

2019 Pastors Report

Thank you for everything...Doing things without being asked, those who clean and take care of church, helping with different events and serving on different committees, accomplishing tasks, welcoming new people, teaching and mentoring our children and young adults, sharing musical skills, opening up your pockets to help pay the bills and support Good Shepherd's missions...the support you give me and my family...so blessed to be here.

Good Shepherd is stable ... and on the upswing. The challenge for us always is to keep it that way! How? Celebrate victories...find reasons to celebrate...keep our growing church "small", connect people to people.

Let's look at some facts beginning with **Official Acts** (from 2019)

Worship Service attendance total average weekly (total number of worshippers/52 weeks): 245

2018 the total average was 221.

The following were received into His kingdom by the Sacrament of HOLY BAPTISM

1. Avery Jean Mueller, daughter of Shawn and Alycia Mueller
Baptism: 2-17-19
2. Brinley Pearce, daughter of Jacob and Stephanie Pearce
Baptism: 03-17-19
3. Cooper Griffin Wiley, son of Griffin and Jennifer Wiley
Baptism: 04-07-19
4. Lillian Irene Leinweber, daughter of Adam and Amber Leinweber
Baptism: 04-14-19
5. Mya Rae Schlichting
Baptism: 06-30-19
6. Nicole Reifschneider
Baptism: 08-22-19
7. Ezekiel Charles, son of Faulkner and Jennifer Charles
Baptism: 12-29-19

May the blessings of our Lord rest upon these baptized, and may the children continue to receive a Christian education.

JUNIOR CONFIRMATION

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Hannah Bruss | Confirmed: 06-9-19 |
| 2. Brayden Klauer | Confirmed: 06-9-19 |
| 3. Jennifer Mehn | Confirmed: 06-9-19 |
| 4. Lea Potratz | Confirmed: 06-9-19 |
| 5. James Smith | Confirmed: 06-9-19 |

MARRIAGE

1. Tyler Phillips and Lydia Brunner

Married: 09-28-19

+ DEATH +

1. Pat Anderson

Death: 01-31-19

2. Kathleen Wojciechowski

Death: 05-25-19

3. Dorothy Nottelson

Death: 07-11-19

4. Irvin Henriksen

Death: 07-28-19

NEW MEMBERS

1. Ben & Robyn Boche, children Sam & Jack

2. Greg & Jodi Brey

3. Lydia Brunner

4. Josiah Brunner

5. David & Jane Eichorn

6. Bill & Louise Gabert

7. Dixie Hall

8. Chris Hibben

9. John & Brenda Hawig

10. Kevin Joos

11. Lee & Nancy Kantin

12. Armand & Angela Lewis, Children Willie & Paige

13. Grace Leiden

14. Carlea Liermann

15. Bobbie Luft

16. Lori Malcolm

17. Mike & Stacy Martin, children Joshua & Grace

18. Shawn & Alycia Mueller, child Avery

19. Lee Paris

20. Jan Peterson (Bunke)

21. Jan & Jerry Ratchman

22. Nicole Reifschneider

23. Mandy Schoenrock

24. Jacob Schroeder

25. Craig & Jodie Skadah, children, Kat, Zoe & Coty

- 26. Kyle & Nicole Vergin, children Beckett & Hadley
- 27. Griffin & Jennifer Wiley
- 28. David Wojciechowski
- 29. Mike & Kristie Zellner

**All in all, 57 New members welcomed in 2019 including Children and baptisms.
Four members called to their eternal home.**

MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY – DECEMBER 31, 2019

*Communicant Membership:	<u>374</u>
Children:	<u>74</u>
Baptized Membership (Communicants & Children):	<u>488</u>

**Always changing*

A couple highlights from 2019...

- Two wonderful celebrations of Good Shepherd's 50th anniversary including a corn roast and a brunch.
- \$18,000 was given to local and abroad missions.
- 150 shoeboxes full of necessities were collected and distributed to children across the globe who are in need.
- Over \$3000 and hundreds of pounds were collected through our Super Sundae Sunday mission endeavor.
- We started sponsoring Jericho Road ministries (the local aquaponics place that grows lettuce and other veggies for the food shelter).
- We were privileged to send a good crew to the Feed My Starving event again this past year.
- We sent our youth group and their fearless leaders to the National Youth Gathering.
- God was praised as we hosted the Chant Claire choir, Lenten meditation and an Advent Hymn sing...as well as joining voices with our sister congregations for our annual traveling Ascension Service.
- We were again privileged to serve at Oshkosh's Waterfest.
- God blessed our craft fair with over \$10,000 to be used in a variety of ways for mission and ministry.

- We transitioned to two services on Sunday to maximize the space God has blessed us with.
- Through God's people at Good Shepherd, we put a major dent in our mortgage.
- We welcomed some new people to serve on boards.
- Lives have been changed, faith has been strengthened, and friendships have been forged.
- 21 kids in confirmation class!

A couple things to look forward to in 2020...

- New members on horizon
- A few "friendship Sundays"
- A "Mingle and Munch" time for new members
- Polka service at Menominee Park (June)
- New people coming in means new ideas and energy
- Being blessed to serve and give in the many ways listed above again!
- Through any change, we're keeping the Good Shepherd at the center.

Personally: Pastor Koepsell and family are as good as can be!

2019 Evangelism Year End Report

Grace and Peace to all in the name of Jesus our Savior. We pray that 2010 will be another great year of spreading God's word here in Oshkosh and around the world.

2019 has been another year of growth. Our congregation has seen many new faces and members from various congregations. These include people from other LCMS congregations that have moved to Oshkosh, neighboring congregations, some new to the faith and some adult confirmations. We welcome you all and pray that you can call Good Shepherd home. Both new and old members need to GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER.

Lenten meals were served in March. **All Donations** from the meals were sent to Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch in North Dakota. **\$500** was sent to support this ministry. This ministry serves troubled young people to grow in their faith and can then work and be rejoined with family.

Our recent congregation **Advent meals (Dec.)** had donations that were used to support the Operation Christmas Child boxes. 35 boxes were filled with this money along with postage. We thank Thrivent Financial for the seed money to help assist in the meals that were served by various groups. Thanks you to all who supported these Christian ministries with your prayers and financially.

Pizza Ranch Outreach was participated in during March. This is a great Community outreach night when members worked by clearing tables and assisting those dining at Pizza Ranch. We wear our yellow Good shepherd T-shirts and make our church visible. **\$550** was received in tips and a percentage of sales. This is such a wonderful night to work together as a congregation to meet and greet the community. **Thank You to all who worked.**

Waterfest in August was another outreach that was a busy night. Again this is a great way to get out Good Shepherd name out to the community. We wore our yellow T-shirts. Thank You to all who again helped with this activity. Without members helping, activities like these could not happen.

Pictorial directory Update: In April Lifetouch came and again did a photo update. This was a great way for our new members to be part of the existing directory. Many took advantage of this opportunity. The directories arrived in June. All participating received a new book. With more new members joining, we now have sheets available with pictures and information for you to add to your books. Please take advantage of these sheets and get to know all these new members. On December 22 we again welcomed New Members. It is so important that you get to know each other and get involved. We are a **FAST GROWING CONGREGATION.**

Coffee Hour: Everyone enjoys a cup of coffee, cup of juice and a treat. Feel free to help at any time. Thank You to all who have brought some treats to share. With 2 services since September we don't get to chat with everyone, but continue to meet and greet someone you don't know.

In closing, Continue to serve the Lord with Gladness, get involved with activities. We are all part of this wonderful Christ filled church. Spread His word in the community and Live the Christian life.

Respectfully submitted,
Vivian Mittelstaedt
Evangelism chair

2019 Board of Education Year End Report

March- Sunday School students sang "Remember Me" in church on March 10.

April- Sunday School students sang "Jesus Is the Light" on April 14

May- Sunday School students sang "O How Good Is Christ the Lord" on May 19. The last day of Sunday school was also on May 19.

June- Good Shepherd has a community booth at the Oshkosh Farmers Market on July 20 and July 27 to promote Vacation Bible School. Calls were made to recruit Sunday school teachers.

July- Sunday School materials purchased and ordered. Calls were made to recruit Sunday School Teachers. Sunday school information was transferred to an electronic

form. Sunday school memory work was also transferred to an electronic form and saved into a folder on the church computer.

August- VBS program Yee Haw; Celebrating God's greatest gift on August 2 and 3. Calls were made to recruit Sunday School Teachers. Judy Mehn and Jennifer Charles met to discuss plans for the school year. A google form was created to use as an additional way for parents to register for Sunday school. Most Sunday school families took advantage of the opportunity to register online. A meeting with all Sunday School Teachers was called on August 24th to inform teachers of routines and materials as well as to plan together for the school year.

September- Sunday School began on September 15 with classes taking place from 9:00 AM - 10:15. Parents were added to the Facebook Parent Group based on parent interest in being invited. On September 29, Adam and Amber Leinweber took pictures of Sunday school students and the Sunday school teachers.

October - The congregation donated money for Sunday school supplies. Needed supplies were displayed in the atrium for members to view/purchase before being placed in the Sunday school rooms. Good Shepherd Sunday School students and parents were informed who the homebound members are, and efforts began to promote giving to these members that would be delivered at Christmas time. Sunday school students thought of questions they wanted to find out about the homebound members. Judy Mehn wrote down these questions and relayed them to the homebound members during personal visits. Judy visited two homebound, and spoke with two over the phone. Two others couldn't be reached personally, but contact was made through caregivers. Judy shared information about each member with the Sunday school students during Sunday school.

November - When visiting a homebound member, Judy Mehn discovered that a Christmas wish for this member was to have her picture taken with Santa. Christmas cards were made from this picture and became part of her gift from the Sunday school students.

December- December 1 Judy Mehn inquired about Sunday school parent interest in using the nursery during Sunday school. Judy also posted a sign asking about interest in the atrium for two weeks, then the poster was posted on the wall in the atrium. There was no one who shared an interest on the sign-up sheet and no one contacted Judy about their interest. The Sunday school program rehearsal was on December 21, 9:00-11:30. Pizza, drinks, and cake were served. Parents made cookies for the homebound. These cookies were delivered in gift baskets with other personal gift items. Each homebound member also was given a poinsettia. The Sunday school program *The Fumbly, Bumbly Angels* occurred on December 22 at the 10:30 service. There was no Sunday school on December 29.

Family 3-4-5 is a new group put together by Jennifer Charles to help strengthen the relationship of families with 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. The goal is to meet monthly with different activities. In 2019 they kicked off with a game of family kick ball. They also gathered at a family campfire at the Weiss' house. Another gathering included turkey bowling at church.

Bible Studies: There have been discussions on creating more bible study opportunities. One idea is to gather as a small group bible study that helps more souls connect with Christ.

Jr. High, Grades 6-8: Parents of 6th-8th graders have requested to have more activities for the youth. Jennifer Charles is in contact with a couple to work with kicking off a Jr. High Youth Ministry Group. A goal is to have a monthly gathering/activity. Plans for a confirmation retreat are also in the future.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Mehn & Jennifer Charles
Board of Education

2019 Board of Youth Year End Report

2019 was an exciting year for the youth group with the first experience of the LCMS National Youth Gathering (NYG) in quite some time for Good Shepherd. Much of the year centered on preparations for the event and reflection afterwards surrounding the gathering theme: "Real.Present.God." In July, 4 youth attended the 5 day gathering, NYG 2019, held in Minneapolis. The event was a special time that provided much spiritual support for youth and adults alike. Plans are already underway to encourage the youth to attend the next gathering in Houston in 2022. Below is a detailed list of highlights in 2019 and plans for 2020.

2019 Highlights

- *Roster/Involvement*
 - 3 active youth members graduated
 - 5 incoming members; 3 of which have become active members
 - 7 out of 10 youth are active members
- *Activities*
 - **Nourishment** (Sunday morning Bible study [various topics and resources] – 4 to 6 attend regularly, National Youth Gathering (NYG), NYG presentation)
 - **Fundraising** (Flower sales, Mother's Day brunch)
 - **Service** (Lenten meal, Easter breakfast, Altar care, Intro to Father Carr's, Intro to Lutheran Food Pantry, Feed My Starving Children)
 - **Social Events** (comedian, escape room, Christian films)

2020 Plans

- *Roster/Involvement*
 - Incorporating 8th graders in activities
 - 1 active youth member will be graduating
 - 7 incoming members
- *Activities*
 - **Nourishment** (Sunday morning Bible study, Bible Bowl)

- **Fundraising** (Pizza sales, Family meal, ?)
- **Service** (Lenten meal, Feed My Starving Children, Reformation party, larger project?)
- **Social Events** (escape room, Noah's Ark trip, and monthly hangouts)

Respectfully submitted,
 Matt & Julie Toll
 Board of Youth

2019 Fellowship Year End Report

January- 50th Anniversary Lunch catered by CrossRoads
March/April-Lenten Suppers hosted by various committees
April 21- Easter Breakfast
May 30- Ascension Supper for Choir (50 people)
July 21- Corn Roast
July 22- Dorothy Nottelson Funeral(100 people)
Aug 2&3- VBS Helped with snacks on Friday and Saturday; Potluck on Saturday(75 people)
Aug 4- VBS carry over served to church
Aug 10- Irv Henriksen Funeral (55 people)
Sept 10- Pastors Conference; helped with coffee, donuts, etc
Sept 29-Fifth Sunday; special coffee hour with Danish, donuts, etc
December-Advent Suppers hosted by: Confirmation (12/4), Choir (12/11), Fellowship (12/18)

Thank you to everyone who has helped serve and make these events a success. With everyone's help, no matter how big or small, our Fellowship work does not feel like work. We could not have done it without your help!

Respectfully submitted,
 Lori Purath & Sharon Leinweber
 Fellowship Co-Chairs

2019 Elder Year End Report

Our Heavenly Father continues to bless us here at Good Shepherd. The Ministry that we share in is evident in our daily lives and encounters throughout our church.

Beginning in September 2019 we added a second service on Sundays with fellowship immediately after 1st service then education hour at 9:15 and 9:30. The 2nd service is at 10:30. We also kept a communion service every week at one service on Sunday. Thursday's service remained unchanged. A second Christmas Eve service at 4:30 was added. Very beneficial and well attended. The attendance we almost exactly the same for both services.

Pastor will report attendance.

The education director/superintendent has been filled by Jen Charles and Judy Mein.

We wish to extend our gratitude first to them. Great job! We would again like to thank Linda Everson for her years of dedicated leadership. Thank you Linda!

Church music has enjoyed outreach this past year. We thoroughly enjoyed a Hymn Festival in November, and members of the congregation helped with caroling this December as well. Our Adult Choir is growing and along with that we are pleased to announce that some members wanted to support the Outreach to UWO. We have a Music Scholarship available to Full-time students who join the choir and worship with us. So far, 2 students have participated. As we grow in that area, it may give opportunity for others to join in on that sponsorship. What a blessing!

The choir will be enriching our Palm Sunday with a Lenten Meditation again! Please mark your calendars for the April date.

The joint Ascension service was hosted by Good Shepherd this past May. Looking forward to traveling north for the next Ascension service on Thursday May 21-evening.

This year the Polka service will return. Plan to attend and invite friends at Menominee Park June 14th.

We are pleased to say our Bible study opportunities have seen a good increase in attendance this past year. Thank you Pastor Hayman for leading on Sundays. Looking forward to more opportunities in the year ahead. There has been a Woman's group meeting Tuesdays and a Men's group Saturday mornings as well. Wednesday mornings are led by Pastor Koepsell.

I personally have been able to visit our shut-ins along with Pastor. What an honor to visit these people who need our prayers and companionship. We are a community in Christ!

As our church grows we may need to adapt to more beginnings! Praise God!

Please welcome Tom Dunham as our new Elder Chairman.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Bedroske
Chairman of Elders

2019 Stewardship Year End Report

2019 was another very strong year for the Church!

Participation was great from many members contributing their Time, Talents and Treasures.

2019 saw us continue to gather information from members on how they are willing to get involved. Look for a revised Time/Talent Survey in early 2020

We again were active in the community in multiple ways. The Craft Sale committee hosted an overwhelmingly successful event in November, and the congregation

participated in many fundraisers such as Pizza Ranch and Waterfest concession sales.

Our Scrip program continues to be a huge success being run by Linda and Jeff Everson. Since its inception in 2015 participation continues to grow year over year. In 2019 we sold \$72,465 in scrip, which netted a benefit of \$2789.51 to your Church.

Our church debt and financial position continues to improve, Thank You to all of you for your help in making us financially independent. Look for additional information on the impact of debt reduction in early 2020.

Please welcome Dan Weiss as your new Stewardship chair.

Thank You!

Noah Hinrichs