



Shepherd's

STAFF

March 2024 Newsletter

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,
Oak Park IL Volume 59, Number 3

Easter Flowers

Help decorate Good Shepherd for Easter! You have two options:

- ◆ Order lilies, tulips, daffodils, or hyacinth that will be displayed in the sanctuary for Easter worship. Following the service, you can take them home to be enjoyed inside or to be planted in your garden.
- ◆ Make a donation towards the purchase of native pasque flowers for the Good Shepherd gardens. Pasque flowers are one of the first native flowers to bloom in March and April during the Easter season.

To place your order, use the form provided in your Sunday bulletin, or go to the Good Shepherd website (click Get Involved, then go to Store).

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on March 9!



Holy Week at Good Shepherd

March 24, Palm Sunday, 8:30 and 10:30a

As Holy Week begins, we hear the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem through the perspective of Peter. The crowd's singing of Hosanna is subversive, courageous, and contagious. Their praise shows the ripple effect of public displays of faith. Do we feel the dissonance of Jesus, who hears the cheering Hosannas and knows that his journey leads to the cross?



Holy Week

March 28, Maundy Thursday

6:30p: Agape Meal — Much like Peter and the disciples, we gather in the Fellowship Hall for a service that is both meal and worship combined. This all-generational service has activities for children and adults. Be sure to sign up for this service on our Prayers and More form to indicate your attendance, sign up for a dish to share, and whether you can help set up or clean up.

8:00p: Watch Night — After the meal, we continue to move through Peter's journey of those last days with Jesus. After the Passover meal, Jesus went to pray, asking Peter and the disciples only to "keep watch." Watch Night can be an all night experience or just a few hours. See more details about Watch Night on page 4.

March 29, Good Friday

10:00a: Children's Good Friday Service — This service features activities and an age-appropriate telling of the Holy Week story. Recommended for Preschool through Elementary students.

7:30p: Candles and solemn tones set the mood to hear the last words of Christ before his death on the cross. Good Friday reminds us that the freedom to obey Jesus comes as a gift from God through the cross of Christ. At the cross, our old life of captivity to sin is finished, and our new life of discipleship begins.

March 31, Easter Sunday, 8:30 and 10:30a

Get out your Easter Bonnets! Our Easter services are filled with Alleluias, colorful flowers, and music. 10:30a worship will enjoy a festival choir and brass.

Other Easter Activities:

8:30-10:30a: Easter Breakfast served; free will offering collected.

9:45a: Children break open the Lenten Pinata.

10:00a: Easter Egg Hunt on the front lawn.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Holy Week for Families

It's always tricky when Holy Week coincides with Spring Break, but we wanted to let you know about aspects of Holy Week that are perfect for families!

1. Palm Sunday—Our Palm Sunday worship service includes **speaking parts for the children** of the congregation. Music Director Carl Heine will start practicing with the Sunday School classes on March 10.
2. Maundy Thursday—Although it begins at 6:30p, the **Agape meal** is a very family-friendly event that combines worship with a meal. It is full of ritual and meaning. Older kids will want to stay for at least a portion of **Watch Night** (described in detail on page 4).
3. **Good Friday Children's Service**, 10:00a—Specifically designed for Preschool and Elementary aged children, this service features an age-appropriate telling of the Holy Week story with interactive elements.
4. Easter—Family opportunities abound on Easter morning! Come for **Easter Breakfast** and stay for worship! We'll also open our **Lent pinata** at 9:45a and begin our **Easter Egg Hunt** on the front lawn at 10:00a! Don't be late ... egg hunts don't last long! ☺

Also on Easter morning, we will have a **photographer** on hand to take pictures of the festivities and individuals/families/groups that would like a photo. These will be available to view/download from the photographer's password protected website.

Vacation Bible School

It's that time of year when we start dreaming about VBS! Our dates are June 17-21, tentatively 5-8p, and our theme is SCUBA: Diving Into Friendship with God!



As we look ahead, we will need leaders for Games, Music, Bible Storytelling (drama), and Video. If you are interested in leading one of those areas, please speak with Deaconess Debbie soon AND plan to join us for an important planning meeting on Sunday, April 21 after the 10:30a worship service!

As we get closer, we'll be asking for lots (!) of additional volunteers. Help us make an impact in our kids' lives through VBS!

Sunday School News

Although it is during Spring Break, Sunday School will meet as usual on Palm Sunday, March 24. Please note that Carl Heine, Good Shepherd's Music Director, has been working with our children on their part in our interactive Palm Sunday story, which will be shared during the 10:30a service on that day. There will not be Sunday School on Easter Sunday, but join us for all of our Easter festivities!

Communion Instruction

Students who are in second grade (or older students who have not yet gone through communion instruction) should plan to join Pastor Kathy on Saturday, April 6 from 9a to noon. At least one parent should plan to attend as well. Please RSVP to Deaconess Debbie so we have enough materials prepared.

March Madness at Flying High Gym

Many thanks to Kelly and Brian Moreland for sharing their auction-won party package at Flying High Gym in Countryside with the families of Good Shepherd!

The event is on Saturday, March 30 from 12:00-2:00p. We'll join the open gym time (trampolines, foam pits, games, and a 60ft inflatable obstacle course!) for the first 90 minutes, followed by 30 minutes in a party room.



This event is for children of ALL ages. It is a toddler friendly space, but keep in mind that open gym time will have bigger children at play too.

Because the Morelands are sharing their party package with us, this is a **free event**. Freewill donations will be accepted to offset any additional food costs; any extra funds will go towards future family events.

RSVPs and online waivers will be required. Watch for this info soon. Questions? Talk to Kelly Moreland or Deaconess Debbie.

Flying High Gym, 5400 East Ave, Countryside, IL
flyinghighgym.com/countryside

Link to waivers can be found on the website.

Middle School/Confirmation Schedule

Please note that our evening meetings for the month will be on Tuesday, March 5 at 7p and WEDNESDAY, March 20 at 6:30p. (We'll be attending the Lent meal at worship service together.)



High School Youth

Students going to the Gathering: Plan to attend our next planning meeting on Sunday, April 7, following the second service (around 11:45a).

Special Event for 8th through 12th Graders!

Good Shepherd and Grace, River Forest are not only in neighboring suburbs, most of our high schoolers attend the same school! And many will be going to the Youth Gathering in July.

To help build some connections before heading to New Orleans this summer, Deaconess Debbie and her counterpart at Grace, Pastor Troy Medlin, have planned an event that will give us the opportunity to get to know each other better as we serve side by side.

On Saturday, April 20*, we will head out for dinner in the Schaumburg area, followed by a 7-9pm volunteer shift at Feed My Starving Children in Schaumburg. We should return to Oak Park by 9:30p.



Watch for information about RSVPs in the weeks ahead. We can't wait for this awesome event!

**Note the change in date from previous advertising of this event. Exact times will be shared as plans are confirmed.*

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.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

All are welcome to join in our Sunday Morning Bible Study, Sundays at 9:15a. On March 3, we invite you to join us for our monthly First Sunday Forum. Regular Bible Study resumes on March 10.

First Sunday Forum

Join us for a once a month opportunity to explore a topic of interest more deeply. Presentations are typically made by Good Shepherd members, but we are open to your speaker suggestions. All are welcome at our Forums! Our March forum info:

African American History and Stories in Oak Park Sunday, March 3, 9:15a

Presenter: Peggy Tuck Sinko, GS member and president ex-officio of the Oak Park-River Forest Historical Society

African Americans have been residents of Oak Park since the late 19th century, but their stories are often overlooked. Some still believe that there were no African Americans in the Village before the arrival of the Percy Julian family. Peggy will highlight some of these stories, with an emphasis on the role of religious leaders and institutions, from the formation of the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church by Black residents (1905-1930) to the upheavals of the Civil Rights and Fair Housing movements of the 1960s and 1970s. She is the co-author of *Suburban Promised Land: The Emerging Black Community in Oak Park, 1880-1980* (2009).

American Heart Association Presentation

Good Shepherd is working on getting an automated external defibrillator (AED) from the American Heart Association (AHA). Part of this process is to hear a presentation from the AHA, which will be followed at a later date with AED training for those who wish to participate.



Please join us after the 10:30a worship service on Sunday, March 10 for an informative presentation by a representative from the American Heart Association.

WORSHIP

JAZZ PRAYER

March 15, 7:30p



Too often women take a secondary or supporting role in music. This ignores their important contribution to the field. In March we correct that slant with our theme, "Lady Sings the Blues," as we focus on the women of Jazz in our music. The readings all come from the book *Finding Mother God* by Carol Lynn Pearson. Doors open at 7:10p and music begins at 7:30p.

April Worship Sneak Peak

April 7: The Easter season celebrations continue on the second Sunday of Easter, as Michael Stryker leads us in Jazz Worship. In addition, three families will bring their children for baptism, and we will have a Communion Celebration for students that have gone through communion instruction!

April 14: Pastor Kathy has asked that our last worship service with her be filled with Gospel music. (Check out page 9 for other information about Pastor Kathy's last weekend with Good Shepherd.)

Celebrating Palm Sunday

Our worship services on March 24 focus on Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, the beginning of Holy Week. At 10:30 this involves the entire congregation - children, adults and choir - in an interactive telling of the story through the eyes of Peter, Matthew, Jesus, the crowds, the Pharisees, and even the donkey. In Sunday School, the children will rehearse the parts they will say and practice the procession with palms. If you are interested in reading the part of Jesus, Peter, Matthew, the Donkey Owner, a Pharisee (no acting or memorizing is involved), please talk to Carl Heine or write to him at music@goodshepherdlc.org. There will be a rehearsal on Saturday, March 23 at 10:30 am for designated readers.



"Watch Night" Explained

Following the Maundy Thursday Agape meal, we will transition into Watch Night, a simultaneously fun and deeply moving experience built around Jesus' plea to his disciples to stay awake with him in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Starting at 8:00p, we gather in the darkened sanctuary to hear a short portion of the Passion story and sing, "Stay with Me," a Taizé song recounting Jesus' words to watch and pray. Everyone leaves the sanctuary except for one person who signed up to stay awake in the sanctuary and keep watch. While keeping watch, you can meditate, play the piano or other instrument, walk and pray, knit, draw, or do whatever is meditative for you.

Meanwhile, everyone else is in Fellowship Hall or outside around the firepit at the church's front entrance. If you're outside you can roast marshmallows, play Ghost in the Graveyard, or just visit around the fire, often chatting with dogwalkers who are curious about what's going on. If you're inside, you can play games, fill plastic eggs for Sunday's Easter Egg hunt, make bread for Easter communion, do arts and crafts, journal, play the Orff instruments, or other planned or suggested activities.

On the hour, a bell will ring to bring everyone back into the sanctuary to hear the next portion of the Passion story, sing "Stay with Me," and then the next person remains in the sanctuary to keep watch.

You can participate as late as you want – even staying all night until 6a. This vigil is deeply moving and makes Good Friday even more real and Easter more joyful. At the same time, it's a great opportunity to get acquainted with, or build closer relationships with, others keeping watch.

Reflection: Working Shoulder by Shoulder

Daniel Scherer-Emunds served as a Carman International Fellow in Tanzania through Mosaic International from August 2022 to December 2023. His work was with children and young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. He looks back upon his time there.

It was a life-changing experience working *bega kwa bega* (shoulder by shoulder) with the Building a Caring Community (BCC) team in Moshi, Tanzania for the past 16 months. I am so grateful to have been even a small part of their incredible impact and comprehensive supports for 215+ local children and young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

It was going to be my first time in East Africa, so before going, I collected as many perspectives about Tanzania as I could from American and Tanzanian friends who had close connections to the land and culture. One question I asked was what were the first three words that came to their minds regarding Tanzania. The responses included hospitality, faith, peaceful, friendly, family, opportunity, overwhelming and low-resource environment.

While the words my friends shared with me ended up ringing true, the first three words that now come to my mind are: Pamoja (Swahili for Togetherness), Aliveness, and Music.

***Pamoja* (Togetherness)**

The communal nature of everyday life and culture in Tanzania is strikingly different than the individualistic mind-sets that often exist in the US.



There's an everyday Swahili phrase *tuko pamoja*, meaning "we are in this together." It's a comforting expression of solidarity. There's much togetherness in the work of BCC. BCC leaves no child behind regardless of socioeconomic status or disability severity. The tireless and compassionate team give their all to serve as many children as possible and disrupt the vicious cycle of disability and poverty that so many families there experience.

In a society where there is still widespread and isolating misperceptions about disability being a curse from God, a product of witchcraft, or the fault of the mother, BCC's

service is transformative and vital. BCC speaks often about building community; it's in the name itself. One aspect of BCC programs includes psychosocial supports for family members of young people with disabilities. Many caregivers told



Daniel (left) with Deacon Kaya (BCC Director), and the General Secretary of the Northern Tanzania Synod of the ELCA

me how BCC's community has so positively impacted them. As a mother at BCC's Pasua Center shared, "Thanks to BCC for seeing the need of the community and providing a safe environment for our kids and ourselves. We did not have confidence to bring out our children with disabilities. We were thinking we were different from other community members. Now we know other people have others to carry that burden with us. We are thankful to BCC and to God for BCC existing."

Aliveness

I was energized by a strong sense of aliveness throughout my experi-



ence in Moshi and with BCC. There was never a dull day or dull moment, and my work with BCC was often unpredictable as well. On any given day, I had to be prepared for helping support children in the centers, accompanying outreach workers on home visits, leading trainings for staff and/or caregivers, contributing ideas to BCC's strategic plans for program expansion, writing proposals and policies, reporting grants, capturing photos/videos, doing website/social media work, developing partnerships with other community organizations/schools, supporting international volunteers and visitors, participating in church-affiliated events and activities, helping to respond to emergencies and more.

BCC can be a life-giving and life-saving service for many. One mother from the Longuo neighborhood told me bluntly, "Without BCC, I would be dead and buried. I thought I was the only one who had a child with a disability. I got encouraged through the parent seminars and finding others like me. I was perceiving him as a burden

(continued from page 5) to me, and other people in the community perceived the same. I came to recognize these children are a big blessing to the family.”

However, not all families share the same story. There are multiple sides to life, and with the aliveness came some intimate experiences with death. During my 16-month tenure there, the number of funerals I was invited to for loved ones of friends was staggering. In 2023 alone, despite the team’s best efforts, BCC mournfully saw four children pass due to various causes, including respiratory failure, hypoglycemia and malnutrition. All these children were living in extreme poverty in rural areas and receiving home services, through which it’s a challenge to consistently monitor and follow up on health status. On a home visitation with parents in the Msaranga neighborhood who had just lost their 5-year old child, my BCC co-worker asked me to say a prayer for the family. I’d never been at such a loss for words in my life.

Music

One of my favorite ways to explore and learn about a new place is through music created there. I did my best to dive deep into the worlds of Tanzanian hip-hop, Bongo Flava (Afropop), Zilipendwa (jazz oldies from the days of Tanzanian independence), Amapiano (South African music with wide percussive basslines and synths), Congolese rumba, and more.



Helping to develop a new program partnership with Simbas Footprints—a community center located near many BCC clients—was one of my proudest accomplishments during my time with the BCC. Simbas Footprints aims to unlock youth potential through creative programming and community-driven solutions. They have an outstanding youth music program with a fully-equipped practice room and music studio. Our collaboration resulted in BCC young adults attending their center once a week for music, dance and art classes. It was amazing to see how excited and energized the BCC youth would get when we attended. Our students would eagerly ask me, “When are we going to Simbas again?!” We also worked with Simbas on several community events including World Down Syndrome Day and the BCC Disability Festival. They also invited some BCC youth to join them on a safari to Arusha National Park. The partnership gave BCC youth a pivotal

chance to learn new skills, explore their interests and engage with their communities in new and inclusive ways.

I could go on for an eternity about my impressions of Tanzania and Moshi and BCC. Moshi is a truly special place, and BCC is a truly special organization doing truly special work. My time there carried a complex mix of heartbreak and triumph, and I’m grateful for all of it. I’m thankful for deepened levels of compassion and patience, values of community, feelings of aliveness and inspiration and new music-based explorations and endeavors. I’m thankful for un-learnings of a Western sense of urgency and individualism. I hope I added even a little value to the program, the team’s efforts and the lives of the people BCC serves.

As BCC continues to move forward and looks to expand into new districts for programming in 2024, I wish them nothing but success and abundance. I know how committed they are to serving this population, and I’ve seen how under-served this population is. In the words of Sister Woinde, BCC’s occupational therapist and one of the most compassionate people I’ve ever met, “My dream is that we can bring the program to other areas we have not yet reached. BCC is unique. Nobody is providing the services that we are, and people are in need. I pray every day to God children with disabilities and their families can get the same type of service in their own communities. People are suffering, and they need service. So, if it’s possible, I want us to move to other areas and reach children and work with them as early as possible.”

I encourage everyone to [learn more about BCC](#) and support their partnership with Mosaic International in any way you can—be it making a much-needed donation—any small amount really goes a long way in supporting the BCC and Mosaic International mission—or by at least following BCC on social media ([Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#)).

Lastly, I also encourage you to consider visiting Moshi and BCC some day to see the land and the on-the-ground, mission-driven work being done by BCC and Mosaic International yourself. And, when you return, please let me know *your* three takeaway words.



SOCIAL MINISTRY

Migrant Ministry Updates

1. The new migrant family we are supporting moved from the Carleton to an apartment in south Oak Park. Their names are; Emili (mom), Manuel (dad), Alexzen (16), Emanuel (12), Samuel (8). All the kids attend Oak Park schools. The team surrounding this family is led by Rob Hann, Susan Kurtenbach, and Scott White.
2. New Baby! The migrant family who received donations from us in September just had a new baby boy named Jeremy. Blessings to parents Jocelyn and Enges!
3. Cooking Arepas with Yirari: Saturday, March 9, 10:30a-12:30p, in the Good Shepherd kitchen. (Note: This current class is full, but we hope to offer more in the future.) Questions can be directed to Mary Scherer-Emunds or the church office.
4. This year's Lenten pinata will support Good Shepherd's migrant ministry. The Sunday School children will also learn more about Latin and South American traditions this month.
5. Gift cards to Pete's and Walmart are always welcome for our migrant families.

Meals Through Housing Forward

Help make and deliver lunches to the homeless staying at the Write Inn. A new volunteer cycle is starting very soon. Contact the church office at churchoffice@goodshepherdlc.org to be added to the list.



Our Lenten Pinata is Back!

As the season of Lent continues, join us in filling our Lenten pinata with coins, bills, and checks! Using a traditional pinata figure, we will learn more about the cultures of our new neighbors seeking asylum AND raise funds for Good Shepherd's migrant ministry!



Crop Hunger Walk

Good Shepherd has a long history of answering God's call to justice and righteousness, and is a recognized leader in feeding ministries – whether in providing food or advocating for policies that promote an end to hunger. One yearly event is our participation in the national Crop Hunger Walk, which for our area is called the Oak Park Hunger Walkathon. Members of our congregation will walk on May 5, 2024.



You can participate in several ways: join the team by registering, inviting your friends and family to donate, and walk OR make a donation on the team page. The steps we take and funds we raise will make a difference in the lives of others.

To make a donation, or to sign-up as a team member go to <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/team/good-shepherd-lutheran-church-2>.

Serving Lunch at Bethel

Join us at Bethel on March 28 (which is Maundy Thursday) to hand out free lunches. This month we welcome Loree Azzaretto, pictured below in the grey sweater, as ministry leader as Pastor Kathy begins her transition out of this role. As a team member who has participated since the inception of this partnership, Loree has made strong connections with everyone involved in this ministry. Sign-up to help on the Prayers and More.



GS CONNECTS

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Evan Campbell
Josephine de Groot
Annie Nagle
Molly Guangenti
Lee Fritz
Dean Ennes
Brenda Cobb Oliver
Grae Abbott
Erin Carney
Kerstin Hedlund
Michelle Sukup Jackson
Martha Wegener
Marcia Schattauer
Thomas Hann
Paula Morency
Spencer Schattauer
Ramona Koetke
Donna Schwarz
Ascencion Vazquez
Lynn Heald
Joseph Morrow
Robert Sukup Jackson
Mitch Theys
Kevin Duel
Eric Wegener
Louise Irwin
Paul Dengel
Hilda Schlatter
Miguel Vazquez



Daytimers enjoy a day of service at a food pantry for their February outing.

Whiskey with Cocktail Historian, Dave Hudson

Learn about the world of whisk(e)ys from spirits and cocktail historian Dave Hudson. By the end of the night, you'll have a deeper understanding and appreciation of this fascinating spirit.

Join us on **Saturday, March 2** at 6:30 in Fellowship Hall for this exciting experience. Tickets are available from Barb Hunt or online at the Good Shepherd website. Click "Get Involved" and go to "Store."

Women & Spirituality: Signs of Hope in Nature

During this gloomy time of year – both in nature and in the news – it's sometimes hard to feel hopeful. Join us on March 3 at 4:00 at Sue Priebe's house to rediscover how God's presence in nature can nurture our spirits. We'll be done by 5:30. For more information, contact Lynn Railsback at lynnrailsback@gmail.com.

If you are interested in attending these monthly meetings but aren't available on Sunday afternoons from 4:00 – 5:30 please let Lynn Railsback know that you're interested and what days and times would work for you. We're open to finding a time that works better for women interested in attending.

Daytimers

On March 12, Daytimers will travel to Greek Town to visit the National Hellenic Museum and then have lunch at Artopolis. On April 16 at 1:00p, Daytimers will enjoy an afternoon of Bunco. For more information contact the church office.

Book Club

Flock o'Readers will meet March 27 at 2:30p at church to discuss books written by James Herriot. In April, we will read *Grandma Gatewood's Walk* by Ben Montgomery to be discussed on April 24. New members are always welcome. For more information contact the church office.

Good Shepherd Gear is a Hit!

A big THANK YOU to everyone who purchased t-shirts, long sleeved tees, and hoodies decorated with our Good Shepherd logo. We met our goal of 50 items sold and made over \$500+!! If you had your shirt delivered to Good Shepherd, it should be available for pick up beginning on Sunday, March 3. Watch for an email from Deaconess Debbie.



THANK YOU!!

Save the Date!

Pastor Kathy's last Sunday with us will be April 14. In addition to a celebratory worship service Sunday morning, there are also plans in the works for a reception on Saturday and a luncheon following our late service on Sunday. There is much to honor and celebrate about Kathy's faithful and transformative work among us these last sixteen years.

There will be opportunities for all to be a part of these joyful and difficult days of saying goodbye. Share your ideas for ways to honor Pastor Kathy by reaching out to Gail Frost or Deaconess Debbie. As the plans for the weekend are solidified, we will also share opportunities for you to help.

Soon information will be shared about contributing monetarily towards these special events and a gift for Pastor Kathy. Also, consider writing your own note of gratitude to Pastor Kathy in the weeks ahead.



Welcome Holly, Our New Nursery Attendant!

Well, it's been a long time coming, but we are very pleased to announce that we have a nursery attendant for our 10:30a worship service! Holly Scott began working with us in February.

Our nursery is recommended for children aged four months through four years old. Parents should complete a registration form so that we have pertinent information for your child. We are also utilizing a pager system on Sundays so that Holly has access to parents, ushers, and Deaconess Debbie if needed. Holly shares more about herself below. Be sure to say hello!

Newcomers Gather on March 3 and 17

A "Newcomer" is anyone who has been attending worship at Good Shepherd, but isn't yet a member. The Newcomer Gathering is where you can learn more about Good Shepherd either to quench your curiosity or to move forward in membership. This is where you will learn more about the history, core values, and ministry of Good Shepherd. This is also where you can learn more about the various local and national Lutheran bodies. The gatherings are conversationally based with an aim at building connections. While the preference is that you attend both meetings, it is not mandatory. RSVP on the Prayers and More form or to Pastor Kathy.

- March 3 at 9:15a in the Youth Lounge. (Through the doors in the front of the sanctuary on the "choir side," and up the stairs.)
- March 17 at 11:45a downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. This meeting includes a light lunch.

Lunch with the Rev!

Join Pastor Kathy for casual conversation over great food! She'll be at Margaritas, 804 S Oak Park Ave, on Thursday, March 21 at 11:30a. Be sure to sign up on the Prayers and More form so Pastor knows how large of a table is needed.

Find us online!

Instagram: @gslcoakpark

Facebook: goodshepherdlc.org

YouTube: @GoodShepherdLutheranOakPark

Website: goodshepherdlc.org

A pink-themed introduction card for Holly Scott. At the top, it says "Introducing: Holly" in a large, dark font, flanked by pink flower icons. Below this is a circular photo of Holly, a young woman with dark hair, smiling. To the right of the photo is a white box with the heading "Introduction" and a short bio: "My name is Holly and I look forward to creating a warm and welcoming environment in our Nursery." Below the photo and bio is another white box with the heading "All About me" and a longer bio: "I have always had a passion for teaching and childcare. Last year I was a daycare teacher and it taught me so much about creating long lasting memories and experiences for my class. In my free time, I love spending time with friends and family, creating music and exploring nature." The entire card has a light pink background with decorative floral elements.

Celebrating Dr. Carl Heine's Five Years with Good Shepherd!

In 2018, we not only lost our building through a roof fire, but we also lost our Director of Music, who took a job in Denmark. By early 2019, the search for a new Director of Music was in full swing, during which time Dr. Carl Heine served as a supply musician (having just moved to Oak Park after retiring from a long tenure as Director of Music at St. Paul, Wheaton). The job was offered to him in February of 2019, but vacation plans delayed his start date until April 15.

In his five years with Good Shepherd, Carl has added significantly to our music program and our worship. During the pandemic, he combined the individually-taped voices of choir members to create hymn music in three-part harmony. The experience strengthened the voices of choir members and added new members to the program. Encouraging the gifts of all members, and mentoring young musicians in their training, Carl has expanded the number of people who play instruments in worship. Whether leading music for Vacation Bible School, or the Christmas Pageant, Carl's enthusiasm is infectious and his teaching abilities shine. The past few years, we've been fortunate to sing many songs and liturgies composed by Carl.

Whether considering his breadth of experience, depth of musicality, rapport with children, or the relatability of his personality, Dr. Carl Heine has been a wonderful gift to Good Shepherd. **Join us in celebrating his five years with us after worship on Palm Sunday, March 24.**





CARING SHEPHERDS

Please remember those in our church family with cards and prayers.

Please Note: For privacy reasons, the website version of our monthly newsletter does not contain birthdates, Caring Shepherd prayer lists, personal contact information, or church financial information. If you would like a full newsletter by mail or email, please contact us at churchoffice@goodshepherdlc.org.

ELCA Social Statement Input Wanted

How as Lutherans should we understand our relationship to civic life — including government — as individuals and as a church body? After studying the questions for the past three years, a social statement task force has posted a draft social statement on civic life and faith.

Between now and Sept. 30, 2024, you are invited to study and give feedback on the draft by filling out an [online survey](#) or attending a hearing in your synod, as available. To access the draft and the survey, and to find information on how to host a hearing in your synod, go to www.elca.org/civicsandfaith or contact the Good Shepherd church office.

After the feedback period has closed, the task force will revise the draft with attention to the public input and submit a proposed version of the social statement to the ELCA Church Council, which will vote on sending it to the ELCA 2025 Churchwide Assembly for consideration. If adopted at the assembly by a two-thirds margin, the social statement will become official social teaching of this church.



FROM OUR PASTOR



By now you should have received two letters, one from me and one from the Congregation Council stating that I am leaving Good Shepherd. My last day

will be April 15. Not surprisingly, that news has raised the anxiety of the congregation. Questions about how things will run, what the transition will look like, and how Good Shepherd will find another pastor have all begun.

In the midst of it all, I want you to hang onto this promise: ***“Everything is going to be alright.”***

If it has seemed that I am exceptional at leading the congregation, that is only because I am surrounded by exceptional people. First, there is staff. In 2020, I both went on sabbatical for three months and began a part-time position with the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the ELCA. Staff kept things running smoothly in both cases.

Office Administrator Kimberly Adami-Hasegawa and Deaconess Debbie Speer have primary responsibility in the office making many day-to-day decisions. Kimberly maintains the calendar, coordinates space use, assists our treasurers with accounts payable, creates our worship bulletins and Epistle, and much more. Deaconess Debbie, in addition to running our Christian Education program, designs our newsletter, and has a strong sense of the overall events and ministries of Good Shepherd. At our weekly staff meetings, they keep me up to date on weekly happenings and remind me of what needs my attention. As you move forward without me, know that they have both worked closely with me when making decisions about a new direction or initiative. Both are wise, creative, and attentive to details.

Since 2020, Kerstin Hedlund has served as primary contact for pastoral care and Fred Reklau has provided care for our members who are unable to attend in-person worship. Even when members connect with me over a matter, my task has been to move their pastoral care to Pastor Kerstin. In addition to Deaconess Debbie, Kerstin has also helped with teaching in the confirmation program for several years.

Starting in 2020, there has been a strong Worship Planning Team, consisting of Dr. Carl Heine, Mark Ledogar, Lynn Railsback, Pastor Kerstin, and as of late, David Anderson. These people work with me to plan every worship service on both the micro and macro level. When determining themes for

major liturgical seasons, we talk through ideas. Everything from subject, mood, decorations, and involvement of congregational members is part of our discussion. For some seasons, we are planning several months ahead. This has given Carl the ability to use his creative abilities to write whole liturgies and song-filled dramas. On a weekly basis, we verify the specific elements of each worship service: words, music, participants, before anything is entered into the bulletin. In addition, we debrief each worship service that just happened. Your comments about sound, flow, and general experience of worship inform decisions we make going forward.

There are strong, dedicated people serving on the Congregational Council and our ten Committees. This past weekend we joined in a retreat where the leaders formed stronger cross-committee connections. In addition, we mapped out a structure for work going forward that began with the question, “How do you relate to me (Pastor Kathy)?” and “Where does that go?” We identified existing teams and created structure for new teams. I made a commitment to put instructions for things that I know on the leadership Google drive. It might even contain a video on such things as “How to drain the water from the dishwasher,” “How to reset the sanctuary lights when they are stuck,” and “How to take down the Fellowship Hall walls.” We even discussed who would be the point person if there is another emergency where the Village of Oak Park or Housing Forward need to use our space.

I can’t say that we will have discussed every possibility for how you will function without me. But I do know this, if I look like a strong, intelligent, gifted pastor it is due to a multitude of people who stand alongside me. I have been blessed to work with the most gifted group of people God has gathered in a congregation. Good Shepherd has accomplished amazing things in the past sixteen years and is known for the way that our faith in Christ is found in our engagement in the world. I know that engagement and accomplishment will continue long after I am gone, because you are the ones who both encouraged me and worked with me all of these years.

So do not worry about what will happen. With God’s help and the talent of many people, you will move forward with even greater strength than you see now.

May God bless you always, *Pastor Kathy*



Pastor Kathy Nolte

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 Office Admin.)
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
Scott White, Vice President, Personnel
Richard Sehl, Secretary
Dan Feiertag, John Jackson, Co-Treasurers

Council Liaisons

Carrie Cook, Finance, Stewardship, Social
Ministry
Rose Mabwa, Property, Sustainability,
Worship, Music, and the Arts
Linda Thomas, Christian Education,
GS Connects, Evangelism

Committee Chairs

Christian Education – Kristin de Groot
Evangelism – Marcy Moreno
Finance – Laura Knitt
GS Connects – Joan & Phil Taylor
Property – Rich Novak
Social Ministry – Mary Scherer-Emunds
Stewardship – Mark Ledogar
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

International Women's Day Concert Friday, March 8, 2024, 7pm-9pm

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
611 Randolph St., Oak Park, IL



FEATURED SINGERS

Kimberly Jones
Janet Mensen-Reynolds
Alison Meuth
Christine Steyer

POET

Maureen Kwiat Meshenberg

GUEST VOCALIST

Dayanara Fernandez

PIANISTS

Jennifer McCabe
Sarah Yoon-Mayer

EMCEE

Ava Logan

ARTIST

Tamera Gagne



Tickets & Info

Bellissimaopera.com/iwd24/



That Old Car is Worth Money...



You can find value in that old car, boat, or riding lawn mower! Several members have donated their cars through the NCS Vehicle Donations program.



To get started [link to NCS](#), or call the NCS Vehicle Donations at 866-829-2918. Let them know you are donating for Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. The process is swift and painless.

For further information, go to goodshepherdlc.org. If you have questions, contact Kenn Sinko at ksinko605@aol.com.

March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Pastor's Day Off 8p AA	2 6:30p Whiskey Tasting
3 9:15a Forum 9:15a Newcomers 1p Ray of Hope 4p Women & Spirit. 7:30p AA	4 10:30a Staff Meeting 12p Worship Planning 6p Rehearsal 7p Lent Book Discussion 7:30p AA	5 Pastor at Synod 7p Confirmation	6 7:30a Matins (Offsite) 6:30p Lent Meal 7:30p Lent Worship 8p Choir	7	8 Pastor's Day Off 7p Women's Day Concert 8p AA	9 10:30a Arepas Class
10 11:45a AHA Presentation 1p Ray of Hope  7:30p AA	11 10:30a Staff Meeting 12p Worship Planning 7p Book Discussion 7:30p AA	12 Pastor at Synod 10a Daytimers	13 Council Reports Due 7:30a Matins (Offsite) 6:30p Lent Meal 7:30p Lent Worship 8p Choir	14 11:30a Lunch w/ Rev 12p Jazz Prayer Set-Up 7:30p WMA	15 Deadline: Newsletter Pastor's Day Off 9a Jazz Prayer Set-Up 7:30p Jazz Prayer 8p AA	16 8a Men's Group 7:30p Knox College Choir
Flower Orders Due 17 10a Scratch Choir 11:45a Newcomers 1p Ray of Hope 	18 10:30a Staff Meeting 12p Worship Planning 7p Book Discussion 7p Council 7:30p AA	19 Pastor at Synod 7p Confirmation 7p Finance	20 7:30a Matins (Offsite) 6:30p Lent Meal 7:30p Lent Worship 8p Choir	21	22 Pastor's Day Off 8p AA	23 10:30a Palm Sunday Rehearsal
Palm Sunday 24 11:45a Carl's 5th Ann. 1p Ray of Hope 8p AA Easter 31 8:30a Easter Breakfast 9:45a Pinata 10a Egg Hunt 1p Ray of Hope 7:30p AA	25 10:30a Staff Meeting 12p Worship Planning 7p Book Discussion 7:30p AA	26 Pastor at Synod	27 7:30a Matins (Offsite) 2:30p Flock o' Readers 7:15p Choir	28 Maundy Thursday 10:30a GS to Bethel 6:30p Maundy Thursday Agape Meal 8p Watch Night	29 Good Friday 10a Children's Good Friday Worship 7:30p Good Friday Worship 8p AA	30 12p Flying High Gym Family Event Easter Breakfast set-up

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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 Services: 8:30 & 10:30a

(10:30 service also livestreamed)

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.