



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
We are growing, making, nurturing disciples in Christ.
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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America - God's Work, Our Hands



May 7, 2021

Dear Siblings in Christ,

This mailing includes two important things: information about celebrating Pastor Larson as her last Sunday of June 6th draws closer, and information about the taking the Congregation Assessment Tool (CAT) survey which will begin on May 16th.

First, we will soon be saying goodbye to Pastor Larson. To show her our appreciation for her time here at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, as well as our best wishes for her future endeavors, we have planned a few ways to send her off. You are invited to attend the outdoor worship service on Sunday June 6th at 10:15 AM, which will be immediately followed by a celebration and recognition of her ministry among us.

To help celebrate, we invite you to write a card expressing your gratitude. You may either bring those cards with you to the celebration, or mail them to the church in advance. In addition, we also invite your financial contributions to be used as a gift to Pastor Larson. All contributions will be pooled. Half of the funds will go towards a donation in Pastor Larson's name to Hope Academy in Guatemala, where we as a congregation sponsor one student. The remaining half will be given directly to Pastor Larson to be applied to costs associated with her future Ph.D. studies.

To make a donation, please send a check by mail to Good Shepherd with "Pastor Larson gift" included in the memo line. You may also give electronically through our website at <https://www.goodshepherdcares.org/give/>. If giving electronically, please make sure to follow the instructions on the website about marking your donation for this purpose! If you're not sure you successfully entered the instructions please forward your email receipt from PayPal to our Financial Secretary (finsec@goodshepherdcares.org) and let him know the purpose of your donation. Please make any donations by May 30th at the latest.

Second, please find a note from our Transition Team with information about taking the CAT survey on the next page. We need as much participation in taking this survey as possible. Please also save the date of Tuesday June 15th at 7 PM when Rev. Sara Anderson will share the results of the survey via zoom. Everyone is welcome to participate in that meeting, and we look forward to seeing one another then!

In peace,

Randy Koopman
GSLC Council President

Congregational Assessment: Share Your Input

On May 16, we will begin a congregational self-assessment, open to all members minimum 14 years old, that will provide a clear picture of who we are as a church and what directions are most important for our future. The tool we'll use is the Congregation Assessment Tool (CAT), which will provide key indicators of our congregational health along with areas of challenge and potential growth. It will help us to collect and understand the range of views that exist at Good Shepherd and the possibilities, willingness, capacity, and energy for moving our ministry into the future.

	<p>The survey will be open from May 16 – June 6 open to all members minimum 14 years old in the congregation</p>
	<p>An email invite with a unique link to the survey will be sent from the Transition Team</p> <p>*If you would prefer to take the assessment using a paper copy, please contact the office: 508.366.7095</p>
	<p>All responses are completely anonymous</p>
	<p>The survey will take 20 to 30 minutes to complete</p>

Part of this survey will ask for your opinion on possible future staffing models at Good Shepherd. At the time of the survey, we will provide a brief synopsis of those options and the differences between them.

Thank you for your willingness to be a part of this congregational assessment and for helping to build Good Shepherd's future. Your opinion matters! Watch your email for the survey link and provide your feedback by no later than June 6th. A summary of all the responses, will be presented to the congregation by Rev. Sara Anderson of the New England Synod via a ZOOM meeting on June 15th at 7:00pm. Please save the date.

Thank you for your participation and if you have any questions please reach out to Jamie Sutherland, Chair of the Transition Team, at 508-243-0737 or james.sutherland4@gmail.com.