



MESSENGER – July 2020

A word from our pastor

Dear Partners in Ministry,

Buckle up—in July we re-introduce in-person worship at Good Shepherd, and my letter to you this month is all about the nitty-gritty!

Even as we rev our engines, a word to those who know they won't be able to attend an in-person gathering as the pandemic

continues: **our virtual worship service will continue as normal on Sundays at 9a.m.** We have cherished gathering with you at the same time even if we haven't been in the same place, and intend to continue gathering for virtual worship for the foreseeable future.

For those who anticipate joining us for in-person worship, what follows might seem like quite a lot! Our intention in going into so much detail is twofold: we want to set expectations, and even more, to communicate care. As we know from living through these past few months, the way we show care is dramatically different now: where we long for hugs, we choose physical distancing; where we yearn for the way things were, we choose the way that mitigates risk. We do this because we want, above all, to show love for one another.

With this in mind, here's what we're planning for in-person worship at Good Shepherd, which will begin on **Sunday July 5th at 10:30am:**

PREPARING TO COME:

- **Check the weather.** Our service will be outdoors, so it is weather-dependent! In the event of inclement weather, we'll send out a congregational email to announce cancellation no later than 8 a.m. Sunday morning.
- **Sign up to come.** ([Here's the link!](#)) We are planning for a service with the capacity for 25 households. Our best preparation depends on an accurate count of who expects to come, so please sign up in advance by using the link above or calling the church office.
- **Pack what you need.** Bring chairs to sit in, water, sunscreen, bug spray, sunshades—whatever will make you comfortable for 30-45 minutes in the height of a New England summer.
- **Remember your mask.** Following the governor's order, we ask that everyone wear a mask except young children and those with medical needs that preclude their use. We'll have some cloth masks on hand for the forgetful, courtesy of our mask-makers.

- **Bring your phone.** This will be a paperless service, but you can follow along through the bulletin uploaded to our website.
- **Check in with your body.** If you have experienced any signs of illness, especially fever, coughing, or shortness of breath, or if you've been exposed to someone who has a confirmed or suspected case of COVID, please join us online for virtual worship instead.

ARRIVING:

- **Do not turn right!** There will be a different traffic pattern once you arrive in our parking lot: you will be directed to go down the hill and behind the building rather than around it.
- **Find your spot.** There will be "x"s marked on the parking lot and grass to indicate a socially-distanced spot where you can set up your chair and make yourself comfortable. Spaces will be able to accommodate households of up to four, perhaps five if you squish. If your household is larger, take two spaces!
- **Honor physical distancing.** We are beyond excited to see you in person! But please remember to continue physical distancing. Our goal is to make sure that those who have promised themselves that they'll only attend in-person worship if it seems as safe as possible will come back the next week, and the next!

WORSHIPING:

- **Rejoice and be glad!** It's God's day, so let's be joyful in it! The service won't be like "normal," but we will be God's people, gathered by God's Spirit to worship and to pray. However different things are, nothing changes that eternal truth about who and whose we are.
- **Take note of the splash zone.** There will be a baptism on July 5th worship! Please prepare to welcome Jameson Lee as part of God's family. The baptism means that the service will also run long: more like 45 minutes instead of the 30 minutes we'll usually aim for.
- **Rest your voice.** Research has shown that singing produces a higher volume of aerosols, which have been implicated in the coronavirus' transmission. For that reason, we will have a soloist offering our hymns of praise. Each of us is invited to raise our spirits rather than our voices, and to pray through the lyrics of each hymn as the soloist sings.
- **Expect a communion of people, but not bread and wine.** We won't include the Lord's Supper as part of our celebration for now. We want to make sure other logistics are in place before addressing the puzzle of how to mitigate the risks associated with communion—but doing so is on our to-do list!

LEAVING:

- **Practice your peace sign.** At the end of the service, we'll share a physically-distanced sign of peace with one another.
- **Don't forget to leave that envelope you've been carrying around.** We'll have a plate (or plates) out to collect offerings at the end of the service, but it will not be passed around.
- **Use the building if you have to—but only then, please!** We encourage everyone to remain outdoors for the whole duration of the service unless the needs of your body controvert your best intentions. If you need to shelter from the heat or urgently use the restrooms, the building will be unlocked.

We hope this walk-through helps prepare you for what's to come on July 5th: a worship service that's different than usual, but nonetheless one where Jesus shows up, because he promised to do just that "wherever two or three are gathered." We look forward immensely to encountering him alongside all of you, whether we gather with you virtually or in-person.

May the peace of Christ be with you always,

Pastor Larson

COUNCIL NOTES

The Council continues to meet every two weeks via Zoom during this time of quarantine. On June 9th we met via Zoom for our regularly scheduled Council meeting and also held a two-week check-in on June 23rd and discussed the following:

- A committee was established to plan for the safe return of in-person worship. The outline of the approach was shared with the congregation in the most recent weekly communication. The outside service on July 5th at 10:30 and will require RSVP and be weather-dependent - final logistics are being firmed up.
- The CED search team is making good progress and hopes to present a candidate for approval in the coming weeks.
- Anti-Racism at Good Shepherd: we discussed the Black Lives Matter movement and Good Shepherd's role in supporting the end to inequality. The topic will be shared with RIC, Ministry and TAGs for feedback and recommendations.
- Fourth of July: recognition of the holiday was discussed and inclusion in the planned July 5th service.
- Financial position: we continue to track well against our budget. Giving remains strong and expense savings efforts are keeping us on track for an anticipated deficit, but perhaps lower than originally expected.
- Reminder Covid Mitigation Efforts: 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 declines. We will continue to monitor our giving and if we determine that the loan is not needed, we will repay it. Also, 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.

- Stewardship: As of 5/31 we received 76 dedicated pledges for a total of \$386,282, which includes 6 new pledges. A final push and encouraging Simply Giving members to acknowledge continued participation were takeaways.

We look forward to the upcoming milestone of gathering again in person. We're grateful to the quick and thoughtful work by the team and appreciate everyone's patience as there will likely be learnings and adaptations along the way, as with everything in this time.

Council's next regularly scheduled meeting will take place on July 21st.

GENEROSITY OVERFLOWS

The 2020 (Virtual) Stewardship campaign, which has as its theme "Generosity Overflows," kicked off on Sunday, April 26th after a bit of a delay due to COVID-19. This campaign is for the July 2020 to June 2021 pledge cycle. Many of your pledges were received in May and more have continued to arrive throughout the month of June. As of this writing, Monday June 29th, we have received 83 pledges totaling \$407,722. Just over half of those were submitted electronically through our website at <https://www.goodshepherdcares.org/give>.

Comparing the results this year to last year; last year we received 102 pledges for the July 2019 to June 2020 pledge cycle totaling \$414,344 (a few of those pledges came in later in the cycle). This year we've received 81% as many pledges adding up to 98% as much pledged. We're still behind in the number of pledges received but doing very well as regards the amounts pledged.

With our 2020-2021 giving cycle starting by the time you read this I guess this year's stewardship campaign is officially over. However, if you have been prayerfully considering pledging and would like to submit a pledge, we will thankfully accept pledges at any time. You can mail in a pledge card or complete your pledge on-line. We will include all pledges received in our planning for 2020-2021.

I feel, given the situation the world is in, Generosity **did** Overflow in our congregation.

Thank you everyone for your generosity!

Stan Corbett

GSLC Financial Secretary

AUGUST MESSENGER

The deadline is Monday, July 27, 2020

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

MUSIC MINISTRY NOTES

Special Music for Online Worship

Do you play an instrument or sing? We would love to have you share your gifts as part of our online worship! Interested, please contact me for details.

kirby.stalley@goodshepherdcares.org

In Christ and in song, Kirby Stalley, Director of Music

JULY LECTIONARY

Date	Readings
July 5, 2020 5th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Online Service at 9 am</i> <i>Outdoor in-person service at 10³⁰ am</i>	Zechariah 9:9-12 Psalm 145:8-14 Romans 7:15-25a Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
July 12, 2020 6th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Online Service at 9 am</i> <i>Outdoor in-person service at 10³⁰ am</i>	Isaiah 55:10-13 Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13 Romans 8:1-11 Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
July 19, 2020 7th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Online Service at 9 am</i> <i>Outdoor in-person service at 10³⁰ am</i>	Isaiah 44:6-8 Psalm 86:11-17 Romans 8:12-25 Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
July 26, 2020 8th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Online Service at 9 am</i> <i>Outdoor in-person service at 10³⁰ am</i>	1 Kings 3:5-12 Psalm 119:129-136 Romans 8:26-39 Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR SEARCH UPDATE

The Christian Education Director search team continues to meet and interview candidates that have applied. Anyone who is interested in the opening is welcome to apply. Please see the job posting included in this messenger.

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, 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.

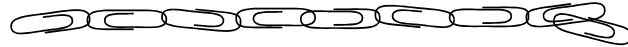
Hours of Employment: 30 hours per week, which includes Sunday morning and Wednesday evening obligations.

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

CEDsearchGSLC@gmail.com



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!

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



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

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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
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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	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



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