



Shepherd's

July 2023 Newsletter

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,
Oak Park IL Volume 58, Number 7

STAFF

Youth Service Trip

This month, from July 9-13, five teens, along with Deaconess Debbie and Tim Novak, are heading to Milwaukee for five days of service work and connection with the community.



This is our second service trip with Youthworks, and we love the way that this organization builds relationships within the communities they partner with. The students are given many opportunities to work hard with things like gardening and helping at local food pantries, and they also get a sense of the joys and challenges of the community. They hear the stories of the people that live in that community every day.

Please keep our group in your prayers as we head out to serve and to learn in a spirit of faith, friendship, and flexibility. Look for reflections on our trip in early August.

Mark Your Calendars!

August 27: We'll gather to celebrate the kick-off of the program year, as well as Pastor Kathy's 15 years with Good Shepherd!

September 30: Prosit! Oktoberfest is back! This annual tradition features German food, dancing, and fun for all ages!

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

October 20-22: High Schoolers—the Metro Chicago Synod is have a synod-wide youth gathering! We'll spend the weekend experiencing great food, games, music, and interactive learning. Sign ups coming soon!



All Are Welcome!

One of our strengths at Good Shepherd is the strong relationships we have between our generations. We want to share two summer activities that are open to all!

Daytimers and Families to Visit Greta's Goats

On Tuesday, July 11, our Daytimers group will be traveling to Pecatonica to visit Greta's Goats, a goat farm owned by a friend of a Good Shepherd member.

Families of any age and stage are invited to join in the fun! Come and hold the miniature Nigerian goats; stay for shopping for things like goat cheese and soaps. The group will depart Good Shepherd at 9:00a.



Twins Crouton and Honey are two of Greta's goats!

Trip to Blackberry Farm, August 5, 10:00a



Whether you have little ones at home or not, we hope that you will join us for this inter-generational event. Blackberry Farm offers fun activities for all ages, including train and tractor rides (perfect for younger children!), carousel, green spaces, playground, and paddle boats.

We have reserved the Boathouse Pavilion so that we can have lunch together. You can bring your own picnic lunch or purchase food from the concession stand on site. You can learn more at www.blackberryfarm.info.

Please RSVP to Pastor Kerstin or the church office by July 19, so we can let Blackberry Farm know how many will be in our group.

COMMITTEE NEWS

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Circles of Care Small Group

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. Join us on Wednesdays, July 5 and 26; August 9 and 23; and September 6. You don't need to attend every session, but a mostly consistent presence does enrich the group dynamic.

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

Outdoor Worship,

Pet Blessing & Garden Party!

Sunday, July 16, 9:30a

All of creation gathers for outdoor worship around the memorial garden as our centering

point. Pastor Kathy is looking forward to blessing your pet, whether tortoise, hare, hedgehog, or fluffy dog or cat.

After worship stay for a garden party filled with yummy treats including tiny cakes shaped like bugs and ice cream sodas. You'll be able to talk with one of our many gardeners about the variety of plants in our gardens and the sculptures on loan.

Sign up on the Prayers and More form to help set-up for worship or bring refreshments.



WORSHIP

Video Monitors in Worship

You've likely noticed the two big screens that flank the sanctuary upon which images, words and music are displayed during worship. Most of what in person worshippers see on these screens is identical to what is broadcast to those who are worshipping remotely. As we continue to evolve the in person and remote worship experience and seek to provide the best worship experience regardless of where you worship, we will continue to evolve how we use the large screens in the sanctuary and what is displayed on them. For example, during the summer months, we will display only the words to hymns rather than showing the corresponding notes as we've been doing for the last couple of years. This will allow us to increase the size and legibility of the words on screen for those who choose to sing without a hymnal in hand. Those who prefer to see the notes are encouraged to use the hymnal.

Your feedback to how the screens are used during worship is welcome and appreciated. Please share your feedback on the PAM form, or share it with our AV Ministry Leader, David Anderson following worship.

Scratch Choir

4th Sundays in July & August, 9a

Love to sing but can't make a long-term commitment? Join the choir for a Sunday! Meet in the sanctuary at 9:00a to learn a song to sing with the choir during that day's service. All are welcome to participate!

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.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Bethel Lunch Program—Join us on July 27

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!

Bethel Lutheran—Housing Forward Lunch—July 31

If you would like to work with the members of Bethel Lutheran Church, but aren't available during the day, join them at 5pm on July 31st in the Good Shepherd kitchen. We will be making 50 lunches for the people staying at the Housing Forward Facility on Oak Park Avenue next to the Baptist Church. For more information contact Pastor Kathy.



Possible Migrant Assistance

Social Chair Mary Scherer-Emunds continues to seek opportunities to help a migrant family in our area. Let her know if you are interested in this ministry so that she can mobilize a group quickly if needed. Those who speak Spanish are especially welcome, although that is not a necessity.



You're Invited to our Upcoming Action with Mayor Brandon Johnson
SUNDAY, July 9th, 4 PM- 5:30 PM
St. Rita of Cascia Parish,
6243 S Fairfield Ave, Chicago, IL 60629.

Mayor Johnson and Speaker Welch committed to attend.

On Wednesday, June 14th, 102 leaders from United Power for Action and Justice and Metro IAF met with Speaker Welch, Senate President Harmon and State Rep. Lakesia Collins to see the homes being built as part of United Power's Reclaiming Chicago campaign. The purpose of the meeting was to recognize Speaker Welch, Senate President Harmon and Rep. Collins for the work they have done to secure the state's commitment for Reclaiming Chicago, for the Speaker to more fully see the work and people of United Power, and to seek their commitment for Reclaiming Chicago going forward.

As a next step in this campaign, **United Power for Action and Justice has committed to turn out 1,000 people to meet with Mayor Brandon Johnson of Chicago and other allies.** Speaker Welch confirmed his attendance at this upcoming action as well.

We invite and encourage members of Good Shepherd to join us in this work by showing up on July 9! We will provide rides for those who wish to travel together. If you're willing to drive members, please let us know.

We look forward to taking action with you to reclaim our communities through stable, affordable housing and home ownership. If you plan to attend, please contact the church office.





FROM THE PASTOR

Phase 1 Completion

When we returned to the building after the fire, there were things that remained unfinished. Some of these were moved to “Phase 2”, including the ground-level main entrance and elevator, as well as finalizing the nursery layout.

Some things couldn't wait for Phase 2, including the kitchen, landscaping, and movable walls. All of these were accomplished with the “Open the Doors” campaign. In addition, several designated donations also allowed for the installation of Solar Panels.

Since they've been completed, people have been learning how to use the moveable walls, how to wash dishes in the dishwasher, and turn on the gas to cook on our new stove. The basement has changed a lot since we moved back to the building in June 2020.

In the past few months the contract for a solar installation was signed with Ailey Solar, a downpayment was sent, a permit was received, and we are now in line for installation. A \$5,000 check from a grant from Faith in Place is in the mail. Solar is about to be a reality, with a mid-July installation.

On June 25th our gardens were featured in the Oak Park –River Forest Garden Club. While the gardens themselves were a wonder to behold, the most amazing thing is that it's creation was the work of community. In the past we lifted up two scouts who in their quest for an Eagle Scout award created landscape projects.



But a garden walk takes the work of many people staying vigilant on weeding, watering and laying down fresh mulch. For those tasks we thank:

Pete Chapman, Linda Fisher, Brian Flora, Pat Hayes, Barb Hunt, Michelle Sukup Jackson, John, Robert & Stephen Jackson, Julie & Mark Ledogar, Carrie Cook, Leslie Marino, Lisa Neubert, Rich Novak, Lynn Railsback, Scott White & Lynn Zamora.



Pastor Kathy Nolte



Whether you had a chance to walk the gardens on June 25th or not, I hope that you take note of the large metal sculptures. These were made by a local metalsmith artist, Aaron Sorensen. The artist has donated the circle artwork nearest the front entrance. The others are on loan for the season as we consider commissioning one for the Memorial Garden. If you would like to know more about the artist or how a commissioned piece might fit into our Memorial Garden connect with Michelle Sukup Jackson.



As we put a checkmark on “Phase 1 Completed”, we need the help of everyone who made a pledge towards the Capital Campaign of 2019. Good Shepherd has been greatly blessed with the generosity of so many, including those who have pledged and/or contributed to the Capital Campaign, which empowers the renovation of Good Shepherd's facility.

Letters were sent recently that stated Good Shepherd's record of your pledge. These contained the total of the pledge and the amount received that is recorded. It also asked if you intend to complete your pledge if you have not already done so. Your completion of this task is important. Before we can consider a Phase 2, we must determine funds available to retire our debt.

I am so grateful for the 61 individuals and families who have pledged to support the Capital Campaign. It is due to the generosity of these families that we have accomplished so much.

Special thanks to 37 of those pledgers who have verified their pledge and the amount they have donated to date. If you have not yet verified your pledge and/or giving, please do so as soon as possible so that our Phase 2 Renovation Task Force has verified data to develop the plan and timing for Phase 2. Contact our financial secretary, Mitch Theys, or me to verify your pledge and giving.

The Phase 2 Task Force will be sharing monthly updates about the results of our Capital Campaign, which continues to be integral to our congregation's ability to complete our renovation plan. This month's update is included in the newsletter mailing.

Fulfillment of existing pledges, and commitment of new or increased pledges will be integral to our ability to complete Phase 2 of our renovation plan. More information about the capital campaign giving will be forthcoming. If you have not yet made a pledge to the capital campaign and would like to do so, please contact Mitch or me.

Please give prayerful consideration to your participation in this important part of our ministry. And, if you feel called to contribute to the plan and leadership of this campaign, please contact our Phase 2 Renovation Task Force leader, Mark Ledogar, for more information.

More information about the plan and timing for Phase 2 will be coming from the Task Force early this fall. For more information, and to contribute your perspective to the Task Force, please contact team leader, Mark Ledogar.

Please note: Financial information is removed for the website version of the newsletter. You can request a full version of the newsletter by contacting churchoffice@goodshepherdlc.org.

Wanted: Chair or co-chairs for Good Shepherd Stewardship Committee. If you care deeply about the mission and ministry of Good



Shepherd and are able to collaborate with others, you are qualified to chair this important committee.

While you take the lead on organizing a yearly campaign, there are so many people who are willing to assist by talking about their personal stewardship. Your task is to give them an opportunity to share their stories. In addition, Mitch Theys, as Financial Secretary, works closely with you to keep track of the yearly pledges. Talk to Pastor Kathy or Council President Gail Frost for more information or to volunteer for this leadership position.

Pride 2023

In worship we lifted up Pride Sunday with flags and words of inclusion. At the parade we were represented by Richard Sehl, Paul Pedersen and Dan Eppley.

Next year Pastor Kathy plans to join the parade and hopes that you join her on the last Sunday in June.



Synod Assembly Update *by Gail Frost*

Bishop Yehiel Curry opened the Synod Assembly with the words - We don't make disciples - God makes disciples! He talked about stewardship - financial support for distressed closed properties, support for leadership and a new lay resource event - workshops before the synod assembly with encouragement to congregations to support this lay resource event. Bishop Curry also talked about ministry and how we are working in various ways to support leaders who are on the ordination track and to support churches who may not be able to afford full or part time ministers. A synod youth gathering is being planned as well as the ELCA youth gathering. He said again - God is making disciples in the Chicago Metropolitan Synod. He ended with his joys as bishop - reflecting on what has been accomplished, grateful for synod staff, grateful for rostered leaders/lay leaders, especially wise experienced elders. He is thankful for us and faithful congregations.

There were some synod elections - for synod council and other committees. They tried out electronic voting to see how it would work and had results in about 7 minutes. Various reports were given which included how our synod is helping fund churchwide agencies. I attended a workshop on the new purple hymnbook. It is more gender inclusive in its language. We sang a number of songs from it, some of which we have already used here. There was an activity entitled Culture: Bridges and Barriers. The synod budget passed. The day culminated in an inspiring worship service at Bethlehem Lutheran Church and dinner back at the Q Center. It was a great day to see how our church is at work in the Metropolitan Chicago Synod and in the ELCA. We can be proud to be Lutherans. And if asked to be our synod delegate next year, please consider saying yes!



Reflections on 60 Years of Ministry *by Rev. Fred Reklau*

A young pastor, ordained in 2020, was sitting next to me briefly at our synod's recent assembly. My name had just been projected, recognizing my ordination 60 years ago on June 23, 1963. He asked me for any wisdom I might have to share with him. After a pause to reflect, I said, "Never stop learning." Growing is what I really meant. That's the point of what I added: "Live until you die."



After graduation from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, God called me to widely varied settings: Trinity in Fremont, NE, as the Assistant Pastor in a church-with-school setting (30 months); St. John in nearby Wheaton, as Co-Pastor, also a church with a school (30 months); Windsor Park, South Shore Chicago, as the sole Pastor in a rapidly changing community facing much upheaval for 7+ years (and married to Tecla a year after I was installed). My longest tenure was as Pastor of Grace, Evanston, 1975-1991. They and I left the LCMS in 1976, by the way.

St. Andrew, West Chicago, was my final tenured call. After resigning that call in 1996, synod leaders invited me to serve as a trained intentional interim pastor (pastor between pastors, as I say). I came to see interim ministry as my true calling, serving in small congregations and large, in the city and suburbs. The total was seven congregations over eight years, all while we lived in Winfield. Later, in 2017, we downsized to our Oak Park condo.

Since official retirement in 2005, my main focus has been on the lay ministry education program, *Diakonia*, recently renamed Growing in Faith. Most recently, I have served as a member of the curriculum committee. I taught two other courses before settling in on Old Testament (I insist on calling it "First Testament"), teaching it for more than 13 years. Writing resources for *diakonia* courses has also occupied me: a book, *Partners in Care: Medicine and Ministry Together* (2010, Wipf & Stock), and unpublished essays titled *Questing as a Way of Life: Faith and Science Together* (2014); *Christ Alive in the World: Root, Shoot, Fruit* (2021), on Scripture's true role; and *God's Way With Us: The Promise Precedes the Pact* (2022), showing how God/Yahweh has always been truly the gracious God, long before Jesus came to earth.

I turn 86 in July. I pray God's grace and your grace-filled accompaniment as I keep on going, keep on growing! Tecla will, of course, keep being God's greatest blessing to me, along with daughter Rachel. Pastors Kathy and Kerstin are also stalwarts on the care team.

GS CONNECTS

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Duane Ehresman
Geoff Davis
Tim Clute
Phil Taylor
Leslie Marino
Mary Scherer-Emunds
Janet Morrison
Jeff King
Ruby Fritz
Robert Navarro
Lynell Ahlstrom
Grace Ledogar
Karen Stratton
Henry Wegener
Fred Reklau
Dylan Cane
Natalie Young
Clara Mutso-Maienschein
Taylor Heald-Sargent
Marcy Moreno
Carl Heine
Pat Hayes
Dan Feiertag
Meinrad Scherer-Emunds
Cortez Cook
Rebecca Dunphey
Mari Wagner
Jason Snyder
Rebecca Vnuk
Melissa Wilt
Lars Olson
Alice Sitzes
Liz Lemke
David Roadruck
Kenny Snyder
Dennis Hoeksema

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

Roxanne & Matt Dominis
DiAne Boese & Troy Koch
Susan & Jerome Kurtenbach
Matt & Karen Breitenbach
Fred & Tecla Reklau
Martha & Eric Wegener
Mike & Emilie Dolan
Paul & Evelyn Irwin



Eighth grade, high school, and college grads were celebrated on June 11!




New members! From left: Will and Danielle Dengel (husband Jack is already a member; Finn, Wendy, Laura, and Avery Darlington; Barbara Releford; (Pastor Kathy); Erin Ficker, Nora, Kevin, and John Jerbi; Peg Kragie and JJ Turner; David Anderson (not pictured is spouse Kelly Nieman Anderson). Welcome!

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.

Congregation Meeting Recording

Thanks to members of the Good Shepherd community who attended the congregation meeting on June 11. A recording of the meeting is available to members. Please contact the church office (churchoffice@goodshepherdlc.org or 708-848-4741) to receive a link to the video recording.

July 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 1p Ray of Hope 7:30p AA	3 10:30a Staff Meeting 12p Worship Planning 7:30p AA	4 OFFICE CLOSED 	5 7:30a Matins (Offsite) 7p Circle of Care	6	7 Pastor's Day Off 8p AA	8 Deadline: Shepherd's Staff
9 1p Ray of Hope 7:30p AA Youth Service Trip	10 10:30a Staff Meeting 12p Worship Planning 7:30p AA	11 Pastor at Synod 9a Daytimers to Goat Farm	12 Council Reports Due 7:30a Matins (Offsite)	13 7p WMA	14 Pastor's Day Off	15
16 Pet Blessing & Outdoor Worship 1p Ray of Hope 7:30p AA	17 10:30a Staff Meeting 12p Worship Planning 7p Council 7:30p AA	18 Pastor at Synod Deaconess Debbie at Deaconess Conference	19 RSVPs due for Blackberry Farm 7:30a Matins (Offsite)	20	21 Pastor's Day Off 8p AA	22
23 9a Scratch Choir 1p Ray of Hope 7:30p AA	24 10:30a Staff 12p Worship Planning 7:30p AA	25 Pastor at Synod	26 7:30a Matins (Offsite) 2:30p Flock o' Readers 7p Circle of Care	27	28 Pastor's Day Off 8p AA	29
30 1p Ray of Hope 7:30p AA	31 10:30a Staff Meeting 12p Worship Planning 7:30p AA	Summer Sunday Worship Schedule: 9:30a Worship (in-person & livestreamed) 10:30a Fellowship				

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

611 Randolph, Oak Park, IL 60302
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

Note: The office will be closed on July 4.

Please Help!

We would love to offer parents a staffed nursery again! We're asking you to use your networks to help us find one or two nursery attendants for Sunday mornings. The job requires around two hours each week and would be perfect for anyone who loves children and wants/needs some additional income. The ideal candidates would see the nursery as a place to not only supervise children, but also to offer welcome and encouragement to our families. They would also express our values of diversity, joy, love, and cooperation.

The job description is posted at goodshepherdlc.org/happenings/news. Please encourage the people in your world to mention this to other people in their worlds. Anyone interested should contact Pastor Kerstin at visitor@goodshepherdlc.org or call the church office at 708-848-4741.

Attention: Healthcare Professionals!

The Council is considering the purchase of an Automated External Defibrillator, and we need your help with the decision. If you have experience in the use of AEDs, would you please contact Pastor Kathy? Your opinion really matters!

Welcome Neighbors!

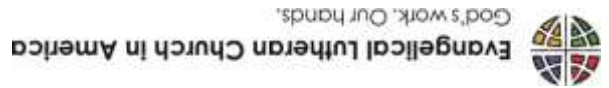
Tumaini Swahili Chapel has moved into the North Ave. Lutheran church building that formerly housed Redeemer. This congregation gathers weekly for worship services in Swahili and has been looking for a permanent home for years.



As you can see from the picture, there are many Swahili speaking Lutherans in Metro Chicago!

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
611 Randolph, Oak Park IL 60302

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church

A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

611 Randolph St, Oak Park

Worship Service, 9:30a

(thru Labor Day)

www.GoodShepherdLC.org

708.848.4741

ChurchOffice@GoodShepherdLC.org

Welcome to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, where our doors
are open wide to people from all backgrounds.
We want to be a place of blessing. If you are just beginning to
wonder about Christianity, this is a safe place to ask questions
and to explore possibilities. If you have been journeying with
Christ for some time, this is a place to grow deeper in your walk
as a disciple. If you have wandered here and there or up and
down in your spiritual journey, this is a place to speculate,
marvel, seek, and find.
And whether you live out your faith primarily through study,
meditation, emotional experience or social activism, you can find
others at Good Shepherd who share your spiritual temperament.
This is a place of open doors, open minds, open hearts, open hands.