly become my favorite night of the week!

The name “Evensong” is an updated version of the ancient Vespers service, from the Latin *vesper* (evening star). Vespers is the penultimate daily worship service in the Catholic tradition. Evensong combines elements of Vespers with Compline, the seventh and final canonical service. As Lutherans, we preserve the focus on music and contemplation, but without the original Latin text or rigid liturgical structure. The pastors offer a “relaxed fit” sermon, with opportunities for conversation and behind-the-scenes stories – almost like visiting a professor during office hours. Full Communion is also served.

In addition to their skill in proclaiming God’s word, Pastor Karl and Pastor Elise have also shared their musical skills as part of the house band, along with Tryg Johnson, myself and a talented group of musicians from our community. (Consider this an open invitation to join us!) The Wednesday Evensong service is an eclectic, curated combination of guitar-led hymns and secular tunes, from classics like “Just As I Am” and “Rock of Ages” to U2’s “I Just Haven’t Found What I’m Looking For” and Norah Jones’ “Come Away With Me.”

Wednesday Evensong is a great time to recharge your spirit mid-week, and you can participate on several different levels. If you’re looking for thought-provoking sermons and discussion, this service is for you. If you’re looking to sit back and soak up some good tunes, this service is for you. And, if you’re looking to dust off that old instrument or lift your voice in song, this service is also for you.

I look forward to seeing you at Wednesday Evensong! If you’re interested in participating as a musician or if you have any questions, please contact me at andypokel@gmail.com.



I (We) Believe ... Confirmation 2021

BY MARK HALVORSON, DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

On Sunday, Oct. 31, 2021, 12 young adults from our congregation stepped forward to the space in front of the altar and affirmed their faith.

Nearly a decade and a half earlier, these young men and women had been brought to the baptismal font. Parents, sponsors, and the congregation at-large made promises to them and to each other. We promised to bring those children to church and teach them the foundations of our faith. We promised to support them and love them and care for them. This special day was their opportunity to own that faith, to affirm those baptismal promises for themselves. The candle that was lit during that baptism, the flame that represented their life and light and God's light, is now being held by them as well.

Rewind 12 months, and the COVID-19 pandemic had just started to affect and frame how we would gather for worship and education. Last year's ninth graders – now sophomores as a group – decided to hold off on that public celebration to be able to do it in person. Those students stayed connected weekly as youth group moved online, and experiences changed and shifted sometimes week to week.

At the same time this year's ninth graders were continuing to progress through middle school youth group, and the educational pieces that help students get to the place where they can own that Apostles' Creed sincerely, honestly, and with humility claim it as their own.





It was challenging – that’s for sure – to go from on-site weekly opportunities to online opportunities and then back to on-site opportunities all while working to honor that milestone in the lives of these students and their families.

It also created a wonderful opportunity. This Fall, we were able to re-engage with these families in preparation for the on-site Confirmation day. Together, we safely facilitated some powerful Confirmation conversations that were important and meaningful as the day approached.

We have this word “Confirmation,” and we use it to define this time of years in middle school leading into high school. When in reality, it is an opportunity for these students, students of any age, to make the decision to confirm, to *affirm* those promises in their own lives. If that takes place after three years of time together or two years or a year . . . or more . . . that needs to be okay. This group of young men and women and their wonderful families have helped us craft a way of looking at this rite of passage differently as we move back into a more normal life a little bit each day.

From here on out, each Fall (in addition to all of the other programming that happens for middle school and high school students) there will be two or three prep sessions for students and families who would like to make these promises, participate in this important day, and be confirmed.

There will be more days like Oct. 31 in the years to come. More days where we get to participate as a congregation in the lives of not just these young adults, but their families and our larger family. More days where we get to look up on those individuals claiming and naming their own faith – not as a show or something to spectate, but as a way for us to reaffirm our faith daily. There

will be more days with candles and stoles that express who these students are, more days of both sincere and goofy photographs (hopefully mask-less).

We talk about Confirmation not as a finish line but as another stepping stone, another new beginning, and another marker in our lives of faith.

Thank you to the families and the leaders who have helped the students get to the place of owning our Apostles’ Creed. Thank you to the congregation who consistently shows up in the lives of our members – old and young and everywhere in between. Thanks be to God!





BY ERIENNE NELSON

1 YOU HAVE BEEN A GOOD SHEPHERD MEMBER YOUR WHOLE LIFE. WHAT'S YOUR EARLIEST MEMORY HERE?

My earliest memory at Good Shepherd was probably being a part of Sunday school as a little kid.

2 CAN YOU EXPLAIN TO US NON-TECHIES WHAT YOU DO AT GOOD SHEPHERD WITH BEHIND THE SCENES TECH?

In simple terms, what I do at Good Shepherd has to do with the live stream of the church services. I make sure that everyone at home can hear and see everything that is happening live in the sanctuary.

3 HOW DID YOU GET STARTED IN TECH?

I got started in tech when I was starting middle school and I joined the theater crew. Through that, I got a lot of experience using sound equipment, which allowed me to start applying some of that knowledge in other places.

4 DO YOU DO TECH IN HIGH SCHOOL OR ANYWHERE OUTSIDE OF CHURCH?

Yeah, I do tech in high school theater, and I like to have some fun with it at home, too.

5 YOU RECENTLY CONFIRMED YOUR FAITH—WHAT DID THAT MEAN TO YOU?

To be honest, being confirmed was fun. It was a unique feeling to strengthen the relationship I hold with God.

6 YOU SELECTED 1 PETER 5: 6-7 AS YOUR BIBLE VERSE FOR CONFIRMATION—WHY?

I chose that verse because it gives me a sense of comfort. It shows the idea that God is someone that we can rely on. That He is someone that can lend us some help.

7 WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO THE SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS THAT LOOK UP TO YOU?

Listen to the sermons. Even though they can be really long, there is a lot of insightful stuff.

8 HERE'S AN EASY ONE—WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE FOOD?

Definitely pizza!

9 BACK TO SERIOUS—WHO IS ONE PERSON AT GOOD SHEPHERD OUTSIDE OF YOUR FAMILY WHO HAS INFLUENCED YOUR LIFE AND HOW?

Mark Halvorson has greatly influenced my life. First off, he was my Confirmation leader, and on top of that, I get to work with him every Sunday. He's great!

10 WHAT ELSE DO YOU DO FOR FUN?

I love to play instruments and listen to music!



Get Ready For Feed My Starving Children's Mobile Packs

BY MARK HALVORSON, DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

Mark your calendars for Jan. 24 – 31 2022! Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) mobile pack will return to Berean Baptist church in Burnsville, MN.

Of all the things that got sidelined during the past year, not being able to participate in this multi-church, multi-generational, multi-denominational service opportunity was one of the harder events to push “pause” on. But, we’re back!

WHAT'S GOING TO BE THE SAME?

- Funnels and boxes
- Hair nets and sealers
- Dancing and Sweet Caroline (so good, so good, so good)
- Labels and bags

WHAT'S GOING TO BE DIFFERENT?

- Distancing and safety protocols will be in place
- Masks will be encouraged
- Maximum of 350 people per shift (down from 750 to 1,000 people)
- Sign up in your own pod of six to ten people (Good Shepherd will have times reserved)
- Check-in process to help us record our 5,000-plus volunteers (wow!)



The meal count will be smaller, but the impact will be just as great and the need is ever present.

PRE-EVENT DONATIONS ARE NECESSARY

There's one other component to this year's pack that will be different. In past years, FMSC has allowed us to swing for the fences and pack as many meals as we can and fundraise along the way (or beg after the event). It's been the end of the organization's fiscal year, and we've always helped them get their meal goal accomplished. This year, several partner churches are making pledges, and the dollar amount that we have committed before will help determine how many meals we get to pack.

Once at the event, individual donations will help fill the gap. When you break it down, it becomes pretty do-able.

- We estimate 5,440 volunteers
- The grocery bill we are planning for is \$240,000
- If each participant donates \$44, we will more than pay for this event completely (on average, each volunteer packs about one box; that's approximately \$51)

We know the \$44 donation amount is out of reach for some volunteers. We also know that others can donate much more than that and do so. Between the pledged amount and those who can give, we can make this happen! We look forward to your help at this effort to support FMSC.



MEET THE NEWEST MEMBERS

COMPILED BY PASTOR ELISE POKEL

YVES, LINDSAY & REMY LEEMANN

Where are you from?

I (Lindsay) am originally from Crookston, MN, where I was first connected with Pastor Elise. My husband, Yves, is originally from Zurich, Switzerland. We met six years ago while he was playing hockey in Wisconsin. We now call Woodbury, MN, our home.



What are your hobbies?

We are jet setters and enjoy traveling and seeing the world. Together, we've traveled to 11 countries. We are also avid hockey fans and love enjoying the outdoors – whether it be at the lake on the water, going for a walk/hike, grilling and just soaking in the sun.

Tell us a little about your family!

My husband and I were married last winter by Pastor Elise and welcomed our first child, a baby girl. Remy Elaine Leemann was born on June 25, 2021. She is a true blessing in our lives, and we are excited to have found a church she can grow up in. Yves' parents and siblings (two sisters) continue to reside in Switzerland, and my parents and siblings (twin sister, one brother) reside in Crookston and work in agriculture.

Why were you drawn to Good Shepherd?

We originally found a seat in Good Shepherd because we followed Pastor Elise. We were new to the Twin Cities area, so we had really no idea where to start when it came to finding a church for our family. We started attending in the Fall 2019 and instantly fell in love with the Good Shepherd community. It was unprecedented to experience the level of kindness and openness that were expressed to us from the moment we stepped into the church. The music is amazing, and the sermons are so applicable to everyday life. We were sold on Good Shepherd! We continued to make a tradition of Sunday morning church virtually during the pandemic and have been so happy to return to church in-person with our daughter. She went to her first service at three weeks old. We look forward to our years ahead and future memories at Good Shepherd.

CONNIE BLOM

Where are you from?

I don't really have a hometown. My dad was a Lutheran pastor, so I lived in four different places before I went to college.



I was born near Green Bay, WI, in a little town called Green Valley. We then moved to Strum, Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls – all in Wisconsin.

I went to St Olaf College and then got a master's degree from the University of Washington. I taught at Henry High School in Minneapolis.

After retiring from that high school, I then taught at St. Mary's University and Minneapolis Community and Technical College.

What are your hobbies?

I volunteer at Global Health Ministries, serve on the Membership and Marketing Committee and the Neighborhood Awareness Committee at 7500 York as well as enjoy travel, entertaining, music, reading, and movies.

Why were you drawn to Good Shepherd?

Last November, I moved to 7500 York and knew I would want to find a church in this area. Though I never lived in Crystal, I have been a member of St. James Lutheran in Crystal for 40-plus years. So understandably, it was very hard to leave that church.

What drew me to Good Shepherd is the music – the organ, piano, and wonderful hymns – communion every Sunday and very good sermons.

OF GOOD SHEPHERD



KATIE STOMBAUGH

Where are you from? Tell us about your family.

I was born and raised in Mendota Heights, MN, and grew up attending an ELCA church. My mom, Sue Stombaugh, worked as a nurse at Fairview Southdale. My dad, Rod Stombaugh, owns an architectural rep firm, where I am vice president. I have a brother, Nathan, who attended the University of Minnesota and majored in French/Italian studies.

What are your hobbies?

I played competitive soccer starting from a young age and was a goalkeeper at North Dakota State University. I continued my education at Hofstra University and the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York where I graduated and developed an interest for the arts and theater. I also enjoy tennis and the local restaurant scene.

Why were you drawn to Good Shepherd?

I have been dating Trent Chaffee for more than three years. He and his parents, Pam and Warren Chaffee, are long-time members of Good Shepherd. They introduced me to this church, and it is the kind and welcoming members who make this congregation feel like home to me.



RACHEL, KYLE & GRACE NELSON

Where are you from? Tell us about your family.

Rachel grew up in Eden Prairie and Kyle grew up in the Chicago area. After many stops in between, we landed in South Minneapolis in the Armatage neighborhood.

Kyle works at the University of Minnesota in the Athletic Department, and Rachel works at General Mills in Human Resources. We are huge Gopher sports fans and never miss a Gopher volleyball game. We have a two-month-old daughter, Grace, and she keeps us on our toes and learning how to be new parents. We love exploring Minneapolis and trying new breweries.

What your hobbies?

Rachel loves crafts, socializing, going for walks, watching sports and baking. Kyle loves playing basketball and golf, cooking and watching new TV shows. Grace's hobbies include sleeping, eating, looking at high-contrast images. She just found out about her hands, so she is really liking those!

Why were you drawn to Good Shepherd?

We were drawn to Good Shepherd when we first watched our friend Abby Andvik perform in the Christmas plays. It was such a good window into the vibrant church community. During the pandemic, we watched worship services online and knew it was a place we wanted to attend once things reopened. We are excited to be joining!



Faith That Works: 100 Years to Celebrate

BY BRITA TARACKS, MEMBER OF 100TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd is approaching a milestone: We'll be celebrating our ONE HUNDREDTH anniversary this coming year.

Our congregation first organized as Morningside English Evangelical Lutheran Church on Feb. 17, 1922. The Rev. F. C. Norman held services and Sunday School in a hall above a store at the intersection of 44th Street and France Avenue. Imagine the faith and foresight of our early congregation. God planted the seed and behold what's happened!

What a better way to celebrate than to tell this story. In addition to special music – and, of course, a birthday cake – storytelling will be the focus of our 100th anniversary celebration.

Throughout the year, we'll be publishing the stories that witness to the life of our congregation past and present. We'll be unpacking

the archives and digging into historical documents and photos. We'll lift up the people, ministry groups, and organizations that have played and still play such essential roles. We'll highlight the story of our wonderful building and the art collection that continues to bear witness to our faith. Without doubt, there are many stories to tell.

But among the most important and entertaining stories will be the tales and reflections *you* provide. What's your Good Shepherd story? How has Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd played a role in your life? We're looking for remembrances, anything from funny happenings to profound experiences and life-shaping events.

Please share your story by emailing it to: 100years@goodshepherdmpls.org. Thank you so much for your participation. And stay tuned!

Foundation Makes Grants to Ministry Partners

BY RENEE RAETHER, PRESIDENT OF GOOD SHEPHERD FOUNDATION

The Foundation of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd has granted meaningful funds this year, assisting our mission partners. Two recent grants demonstrate our commitment to our partners in ministry.

A team of workers from Good Shepherd had been busy this summer renovating the former food shelf at Camden Promise into a welcoming clothes closet and housewares shop. To make the space work



and accommodate all the clothes available and make it easier for shoppers, round racks to hold clothes on hangers were necessary. A local outlet offered used, good quality commercial standing racks for affordable prices. The Foundation gave a grant to the Camden Promise ministry team, to make that purchase possible.

Then, the Foundation responded to the flood disaster at Mekane Yesus Seminary with a \$5,000 grant to that institution. The money will be used to reconstruct, renovate, and renew buildings on the seminary campus, including restoring libraries of faculty which were lost in the flood. It is a staggering project, to make the campus usable again. Significant grants, like this one from the Foundation, make it possible for this mission partner to recover and rebuild.

The Ancestresses: The Women of Judges & Ruth

BY PASTOR ELISE POKEL

Starting Saturday, Dec. 11, the Women of Good Shepherd Bible Study will kick-off a new season of learning with a series on the women found in the dynamic and dramatic book of Judges!

There are more female characters in Judges than just about anywhere else in the Bible. There are powerful judges, beacons of faith, ambivalent characters, witnesses of war, and crafty tricksters. In the lives of these varied women, God is at work. Even though chaos is afoot, God is marching to make things right.

All women are welcome! We'll be meeting in the sanctuary at 10 a.m. the second Saturday of the month, starting in December, carrying us through Lent, and finishing up in May.

The Book of Ruth follows right after Judges as a counterbalance. In Judges, women's lives are held in the hands of desperate men. In Ruth, the women survivors ensure that there will be future generations to learn of God's goodness. Jesus comes from the line of Ruth. Come and hear about stories that are wild and dangerous!

There will be a book study in the summer months on the book, *No Cure for Being Human*, by theologian Kate Bowler. More details to come on our summer book read.



"Jael, Deborah and Barak" by Salomon de Bray 1597 – 1664



"The Daughter of Jephthah," by Alexandre Cabanel, 1879

Dec. 11:

Achsah, Deborah, Jael,
Mother of Sisera
(Judges 1, 4-5)

Jan. 8:

Abimelech,
Son of A Woman of Shechem,
A Woman and a Millstone,
Jephthah: Son of the Other Woman,
Jephthah's Daughter
(Judges 9-11)

Feb. 12:

Ibzan's Daughters,
Samson's Mother,
The Tragedy of Samson's Wife
(Judges 12-14)

March 12:

Delilah (Judges 15),
The Levite's
Concubine
(Judges 19)

April 9:

Women of Jabesh-Gilead,
The Women of Shiloh
(Judges 20-21)

May 14:

Ruth and Naomi
(Book of Ruth)

June 11, July 9, Aug. 13

No Cure for Being Human
by Kate Bowler



"Samson and Delilah" by Lucas Cranach the Elder, c. 1529



"Ruth and Naomi" by Willem Drost, c. 1630 - c. 1680

Uruguay Conversation Revived Via Zoom Call

BY ROB ALBRIGHT

On Sept. 18, seven Good Shepherd members participated in the first of what we hope will be a quarterly video conference with our partner congregation in Montevideo, Uruguay: Nuestro Salvador. Though we have been in regularly electronic communication with them, the recent past during the COVID pandemic has been a bit less consistent. Hence at Nuestro Salvador's suggestion, we concluded a video/Zoom call would be a great way to reconnect.

We met in the Good Shepherd Conference Room with members of Nuestro Salvador, including Pastor Burgoa, appearing from multiple locations on our big screen TV. The discussion lasted about one hour and fifteen minutes and, after some time just catching up, we covered a range of topics including various ministries of each congregation and, interestingly, how public policy – or lack thereof – in the two countries drove what was needed or even possible during the COVID era.

Small but mighty as they are, Nuestro Salvador has been working to provide food and shelter for those impacted by the pandemic and has also continued to work with the poor families of Colonia Nicolich and El Sembrador. After then discussing some of Good Shepherd's ongoing ministries, especially Camden Promise and



Members of Nuestro Salvador at Sunday worship.

Loaves & Fishes, we agreed to select just one topic or ministry for our next call after the first of the year. We hope this will allow a deeper conversation, not as wide-ranging, so that we can perhaps better determine where we might support each other's work.

It was a pleasure to see our distant friends “live” and to reconnect with them and hear how they have been making their way these past 18 months. It also gave our Latin America-focused group of Good Shepherd members a nice chance to get together for some fellowship, food, and a crash course in Spanish. Special thanks to Dave Matyi and Gaby Brussa for serving as translators.

We will surely attempt to get the word out when a date and time are set for our next Nuestro Salvador conference call. Please contact Rob Albright (ralbrigh4@gmail.com) or Karen Walhof (k.walhof@goodshepherdmpls.org) if you are interested in participating in the future. All are welcome for the fellowship and conversation, whether or not if you speak any Spanish.

Paz y bendiciones!



Members of Nuestro Salvador and visitors from Good Shepherd (Sharon Hammond, Erienne Nelson, Rob Albright, Dave Matyi) during our most recent visit.

SCRIPTURE STORY

FOR ALL THE SAINTS

BY PASTOR ELISE POKEL



The Paradiesgärtlein (Garden of Paradise), c. 1410

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²singing, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?”

¹⁴I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. ¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; ¹⁷for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

My favorite book in the New Testament is the letter of Revelation, written by John of Patmos. It’s chaotic and more than a little scary. It’s sublime and wonderful. There are monsters and disasters, battles and fearsome angels. Lions and lambs, dragons and falling stars. As the hymn *How Can I Keep From Singing?* puts it: “Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.” Above all, Revelation is filled with music and hope. Many of our most treasured hymns are inspired by the saints and angels singing before the throne.

The Scripture above is found in Revelation 7. Just before this, John hears an angel presenting the tribes of Israel, taking their place

in the heavenly realm. As a Jewish visionary himself, we expect him to see his ancestors entering into the glory of God. What’s more wonderful is that his vision casts a wide net. Suddenly, he sees a multitude that “no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands.” God’s outrageous love encircles the faithful of all generations.

The communion of saints includes those titan saints’ names we have heard throughout our lives: Abraham and Sarah, Miriam and Moses, Elijah and Elisha, Mary Magdalene, Peter, James, and John. The communion of saints includes multitudes whose names we will never know. Jesus promises to shelter his little ones who hungered and thirst for belonging, for justice, for love in their earthly lives. Jesus gives rest to those who have died unjustly, cut down by war, random violence, disaster, prejudice, recklessness. He welcomes the ordinary folks who quietly shed compassion in their every step and action. The communion of saints includes the brassy and bold, humble and helpful. The communion of saints includes those we have loved dearly: our parents, grandparents, our siblings, friends, colleagues, mentors, teachers, children, neighbors.

Theologian Elizabeth Johnson writes this in an article for the *U.S. Catholic* called “Circle of Friends: A Closer Look at the Communion of Saints,”

To say of all these people that they form with us the company of the redeemed is to give grief a direction, affirming that in the dialogue between God and the human race the last word is the gracious word of life.

The last word is God’s gracious word of life. Our Lord is a lover of life and a celebrator of all that makes us truly human. Through God’s gracious power, we who are living and trying to lead lives of faith are connected to those who have already gone through the veil of death to the unimaginable joys of everlasting life. Together with all saints – named and unnamed – we form a holy community of hope. Time and distance are nothing in the face of God’s final word of love.



LUTHERAN
CHURCH
OF THE
**GOOD
SHEPHERD**

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**See what love the Father has given us,
that we should be called children of God;
and that is what we are (1 John 3:1).**