

# Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

October 2022 Newsletter

*A Community of Christ  
Meaningful worship for all  
All are welcome  
Nurturing the faith of all*

God is with us! The Mission and Vision Congregational Forums this month will be a harvest of a multi-year process of spiritual discernment. Through the passionate input of a congregational survey, learning best practices of congregational vitality, and committed listening to our culture, the Vision Council is ready to present to the congregation recommendations for living out our mission and vision in a fresh way. I will highlight two essential recommendations that have emerged as guiding principles through the renewal process.

**“The current LCGS Mission and Vision continues to be relevant today.”**

The entire process has led us to an affirmation that our current mission and vision statement continues to guide us. Through major cultural changes and the challenges of a pandemic this statement continues to answer deeply who we are and what God is calling us to do. We continue to find our identity and unity in Christ. This unity enables us to welcome all with integrity and power. We are called to experience worship that is meaningful to all: all ages and all backgrounds. We are called to reach out locally and globally with the love of Christ, creating a dynamic community where all are truly welcome. We are called to nurture the faith of all in a lifelong process of spiritual growth that touches every dimension of our lives.

This mission and vision statement is the guiding principle of our community as we welcome and listen to the diverse voices of each of our members, and reach out to our world in a transforming way. Our mission and vision statement is the guiding principle which carries us beyond the passionate multiplicity of personal preferences to the one voice of our calling as a community of Christ.

**“LCGS should have one full-time Pastor.”**

Initially I was concerned that this recommendation would signal a failure of our ministry. But I have come to believe that a single pastor model of ministry at this time is an opportunity for the Holy Spirit to lead us to an exciting expression of our vision statement:

“By the power of the Holy Spirit, our lay and clergy leaders prepare each of us to follow God’s call. Our unique gifts, interests and passions are celebrated and effectively and faithfully used in the mission of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd.”

The essential growth step for our congregation at this time is the nurturing, calling and equipping of all of our members. The Holy Spirit is calling us to a time of deep renewal that reaches to all of us.

This renewal is happening in the midst of extremely complex (unprecedented?) transitions: the impact of the radical cultural changes of the last generation, a global pandemic that continues to be felt in every dimension of our ministry, and the challenges and opportunities of an interim transition. In all of this complexity, God is with us, present through Word and Spirit, comforting, nurturing and guiding.

Thanks be to God!  
Pastor Dave

**Mission Forums** The Vision Council would like to invite you to attend the Forums planned to review and comment on the summary of the survey results gathered by the Vision Council to determine funding and staffing needs for our congregation. The Vision Council has prioritized the recommendations for the survey, with feedback from the Leadership Teams, into three sections of recommendations which can also be sustainably supported based on historical and forecasted revenue. These recommendations will be reviewed and clarified by Vision Council members at these Forums. Comments from the congregation are invited to help identify the final recommendations that will be formally adopted and used to help plan the revised budget for the coming year. Call the church office with questions 525-1922  
**Forums: Wednesday, October 5th- 6:00- 7:30 pm: Upper Lakeside Room ( Zoom possible upon request)**  
**Sunday, October 9- 11:00-12:30 pm: Upper Lakeside Room (Zoom possible upon request)**



**Save the Date: Church-Wide All Saints Spaghetti Dinner  
Wednesday, November 2nd at 6:00 pm**

Confirmation students will be serving this special meal and \*you\* are invited to join us! There is no cost to this dinner, it's purely an opportunity to connect with our amazing Confirmation students and their Wednesday night Confirmation experience. We don't know how much spaghetti to make, so if you are planning to join us, please email Katie and [katierich.lcgs@gmail.com](mailto:katierich.lcgs@gmail.com); or sign up in the Gathering Space.

***“An Afternoon of Music” with Elias Makole and Linda Turpening.***

October 16th 3:00PM at LCGS!

We are so blessed to have such talent to host. Their music is breathtaking!

Please welcome any friends or family that love music, this will be such a treat!

There is no ticket to buy, but there will be a free-will donation received at the door.

The donations will be going to the “Sing a New Song” campaign.



**Serving Locally! You're invited to the 2022 CHUM Street Outreach Dinner.** This event is an effort to raise \$60,000 for CHUM's Street Outreach Program. Deb Holman, CHUM street outreach specialist, works with people who are living on the streets or in the woods in Duluth. She does what is necessary to keep them safe and assist them with keeping appointments that help them obtain housing. This is often a long process with many small successes each

year. During the dinner, you will hear about the Outreach Program, its history of success, and future plans. Deb will answer your questions about this important work. Tickets for the dinner are \$40 if purchased by October 15, and \$50 thereafter. The deadline to purchase tickets is October 25. For more information and to register, check out the event page on the CHUM website: [www.chumduluth.org/outreach.htm](http://www.chumduluth.org/outreach.htm)

**Second Saturdays of Support: Each month we plan to gather the morning of the Second Saturday,** and tasks will vary based on emerging needs and the unique interest of the host congregation or organization. Come when you are able, when you want to hang out with some really cool people, or when you want to learn a new skill! We welcome youth (middle and high school) and adults of any age to participate. **On October 8th, join us in the kitchen at St. Paul's** from 9-noon as we prepare Egg Roll Casserole crockpot meals-in-a-bag for folks at CHUM's St. Francis Apartments. Food insecurity is an issue for our residents. This activity celebrates our ability to use local garden abundance to meet their needs! Sign up for October's Second Saturday at [www.tfaforms.com/5014891](http://www.tfaforms.com/5014891), or call Rev. Patricia Benson at 218.724.3535 Ext 206. Let me know if you have veggies to share!

**Return and Renew and Laugh**

As we take cautious steps toward “before pandemic” days, we want to invite anyone who enjoys playing with fabric (no skills necessary) to join our **Monday Sewing Service group**. You do not need to be a member to come.

**We meet Mondays from 9:00 to 12:00.** This time is always open to your suggestions and group project needs. If there is enough interest, we can have an evening session for daytime workers. I will put an “Interested List” in the Gathering Space. Please put your name and telephone number or email so we can contact you or just show up!

**We support local and international requests.** In the spring, you all helped fill refugee personal hygiene kits with bags we made. Quilts were sent through WELCA abroad to Ukraine. Since then, several baby and child blankets were given to the Duluth fire department to use as they see fit. We have requests from hospice and memory care facilities so there is much to do! Contact Sue Boutin with questions. Please leave a message if I don't answer. 218-349-5991



**Our next Church-wide service event! We are collecting Cream of Mushroom Soup for CHUM!**

They have challenged us to collect 600 cans! They are reporting a huge increase in households asking for food this year. These cans of soup will be distributed in their Thanksgiving food baskets. We will be collecting them on OCT. 30th in church as our children “Reverse Trick or Treat”. If you are unable to be in church that Sunday, you are welcome to bring the soup by church during the week. Thank you!



**www.VLMcamps.org**

Visit our main page with program and organizational Information including upcoming retreats and giving.

**www.NorthwoodsRetreatsMN.com**

Our site rental page with information on the facilities and how you can use the camp space for personal or family gatherings that don't need to be programmed!

**FALL QUILTING RETREAT @ Camp Vermillion**

Thursday, October 27, 12:00 PM - Sunday, October 30, 1:00 PM \$260/person\* This retreat fee includes 6 meals (Dinner and Brunch), snacks, irons, a cutting table, space to sew, and lodging (multiple-occupancy) in Voyageur Lodge. Fall is a beautiful time of the year to be in God's great Northwoods, and VLM's Quilting Retreat offers a chance to tackle some of your big projects.



**FOCUS & CONNECT**

This retreat is ideal for quilters who need some focused time to start or finish a project, who are interested in connecting with others who share a passion for sewing, or simply need a weekend away in a beautiful setting! NOT A QUILTER? Bring your knitting, crocheting, needlepoint, scrapbooking, or any other craft you wish.

Our local **Meals on Wheels program is looking for more drivers.** If you have a morning to volunteer from time to time, they would love to have you! Please talk with Kathy Kreager in church or call 525-1476. Thank you!

**New Members!** If you would like to join LCGS in membership, we will be holding informational meetings/fellowship, Wednesdays, November 2 & 9th 6:00 - 7:30pm. New Member Sunday will be November 13th. Please contact the office 525-1922 or email us at [office@lcsduluth.org](mailto:office@lcsduluth.org)

**Northeastern Minnesota  
Walking Together  
In Stories of Ministry**

Good stories draw us in, captivating our attention, inspiring us to dream, inviting us to see the world a little bit differently, encouraging us to respond. Walking Together is an opportunity for us to learn from people in our synod through the stories of ministries happening right here in Northeastern Minnesota Synod. This is a great way to learn from each other as we celebrate the work of the Spirit!

October 8, 2022, from 9AM—4PM  
Check-in and social time begin at 7:45AM  
Cost: \$25, includes lunch  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 612 12th St, Cloquet, MN



Workshop presenters are members of congregations and leaders in our synod who will share the stories of their ministries and how this work has made a difference in their lives and the lives of others. Topics include faith formation, digital ministry, Faith in Action, forming network partnerships, strategic planning, harm reduction ministry, justice ministry, RIC, and more.

Join us October 8th! Registration required. Access the registration link at [www.nemnsynod.org](http://www.nemnsynod.org).

***For we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.***



# “Sing a New Song” Stewardship Annual Financial Response 2022

September 25 – October 23

Paula Tsufis  
Stewardship Committee

Individually and as a community we have been dealing with great loss. In our increasingly secular culture, we experience an accelerated world with a focus on external things that are not life-giving or provide true meaning. We are exhausted by the chaos of the pandemic and the losses of lives, relationships, financial stability, and church community.

As Christians, and as stewards of God’s grace and love, we understand that everything we have comes from a loving God. During this year’s Annual Financial Response, we will explore how God *also* provides the way forward out of difficult times of “exile” by placing a new song in our hearts. You are invited to soak in the poetic wisdom of the Psalms describing this process and to explore our congregation’s response today as God orients our hearts to our true treasure of a life lived in generous community, mission, and joyful praise to God.

**You are Invited to Join!**

### **“Sing a New Song” Preaching Series with Pastor Dave Mesner**

The Psalms describe a “new song” as a song sung from the heart, celebrating the presence of the LORD as a response to exile. Pastor Dave will preach on Psalms 33, 40, 96 and 98 on **Sundays at 9:30 AM starting on September 25 through October 16.**

### **Commitment Sunday October 23<sup>rd</sup> Guest Homilist and Catered Brunch**

We will have a guest homilist, Deacon Colleen Bernu, Director for Evangelical Mission and Synod Minister for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, will preach on Psalm 150, the culmination Psalm in the Psalter. Worship will be followed by a catered brunch after worship where Deacon Bernu will also be our guest speaker. **RSVP for the brunch at [www.lcgsduluth.org](http://www.lcgsduluth.org) or by calling the church office at 218-525-1922.**

### **“Sing a New Song” Discussion Series with Lay Leaders**

What is our new song for Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd? Adults and teens are invited to an informal, small group discussion of the sermon 10:45 AM-11:30 PM after worship in the Upper Lakeside room. Lay leaders Bob Franseen, Sulo Kangas, Paula Tsufis and Craig Sanders will lead these roundtable discussions. **Due to a congregational forum on October 9, Sulo will lead his discussion Wednesday October 12 from 6-7 PM.** This is a great time to meet some new people. Consider bringing a friend to join!



**"Growing Little Loves"** Art Playgroup continues to meet at LCGS

Mondays from 10:00-11:15 in the Lower Lakeside Room

This is an art-based and sensory experience for children ages 2-6 and their caregivers

For more information, please email Alison at [growinglittleloves@hotmail.com](mailto:growinglittleloves@hotmail.com)

**Starting in October, Alison will be offering a Wednesday morning class for babies, too!** Babe group is a sensory and art-based experience created for children ages 6-24 months who are ready to explore and make messes! Babe group is a 45-minute open-ended class that's exploratory in nature, allowing children of all ages to discover and enjoy materials in some way. Babe group is an experience for the child(ren) and caregiver to explore new and engaging activities together in a social environment. A great opportunity to connect and build community with other babes and caregivers!

### **Sunday School**

We are launching into a fun year of Sunday School with the theme of "Fun Faith Foods!" Every Bible Story this year has a connection to food (manna in the wilderness; Jesus feeding the 5,000 etc...) Here's a fun Faith at Home Activity to try with the kids in your life: What did Jesus eat? On Sunday, September 25 our Family Sunday School time featured a "taste test table" of foods that Jesus ate. You can do this at home, too! Try eating foods like pomegranate seeds, olives, grapes, almonds, and dried figs. The kids also enjoyed drizzling honey on flatbread.



### **Sunday School Parent Small Groups - October 2, 9, and 16**

Kids will learn together while parents meet in a Small Group to get to know each other. We'll be asking simple questions like "highs and lows of the back to school season" and "favorite fall activities". We hope that this intentional time at the beginning of the Sunday School year will help parents connect and build community.

### **Bible Milestone - Sunday, October 9th**

Worship will feature a special moment when we give Bibles to all 3 Year Olds, 3rd Graders; and even adults! This Bible Milestone helps us (as a church) fulfil the baptismal promise to "place in their hands the holy scriptures..." Please join us!

### **Pumpkin Sunday - Sunday, October 23**

A favorite Sunday School Tradition! Every family gets to pick up pumpkin, decorate it, and take it home. But... These aren't Halloween pumpkins - they are Thanksgiving Pumpkins! We hope this pumpkin will be a reminder to share what you are thankful for - every day! - from now until Thanksgiving.

### **Reverse Trick or Treat: Halloween Food Drive!**

**Worship on Sunday, October 30 will feature kids in costumes, a noisy offering, and a food drive!** We are especially looking for cans of cream of mushroom soup! CHUM has asked us to collect 600 cans of cream of mushroom soup for their Thanksgiving Boxes. Please join us for worship; bring loose change for the noisy offering, and a can or two of cream of mushroom soup. Kids will walk around the sanctuary collecting items in a "Reverse Trick or Treat" celebration. I hope you can join us!



### **Confirmation 2022 has official begun!**

The theme for Confirmation this year is "The Bible Year!"

**My big question for the whole church is...If you could teach Confirmation students just one Bible Verse or one Bible Story, what would it be and why?** Please start thinking about your answer to this question - we are hoping to find lots of different ways for you to share that answer with this year's class of Confirmation students.

### **Confirmation Sunday will be Sunday, October 16 during the 9:30 am worship**

Yes - this is a new date and a new time than what we have done in the past! Please mark your calendars and join us as we honor, celebrate, pray for, and bless this amazing group of 10th grade students.

## Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

M-Th 9:00-4:00 Fri 9:00-12:00

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)

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

Christine Whitcomb, Office Manager  
email: [office@lcgsduluth.org](mailto:office@lcgsduluth.org)

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

Greg Susens, custodian

#### Music Team:

Linda Turpening, Organist email:  
[linda@archdirect.com](mailto:linda@archdirect.com)

Debbie Sanders, Good Shepherd Choir Director  
email: [debra.k.sanders@icloud.com](mailto:debra.k.sanders@icloud.com)

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd (ELCA)

1325 North 45th Avenue East, Duluth MN 55804-1507



2022

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