FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK:

It is good to be back among my friends and colleagues here at Good Shepherd. It does feel very different and somewhat strange to be working remotely, having ZOOM meetings, and recording worship services, but that is the “new normal” now that the COVID19 pandemic has uprooted most things that we have taken for granted. I know it is very difficult to be away from corporate worship and to see other members of the congregation over coffee on Sunday mornings.

I know it makes us feel as if we are isolated and alone. But one of the positive outcomes of being recorded is the fact that others in our community can also “tune in.” Your friends and neighbors and others who are not officially members of Good Shepherd can still “tune in”. In a way it is still possible to be an evangelist and to reach out to others. God’s word through our worship service can still reach others with the Gospel, and after all, isn’t what we are all about as a congregation!

My challenge to you in the coming weeks is to think of some people who might appreciate the opportunity to watch our services on YouTube. Encourage them to join us and watch on their computer or TV. I have a good friend who tells me she watches 4 different congregations every Sunday.

As you know, we are easy to find, remind others to make sure they type in Champaign, IL along with Good Shepherd as there are all kinds of Good Shepherd Lutheran Churches across the country! The worship Committee is exploring the possibility of a “drive through Communion” opportunity in the coming weeks and we will let you know when that possibility becomes reality.

In the meantime, remember that the Communion of Saints is still active. The Holy Spirit is still working through us and among us even though we are separated physically. Pray for your church staff, your congregation council, and the many ministries that continue to be a part of Good Shepherd. Most of all, do not lose heart and know that God is with us all the time. I am always available by email or phone and even though I am currently not able to visit in Nursing facilities or hospitals, I am always available for prayer by phone. May God keep you in His care always . . .

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Knight Wells

GOOD NEWS FOR 2022

Susan and I were so disappointed that we were not able to go to Oberammergau for the Passion Play last month as the State of Bavaria had closed the event for the year because of the Corona Virus pandemic. The Good News is that the Passionspiele is not canceled it has simply been postponed until 2022.
Because it is a trip of a lifetime and is so popular with so many, we are still planning on taking a group with a similar itinerary that we had this year. The new dates are May 20-30, 2022. And there is absolutely no change in the cost. If you have any interest or want more information, please let me know and I will get it for you.

Pastor Wells

COVID-19
YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

What: COVID-19 emergency fundraising for our companion Synods in Madagascar.

Who: To financially support pastors and catechists in the Ambovombe - Androy and the Ft. Dauphin Synods of the Malagasy Lutheran Church.

Why: The COVID-19 pandemic has brought difficult challenges for faith communities around the globe. Here in the United States, our abundance of resources has made possible for the faith leaders in Central Southern Illinois of the ELCA, both clergy and laity, to maintain the proclamation of God’s word and a sense of unity and spiritual fellowship centered in Christ during this global crisis. We all have been grateful for these efforts.

Our companion Synods in Madagascar hope to do the same. However, our Malagasy sisters and brothers face a much steeper slope. All they have in order to carry out their evangelism initiatives under lockdown is radio broadcasts.

Furthermore, ministers in the field must overcome a complete loss of income, which forces them to deviate from their call in hope of somewhat make a living.

How: Because this is an urgent request, we are asking that initial contributions be sent to the synod office by June 25. Any and all gifts will be accepted at any time. Use the green “Donate” button on the synod website at www.csis-elca.org and select the “Aid to Madagascar Pastors” fund or send to: C/SIS-ELCA, 524 S. Fifth Street, Springfield, IL 62701.

RE-OPENING TASK FORCE

The Re-Opening Task Force continues to meet to discuss and plan the best ways for us to re-open our building and renew gathered worship. Watch your email for a survey to let us know your preferences.

COUNCIL/ANNUAL MEETING

The Council voted to hold our Annual Meeting on Sunday, August 30. We’ll meet via Zoom, with the potential of meeting in the sanctuary as well, pending Illinois guidelines at that time. We will vote to

- approve the minutes of last year’s Annual Meeting
- approve the proposed budget for the coming year
- elect new Council members, and
- approve a new Nominating Committee.

You will receive a packet of information via email and postal mail in July with the proposed budget, council candidates and all the information about that meeting. And we’ll hold a budget question and answer session sometime in July.
SUMMER “PIXAR SHORTS” DEVOTIONS

Jason is inviting families to join him for the Pixar Short Devotionals each Friday in July starting at 3pm on Zoom. We will watch a short video together and then practice the FAITH5 – Share, Read, Talk, Pray, Bless. You can join us by using the Zoom link below:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87240428224.

Dates and themes for each Pixar Short:

**July 3rd** - Boundin’ – Theme: Abounding in Love

**July 10th** - Dug’s special mission – Theme: Building on the Rock

**July 17th** - Partly Cloudy – Theme: Being Courageous

**July 24th** - Your Friend The Rat – Theme: Abundant Life

**July 31st** - Hawaiian Vacation – Theme: Friendship

WELCA will continue its summer Bible study with meetings (either virtual or in person if possible) in July and August. We’ll continue the Just Love study appearing in the July/August edition of the Gather magazine. The ZOOM link or location will be announced prior to the meeting. Planned meeting times are July 20 and August 17, 4:30-6:00PM.

WELCA BOOK CLUB

Thursday, July 9
9:30AM
Possibly meeting outside or inside at Good Shepherd
Join us as we discuss The Giver of Stars by Jojo Moyes. Historical fiction book about packhorse librarians (Eleanor Roosevelt inspired this program) in a remote area of Kentucky. Set in Depression-era America, a breath-taking story of five extraordinary women and their remarkable journey through the mountains of Kentucky and beyond. A tribute to the women who brought the light of knowledge in dark times.
In July, we’ll be learning about God’s gift of water through five Bible stories. Each week kids will receive a packet of activity sheets, coloring pages, craft materials, etc., and a link to a special website with videos, songs and other fun stuff. Watch for your Virtual VBS packets next week!
Week 1 - Noah’s Ark
Week 2 - Jonah & the Whale
Week 3 - Walking on Water
Week 4 - Woman at the Well
Week 5 – Lydia

MORE VIRTUAL VBS STUFF

Jason Fisher is inviting you to Join a VBS Craft Time Zoom Meeting & Devotional on Thursdays at 3pm. Just follow this link on the days listed below to join us, or post pictures of your finished creations on our facebook page! https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88265496402

MORE WAYS TO GIVE

Thrivent Action Teams make it easy to live generously. Apply to lead a volunteer team in a fundraiser, service activity or educational event. Thrivent provides a $250 gift card and Live Generously t-shirts, invitations, banners, and thank you notes to make your project happen. Each qualified Thrivent Member can apply for 2 grants per year.

Thrivent Choice is a member-advised donation grant. Eligible members (either owning insurance policies or investments) can direct funds to the charity of their choice by making a selection each year. Contact your local Thrivent Representative, check your account on-line or call Thrivent at 800-847-4836 and say “Thrivent Choice” at the prompt to speak to a Customer Care Professional. GLSC, of course, is one of the qualified charities.

If you are over 72 and have minimum required withdrawals from an IRA account, that money can be donated directly to your charity tax free. Check with your investment advisor and your tax accountant.

Did you know that by signing up for Amazon-Smile, Amazon will donate a small percentage (0.5%) of eligible purchases to the charity of your choice every time you shop? GSLC, LSSI, LOMC, St. Andrews Campus Center are among over a million 501(c)(3) public charitable organizations on the list. Check it out at https://org.amazon.com/

Live generously!

TIED IN KNOTS?

Artist Windy Chien used to create beautiful macramé but got into a rut. So as a way to break free she decided to learn one new knot every day for a year to help her get unstuck. After that year long journey she learned enough new knots to create a unique type of wall hanging that resembles electronic circuit boards.

In his book titled Silence the Power of Quiet in a World Full of Noise, Thich Nhat Hanh talks about two kinds of knots. The first knot is our notions, ideas, concepts, and knowledge.
These things are not bad, but when we get stuck on them we miss out on the truth of life. The second knot is our afflictions, fears, anger, discrimination, despair, and arrogance. His belief is that until these knots are undone we remain bound up and not free.

Thich Nhat Hanh writes; “These two knots, which are etched deeply into our brain and consciousness, bind us and push us to do things we don’t want to do; they make us say things we don’t want to say. So we’re not free. Any time we do things not from our desire but out of habitual fear or ingrained notions and ideas, we’re not free.”

Silence helps us to pay attention to those knots in our lives that keep us bound up. Windy Chien writes. “Art matters because it voices the unvoiceable— it is human experience distilled.”

Our human experiences have helped form us, but we don’t grow if we quit learning. What are the new ideas, concepts, and knowledge you are learning about right now? Do you struggle to move past particular fears, or maybe you are somewhat knowledgeable and arrogant about particular topics? Have life experiences made you angry or biased? Do those things rule over you in ways that make you feel powerful, but really they just keep you from being free? How can silence help us discern these knots in our lives so that God can undo them?

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? - Isaiah 58:6-7

Jesus taught the disciples to undo the knots in people’s lives and we are called to do the same. May your offering to God be a silent prayer, a prayer of yearning to be undone by the creator of all living things. For we are not meant to be bound up, but to be set free in the life and light of our Lord so that we can set others free.

Jason Fisher

EL SALVADOR HARDSHIP

I am writing this to inform the members of Good Shepherd what is going on in El Salvador and how we as a congregation are helping our friends make it through all of their turmoil. It all started with COVID-19 in shutting down the country to keep it from spreading. They stopped all traffic so they had no way of going to the market to get daily food. The markets were not able to get food as all truck traffic was also stopped. No one was able to go to work with no transportation. As this was not bad enough along came Tropical Storm Amanda and dumped about 30” of rain in some areas and completely washed away a number of homes. The torrential rains washed away homes built with sticks and mud walls and mud floors and tin roofs held down by old tires did not withstand the force of the winds. In many areas the roads were washed away as well. Our friends were putting out white flags to let the volunteers know they were without food. Then along comes a second tropical storm Cristobal and more rains. With all of this happening Cristo Rey Lutheran Church opened their doors and made a refuge center for the families who lost their homes. With the support of many, including Good Shepherd, Cristo Rey is serving as a worship center and now a refuge center until folks can get a place to live.
Good Shepherd stepped up once again as the church council voted to send $10,000.00 to El Salvador to help many with the purchase of food and supplies. The monies has been divided into thirds with 1/3 going to Pastor Vilma and Cristo Rey to purchase food and supplies for the folks living in the Santa Ana area, 1/3 going to Briseida Mercedes Cruz Miron and Pastor De Menjivar of Lamb of God Lutheran Church. They are helping the folks in communities of Monte Blanco and Besques del Rio.

A few years ago Briseida came to our dinner and silent auction and spoke on Sunday regarding the needs in El Salvador. Her husband is also a Pastor of Lamb of God Lutheran Church. The last 1/3 is going to Habitat for Humanity El Salvador for them to be able to hire back their employees to continue their building and repairing homes for the many people as speedily as possible.

All of those who have gone to El Salvador on our trips know the work of Habitat El Salvador and that a lot would not be possible without them. Habitat is working on a program for individual donations but I have not received this information. I will keep you posted when and how this is happening.

We have also sent to Cristo Rey of Hope $7,200.00 from October, 2019 to the present time for support of the youth in the Santa Ana area. This is for scholarships for education, food and supplies.

Once again, I want to take time to thank all of the members of Good Shepherd who have made this all possible through your prayers, donations, and folks going to El Salvador to build homes and build friendships. We have had wonderful experiences and joy each year renewing old friendships and making new friends in Christ’s name. A big thank you to Debbie Renn for recommending a mission trip that a congregation could make. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, AND TO GOD BE THE GLORY GREAT THINGS HE HAS DONE. Jim Hack

**EXERCISE GROUP**

Our exercise group continues to meet here at Good Shepherd! They are meeting under the canopy in the front of the building, socially distanced, Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9:00AM. All are welcome to come and join them!
[The LORD] has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

(Micah 6:8, NRSV)

In response to the brutal and unjust killing of George Floyd on May 25, 2020 and in response to the ongoing racial injustice that infects our nation, the Synod Council of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,

- Stands united in condemning the killing of George Floyd, together with all acts of injustice against our sisters and brothers of color;
- Stands united in identifying racism as a sin both against God and against our neighbors;
- Stands united in confessing our own participation in racist systems and structures, both by what we have done and by what we have left undone, and in asking for God’s forgiveness;
- Stands united in rejecting all forms of violence against people and property as a faithful means of protest;
- Stands united in prayerful support of law enforcement officials and their families across our synod, giving thanks for their faithful and courageous service during these difficult times, even as we hold to account those law enforcement officials and agencies across our nation that continue to perpetrate unjust acts against persons of color;
- Stands united in denouncing systemic bias in our judicial system, including delayed arrests and indictments in civil rights cases, especially cases of police brutality, and the mass incarceration of people of color;
- Stands united in the conviction that, as people of faith, our words must always lead beyond our words to real and positive actions (see 1 John 3:18) in confronting the evils of racism and injustice wherever they exist;
- Stands united in our commitment to call on all expressions of our synod, including the congregations of our synod, to seek positive ways to work toward racial justice in our church, in our communities, and in our nation;
- Stands united in our commitment to seek intentional opportunities to listen deeply to persons of color in and across our synod, as well as to those in and across our synod with whom we disagree, learning from one another how to be advocates for change and agents of reconciliation in the name of Christ;
• Stands united in our commitment to encourage all expressions of our synod, including the congregations of our synod, to cultivate relationships with persons and agencies in our communities already engaged in the work of racial justice;
• Stands united in our commitment to call upon local, state, and national governments and their elected leaders to support legislation that brings about real and lasting change toward racial justice for all God’s people;
• Stands united in our commitment to lift up the Racial Justice resources of both the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (www.elca.org) and our Central/Southern Illinois Synod (www.csis-elca.org) as helpful tools for engaging in constructive conversation around these issues;
• Stands united in our commitment to develop an anti-racism working group in our synod to hold us accountable in living out the commitments stated above; developing and/or lifting up resources for anti-racism training, education, and advocacy across our synod; and seeking ways to engage our synod in positive action toward systemic change.

RACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Join us each Wednesday in July as we continue creative conversations about racial justice in our community and nation. These meetings will take place each Wednesday at 7pm through Zoom. Follow the link below: Jason Fisher is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82140927590
Topic: 13th Film Discussion
Time: Jun 24, 2020 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

July 1 – Ashley Greer
July 8 – Contemplative Practices of the Black Church
July 15 – Dialogues on Race
July 22 – White Savior – Racism in the American Church
July 29 – Maya & Ella Greer

RESOURCES ON RACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Articles
• Worship of a False God - An Interview with Bryan Massingale by Regina Munch (Commonweal Magazine)
• Open Letter to a Friend Waking Up to Racism by Ángel Flores Fontánez, SJ (The Jesuit Post)
• A Letter to my White Male Friend of a Certain Age by Dax Devlon-Ross (Third Settlements)
• Smithsonian’s 158 Resources to Understand Racism in America by Meilan Solly (Smithsonian Magazine)

Books
• Race and the Cosmos by Barbara Holmes
• The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander
• White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard For White People To Talk About Racism by Robin DiAngelo
• Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson
- *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* by Paolo Freire
- *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates
- *The Fire Next Time* by James Baldwin

**Films**
- *I Am Not Your Negro*
- *Just Mercy*
- *When They See Us*
- *13th*
- *Trouble the Water*

**Podcasts**
- *The Mystics and Social Justice*
- *1619*
- *Seeing White*
- *Revisionist History*

**CELL PHONE RECYCLE**
Got old cell phones, laptops, or other electronic devices laying around? Did you know if you donate them to Good Shepherd they will be recycled and the profits go back into our youth programs? We also collect old batteries and ink cartridges, just let Jason know if you need someone to pick them up from you. It’s a win win.

**FREE BABY POOLS**
Looking to beat the heat but having trouble with most pools closed in town? Well Good Shepherd happens to have some baby pools leftover from VBS a few years back and we are willing to share! Contact Jason if you would like him to drop a baby pool off at your house for the summer. (Three piece swim suits and floaties not included)

Leadership Lab will be all digital this year and take place online the week of July 27 – August 1. There is NO COST this year to participate so youth and adults are all encouraged to join us online for worship at 7pm Central Time and Small groups (for whatever level you were in last year) at 8pm each night. There will also be uplifting devotions each morning and lots of familiar faces. Contact Jason if you have any questions or are interested in registering.

Rachel is offering 30 minute online ZOOM classes, Monday through Friday. Questions or to register, email Rachel at rachel@dailybreadyoga.life
CORNER PRAYER
July 1-29 from 7-8pm
2 Chronicles 7:14

Each year the Berean Covenant Church does an outreach in town entitled, Corner Prayer.

Why corner Prayer?
There are so many negative things that take place on street corner especially in Urban Communities.
Drugs sales
Prostitution
Fighting

In 2009, God challenged me and the church to stop complaining about what happens on the corners and go and take back the corners. After that time we developed this annual corner takeover with prayer. However, today we are being more intentional about corner prayer because in the wake of all that is happening in this country, we have to move far beyond marches and chants, looting and destruction.

2 Chronicles 7:14, “If my people who are called by my name would humble themselves and pray . . . I will hear from heaven forgive their sin and heal the land.”

It’s time for the people of God to come together and make prayer the “main thang.”

So, starting every Wednesday in July, Berean Covenant is inviting every church to join us on street corners for the purpose of praying for the people in our community for 1 hour 7:00pm-8:00pm.

Week 1 (July 1): Douglass Park Corners (Meet at Douglass Library Parking Lot)
Week 2 (July 8): Corners in the Meadows of Southwest Champaign (Meet at Meadowbrook Church Parking Lot)
Week 3 (July 15): Garden Hills Corners (Meet at Garden Hills School)
Week 4 (July 22): Vawter Road in Urbana Corners (Meet at Salt & Light Parking Lot in Urbana)
Week 5 (July 29): Country Brook Apartments

These are some of the most difficult places to reside in our community as well as a place where people may not understand the issues surrounding the African American community but are children of God and they also need prayer.

So how does this work:

• We meet at a place 10 mins prior to taking the corners to pray for God to be with us as we go.
• We break up into groups of 2-4 on each corner
• We ask those in the community if they would like prayer for anything?
• IF they say yes, we ask what the need is and we pray. (Males with Males) (Females with Females) and when possible (Children with Children).
• Those who are not praying at the time should be interceding on behalf of the person praying covering them with the blood of Jesus.
• The prayer should be specific to the request and then lead (if possible) to a prayer of salvation.
If the person says they don’t have anything they would like prayer for our response should be can we pray for you and your family?

If the answer is no let them continue on and pray for them from afar.

**Important information:** We want to show a united front of God’s Church so I am asking that everyone **wear a Red shirt on that day** so we can be clearly seen.

Please remember to keep safe with masks, sanitizer, bottled water or Gatorade.

There will be name cards provided so we can keep and accurate count of how many people we prayed for so there can be a celebration of what God did.

Jesus kept a count of people who experienced the 2 fish and 5 loaves as well as other miraculous moments in biblical history.

Let’s get the information of the people we pray for so that in August-Dec. We can continue to pray for them.

May God bless you
Pastor Willie
Berean Covenant Church of Champaign

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**Lutheran Social Services of Illinois**

**STORYBOOK PROJECT**

July 2020

Because of COVID-19 all storybook projects have been suspended until further notice. We received the following note from Chaplain Chris Easton at Danville Correctional Center:

We are definitely in unchartered waters here. I believe God has been with us here. Please tell all the Storybook volunteers and your churches that we are grateful for your support and prayers. The offenders here are eager to send books home to their children again. At this time, we will not be able to accept any donations of clothing. I hope this will change soon. I will keep you updated on the changes that will be forthcoming.

Grace and Peace,
Chaplain Chris
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<td>Parish Admin. Asst.</td>
<td>Traci Shepherd</td>
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**Office Hours**

Mon – Fri: 8 am – 4 pm  
Traci is working from home most days, however a staff member is in the office every afternoon from Noon-3:00pm.

**OUR BUILDING REMAINS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

Deadline for Scroll is the 15th of every month.

_Bulletin / Announcement / Shout Out Deadline is Wednesday at noon each week_

Visits & Prayers

Let us know if you, a family member, member of GSLC, or friend of GSLC is hospitalized or moves to a care facility so we can reach out.

Hospitals and Nursing Homes no longer contact the church when members are admitted. Keep us informed so we can bring communion and prayers to those in need of healing or comfort.