

2022 Pastors Report (Year end for 2021)

In reading through the report from last year, I'm both ecstatic and of course, a little disappointed, about the progress we're making at Good Shepherd. We had such a rough year in 2020 with the Covid Pandemic, and in 2021 we tried very hard to re-group and re-direct some intentions, often even living in denial of the people still succumbing to the pandemic all around us. We've exceeded expectations in various ways, and we're still lacking the "good 'ol days" in many ways.

Overall, Good Shepherd is still stable and strong. People are worshipping and fellowshiping together again. I'm excited to see new relationships being forged and people growing in their faith in Christ. God is being glorified in many and various ways at your church. I'm still very confident that we're going to come out of this (and any tough time) stronger and more capable of doing God's mission here in Oshkosh.

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 as best as we can, sharing musical skills, opening up your pockets to help pay the bills and support Good Shepherd's missions, tech help, craft fair help, the support you give me and my family. We're so blessed to be here.

We have an absolutely incredible board of elders and church council that dedicates their time and talents to Good Shepherd and for that we are certainly blessed.

We have an absolutely incredible musical staff and Sunday school staff that also dedicates their time and talents to teach our kids and enhance our worship experience at Good Shepherd as well.

Our Fellowship committee has stepped up, doing safely as much as we can do to bring people together for Christian fellowship...as well as implementing a prayer partner/mentor program for our confirmands.

We have also (with the help of Mary Becker & the women at Good Shepherd) implemented again the Lutheran Woman's Missionary League at Good Shepherd...helping change the world with Christ's message and their mighty-mites.

We have developed a "Board of Education" in the hopes of standardizing and bettering our current confirmation practices and making sure our children know the basic concepts of the faith and how it applies to their lives.

We're working on streamlining our mission dollars (specifically locally) so we're more intentional about our stewardship of God's gifts.

We are also blessed with in incredible office staff (of one) that keeps things rolling and moving forward.

There's more that will be covered in this report, but for my intents and purposes:

Good Shepherd is stable ... of course, church attendance is still down compared to pre-pandemic age--- on average, about 35 less worshippers per week than 2019, (Just 1 more than 2020) but I don't think any of us are surprised by that. Through it all, we average about 150 engagements on our Facebook live worship broadcast...which is new, and great, but we're still trying to figure out what those numbers actually mean.

The challenge still for us is to be ready to regain our footing and move forward intentionally when (and if) this pandemic is over. Another challenge is to pray and be prepared for the challenge of those (especially young families) who have not attended church in months to come back! Some of our brothers and sisters in Christ are still just "out of the habit of worship," and that breaks my heart. We are looking for intentional ways to bring everyone back when the dust settles, when this pandemic is in a state of ending, and people feel safe coming back to church. The prayer is that they will come back! We've made strides in that direction the best we can. And when we do get back on our feet, it's still important to

keep it “small,” intimate and soul touching. Every soul at Good Shepherd is so important, and God intends to keep it that way! We’re going to continue to celebrate victories, and even look for reasons to celebrate (which shouldn’t be that hard) and keep our growing church “small”, by connecting people to people.

Let’s look at some stats beginning with **Official Acts** (from 2021)

- **2021 Worship Service attendance total average weekly (total number of worshippers/52 weeks): 186**
- **2020 Average: 185**
- **2019 Average: 221.**

The following were received into His kingdom by the Sacrament of HOLY BAPTISM (14)

1. Lauren Christine Purath, daughter of Christopher and Amanda Purath
Baptism: 2/27/2021
2. Olivia Marleen Werner, daughter of Joshua and Kyla Werner
Baptism: 4/24/2021
3. Grayson Fletch Wagner, son of Logan Ratchman and Brady Wagner
Baptism: 6/13/2021
4. August Mikel Hibben, son of Chris and Amanda Hibben
Baptism: 6/13/2021
5. Franklin John Ratchman, son of Adam and Katherine Ratchman
Baptism: 6/13/2021
6. Grayson Fletch Wagner, son of Logan Ratchman and Brady Wagner
Baptism: 6/13/2021
7. Skyler James Dempsey, daughter of Anthony Dempsey and Amber Roberts
Baptism: 7/25/2021
8. Tabitha Lynn Toll, daughter of Matt and Julie Toll
Baptized: 8/3/2021
9. Malcolm Paul Kirchenwitz, son of Nathan and Morgan Kirchenwitz
Baptism: 8/8/2021
10. Helen Lorraine Clappes, daughter of Dean and Leah Clappes
Baptism: 9/2/2021
11. Raelyn Ann Pearce, daughter of Jacob and Stephanie Pearce
Baptism: 9/12/2021
12. Scout Eloise Wiley, daughter of Griffin and Jennifer Wiley
Baptism: 12/5/2021
13. Ryan Jane Eichhorn, daughter of Riley and Samantha Eichhorn
Baptism: 12/12/2021
14. Cole James Meier, son of Krei and Sarah Meier
Baptism: 12/19/2021

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

JUNIOR CONFIRMATION

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Zachary Kiffmeyer | Confirmed: 05-20-21 |
| 2. Ethan Klatt | Confirmed: 05-23-21 |
| 3. Kirsten Klatt | Confirmed: 05-23-21 |
| 4. Jace Koepsell | Confirmed: 05-23-21 |
| 5. Nathan McDonald | Confirmed: 05-23-21 |
| 6. Gavin McMillan | Confirmed: 05-23-21 |
| 7. Jacob Stinski | Confirmed: 05-23-21 |
| 8. George Suwalski | Confirmed: 05-23-21 |
| 9. Josie Weiss | Confirmed: 05-23-21 |

MARRIAGE

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Adam Tuchscherer and Britani Bahr | Married: 05-15-2021 |
| 2. Todd Nagler and Bobby Luft | Married: 10-08-2021 |
| 3. Derek Pope and Reagan Nagler | Married: 12-18-2021 |

+ DEATH +

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Reverend James Daugherty | Death: 04-23-2021 |
| 2. Amelia Schroeder | Death: 05-14-2021 |
| 3. Shirley Sprague | Death: 07-10-2021 |
| 4. Seth Sweda | Death: 12-21-2021 |
| 5. Judy Blackmore | Death: 12-31-2021 |

NEW MEMBERS

1. Jacob & Fallon Crowe, Carter, Mila & Ellie
2. Rev. Kenneth & Susan Hinrichs
3. Tim & Liz Hoversten
4. Rev. Tom Hoversten
5. Edward & Phyliss Huebner
6. Jane Karbon
7. Richard & Kathleen Keas
8. Larry & Debra Last
9. Robert & Eileen Loewe
10. Thomas & Kay Mitchell
11. Brian & Stephanie Nagler
12. Reagan Nagler
13. Reese Nagler
14. Lynn & Larry Paulus
15. Derek Pope
16. Donald Riedel
17. Don & Phyliss Sasse
18. Lois Schroeder
19. Karen Schuster
20. Karen Wenzel
21. Joshua & Kyla Werner, Olivia
22. Beverly Zink
23. LeRoy & Carol Zuberbier

All in all - 55 New members welcomed in 2020 including Children and baptisms.—64 if you include confirmands.

Five members called to their eternal home.

Transferred/Released (Loss of members) FROM GOOD SHEPHERD - 2021

1. Daniel & Marsha Clarkson (moved out of area—West Bend)
2. Nicole Clarkson (moved out of area--Chicago)
3. Carlea Liermann (moved out of area--Brillion)
4. Armand & Angela Lewis, Armand and Paige (moved out of area--Oconomowoc)
5. Jay Schultz (moved/transferred to Shepherd of the Hills-Greenville)
6. Matthew & Katherine Lute, Wilhelm (moved out of area-Missouri)
7. Steve & Gail Handrich (moved out of area-Florida)
8. Ashley Shubert (moved out of area-Kaukauna)

MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY – DECEMBER 31, 2021

*Communicant Membership:	<u>406</u>
Children:	<u>89</u>
Baptized Membership (Communicants & Children):	<u>495</u>
<u>*ACTIVE Members:</u>	<u>270 (ish)</u>

Worship Weekly: 186 average weekly worship attendance (2021) of 495 total membership means appx. 38% of our baptized members are frequently attending worship (less the people who join us online for worship).

**Always changing*