



MESSENGER –

April 2020

A word from our pastor

**Dear Partners
in Ministry,**

Jesus rises
from the dead,
the women at
the tomb hear

this good news, they share it with other disciples, and what is their response? They gather in a locked room, because they are afraid.

Perhaps we can identify with the disciples in a deeper way this year. Due to COVID-19, our experience of Easter will be incredibly different. We won't have the sanctuary filled with Easter flowers in the same way. We won't gather in person and sing songs or hymns filled with Alleluias. We won't have Easter brunches or large family gatherings. Instead, we will be at home. We may have some fear or worry about the state of the world around us. We may have some fear or worry for our own health and safety. In many ways, we may be like the disciples, who heard about the resurrection, and whose first response was one of fear.

And yet, we know that the good news of Easter is not limited to a single day on the calendar. In the church year, Easter lasts for fifty days, taking us to the celebration of Pentecost. Each Sunday in the Easter seasons brings a story of Jesus appearing to his disciples again, or of Jesus speaking

words of comfort, promise, and assurance to those same disciples. It's as if Jesus knew we might have our doubts. How can we trust in resurrection and the promise of new life when we are hearing so much about fear and even death? Jesus simply keeps showing up in unexpected places. He keeps saying to us, "Peace be with you." He keeps offering words of hope and encouragement, beckoning us to open our hearts to receive the good news of God's love. He keeps on reminding us that we are not alone.

Yes, Easter will be different this year. We may feel some grief or sorrow about that. And at the same time, those differences may make the message of Easter resonate in a deeper way. However you mark Easter Sunday on April 12th, I pray that God's promise of new life cracks open our fearful hearts, and mends them together again, made stronger with the cords of God's love given for all. As one Easter hymn proclaims, "Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!" (From *Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!* ELW 377)

*Walking with you,
Pastor Jeff*

A COVID-19 Update

On Thursday night April 2nd, the church council met by zoom, and confirmed that we will continue to follow the order from Gov. Baker. This means we will officially be closed through May 4th and includes the cancellation of the Rummage Sale. While we don't know how long these closures will last, we are expecting they will continue for some time and we are planning as if we will be closed for the month of May as well.

2020 Financial Update

Since we have entered the month of April, we have some further information about Good Shepherd's current financial picture. In the month of March, we were \$8,000 short of our budgeted income. Two things were working in our favor to prevent a larger shortfall. First, we were able to gather in person for worship on March 1st and March 8th, and second, March included five Sundays in it, which gives a slight increase to the monthly income.

As we enter the month of April, we expect that monthly shortfall to increase. We will not be able to gather in person for worship. In addition, people may be unemployed or unable to give at the same level. Please know that your financial gifts are incredibly important to the life and ministry of Good Shepherd in this time! If you regularly give by offering envelope or placing cash or check in the offering plate, we ask that you mail your offering to the church at 183 W. Main St., Westborough MA 01581.

GSLC's church council and finance committee are taking additional steps to seek financial assistance. We will experience some reductions in costs since we are not gathering in person. We are seeking to reduce expenses wherever possible. We are looking into applying for mortgage forbearance, which would allow us to temporarily suspend our mortgage payments. Lastly, we are applying for assistance through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) of the CARES act. This program is open to all non-profit organizations, including churches. It takes the form of a loan from a local bank, and is meant to help organizations cover their payroll expenses for eight weeks. At the end of those eight weeks, as long as you still employ the same number of people at their same rate of pay, that loan will be forgiven, and essentially functions as a grant. We will offer updates to the congregation once there is further information to share.

Finally, please know that we have temporarily postponed our stewardship campaign. We had hoped to receive people's pledges for July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 during the month of April and celebrate those pledges on Sunday May 3rd. We are waiting to see how everything develops with COVID-19 during April before making decisions about how to proceed.

Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you to everyone who has made generous donations to the Pastor's Emergency Fund! Recently, we communicated a need for gifts to this fund so that we can meet the needs that may arise from the economic results of COVID-19 for people within our congregation and the wider community. At this point, the fund is in a much stronger position to meet such needs. Please keep this fund in mind as a resource for yourselves or any others that may be experiencing financial hardship.

-Pastor Jeff and Pastor Larson

COUNCIL NOTES

On Tuesday, March 3rd, the Council held their regular monthly meeting. This was in the “good old days” before the pandemic was declared.

After our devotions, Joann Duncan presented the financial update. Overall, we are doing a good job controlling expenses and income looks especially good due to some prepayments of full year pledges.

Next, we had a lengthy conversation about the size of council. Special guests George Herz, Jochen Salfeld and Tom Olson provided their perspective on the history of the transition to a program church and the corresponding change in the size of council. George Herz was able to provide a lot of insight on the decision-making process back in 2011-2012. Jochen provided insight into what is necessary to update our constitution, which requires Synod approval and two special Congregation meetings to approve (before

and after the proposed changes are sent to the Synod). We ultimately decided to hold a special information-gathering meeting/town hall on the subject on Sunday, March 15th at Noon. Unfortunately, due to concerns about social distancing during the pandemic, we had to postpone that meeting.

Council then discussed the best practices for congregations with respect to hiring congregation members for staff positions. Pastor Larson shared that what she had been taught in seminary and what has been reinforced in the synod's required boundary training workshops, is that hiring members for staff position sets up the congregant for a dual relationship that can be very hard to navigate. For example, the pastors become the supervisors as the spiritual leaders, and fellow congregants become arbiters of your professional performance. We all struggle with this idea but need to consider whether a change in policy is needed. If in the future we decide that the best candidate for a position is a congregant, then we need to set very clear expectations up front about how they will receive spiritual support outside Good Shepherd, and how they will separate from the congregation once their term of employment ends. We will continue to discuss this topic and develop a policy for future use.

The next agenda topic was appointing the CED search team. We had many great candidates, more than we could use for an effective search team. After some discussion, we decided that we really needed two teams; a search team and a

support/transition team. The support team would assist the new CED in learning the ropes, introducing to families in the congregation, helping with curriculum and events, such as the rummage sale, craft fair, Calumet fundraisers, etc, and coordinating with Worship & Music. The CED search team will include Bruce Grams, Dana Gillin, Dawn Hall, Gerry Hava, Kristin Black and Mark Booher. Assuming they all agree, the CED Support team will include Joan Arnold, Julie Hamilton-Grant, Michele Conway and Brad McRae.

There were 2 property proposals that were discussed. First, the retaining wall needs repair and the estimate is \$3,257. Second, the office area needs electrical repairs at an estimated cost of \$635. Council agreed to pursue these projects, which will be paid for with designated funds.

There was general discussion of upcoming meetings and anniversary plans, all of which have been put on hold due to the pandemic.

Your council and Pastors continue to meet (remotely via Zoom) to find our way through these difficult times. We are doing the best we can to reach out to members and support those who need it. Please let us know if there is anything else we can do.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

The culmination of the church year happens during this week in the great Three Days. These days trace Jesus' passion, death, burial, and resurrection. They begin on Thursday at sundown, and conclude on Saturday evening. Though it unfolds over an entire week, this worship is considered to

be one extended liturgy. It leads us into our great celebration of the resurrection on Easter morning.

Maundy Thursday 4/9/2020: We're livestreaming our service on our [Facebook page](#) at 7pm, and it will be posted on our [Youtube channel](#) by 9pm. Together we remember the giving of the Great Commandment and Jesus' act of footwashing. We move from the upper room to the garden of Gethsemane with the chanting of Psalm 22 and the stripping of the altar.

Participate at home: *Get a bowl of hot water and some clean towels ready for this worship service!*

Good Friday 4/10/2020: We're livestreaming our service on our [Facebook page](#) at 7pm, and it will be posted on our [Youtube channel](#) by 9pm. We trace the story of the Passion in a meditative service of lengthening darkness called Tenebrae.

Participate at home: *Light seven tealights at the beginning of the service, and extinguish them along with their counterparts in our sanctuary as we worship together.*

Holy Saturday 4/11/2020: We're pre-recording this service so we can include contributions from some of our members at home. Join us for a Facebook Premiere of the service on our [Facebook page](#) at 7pm. This service will go a little longer than usual (it's a Vigil, after all!), so we're also posting it to our [Youtube channel](#) by **noon** so that you can view it earlier if you wish. This service traces the arc of salvation from the times of our earliest stories through to the

breaking open of the tomb on Easter morning.

Participate at home: Prepare a bowl of water and a sprig of greenery (rosemary or pine branches work well) to affirm our baptism. Break out your bells to accompany the return of the “alleluia”s!

Easter Sunday 4/12/2020: We celebrate the risen Christ with a festive livestreamed worship at 9am! Join us on our [Facebook page](#), or watch later on our [Youtube channel](#).

Participate at home: Decorate the space where you’ve been worshiping at home with fresh flowers. Keep your bells handy!

FAITH FORMATION AT HOME

Observing Holy Week at home? Yeah, us too! Let us offer a few resources that we hope will lead you into a deeper celebration of Holy Week.

First of all: below, find a guide put together by our staff that includes some at-home faith formation practices for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday that you can do on your own or with friends or family.

Some other ideas:

- Create a sacred space at home. Clear a shelf, set up a cross or devotional image. Use cloth, candles, flowers or branches, or other objects that are precious and beautiful to you to decorate the space.
- Curate a playlist that draws you into contemplating the meaning of these holy days. Our praise band leader, Randy Gomez, will also have one to share in days to come.

- Use art and poetry to navigate your way through the week. Find the stuff that speaks to you.
- If you’re social-media savvy, use it to witness to your faith and the resurrection hope it gives you in a time of pandemic. Share pics of your home altar, of the poetry and art that’s inspiring you, of the music that’s moving you. Tag the church so our community can share in what’s meaningful to you: #gslcwestboro.

APRIL LECTIONARY

| Event Name & Date | Readings |
|--|--|
| Maundy Thursday April 9th | Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-17, 31b-35 |
| Good Friday April 10th | Isaiah 52:13--53:12 Psalm 22 Hebrews 10:16-25 John 18:1--19:42 |
| Resurrection of Our Lord: Vigil of Easter April 11th | Genesis 1:1--2:4a Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13 Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21 Exodus 15:1b-13, 17-18 Jonah 1:1--2:1 Daniel 3:1-29 Zephaniah 3:14-20 John 20:1-18 |
| Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day April 12th | Jeremiah 31:1-6 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 Colossians 3:1-4 Matthew 28:1-10 |
| Second Sunday of Easter April 19th | Acts 2:14a, 22-32 Psalm 16 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31 |
| Third Sunday of Easter April 26th | Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35 |


Faith Formation at Home: Maundy Thursday

The word “maundy” is shortened from the Latin “mandatum” which means “command.” On Maundy Thursday we are celebrating the command or “mandate” Jesus gave to the disciples at the end of the Last Supper.


John 13:34 “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love


Refrain




Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show



us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.



1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,
2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,
3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;
4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash-ing their feet:



Refrain
mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.
all these are neigh - bors to us and you.
this is the way we will live with you.

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925–2000, alt.

Music: CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin

Text and music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

As a sign of service and perhaps a foreshadowing of the commandment to come, Jesus humbled himself to his students by washing their feet once they had gathered in the upper room.

By washing each others feet, an act of service and love, we honor Jesus’ new commandment to love and serve each other just as Jesus loves us.

Another Maundy Thursday practice is the Stripping of the Altar. All signs of life and beauty are stripped, and the sanctuary is left bare. The purpose of taking everything away is to mark the way Jesus was stripped of his life, and also to show how bleak life can be without the hope of Jesus Christ.

To honor the Stripping of the Altar at home:

Consider doing this during our Thursday night livestream, which begins at 7 pm

*Read Psalm 22 (or just the first two verses) as a family.

*Working quietly (out of respect) remove all crosses, candles, and decorations and cover anything too big to take down.

*Clear the table together and scrub it down.

*Leave everything bare until Easter Morning, and notice how your home feels when its bare of beauty and meaning. How life would feel without Jesus.

*Late Saturday night uncover and bring out the crosses and decorations to start the Easter Celebration

<https://buildfaith.org/holy-week-at-home-family-practices-for-the-triduum/>

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https://www.huffpost.com/entry/why-do-we-call-it-maundy-thursday-good-friday_b_2955751

Faith Formation at Home: Good Friday

Sometime either late on Maundy Thursday or early Good Friday, Judas Iscariot led soldiers to the Garden of Gethsemane to arrest Jesus. That arrest led to Jesus' death at the hands of King Herod and the Roman manager of Judea, Pilate.

The "Good" that comes from those horrible events are Jesus' Resurrection and triumph over sin and death. Good Friday is a day of mourning, and liturgical services are often solemn and end in darkness and silence.

As an idea to observe Good Friday at home:

- Have everyone unplug for a little while, all screens and devices and noise makers off.
- Reflect together on how disconnected or lost we feel without our devices, especially now during physical distancing. This is likely the way the disciples and friends of Jesus felt when they thought He had died and was lost to them.
- End your time of darkness knowing that Good Friday is not where Jesus' story ends.

When I Survey the Wonderful Cross

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

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MUSIC MINISTRY NOTES

Music to Start Your Day

This is a very anxious time for everyone and one thing that has always made me feel at peace is music. So, I have started "Music to Start Your Day" since we are not able to make music together in person.

I send an email each morning with one of my favorite pieces of music that brings me joy or peace. I hope you will listen and that

it will give you a nice way to start your day during this most anxious time. If you would like to receive these emails, please email Kirby at

kirby.stalley@goodshepherdcares.org

~Kirby Stalley, Director of Music



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLIPS



Hello Friends!

I hope this messenger finds you safe and well. I want to tell you about opportunities for Faith Formation during this time of trying to be snug at home.

Starting with our smallest Lutherans, Children's Corner has been meeting on Zoom Fridays at 10:30am for a virtual Sunday School. We have one exception for Children's Corner; during Holy Week we will meet on Tuesday at 10:45am instead of Friday.

Our Midweek 6th grade class is meeting on Zoom Thursdays at 2:00pm to continue our Old Testament lessons.

The Bible Study for Busy People is still happening on Mondays via Zoom with Pastor Larson at 8:00pm and all are welcome to join the conversation

Sundays at 10:30am after the Coffee Hour on Zoom Dr. Mark Booher is leading Adult Forum and again all are welcome.

Finally, I would like to invite you to think about what else you might want to see for Faith Formation during this time, and how you could help to fill that space. If there is an opportunity to add to our list of offerings, I would love to

hear about it and help you get it off the ground.

Be well friends!

Hilary Parsons, Interim Director of Christian Education

MESSENGER DEADLINE

Friday, April 24th

Please email your articles to Caryn Francese in the office at
office@goodshepherdcares.org

PALM SUNDAY PALM WAVERS









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www.goodshepherdcares.org † prayercircle@goodshepherdcares.org
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America - God's Work, Our Hands

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| | |
|--|--|
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|--|--|

SIMPLY GIVING

Please consider signing up for **Simply Giving™** so that Good Shepherd can count on your contribution even while you are away. Contact Stan Corbett, financial Secretary at finsec@goodshepherdcares.org to sign up. In addition, throughout the year the online giving form is accessible for changes in your pledge. Go to <https://www.goodshepherdcares.org/give/> anytime to add a pledge or amend your current pledge.



ADULT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES (September through May)

| Day | Learning | Time (s) | Contact |
|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Sundays | Adult Forums | 9 ⁰⁰ & 10 ⁴⁵ am | Mark Booher mark.booher@verizon.net |
| Mondays | Bible Study | 9 ³⁰ am | Joan Olson jeolson423@icloud.com |
| Tuesdays | Men's Breakfast | 8 am | Tom Olson tomo815@me.com |
| Wednesdays | Word on Wednesdays (WoW) | 6 ³⁰ pm | CED@goodshepherdcares.org |
| Fridays | Friday Group | 9 ³⁰ am | Kay Devaprasad kanaga.devaprasad@gmail.com |

See Calendar for more specific about locations
 Feel free to contact the office at 508.366.7095 with questions or email office@goodshepherdcares.org

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Name:
Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church of
Westborough,
Massachusetts

See us online at:
www.goodshepherdcares.org
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 Search for Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Westborough, MA

NOTARY PUBLIC SERVICES Caryn Francese, Notary Public

These services are provided at no cost to the congregants of Good Shepherd. Please call before you come and note that she will not be available to notarize on Wednesdays between Noon & 3. Caryn's office hours are: Mon., Tues. Wed. & Fri. 8:00 am to 3:00 pm, & Thurs. 8:00 am to 4:00 pm



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