



MESSENGER – June 2020

A word
from our
pastor

Dear Partners in Ministry,

After a number of weeks with a stay-at-home order, Massachusetts is slowly beginning to re-open. As you probably know, houses of worship were included in Phase I of the Massachusetts re-opening plan, allowing them to open as of May 18th with appropriate social distancing protocols in place. Within

the Christian world, some churches have re-opened, but the majority have kept their buildings closed. Good Shepherd is amongst the latter group, choosing to keep its building closed for the month of June while exploring the possibility of holding outdoor worship services in July.

Over the month of May, we have regularly invited the congregation to participate in our “Ministry in a time of Pandemic” survey to help us think through the logistics of re-opening, as well as our online ministry offerings. Thank you to everyone who has filled out that survey! Your responses are very helpful. I write to share some of the results of that survey, as it helps us to know where we are at as a congregation.

73 total responses were received from the survey. We first asked which of our online ministry offerings were most interesting to you. Our Sunday worship service was clearly the most interesting option, with all 73 people checking this option. Beyond that, the Sunday morning coffee time and Kirby Stalley’s music to start your day emails were the most interesting, with minimal response to the other options. Additional options that garnered the most interest included a COVID-19 panel featuring members of the congregation connected to the virus in some way as well as virtual small groups. People also expressed interest in additional devotional videos to be shared during the week and a “song of the week” option, including a deeper dive into a particular worship hymn or song. We are beginning to look into these possibilities over the course of June!

When it comes to our feelings about the coronavirus, the responses play out on a fairly common bell curve where the majority are somewhere in the middle. For example, about 70% of the responses fall somewhere in the middle when asked about one’s sense of worry around contracting the virus. 17 respondents named that they remain especially vulnerable to the virus due to age or employment or compromised immune systems.

Lastly, we asked about people's general perceptions around returning to worship. 7 (about 10%) replied that they would first through the doors when that is possible. 19 (26%) are prepared to return when we can gather in smaller sizes, while 20 (27%) will return when it is safe to gather in slightly larger sizes, such as a group of 50 people. 16 (21%) replied that they would wait until there is a widely available treatment or vaccine available. A few more wrote in their own response, with most naming that they were not sure at this point!

In addition to this survey, our congregation council continues to weigh guidelines from the CDC, the ELCA, and Bishop Hazelwood's guidance from the New England Synod in figuring out our path forward. Hopefully, this information gives a glimpse into the information we have. Much of what we have read about the spread of this virus has referenced a very low risk of transmission if we are outside. With that, we certainly hope to regather for some outdoor services in July!

*Walking with you,
Pastor Jeff*

A SPECIAL NOTE ON ANTI-RACISM AND GOOD SHEPHERD

As we write, the news is filled with reporting on protests across the country in the wake of George Floyd's murder. The country is talking about race right now with a new urgency, and as Christ's church, as well as a member congregation of [the whitest denomination in the U.S.](#), our baptismal promise to work for justice and mercy rings louder in our ears than ever. Good Shepherd has already been engaged in this conversation, notably through the 2018 Lenten series and through our leadership in Westborough's MLK day during these last two years. But as current events show, more is needed. Our siblings of color cry out for justice. They're asking us to commit not simply to not being racist, but to being actively [anti-racist](#). This work is crucial, and also, it can feel overwhelming. What can each one of us do in the face of a systemic problem of such magnitude?

Below is a list of actions you can take now, today, to walk further down the path of anti-racism. The way is long and uncomfortable, but it's not our discomfort that matters most right now. We follow Christ's command and example of loving our neighbor as ourselves, and making way for the first to be last, and the last to be first.

1. **PRAY.** "And this is the boldness we have in Christ; that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us" (1 John 5:14). As Christians, prayer is our starting point. We pray that God opens our hearts and our minds to uncomfortable truths. We pray that God teaches us compassion for those who disagree with us. We pray that God stirs us to action on behalf of the vulnerable, following in Jesus' own example. In addition to private prayer, we invite you to join us for an online **anti-racism prayer service this Sunday at 3:30pm** on our Facebook page. We scheduled the service before a rally in Westborough, so that prayer might lead into...

2. **PARTICIPATE in a protest.** “What does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8) Westborough is planning a rally for this Sunday 6/4 at 5pm on the Bay State Commons. Find the [Facebook event here](#). Pastor Jeff is one of several faith leaders from Westborough who will be speaking.
3. **DONATE.** Jesus said to the rich young man, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me” (Matt 19:21). There are so many organizations that can use additional funds to meet needs and advance their work. Just a few:
 - a. Black Lives Matter (<http://www.blacklivesmatter.com>) was founded in 2013 in response to the acquittal of Trayvon Martin’s killer with the mission is to eradicate white supremacy. (Do you feel uncomfortable with the phrase “Black Lives Matter”? This UU minister offers [how he responded](#) to a request to change the sign outside his church to “All Lives Matter.”)
 - b. Equal Justice Initiative (www.eji.org) was founded by Bryan Stevenson, author of *Just Mercy*, and works to end mass incarceration, excessive punishment, and racial inequality.
 - c. Southern Poverty Law Center (<http://www.splcenter.org>) monitors hate groups and other extremists throughout the U.S. and exposes their activities to law enforcement agencies, the media and the public.
 - d. Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (<https://htlcmpls.org/>) is near ground-zero for events in Minneapolis, and has become an ad-hoc medic station and donation center in recent days. They are regularly engaged in social justice work, and you can mark your donation “justice” to support their efforts.
4. **PROVIDE bail.** Jesus read from Isaiah: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives... to set free those who are oppressed...” (Luke 4:18).
 - a. The Massachusetts Bail Fund (<https://www.massbailfund.org/>) is built to assist low-income individuals who cannot afford bail.
 - b. Concerned about protestors jailed in a specific city? Find a local bail fund [here](#).
5. **RESEARCH.** “I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you” (Psalm 32:8). Find good and accurate information to inform yourself about the work of anti-racism. This [USA Today article](#) has a great roundup of books for adults, kids, and teens. [Forbes](#) expands the list into podcasts, websites and blogs, movies and documentaries, YouTube videos, and articles.

6. **PATRONIZE black businesses and organizations.** “Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing” (1 Thessalonians 5:11). Need to figure out where/who they are? There are apps for that. Visit [this article](#) to find them. *The Boston Globe* also [just published](#) a list of black-owned restaurants in the greater Boston area to support.
7. **LISTEN to black voices.** “Let each of you not look to your own interests, but also to the interests of others” (Philippians 2:4). As Christians, we might pay particular attention to what black preachers are saying. Two sermons to begin with by renowned preacher Otis Moss III: first, [a special message](#) from May 31st. Second, [“The Cross and the Lynching Tree: a Requiem for Ahmaud Arbery.”](#)
8. **SPEAK/ACT.** “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only” (James 1:22). After we’ve engaged in this work of education and empathy, it’s time to use our privilege to amplify black voices. Give support and encouragement to those in the struggle. Engage in difficult discussions about racism, taking an active stance against it. Sign petitions. Vote for anti-racist political leaders. Make mistakes. Learn from them. Trust God’s grace. Try again tomorrow.

Together with you in this work,
Pastors Jeff and Larson

COUNCIL NOTES

The Council continues to meet every two weeks via Zoom during this time of quarantine.

On May 12th we met and discussed the following:

- Financial position—the Treasurer and Financial Secretary have re-projected income for 2020 and expect an \$8,000 decline, while re-projected expenses are down \$33,000. The net result is that we still expect a deficit, but perhaps lower than originally expected.
- We received a \$72,617 loan under the Paycheck Protection Program of the CARES Act. This money will be used, if needed, to cover payroll expenses if our giving continues to drop off. We will continue to monitor our giving and if we determine that the loan is not needed, we will repay it.
- We requested and received forbearance on our mortgage with Thrivent for June – August. Again, we will continue to monitor our giving and if it does not drop off, then we will repay the missed payments in the fall.
- We discussed what it might look like when we re-open; we will gather feedback from the congregation (survey) and committees, as well as follow guidelines from the state and the Bishop.
- Stewardship- the campaign is underway, with mailings going out and pledges to be returned on May 31st.

- CED Search- the search is ongoing, with the job posted online.
- Memorial Day planning- Pastor Jeff will talk to Stan Corbett about doing a special Memorial Day prayer.

We met again on May 26th to continue our discussion about re-opening Good Shepherd. Our discussion was guided by the congregation survey results, news about the decline in COVID cases in Worcester County, and recommendations from Bishop Hazelwood. And our discussion was grounded in our desire to nurture our faith community, our love for one another, and our desire to protect the most vulnerable among us. As a result, we have decided that Good Shepherd will remain closed through the month of June. An outdoor prayer space will be available during this time, with masks and safe distancing required. We will be putting together a team to plan specifics about how to re-open.

As we continue through the pandemic, the council and Pastors continue to meet (remotely via Zoom) every two weeks. 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.

JULY MESSENGER

The deadline is Friday, June 26, 2020

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

THANK YOU

My family and I would like to express our thanks to Pastor Jeff for officiating at our mother's (Lucille Loomis's) virtual memorial service. We appreciated his willingness to work with us to plan and conduct his first online memorial during this challenging time. Family and friends mentioned how impressed they were with Pastor Jeff's personal message, which showed that he knew Lucille personally. Also, thanks to the wonderful musicians, Kirby Stalley and Yee-yeon Soh, for beautifully performing some of Lucille's favorite hymns. Even though we could not gather together at the church, it brought family and friends together online, from near and far to remember and honor Lucille.

Sincerely,

Jeannie (Loomis) Smith and Family

JUNE LECTIONARY

Date	Readings
June 7, 2020 The Holy Trinity Children's Sunday	Genesis 1:1--2:4a Psalm 8 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 Matthew 28:16-20
June 14, 2020 2 nd Sunday After Pentecost	Genesis 18:1-15 [21:1-7] Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 Romans 5:1-8 Matthew 9:35--10:8 [9-23]
June 21, 2020 3 rd Sunday after Pentecost	Jeremiah 20:7-13 Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18 Romans 6:1b-11 Matthew 10:24-39
June 28, 2020 4 th Sunday after Pentecost	Jeremiah 28:5-9 Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18 Romans 6:12-23 Matthew 10:40-42

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR SEARCH UPDATE

Over the past few weeks, the Christian Education Director search team has been working to prepare the job posting, which is now ready to go! Please see the job posting included in this messenger. Anyone who is interested in the opening is welcome to apply. Even more, we need your help! The most likely way we will surface candidates for this job opening is through personal connections and word of mouth. **So, we are asking everyone at Good Shepherd to spread the word.** Please consider anyone whom you may know that would be interested, and invite them to apply. Please share the job opening on any social media accounts you may have. We will have the job posting up through July, and hope to have someone ready to start by September 1st. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to anyone on the CED search team, which includes Gerry Hava (chairperson), Kristin Black, Mark Booher, Dana Gillin, Bruce Grams, Dawn Hall, and the pastors.



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are growing, making, nurturing disciples in Christ.

183 W. Main Street + Westborough, MA 01581

Pastor Jeff Goodrich & Pastor Victoria Larson

www.goodshepherdcares.org

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America - *God's Work, Our Hands*



OPENING FOR: Christian Education Director

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, located in Westborough, MA, is a member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). GSLC is one of the largest congregations in the New England Synod with approximately 700 active members. We are an active community of faith with many ministries that touch the lives of our members as well as people in Westborough and surrounding towns. GSLC is known as a welcoming congregation with outstanding Christian education and music programs.

Responsibilities: The Christian Education Director (CED) creates a vision and provides leadership for faith formation. The CED is responsible for working with the Christian Education Team and pastors to organize and resource Good Shepherd Lutheran Church's education programs, with an emphasis on children and youth, as well as to train church members for the task of teaching and leading Christian Education in a shared capacity.

Other responsibilities include:

- Planning, scheduling and effectively communicating a program of events.
 - Acquiring and adapting curriculum materials to conform with our Lutheran tradition.
 - Recruiting, training, and supporting teachers and assistants.
 - Acquiring and organizing necessary study supplies.
- Coordinating community service events and activities as part of faith formation.
- Planning and coordinating an ecumenical Vacation Bible School each summer in partnership with leaders from other Westborough congregations.
- Scheduling and chairing meetings of the Christian Education Team.
- Developing, planning and monitoring the annual Christian Education budget within guidelines.
- Performing other duties as may be directed by the pastors.

Qualifications—The CED should:

- Be a person of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, actively growing his/her own discipleship, with knowledge of Lutheran theology or the willingness to learn.
- Have sufficient training and experience necessary to assist in the nurture of the life of the church, demonstrating strong leadership skills with the ability to engage others.
- Have a passion for Christian Education and possess the characteristics and qualities necessary for working harmoniously, flexibly, and confidentially with church members, pastors and other church staff.
- Be able to adapt for remote/online learning.

Hours of Employment: 30 hours per week, which includes Sunday morning and Wednesday evening obligations.

Interested individuals may apply by sending cover letter and resume to:

CEDsearchGSLC@gmail.com

MUSIC MINISTRY NOTES

One of my favorite, more contemporary hymns is “We Are Called” (ELW 720). Between the dance like melody and the powerful words it brings a smile to my face every time I get to sing it. The refrain always gets stuck in my head, and the words are so poignant for this time we find ourselves in. “We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly; we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.” Each one of those actions, to act with justice, to love tenderly, to serve one another, and to walk humbly with God, are the backbone of my faith and guiding principles for me every day.

The text of the verses also helps guide my life as a Christian. Verse two tells us, “We are called to be hope for the hopeless so hatred and blindness will be no more.” Those are powerful words, but some of the hardest to live into. They remind me of the golden rule, to treat others the way you want to be treated. They are easy words to say, but can be hard to put into action, but when they are put into action it is beautiful.

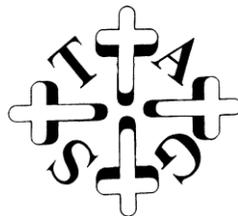
The third verse is my favorite verse and I am glad it is the last one. “Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one! God will reign, and we’ll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united in love.” Of course, I love it because it mentions singing, but more than that it mentions singing as brothers and sisters that are united in love singing about the day we all will be one. And that is my hope for all of us during this time.

I invite you to sing this through this hymn a few times over the course of the next month and write down the meaning the pieces as for you that day. Then at the end of the month I invite you to go back through your notes and see if the meaning of the lyrics changed for you at all and if they did think about why that might be, or if they haven’t changed, why that might be. I would love to hear about how this song speaks to you and if its message changed for you during the month.

In Christ and in song,

Kirby Stalley, Director of Music

Teens At Good Shepherd



***Together Always
Growing Spiritually***

Greetings, TAGS! Guess what? It’s already that time—time to start thinking about *next year’s Youth Gathering*. That’s right! A major event on your calendar (granted, in 2021) that hasn’t been cancelled yet! Huzzah!

Let this update serve to answer some basic questions about the gathering. If you'd prefer to do your own digging, or if there's a question you have that I don't answer below, visit elca.org/youthgathering.

What is the Youth Gathering?

Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, we grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live our faith in our daily lives.

When is it?

The official Gathering dates are Tuesday June 29th through Saturday July 3, 2021. I have added a day of travel on the return end, so I am asking people to save the dates of Tuesday June 29 through Sunday July 4th.

Where is it, and how will we get there?

It's in Minneapolis, MN. So we're going to fly.

Except one of you.

We will host a Hunger Games style tournament in the winter of this year. The first to go down will have to walk to Minnesota. On foot. In the snow. Uphill. The whole way.

I'm just kidding. We're going to fly.

Where will we stay?

The Youth Gathering will assign us a hotel in the Minneapolis area.

Except for one of you.

That person will be so hardened by their cross-country trek that they will eschew modern comforts, preferring to live in the wild lake country of Minnesota, riding on the backs of a team of wild snow geese each morning to arrive in downtown Minneapolis in time to join us for a lovely continental breakfast.

I'm just kidding. We're staying at a hotel.

What will we do?

Each night (Tues-Fri) includes all 30,000 participants together at the stadium where there will be bands, speakers talking about faith. Then, each full day (Wednesday – Thursday – Friday) will have a focus: either service in the city, interactive learning in the convention center, or Synod Day, which we'll spend with the youth from other New England congregations. Saturday morning concludes the Gathering with worship.

What does it cost?

The Youth Gathering is an expensive trip, however: whoever wants to attend will be able to attend regardless of one's financial situation. **Do not let finances be a reason you might not attend!**

There are four main parts to the cost – registration itself, transportation, lodging, and spending money for meals and other purchases while we are there. Here are some rough estimates:

- Registration - \$350 for the 'early bird' cost
- Hotels – \$350 (per person, rooms will be shared)
- Transportation - \$400
- Money for meals/purchases - \$400

That is a total of \$1500 – however, our various fundraisers throughout the year to prepare should be enough to cover the cost of the hotels and transportation for everyone. This cuts the cost in half.

Who are the adult leaders?

Pastor Larson is planning to go as the lead adult. We need at least one other male adult leader, and possibly one or two others depending on the number of youth that sign up to go.

What about the Plague?

Hearken to the words of the Gathering website:

“Gathering staff and leadership continue to monitor COVID-19 recommendations and trends from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, state governments, our host city and venues, and meeting planner organizations. We know this crisis will impact the ministry of the Gathering, but at this time we are unsure exactly how. We are currently working through a variety of scenarios. Please stay tuned to Gathering social media and the website for updates.”

How do I sign up?

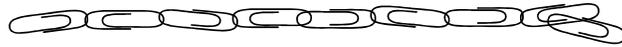
Let Pastor Larson know you want to go, and turn in a \$150 deposit and the youth registration sheet. We are looking to hear from everyone if they plan to go by the end of October in order to register at the lowest cost.

Beginning in September, if you're interested in going to the Youth Gathering, be prepared to commit to one monthly meeting. Sometimes that meeting will be a fundraiser. Sometimes it will be a logistical prep meeting. Sometimes it will be a devotional sorta thing. But plan to commit to giving a couple of hours once a month to TAGS.

I hope to hear from you that you're interested! I'm really looking forward to sharing in this adventure with you!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLIPS



Hello Children's Corner friends! After Children's Sunday on June 7th, Children's Corner will be taking a break for the summer. Our last gathering time will be Friday June 5th at 10:30am on Zoom. While Children's Corner is taking a break, we would like to invite feedback and ideas about our virtual children's programming. In addition, if anyone has an idea for a children's program that they would like to lead, feel free to reach out so we can help make it happen!

Thanks so much and enjoy the sunshine!

All Aboard!

This summer at VBS we will be going on a mountainous adventure on

THE ROCKY RAILWAY

We will meet animal friends who dwell far up the mountain peaks and deep in the cool rivers all the while learning how "Jesus' Power Pulls us Through!"

VBS will be August 3rd-7th VIRTUALLY.

The digital registration forms are available on the [Westborough Ecumenical VBS Facebook page](#)
Print registration can be found at Good Shepherd's website [HERE](#)



Be well friends!

Hilary Parsons, Interim Director of Christian Education



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

MISSION SUPPORT

2019

[Thank You]

To the members of

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Westborough, MA**

from the

New England Synod

of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
In grateful appreciation for giving

\$59,897.25

for Mission Support beyond the congregation for synod and
churchwide ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.


Jan S. Halala
Synod Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America


Elizabeth C. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



183 W. Main Street † Westborough, MA 01581 † 508.366.7095

www.goodshepherdcares.org † prayercircle@goodshepherdcares.org

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America - God's Work, Our Hands

STAFF DIRECTORY

508.366.7095 Tel. • 508.796.2611 Fax

Name	Ext.	All emails are @goodshepherdcares.org
The Rev. Jeffrey Goodrich	104	pastorjeff@
The Rev. Victoria Larson	103	pastorlarson@
Hilary Parsons, Interim Director of Christian Education	107	hilary.parsons@
Kirby Stalley, Director of Music	106	kirby.stalley@
Yeon Soh, Organist	109	yeon.soh@
Stan Corbett, Financial Secretary		finsec@
Caryn Francese, Parish Secretary	101	office@
Steve Brevik, Sexton	108	

Co-Pastors

The Rev. Jeffrey Goodrich
1329 Main Street,
Concord, MA 01742
Cell: 508-808-1795

The Rev. Victoria Larson
46 Summer Street, #2
Westborough, MA 01581
Cell: 302-897-4167

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	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

facebook



Name:
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Westborough, Massachusetts

See us online at:

www.goodshepherdcares.org

On Facebook

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



Support Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)

amazonsmile