



Shepherd's

STAFF

May 2023 Newsletter

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,
Oak Park IL Volume 58, Number 5

Calendar Highlights

- ◆ **April 30**
Good Shepherd Sunday
LSSI Sunday
- ◆ **May 7**
CROP Walk
- ◆ **May 14**
Kinship Sunday
Mother's Day
Last Day of Sunday School
- ◆ **May 21**
Ascension Sunday
- ◆ **May 28**
Pentecost Sunday
Summer worship schedule begins (9:30a)

Good Shepherd/LSSI Sunday, April 30

The year 2023 marks 156 years of joint ministry between Lutheran Social Services of Illinois and Lutheran congregations. Their work includes affordable housing services, home care for seniors, programs for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, mental health care, prison ministry, foster and adoption services, and more! We celebrate their shepherding work, as well as our namesake image of God.



Kinship Sunday, May 14

Several years ago, we began celebrating Kinship Sunday on the day that many also call Mother's Day. Our value of diversity within family structures and individual claims for personhood embraces the fullness of naming the relationships with meaning in our lives . . . those we claim as "kin." On Kinship Sunday, we exalt the nurturing that happens within our kinship relationships—nuclear families, blended families, faith communities, and close relationships that become chosen families.

Pentecost Sunday, May 28 at 9:30a (Summer Schedule)

Pentecost celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit coming down as a flame to the followers of Christ gathered in Jerusalem. Jerusalem was home to people from many places and who spoke a variety of languages. Yet when the apostle Peter was preaching, each heard his words in their own language.

Our traditions honor this story in several ways, and we invite you to participate in whichever way you wish:



- Wear ethnic clothing to give the flavor of people from all over the world coming together in one place.
- Wear colors of fire—red, orange, or yellow.
- Join us in reading the story from Acts in a language you know. Brush off that Danish, Latvian, French, Swahili, German bible and bring it along. You won't be "on the spot," as we all read all the languages simultaneously. Watch the Sunday Epistle and sign-up sheets for the opportunity to volunteer, or call Judy Beisser if you want more information.
- Order red geraniums. Due to limited flower supplies, Pentecost flower orders will be due **May 7**. Plants are \$18.50 each, or you can donate the amount of your choice towards more native plants for the Good Shepherd garden. Orders can be placed online at GoodShepherdLC.org/store.

FAITH FORMATION

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 games, stories, music, and more! The times are 5:00p-7:30p right here at Good Shepherd.



Featuring:

- ⇒ Exciting music guaranteed to have you singing along with your kids!
- ⇒ Games that connect to the bible stories in engaging and meaningful ways!
- ⇒ Interactive story-telling to bring God's word to life!
- ⇒ Small group model that encourages cooperation and friendships across age groups!
- ⇒ Opportunities for congregation members to volunteer and be a part of the fun, or stay behind the scenes and help it all come together!
- ⇒ Middle schoolers and teens needed to serve as small group leaders and rotation helpers!

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.

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!

It takes many hands to make VBS work! Use the QR code above or go to tinyurl.com/gslcVBS2023 to register as a VBS volunteer!

Sunday School Wraps Up on May 14

Thanks for another great year of Sunday School! Our last class for this program year will be on May 14. We'll see you in the fall, hopefully with new walls in the Fellowship Hall!

Confirmation

Our last meeting of the program year will be on Sunday, May 7 at 11:45a. Outgoing 8th graders can mark their calendars for our Service of Affirmation on October 22, 2023.

Youth Service Trip

Our next planning meeting for our July service trip to Milwaukee is Sunday, June 4 at 10:30a. Please note that this is an earlier meeting time because we will be on the summer worship schedule.

Adult/Teen Forum on May 7

Join us on May 7 at 9:15a for a presentation led by our music director, Carl Heine. Carl will give a behind-the-scenes look at what impacts the choices of music that we sing (and don't sing) in worship. Come and explore the reasons behind what's in, what's out, what's safe, what's not, and why.



Be sure to pick up a copy of the "Fifty Days of Spiritual Practice" devotion book, available at church. Practice mindfulness, wondering, and more!

Lenten Pinata, Donations Update!

Thank you for your generosity! We filled our barn pinata with more than \$1147!! That exceeds our \$1000 goal to buy chicks through the ELCA World Hunger's Global Barnyard program.



GS CONNECTS

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Devin Cuneen
Craig Dunphey
Bevin Zamora
Rick Nagle
Dawn Dominis
Ana Theys
Nkobie Mwakyoma
David Pope
Chris Koetke
Linda Bernat
Meryl North
Larry Guagenti
Abigail Lukse
Thomas Cane
Ann Hoeksema
William Pozorski
Elizabeth Loentz
Will Campbell
Susy Prestinary-Emunds
Joan Pope
Rohini Mortha
Alec Dominguez
Paul Schlichting
Jack Bizot
Eileen Deamer
Becca Novak
Judy Beisser
Seth Feare

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Reginald & Ruth Mortha
Gail & Paul Frost
Kim & David Roadruck
Amy & Greg Buchanan
Carl & Linda Fisher
Paul Dengel & Paula Morency
Larry & Lisa Guagenti
Debbie & David Speer
Kaitlin & Michael Cernak

Daytimers

On May 9, we will visit the Lilac Fest at Lilacia Park in Lombard. For more information contact Barb Hunt or the church office.

Book Club

Flock o'Readers book club meets monthly to discuss books from a range of authors and themes. On May 24 we will discuss books set in another country. New members are welcome to join us at 2:30p at Good Shepherd. Contact Barb Hunt or the church office.

Circles of Care Groups

If you are interested in participating in a Circle of Care small group for the summer months, or if you are interested in serving as a small group leader for this time, please contact Deaconess Debbie at christianed@goodshepherdcl.org. Groups will launch in June.

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.

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.



Please note that personal information, such as contact information, birthday dates, anniversary dates, and financial information are removed from the website version of this newsletter. If you are connected to Good Shepherd and would like a full version of the newsletter, please contact the church office.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Crop Hunger Walk

In 2023, we continue fighting against disease, disaster, displacement, and other challenges that leave people hungry. While there is no community-wide walk this year, a group of walkers from Good Shepherd will meet at Good Shepherd church at 1:30p on May 7 to begin our own two-mile walk.



The goal for the Oak Park Hunger Walkathon West is \$110,000, of which Good Shepherd hopes to raise \$2,000. To make a donation, or to sign-up as a team member go to tinyurl.com/GSLCCropWalk2023

Bethel Lunch Program

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 join together to provide hot lunches. Join the team!

SUSTAINABILITY

Good Shepherd Selected for 2023 Garden Walk

The work in our garden has been recognized! The Garden Club of Oak Park and River Forest has selected the Good Shepherd garden as the community garden that will be on display during the 2023 Garden Walk on June 25! During the 2022 Garden Walk, more than 800 community members joined the tours of the private and community gardens.

Join us for a work day on **Saturday, April 29 at 9:00a** for some spring clean-up, and watch for details on additional work days in May and June!

Second Quarter Garden Plans

- Planning for a rainbow flowerbed in the corner bed.
- Looking forward to further development of our Bee Lawn on south side of building. Why a Bee Lawn?
 - ◇ Reduces need for mowing and watering
 - ◇ Colorful, low-growing, flowering plants provide additional pollen and nectar for bees
 - ◇ Year 2 after planting is when we can expect to see non-grass/sedge species
 - ◇ Contains fine fescue, Dutch white clover, self heal, and creeping thyme
- Signage will be added to our plant beds, etc., to help people know what is in our lawns and flowerbeds. This helps to promote understanding of things like bee lawns and native plants.

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.



RENOVATION TASK FORCE

Phase 2 Renovation Task Force

At the January 29, 2023 Annual Meeting, the congregation authorized the creation of a Phase 2 Renovation Task Force for the purpose of leading the next phase of Good Shepherd's facility renovation plan. The Phase 2 Task Force consists of a Core Team, supplemented by a variety of project-specific teams comprised of members of the Good Shepherd community who provide diverse perspectives on behalf of the congregation.

Core Team members include:

Lars Bostrom (Revenue leader)

Dean Ennes (Supplier Management leader)

Carl Fisher (Legal and Capital Campaign History leader)

Gail Frost (Council President and Council representative)

Troy Koch (Expense leader)

Mark Ledogar (Team, Process and Communications leader)

Pastor Kathy Nolte (Staff leader)

Kenn Sinko (Supplier Management leader)

Mitch Theys (Financial Secretary)

In addition, Dan Feiertag (Treasurer) is playing a vital role in providing data and support to Troy and the entire Core Team.

Guided by the resolution from the January 29 Annual Meeting, the Task Force will address the following questions and present related recommendations to the Council and Congregation this year:

- ⇒ What renovations will occur? Answers to this question will be informed by considering the previously approved renovation plan; considering learnings from the previous renovation process and usage since returning to the facility; and exploring new revelations, desires and needs since returning to the facility.
- ⇒ When will renovations occur? Answers to this question will be developed in consideration of demonstrated and anticipated need; analysis of realized and projected financial resources and liabilities; consideration of membership and leadership dynamics and forecast; analysis of

resource dynamics and forecast (i.e., Village permitting, supply chain, cost of money, etc.); and consideration of phasing options.

- ⇒ With whom will we work to complete the renovations, including architect(s), general contractor(s), suppliers, trades, etc.?
- ⇒ How will we pay for the renovations? Considerations will be given to all forms of financing, including capital campaign, debt, operating revenue and expense, grants/third party funders, and phasing options.

Updates from the Task Force will be included monthly via the Shepherd's Staff. Additionally, quarterly meetings of the congregation will be held to provide a deep dive into Phase 2 Renovation plans and to answer questions, with the first of such meetings planned for **Sunday, June 11** following worship. More information about this meeting, including advanced reading materials and related proposed resolutions, will be forthcoming.

In the meantime, should you have any questions, or if you're interested in serving on the Task Force, please contact Mark Ledogar or the church office.



The walls have arrived! 1692 days after our fire, we are finally wrapping up Phase One of our renovations with the installation of our moveable walls in the Fellowship Hall. We also recently signed a contract for solar panels.

Good Shepherd Holy Week in Pictures



Top left: Dramatic telling of Holy Week story
Top right: Liturgical dance
Above: Green fabric unfurls, palms are raised as Palm Sunday worship ends
Far right: Footwashing at Maundy Thursday service



Left and above: Liam and Dylan make communion bread
Right: Watch Night participants fill Easter eggs



Top row: Ms. Barb leads children in opening pinata



2nd row: Dozens of kids join Pastor Kathy for Easter children's message; finding Easter Eggs



3rd row: Easter Egg Hunt; opening eggs; the aftermath



EVANGELISM

Social Media Promotion – THANK YOU!

Awareness of Good Shepherd and our amazing ministry is on the rise thanks to all of you who are taking the time and making the effort to “follow”, “like,” and “share” Good Shepherd’s posts on social media, including Facebook, Instagram and YouTube. Thank you! More people than ever before are experiencing God’s love and our love for them through social media. Please continue to help get the Word out through your social media channels. A tutorial video about how to engage with Good Shepherd on social media can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ghYFKOx96vo>. Thank you for being an important part of Good Shepherd’s outreach!

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 (Evangelism Chair) at mark@theledogroup.com, via phone (630-742-0460), or in person at worship.

AV Ministry Leader

Speaking of welcome, we are pleased to welcome David Anderson as our new AV Ministry Leader. David and his wife, Kelly Nieman Anderson, have recently moved here from Milwaukee. Kelly is an ordained ELCA pastor, currently serving as the Manager of Congregation and Community Engagement at LSSI. In addition to coordinating our AV team schedule, David also ensures that our technologies are used effectively and are integrated into the planning and delivery of worship and special events. Online worship has become an integral part of our ministry at Good Shepherd, and we welcome David’s experience and leadership in helping us deliver quality worship experiences for both those gathered in person and those participating remotely. Welcome David and Kelly!

Nursery Supervisor Wanted

Speaking of new staff, we are still seeking applicants for the position of Good Shepherd Nursery Supervisor. If you know of anyone that is great with children, experienced in childcare, and desires to build relationships with parents, please direct them to our website for a complete job description. Cover letters and resumes can be sent to visitor@goodshepherd.c.org. Please tap into your networks to help us find some great attendants for our nursery!

FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Stewardship

My dad lived for spring and the spirit of renewal that it brought each year. His letters to me were full of images of creation and the rebirth that spring brings. He would dig in the soil and plant an ever-growing garden. He browsed through gardening catalogs and dreamt of what to plant. He spent much free time tending his roses, adding to his rose garden whenever he could. The garden was his sanctuary, and his stewardship of it his second occupation.

Stewardship of the earth. As spring arrives and the weather gets warmer, we spend more time in nature—walking through forest preserves, bicycling bike paths, playing in the park. Many of us are also planting and tending gardens, just like my dad did. I am so thankful for the stewardship of Good Shepherd's gardens by our Healing the Earth committee, led by Michelle Sukup Jackson. Did you know that Good Shepherd's gardens have been chosen to be on the Oak Park Garden Walk this year? Many, many volunteers have spent many hours keeping up the outside appearances of our building. We should all be grateful.

Stewardship of our building. As I think of stewardship, I also think about the people who have been faithful stewards of our building inside. I'm thankful for Rich Novak and the Property Committee for their work maintaining our sanctuary and kitchen, Fellowship Hall and classrooms. I'm thankful for the finishing of the kitchen so that we again can have meals here. I'm thankful for all of the spaces that we are able to use: sanctuary and Prayground, classrooms, meeting rooms, and offices. As we begin the work of Phase 2 we will hopefully end up with a space where everyone will be able to enter our building together.

Stewardship of our money. We tend to think about this stewardship only in the fall as we ask for offering pledges and work on our budget for the following year. But stewardship of our money happens all year long and is watched over by our Finance and Stewardship Committees. I am thankful for Laura Knitt and the Finance committee, all those who count our offerings; for our faithful treasurer, Dan Feiertag; and Financial Secretary, Mitch Theys. And I am grateful for the time and energy that former co-chairs Kellie Campbell

and Sheila Haennicke gave in leading the Stewardship Committee over the past several years.

We are currently looking for a new chair or co-chairs for our Stewardship Committee. We have a description of the role below. Is this something you might feel called to do? If so, come talk to me. Our Stewardship campaign for 2024 starts in September.

Stewardship - Good Shepherd, the building, and all of its members are entrusted to all of our care. How will we continue to be good stewards?

Gail Frost, Council President

Wanted: Chair or co-chairs for Good Shepherd Stewardship Committee. Someone excited to connect with the Good Shepherd community by encouraging giving to our annual Stewardship Campaign and to lift up an overall sense of stewardship within our congregation.



- Qualifications: Excited to connect with fellow members about giving to our annual Stewardship Campaign. Creative ideas, good communication, and basic math skills are a plus. Able to collaborate cross-functionally with finance and worship teams.
- Time commitment: The chair or co-chairs are included in quarterly leadership meetings. The bulk of time takes place in the summer and fall, planning in May-July, then campaign kick-off in September with regular activity through October and end of year reminders.
- Compensation: Increased familiarity with Good Shepherd's mission in action, deeper relationships with others, satisfaction from supporting Good Shepherd's spiritual and financial health.

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

GS LC Members and the Wider Lutheran Church

In 2022, the ELCA Churchwide Assembly directed the Church Council to establish a *Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church...* “(that) shall reconsider the statements of purpose for each of the expressions of this church, the principles of its organizational structure, and all matters pertaining thereunto, being particularly attentive to our shared commitment to dismantle racism, and will present its findings and recommendations to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly in preparation for a possible reconstituting convention to be called under the rules for a special meeting of the Churchwide Assembly.”

Selection process for Commission members: There are 65 synods in the ELCA, divided into 9 regions. Metropolitan Chicago Synod is in Region 5, comprised of Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin. Four hundred nominations were received, of which 35 people were chosen, including three from each region.

Our own **Pete Chapman** was nominated for the Commission, and although he wasn't selected, we are glad he went through the nomination process. Candidates chosen for Region 5 are: The Rev. Charlene Guiliani, Franklin, Wis., Greater Milwaukee Synod (5J); Mr. Ryan Johnson, Rock Valley, Iowa, Western Iowa Synod (5E); and Mr. Leon Schwartz, Greenfield, Iowa, Southeastern Iowa Synod (5D).

Barb Hunt participated in the joint Metropolitan Chicago Synod and Florida-Bahamas Synod trip to the Holy Land. Not only did she meet Bishop Yehiel Curry, but she was able to reconnect with Rev. Pedro M. Suárez, who served as an intern at Good Shepherd several decades ago. On the trip Barb and the others met Pr. Sally Azar, the first woman ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. She participated in Orthodox Easter activities, as well as visiting holy Christian, Jewish and Muslim sites.



Barb with Metro Chicago bishop, Yehiel Curry



Barb sharing a prayer at the Wailing Wall.

