

PARISH PULSE

“...Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable —if anything is excellent or praiseworthy —think about such things...”

- Philippians 4:8



“That’s What She Said...”

BY PASTOR KOEPSELL

Greetings people of the Good Shepherd! I hope and pray this little newsletter finds you and yours very well. Thank you for taking the time to read it and see what’s going on at your beloved church.

I must say that I wrestled with this piece a lot this month. I spent three and a half hours on an article one night that I deleted, because after further review I despised it.

I don’t want to talk about Covid, or masks, or hurricanes, or California fires, or divisive political stuff. I don’t want to talk about what happens when kids are supposed to go back to school and then what happens when someone tests positive for the virus and everyone in the class (including the teacher) and the positive’s family have to be quarantined. I’m sick of it. We’re all sick of it.

I want a normal. You want a normal. We might all forget what normal is/was?

So then, after my wonderful wife saw me all frustrated and distraught, she reminded me of the verse above... “Greg, why don’t you talk about the things we *can* do...”

Maybe it’s easier than we think. Look at that verse again...

What is true, noble, right? What is pure, lovely and admirable? Is anything going on in your life excellent or praiseworthy?

We’re all different, and we all face different challenges. Some of you are battling cancer, most of you know someone who is. Some of you are battling the loneliness and isolation and fear this virus brought us. Some of you are recovering from a procedure or are nervous about an upcoming one. Some of you have money concerns, job concerns, children concerns... some have family on the East Coast (hurricane) or the West Coast (California fires.)

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many of us at least know someone with the virus and all the turmoil and inconvenience that brings. Politically, some lean to the left, some to the right, some right in the middle, questioning what to believe and who to believe and what in the world could happen next.

And then there are the rest. Those of you whose life is actually pretty ok right now (despite the little inconveniences). I guess this message is for you.

For those of you going through difficult times, please know that you are in our prayers. Please know that there are many people who think about you, pray for you, worry about you (in a not-so-sinful worrying sort of way). Please know that your church, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, is your personal sanctuary where you can find rest and healing for your soul. And for those of you who have a rough road ahead, we're here for you. We love you and are concerned about you and we pray for you. Please know that your Pastor will come and see you whenever you call on him.

Now, for the rest...

Here's some things we **can** do to find some normal in the midst of the not-so-normal:

- Take the church surveys! connectingwell.questionpro.com and www.surveymonkey.com/r/HGPK953
- Help out at the Festival Brat Barn on August 13th. Sign up in church atrium (at least go eat a brat).
- Reach out to the people who have birthdays or anniversaries this month. Or reach out to someone from Good Shepherd you haven't seen in a while.
- Mentor one of our young adults...take them fishing, teach them how to build or fix something!
- Find one of the kids you connect with at Good Shepherd and take an interest in them, how they're doing, what they're up to, etc. Seek them out!

· Open up your house to a small group and lead a safe, social distanced, Bible study! Or better, under the circumstances, put your technical savvy to the test and set up a Zoom study of some kind!

· Mark the following dates on your calendar: **Sept. 26, Oct. 24 & Nov. 14** and participate in the strategic planning of Good Shepherd's future.

· Volunteer to help out one of our different boards. (Clean, mow, plant, grow, craft, count, set up-take down, techy help, teach, lead...) Do it! We need you!

That's a short list of things all of us can help with even during rough times. Thank you for considering!

The easiest thing we can all do, however, is "... *Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things...*"

Think about such things. We all have many blessings to count. And at **all** times, the most true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent and praiseworthy thing we can fathom is our Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ. Think about Him...And know that you are certainly on His mind.

My wife was right. Again.

Pastor G



Members singing their love and support outside of a member's house



The Real Treasure at Good Shepherd

by Daniel Weiss

The best news is good news and I have some very good news to share with you. If you weren't able to attend our recent congregational meeting, you may have missed this update: over the past 8 months, we have paid down \$200,000 on our mortgage.

The church budgets \$15,000 each month to pay down the principle, which means that over this time frame we have been able to pay off an extra \$80,000. This is a remarkable blessing and has been made possible by the generosity of our members. Some of this is due to members using the debt reduction envelopes, some is due to memorials and special gifts, and the rest is due to sustained regular giving by Good Shepherd members.

THANK YOU for your gifts both large and small that are enabling us to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ each week. We look forward to the day we are debt free and encourage you to earmark a little bit extra in the coming months to continue this positive movement toward the black!

As exciting as this is, however, I have come to understand that stewardship isn't primarily about what we do with our money, but about how we live our lives.

When I took over as head of the stewardship committee, it occurred to me that the most valuable resource at Good Shepherd is her members. God has entrusted your soul care to this congregation. This is not just a job for Pastor Koepsell or the Elders or even the Council. Care for one another is a responsibility and a privilege God has given to all of us. Our new Connecting Well survey is intended to help each of us find out where we may be gifted and interested in serving God and others. I want to thank those that have already filled it out and encourage you to at least fill out your name so we know you have seen it.

Filling out a survey will not commit you to anything; nor will you be badgered to get involved in a bunch of stuff. We just want to know more about you.

It is a pleasure serving God with you each week at Good Shepherd.

May the Lord bless you greatly.

Acts of the Church

Baptism:

Bronson Cole Weed, son of Kieran &
Apryl Weed

Baptized 6/14/2020

Courtesy Baptisms:

*Elijah Ronald Will, Courtney Fritz, &
Tonya Richert*

Baptized July 25, 2020



Christmas Boxes

By Pat Phillips

As if these days aren't challenging enough, I would like to present another challenge to Good Shepherd members. Early this year the Craft Group designated part of our proceeds for a mission project. This year it was decided to fill 50 Christmas boxes for the Orphan Grain Train.

We would like to challenge the congregation to match or exceed our 50 boxes. Because of the number of boxes we are filling we were able to order some items at bulk prices. We will be making the surplus supplies available for congregation members to jump start filling their boxes. Feel free to take any item/items that you need. Any remaining items will be donated to the OGT along with the Christmas boxes. Remember there is no fee for us to have the boxes shipped.

Please consider filling a box. The directions for what to include in the boxes is inside each box along with a label and Christmas letter to be included. If you are reluctant to go out shopping, you may also make a monetary donation and we will purchase the items. Boxes should be returned anytime up to August 30th so there will be time for them to be shipped overseas.

On a personal note I have found filling my box was joyful and rewarding experience as well as a great diversion from the chaos and uncertainty in the world around us.

Thank you to all who have already filled a box, donated money or dropped your undies. God's riches blessing to all.

Thank You (Ahead of Time)

By Vivian Mittelstaedt

Thank you to all the members who have signed up to help at the Festival Brat Barn on August 13th and to those who have donated Festival Food gift cards. The Brat Barn is a fundraiser, but more importantly it is a way for our members to interact with the Oshkosh Community. Through this event we increase the visibility of our church and let our friendliness shine.

Texas 2022

The National Youth Gathering is continuing to move forward in their plans for the 2022 Gathering. Held every 3 years since 1980, the LCMS Youth Gathering provides thousands of youth and adults the opportunity to come together as a community of God's people to be encouraged in their walk with Jesus Christ and learn about the Christian faith and their Lutheran identity.

The Gathering is more than the five days of the event. The preparation process for the Gathering brings together young people and supportive adults to encourage each other in their baptismal identity. The Gathering provides young people a vision for the vastness of Christ's Church and equips them for vocational service as they continue their walk with Jesus.

Good Shepherd's Youth are looking forward to the Gathering and are continuing to brainstorm fundraiser ideas. Thank you for the support you have already shown us!

What Shall I Do?

BY KEITH CASEY

I hope that everyone has been having a great summer and getting to spend some quality time with family and friends. Fall is just around the corner and our schedules will return to familiar routines (as much as they can in this time of COVID-19) to include some familiar Church events. Sunday School and Festival brat barn, just to name a couple, all need volunteers. Please consider giving some of your time and talents to these great events.

This Fall we continue our second Sunday service and we need ushers.



If you are interested in serving your Church as an usher, please reach out to Chad Smith or Tom Dunham. Additionally, elections for officers and board chair leads will be coming up this fall. If asked to serve, please consider giving your gift of time to our Church.

I would like to thank everyone for supporting our church community, we are doing well financially despite these unforeseen times. I do ask everyone to prayerfully consider what you can give, both financially and of time. We can use help in lots of areas and your gift of time is very appreciated.

I would like to thank everyone for all their help in making our church grow and prosper.

Back to School

BY JUDY MEHN

Welcome to a new school year! This year Good Shepherd Sunday School will be exploring virtual ways to engage students using the Enduring Faith Sunday school curriculum. Sunday school staff will be prepared to keep students safe if students are hearing God's word at church. The important thing is to continue to dive into God's word no matter what difficult circumstances come our way. The Sunday School staff will be flexible, ready to meet the spiritual needs of your children in the safest manner possible.

The first day of Sunday School will be on Sunday September 13th. Look for the online registration link in your email, or fill out a paper form at church to register your children for Sunday School. Whether Good

Shepherd begins the school year virtually or face to face, these plans will be re-evaluated after the first quarter of the school year to make sure Good Shepherd is providing the best environment to share God's precious word. Memory work will be provided to students in grades K-8 as usual. Details for distribution will be emailed to families who register for Sunday School. Judy Mehn and Jennifer Charles welcome any feedback about how things are going throughout the school year. We want to hear from you! Let us know how we can help!

Take Care and God Bless.

Financial Updates

WRITTEN BY DIANE FLOURO

I would first like to thank all of those that were able to make the Voters Meeting on 7/19/2020. For those that were not able to attend, I will recap our financial position as of 6/30/2020. During this unprecedented time, we have actually been holding quite steady in all aspects of our budget. We have stayed well within budget on our spending and our giving has remained stable. Our total contributions in plate and envelopes was \$173,341 for the 6 months ending 6/30/2020.

As I mentioned during the Voters Meeting, I have gone back a couple of years to change some of the reporting that has been done. I know that many of you want to know that if you give for a specific reason, such as the Debt, that these monies are used for what you designated them for. So, after speaking to the Council, it was determined we would report out on the following areas:

Debt	\$10,976
Missions	\$1,142
Memorials (specified)	\$281
Church Sign	\$5,694* note this is a change from the Voters Meeting after further review
National Youth Gathering	\$1,319
Families in Need	\$1,730
Food Pantry	\$275

I moved these monies to what are called designated funds so that when we need to spend the money, we can take it out of these funds (it does all sit in the same bank account). The balances for the Church Sign, National Youth Gathering, and Food Pantry are cumulative of 2018, 2019, and year-to-date (YTD) 2020 amounts. The balances for the remaining accounts are for this year (2020) from 1/1 to 6/30 because we would have taken the contributions made for Debt and Missions in prior years and paid off part of the mortgage and funded some missions for those amounts.

As we spend these monies, I will remove them from these designated totals, so they will change during the year. For example, when we make a debt payment, I will begin removing the monies out of the designated "Debt" balance above. I still have some adjustments to make to some of the numbers as I work through some of the accounting issues, but I can guarantee that we are using all contributions for debt to pay down our mortgage.

Here are some other numbers you may be interested in (all balances as of 6/30/2020):

Mortgage	\$264,474
Checking	\$53,967
Savings	\$2,048
LCEF Savings	\$20,177
Total Bank	\$76,192

If any of you have ANY questions whatsoever, feel free to reach out to me on my cell phone (920) 420-5841 or email at flourodi@yahoo.com.

Birthdays

August

Ralph Potratz	8/2	Christopher Purath	8/27
Glen Lienhard	8/3	Steven Pflanzer	8/28
Dawn Makurat	8/3	Kristie Zellner	8/30
Howard Hoppe	8/4	Jacob Stinski	8/31
Joann Behm	8/6	Michelle Szweda	8/31
Doug Flouro	8/6		
Elyssa Berry	8/7		
Josiah Charles	8/8		
Sharron Ziemer	8/8	Todd Nagler	9/1
Kristin Mike	8/9	Vivian Mittelstaedt	9/2
Lee Paris	8/9	Gary Schmude	9/2
Josiah Brunner	8/11	Michael Kolb	9/3
Genie Kuble	8/11	Jerry Weber	9/3
Iris Lienhard	8/11	Jim Ziemer	9/3
Jessie McDonald	8/12	Milton Haskins	9/4
Judy Mehn	8/12	Carissa Ullrich	9/4
Pete Mehn	8/12	Zachary Kiffmeyer	9/5
Lynn Jarvenpaa	8/13	Kaitlyn Rock	9/7
Megan Bruss	8/14	Julie Toll	9/7
Shelley Collins	8/14	Grace Martin	9/8
Adam Leinweber	8/14	David Eichhorn	9/9
Adam Tuchscherer	8/14	Alexander Smith	9/9
Marilyn Kleinhans	8/15	Carson Steinbeck	9/9
Ryan Nitzke	8/15	Paul Klatt	9/10
Howard Danula	8/16	Jodie Skadahl	9/10
Joan Warwick	8/18	Kaley Koch	9/11
Matthew Stinski	8/19	Lauren Potratz	9/11
Damien Bandelow	8/21	Beckett Vergin	9/11
Nathan McDonald	8/22	Brody Koepsell	9/13
Alycia Mueller	8/22	Avarie Tritt	9/14
Gwen Cooley	8/24	Eric Kiffmeyer	9/15
Josephine Henriksen	8/24	Dian Sheldon	9/15
Jackie Kiffmeyer	8/24	Janet Dunham	9/18
Betty Jane Gudmanson	8/25	Taylor Rodig	9/18
Terri Ludwig	8/25	Colin McDonald	9/19
Brayden Klauer	8/27	Tina Nitzke	9/21
Wilhelm Lute	8/27	Rick Dittberner	9/23



September

Todd Nagler	9/1
Vivian Mittelstaedt	9/2
Gary Schmude	9/2
Michael Kolb	9/3
Jerry Weber	9/3
Jim Ziemer	9/3
Milton Haskins	9/4
Carissa Ullrich	9/4
Zachary Kiffmeyer	9/5
Kaitlyn Rock	9/7
Julie Toll	9/7
Grace Martin	9/8
David Eichhorn	9/9
Alexander Smith	9/9
Carson Steinbeck	9/9
Paul Klatt	9/10
Jodie Skadahl	9/10
Kaley Koch	9/11
Lauren Potratz	9/11
Beckett Vergin	9/11
Brody Koepsell	9/13
Avarie Tritt	9/14
Eric Kiffmeyer	9/15
Dian Sheldon	9/15
Janet Dunham	9/18
Taylor Rodig	9/18
Colin McDonald	9/19
Tina Nitzke	9/21
Rick Dittberner	9/23
Kevin Dordel	9/23
Portia Weiss	9/23
Eric Smith	9/26
Dixie Hall	9/27
Seth McDonald	9/27
Wes Wojahn	9/27
Gerald Rivera	9/29
Joyce Ludwig	9/30

*"Though one may be overpowered,
two can defend themselves. A cord of
three strands is not quickly broken."*

Ecclesiastes 4:12

Anniversaries

August

David & Jane Eichhorn	8/2
Lee & Nancy Kantin	8/5
Doug & Georgia Zuhlke	8/6
Ralph & Ericka Potratz	8/8
Griffin & Jennifer Wiley	8/8
Tom & Ruth Nevers	8/10
Rev. Charles & Kathy Reehl	8/10
Benjamin & Kimberly Heideman	8/14
Michael & Barbara Kolb	8/17
Steve & Terri Ludwig	8/21
Thomas & Patricia Adamski	8/22
Fred & Jenny Kirchenwitz	8/22
Glen & Iris Lienhard	8/26
Frank & Lynn Jarvenpaa	8/29

September

Steven & Shelley Collins	9/6
Christopher & Amanda Purath	9/6
Faulkner & Jennifer Charles	9/8
Michael & Stacy Martin	9/8
Aaron & Kristy McMillan	9/10
Howard & Joyce Hoppe	9/11
Mark & Patti Stinski	9/17
Rev. James & Laurita Daugherty	9/19
Matthew & Theresa Bray	9/20
Eric & Bianca Smith	9/21
Paul & Carilee Klatt	9/28
Lydia & Tyler Phillips	9/28
Noah & Mandi Hinrichs	9/29

Good Shepherd Council and Board Members

OFFICE	NAME	TELEPHONE
PRESIDENT	KEITH CASEY	(785) 226-3147
VICE-PRESIDENT	CHAD SMITH	(262)-442-0061
RECORDING SECRETARY	DONNA TRITT	(920)420-2803
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	DEB BOCHINSKI	(920) 312-0417
TREASURER	DIANE FLOURO	(920) 420-5841
BOARD OF EDUCATION	JENNIFER CHARLES	(414) 517-9322
ELDERS	TOM DUNHAM	(920) 233-0263
EVANGELISM	VIVIAN MITTELSTAEDT	(920) 479-0775
FELLOWSHIP	LORI PURATH	(920) 379-9202
STEWARDSHIP	DANIEL WEISS	(920) 642-3990
TRUSTEE	CRAIG DREGER	(920) 420-8751
YOUTH	MATTHEW & JULIE TOLL	(920) 379-9938



Hospitalized?? Or you desire a call?? If you are going into the hospital, please call to let the Church Office know. We do not always receive the information in a timely manner so that the appropriate visitation can be made. Also, hospitals can no longer release information to us about your admittance and room number if you have not signed a waiver. If you want a home visit from Pastor Koepsell, a call or other service, please contact the church office with your request.

Before you donate an item to the church, please check with the Church Council. They can assist in placement or find the best use for your donated item. Thank you!

Contact Information

Staff

Rev. Gregory A. Koepsell, Pastor
pastor@oshkoshgoodshepherd.org
Cell (763) 913-8445
Call or text Pastor Anytime

Krista Weiss, Office Manager
krista@oshkoshgoodshepherd.org

Office Hours
M-TH 8:00 am - 1:00 pm
Office (920) 231-0530

Pastor's Hours Tues - Thu
11:30 - 3:00 PM

Web Site:
goodshepherdinoshkosh.com

E-Mail Address:
church@oshkoshgoodshepherd.org

Facebook:
facebook.com/oshkoshgoodshepherd

Worship Services
Thursday - 6:30 pm
Sunday-8:00 am & 10:30 am

Coffee Hour & Refreshments
Temporarily Suspended

Bible Study
Adult—Wednesday at 10:30 am
Adult—Sunday at 9:15 am

Sunday School
Sundays at 9:15 am during the public school year.

Prayer Chain
Kathy Reehl—(920) 688-2312