

A word
from our
pastor

Dear Partners in Ministry,

Communion is coming.

It's such a relief to type those words! We've missed gathering around the table with you during these last five months, to remember and be re-membered by Christ's body. We are looking forward immensely to sharing in the

sacrament with you in the weeks to come.

Below are some answers to questions you may have:

When and where?

We will offer communion at our in-person worship service at 8:30am on Sundays in the church parking lot. We hope to begin on August 9th, pending the arrival of prefilled communion cups.

Prefilled whatsits?

Yes, exactly. We needed to figure out how to get bread and wine into everyone's hands while also keeping 6 feet apart and making sure the bread and wine is handled hygienically at every stage of preparation and distribution. The solution the reopening team decided to try out this August involves prefilled cups. Each little chalice has wine at one end and bread at the other. As you arrive for worship, you'll be invited to take one to your seat with you.

Is there still a gluten-free and grape juice option?

Yes. There will be two kinds of pre-filled cups available, clearly labelled: one set is bread and wine, while another is gluten-free bread and grape juice. You'll be able to choose whatever fits your needs.

What happens at the communion part of the service?

The presiding minister will lead us through the eucharistic rite. After the Words of Institution and the Lord's Prayer, we'll receive bread and wine at our seats. The musicians will lead a time of reflection accompanied by sacred music. As the service ends, there will be receptacles to receive the used communion cups.

I've heard that other churches are doing communion more like how we used to.

Why aren't we?

Every church is figuring this out as they go, us included! The priorities that guided us to this decision included safety and sanctity. We are committed to showing love to one another by



taking steps to reduce the chance of viral transmission, while still preserving the holiness of this rite. We're not sure we'll get it right the first time—to be honest, we probably won't! We count on your participation and feedback to help guide us as we revisit these decisions in weeks to come.

I'm not planning on coming to in-person services until there's a vaccine. Will there be online communion offered?

No, not right now. Guidance from the ELCA urges caution in going that route, encouraging education and careful consideration before adopting such a practice. Neither Pastor Jeff nor Pastor Larson totally rule out online communion as a future option, but we have a lot more thinking to do, and we'd want you to do it with us. In the meantime, if you are longing for communion and cannot come to in-person worship, **please call and email the pastors and tell us.** In this time of COVID, the absence of regularly worshiping together means we don't get the regular temperature checks about what's most important to you right now. If you have a need we can help meet, then please let us know.

We're grateful for your patience and for the faithful work of our reopening team as we wrestled with the logistical challenges of sharing communion during COVID. We know that August will be a month of learning and adapting, but folks, the bottom line is: we just can't wait to gather with you around this Holy Supper.

May the peace of Christ be with you always,
Pastors Jeff and Larson

COUNCIL NOTES

On Tuesday, July 21st, the Council held their regular monthly meeting. This was a virtual Zoom meeting due to the pandemic.

After opening prayers, we quickly moved on to a discussion of finances. The highlights from our Treasurer, Joann Duncan, are as follows:

- Operating Income for the month of June was approximately \$30,000. This is significantly less than the budgeted \$51,000. Some of this can be attributed to timing issues due to May having five Sundays and we may be starting to see the effects of the pandemic on giving. Overall, the year to date income numbers still look good, so we will watch to make sure this drop is not a continued trend.
- The staff are doing a great job at managing expenses and we are seeing savings that help offset the drop in income.

Council made the very difficult decision to furlough Shell, our Nursery Coordinator. We are hopeful, we will have her back running our Nursery again one day soon.

Council has been meeting quite a bit lately and decided to take this week to thoroughly review the three prior meeting minutes and vote on their approval via email. They will be posted once approved.

Based on the information brought to Council, the RIC Committee has been very prayerfully and thoughtfully discerning how they, as a committee and we as a church, can help to end racism in our community. They brought, to Council, a request to place a sign addressing the need to end racism on the Church lawn. We voted unanimously to have them research potential signs and present some options at the next Council meeting.

We were very happy to hear the outdoor services are going well and moving the service, for now, to 8:30 am and holding it on the west side of the building is helping to make it more comfortable.

We know this pandemic has gotten, for lack of a better word, old. Please let us know if there is anything, we can do to assist you and your family during this time.

RIC UPDATE (RECONCILING IN CHRIST)

At last month's meeting, the RIC Committee had an in-depth discussion about how we could bring a stronger focus to anti-racism at Good Shepherd. As our welcoming statement includes all races, we felt that this is an issue that deserves greater focus, and as a committee we are willing to take this on.

Our discussion first centered on the idea of putting a "Black Lives Matter" sign on the church grounds. We had some concerns with this particular sign, but also felt that we should make some kind of explicit anti-racism statement publicly. But we also felt that, as a church, we need to bring more education and awareness to the topic of anti-racism because without that, the sign would be meaningless. The committee committed to investigating how that might be done and will develop some recommendations for the fall. If you have an interest in participating in this discussion, please reach out to Ernie Zimmermann (ezimmermann@townisp.com, 774-437-1814) and he will include you in the upcoming Zoom meeting invitation.

Here are some of the comments that occurred during our discussion.

"The community doesn't know what our Welcoming Statement is; (the sign) would show that we mean it."

"People of color live with being uncomfortable every day of their lives because of the color of their skin."

"It's not enough to not be racist - you have to be anti-racist. We cannot be bystanders - we need to show support."

"I would love to see a Black Lives Matter sign in front of the church."

"Educating people first would help - if they take it as a personal 'dis', it may just be a lack of education."

"I'm concerned that some members would feel that we are campaigning against them unless we educate them."

"Black Lives Matter is a noble sentiment but it is also the name of a political organization. Would it be clear which Good Shepherd was supporting?"

"We shouldn't put up a sign 'just for the fun of it'; we should find ways to educate and involve our community in anti-racism."

NEW CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR



We're delighted to introduce our new Christian Education Director, Samantha Menapace! Sam begins her ministry with us on August 10th, overlapping for a week with our interim CED, Hilary Parsons. We give thanks for Hilary's faithful service over the last six months (she started at the same time the pandemic did, bless her!), and look forward to continuing to grow, nurture, and make disciples through the learning ministry at Good Shepherd with a new Director at the helm!

Samantha grew up outside of Philadelphia and attended Saint Luke Lutheran Church with her family throughout her childhood. Along with her parents and sister, Samantha was an active member of the congregation, participating in Sunday School and Confirmation, singing in the youth band, and attending various mission trips with her congregation. Through this upbringing, she developed a passion for church life and Christian community from a young age. This passion inspired her to major in Religious Studies and Philosophy at Furman University, as well as participate in various campus ministries and live in an intentional Christian community upon her graduation. As a graduate intern in the community, Samantha encouraged faith formation in students by leading small groups and retreats, as well as planning and executing various events for staff and students on Furman's campus.

After her internship with the intentional community, Samantha pursued a Master of Divinity at Harvard Divinity School, graduating in 2019. At HDS, she honed her interest in fostering religious life in academic settings through a yearlong internship at Suffolk University's Interfaith Center. In addition to cultivating a passion for Interfaith engagement and studying religious pluralism, Samantha also exercised her limited language skills by taking as many Ancient Greek courses as possible.

Samantha loves running, reading, listening to as many podcasts as possible on many different topics - from Harry Potter to The Bachelor, mythology, and current events, just to name a few - and spending time outdoors with friends. She is excited to bring her passion for building meaningful community and leading faith formation to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church as the Christian Education Director!

LOOKING AHEAD TO SEPTEMBER

Over the next month, our church staff and ministry teams will all be working hard on how we can best structure our ministries in September and moving forward. We are contemplating what Rally Day and what may be possible for a "God's Work Our Hands" service project. We are thinking about our worship schedule, how we can best offer Sunday school and adult forum, how we can best offer our Midweek Bible class (5th and 6th graders), our Confirmation class (7th and 8th graders), and other adult studies. We are exploring whether it's possible to offer a fall congregation retreat to Camp Calumet. At some point, the weather will change, and we may not be able to comfortably offer an outdoors worship service. Essentially, there are a lot of questions right now! We are doing our best to adapt what we have done in previous years to the reality we face in 2020. We'll have more information to share in our September messenger. In the meantime, please feel free to send any thoughts or ideas along! If you are unsure who to contact, please call the church office first, and Caryn Francese can direct you to the right person.

SEPTEMBER MESSENGER

The deadline is Monday, August 24, 2020

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

MUSIC MINISTRY NOTES

Reflection on Music to Start Your Day

The daily ministry of Music to Start Your Day has been going on for almost five months, and it has grown bigger than I could have ever imagined. There are now almost 70 people, from different congregations and denominations across New England and even out to the Midwest, I email each morning and I know many of them send it to their family of friends. And getting the feedback from people on how much it means to them and how much it is a beckon of hope to them, to start their day with a piece of music and a bible verse to reflect on, during this time brings so much hope to me. My star-word for this year is imagination, and I am totally having to live into that this year. A daily ministry such as Music to Start Your Day is a way of my living into that star-word and a positive in this world that needs so much more positive right now.

In Christ and In Song,

Kirby Stalley

News for Teens at Good Shepherd

TL;DR version: Youth Gathering postponed until 2022. Possible camping trip coming to a youth group near you. (Hint: it's this one.)

Youth Gathering Postponed

Hey, who else is tired of cool stuff getting canceled?

I'm right there with you. But in this case, I think it was probably for the best. As AMAZING as THIRTY THOUSAND LUTHERAN TEENAGERS invading one city is, it is like...probably not the best during a pandemic. Which will HOPEFULLY be ending or over this time next year. But as I think we've all learned in the last few months, there are no guarantees.

The good news is, whenever we go, it's going to be the same eternal God that we worship, and the same boundless grace.

Here's the official word from the ELCA Youth Gathering boss type people:

"After much prayer and consideration, we have decided to postpone next summer's ELCA Youth Gathering to 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering will be held July 24-28, 2022, in Minneapolis, with the two pre-events, the Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE) and the tAble, scheduled for July 21-24, 2022.

We give thanks for your prayers and patience as we have worked through the details with our partners in Minneapolis and across the country. We hope that by postponing the Gathering for a year, individuals and congregations will feel more comfortable and prepared to attend the Gathering in 2022.

We will be updating our website and social media as more details become available."

We look forward to seeing you and experiencing the boundlessness of God in Minneapolis in 2022! **#ELCAYG2022**

Who's up for a camping trip?

As you all know, Hammonasset isn't happening this year. But that doesn't mean we can't go camping ourselves! Grab your tent, your bug spray, and your marshmallow toasting sticks, people! Let's have ourselves an adventure!

The basic idea:

- We'll go camping. You all get to decide where, within an hour's drive of Good Shepherd. (This time limit is negotiable if you have a place in mind that you're REALLY excited about. But you have to be REALLY excited. That is the deal.)
- This will be a **one-night** trip, Friday to Saturday.
- The proposed date is September 11-12th.

- Activities will be determined by YOU. What's most fun? Hiking? Swimming? Scary stories at the campfire? S'mores?
- Safety stuff: in order to minimize risks of COVID, we'll ask that everyone who wants to go bring their own tent. Don't have a tent? We might be able to help you find someone to lend you one. We'll also be asking that you wear a mask anytime we'll be within 6' of one another.

Almost every part of the basic idea (except the safety stuff) is negotiable depending on who wants to come and what sounds like the most fun for you all. So the next step is finding a day to meet via Zoom to make firm plans. I'd love to do this in the first two weeks of August. So... Want to come? AWESOME. Email tags@goodshepherdcares.org with "I'm interested in the camping trip!" That will get you on the special email list for people who want to go on this camping trip. That's it. That's all you have to do right now...but you should also start brainstorming places you'd like to go and things you'd like to do!

Prayer

I was looking for a good prayer to end with, something that would address the bat-doodly crazy that characterizes conversations about what schools are going to do in September...and that's when I remembered this prayer by Thomas Merton. Merton was an American monk, writer, social activist, mystic, and he wrote this prayer, good not just for pandemic times but for anytime when you feel like you don't know what you're doing:

My Lord God,

I have no idea where I am going.

I do not see the road ahead of me.

I cannot know for certain where it will end.

nor do I really know myself,

and the fact that I think I am following your will

does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you

does in fact please you.

And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.

I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.

And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road,

though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore will I trust you always though

I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.

I will not fear, for you are ever with me,

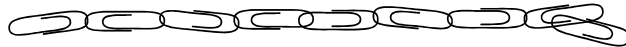
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

AUGUST LECTIONARY

Date	Readings
<p>August 2, 2020 9th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Outdoor in-person service at 8³⁰ am</i> <i>Online Service at 10¹⁵ am</i></p>	<p>Isaiah 55:1-5 Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21 Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 14:13-21</p>
<p>August 9, 2020 10th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Outdoor in-person service at 8³⁰ am</i> <i>Online Service at 10¹⁵ am</i></p>	<p>1 Kings 19:9-18 Psalm 85:8-13 Romans 10:5-15 Matthew 14:22-33</p>
<p>August 16, 2020 11th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Outdoor in-person service at 8³⁰ am</i> <i>Online Service at 10¹⁵ am</i></p>	<p>Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 Psalm 67 Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28</p>
<p>August 23, 2020 12th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Outdoor in-person service at 8³⁰ am</i> <i>Online Service at 10¹⁵ am</i></p>	<p>Isaiah 51:1-6 Psalm 138 Romans 12:1-8 Matthew 16:13-20</p>
<p>August 30, 2020 13th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Outdoor in-person service at 8³⁰ am</i> <i>Online Service at 10¹⁵ am</i></p>	<p>Jeremiah 15:15-21 Psalm 26:1-8 Romans 12:9-21 Matthew 16:21-28</p>



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLIPS



Hello Sunday School Friends!

Over the Summer months the staff and Learning Committee members will be reaching out for opinions and ideas about fall programming. We want to be sure we are providing Faith Formation resources that are useful and useable. Keep an eye out for the email with our ideas and please feel empowered to provide feedback as well as share your own thoughts on what would be most welcome for your household. We look forward to your responses and thank you in advance for your time!

All Aboard! Monday August 3rd!

The Rocky Railway will be pulling away from the station on Monday August 3rd!! Please keep our VBS team in your prayers this week. The preparation and execution of this VBS is different than anything we have tried before but we are learning that “Jesus Power Helps Us Do Hard Things!” Here’s to Westborough Ecumenical VBS 2020!! All Aboard!!



Hello friends! Six months has flown by and my work as Interim Christian Education Director is coming to an end. Despite these challenging times I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to teach and learn with you over this last season. Children’s Corner and Midweek Zoom calls really gave me joy and I am so thankful to have had them! I am excited to welcome the new CED and to continue volunteering to teach at GSLC. I hope to see your smiling faces at some point this fall!!

Be well friends!

Hilary Parsons, Interim Director of Christian Education



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

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Steve Brevik, Sexton	108	

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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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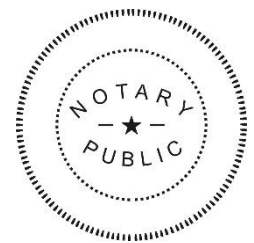


Name:
 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Westborough, Massachusetts

See us online at:
www.goodshepherdcares.org
 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



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