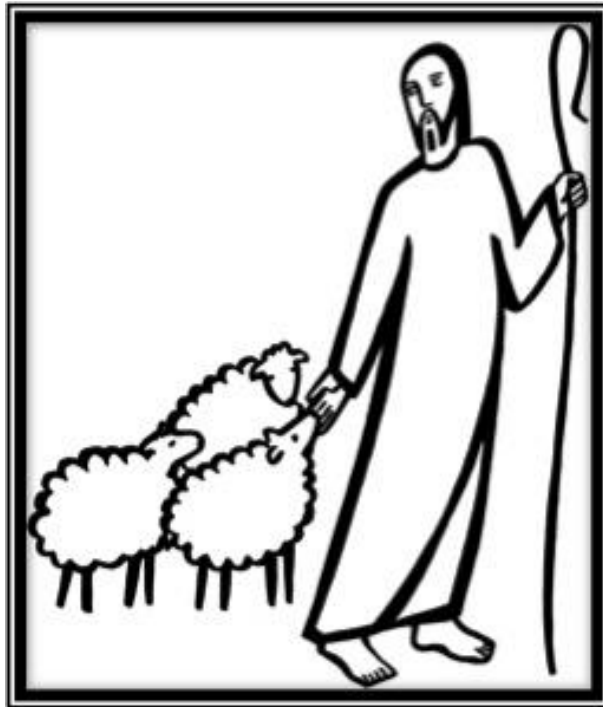


THE SERVANT LEADER

February & March 2022



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Peshtigo, Wisconsin

*“Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ
and stewards of God’s mysteries.”
(1 Corinthians 4:1)*

Thoughts From The Pastor



Sisters and brothers in Christ,

It's been a roller coaster ride. But not the fun kind with a defined ending that leaves you feeling exhilarated. There's no sugar-coating this, things are hard right now.

We began 2021 with hopes of returning to a more normal routine. We experienced hope early on with the roll out of vaccines and better treatments, and a dramatic decrease in cases around our community. We then slowly emerged into a more familiar rhythm of worship, gathering, and service. We gathered for worship, took holy communion together, sang praises to God, met for bible study, met for meetings, served our community, marched in our parade, and fed many with delicious booyah. We fought hard to maintain this new normal and keep people relatively safe, but then, the next hill to climb came upon us.

That's where we find ourselves now, on another steep climb upward. We're tired, I know that. I know because I'm tired too. Again, our plans are on hold, our gatherings are postponed or canceled, and our frustration has returned. Yet we are still here.

2021 was also a challenge financially. Our Lambeau concession stand work, and federal relief money, carried us through. But we are still here. I am grateful for your resilience and grace throughout this unprecedented time. Though we may not always want to, we need to keep going and moving forward under this new way of being church. We have done it. We are doing it.

In-person worship with singing did return. Our Chicken Booyah Community meal and our LWR Quilts and Kits collection did return. Christmas Eve worship and our Angel Tree shared the joy we know in Christ with many.

I do not know what 2022 will bring for Good Shepherd or our world as a whole. The road remains unclear. Things will continue to look and feel different. But that's ok. As baptized and beloved children of God we can handle "different" because at our core, we proclaim something different from the norm. For we proclaim good news about God, who came as one of us, in order that we might be freed from the chains that bound us. So that, we could be free for loving and serving our neighbor. This opportunity to live out God's calling will never end, even if how we do it does.

My hope is that you will remain steadfast in sharing this story, loving our neighbor near and far, and serving one another as God calls us to do. We continue to face challenges, but if we do so together, Good Shepherd will thrive as never before.

God's peace and blessings to you all,

Pastor David

~ From the Bishop...

Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

I had the honor of installing Pastor Catherine Ford at Faith Lutheran Church in Three Lakes, WI on Sunday, January 9. Not only was this a long-awaited event for Faith because they had been without a pastor for more than two years, but the event needed to be rescheduled because of weather.

So it was with great joy that the congregation gathered, both online and a few in person, masked and spread out in the pews, to celebrate this new partnership of pastor and congregation.

In the Northern Great Lakes Synod, we schedule our installations of new pastors in the afternoon so that neighboring clergy can also attend, offering their support and a visible reminder that the church is more than one congregation, so that as a whole synod we rejoice together. The color of the day is always red in acknowledgement of the work of the Spirit that forged the new partnership and brought us all to this moment of celebration.

And just after the Installation Rite is completed, I present the new pastor to the congregation. When the applause has faded, I invite the pastoral leaders who are present to introduce themselves and offer a word of greeting.

At the installation of Pastor Ford, her mentor, Pastor Kari Vadis, was the first to speak. And into this moment still glowing warmly with good wishes and fresh from enthusiastic applause, Pastor Vadis recounts what was said at her installation. To the newly installed Pastor Ford, she says, "Here is your congregation." And as everyone smiles, she adds, "They will disappoint you. They will let you down."

I confess this is not what I was expecting. I wondered where she was going with this. It was like a bucket of cold water being dumped on the good feels and warm happiness of the moment. But then, she went on. "Yes, they will disappoint you. But love them anyway. Forgive them, anyway." And then she added as she addressed the congregation, "Here is your pastor. She will let you down. She will disappoint you. Love her anyway. Forgive her anyway."

I do not know who said this to Pastor Kari at her installation, but these wise words continue to resonate.

The relationship of pastoral leader to congregation, and congregation to pastoral leader, indeed any relationship that we are in, cannot move forward without forgiveness and love. And in our current times, this has never been more true.

We have all suffered disappointments. Between adaptations and adjustments, pandemic protocols and sickness, loss of traditions and loss of loved ones, we are weary. And the reality is, we are not done with this yet.

I believe congregations are well practiced now at making decisions together. You know your context, your vaccination rate, and the rate of compliance when it comes to wearing a mask. If I can provide any more clarity to what you already know, I offer this:

- Continue, if possible, with an online worship option.
- Stay home if you feel sick, even if you only have a cold.
- Get vaccinated, if possible. While it will not prevent a person from getting COVID-19, it will diminish the possibility of hospitalization and death.
- Decide together if in-person worship is advisable, given vaccination rates in the congregation and the burden on the local healthcare system.
- Continue to love and forgive each other, even as we are weary and disappointed.

As the year of our Lord 2022 continues, we find our strength from the presence of Christ in each other. God gives us what we need for the challenges we face now, and the challenges ahead. And together we move forward, one step at a time.

*Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan*



New Items on the Information Table...

Equal Exchange Store — The Equal Exchange store is out in the Fellowship Hall with some new items to try. Prices for each item are marked and a basket to put money in is available. If you would like something special ordered, please let the office know and we'll get it for you as soon as possible. Thank you for supporting fair trade!



New Communion Kits

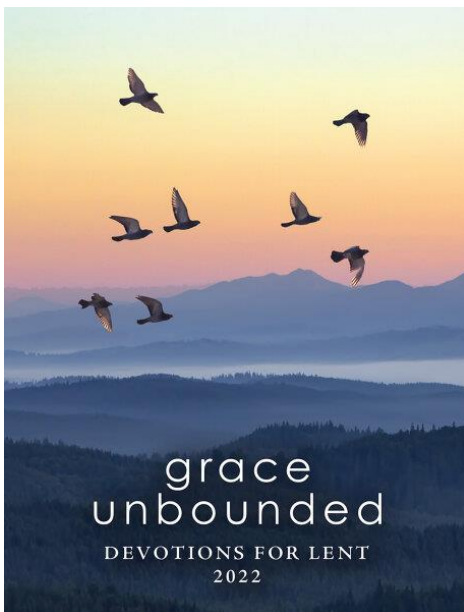
As of right now, we are asking those who can watch worship at home to do so. This way we limit how many people are present in-person due to the most recent spike in COVID cases. As a way to better to equip you for watching at home, we have purchased individual communion kits for you to pick up. These are the same kits we are using in-person right now and are relatively easy to use. We hope to be back in-person soon but in the meantime, feel free to stop by and get some.



2022 Easter Flowers Order Forms

It is time to start placing orders for flowers to help decorate our sanctuary for our Easter worship service. The choices are: Lilies, Tulips, or Daffodils for \$11 each.

There are order forms on the information table located by the door, attached to the newsletter email, or you can call the office. All orders & money must be turned in by Sunday, March 6th.

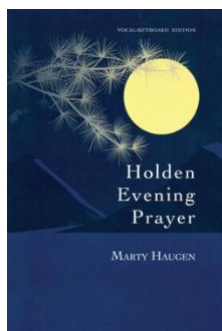


Lenten Devotional

Augsburg Fortress has published a devotional book for the season of Lent.

Once again, GSLC is offering a free copy to those that would like one. Copies can be found on the table in the Fellowship Hall.

Ash Wednesday Service — We begin the season of Lent on March 2nd with our Ash Wednesday service. This service will start at 6:30pm and will hopefully be both in-person and online. Ashes in small cups will be available for those worshipping at home beginning February 28th. The imposition of ashes, where we make the sign of the cross on the forehead, can be made by anyone for anyone. During the service, this time for imposition at home will be take place with the words, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return”, spoken by Pastor David for everyone. Please plan to join us for this most solemn service.



Midweek Lenten Services — Holden Evening Prayer will return this year on Wednesday's during Lent beginning at 6:30pm. Please join us for this meaningful worship as we contemplate the journey toward the cross.

Worship Schedule for the season of Lent:

Wednesday, March 2nd, 6:30pm — Ash Wednesday worship

***Wednesday's beginning March 9th,
Lenten worship services beginning at 6:30pm***

Sunday, April 10th, 9:30am — Palm Sunday worship

Thursday, April 14th, 6:30pm — Maundy Thursday worship

Friday, April 15th, 6:30pm — Good Friday worship

Sunday, April 17th, 9:30am — Easter Sunday worship

Please join us at all these services as we journey through Lent into the glory of the Resurrection!

Annual Meeting

The Congregation Annual Meeting has been changed to **Sunday, March 6, 2022** beginning after worship, ~10:30am. This is due to the significant increase of COVID cases in our area and our desire to have an in-person meeting instead of via Zoom. All confirmed members of the congregation are invited and encouraged to attend. Copies of the Annual Report will be available by mid-February. Please plan to attend. Masks will continue to be required.



New Staff Member

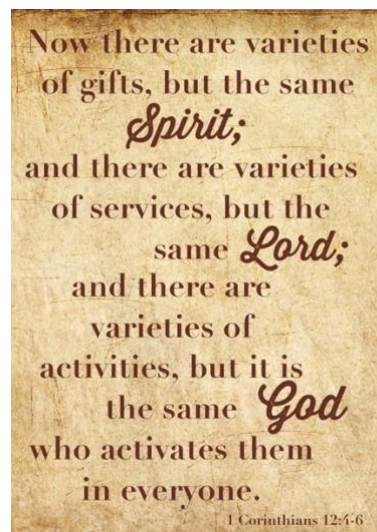
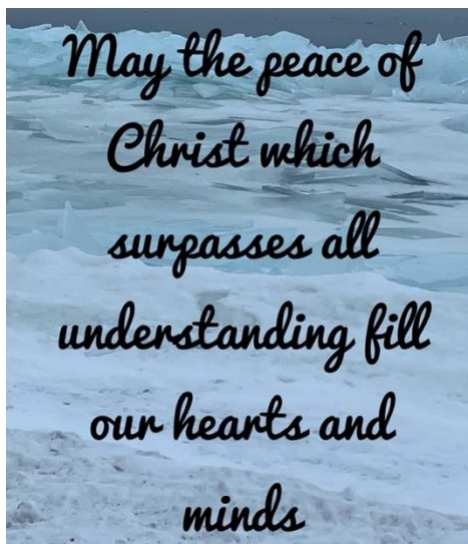
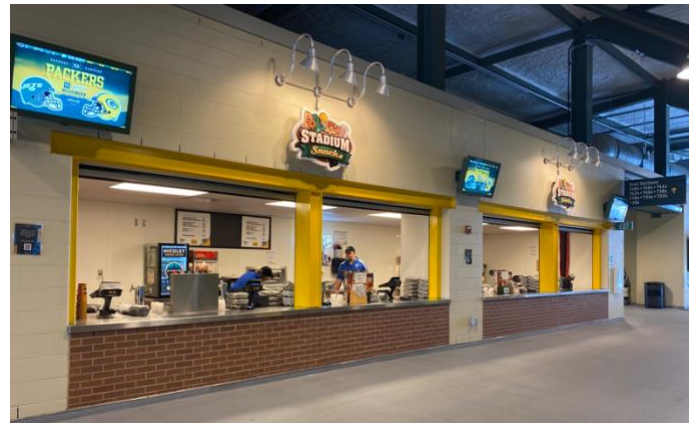
Beginning January 31st, you'll see a new face in the office. Lynn Smith begins her time here as Office Administrator. She is a Marinette native and comes to Good Shepherd after serving two other congregations in the area in the same capacity. She will be in the office Monday through Thursday, 12:30-3:00pm.

She can be reached at 715-582-3595 or via email: office@goodshepherdpeshtigo.org. Stop by and welcome her!

Lambeau Concession Wrap-up

As of this writing, the final numbers for the 2021 season are not yet complete, but thus far our volunteer work at Lambeau has generated almost \$22,000 for Good Shepherd! Under some very challenging conditions this year, a small, but mighty group, has dedicated themselves to this work and raised some much need money.

Thank you especially to Matt Piechota for organizing the crew and for all who worked games this year. The Packers season may not have ended like we had hoped, but it was still fun and very much appreciated!



Property Committee

The season of snow is still upon on us. We are looking for volunteers that would be willing to sign up for snow shoveling. If you have any questions or would like to sign up for a week of shoveling, contact Paul McClain. Thank you.



**American
Red Cross**

Red Cross Blood Drive Monday, March 14 12 - 5 pm

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will be hosting another blood drive. All blood donors are encouraged to sign up on redcross.org. Thank you!



FORTUNE LAKE
A place of grace in Crystal Falls, MI

Summer Camp — Fortune Lake is starting to plan for the summer! They have posted the camps they will be offering on their website. Capacity for them will be limited. So, if you are interested or know of someone who would be go, visit www.fortunelake.org/summer-camp/ to see the camps they are offering. Registration is open and GSLC will help with registration fees.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

331 Pine St.
Peshtigo, WI 54157
(715) 582-3595

GSLC GENERAL INFORMATION

Website: www.goodshepherdpeshtigo.org

E-mail Address: office@goodshepherdpeshtigo.org

Facebook: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church-Peshtigo

Sunday Worship: 9:30 am

Christian Education: Wednesday's, 6 pm - 7 pm, September through May

Office Hours: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, Monday - Friday

If you ever have questions or ideas to share with the council, please see any one of the current council members:

Michelle Druckrey - President

Rhonda McClain - Secretary

Jim Finger - Treasurer

Kathy Schenk

Rich Crevier

Rick Thill

Paul McClain

Cathy Bartels

Online Giving

If you wish to make an offering electronically,
please either click on the button on our
website, www.goodshepherdpeshtigo.org or scan
our QR code to be linked to our mobile offering page.

