

Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

7800 W. McCarthy Rd., Palos Heights, IL 60463

www.good-shepherd-church.com

October, 2020

Dear Friends at Good Shepherd,



from Pastor Joe

I would like to inform you that a church in Chicago will soon be voting on calling me as their new senior pastor. If the vote passes, my last day at Good Shepherd will be October 18, 2020. As we lead up to that day, know that I'm looking forward to preaching with you several times before I would leave.

I very much appreciate Pastor Chris asking me to be a part of the ministry here at Good Shepherd. Working alongside Chris again has been wonderful. Working and serving alongside the youth and their very supportive parents has been a great experience. Though Covid-19 took some of our youth events and time away, it didn't stop us from enjoying some events together. The youth are amazing and I really enjoyed 7th grade confirmation.

It's been a privilege working with the incredible staff. We've had lots of laughs and a few Covid-19 frustrations, learning about video/Zoom teaching. But the shelter-in-place has given us all time to be innovative and reach out in new ways to more people than ever before.

I would sincerely like to thank all of you for welcoming my family and I and making us feel at home. I will continue to pray for Pastor Chris and our Good Shepherd family as we continue to follow God's call.



Grace and Peace,

Pastor Joe

THANKS
FROM THE
HEART

We want to thank Pastor Joe for all the time and energy he has invested in God's work at Good Shepherd. Though a large celebration would not be appropriate at this time, we would invite you to mail or bring a card for Pastor Joe to the church to express your appreciation. As we move forward in striving to faithfully serve, please be aware that Pastor Chris will be taking the lead in teaching 7th Grade Confirmation and also with youth activities including the potential for a summer mission trip. If you are interested in volunteering in various ways to help, please contact Pastor Chris.

Update on our search for an Associate Pastor



The Call Committee is currently waiting to receive some new candidates for our vacant position. Please continue to keep these efforts in your prayers.

Sincerely,

Ron Jurkovic – Chairperson of Church Council

Updates on Worship

Sunday Morning

Since our move to one Service at 10 am, it has been nice to see people connect with one another. We are continuing to evaluate and learn in our efforts to both faithfully and responsibly worship, meeting the challenging times with the message of hope through Christ. While recognizing the wide variety of opinions on what constitutes being “safe,” our COVID team and church leadership is working to follow the best recommendations of trusted resources so that the experience can be safer. We ask that you follow these guidelines as well as the best practices, especially avoiding gatherings if you have been exposed to a person who has recently tested positive for COVID, to ensure that we can continue to physically gather.



As we have grown to know more and with your help in following the recommended practices, we have added some elements, particularly together saying the Lord’s Prayer and reciting the Apostles’ Creed. We also certainly respect and encourage those who feel the responsible thing for themselves is to refrain from physically joining for worship. For that purpose, our digital services will be accessible at the same time as the beginning of the earliest physical service.

At this time of adjusting and striving to be faithful, ***we give thanks for your continued grace and understanding as we work to reflect those gifts that God has given us.***

Confirmation and First Communion Services



Last month saw 19 young people from Good Shepherd both affirm the faith in which they were baptized and take their first Holy Communion. While different, the promises and Spirit of God were certainly stirring. Thank you to the families and helpers who made those services special. ***Congratulations to our 2020 Confirmands!***

Update on the Parking Lot Construction

IT’S REALLY HAPPENING. As we prepare to send out this letter, part of the parking lot is under construction due to a water line running further south along the nearby trail. We do look forward to it being restored soon and appreciate your patience.



The People of Good Shepherd — September, 2020 Report

Baptisms

Brooke Ann Rekar — September 13, 2020

Presley Jo Tracy — September 18, 2020

Liam Alan Goncher — September 20, 2020



Known to have been Ill or Hospitalized:

Sue Albrecht, Myrna Bronson, Katie DiMambro, Lindsey Dolezal, Jennifer Gibbs, Sara Goss, Gerhard Haigis, Betty Holke, Bill Inglis, Pat Kratz, Sue McCoy, Adeline Petry, Sandra Reback, Sandi Sandt, Bob Schaaf, Charles Snow, Tom Thoss, Beth Wetzig, Char Wolfe and Rich Wolfe



Known to have Experienced Bereavement

The Nelson family upon the death of Lenore's cousin, David Koetz

The Traverso family upon the death of Kristie's father, Jerry Lockwood

Pamela Pyka upon the death of her brother, Barry Bell

The Plahm and Webber families upon the death of Bill's nephew, Greg Plahm

The Gutierrez family upon the death of Hector's mother, Beatrice

The Stapel and Brandt families upon the death of Pastor Brandt's sister, Leota Stapel who died at the age of 101 & 8 months



Funerals

† Betty Grace Walton — September 12, 2020 - A staple at the Tuesday bible studies and worship, Betty filled her 94 years on earth with joy and a larger than life personality. Our prayers go out to her family, especially her daughter Karen.

† Joanne Marion Alsip — September 23, 2020 - Worth remembering, Joanne committed herself to a life of faith at First Lutheran in Blue Island and at Palos Lutheran before coming to Good Shepherd in 1994. We give thanks for her faithfulness and keep her children, especially Dan, in our prayers.



Why are we praying for the church in Coronationville?



FRIENDS IN CHRIST

You have probably noticed that we pray for the parish in Coronationville each week in our worship service. This is our partner congregation that we are looking forward to further getting to know as part of the companion synod exchange. Due to COVID issues in South Africa, getting together via ZOOM and being introduced to our fellow Christians has been delayed but we look forward to an introduction taking place soon. We will continue to keep them in our prayers as we together strive to be the church, the Body of Christ.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the Date! Trunk or Treat!

Saturday, October 24



We are hoping to host an outdoor Trunk-or-Treat. Please watch your email inboxes for further details as they become available. Please note this will be a reservation only event. Check out page 6 of the newsletter for how you can be involved!

Good Shepherd is hosting a mobile blood drive on Wednesday, October 21, 2020 from 8:00 am until Noon and on Thursday, October 22, from 3:00 pm until 7:00 pm. Appointment times begin at 8 am and 3 pm 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-19, 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!**



Blood Drive



The 2020-2021 Church Directory is on its way! It is being mailed to you directly from Cathedral Directories. Please look for it to arrive early October. If you could check your record to make sure it is correct, that would be very helpful. Please contact the church office with any changes ASAP. Thank you!



Updates on Missions



For more than 34 years, **Feed, Clothe and Help the Needy** in West Englewood has provided food, health services, clothing, counseling and worship services to homeless persons, single mothers with children and families in need. The Good Shepherd Congregation has been helping to support the work of Feed, Clothe and Help the Needy in West Englewood for more than 12 years, providing financial support and by providing monthly homemade hot meals for more than 150 people who truly appreciate the delicious casseroles, homemade cookies and fresh fruit prepared by the Good Shepherd Cooking Group. F.C.H.N. was also one of the first recipients of Good Shepherd's Annual Endowment Fund

Contribution designated to be used for capital improvements to enhance and expand the work of the charitable organization.

This wonderful ministry experienced a significant loss as the Founder and Director of the F.C.H.N., Mrs. Betty Price, affectionately known as Mother Price, passed away suddenly on September 2, 2020. Mother Price's F.C.H.N. life work of serving the West Englewood Community will continue under the direction of her two daughters who share her vision and effort to Feed, Clothe and Help the Needy. Mother Price's Motto was: "If I can reach out and help someone each day, then I've had a good day." May that motto inspire us in our continued mission efforts as well as our call to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves.



FEED THE HUNGRY

More Updates on Missions



Speaking of Feed, Clothe and Help the Needy, **the Homeless Cooking Group** continues to support them during the pandemic. They are providing them with nutritious food to help support their mission to feed and care for those in their community. We thank our Church Family for their continued support and we look forward to our return to cooking together again.

The Food Pantry is always appreciative of any items received from the Good Shepherd Family. This month's needs include: soup, canned juice, canned fruit, salad dressing, tuna, canned meats and baby food. Thank you for your support.



The Manteno Veterans Home is in need of the following: any snacks, Gatorade, regular pop and L and XL sweat pants. You can drop off items at church or contact the church office to arrange for a pick-up. *The veterans truly appreciate our donations!*

Hopkins Park Wood Splitting—On September 12, 17 loads of wood were split and delivered. Another wood splitting day is scheduled for Saturday, October 10 from 8 am to 1 pm. Please refer to September's newsletter for more details or contact Rick Korallus at 630-688-4771.

Updates on Adult Education

As gathering for fellowship is very trying during this time of physical distancing, **you are invited to invest into the work of discipleship.** It's fruitful work as you join with others and together strive to examine how to walk by faith through the journey of life. Studying scripture and supporting others with the gospel message is part of our call as faithful people.



While we continue to monitor for when we may resume regular physical gatherings, **we continue to journey together in a remote manner** together pouring over the scriptures and engaging in prayer from our homes.



These events are live on the Good Shepherd Facebook Page at the time shown but will also be available afterwards for your participation at a different time.

Tuesday, 10:30 am - Bible Study

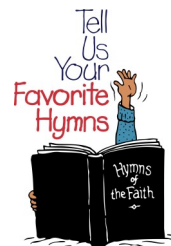


Adult Bible Classes

We follow the daily lectionary of readings (which can be found on the church website) and select one or two to dive into.

Wednesday - Hymn of the Week

Michelle Podewell graces us with the playing and singing of a hymn. It's a time of reflection that invites us to rest in the gift of music.



Thursday, 7 pm Where is God? Time for reflection and prayer

This weekly time invites us to explore where God is at work in our lives and world. We spend time in prayer and exploring God's work.

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Would You Like a ZOOM time for gathering?

A time of gathering where we can see others and participate more fully could be arranged if we have interest. If this sounds of interest to you, please contact Pastor Chris and let him know if you would like to participate.

Faith Discussion now meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month at 7:00 PM.

If you are interested in joining this faithful group, please contact the church office.



UPDATE ON YOUTH



Confirmation Classes - The classes are off to a flying start. With news of Pastor Joe's potential departure, please know that Pastor Chris will be in contact with the 7th

grade class and their families about the future plans. We are looking forward to all that God will do this year.

Youth Mission Trip? Will there be one this summer? We're not sure but we want to start the discussion and find out your thoughts. While summer feels a long way off, *Pastor Chris would love to hear your thoughts about planning a youth summer mission trip.* If you are in high school and would like to be part of deciding not only if we have a trip but also where, please contact him before November 1.



UPDATE ON CHILDREN AND FAMILY

Trunk Decorators are needed . . . if you are interested in decorating your trunk for the Trunk-or-Treat please call or email Lori Puttkammer as soon as possible. She will be able to give you more details. We are hoping to have 15-20 trunks decorated for the event.



Donations for the Trunk or Treat . . . are needed. We will be creating one ultimate goody bag for each participant that they will receive at the end of the trail of trunks. If you would like to donate candy or other small treats it would be greatly appreciated. Donations can be dropped off at the church October 1 – October 15.



The Sunday School Virtual Classroom . . . is a great place to view the weekly YouTube lesson, to sing along with Mrs. Jen 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 our children an opportunity to see their Sunday school friends and teachers! Mark your calendars to join us! A Zoom invite will be emailed to those families in each of the groups listed below a few days prior to their activity date. The teachers will be hosting these events at 11:30 AM.



October 11 Preschool 3 and 4 year olds
October 18 Grades 3-5
October 25 Grades K-2



UPDATE FROM THE "OFF CLUB"

2020 has been a "different" year for us with the shelter-in-place order and other restrictions. Who would have thought this would still be the case six months later? "OFF Club" misses their monthly meetings of fellowship, food and fun. We look forward to when we can all get together again. ***Until then, may God keep you safe and well!***

Attention: Ages 3 thru High School!!

Mrs. Michelle and Mrs. Donna are looking for **family groups** who might be interested in working with them to record a song for worship. Please contact the church office if you are interested!

