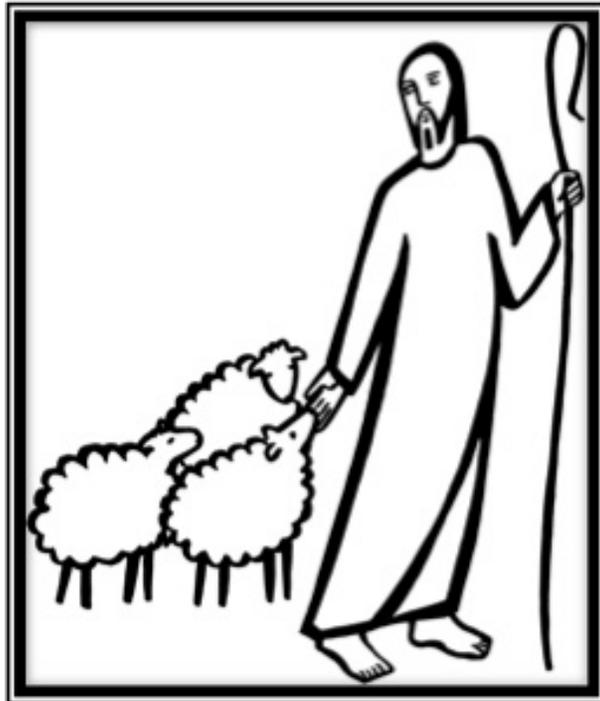




THE SERVANT LEADER

April & May 2020



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)*

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

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:

Eric Larson - President

Chris Moon - Vice President

Rhonda McClain - Secretary

Jim Finger - Treasurer

Mike Washburn

Matt Piechota

Kathy Schenk

Michelle Druckrey

Rick Thill

Paul McClain

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





Thoughts From The Pastor

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

I hope this update letter finds you well in the midst of this trying time. It feels like the last verse from the hymn *Amazing Grace*, “when we’ve been there ten-thousand years”, since we last saw each other in person. As promised, I have some new info for you on what we are providing here at Good Shepherd.

First, we have updated the Resource Table with new materials. You will find packets of worship bulletins with readings and hymns included for Holy Week. This way if you stop by church you can take one packet with everything included. We will put something similar together for the time after Easter. These packets will also include a small bag of communion wafers. After much thought and study, beginning on Maundy Thursday, and again on Easter Sunday and Sunday’s to follow, I will be presiding over Holy Communion during our livestream worship service.

This decision did not come easily, but has been affirmed unanimously by our council. My reasons for presiding online are simple. The meal we share together is Christ’s meal, and a visible means of God’s grace to us. When we gather online, though not ideal or replacing the nature of in person worship, we are still gathered as the body of Christ. This is not an ideal situation of offering the sacrament. However, given the long-standing history here at GSLC, and the many, many requests for a way to do this, I am willing to ere on the side of grace.

However, my one caveat and strong request is this. Our Lutheran Confessions have always said that we are to partake of the meal at the time that the words are spoken, for the word of God, the words of institution, and the Word of God, Christ himself, are the key components in the sacrament. The bread and wine and even my own participation is

secondary to the word. Therefore, I invite you as I preside during our live broadcast, to take and eat, and take and drink, in real time with the livestream as if you were physically present here in worship. Faithful reception of the sacrament is not hours or days later when watching, or rewatching the video. If you do not pick up the wafers, please feel free to use some other bread of your own. Also, if you do not have wine or juice, or do not wish to have them, our tradition also affirms that one element is sufficient for this sacrament. Providing your own is also fine. I would also suggest that a nice way to engage in our worship would be to create an intentional space where you watch. This might include lighting a candle, clearing a coffee table to lay out the readings and hymns, and turning off other distracting devices. Be creative and let your holy imagination take off!

Also found on our Resource Table are palms for Palm Sunday, as well as items from our Equal Exchange store. If you would like to purchase coffee, chocolate, or others items, please have exact change or write a check.

Our Holy Week schedule this year will remain as it has in the past. **Palm Sunday – 9:30am, Maundy Thursday – 6:30pm, Good Friday – 6:30pm, and Easter Sunday – 9:30am.** All services are found on our website: goodshepherdpeshtigo.org, or on our Facebook page. Also, beginning April 8th, through whenever we are able to gather again in person, a prerecorded Holden Evening Prayer worship will be posted Wednesday’s at 6:30pm to enjoy in the same ways the livestream has been.

For now, the church office will remain open as normal. You are welcome to come and talk with me as long as you are not showing any signs of illness and create separation. I can also be reached at any time via call, FaceTime, or text at: **608-323-0429**, or via email at: **pastor@goodshepherdpeshtigo.org**

Finally, many of you have continued your financial support of GSLC during this crisis and I thank you. It is important that this continues so that the work and ministry of this place carries on. Our Online Giving option for offerings is easy to use and is a good option during this time of physical separation. You can find this giving option on our website:

www.goodshepherdpeshtigo.org. If you would like help setting up online giving, please contact the office or feel free to still mail your offering or bring it in person.

Thank you all for the blessing it is to serve as your pastor. May you continue to be well, stay safe, and know the peace of Christ in your lives.

*God's peace and blessings to you all,
Pastor David*

** In person visits in care facilities are not allowed until further notice except in the case of imminent death.**

Pastoral Care If you are ever in the hospital, a care facility, or just want a visit from Pastor David, please give a call. For several years now, the hospitals in our area are no longer calling pastors to alert them to parishioners being admitted. The same goes with the area rehab centers and nursing homes. Therefore, if you would like Pastor David to visit you must call on his cell phone, 608-323-0429. He is very willing to come for surgeries, hospital stays, emergencies, or visits at home. Thank you!

In Other News...

Rebekah Circle

The Rebekah circle will meet on Monday, May 18th at 6:30 p.m., Bev Kain will be hostess and Teri Kelly will be the Bible Study Leader. We welcome new members at any time. Please see Teri Kelly if interested.

Ladies Luncheon

Ladies Luncheon will be held at the Brothers Three in Marinette on Tuesday, May 26th beginning at noon. All ladies are welcome!

Taproom Talk

All men (18 & older) are invited and encouraged to come to this lively faith discussion and time of fellowship. May's meeting will be Thursday, May 28th at 7 p.m. at Mike Washburn's house (811 Kennedy Court, Peshtigo, WI). Thank you and hope to see you there!

~ From Our Bishop...

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I write this, governors and health officials are releasing statements regarding how best to slow the advancement of COVID-19, the current pandemic. Included in these statements is encouragement

to practice "social distancing." Schools are cancelling classes or going to online learning. Events have been postponed. Professional hockey and basketball games are canceled, and people are encouraged NOT to gather – for sporting events, workshops, conferences, classes, and...worship.

And worship, of course, includes practices that the health department warns against...physical contact, shaking hands, close proximity to other people, even breaking bread together, maybe even sharing a cup, or dipping bread (and maybe fingers?) into a common cup.

It may be that by the time you read this, many congregations will have suspended having worship and cancelled all events where people gather.

We have been forced into a fast...a Lenten fast... of Christian fellowship, community worship and prayer, and the joy of being together with Christ in our midst.

Usually my Lenten fast has been more in the direction of giving up pizza, ice cream, or chocolate. It is a strange thing to give up community, gathering, and the joy of worship. It is not a fast that I would choose. And yet it is the fast that we have been given.

And yet, even in this, even in this loss, this fast, God will raise up something new.

Perhaps in the absence of what we have taken for granted and being bereft of community, we will value more deeply the gift that God gives us in each other.

"Is not this the fast that I choose:...
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say,
Here I am."
~Isaiah 58: 6ff

Perhaps when worship is cancelled, we will miss it more. In this season of uncertainty and our efforts to prevent virus spread, I hear an underlying irony, or at the very least, I observe an aspect of human nature; the minute we are told we cannot do something is when suddenly we want to.

There is blessing in the absence of God, for it is then that we seek God more fiercely. It is when darkness feels heavy that we pray with greater desperation. And it is when we are bereft and in the midst of loss or crisis that scripture speaks with greater meaning and resonates with the soul that is suffering.

So we will, independently but together, fast from community, and gatherings, and very possibly, worship and all that we receive at the Lord's table...for a time, a season, a moment of history.

It will be alright.

Grace abounds.

It is good that we miss, that is, that we notice the absence of, what is so important. But in the meantime, we will stay connected, through prayer and phone calls, through online devotions and our own personal meditations. And hopefully, at least for a time, we will still be able to gather for worship that may or may not celebrate the Eucharist or include sharing a hug or a handshake of Christ's peace.

Please hear again what the angels say throughout scripture, because they know us all too well...

Do not be afraid.

And as people of faith, we will watch as the light of resurrection breaks forth with the Easter dawn, and all is made new. It will be alright. Whether we can gather in worship on Easter or not, Jesus still lives! And another day will come, when we will together celebrate God's answer to our cry for help, the answer that comes in the one who died and rose again, the answer that is Jesus the Christ.

Yours in Christ, Bishop Katherine Finegan

Property Committee

Church Services Now Available Online!

Having service available online is something the technology side of the property committee has talked about from time to time. With many projects put on hold, and an unsure end to our social distancing requirements, the time was now to put it in place. With the help of some memorial funds, and fiscally responsible shopping - we were able to purchase a higher quality camera, proper wiring, and a "studio" device that allows us to stream online. It's still a work in progress as we figure it all out. To watch, please go to our website www.goodshepherdpeshtigo.org and click on "Watch Live" during worship times. Or if you have a Facebook account you can go to our Facebook page and select the Live video. Our services will go Live 10 minutes prior to service. If you miss a service, you can watch it on our Facebook page as well.

Lawn Mowing Needed Soon



The grass is just starting to green up out there. Before long, it'll be growing - and even with our current situation, we will still need help taking care of it. Please contact either Matt Piechota or the church office to sign up for lawn mowing at both the church and parsonage. Please bring disinfecting wipes to use before and after if you choose, and gloves if you wish to wear them. Together we can keep the lawn trimmed and still stay safe. Thank you for your help!

Spring Cleanup Changes



As of now, we are still on for Spring Cleanup on April 25th at 9am - however we are going to do it a little differently this year. The main task will be to clear out the dead leaves/etc from the rocks and clean up / trim any shrubs as needed. To keep social distancing in place, you'll need to bring your own tools and not share them. Also, we will keep to separate areas around the church to maintain distance. If you are planning to help out, please contact us so we know how many workers we have, and can assign tasks accordingly. If anything changes, we will post an announcement to Facebook. Thank you!

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church - ELCA - Peshtigo, WI

Church Office: 715-582-3595

Office Email: office@goodshepherdpeshtigo.org

Each week we offer Sunday worship with Holy Communion @ 9:30am with fellowship time after
Christian Education is offered Wednesday 6pm - 7pm, September through May

APRIL 2020

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|-----------|--|---|--|---|---|
| | | | 1 Holden Evening Prayer Service 6:30 p.m. <i>Online through Facebook Live</i> | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 Palm Sunday Worship Service 9:30 a.m. <i>Online through Facebook Live</i> | 6 | 7 Bible Study 10 a.m. <i>Through Zoom App</i> Property Meeting 5:30 p.m. <i>Through Zoom App</i> | 8 Holden Evening Prayer Service 6:30 p.m. <i>Online through Facebook Live</i> | 9 Maundy Thursday Service 6:30 p.m. <i>Online through Facebook Live</i> | 10 Good Friday Service 6:30 p.m. <i>Online through Facebook Live</i> | 11 |
| 12 Easter Sunday Worship Service 9:30 a.m. <i>Online through Facebook Live</i> | 13 | 14 Bible Study 10 a.m. <i>Through Zoom App</i> | 15 Holden Evening Prayer Service 6:30 p.m. <i>Online through Facebook Live</i> | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 Worship Service 9:30 a.m. <i>Online through Facebook Live</i> | 20 | 21 Bible Study 10 a.m. <i>Through Zoom App</i> Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. <i>Through Zoom App</i> | 22 Holden Evening Prayer Service 6:30 p.m. <i>Online through Facebook Live</i> | 23 | 24 | 25 Spring Clean Up 9:00 a.m. <i>Tentative</i> |
| 26 Worship Service 9:30 a.m. <i>Tentative</i> | 27 | 28 Bible Study 10 a.m. <i>Through Zoom App</i> | 29 | 30 | | |

** If you have any events or meetings for the calendar please call or email the office by the specified newsletter deadline.

Thank you. **

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MAY 2020

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|-----------|----------|----------------------|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 Spring Clean Up - Rain Date 9:00 a.m. Tentative |
| 3 Worship Service 9:30 a.m. | 4 | 5 Bible Study† 10 a.m. Property Meeting† 5:30 p.m. | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 Worship Service 9:30 a.m. | 11 Mutual Ministry† 6:30 p.m. | 12 Bible Study† 10 a.m. | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 Worship Service 9:30 a.m. | 18 | 19 Bible Study† 10 a.m. Council Meeting† 6:30 p.m. | 20 | 21 | 22 PHS Graduation | 23 |
| 24 Graduate Blessing Worship Service 9:30 a.m. | 25 Memorial Day - Office Closed | 26 Bible Study† 10 a.m. Ladies' Luncheon† 12:00 p.m. | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 MHS Graduation |
| 31 Pentecost Sunday Worship Service 9:30 a.m. | | | | | | |

† Before this event - please check to see how this gathering will be occurring.

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Thank you. **