

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

Summer 2021 Newsletter

“For everything there is a season.” Ecclesiastes 3:1

Thank you for being part of this incredible season in the mission of our congregation. This summer it seems like several seasons are happening simultaneously, each of which impacts every aspect of our ministry. Put them all together and we arrive at the summer of 2021: a season of listening, healing and discovering the “new song” God is teaching us. You won’t find them labeled as such on a calendar, but these are the layers of complexity that come to us this summer:

COVID-19

We can glimpse the other side of the pandemic as we return to in-person worship and the possibility of indoor gatherings with few protocols, other than to love our neighbor.

Interim period

As we welcome Pastor Nancy we glance back with thanksgiving and forward with openness to the future to which God is calling us. After 14 months of unknown and challenge we long for rest and healing.

Mission and Vision

We now have the opportunity to deepen our identity as a community of Christ. We will listen to God’s Word and to each other while also listening to the cry of our world for meaning and purpose.

Sabbath rest

The time has come for me and for us as a congregation to drink deeply from the still waters of sabbath rest. In all of these “seasons” happening this summer, God is with us!

Worship

During the exile of the pandemic, the “place” where we continued to gather as a community was our online worship services. Led by our Vision council and SMART Team we have followed science and the Holy Spirit to provide safe and meaningful worship experiences. Thanks be to God and to all of you! This particular season of limited protocols will continue until all under the age of 12 have the opportunity to be protected through vaccination. We are learning how to navigate worship in the sanctuary safely and also how to continue to provide a quality online experience for those not yet able to come in person. We are so thankful for the skill and spirit of our worship and tech teams, and are deeply appreciative of the expertise of our professional tech consultants from Citon. Thank you for your patience and participation as we navigate this new edge of our ministry.

Mission and Vision

The interim period provides us with the opportunity to take a fresh look at every expression of our ministry and to consider what “new thing” God is calling us to in this season of our history. (See the Mission and Vision Sheet in this mailing for specific details.) Our Vision Council has set up a 6-9 month process to extend the 2003 Mission and Vision Statement to the present and into the future. Thank you to Dave Chura and Sara Hendrickson for serving as co-chairs, to all those who will serve on the Task Force, and to each of you who will share your dreams through surveys, home gatherings, small group conversations and congregational consensus. What an exciting season!

Sabbath rest

Following the clarity that emerges from of the Mission and Vision update our congregation will be in a position to begin a call process. We have realized that it will not be possible for me to reschedule my postponed sabbatical during that time. Thanks to the presence of Pastor Nancy and our strong congregational leadership it has become clear that “now” is the time for a deep sabbath renewal for both me and our congregation. (See Rachael Perlinger’s description of pastoral and congregational renewal plans in the included document.) Thank you for making this important spiritual renewal possible for me, and for your participation in listening to the voice of God in the Psalms and the Superior Hiking Trail. God is with us, thanks be to God!

Pastor Dave



Relaxation Group to Begin as Part of Core Ministry

Our body-mind-spirits were designed by our Creator to be at ease. Yet when we experience stress we switch into high alert as if we're in imminent danger. This stress response affects our body, minds, and spirits. To move back into a state of ease we can practice a variety of skills including easy movements, gentle belly breathing, and simple meditation techniques.

This group will be led by Pastor Nancy Hong, a teacher of relaxation and yoga for 16 years. She understands this group as a part of her call to LCGS because this practice will help heal our bodies, minds and spirits after various "stress-full" situations over the last few years.

We'll meet in the Gathering Center on Tuesdays during July at 4:00 p.m. for 4 weeks, beginning July 6. Feel free to come to one class or all four!

This practice can be done in a chair or from the floor. Also, everyone should bring a blanket and a pillow. If you're going to be on the floor bring a mat or a second blanket to lay on. This practice is open to confirmation students and older. Wear comfortable, loose clothing.

If you have any questions, feel free to ask Pastor Nancy @ the church office 525-1922 or hongnancy284@gmail.com

Our Big Summer Food Drive Sunday, June 27 - Sunday, July 11

Drop off your Food Shelf Donations here at church:

- During worship, Sunday, June 27
- During the Day Camp "Open House" from Noon-3:00 pm on Sun, June 27
- During worship, Sunday, July 11

Day Campers will be collecting food during their Day Camp Week (like VBS Food Drives in the past...) and, our High School/Confirmation Group will deliver the food during Act Local!



Pray for our kids this summer during our very special, small group activities!

Day Camp is the week of Jun 27th.

Act Local is for Middle/High Schoolers working on Service projects in the Duluth area July 11-13th.

We pray for all our youth and the adult leaders this summer! May they make friends, serve neighbors, and learn more about God's love!!



Hello families, L C G S is looking for some people to water the flower pots at church. We are hoping to have someone come to church on Monday and Thursday, Pull the hose out of the brown hose holder to the length needed to reach the front door pots. Then use the faucet key, found in the hose box to turn on water and water generously. Also condition the pot by taking off dead leaves. Then roll up the hose, put the key back in it's spot and you are done. The pots are under the roof so they will still need watering but if it's raining on your day just come the day after. Thank you for your generosity of your time and energy. Any problems can be answered by Cyndi Venberg 218-391-8953.

Camp Vermilion, Camp Hiawatha, Canoe Country! Family Camp! Family Canoe Trips!

2021 Bluegrass Festival - our 10th year! **Sunday, July 25-Saturday, July 31** A weeklong event to celebrate 10 years!

Join us for a full week of celebrating and supporting the ministry of Camp Hiawatha and Camp Vermilion.

Events throughout the week:

- Weeklong Fund-A-Need campaign, with daily giving incentives; music videos by No Grass Limit
- Online Church Basket Challenge and Silent Auction opens July 29 - bluegrass2021.givesmart.com
- Live music and food at Camp Vermilion on July 31 - Sloughgrass, Sarah Mae and the Band
- Raffle Prize winners drawn at 7pm, July 31 (live streamed event)

Go to www.VLMCAMP.org to register today!!



Dear members of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd,

I am writing to you as the chair of the LCGS Consultative committee, which also serves as the Sabbatical Team for our pastors. **I share you with great news - the time for Pastor Dave's sabbatical is upon us!**

In 2018 and 2019, our sabbatical team worked with Pastor Dave to create the space and good process for his sabbatical. We met regularly, talked with Human Resources, the Resource Development Team, the Vision Council, the Endowment Fund, the staff and the entire congregation. We wholeheartedly approved his sabbatical. As the year progressed, there were reasons it could not unfold as planned and so Pastor Dave graciously agreed to move it to 2020. Again, we spent time planning and confirming, choosing dates, creating ways all of us could participate in a like manner . . . and then the pandemic struck in March 2020. Clearly that was not the time.

The Holy Spirit has made it clear - **this is the time!** Pastor Nancy is a phenomenal pastor who is abundantly capable of leading our congregation and has the deep desire to support our staff in her time with us. There are so many big, exciting things that will be happening this fall and into next year - mission and vision work, calling a new pastor, bringing our new pastor into our congregation and teaching them about our workings - during which we will need Pastor Dave. This moment in time - this time RIGHT NOW - is so clearly right for it. I think of how Pastor Nancy talked about the Holy Spirit on Pentecost and I know deep in my heart she is here for a reason. She has much to share. And upholding Pastor Dave's sabbatical is a part of it.

The Sabbatical Team met on June 8 and approved Pastor Dave's sabbatical, **with a launch date of the June 27 worship service and an ending date of September 7.** There is years' worth of planning and preparation involved in this and we as a congregation will be invited to share in the same types of activities as Pastor Dave will do - Listening to the Voice of God through reading the Psalms, hiking the Superior Hiking Trail, and listening to opera. We are also making space for him to complete his sabbatical in the latter half of February 2022. Pastor Dave did not feel he could be gone longer this summer as he did not want to miss Rally Sunday. And so to honor what a sabbatical is, we've created the space to complete it later.

Please join me in celebrating all that God is doing in our church. Join me and so many others in reading the Psalms, hiking portions of the Superior Hiking Trail and listening to opera during Pastor Dave's sabbatical, so that we can share in this spiritual renewal.

Blessings,
Rachael Perlinger

Pastor Dave at Lismore Rd Trailhead, SHT



“As we begin again to worship in our sanctuary, we will need people to serve as readers, communion assistants, greeters, ushers, singers and counters. We will train you if needed. We would especially love youth and whole families as helpers but any and all ages are most welcome. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Debbie Sanders 216-5366 or debra.k.sanders@icloud.com or the church office.”

We are so happy to be back in the office! The office hours is when Christine will plan to be there. Staff may be in at other times.

Office Hours through-July 2:
Mon. Wed. and Thurs.: 8-1pm
Tues: 8-4:30pm
Fri: 8-12pm

Also note we are close July 5th for the 4th of July Holiday.

Office hours beginning July 6 and into the Future!!
Mon-Thurs: 9-4pm
Fri.: 8-12pm

Psalms Daily Lectionary - Summer 2021
“O that today you would listen to God’s voice . . .” Psalm 95:7

JUNE 27-JULY 3, 2021	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Sunday 1st Word Psalm 1: Torah Psalm 2: King</p> <p>Monday Last Word Psalms 146-150: Hallelujah! 146-150</p> <p>Book 1: Psalms 3-41: <i>The LORD is my shepherd</i></p> <p>Tuesday Book 1 8 Wednesday Book 1 18-19 Thursday Book 1 22-23 Friday Book 1 24-27 Saturday Book 1 32-33</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	AUGUST 1-7, 2021
JULY 4-10, 2021	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Sunday Book 1 40-41 Book 2: Psalms 42-72: <i>Create in me a clean heart</i></p> <p>Monday Book 2 42-43 Tuesday Book 2 46 Wednesday Book 2 51 Thursday Book 2 61-62 Friday Book 2 65-66 Saturday Book 2 71-72</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	AUGUST 8-14, 2021
JULY 11-17, 2021	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Book 3: Psalms 73-89: <i>Where is your steadfast love, O LORD?</i></p> <p>Sunday Book 3 80-81 Monday Book 3 84-85 Tuesday Book 3 88 Wednesday Book 3 89</p> <p>Book 4: Psalms 90-106: <i>You have been our dwelling place in all generations</i></p> <p>Thursday Book 4 90-91 Friday Book 4 92 Saturday Book 4 95, 100</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	AUGUST 15-21, 2021
JULY 18-24, 2021	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Sunday Book 4 96-98 Monday Book 4 101-102 Tuesday Book 4 103-104 Wednesday Book 4 105-106</p> <p>Book 5: Psalms 107-145: <i>Your Word is a lamp to my feet . . . light to my path</i></p> <p>Thursday Book 5 116-118 Friday Book 5 119:1-56 Saturday Book 5 119:57-112</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	AUGUST 22-28, 2021
JULY 25-31, 2021	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Sunday Book 5 119:113-176 Monday Book 5 120-122 Tuesday Book 5 123-125 Wednesday Book 5 126-128 Thursday Book 5 129-134 Friday Book 5 137-139 Saturday Book 5 144-145</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	AUGUST 29-SEPTEMBER 4, 2021

We are reading through the Psalms twice! “Check the box” when you have read through the week!
AUGUST 30: CELEBRATION!!

A COMMUNITY OF CHRIST
EXPERIENCING GOD, REACHING OUT, NURTURING FAITH

Our Mission and Vision Statement is gold! It is biblically based, spiritually transformative, and it has emerged from the soul of our congregation. It tells us who we are in our deepest identity (a community of Christ), and how we are called to live out that identity in the world today (meaningful worship, local and global mission, nurturing the faith of all). This Statement emerged through the leadership of the Transition Task Force in 2002-2003 by a comprehensive process of listening in two directions: 1) listening to the voice of our congregation through survey responses, interviews and small group conversations, and 2) studying the demographics of our community. This statement has shaped our ministry by transforming our leadership structure, guiding our staff configuration, and determining our budget.

So what has changed since 2003? The biblical basis of our mission and vision remains as powerful as ever. But the world in which we live out that mission and vision continues to change rapidly. The Mission and Vision Statement of 2003 was intended to guide our ministry for 3-5 years. Since 2003 we have been blessed with new members who bring diverse gifts to our calling as a congregation. The rapid cultural changes in the past decade are well documented. In the past 15 months the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted every dimension of our lives and ministry. Today we find ourselves facing the necessity and the opportunity of updating our mission and vision expressions to fit the current reality. We are being called to bring the transforming power of Christ to our worship, mission outreach, faith development, volunteer and staff leadership, and budget decisions in a fresh way.

As “keepers of the vision,” your Vision Council is creating a Mission and Vision Task Force (MVTF) to guide our congregation in a fresh process of listening to the voices of our community and our world. The task force will be co-chaired by Dave Chura and Sara Hendrickson. Members of the MVTF will represent the full spectrum of age, experience, and ministry involvement of our congregation.

In the next 6-9 months all will have the opportunity to share in the process through:

- Survey
- Interviews
- Small group conversations
- Home gatherings

Thank you for your unique personal role in the mission and vision of this Community of Christ. We look forward to listening to your voice and learning your vision for the ministry of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in this exciting time.

God is with us!

Cyndi Venberg, Vision Council and Congregational President
Pastor Dave Mesner, Lead Pastor

Quilters are meeting every Mondays from 9-1:00. We welcome new members, beginners and experienced! contact Sue Boutin with any questions!

We would like to celebrate our members who are working at Bible Camps this Summer!!

Sam Hendrickson (son of Sara and Jon) is working at Wilderness Canoe Base near Grand Marais

Karin Berdahl (daughter of Pastor Tim & Pastor Laura), **Ben Keppers** (son of Bonnie & Jody),

Evan Leonidas (son of Jodi & Terry), and **Elizabeth Packer** (daughter of Amy & Jeff)

are all working at Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry!!

We are so thrilled as they grow as leaders and we pray for a safe and fun Summer!



Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd (ELCA)

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Find us at www.lcgsduluth.org for online worship and information.

Sign-up on the homepage for weekly e-mails!

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

Office Hours as of currently-July 2:

Mon. Wed. and Thurs.: 8-1pm

Tues: 8-4:30pm

Fri: 8-12pm

Phone: 218-525-1922 •

Website: www.lcgsduluth.org

MEET THE STAFF

Pastor Dave Mesner, Lead Pastor

(home) 218-529-9715

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Pastor Nancy Hong, Interim Pastor

email: hongnancy284@gmail.com

Katie Rich, Director of Youth & Family Ministry

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Amie Abenth, Communications Coordinator

email: communications@lcgsduluth.org

Music Team:

Linda Turpening, Organist email:

linda@archdirect.com

Debbie Sanders, Good Shepherd Choir Director

email: debra.k.sanders@icloud.com

Summer Worship at 9:30am Sundays!