



## Newsletter for May / Bulletin News April 26 - May 3, 2020

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** At this time we will be using the Altar flowers available already at church. Thank you to those who have signed up. Please consider signing up for a vacant spot later in the year in place of your donation of Altar flowers.

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:** Prayers for our shut ins, Fox Cities Hmong, and Zion French African churches. For our church members and staff as we navigate through this COVID-19. For those affected by the COVID-19 virus. Prayers for the families of David Kobs (son of Jean Kobs) and Oscar Wolfgram (father of Susan Laurent), who passed away recently.

**PRAYERS FOR OUR CONGREGATIONAL FAMILIES:** Each week we will be lifting up our family members in prayers. Please take your bulletin news home so you can pray for the families during the week. We will be listing every family in the congregation up in prayer during the year.

- ♥ Ken & Jean Vander Heiden
- ♥ Mark & Jodi Beggs, Tatum, Logan, Tyler Gotz
- ♥ Dawn & Daniel Coenen

The names we list are from what we have in our church records; if it is not listed correctly, please notify the church office so we can update our records. For prayer requests, please call or email the church office to be listed in the prayers.—Thank you.

### THEME FOR 2020: JESUS OUR SHEPHERD

We will as the flock of the Shepherd, follow where He leads!

- (1) We will be faithful in Worship: (2) We will be faithful in our receiving God's Word at home and through the Church (3) We will be those who live without fear or want. (4) We will be those who lives bear witness to our faith in Jesus that the flock may grow and flourish. We will rejoice in our life together. This will all be possible, as we remember these familiar words from David in "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." Psalm 23:1 *Jesus our Shepherd! This year and always!*

### PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Jesus is our resurrected Savior. He has brought us **LIFE** and salvation. Our lives have forever been changed. God is all about creating, sustaining, and growing not only our mortal lives, but even more so our spiritual lives! For the Sunday's following Easter, we are going to explore our Epistle readings appointed for the Easter season concluding with Acts at Jesus Ascension and Celebrate **LIFE** in all its forms!

- † May 3<sup>rd</sup>: 1 Peter 2:19-25: "Living Righteously"
- † May 10<sup>th</sup>: 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:2-10: "Living Stones"
- † May 17<sup>th</sup>: 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:13-22: "Living Water"
- † May 24<sup>th</sup>: Acts 1:12-26 (Ascension): "Living Witnesses"

Last month, we celebrated Jesus our Victorious Shepherd. But our celebration was different than I anticipated, and you anticipated. We were all prepared to gather at Good Shepherd, **IN** His house to hear His Word. We know that everything changed because of the scourge that is COVID-19. Rather than gathering **IN** God's house, we have been gathering in our homes in front of screens to receive God's Word. While not ideal, God's Word is not hindered, and His message still has its power and meaning for all who receive it in faith! As, I write this article on March 27<sup>th</sup>, I still don't know what May will provide, except a never changing God who is always with us and who always provides. So, for Job and for you and me, it is enough, it is all we need. This month, we will continue our focus on Psalm 23, and know Jesus as our Healing Shepherd. The emphasis comes to light in verse 3 "He restores my soul." Restoration is to take that which is old and worn out at to make it new. What a wonderful blessing during this pandemic. As we have endured through this time, we may have been having a hard time seeing or recognizing any restoration, the numbers are getting worse and worse, the numbers of those infected and die increase. Can God heal? Can God restore those who face illness and disease? The answer is a resounding "YES!" God can and does restore the body. **Psalm 103:1-3**  
1 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!  
2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, 3 who forgives all your iniquity, **who heals all your diseases**, Here, the Psalmist reminds us to remember how God in the past has provided healing and that He continues to do so and will continue to do so. God cares and He heals according to His good and gracious will. Amid the malady this can be challenging to remember, **BUT DO SO**, remember your past healings, therefore knowing that God is not powerless to heal once more. The Psalmist not only speaks of restoration/ healing of the body, but also of the soul. During this siege of COVID-19, our attention may only be on the body, but our attention and God's attention goes beyond that. God restores the soul. The soul born in sin. The soul which is dead to God. Thankfully, God heals our soul also. He promised to remove the disease of sin, thereby releasing us from the certainty of death, and giving us a new certainty. This new certainty has been given to the world

through Jesus who died for our sins and rose again from the dead. This is the hope that does overcome the world and does overcome all things! **John 16:33** 33I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." Jesus is our Healing Shepherd!  
Pastor Seabaugh

### HUMAN CARE

**Your church family is here for you.** Please contact the church staff if you are in need of some assistance during this time. We have funding to meet emergency needs, or you may just want to connect with someone, or maybe you need an errand run. Let us know how we can help.

### Food Donations -

During this social distancing time of our lives, we are not able to distribute food donations through our church. The organizations that we support in this way are still working and helping even more people. Won't you consider making a cash donation to the Salvation Army of St Joe's Food Pantry so they can continue their mission of service folks in need?

**Salvation Army:** Online donation at the Fox Cities website ([www.safoxcities.org](http://www.safoxcities.org)) (even though it takes you to a national website, 100% will come to Fox Cities) or send in a donation to 130 E. North St. PO Box 1605, Appleton 54912-1605 and make sure you designate it for food.

**St Joe's:** Online at <https://www.stjoesfoodprogram.org> or mail a check to St Joe's Food Program, 1465 Opportunity Way. Menasha WI 54952. You can also drop off staple food items on weekdays between 7:30 and 11:00 AM..

**All Youth Activities including Confirmation and youth groups will be postponed**

### YOUTH / EDUCATION

*during the time that students are not in school. We will be updating social media accounts and for Bible studies we will go on the Bible app and go through and select a couple studies to follow together.*

**BIBLE STUDY GROUPS ARE ALWAYS LOOKING TO WELCOME OTHERS TO JOIN!** For more information contact the church office

## CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

APRIL 26—MAY 3, 2020

ALL GROUP GATHERINGS INCLUDING CHURCH SERVICE HAS BEEN CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. SERVICES WILL BE LIVE STREAMING 9:30 A.M. SUNDAYS —THANK YOU

goodshep@gschurch.net or Pastor Seabaugh, Ryan Neumeier, Ray & Debbie Koeller, Carolyn Berg, Nancy Smith or Ed Kumbier and Ann Cattau. They all teach/host Bible Studies in home or at church (**at this time utilize online means to communicate and/or by phone**). We will find the one that fits with your schedule. Grow in your knowledge and with the Lord and enjoy fellowship!

**YOUTH BIBLE STUDY:** Join David and the youth as they go through a bible study on YouVersion Bible app. They ZOOM meet at 3pm on Sunday afternoons. To receive the Zoom link email David at dstuckwisch@gschurch.net and he'll answer any questions.

The Church Council has made the decision to rescind the Divine Call made

## COUNCIL

for a Seminarian to fill the Associate Pastor position at Good Shepherd. This decision was not made easily but only after much heart searching discussion and prayer. First, we want you to know that the Call Committee will remain an active committee and we will continue to work to fill the Associate Pastor position as was directed by the Voters' Meeting on November 3, 2019. However, we are postponing the Call process contingent on a budget plan that provides ongoing support for the position. The postponement of the Call process at this time was based on known financial concerns that could potentially be made worse by the introduction of COVID-19. Contributions thus far in 2020 haven't shown our ability to support the Associate Pastor position. Considerable concern has been expressed about the congregation's lack of increased offerings to meet that obligation. We will work to develop a revised financial plan that will provide ongoing support of this position. The Council asks for your patience, understanding and prayers as we go forward during a time that is difficult for all of us. If you have further questions please contact Steve Calder or Ryan Neumeier.

Due to the "safer at home" recommendation from Governor Evers we will continue to live stream our Sunday morning worship service until our State leadership determines it is safe to gather together in larger numbers. Until that time, we hope you are able to "attend" services via You Tube using the link Debbie shares with us weekly, or by connecting through our website [www.goodsheplutheran.net](http://www.goodsheplutheran.net) and click the Worship Services/E-Giving tab then select Live Streaming/E-Giving from the drop down menu. The service is live at 9:30 Sunday morning or anytime that is convenient for you to watch.

The Church Council had their second virtual meeting this week using Zoom, which works well for small groups. We discussed planning for the Spring Voters' Meeting and considered trying a virtual meeting, but after hearing both pros and cons, it was agreed to wait until we can meet in person. As soon as we hear restrictions are being lifted or modified we will communicate the date for the Voters' Meeting.

Minutes from the Church Council meetings are posted on the board in the sign-up area. You can also view them on our web site. Just sign-in and then click on the "groups" tab.

**\*The May 9th event is cancelled and will try to reschedule for a**

LMF

later date\*

**Buy Scrip Online** – Did you know you can purchase scrip on line? Since we will not be selling at church the next few week, now is an opportunity to support your church by enrolling at Great Lakes Scrip Center on their website (<https://shop.shopwithscrip.com>). Please send an email to [DarwinHanson@Centurytel.net](mailto:DarwinHanson@Centurytel.net) or call him at (920) 740-2440 to get the code or assistance to enroll. Enrollment is required for Good Shepherd to get credit for your purchases. We look forward to helping you. You can reload existing cards or order new e-cards. You can pay using PrestoPay (\$0.15 charge per order) or a charge card (2.6% fee will be added to your order).

## FINANCE

\*\*\*\*\* YEAR TO DATE MAR 2020 FINANCIAL UPDATE \*\*\*\*\*

### YEAR TO DATE MAR 2020 General Fund Contribution Recap

- YTD 2020 general fund contributions were \$160,518
- Comparable YTD 2019 general fund contributions were \$156,499
- YTD 2020 budget expenses were \$181,616
- YTD 2020 general fund contributions were **\$21,098 LESS** than the approved budget.

### WEEKLY BUDGET INFORMATION

General Fund: \$18,821

Designated Funds: \$695

Weekly Budgeted Needs: \$13,970

We are over our budget this past week by: \$4,851

This budget information is accurate at the time of printing but may vary do to electronic deposits that come in during the week.

## STEWARDSHIP

### Giving God Our Best

God wants our total devotion and commitment. Scripture is clear that God expects and deserves our best. We are to "walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God" (Colossians 1:10). He does not appreciate laziness, idleness, or fruitlessness. He wants our time, talents, and treasures to make an eternal difference in the lives of others. God calls us to bear fruit (John 15:a6), to serve (Ephesians 6:7), to obey (John 3:36), to love (Matthew 22:37-38), to give (Matthew 10:8), and to witness (Ephesians 3:7). Wherever God places us, we are called to be in ministry for Him. We are the instruments through which He works. Through our hands and feet, He brings love and care to the needy; through our lips, He tells others of His life-saving Gospel; and through our minds, hearts, and checkbooks, He supports the work of the Church. As God enables us, we can give ourselves fully to the work of the Lord. During these times of the pandemic, we have opportunities to use our God given gifts for others. We are His instruments.

### Stewardship Thought:

I love when the house is hushed and reverent, and on the days I am fortunate enough to catch the first glow of orange on the eastern horizon, I smile, I believe God grins back.

