

# Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

September 2019 Newsletter

## FROM PASTOR DAVE

“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart,  
and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and  
with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself. . . .”  
“And who is my neighbor?”

Luke 10:27-29

“Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism . . .  
to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?”

Affirmation of Baptism, ELW, p. 236

“We reach out with compassion and share the love of Christ. We actively care for our neighbors, locally and globally.  
We accept all people and open our hearts to the needs of others.”

LCGS Vision Statement

“The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America declares itself a sanctuary church body.”

ELCA Churchwide Assembly

August 7, 2019

Guided by the Gospel, our baptismal theology, our Vision Statement and our denominational connection, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd is perfectly positioned to address the Migration/Immigration crisis in a prophetic way. This international crisis is complex, with political, humanitarian and spiritual dimensions. But based on our deepest identity as a community of Christ and our history of living out our mission in bold ways, we know how to have deep conversations together. How is God calling us to respond to this opportunity? We don't know the specific answer at this time, but we are confident that the Holy Spirit is leading us deeply into the heart of our mission and to our growth as a congregation.

### Sanctuary

The two foci of this conversation are Migration (root causes of crisis in Central America, especially the northern triangle of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras) and Immigration (the humanitarian and political crisis at the southern border of the U.S.). Bishop Tom Aitken has shared that the essence of being a Sanctuary Denomination is loving our neighbor in ways unique to each congregation. Because of our congregation's long history of personal relationships with the Lutheran Church in Honduras, we received a specific invitation at the NE MN Synod Assembly in May to become part of a network of accompaniment, advocacy and awareness called AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities). This is personal. Every family in the Lutheran Church in Honduras has been affected by the “push factors” of political corruption, poverty and violence that lead to migration. This is also complex. Bishop Tom has stressed that “the Churchwide Assembly did not call for any illegal actions.” Our conversation must go deep enough to transcend the political slogans and simple solutions of the current discourse, while also respecting a full range of suggestions to address the broken system that now exists. In short, we must connect the power of the Gospel, our baptismal theology and our vision statement to this crisis in a responsible way. Our unique contribution to the discourse is based upon our history of ministry in Honduras.

*Continued on next page...*

## LCGS and the NE MN Synod in Honduras

As I look back at our history I can see several distinct phases of our relationship with Honduras as a congregation and as a Synod. Our initial contact with Honduras came as a result of an ELCA visit by Kathe Peterson in response to Hurricane Mitch. That trip set in motion a series of contacts that have led to our current commitment. My entire time at Good Shepherd has been lived with Honduras as the primary expression of reaching out globally.

### Partnership with CCD (Christian Commission for Development)

- Visit by Kathe Peterson

- Visit by LCGS Peer Ministers

- Significant NE MN Synod activation and response to recovery needs

  - Ministry at Monte Horeb and Monte Carmelo

  - Many large Synod teams engaged in effective ministry

    - Diapers and bricks!

    - A school at Monte Horeb

    - Deep personal relationships

- Initial contact with ICLH (Iglesia Cristiana Luterana de Honduras)

- Ultimate disappointing breakdown of relationship with CCD due to corruption

### Initial Contact with ICLH (2005-2009)

- Worship at Lutheran Church of Emmaus Road in Tegucigalpa

- Scheduling of 1st Theological Workshop at Monte Horeb in 2006

- Conversations with ICLH leading to request:

  - Most important shared ministry: training of ICLH leaders

  - Began traveling to worshipping communities throughout Honduras:

    - Tegucigalpa

    - Santa Cruz de Yojoa

    - San Pedro Sula

    - La Ceiba

    - Olancho

  - Annual workshops, continued health support, relationship building

- Military Coup in Honduras June 2009

### Official Companion Synod Relationship (2010-2017)

Bishop Tom Aitken and Pastor President Martin Giron sign Agreement

- Tegucigalpa: October 2010

- NE MN Synod Assembly: May 2011

Visit of ICLH delegation to NE MN Synod

ICLH/ELCA Summit meeting in Duluth

- ELCA Global Mission

- ICLH Leadership

- ELCA Companion Synods

  - Northeastern Minnesota

  - New England

  - Northwest Lower Michigan

Agreement based upon Accompaniment principles

- Mutuality, Reciprocity, Sustainability

- Justice of redistribution of resources based on relationship

Specific commitment agreement between ICLH/NE MN Synod

- Annual DECOFE (Development of Communities of Faith) Leadership workshop

- Support of Kinder Dr. Martin Lutero in La Canada

- Health support through water filter distribution and health education

2 visits per year to Honduras to express this accompaniment

- Significant LCGS involvement

Reciprocal visits by ICLH to ELCA

*Continued on next page...*

Current Expression of Accompaniment (2017-present)

ICLH Assembly in February 2017 featured ordination of 7 new pastors

Alternate track to ordination

demonstrated (9+ years) leadership

ongoing training

Significant role of NE MN Synod

Intentional Curriculum and Leadership Focus

Crisis of Migration

Disputed election, failed government

Unchecked gang and police violence

Increasing poverty

Environmental impacts

[Insert personal stories here, now withheld for security reasons!]

Leadership participation by NE MN Synod in global network

Lutheran World Federation

Latin America/Caribbean Consultation

Bogota, Colombia

Lima, Peru

Guatemala (2019)

ELCA Global Mission summit gatherings and support

Companion Synods

October 2019 trip to Honduras

DECOFE Workshop

Pastoral Ethics

Lutheran Identity

Liturgy

Specific Focus on Migration: personal stories, strategies, recommendations

Meeting with LWF Human Rights Observer Jorge Calix

Support of Kindergarten, youth and women's ministries

NE MN Synod Team for October

Bishop Tom Aitken

Pastor Karen Schuder

Jayva Jordan

Annika Julsrud

Jen Julsrud

Pastor Michael Wittkamper

Pastor Dave Mesner

AMMPARO

The specific request we have received is to become a "welcoming congregation" as part of the AMMPARO network. "Amparo" means "refuge" in Spanish. The objectives of AMMPARO are

To uphold the dignity of all, especially vulnerable children

To address root causes of migration

To work toward just and humane policies at the southern border

Our congregation is gifted with a strong critical mass of members who have been to Honduras, know first-hand the conditions present, and have experienced the faithful response by ICLH to this crisis through the years. When our team returns in October we will have a fresh view of the situation in Honduras. What a privilege it is to be invited into the soul of a country for the sake of the Gospel!

What is God calling us to do? You are part of the answer!

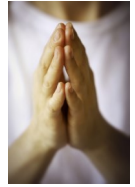
Pastor Dave



## LCGS IS PRAYING

**Good Shepherd randomly prays for all its members.**  
**During these weeks we are keeping the following in our prayers:**

Sept 1st	Marilyn & Allen Odean, Andrew and Evan; Jan & Stan Burns Jim Jenson; Heather & Tony Maki, Dylan
Sept 8th	Sunday School students, Sunday school volunteers, Confirmation Students and Mentors
Sept 15th	Kirsten & Kerry Leider; Ericka & Matt Olin, Avery Susan & Bryon Johnson, Christine; Jim Manfred
Sept 22nd	Laurie & David Johnson, Ben, Sam and Tim; Dave & Kathy Kreager; Beth & Bob Lee; Lois Krueth
Sept 29th	Kenny & Calla Gilbertson; Janelle & Charlie Dahl, Ruby and Connor; David & Betsy Larsen



Prayer:

And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children.  
Isaiah 54:13

**PRAYER REQUEST** - If you would like us to pray for a specific concern, please call the office at 525-1922 and your request will be shared with others who care about your needs and believe God will hear and answer. If you have a prayer request emergency and it is after church office hours, please email Amie at [communications@lcsduluth.org](mailto:communications@lcsduluth.org)

**PRAYERS FOR HOSPITALIZED PERSONS** shared with the Prayer Chain (and in the Prayers of the Church) will begin with “God knows the names of all for whom we pray...” unless permission has been granted by the hospitalized individual or a family member of the individual. This is in keeping with our Privacy Policy. If you have questions/ comments regarding this policy, please feel free to discuss it with one of the pastors.

### Worship Attendance

<p><b><u>9:30</u></b></p> <p>7/7     86</p> <p><b><u>9:30</u></b></p> <p>7/28    106</p> <p><b><u>9:30</u></b></p> <p>8/18    104</p>	<p><b><u>9:30</u></b></p> <p>7/14    101</p> <p><b><u>9:30</u></b></p> <p>8/4     89</p> <p><b><u>9:30</u></b></p> <p>8/25    122</p>	<p><b><u>9:30</u></b></p> <p>7/21    107</p> <p><b><u>9:30</u></b></p> <p>8/11    81</p>
---	---	--



## Confirmation Dates and Details for 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Families

### Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> – 5:30 – Mentor Training

This training is open to everyone – but especially those adults who are interested in helping with the Confirmation program! Whether you're able to mentor every week, or as a substitute – you should be part of this training!

### Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Kick Off!

This night is intentionally created just for 7<sup>th</sup> Grade families? Why?

To meet each other!

To give you a “big picture” vision of our Confirmation program

To answer any questions or concerns you have, as the newest members of our Confirmation program

### Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> – Welcome to Confirmation Milestone

This milestone celebrates the beginning of your time in Confirmation. All 7<sup>th</sup> Graders and their families are invited to worship to receive a special gift and blessing!

### Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 – Orientation for All Grades (7-9)

Parents and students in all grades should attend this orientation. We will be walking through this year's calendar, special events, assignments, and theme. No matter what grade you are in: **this is very, very important information for you and your parents to hear!**

### Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6:00 - First Day of Confirmation for 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> Graders



## Confirmation Dates and Details for 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Families

### **Ready to Affirm Classes begin in September**

Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, September 18<sup>th</sup>, and September 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

**Final Assignments** – including an interview with a Pastor, a written “This I Believe” statement, and written answers to specific questions – must be completed in early October. (Official deadline for written work is the date of your interview.)

**Confirmation Breakfast and Rehearsal** – Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 am- 11:00 am

Every family should plan on bringing something to share for this breakfast.

**The date of your Rite of Confirmation: Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 worship.**

---

## **Sunday, September 8th is Rally Sunday!**

- We return to 2 worship services, 8:45 and 11:00am
- Sunday school begins at 10:00am for 3 year olds-6th graders! (Sunday School Registration is open!! Go to the Sunday School page on our website! [www.lcgsduluth.org](http://www.lcgsduluth.org) the sooner the better!
- Blessing of the Backpacks at both services!
- We return for bible studies, music ministry, volunteer sign-ups, and the Sunday School Open House!
- Come find out how you can get involved!

**Volunteer sign ups for Sunday morning “jobs”.** There are openings to be an usher, do projections, Count Offerings, Liturgists, or greet people at the door! Consider what might work for you or your family. It is wonderful to have families usher or greet. Many jobs rotate so you may need to do them once a month or just a few times a year!

**The Good Shepherd Choir** will begin rehearsing again starting Wednesday, September 11th at 7:00pm. We welcome anyone who loves to sing! We have a wonderful group of people who would love to have you! If you have any questions, please speak with Debbie Sanders!



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

The other day at the golf course I overheard a couple of golfers talking about their church. One made the comment, “Where do you go to church now?” The word “go” struck me in a way I hadn’t thought about before. I thought; what does that really mean go to church? It brought to mind about all the places we go to: work, movies, concerts, shopping, out to dinner, and all the other places that we go to. All these do not require much of a response from us. We get fed, entertained or restock our pantry.

So what does it mean to us when we go to church? Do we have some sort of idea what we would accomplish when we attend? Do we go with the intention of growing spiritually? Do we go because we want to become more active in our faith? As I write this, just yesterday 29 American people were shot and killed, and many more wounded by two other Americans. How many of these people were churched or unchurched? If we are to believe in what the Bible tells us, they were all children of God; the good and the bad.

So where do we find the answers? We find them in Christ when we make him the center of our lives. We find them in the Commandment about loving God and loving our neighbor as ourselves. We find them for ourselves when we open up our heart and accept Christ as our Lord and Savior.

I know that these are hard thing to do because I have been trying to improve my own life in Christ but continue to fall far short. That doesn’t keep me from striving to be a better person. It is only by the Grace of God that I have come as far as I have. I know that God loves me and walks with me on whatever path my life takes. God loves us all just as we are.

God’s Peace to you,  
Your Brother in Christ  
Sulo

## Youth and Family Ministry News!

**Sunday School Registration is open!!** Go to the Sunday School page on our website! [www.lcgsduluth.org](http://www.lcgsduluth.org)  
the sooner the better!

**The kick-off to the Sunday School Year will be on September 8th!**

**Please join us in worship for the Blessing of the Backpacks during worship!!!**

Then, in between services, join us for a fun Sunday School game to learn more about our church! This is a great way for new families to explore the church, kids to see their classrooms, and families to meet each other!

**September “Save the Dates” for Sunday School Families (children age 3 – entering 6<sup>th</sup> gr)**

**Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**

“Blessing of the Backpacks” during both 8:45 and 11:00 Worship Services

**Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>**

Our first “Family Sunday School” of the year! We’ll be celebrating with a Baptism Birthday Party!

**Sunday, September 22nd and 29<sup>th</sup>**

Our first “regular days” of Sunday School – we will start learning the Bible Story of four friends lowering their friend who is paralyzed through a roof to get to Jesus!

**We had a wonderful week of VBS!!** The children learned about the Israelites fleeing Egypt and that when there are struggles in life, God is still with us. We sang lots of songs, roared like lions, played lots of games, ate yummy snacks! Thank you for all items that were donated and to all the amazing volunteers that helped make our week successful!

***God is good, all the time! All the time, God is good!***

**During VBS** in June we had a food drive during the week and the VBS responded beyond our goals!!! CHUM staff wrote: Thank you for your contribution of \$486.22 to CHUM through the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd Vacation Bible School. Your gift has been designated for CHUM's Food Shelf. All together, this effort raised a total of \$876.22!



### Up Coming Events

Sep. 21st Fall Work Day Camp Vermilion  
Oct. 6th Fall Festival Camp Hiawatha  
Oct. 11th - 13th Paddle Building Camp Vermilion  
Oct. 25th - 27th Quilting Retreat Camp Vermilion



Book Your Group Now! Experience camp the fall, winter, and spring! Enjoy the fall colors, ice covered lake, or the first buds on the trees by booking a retreat, meeting, or gathering at Camp Hiawatha or Camp Vermilion. Call the VLM office to book your event.

[www.VLMcamps.org](http://www.VLMcamps.org) • [vlm@VLMcamps.org](mailto:vlm@VLMcamps.org) • 218-666-5465  
Camp Hiawatha, 36944 Camp Hiawatha Road, Deer River, MN  
Camp Vermilion, 2555 Vermilion Camp Road, Cook, MN

## Create, Laugh, Learn!

"What a summer this has been! We pack so much into our short summers that I sometimes need to be reminded to be still and take in the warm wind from my lawn chair. It's bittersweet to see these days fading. But, I am also looking forward to continuing the many activities our church offers to help connect people with each other.

This year we will try to blend some of our outreach ministries such as mitten making, Animal Allies beds, Days for Girls, and others with our Bible School Service Sunday's utilizing the talents of many age groups. Other months will be special interest learning activities. What would you like to learn about? I'd like to hear from you!

**Another upcoming event "Days for Girls" Tuesday, September 17th 9-4pm** In the Fellowship Hall. We will be cutting, sewing, assembling, and bagging personal hygiene items for girls in places where their periods hinder them from going to school or going out in public. There is plenty of work for all experiences, you just need a heart for girls and education!



- **There will not be quilting on Monday, September 2nd due to the Labor Day Holiday. See you on the 9th!**
- **There will not be the Deb/Priscilla Circle in September. We will see you on Wednesday, October 9th!**

A big Thank You! To Janet Johnson from Hanna Johnson Fabric Store for her generous donation of fabric for our quilting ministry! -WELCA Quilters

### **THANK YOU!**

Thank you to Bryce Symens for refurbishing the Art Room (Room 104/105) as his Eagle Scout Project. Bryce mobilized a team of family, friends and fellow Scouts to clean and paint the walls, and lay carpet. Special thanks also go to Mike, Cynthia, and Sean Bradley for providing expertise, advice and materials for the project, as well as the Property Committee.

We look forward to other Eagle projects coming soon from Wes Chura (Gagaball Pit), Izak Hackbarth (Playground update) and Kyle Peterson.



**Thank you for participating in VLM's Bluegrass Festival this Summer:** We had 350 people come for an afternoon of great music, great food, and great fun. Together we raised nearly \$40,000 to support the ministries at Camp Hiawatha and Camp Vermilion. **Thank you for participating in the Church Basket Challenge.** Your breakfast themed basket was such a great idea! VLM Appreciates your continued support.

Sincerely, Gretchen Bachman, VLM Director of Operations

To our partners in ministry, with cloth and thread, metal and wood, clay and stone, you have generously donated your creative skills to the NE MN Synod quilt auction and marketplace. This year, your generosity helped raise \$14,647.82 for the ELCA Hunger appeal. The theme for this year's assembly was, *Just Peace Accompaniment: Doing God's Mission Together*. Through the work of your hands and the talents you share, you are helping in God's mission to bring peace and justice to the world.

Wishing you a summer of joy, peace and maybe time to be creative!

The Synod Quilt and Marketplace Team.

Next year the assembly will once again be in Duluth. It will be a busy time as we elect a new bishop. The DECC offers us a unique opportunity to reach many more people with your quilts and marketplace items.



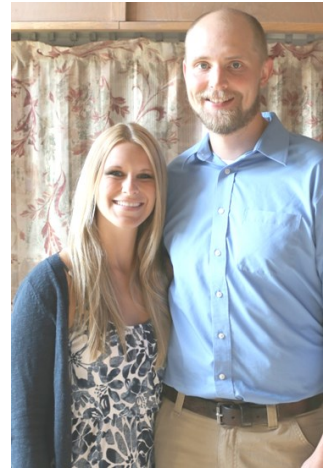
LCGS's quilt donation was voted "Best in Show"! The quilt was created by Pat Johnson. Thank you Pat!

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!

August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019

We are thankful to have you as a member of our church community!

**Kenny and Calla Gilbertson** are getting married September 20, 2019 at LCGS. Calla was born in Superior, but now calls Duluth home. She is a Business Analyst at ALLETE Clean Energy, a current student at UMD obtaining her master's degree in business administration, and an animal lover. Kenny was born and raised in Duluth. He works at UMD and his hobbies include restoring/working on classic cars and working with his hands. Together, Kenny and Calla have two Springer Spaniels, a cat, and enjoy getting outside to enjoy nature.



**Charlie, Janelle, Ruby (age 7) and Connor (age 3) Dahl** join us by transfer from Trinity Lutheran Church in Jamestown, ND. The Dahl family have been long term visitors of several congregations the past 3 years while Janelle worked as a travel nurse. After putting down roots in Duluth they are excited to be members of LCGS. Janelle is a Labor and Delivery Nurse at St. Luke's, while also attending classes to earn a degree as a Nurse Midwife. Charlie worked as a biologist for the United States Geological Survey before his current role as a stay at home dad and home renovator. The Dahl family's favorite Duluth activities include hiking, biking, skiing, fishing, playing at the parks, and being near the lake.



**Stan and Jan Burns** "Joining by transfer from Pilgrim Church in Duluth. Stan is employed as a professor in the UMD Dept. of Electrical engineering. Jan is retired. We moved from Ames, IA in 1998. We both enjoy water color painting, gardening, and events at UMD. We are Centering Prayer practitioners."



**David & Betsy Larsen** – We lived most of our married life in Sioux Falls, SD Where Dave ran a truck dealership and Betsy was a hospital pharmacist.



**Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd (ELCA)**  
1325 North 45th Avenue East, Duluth MN 55804-1507



Change Service Requested

**NON PROFIT ORG**  
**US Postage**  
**PAID**  
**Permit No 28**  
**Duluth, MN**

Place address label here.  
(new postal regulations)

**October**  
**Newsletter**  
**Deadline:**  
**September 15**

## **Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd**

Services at 9:30am and 11:00am  
Office Hours: M-Th • 9AM-4PM; Friday • 9AM-12PM  
Phone: 218-525-1922  
Website: [www.lcgsduluth.org](http://www.lcgsduluth.org)

### **MEET THE STAFF**

Pastor Dave Mesner, Lead Pastor  
(home) 218-529-9715  
email: [dmesner@lcgsduluth.org](mailto:dmesner@lcgsduluth.org)

Pastor Tim Berdahl, Pastor  
(home) 218-728-4382  
email: [tberdahl@lcgsduluth.org](mailto:tberdahl@lcgsduluth.org)

Katie Rich, Director of Youth & Family Ministry  
218-525-1922  
email: [kkrich@lcgsduluth.org](mailto:kkrich@lcgsduluth.org)

Katie Reynolds, Office Manager  
218-525-1922  
email: [office@lcgsduluth.org](mailto:office@lcgsduluth.org)

Amie Abenth, Communications Coordinator  
218-525-1922  
email: [communications@lcgsduluth.org](mailto:communications@lcgsduluth.org)

Stef Regenold, custodian  
Gregg Susens, custodian 218-525-1922  
Beth Lee, Treasurer 218-525-1922  
Sydney Fischer, Nursery Director 218-525-1922

Music Team:  
Linda Turpening, Organist 218-525-1922  
email: [linda@archdirect.com](mailto:linda@archdirect.com)  
Debbie Sanders, Good Shepherd Choir Director  
218-724-9065 email: [debra.k.sanders@icloud.com](mailto:debra.k.sanders@icloud.com)