

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

November 2019 Newsletter

FROM PASTOR TIM

A quote from John O'Donohue has stayed with me over the years: "One of the deepest longings of the human soul is to be seen." My mind floats across the ministry moments unfolding constantly throughout our congregation.

I picture moments like when you walk into the choir room for practice, and the others turn and greet you, and the good humor begins. You have been seen.

I think of times like when the quilters gather on Monday mornings, and when the Create, Laugh, and Learn people focus on their next project, and when the OWLS join together in their next event. Perhaps you are relatively new to the gathering, or perhaps you have been with the ministry from the beginning – either way, when you walk into the room, others turn to greet you. You have been seen.

I think of all the other groupings that happen throughout the ministries of our church, and wonder at the ways that God has blessed you by having another person really see you. Maybe it first happened in the Gathering space, or maybe on the way into Sunday School, or maybe while attending a Confirmation related event. Maybe it was when you first came to worship, and afterwards, someone turned to you, made eye contact, smiled, and said something like, "Good to see you."

God is constantly blessing us with new people who are giving our church a try. My prayer is that, just as you have experienced being "seen" in our congregation, that you are now passing this gift on to others. May God turn your vision toward those who could really use being "seen." Next time in church, let your eyes notice those people you have not noticed before. And, in your own unique way, let them know that you see them.

Pastor Tim

Pasty Bake Time!

December 6-7, 2019

It's Pasty Bake time again! The Fellowship Hall will be filled with volunteers working together and those yummy pasties once again December 6-7, 2019. This fundraiser supports the 2019 Mission Plan (budget) approved by the congregation earlier this year. Here's how you can get involved:



Order pasties for your family, friends or to donate to local charities. Pasties orders will be taken Sundays in November in the Gathering Space. An order sheet will also be in the office and available for download on www.lcgssduluth.org homepage to take orders at your family gatherings or business.

Donate online to the Pasty Bake. Want to support this fundraiser without buying pasties? Donate to the Pasty Bake fund online at www.lcgssduluth.org/give.

Volunteer sign up also Sundays in the Gathering Space or online at <https://signup.com/go/bbVvrWa>. (This link will also be on our homepage along with emails and Facebook posts.) We need volunteers Thursday evening, December 5 from 5-9 PM to help peel vegetables and to set up our workspace. Volunteers are also needed for morning and afternoon shifts Friday and Saturday, December 5-7. Families are encouraged to volunteer together!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

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

This morning as I looked out our kitchen window at our back yard, I could see all the work that still needed to be done before the snow comes. Self-pity was setting in because the weather is not cooperating and I had all this stuff to do yet. As I gazed out the window my thoughts started to shift to a recording I had made from PBS. It brought me back to reality to see how well off I was compared to the 10 year old boy in the video.

It was about how this Ukrainian boy coped with the war with the Russians; that was literally going on within just two miles or so from his house. He lived with his grandmother because both his parents had died.

It would take too much to write about all the courage, patience, kindness, nurturing and love that was displayed by these people in such horrible surroundings. And I thought to myself, here I stand complaining about having to do a little yard work. It saddens me to think about all the people who are living under such terrible conditions.

It makes me even sadder to think that I don't really appreciate what God has done for me.

In this month of thanksgiving I want to be grateful for all the gifts that God has given me. Its time to count my blessing and have an attitude of gratitude. Keeping Christ at the center of my life is what I have to do.

Your Brother in Christ, Sulo

Salvation Army Bell Ringing - December 7th & 14th

Are you looking for a way you can do ministry during the holidays? One easy way is ringing bells for the Salvation Army. Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd members, families and friends have the opportunity to donate one or two (or more) hours of time to assist with this critical work. We will cover two full days of bell ringing at one location: Cub Foods on Central Entrance (inside!). The dates are Saturday, December 7th and 14th, from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Look for the signup poster in November. It will be on an easel in the gathering space. Please fill in your name for one or two one-hour time slots to offer your help for this worthwhile cause. Call Marcia Semerau at 576-5531 with questions.



Good Shepherd Silent Auction

Sunday Nov 3– Sunday Nov 10 in the Gathering Space

Donations may be dropped off starting October 14– 31 in the Church Library. Consider donations “from the heart” using your unique creative skills and abilities. Also welcome are themed gift baskets, especially for fall and holidays. Proceeds from this fundraiser will go to the 2019 Church Mission plan (operating budget).

Please, no rummage sale type items. Thank you!



Thank you for your congregational contribution of \$55.00 to the CHUM Food Shelf and \$25.00 to the general fund in June and July. Your gifts allow us to continue to provide food, shelter, advocacy, and a caring community for some of Duluth's most vulnerable residents.

On August 6th CHUM celebrated National Night Out with a picnic in the Food Shelf parking lot. CHUM congregations provided potato salad, baked beans, watermelon, and coleslaw, as well as volunteers to serve the food. We had live music, and guests enjoyed 300 hamburgers, 240 hotdogs and 14 gallons of ice cream. CHUM is proud to be a diverse community that celebrates together, welcomes all comers, stands in solidarity with our neighbors, demonstrates generosity, practices fellowship, and spreads love in the world. Thank you for being part of that community.

Your support of CHUM, in all ways - time, treasure and good will - makes our work possible. Thank you again.

Sincerely, Lee Stuart- Executive Director and
Sincerely, Scott Van Daele, Distributive Services Director



The Stewardship Committee is pleased to offer its second personal finance workshop for our members.

With the support of the LCGS Endowment Fund and partnering with LSS Financial Counseling Service we are offering a free workshop on financial well-being; **“Living a Minimalistic Life”**

More than an art movement; Minimalism is becoming a referred lifestyle for people all around the Country who are questioning what brings value to life. Learn to incorporate this philosophy into your own life to cut clutter and reduce stress, live a meaningful life, and start defining what a Minimalistic Life would mean for you.

This is an important topic, that will help you take stock of your values and how you may simplify your life – this is important information for everyone. All our welcome!!

This free workshop will be offered **on Tuesday, November 19th, 6:30 - 8:00 pm** in the Upper Lakeside Room. Please sign up for this engaging and informative workshop in the church office or at the Welcome Desk at worship on Sundays. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Aulie at susan.aulie@outlook.com or 218-341-1083



Create, Laugh, and Learn!

Tuesday, Nov 12th 9-4 in the Fellowship Hall * Mittens for Charity!

Clean out your closets! Washed wool blankets or sweaters, and polar fleece welcome! Drop them off in the church office.

We need pattern cutters, sewers, finishers; NO EXPERIENCE NECCESARY!

Come learn a new skill!

Mostly, we just need YOU to make this community ministry happen!

The finished mittens will go to our Sunday School service projects coming up after Christmas. All are welcome!

~Sue Boutin



Strategic Giving for Retirees

A Qualified Charitable Distribution is one effective strategy

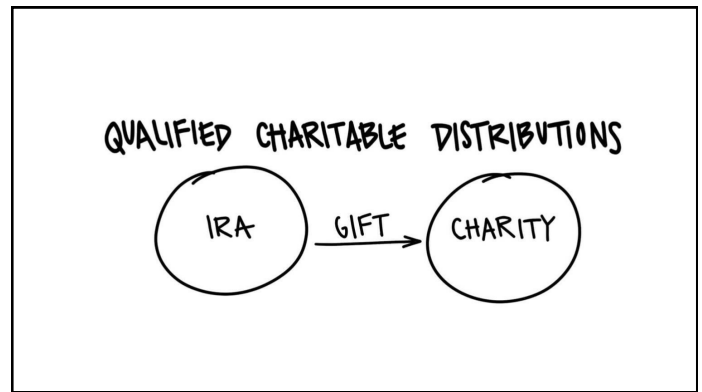
Dana J. Holt

People have been tithing for millennia. In Christian tradition, the aim of many is to give 10% of their household income to the church as offering to God. But how much should we give after we retire and don't have a regular income from work anymore? And where should that money come from: Savings? Investments? Retirement accounts?

The answer boils down to cash flow and asset location during retirement. The United States Federal Reserve estimates that only about 5% of personal wealth is held in cash at any given time. We keep only enough cash to cover daily expenses and emergencies. The other 95% is held in things like real estate, insurance, businesses, banks, and retirement accounts.

Over the past several decades, employees have become more active in contributing to personal retirement accounts. Gone are the days of private pensions, so it's up to individuals to save money for retirement. According to the Investment Company Institute, we currently hold over \$29 Trillion in retirement accounts! About \$9.5 Trillion is held in IRAs alone. (That will become very relevant soon, so read on....)

Most retirees live on a combination of Social Security income and distributions from their retirement accounts, such as IRAs (Individual Retirement Accounts). It may surprise you that many retirees don't need all the money in their IRAs, but they are forced to take distributions when they are six months past turning 70 years old. These distributions are commonly referred to as RMDs (Required Minimum Distributions) and are virtually 100% taxable. They are often quite sizeable – five, six, or even seven digits large!



Until recently, people had no choice but to withdraw these (sometimes large) RMDs and pay the corresponding tax. That extra income often causes additional expenses, such as:

- Increasing someone's overall tax rate

- Increasing the amount of Social Security Income that is taxed

- Increasing the cost of Medicare premiums

Today, people have a choice. If they don't need or want those sizeable RMDs, they can send some or all of it to their favorite charities and avoid those unwanted costs mentioned above. This technique is called a "Qualified Charitable Distribution" (QCD) and it's becoming extremely popular.

Here are some of the finer points of a QCD.

- Must be 70 ½ or older at the time of the transfer.

- May distribute up to \$100,000 per year, per IRA owner.

- Counts towards satisfying RMD.

- Distribution is not taxable to IRA owner or to charity.

- Must be sent directly from IRA custodian to charity.

- Only applies to IRAs – NOT 401(k), 403(b), etc.

Of course, people could certainly take distributions of those RMDs into income, recognize the additional taxes, and make a tax-deductible cash donation to their favorite charities. Unfortunately, they may not itemize their deductions. (Continued)

Furthermore, the deduction may not offset the additional income tax, and this workaround doesn't help with increased Social Security taxation or Medicare premiums.

The Qualified Charitable Distribution is probably the most tax-efficient way for retirees over 70 ½ to give to charity. They can use it to tithe, or to make significant contributions for any charitable purpose, easily sending a check.

Unfortunately, not everyone knows about the Qualified Charitable Distribution yet. It's up to neighbors and friends to spread the word. When working with my nonprofit clients I always encourage them to tell their supporters about QCDs in all the ways they communicate — in person, e-mail, website, newsletters, etc.

Don't forget, the giver can also name your congregation as a partial or full beneficiary of that IRA so that when she passes, more of those IRA assets will support your ministry. If left to family, those assets will become taxable, but there are no taxes on what is willed to charity, so some people prefer designating the entire distribution to a cause or organization, including churches.

About the Author

Dana J. Holt, JD RICP AEP® is the owner of HOLT Consulting, LLC. You can read more from Dana at www.HoltPlannedGiving.com

This article was adapted from an online post at the CENTER FOR STEWARDSHIP LEADERS, Luther Seminary, MARCH 19, 2019. Used with permission.

Member Rosemary Guttormsson recently talked with me about setting up a QCD this year. Her investment advisor recommended doing this in 2019 due to tax law changes and other changes in her family's financial giving.

Instead of doing weekly automated drafts out of her checking account, she uses the QCD to give to the church just one check for her whole commitment for the year. She notes, "I scheduled my investment company to send the QCD check last June as summer is often time when giving is lower due to vacations and people being away. Setting up a QCD is very easy!" Thanks Rosemary for shedding some light on this financial strategy.

-Paula Tsufis, Stewardship Committee



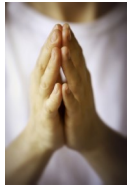
Did you see (or hear?) the workers on the roof this month? Your financial gifts to the church help us take care of our building - and call in the professionals when needed! We have had big leaks coming in on rainy days and during Springtime snow melts. The Property Team worked with professional roofers to fix the flat part of our roof, and we are now dry and warm! Thank you!!!



LCGS IS PRAYING

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

Nov 3	Julie & Colin Reichhoff, Sarah, Eliana and Michael; the Saints who have gone before us this past year; those who have joined us through baptism this year
Nov 10	Erin & Erick Sather, Elsie and Leo; Elizabeth & David Nelson; the 6th graders today as they are "Wrapped in God's Love"
Nov 17	Peggy & Jon Nelson, Adam, Erik, Rachel and Matthew; Candy & Jack Rendulich; Nathan Rendulich
Nov 24	Tami & David Patterson, Rylea and Darby; Lynn & Steven Saxe, and Alex; youth and adult guides at the Jr. High Youth Gathering this weekend
Prayer:	You will pray to God, and God will hear you... Job 22:27

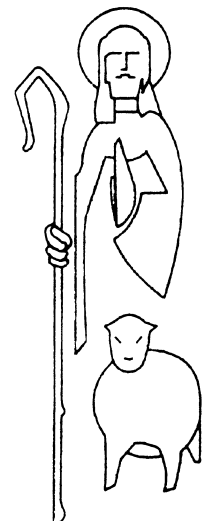


PRAYER REQUEST - If you would like us to pray for a specific concern, please call the office at 525-1922 and your request will be shared with others who care about your needs and believe God will hear and answer. If you have a prayer request emergency and it is after church office hours, please email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

	8:45	11:00		8:45	11:00
10/6	102	47	10/13	147	55
	8:45	11:00		8:45	11:00
10/20	96	50	10/27	107	260



Join us for Celebration and Faith Promise Sunday

November 17, 2019

Sunday November 17th 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.



Please use these weeks prior to our Celebration and Faith Promise Sunday to prayerfully consider how you might grow as a disciple and steward. As a guide in growing in your financial giving, please prayerfully consider growing by 10, 15, or 20% over what you are presently giving. To help in your prayerful consideration, a "Growth in Giving" chart will be included in the mailing with your 2020 Estimate of Giving Form and a Simply Giving® Form to start or updated your automatic annual giving. New this year is a Discipleship Practice Commitment Form to show how you plan to serve Christ, the church, and the community in the coming year. Bring your Estimate of Giving Form and Discipleship Practice Commitment to church on Celebration Sunday to join in a special Processional Offering that day.

Thanks be to God for the gift of Jesus Christ and the life transforming grace through Him. See you Sunday November 17th for a great celebration of ministry and outpouring of generosity!

—Paula Tsufis, Stewardship Committee

Sunday November 17 is Celebration Brunch

with Catherine Anderson

Worship at 8:45 only (no 11 a.m.) followed by coffee fellowship in the Gathering Space and Sunday School in the Lower Lakeside Room

The buffet line for the brunch will open at 10:20. Sunday School children will be the "last through the line" at 10:45.

Our guest speaker, Catherine Anderson will speak at 11:00.

Catherine is Coordinator of Youth Ministry and Leadership Development/ Faith Formation at the ELCA Northeast MN Synod. She will present a short program connecting the message of the Gospel to a rapidly changing culture and how "all generations can support growing as disciples and stewards." Families and children are encourage to attend. Childcare will be available also. Watch for additional information on this event in church publications and mailings. There is no charge for this event.

Brunch is being catered by our creative Stewardship Committee member, Cyndi Venberg and her kitchen crew. **Please RSVP by November 10th** via tear off card received in the mail or online at <http://evite.me/qEkMMYxH5T> (this link will be in the weekly emails to click on easily).



Dear members of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd,

As I write this, we as a congregation have just surrounded 17 young adults of the church as they affirmed their baptism and confirmed their faith with us. I choked up a little as I read the names, mostly because each of them has a unique connection with the community here. Some are deeply connected with roots that reach through generations. Others are relatively new to the church or have moved here from far off places when they were younger. But what stood out to me were two things this past Sunday. I saw as a grandmother rubbed the back of a teary and proud mother. This mother was watching her daughter talk about how friends and family have helped build her faith through the death of her relatives. She shared how grief was able to be navigated because of the people around her at church. I also saw the friend from school of another confirmand, sitting alone in the back row, smiling as the friend who invited her to church for the first time, just last month, was confirmed.

What a blessing to have a church story! We get to be part of this!

Life in the church can be hard, and it can be joyous, and it can be busy. There are so many stories that we are part of that tell how this ministry changes lives.

There is a lot going on especially this time of year. As your Vision Council President, I wanted to keep you in the loop what God may be up to in our lives and in our community. There a couple of fundraisers coming up that are important to the congregational mission as we end the year. Traditionally, the summer is a time when offerings are lower. As we end our budget year, these fundraisers are a great way for people to get engaged in their support of LCGS.

Give to the Max Day November 14th

Budget Preparation Deadline Dec 1st

Ministry Teams are currently preparing for 2020. The teams will present their budgets to the Budget Task Force by December. This team will then be preparing the final budget for the Vision Council to review. Please keep our leaders in your prayers as they look to the faithful mission of this church.

Pasty Bake December 6th and 7th

Please consider helping out with the cutting and chopping or the assembly and baking. Invite someone to help! People look forward to these scrumptious meals every year. Don't forget to make room in your freezer for a few. Buy an extra one for a neighbor!

Please know that your Vision Council, Pastors, and Staff are continuing to work very hard during some staff transitions. We will be getting more info out on the in the newsletter and on the web.

Vision Council on the Web www.lcgsduluth.org/about-us

The page will be up and ready soon. Check back soon to see what is going on with your Vision Council.

Thank you for being part of the church!

Joel Abenth, LCGS Vision Council President

PS. Do you have questions for me? Want me to visit with your Bible Study or small group? Give me a call or text at 218-780-2069 I would love to chat about what God is up to here at LCGS!

give
TO THE
MAX
NOV. 14, 2019

Use your Smart Phone
Camera to Visit
GiveMN.org



\$15,000 Matching Available!

Your gift on will be doubled thanks to the generosity of three anonymous donors and the leadership of your Vision Council! Preschedule your gift to LCGS by visiting our GiveMN page: **www.givemn.org/organization/LCGSDuluth**

Share your story on social media or you can contact Amie in the office with your thoughts by calling her at **(218) 525-1922** or emailing her at **Communications@LCGSDuluth.org**

Get the word out!

Use the Hashtag - #GoodShepherdInTheField

Facebook – LCGS Duluth

Instagram - @LCGSDuluth

We invite you to share how your experiences in the Good Shepherd community impact your family, your school, your city and your world.

Make a gift on the GiveMN page or drop off a check at the church by November 14th and make sure you mark it for the GTMD MATCH!

...And thank you!!

Youth and Family Ministry at Good Shepherd

What's Happening in November?!

In Sunday School...

We are learning the story of the Good Samaritan!

November 3rd we are singing during worship!! We will be singing "Light of the World"!

All 6th Graders are invited to worship on Nov. 10th for our "Wrapped in God's Love" Milestone. We want to give you a tangible reminder of God's love and comfort – a bright, red fleece blanket!

We are starting to get ready for the Christmas Program!

We practice our Christmas Songs throughout November

Our 5th and 6th Graders help organize costumes and practice the readings in November

Sunday, Nov. 24th is the first Christmas Worship Practice for Sunday School Children. Save the date: our Sunday School Christmas Program will be Sunday, Dec. 15th during worship. (Also save the Date for Dec. 8: our final run through and Advent Workshop!)

In Confirmation...

We are learning about the Bible!

The Middle School Gathering for Confirmation Students will be happening Nov. 23-24. 20* students and 5* adults from Good Shepherd will be traveling to Cragun's Resort in Brainerd to worship, learn, and play with hundreds of other Confirmation students in our Synod. Please keep us and this entire event in your prayers!

There are many ways Confirmation Students can start earning their service hours – including church-wide events like the Silent Auction, Pasty Bake, and Stewardship Brunch!

For High School Students...

Peer Ministry begins on Wednesday, October 30th for our 10th grade students. We meet in the Youth Room from 7:30 – 9:00 pm.

There will be no Peer Ministry on November 27th – the night before Thanksgiving

There will be No Confirmation on Wednesday, Nov. 27 and No Sunday School Sunday, Dec. 1

Save the Dates: Confirmation students will be leading worship on Wednesday, December 4th at 6:00 pm.*

Sunday School students will share their Christmas Program in worship on Sunday, December 15th.*

**All are welcome to join us and enjoy worship experiences led by our amazing young people!*

Attention Sunday School Families: The Christmas Program is Coming! Mark your calendars...

Every child has a part to play! A costume to wear or a line to say!

Sunday, November 24 – Our First Christmas Worship Practice (during Sunday School)

Sunday, December 1st – No Sunday School – Happy Thanksgiving!

*Many of our volunteers and families will be out of town visiting friends and family
– Thank You for understanding!*

Sunday, December 8th – Christmas Worship Practice: Full Run Through (during Sunday School)

Join us after practice for the Advent Workshop! Christmas Crafts and Gift-Making for the whole family! Bring something to share for the potluck lunch... We hope to see you there!

Sunday, December 15th – Sunday School Christmas Worship

8:45 – Kids Lead Worship

10:00 – Treats and Activities for the whole family!

11:00 – Kids Lead Worship



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



December/
January
Newsletter
Deadline:
November 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.lcgsduluth.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
218-525-1922 email: debra.k.sanders@icloud.com

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