

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

7800 W. MCCARTHY RD., PALOS HEIGHTS, IL 60463

WWW.GOOD-SHEPHERD-CHURCH.COM

JANUARY, 2021

STARTING 2021 WITH RECOGNITION AND CELEBRATION



This month marks the 20th year of Jan Nelson being on staff as our church custodian. In reality, Jan is so much more for Good Shepherd. She certainly keeps the facilities looking fantastic but you may never get the chance to see her work because she takes special care to ensure that her work never interferes with the regular functions of the congregation. Yet, if you've ever sat at a table in the Life Center or adored the cleanliness of the windows of the sanctuary, you've seen Jan's handiwork.

Her contributions to Good Shepherd go well beyond her job description. If you were part of the Christmas service, you got a sample of what she provides for the Sunday School through the Good News Gang puppets when you met Slushy. The maintenance of the palm bushes and plants . . . that's all Jan as well. She does these things and so much more with great love and care. For her faithful work and all that she does for each of us at Good Shepherd, we are thankful for the last 20 years and look forward to many years ahead.



We invite you to share your word of thanks and appreciation for Jan by mailing in a card for her to the church.



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING & VOTE ON ASSOCIATE PASTOR:

JANUARY 31 AT 10:45 AM ON ZOOM

Join in looking back on what God has done through Good Shepherd and be part of the process of guiding Good Shepherd into the future. This year's congregational meeting will be different (as has been customary for almost everything this last year). Please pay attention to the following details.

The meeting will be on Zoom. You can access it by using the Zoom app on your computer or mobile device (Meeting ID: 843 7201 3376 Passcode: 852359) **OR** by using the same Meeting ID and Passcode information and calling the following phone number: (312) 626 6799.

- We are asking people to please RSVP for the meeting by calling the church office. This will help keep the time required for roll call down to a minimum. The roll call will take some time, so to help us, please make sure to sign on right at 10:45 am and be patient during this necessary step.
- The Meeting Packets that contain the regular reports will be available beginning January 22. They will be put on the church website, available for pick-up in the church office during normal office hours or they can be mailed to you on the 22nd.
- The process of voting on each motion will be explained at the meeting. Please keep the ballots included in this newsletter for the purpose of voting.
- We will be voting on extending a call to Pastor Andrew Bell to be our Associate Pastor. More information pertaining to Pastor Bell can be found on the last page of our newsletter. Attend the Congregational Meeting and be part of this important decision for Good Shepherd.
- If you are looking to connect with others from church, a great way to do so is by becoming part of one of our ministry teams. We have lots of groups and committees that are doing substantial work and would love to have you join in. Please contact Pastor Chris if you feel God's call to get involved on one of our teams and be listed on their roster at the Congregational Meeting.



Please make sure to attend and be part of attending to the family business of Good Shepherd.

PEOPLE OF GOOD SHEPHERD – DECEMBER 2020

Baptisms

Freya Hammerberg — December 6, 2020



Weddings

Sara Rose Schuch and Cameron D. Meyer — December 5, 2020



New Parents

Sara and Patrick Cummings, a son Elliot Robert born November 10, 2020



New Grandparents

Val and Bill Inglis, a grandson, Liam Stanley Lynch born April 26, 2020

Known to have been ill or hospitalized

Sue Albrecht, Frank Bort, Carol Gliwa, Hector Gutierrez, Betty Holke, Matt Husar, Lisa Jarmoszka, Chuck Krout, Susan Miscovic, Connor Mish, the Murphy family, Sandra Reback, Sandi Sandt, Ruth Sava, Bob Schaaf, Nancy Swingle, Vicki Wilk, Char Wolfe, Rich Wolfe and Chris Yazumbek



Known to have Experienced Bereavement

The Buresh family upon the death of Mandy's grandmother, Jackie Glidden

Bill and June Johnsen upon the death of their friend, John Johnson

Helga Fuller upon the death of her brother-in-law, Robert Fuller

The Bareither family upon the death of Charlie's and Dan's mother, Betty

The Bareither family upon the death of Bob Gloss

The Bareither family upon the death of Patti's friend, Carole Robison

The Dinkmeyer family upon the death of Donna's husband, Bob

Bill and June Johnsen upon the death of Bill's friend, Tom Anderson

Diane Sweeney upon the death of her friend, John Mittelstaedt

The family of Linda Braun

The Hoelzl family upon the death of Willie

Cheryl Davidovitch upon the death of her friend, Tim Brenner

The Blankshein and Nelson families upon the death of Kelly's friend, Lori Potacki

The Rauch and Schmitt families upon the death of Joan Rauch

Carol Miller upon the death of her friend, Joe Jolivette

Sandra Lignell upon the death of her son, Matt

The Holke and Sweeney families upon the death of Betty's brother, Ken Munsen

The Muller family upon the death of CJ's brother, Leon Alyward

The Borner family upon the death of Ray's brother-in-law, Leo Emmerson



Funerals

† Joan Rauch — December 29, 2020



Connections with others is something we have grown to value more and more during this past year. As we strive to stay connected, please know that Pastor Chris is happy to set up a time to talk or video chat (via FaceTime or Zoom) if you would like to connect.

Also, *the church directory is a great tool* for connecting with others in the congregation. Let's start 2021 working on our relationships and being strengthened in the common faith we share.



WITH GREAT THANKS AND APPRECIATION

The work required to make this Christmas meaningful was tremendous. Thank you to all who helped share the love of God this Christmas, especially . . .

- ♥ Palos Lions Club for donating the Christmas tree that adorned our sanctuary and Hank Paulson who helped bring over the trees for the narthex.
- ♥ Those who helped decorate the church building and grounds for Christmas.
- ♥ The gifted musicians who shared their abilities in our online Christmas Concert.
- ♥ All who contributed to the various services by doing a reading, sending a picture, assisting with the set-up or doing the required technical work.
- ♥ All who sent in Christmas cards to the church and staff. Your generous words and gifts helped share the Christmas spirit in meaningful ways.
- ♥ Everyone who purchased gift cards to support our youth mission trips.
- ♥ The Call Committee, Deacons and Church Council for their work over the last year in identifying a candidate to help us answer God's call to our community.
- ♥ Our dedicated stewards who continue to come in and count the offerings. As our chief steward would say, "You give it, we'll count it!"
- ♥ Everyone who participated in the LSSI foster gift program. While the opportunity to help changed a bit this year, the overwhelming response and the Christmas spirit you shared remained consistent with years past. There were 175 children who benefitted because of your love and care for them. Thank you for helping make Christmas a more positive experience for those children for whom life is more difficult.
- ♥ Our Sunday School children who shared "The Birth of Jesus" on December 20. Many thanks to all that helped to create such a wonderful program.
- ♥ All those that donated mittens, scarves, hats and gloves this Christmas. Our Mitten Tree in the Narthex was adorned with so many reminders of the love, generosity and especially warmth that exudes from our Church Family. In addition, thank you to those who donated money for the purchase of even more mittens, hats, scarves and gloves. These items were delivered on January 5 to the Crisis Center of South Suburbia in Tinley Park.
- ♥ Our Sunday school Teachers for their wonderful efforts to share God's love with our children through games and craft activities on Zoom.
- ♥ For the generosity you have shown through your giving of time, money and energy that has helped Good Shepherd continue to be faithful during this most trying year.



Thankful

*WE ARE VERY
blessed*

Thankful



Good Shepherd is incredibly blessed and reflects that abundance through its generosity towards God's mission in the world. During this very unusual year, the congregation has helped provide 175 gift cards as Christmas gifts for foster children, provided clothing for the homeless, continued to supply our local food pantry, cooked a Thanksgiving meal for the homeless and made countless other efforts to make God's love real through tangible means. In addition, it was our privilege to donate more than \$180,000 for mission and ministry to places local, national and global. Please join in at the Congregational Meeting to hear more about how Good Shepherd is a vessel for sharing God's love with others. Thank You!

The Missions Board – Judy Lang, Chairperson

MISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS . . .



We continue to take food to the Palos Food Pantry. The need continues. Requested items for January include: skillet dinners, Jell-O, cereal, spaghetti sauce and pasta noodles, canned meats and canned fruit.

Manteno Vets . . . are in need of regular and diet pop, C-size batteries and diabetic socks. You can drop these off in the blue bins in the narthex or to the church office.



***** As always thank you for your donations! *****

Attention Missions Committee!! Quarterly meeting is this month, January 15 @ 2:30 pm



ADULT EDUCATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Start the new year off right. Good Shepherd is hosting several weekly opportunities to connect with God and God's people. Now is a great time to start it up. Each session is self-contained so even if you've never come before or miss a week, you won't miss a beat. All of them are done live on the Good Shepherd Facebook page and remain on the page afterward for viewing at your leisure.

Tuesday, 10:30 am

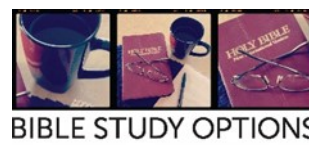
Bible Study

The daily lectionary offers us scripture for each day. Once a week we take a lesson from it and dive deeper to discern God's call for us to respond to the Word.

Wednesday

Hymn of the Week

If you like music or nostalgia, make sure to catch Michelle Podewell sharing a hymn each week on the Facebook Page.



Thursday, 7 pm

Where is God? Time for reflection and prayer

This weekly time is a call to pause and open ourselves up to the presence of God. Where the world tells us to hurry up, this weekly time invites us to slow down and drink deeply of God's presence.

All these events will start up again on January 12.



YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Confirmation Update: We close the chapter of 2020 and enter into 2021 with hope. As we move forward, we will continue to hold Confirmation through zoom during the month of January. Please pay close attention to the calendar this month as January hosts several holidays and events that disrupt our regular Confirmation classes.

Attention 7th Graders: Your workbook for this coming semester is on the table outside of the office. Don't forget to stop by and pick it up!

Attention 2020 Confirmands: Your class picture is ready. Please stop by the office for your picture—what a great-looking class!!

URGENT: Youth Mission Trip? At this point, we have only had one person indicate their desire to be part of a mission trip this summer. There is still time to plan one if we have a greater level of interest. If you are in high school, please contact Pastor Chris right away if you are interested in a trip this summer.



CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Sunday School will begin the second half of the 20-21 program virtually. We are planning to conduct virtual Sunday School January 3 – February 14. In early February, we will re-evaluate the possibilities with respect to the COVID guidelines at that time.

We are excited to continue our faith journey together through our **Sunday School Virtual Classroom and our Zoom Activity Sessions**. Email alerts will continue to go out weekly. Lesson activity sheets are found on our website, however (due to copyright) you will need a password. Please email Mrs. Lori to gain access to the password.

Something NEW . . . our lessons will feature special appearances by those you may know. Check out our Virtual Classroom or YouTube channel each week to see who they may be.

The Sunday School Virtual Classroom is a great place to view the weekly YouTube lesson, to sing along with Mrs. Jen, find a link for the Zoom activity and find a copy of this year's memory recitation assignments. Each Sunday at 9 AM, the Sunday School Families will receive an email giving them a link to access the classroom.



Sunday School Zoom Activities give your children an opportunity to see their Sunday School friends and teachers! Mark your calendars to join us! We have a lot of fun together and would love for you to join us on the following dates:

- January 10 Preschool 3's and 4's Craft
- January 17 Grades 3-5 Craft and a game
- January 24 Grades K-2 Craft and a game



A Zoom invite will be emailed to those families in each of the groups listed above a few days prior to their activity date. The teachers will be hosting these events at 11:30 AM.



Early Childhood Mom's Zoom gathering will take place on January 22 at 7 PM. An email will be sent out with the Zoom invite a few days prior to the date. After meeting in November, many of the moms were excited about meeting more frequently. It is an informal (one hour) gathering where we can catch up, share stories, laugh together, learn from one another and pray for each other. Join us as you are able and we look forward to seeing you.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good Shepherd is hosting a mobile blood drive on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 from 4:00 pm until 7:30 pm and on Thursday, February 11, from 8:00 am until Noon. Appointment times begin at 4 pm and 8 am respectively and are scheduled every 10 minutes. Please contact the church office at (708) 448-4170 to schedule an appointment if you would like to donate blood. Due to the ongoing impact of COVID, there is an immediate need for blood donors to ensure a safe supply. Please consider taking some time to give the gift of blood, it's a gift of life!



In these times of COVID and trying to keep everyone safe and healthy, we thought it best to cancel bowling again. We will re-evaluate in February and update the Good Shepherd bowlers via email. Thanks for your patience as we work through this bowling season!

The 2021 Flower Chart is posted on the bulletin board near the wooden door front entrance. You can stop by and sign up there or feel free to call the office or email donna@good-shepherd-church.com. Donors may use this opportunity to celebrate anniversaries, weddings, birthdays or to remember a loved one. The cost of the flowers is \$40.00 and checks can be made payable to the Good Shepherd Chancel Guild.



Happy New Year ♥ Happy New Year ♥ Happy New Year

UPDATE ON OUR SEARCH FOR AN ASSOCIATE PASTOR

After months of work and reviewing several candidates, the Call Committee and Church Council have both identified Pastor Andrew Bell as a good fit to join Good Shepherd as our Associate Pastor. At our Annual Congregational Meeting on January 31, you will get to vote on whether to bring Pastor Bell to Good Shepherd.

As we approach the meeting, you have the **opportunity to meet him over Zoom on Tuesday, January 26 at 7:00 pm.** You can join through the Zoom app on your computer or mobile device (Meeting ID: 815 3107 6236 , Passcode: 581072) OR by using the same Meeting ID and Passcode information when calling the following phone number: (312) 626 6799. Pastor Bell also has several sermons and other video offerings which can be found by doing a google search for his name and congregation. Below you will find a letter from Pastor Bell introducing himself.

PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS

Siblings in Christ at Lutheran Church of The Good Shepherd,

My name is Andrew Bell, and I am an ELCA pastor serving St. John Lutheran in Bellville, Texas. I am writing to introduce myself and thank you for the opportunity to be considered for the associate pastor position at Good Shepherd.

To give you a short bio, I have been an ordained pastor in the ELCA for just over 10 years, pastoring congregations in North Carolina and Texas. Before ministry and seminary, I was the son of an ELCA Pastor in Ohio. In short, I have been a part of the church my whole life. I watched my father lead and learned a lot from him. I have been blessed with gifted mentors over the years across the numerous places I have served. I work and relate well with youth and adults. I have served in rural, urban, and suburban settings and generally have no issue bridging culture, political, and economic gaps with people in the community. I have served congregations with immense resources and congregations where I have literally had to call and beg for money so we could pay the mortgage. This wealth of experience has blessed me with gifts and skills that have allowed me to become a pretty capable and gifted leader in my own right. I don't say this to brag but to make the point that God has worked through me in unexpected and wonderful ways, and I am grateful for that all the time.

What excites me most about ministry is the opportunity to help people grow in their discipleship in the kingdom of God. To help them find their path. I have helped confirmation students become worship leaders and helped adults take on the responsibilities of congregational leadership. I have helped people grow into gifts they did not know they had in order to love and care for their neighbors. In particular, I love helping the next generation of Christians, be they youth or young adults, take the next step in being both committed followers of Jesus and members of the faith community. This is key because without them the church doesn't have much of a present, let alone a future.

The opportunity to do all this on a larger scale with an energetic and inspired group of Christians is what most excites me about coming to Good Shepherd. I see so much potential here to make a big impact on the community around the church. I see and hear a good vision for ministry from Pastor Chris and the staff. I am already dreaming about what we could do together to grow and more deeply connect this congregation. I want to see the elders of the church share their wisdom with young adults who are searching for what it means to be a "Christian" after high school. I want to see our little ones learn the stories of the bible at home, so the scriptures are written on their hearts and their minds. I could go on, and I tend to. But in short, I see a bright future ahead for the Church and I am excited to potentially be a part of it.

I am also blessed with a wonderful family who loves and supports me. My wife, Angela, is a gifted lay leader in her own right. She enjoys vocal choirs, bell choirs, women's ministry and is on the National Executive Board of Women of the ELCA. We have been married for 14 years and honestly, I would not be half the pastor I am today without her. She is also a stay at home mother who cares for our 3 kids. Kalina, our eldest, is 12 and in the 6th grade. Our twins, Isaac and Marek, are 9 and in the 4th grade. They are really delightful kids who bless us so much.

Let me finish by saying again how excited I am for the work I envision us doing together. I believe with the gifts God has given me and the gifts God has given your community we can make a real and lasting impact in Palos Heights and beyond. I can't do it by myself, and it won't happen overnight either, growth takes time and patience. However, I believe it will happen if we all allow God to work through all of us, answer His calling, and follow the footsteps of Christ our Savior. Thank you again for your time. May God bless you all and guide you in this process and keep you safe.

Peace and Blessings,

Rev. Andrew J. Bell