



Shepherd's

STAFF

June 2023 Newsletter

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,
Oak Park IL Volume 58, Number 6

Notice of Congregational Meeting

June 11, 2023, 10:30a

(after 9:30a worship)

Join us for a special congregational meeting to get an update on the work of the Phase 2 team and vote on proposed revisions to the resolution passed at the January 29, 2023 meeting.

See special insert for more details.

Calendar Highlights

- ◆ **May 28, worship @ 9:30a**
Summer worship hours
- ◆ **June 4**
Day in Our Village
- ◆ **June 11**
Graduates Recognition
Congregational Meeting
Campfire Potluck (see p. 2)
- ◆ **June 18**
Fathers Day
VBS Set-up
- ◆ **June 19-23, 5-7:30p**
Vacation Bible School
- ◆ **June 25**
Pride Sunday/Pride Parade
OP Garden Walk

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 19-23, 2023

All Aboard! Registration is OPEN!

All students that are age three (by June 19) through outgoing grade 5 are invited to join us for mountains of fun on the Rocky Railway! Our VBS program starts with a shared meal, followed by engaging games, interactive Bible stories, engaging music, and more! The times are 5:00p-7:30p right here at Good Shepherd.



Cost for participants is based on number of children attending per family. 1 child is \$75; 2 children is \$140; 3 children, \$200; 4+ children, \$260. Scholarship funds are available.

Both participants and volunteers are asked to register at tinyurl.com/gslcVBS2023 or use the QR code. You can also use this link for additional information. Let's *stay on track* with a great VBS this year!



Volunteers Wanted!

We are looking for people to help us out in various ways, from before-VBS set design, to kitchen helpers before and during VBS, during-VBS rotation helpers, floating helpers, and more! Please see page 2 for details on volunteers needed, dates for set design, and dates for training for those helping during VBS.

June 11 Campfire Potluck

As we celebrate our many graduates – from Middle School, High School, and College – we gather after worship for a potluck meal. There will be a campfire for roasting hotdogs and marshmallows, as well as a grill for veggie burgers and hamburgers. Everything for the burgers, dogs and s'mores will be provided. You bring the side dish – fruit salad, potato salad, quinoa salad, or a bag of Cheetos, for example.

Set up for the day begins at 8:30a. **We could use a handful of people** to bring tables and chairs outside. We also need someone with a **firepit**, and **experience setting up a grill**. Set-up will take place before worship and the meal will begin after the congregational meeting.

FAITH FORMATION

VBS Helpers

Thank you for considering helping with this year's VBS. It is an exciting time here at Good Shepherd, and a great time for "all-hands-on-deck!"

Set Prep and Build. The Wegener family has designed our sanctuary set for many years. But they need help to bring the designs to life! Join us at any of the following dates and times to help with the set:

- Saturday, June 3, 11a for set build (teens and adults)
- Sunday, June 11, 11:30a for set painting (all ages— stop by and help during the congregation potluck!)
- Saturday, June 17, 11a for set painting (all ages)
- Sunday, June 18, 10:30a for set install or food prep (all ages)

Food Prep and Meals. We will be serving dinner each night during VBS. We'll need helpers for food prep on Sunday, June 18 at 10:30a, and kitchen help each night of VBS.

Help with Rotations. We have music, games, and Bible story/drama rotations that will need helpers. We also need 6th-12th graders to serve as small group/crew leaders, adults as crew chiefs, and helpers with the preschool class. Sign up for these roles at tinyurl.com/gslcVBS2023.

These during-VBS roles also require a **training session** (any age) and background check (for adults). Join us for one of two training sessions:

- Wednesday, June 7, 7:00p at church
- Monday, June 12, 7:00p via Zoom

Kids and Goats!

On Tuesday, July 11, our Daytimers group will be traveling to Pecatonica to visit a goat farm owned by friends of Barb Hunt. We are pleased to make this an intergenerational event, open to all ages! Bring the littles out for a fun day and a chance to hold miniature Nigerian goats and purchase soaps and cheese. The Daytimers group will be leaving Good Shepherd at 9:00a.



Summer Circles of Care

Join us for one of two summer Circles of Care small groups:

1. *"That in-between space where hurt and hope meet is the place of our most profound spiritual power."*

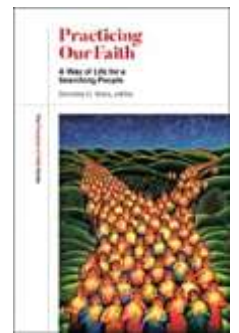
Pastor Kathy will gather a small group specifically for those who experience(d) suffering.

Taking our cue from a new resource by the Barefoot Guide, created by a group of writers connected with healthcare systems, McCormick Seminary, and the Mennonite community, this small group will be a time to share and process our stories of suffering as well as connect those to stories of our faith.

Like the image of two trees intertwined, trauma and life are intertwined. As we gather biweekly for seven sessions, we will explore grace, trauma, loss, and companionship through the lens of theology. If you have questions, contact Pastor Kathy. You can sign up for the small group on the Prayers and More form.



2. Dip your toe into time-honored practices that have shaped the Christian faith from its first days and into the 21st century. Using the book, *Practicing Our Faith: A Way of Life for a Searching People*, as our guide, we will explore and experience faith practices such as Hospitality, Saying Yes and Saying No, Keeping Sabbath, Discernment, and Singing Our Lives.



Led by Deaconess Debbie, this group will meet around her somewhat crazy summer schedule. Our two options are either Wednesday or Thursday evenings (depending on group preference) on the following dates: June 7 or 8; June 14 or 15; July 5/6; July 26/27; August 9/10; and August 23/24. You don't need to attend every session, but a mostly consistent presence does enrich the group dynamic. You can sign up for the small group on the Prayers and More form.

Books can be ordered from Amazon, or try a Google search. The editor is Dorothy C. Bass, **2019 edition**.

SOCIAL MINISTRY



Thanks to all who supported our Crop Hunger Walk team. We surpassed our goal and raised a total of \$2350! Way to go Good Shepherd!

Bethel Lunch Program—Join us on June 22

Food insecurity continues in the West Garfield Park neighborhood, where Bethel Lutheran Church is located. That is why 110 to 150 hot lunches are served at Bethel every Thursday. After helping on sporadic days, **Good Shepherd is committed to helping the fourth Thursday of every month.** To work the whole shift, arrive at 10:30a and leave at 1p. Partial shifts of any amount are welcome. We carpool from Good Shepherd at 10:15a. The address of Bethel is 130 N. Keeler, Chicago. If you cannot volunteer but wish to donate towards the meal, contact Pastor Kathy. Sign-up on the Prayers and More.



Bethel and Good Shepherd members work together to provide hot lunches. Join the team!

SUSTAINABILITY

Good Shepherd Gardens

Thank you to our volunteer gardeners!

Good News! GSLC received a \$500 Gardening for Nature grant from Wild Ones – West Cook for continued improvements of our native gardens. We had previously received this grant in 2021. This



grant is for plants that we will use to renovate the East Ave & Randolph St. corner garden bed into a low-growing rainbow of native blooms.



To keep the work manageable, we are planning

several workdays. This will keep us on track to share our gardens and our commitment to shepherding our portion of God's green Earth at the **Oak Park Garden Club Garden Walk on June 25.**

Upcoming workdays from 8:30-10:30a:

- June 3
- June 10
- June 24 (extended: 8a-12p)

Tree Champion Needed

Interested in a defined, short-term project? We want you to be our Tree Champion!

We will have native oak saplings to hand out at the Garden Walk and we are recruiting someone to oversee that process. Commitment involves rounding up other people to help with some material prep, set up / tear down, and handing out free things to our neighbors! This has the potential for significant impact on our GSLC outreach and on our local environment (100 new trees!) Reach out to Michelle Sukup Jackson if you'd like to spearhead this effort. This is a great opportunity for family-friendly service or a young person looking for a service project.

Congratulations to our 2023 Graduates!

We will recognize our graduates in worship on June 11. We invite you to send cards or notes of congratulations.

Middle School Graduates



Congratulations to **Ben (right) and Lucas** who are both graduating from 8th grade and heading off to Oak Park River Forest High School in the fall. Ben is graduating from Percy Julian Middle School, and Lucas from Grace Lutheran School, River Forest.



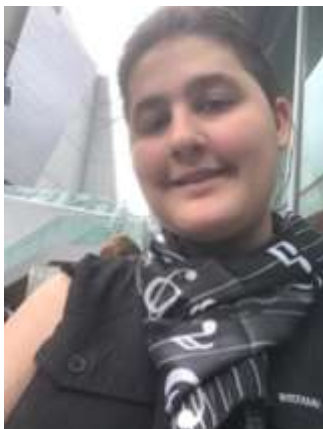
High School Graduates



Henry is graduating from OPRF. He will do a gap year in Germany, participating in Germany's Voluntary Social Year program. He will be working at a refugee center in Dinslaken, where Joerg's parents live. The refugee center is part of the German Protestant church's diaconal ministry. After next year, he is hoping to remain in Germany and study there.



Evan will be attending the University of Illinois this fall, studying Violin Performance and English as a double major. He received a renewable scholarship from the School of Music recognizing the "successful application and Violin audition for the Instrumental Music major." He will attend the Saint Paul Chamber Music Institute this summer.



Ellis will be studying Music Technology at Columbia College of Chicago. They earned the Deans scholarship and a faculty recognition scholarship on their academic merit, and one based on their talent. Ellis has been on the Dean's List and Honor Roll at OPRF.



Colin is planning to attend University of Illinois, Grainger College of Engineering, Fall 2023. He lettered in soccer at OPRF these past two years, and in the fall was named All Conference and All Sectional Academic.

High School Graduates



Luke is graduating from Glenbard East High School. He will be attending Western Illinois University, studying to be a paramedic and a fire-fighter. At Glenbard East, he played football all four years and was selected as coach's player of the year. In his EMT class, he was recognized for academic achievement and class leadership. He will already be an EMT when he graduates!

Junior College Graduates



Caitlin is graduating with an Associate of Arts degree from College of DuPage. She will be heading off to Illinois State University this fall where she will pursue a BA in Public Relations.

College Graduates



Kelly graduated Summa Cum Laude from North Central College in May. She received the outstanding elementary education major award. She will be teaching 4th grade at Einstein Elementary school in Hanover Park.



Christopher graduated in May from Vanderbilt University with a BA in Economics and History. He is excited to be moving to the D.C. area in August to start working at Capital One.



Caroline will graduate from Illinois State University.

Lucinda will graduate with a BA in History from Clark University in Worcester, MA.

Lucas will graduate from University of Iowa.



Sophia PharmD - graduated from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Eshelman School of Pharmacy

GS CONNECTS

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Evelyn Scott
Linda Fisher
Debbie Speer
Victoria Theys
Gene Collerd
Sheila Haennicke
Mateusz Radziszewski
Patty Jurczak
Elliot Hann
Ian Buchanan
Soren Olson
Nora Koch
Joshua Suszek
Vivian Sherwin
Dave Roth
Juanita Ross
Greg McClain
Tecla Reklau
Ariel McClain-Chenault
Laura Duel
Ethan Emerson
Ann Hanson
Guillermo Vazquez
Claire Sargent
Gail Frost
Lauren Novak
Matt Dominis
Tom Jurczak
Nick Roginic
Elise Pope
Bob Pope
Henry Albrecht
Charlotte Merrill
Betsy Bowen
Rob Hann

What is GS Connects?

The goal of GS Connects is caring for our members, and the hosting of congregational events, large and small. Think of it as the activities which help bring us together as the church family of Good Shepherd. In other churches it may be called Parish Life/Care, or Congregational Care. Our work includes things like Caring Shepherds (visitation and meals), greeting card ministry, Member Engagement, Daytimers, Fellowship Hour coordination, special congregation events, and more. How would you like to participate? How might you lend your leadership and support? Speak with Joan or Phil Taylor to learn more.

Book Club

On June 28th, the Flock o'Readers book club will discuss books by an author we have never read. Our fun discussions are held in the conference room at church at 2:30p. For more information contact Barb Hunt.

Daytimers

Daytimers is exploring gardens and parks this summer. On Monday, June 19, the group will go to the Chicago Botanic Garden. Note the date change--this is free day at the garden. We will leave church at 10a and have lunch at the garden. On Tuesday, July 11, we will travel to Pecatonica to visit a goat farm owned by friends of Barb Hunt. We will have a chance to hold the miniature Nigerian goats and to purchase soaps and cheese. Because of the travel distance we will meet at church at 9a. Grandchildren are welcome to come on this excursion. For more info, contact Barb Hunt.



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

Elizabeth Overland & Gene Collerd
Joerg Albrecht & Anna Johnson
Lynn Railsback & Duane Ehresman
Fred Bryant & Ann Hanson
Nat Pozorski & Laura Knitt
Bill & Donna Schwarz
Sue Priebe & Keith Bockus
Phil & Joan Taylor
Kathy Nolte & Harry Patterson
Bob & Joan Pope

Please note: Personal information, such as birthdates, anniversary dates, and personal contact info are stripped from the website version of our newsletter. If you would like a complete newsletter, please contact the church office.

EVANGELISM

Day in Our Village, June 4, 2023

The Village of Oak Park is sponsoring A Day in Our Village on Sunday, June 4 in Scoville Park (at the corner of Lake and Oak Park Avenue). A Day in

Our Village provides an opportunity for current and prospective residents to discover the diversity and variety of civic, cultural, social service, business, educational and religious organizations and groups in the Village.



Good Shepherd plans to be present with an information table where attendees can learn more about Good Shepherd, our ministry, our people, and our programs, including Vacation Bible School and the Garden Walk in which Good Shepherd is a participant on Sunday, June 25.

We need Good Shepherd representatives to be present at the information table to hand out an informational brochure, answer questions and simply offer a warm smile and “hello.” 90-minute shifts are available beginning at 10a and concluding at 4:30p. This is a great opportunity for parents to enjoy hospitality with their kids and/or for individuals to meet new people and make new friends.

Go to <https://tinyurl.com/gslcDayinVillage2023> to sign up. The event is just around the corner, so please sign up right away. Thanks for sharing God’s love with people near and far through activities like A Day in Our Village.

Pride Sunday, June 25



Good Shepherd has regularly participated in Chicago’s Pride Parade through our connection with the Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches. Members often gather to take the “L” downtown together and meet up with the other CCWC congregations. Good Shepherd already has a sign to identify our congregation. Especially as Trans rights are being legislated against, and LGBT rights are being denied in many states, it is more important than ever to make a public statement about our welcoming stance for this community. Sign-up on the Prayers and More form or connect with the office if you would like to participate this year.



Words of Welcome

“Welcome!” Such an easy word . . . and such a wonderful sentiment. But helping people feel “welcome,” whether it be in our home, in our neighborhood, in our school and workplace, or in our church requires intentionality and effort. You are invited to be an important contributor to Good Shepherd’s spirit of “welcome” by taking the time and making the effort to greet others during worship and at Good Shepherd events. Some of the people you greet may be visiting Good Shepherd for the first time or may be very new to the community. And if you’re not sure if you’ve met them before, that’s okay! Err on the side of saying “hi” because grace abounds at Good Shepherd! Simply begin your welcome and introduction with, “I’m so sorry – I can’t recall if we’ve met or not. I’m Mark . . . it’s great to see you!” And make an effort to wear a name tag each week; it will help others identify you by name and recall previous interactions. Thank you for channeling God’s love by being a welcoming presence at Good Shepherd and wherever you have the opportunity to share a spirit of welcome.

To supplement our collective welcoming efforts, we’re assembling a team of “Visitor Hosts” – those who will seek out visitors to welcome them and/or will be available to answer visitors’ questions about Good Shepherd following worship. No special training is required – and the amount of time required is very minimal. All that’s needed is a bit of confidence, a warm smile, and a genuine desire to help people feel welcome. If you’re interested in learning more, please contact Mark Ledogar. Thank you!

FROM THE DEACONESS

New Socks

Recently, a deaconess sister of mine received an package in the mail. She had no idea who sent it. The experience moved her so much that she shared it as a “Deacpost” * reflection:

“Please accept my gift that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have everything I want.” - Genesis 33:11

I wore new socks today. I found a package in the mail yesterday. I didn't remember ordering anything; but it was addressed to me. The return address read, "For seller shipping only; do not reply or return to this address." Opening the package, I found a box of new socks.

I wore new socks today. Someone sent an anonymous gift, and I was wrapped in love. As I sat pondering this, the socks reminded me that I am not alone in my journey. Others are there to remind me of God's care and love. They walk with me as God's representatives in this life.

I wore new socks today – reminders of love, care, and protection. Reminders of how, when walking a journey and our socks wear thin, someone wants us to know that love and care, and gives us new socks.

I wore new socks today, remembering and thanking God for our amazing community. I thank God for all of you and for the love, care and ministry we share with each other. I thank God for each of you and for that anonymous gift giver from God who sent new socks for my journey. —Deaconess Lorinda

I love the idea of the gift of new socks. Socks in and of themselves are not that exciting, but when given as an unexpected gift, they take on a complexity of meaning. For Lorinda, new socks reminded her of love, care, and protection. It reminded her of the larger connections of community and the body of Christ.

As I reflect on this past program year, I am finding my own gifts of “new socks” - things that were unexpected gifts that sometimes showed up in ordinary things.

In the last few years, I've done some continuing education around the idea of “21st Century Faith Development.” Experts in these areas would often bemoan the harried life of families, the disconnect from congregation life, and the Church's reluctance to acknowledge parents as the most important influencers of future faith of their children.



Deaconess Debbie

But the pandemic itself has gifted the church with “new socks.” I am seeing parents deeply invested in the life of the church, in sharing worship and faith-based experiences with their children, and in creating deeper connections with other Christian families. Just take a look at our awesome, chaotic, over-flowing Playground, and you'll see what I mean.

I see new socks in the way that our members interact with one another. Once again, those faith experts remind church leaders how important intergenerational ministry is for the life of the church. My peers often wonder where to start to create such opportunities and connections. Here at Good Shepherd, interaction and shared ministry between generations is truly a part of our identity. We value our young people serving alongside of us. We look for ways to make sure that they are included. I truly love that July's Daytimers' outing to a goat farm comes with an open invitation for families to join in.

This last year has also been filled with “new sock” moments as we were finally able to live into some of our traditions that had to be put aside during the pandemic. Holy Week and Easter are certainly not new, but, oh, the warm-toed feeling of seeing 15 children at the Good Friday Children's service, of eating Easter breakfast together, and of filling the church to overflowing with our bodies and voices.

As we enter the summer months, I pray that you will remember to look for “new sock” moments; moments when the familiar things take on new meaning, the small reminders that you are loved and cared for, the deeper connection to this family of faith and to the God who loves you deeply.

*If you would like to read more Deacposts, or receive them in your inbox, go to <https://thelda.org/deacpost-home/>.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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708-848-4741 | goodshepherdlc.org
churchoffice@goodshepherdlc.org

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod (mcselca.org) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (elca.org).

Staff 708-848-4741

Rev. Kathy Nolte, Pastor (ext. 2)

Rev. Kerstin Hedlund, Associate Pastor
(leave message with Admin. Asst.)

Deaconess Debbie Speer, Director
of Christian Education (ext. 4)

Dr. Carl Heine, Music Director

Kimberly Adami-Hasegawa,
Office Administrator (ext. 3)

Council Officers

Gail Frost, President

Pete Chapman, Vice President/Personnel

Richard Sehl, Secretary

Dan Feiertag, Treasurer

Council Liaisons

Rose Mabwa, Social Ministry,
Evangelism, Worship, Music & Arts

Carrie Cook, Finance, Sustainability,
Stewardship

Lee Fritz, Property, Christian
Education, GS Connects

Committee Chairs

Christian Education – Kristin de Groot

Evangelism – Mark Ledogar, *co-chair open*

Finance – Laura Knitt

GS Connects – Joan & Phil Taylor

Property – Rich Novak

Social Ministry – Mary Scherer-Emunds

Stewardship – *open*

Sustainability – Michelle Sukup Jackson

Worship, Music & Arts – Lynn Railsback

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 9:00a - 3:30p

Friday: 9:00a - noon

Pastor is available
by appointment:
calendly.com/revk

Help Needed!

We are refinishing the sanctuary floors the week of June 26th. We will need your assistance to prepare for this beautification project! We're calling for all-hands-on-deck on Sunday, June 25 to clear out the chancel, playground, and nave of all furniture items.



Please remove any of your items from the Church to get ready for this Beautification Project. Questions can be directed to Rick Novak. Thanks in advance for your help!

Mark Your Calendars!

Donut Day for Good Shepherd is scheduled for October 7. We're looking forward to using the new and improved kitchen facilities at Pilgrim Church. Sign ups will begin in late August.

Prosit! **Oktoberfest** is back! After the COVID hiatus, Oktoberfest will return to Good Shepherd on September 30. This annual tradition features German food, dancing, and fun for all ages! Be sure to save the date on your calendar. More information will be available this summer.



TITHE.LY: Give Anywhere from Any Device

Tithe.ly is an easy way for you to donate to Good Shepherd. Download the app on your smartphone or go to your computer and search for Tithe.ly. Once you have found the app and logged on, look for Good Shepherd Church. Use it to make your contributions to the church via mobile, text, or web.

Coffee Hour Needs YOU!

Lynell and Karen have arrived early and stayed late every Sunday so that you have refreshments after worship. The task isn't complicated, but the dedication is priceless. We need a team of people to begin helping them each Sunday. While only one team member is needed each week, having a team will ensure that the load is shared. Sign up on the Prayers and More to be a Coffee Team Member.

Please note: Kimberly will be on vacation May 30-June 15. Pastor Kerstin will be gone June 8-11 and 23-29; Deaconess Debbie will be on vacation June 26-July 5. The office will be closed on July 4.