

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

October 2019 Newsletter

FROM PASTOR DAVE

*"For everything there is a season,
And a time for every matter under heaven."
Ecclesiastes 3:1*

I love the season of harvest! This month Good Shepherd will be harvesting spiritual seeds that were planted long ago in several expressions of our mission.

Best Practices

We implement internal controls in our finances not because we don't trust our staff, but to protect the integrity of all those involved in the finances, and thus to enhance our mission. We thank Beth Lee, who has been serving this congregation as Treasurer for 33 years. Beth has been the one person who has been able to answer almost any question that could be asked about our finances. ELCA Best Practices recommends that in order to insure a healthy separation of responsibility, the four functions of recording income, creating checks, signing checks and reconciling the monthly bank statement be done by at least three different people. We have been asking Beth to do three of those functions!

In November of 2018 we transferred the bookkeeping functions of our Treasurer to the newly configured Office Manager position. This created a new full-time 40 hour position, and also required us to include more people in our finance process. We have called Katie Reynolds to serve as our Office Manager. Katie's accounting responsibilities include recording income and creating checks, but she will not be involved in signing checks or reconciling the monthly bank statement. Chris McIntosh has agreed to serve as our new Treasurer, with the responsibilities of signing checks and giving regular financial updates to the Vision Council. Derek Olson will be responsible for reconciling the monthly bank statement. Please thank Beth for her long and faithful service to our congregation. And welcome Katie, Chris and Derek to our team.

Reaching out to Honduras

This month Jayva Jordan, Annika Julsrud, Jen Julsrud and I will be part of a NE MN Synod team traveling to Honduras. We will be privileged to observe first-hand the important work being done to address the root causes of migration. We will also participate in a weekend training workshop for the pastors and lay leaders of the Lutheran Church in Honduras on the themes of Ethics, Lutheran Identity and Worship. We will also visit the Kindergarten at La Canada and renew deep friendships.

Affirmation of Baptism

Katie Rich has created a wonderful power point for use in worship that illustrates the spiritual journey from Baptism to Affirmation of Baptism. This is the spiritual journey that our 10th graders will celebrate on October 27. The three years of formal class instruction, worship participation, retreats and service culminate in each confirmand making a mature "I believe" statement and promising to "serve all people" and "strive for justice and peace in all the earth." This is the first confirmation class to have a special meeting with the Vision Council to share their vision for the mission and ministry of Good Shepherd. **Our 2019 confirmands are:**

Ella Braun	Ben Kreager	Tyler Smith	Emma Bursch
Emily Neveau	Rylee Stevens	Eli Fresvik	Darby Patterson
Bryce Symens	Isaak Hackbarth	Kyle Peterson	Brynn Vogt
Eric Jahn	Ashlynn Ring	Madison Wittmers-Graves	
Eli Kramer	Brenna Schmalz		

Thank God for harvest!

Pastor Dave



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

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

Pastor Tim's sermon on Sept. 8th was about the Parables of the one lost sheep and the one lost coin. As he was speaking, an old Webb Pierce song (Country Singer) came back to my mind and it was because of Pastor Tim using the word "one" so many times. The title of the song was "Let Me Be the One", the words of the song go something like this. *Let me be the one to walk to you, when you need someone to talk with you. Anything that makes you happy I want to do. Please let me be the one.*

So my thoughts almost immediately went to: *What if that was God talking to me?* The more I thought about the song, the more my mind started thinking about how these lines of the song were a clear message to me about what God is doing in my life.

Let me be the one to walk with you.

When I look back over my lifetime, even before I sobered up, I see that God was always with me. I know that it sounds trite to say that God has saved me from harm so many times but for me, I feel it's true. I thought because he did all this for me, there must have been some greater need for me elsewhere. Only God knows for sure what that is.

When you need somebody to talk with you.

Have you ever felt the presence of God being near you?

One day, not long after getting out of treatment, I was having a very hard time with things that seemed to be going wrong in my life.

So I went for a walk, and ended up sitting on a rock along the banks of the St. Louis River which wasn't far from my home in Scanlon. As I sat there and meditated and prayed, I sensed a presence near to me. When I looked around there was no one there except for the words that came to me: "You are going to be all right". After hearing these words, a certain peace came over me.

Anything that makes you Happy

God wants me, us to have a happy life. That seems like an impossible task when we see so much hunger, pain, and injustice in the world. But for those of us who are able to make a difference in someone else's life, it can have a great effect on our own spirit. When we see the needs of others and reach out to help them in any way we can, it can bring a smile to our faces when we see the results of our efforts. We are meant to be servants just as Jesus served us.

So please let me be the one.

So many times when I pray I say "It's you and I God". God wants to be with us in all situations and places, all we have to do is listen for His voice and He will walk with you and talk with you. Just ask him.

In Christ,
Sulo

Did you know we have a Prayer Shawl Ministry? If you are a knitter or crocheter and would like to create with others, we meet the fourth Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm in the gathering space.

See Rachel Moseley with any questions!



Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry's Up Coming Events!

Oct. 6th - Fall Festival at Camp Hiawatha

Oct. 11th - 13th - Paddle Building Workshop at Camp Vermilion

Oct. 25th - 27th - Quilting Retreat at Camp Vermilion

Dec. 8th - Celebration of Light and Music at Camp Hiawatha

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 • vlm@VLMcamps.org • 800-331-5148 • 218-666-5465

Camp Hiawatha, 36944 Camp Hiawatha Road, Deer River, MN

Camp Vermilion, 2555 Vermilion Camp Road, Cook, MN



The Good Shepherd Choir has begun rehearsing again Wednesdays, 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!

The lovely stained glass art hanging in the Gathering Space was created by Elizabeth Rose of LaCrosse, WI. She created it as a memorial for her beloved brother, Steve Guttormsson



BACK TO SCHOOL WITH BACKPACKS
In 2018 CHUM was able to distribute over 1,100 backpacks. So, THANK YOU in 2019! Your support for the 21st annual Back to School with Backpacks ministry was amazing. We gave CHUM school supplies including colored pencils, crayons, folders, glue sticks, pencils, pens, rulers and spiral notebooks. We also donated \$470 for CHUM to purchase the most needed items. This is an exciting time for our area youth. These supplies will help them start the school year off right. And, if you took advantage of shopping on line through or giving directly to CHUM, that is much appreciated as well. Thank you for all you do!
Marcia Semerau, Reaching Out Leadership Team

I want to thank our church family for your prayers, your concern, the prayer shawls for Patty and me, and last but not least, for the people who wanted to donate their kidney to me. A kidney hasn't been found for me yet, but Peritoneal Dialysis is manageable.
Bill Altonen



Dear friends from LCGS, On behalf of LSS of MN and those we serve, thank you for your recent gift of \$190. For the last 154 years, congregations like yours have been essential partners in the mission of LSS, helping us grow from a church basement near Red Wing to offer services in all 87 counties of our state.
Once again, thank you for your generous gift. Your support affirms our vision that all people have the opportunity to live and work in community with full and abundant lives.
Many blessing,
Tina Vaughan, Church Partnerships Team Assistant

Food Donations: Just a reminder that we always accept food donations for CHUM. Place any nonperishable foods in the wooden cross in our entryway or in the grocery cart near the welcome center. Thank you!

OWLS! (Older, Wiser, Lutheran)

OWLS fall kickoff!!

- Outdoor pizza party hosted by Steve and Lois Opseth
- **Tuesday October 1st, 11:30am** At the Opseth home: 361 Kennelworth,
- Delicious pizzas made to order, in their hand-made, outside pizza oven. Crust, sauce, and cheese provided. Bring beverage and a pizza topping to share! 3 desserts needed for those with a sweet tooth!
- Sign-up in the Gathering Space.
- Question Lois 218-340-3605 or Nan 724-7733



Join us for Confirmation Sunday – Sunday, October 27th at our 11:00 Worship

Our 10th Graders will be confirming their faith and affirming their baptismal promises at the 11:00 worship service. These 10th Graders have spent *three years* in Confirmation classes, preparing for this moment; come celebrate with us!

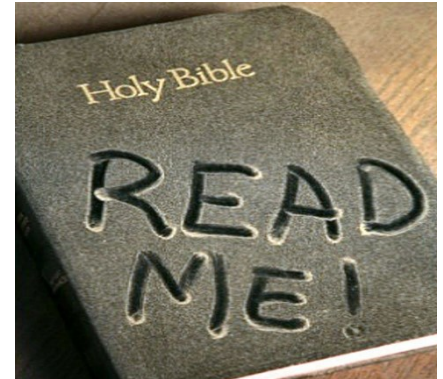
People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and brothers and pray for them in their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

This October – all Youth and Family Ministry Announcements center around the Bible!

The Bible Milestone is coming soon! Sunday, October 13th during worship (both 8:45 and 11:00). We will have special Bibles for all 3 year olds and 3rd Graders. But, we will also have Bibles available for any adult at church who needs one. Are you struggling to read the King James Version of the Bible you were given decades ago? **The Lutheran Study Bible** is the first Bible in English to be developed with notes that are distinctively Lutheran. Notes were prepared by theologians and pastors from more than 20 Lutheran church bodies. In addition to a full Biblical text, each Bible also includes:

- Lutheran Insights that Open the Bible
- What Should We Expect When We Read the Bible?
- Luther's Small Catechism
- And more!



Lutheran Study Bibles will be available on our Bible Milestone Sunday – October 13.

Our Confirmation Students are experiencing “The Bible Year” in Confirmation. In addition to our Wednesday night lessons, Confirmation students are welcome to attend the **Middle School Gathering** at Cragun's Resort in Brainerd. The theme for this year's Synod-wide event is “Live God's Dream.”

****The deadline to register is Wednesday, October 16th.****

Anyone and Everyone connected with Confirmation – students, parents, grandparents, loving congregation members – are invited to wrestle with the Bible's difficult texts by **reading “Inspired” by Rachel Held Evans**. We will be hosting a **“book night”** in January to discuss.

Join us for Confirmation Sunday – Sunday, October 27th at the 11:00 Worship. Our 10th Graders will be confirming their faith and affirming their baptismal promises at the 11:00 worship service. These 10th Graders have spent three years in Confirmation classes, preparing for this moment; come celebrate with us!

Our Sunday School Children are learning two core Bible Stories this month – Four Friends (Luke 5:17-26) and the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37.) These Bible Stories teach us the importance of helping others – both friends and strangers! This fall, the Sunday School children will be putting these lessons in action by collecting kid's clothes for a kid's clothing drive. **We also have a special event coming up October 20th – Pumpkin Patch Sunday!** This is a great Good Shepherd tradition when every family goes home with a pumpkin and the challenge to practice giving thanks to God every day before Thanksgiving.

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...” Colossians 3:16

LCGS IS PRAYING

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

Oct 6 Terry & Jim Olsen; Debra & Thomas Olson; Jean Pappas

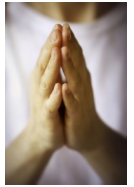
Oct 13 Arlene & Glenn Olson; Lin & Joe Johnson; Gregg Papke

Oct 20 Carol & Dick Olson; Cynthia & Mark Johnson, Jessica, Chelsey, Brittany and Matthew
Jody & Christopher May, Ava and Emilia

Oct 27 LCGS 2019 Confirmands

Prayer:

"For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace."
Romans 6:14

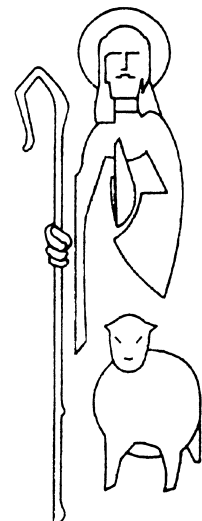


PRAYER REQUEST - If you would like us to pray for a specific concern, please call the office at 525-1922 and your request will be shared with others who care about your needs and believe God will hear and answer. If you have a prayer request emergency and it is after church office hours, please email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

	<u>9:30</u>		<u>8:45</u>	<u>11:00</u>	
9/1	85	9/8	139	87	
	<u>8:45</u>	<u>11:00</u>		<u>8:45</u>	<u>11:00</u>
9/15	52	48	9/16	133	66
	<u>8:45</u>	<u>11:00</u>			
9/29	128	62			



Growing as Disciples and Stewards

“Give”



November Annual Financial Response— Looking Ahead

During the first three weeks in November, we will highlight our last discipleship practice of giving and our Annual Financial Response. In the church, to “give” is a topic usually relegated to a three week or four-week period of time in the fall or spring as congregations seek to receive “estimates of giving” toward the next year’s ministry budget. But is this really what to “give” is all about in the context of discipleship? The faith/discipleship practice, “give”, is not about fundraising in the church whether it be for budget or special funding opportunities. For the disciple, one’s giving is predicated on God’s giving and generosity.

The disciple’s giving is a grateful response to God’s abundant gift of grace in Jesus Christ. Paraphrasing what the Apostle Paul writes in 2 Corinthians in response to God’s grace, the disciple first gives of them self for all that God has done and continues to do in Christ. In other words, giving of one’s whole self is how the disciple **lives in** and **lives out** God’s grace. Luke’s story of the widow’s offering also shows us how to give with our whole heart. As one lives in the midst of God’s grace each day, to “give” is both a joy and duty for the disciple. Giving in joy and duty. What does this mean for the growing disciple and steward?

Joy and Gratitude - The basic foundational reason for giving, whatever the gift may be, is from a heart filled with joy and gratitude for all of God’s abundant gifts but especially that of grace in Jesus Christ. For the disciple, joy and gratitude underlies all giving. A heart filled with joy creates a need to give that expresses gratitude and thanksgiving. It is not a response to a specific appeal or occasion to give a gift but rather the giving of ourselves and all of who we are in response to God’s incredible and uncondi-

tional love in Jesus Christ. It is this joy and gratitude in God’s gifts and grace that provides the basic foundation for all the disciple’s giving whether it be time, abilities, talents, spiritual gifts, or money.

For the disciple, joy and gratitude also informs and undergirds gifts shared for special and specific appeals. A heart of that is filled with delight and gratitude for God’s gift of grace is the very basic “Why” of the faith/discipleship practice, “give.”

Duty - A heart filled with joy and gratitude for God’s grace in Christ leads to the need of proclaiming this life - giving gift. That is the duty of giving. In a disciple’s giving, God’s love in Christ is proclaimed. As we **live in** the joy of God’s grace, we **live out** the duty of proclamation. Duty flows from joy and gratitude and is the underlying support for a strong and vibrant ministry. In the context of ministry, one’s duty in giving, along with a response of joy, is a need to make certain and insure that the congregation’s mission of proclaiming God’s continues to be strong, bold, and vibrant.

The disciple’s sharing of gifts builds up and strengthens the mission of the congregation and the whole church. A heart that is attentive to duty and proclamation becomes the “What” of the faith/discipleship practice, “give.” For the disciple, giving is not a short term specific fund appeal topic. It is a way of life as one seeks to **live in** and **live out** God’s grace in Christ. To “give” is an act of joy and ministry, saying a resounding YES to God’s love and grace in Jesus Christ.

Stewardship Committee





Sunday November 17 is Celebration and Faith Promise Sunday.

We gather to celebrate and give thanks for the ministry God has given us at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. We will also share in the delight and duty of making commitments of how we can share the gifts of times, abilities, spiritual gifts, and financial resources in delight for God's gift of grace and that our ministry can grow in outreach with the gospel.

Worship at 8:45 only (no 11 a.m.) followed by Celebration Brunch at 10:30 with guest speaker, Catherine Anderson.

Catherine is Coordinator of Youth Ministry and Leadership Development/Faith Formation at the ELCA Northeast MN Synod. She will present a short program on connecting the message of the gospel to a rapidly changing culture and on how "all generations can support growing as disciples and stewards". Families and children are encourage to attend. (Christmas program rehearsal will take place before the brunch.) Childcare will be available also. Watch for additional information on this event in church publications and mailings.



Shaming comes in many forms. It may be words said or unsaid. "Exclusion, Not Worthy, Unclean". The "coming of age" for young women in third world countries means denial of an education. During menstruation, young women and girls must stay home because feminine hygiene products are either too expensive or unavailable to them. Missing one fourth of every school year is a road to dropping out.

When girls and women have access to resources like DfG Kits and education to manage their periods, the result is proud, strong, confident leaders, ready to change the world.

We can make a difference!

"Days for Girls" is an international organization which empowers women and girls worldwide through sustainable menstrual care products and health education. The WELCA women of Minnesota have teamed together to support their mission. French River Lutheran Church WELCA members will teach us how to make these kits to support them.

WELCA is supporting the efforts of French River "Days for Girls" ministry so that young girls may stay in school.

Education through the Days for Girls organization plus sustainable hygiene products provide young girls the tools to better their future.

If you can bring a sewing machine, serger, iron, and board please do. If you cannot attend please consider donating something from the items posted in the gathering space and drop it off in the office.

- Lightweight washcloths
- Dark 100% cotton printed geometric, botanical, batik fabric (**no** animals, bugs, reptiles, people faces, eyes, camo, national symbols, girly glam)
- Dark colored 100% cotton flannel (same guidelines for prints) no bed sheets
- 2 yards of 5/8 inch ribbon for drawstrings
- Freezer gallon size ziploc bags
- Money donation to Marge Kangas or drop off in office.

**October 15th,
9:00-4:00PM**

Bring a bag lunch. We hope to see you there!

Sue Boutin 2183495991



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



November
Newsletter
Deadline:
October 15

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
Sunday Services at 8:45AM and 11:00AM
Office Hours: M-Th • 9AM-4PM; Friday • 9AM—12 NOON
Phone: 218-525-1922 •
Website: www.lcgisduluth.org

MEET THE STAFF

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

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

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

Katie Reynolds , Office Manager
218-525-1922
email: office@lcgsduluth.org

Amie Abenth, Communications Coordinator
218-525-1922
email: communications@lcgsduluth.org

Stef Reganald , custodian
Greg Susens, custodian 218-525-1922

Sydney Fischer, Nursery Director 218-525-1922

Music Team:
Linda Turpening, Organist 218-525-1922
email: linda@archdirect.com

Debbie Sanders, Good Shepherd Choir Director
218-724-9065 email: debra.k.sanders@icloud.com

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