



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Newsletter



May 2020

Our Vision

Connected to Christ!

Connected to One Another!

Connected to our
Community!

Good Shepherd is all
about building
connections:

- Building stronger connections with Christ through his Word.
- Building stronger connections with one another through fellowship, Christian education, and service, and
- Building connections with our unchurched friends and relatives through the power of the Gospel.

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Worship Christ with us!

Public worship will not be held until the governor's "Safer at Home" order is lifted or modified.

Check out our website for online worship opportunities.

Be strong in the Lord!

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power" Ephesians 6:10

Perhaps by the time you read this our experts will have developed an anti "Coronavirus" vaccine. If so, perhaps an annual shot will offer some protection against that dreaded virus. But not totally, since different strains may still hit us.

After years of fighting the devil's temptations, you'd think he would finally leave us alone. Instead the opposite is true. He steps up his attacks on our faith, telling us not to trust God so much. He tries to shift

our trust from God's promises to wondering if divine help is real. He flashes the grim specter of the grave before our eyes to try and close the door on our hope in Christ's emptied tomb. Often he succeeds and we suffer from a bad case of spiritual infection. What to do? Paul tells us. He urges us not to battle sin and temptation by ourselves, but to turn to God's "mighty power." "Get your spiritual anti-virus shot," he's telling us. Such an inoculation is not found at our neighborhood pharmacy, but in God's Word with

its empowering promises. The more we are assured that he will never leave us or forsake us, that the blood of his Son purifies from all sin, that rooms are waiting for us in the Father's house - the more we will become immune to sin's virus. Antiviral shots we may need annually. Spiritual shots from God's Word we need daily.

Your partner in turning to that powerful Word of our God,

Pastor Richard E.
Lauersdorf

Worship our Lord with joy! (continued on p. 3)

Online worship service and Bible study videos are available at goodshepherdwels.org

Until the "Safer at home" order expires, videos of our worship services and Bible studies will be posted online.

Our leaders are discuss-

ing ways to safely connect with our members in small groups or online.

New worship services, children's messages, chapel devotions, and an evening service called **"Prayer at the Close of Day"** will be posted online.



"Prayer at the Close of Day" provides a way to close out your stressful days with quiet reflection on the Word and prayer.

Online Opportunities to Grow through the Word

Wednesday Bible Study – You may view Pastor Lauersdorf's weekly Bible study online anytime, focusing on the book of Proverbs.

Weekly chapel devotions and children's messages are also available weekly online.

Zoom Bible Study - Pastor Hein is leading a Bible study on the book of 1 Peter in which members with a computer or smartphone may participate online by a program called

ZOOM. The class is, "Christ's Resurrection fills us with a living hope in times of trouble." This book of the Bible offers wonderful comfort to people going through tough times. There are five lessons. It is held Monday nights at 7:00 PM April 20th - May 18th. Email Pastor Hein at revrhein@gmail.com to register.

Devotions - There are devotions and other free materials available at www.wels.net. Including an

online version of this month's Forward in Christ newsmagazine. You may also view this month's edition of the WELS Connection Video highlighting Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. www.timeofgrace.org also offers free devotions online.

Sunday School - Our Sunday School leaders have prepared written materials for their students. A link is set up on our website for anyone to download these materials.

Sacred Concerts, Special Events & Service and Fellowship Opportunities

All events are pending due to current restrictions related to the Coronavirus.

Confirmation, originally scheduled for May 17th, will be rescheduled.

Graduation Acknowledgement

We want to acknowledge our graduates from high school, college, tech/grad. school, or military. A insert will be included in the bulletin June 4 & 7 listing our graduates, the school they attended, and the degree they received. We will also include them in our altar prayers.

To be included on this list, please call the church office at 334-7881 by May 31st.

The 3rd Annual Rams Open Golf Outing has been rescheduled to September 12th.

Our Church Picnic with an outdoor worship service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday August 2nd at Regner Park There will not be an 8:00 service that Sunday.

A local WELS musical group called

"Unworthy" will lead us in worship. After the service, we will enjoy a delicious meal, fellowship, bean bag toss tournament, bounce slide and games. Bring lawn chairs, yard games, and invite your friends.

Vacation Bible School this summer will be held July 27-31 for ages 3 through 8th grade. The theme is "Rainforest Explorers: Jesus leads the way".

Last year we were blessed with 155 children, of whom many were unchurched. We are looking for volunteers (entering 8th grade and up) to help with crafts, teaching, outside recreation, music, and snack service, and other areas. Contact Cheryl Henckel or Pastor Hein for more information.

Summer Camp - Camp Phillip Summer Camp brochures are available at campphillip.com. As a member of the federation supporting Camp Phillip, our children receive a discount. A special offering to support Camp Phillip will be gathered at our services June 4/7th.

Softball – Good Shepherd will field two softball teams this summer. Contact Ross Fassbinder at 414-708-0423 to learn more.

Baby Bottle Banks are usually available Mother's Day weekend to fill them with coins, cash, or checks in support of New Beginnings, a home for mothers in need. This special offering, sponsored by our Ladies League, will be postponed until a later date.

Church Office hours are Monday-Thursday 8:00-11:00 am. Call 262-334-7881 if you have a special need.

Furnishings Update – New furniture has arrived to beautify our narthex using special gifts designated for this purpose. Special thanks to our design committee for their continued efforts to beautify our expanded facilities!

Email updates—To be added to our weekly ministry updates, send an email to Pastor Hein at revrhein@gmail.com. It's a great way to stay informed.

Worship (continued from page 1)

Special music for these services is provided by our **"virtual choir."** Choir members record their voices while listening to an accompaniment track on headphones. Mr. Kramer then merges them into a single track. If you would like to add your voice to this project, contact Mr. Kramer at: jkramer@gsllswb.org.

These videos can be viewed anytime. Your pastors are eager to meet your spiritual needs. Call us at 334-7881 for any concerns.

Cable TV Service - Our Sunday wor-

ship services can be viewed on the West Bend Community Access Charter Channel #987 at 4:00 pm on Tuesdays and Fridays at 9:00 am.

Please share this information with those who do not have internet access. We can also mail sermons or sermon outlines to you if you don't have internet or cable access. Call the church office to be added to the mailing list.

Summer Worship Schedule—If the "Safer at Home" order expires on May 24th, we will resume worship

with the first week of our summer schedule. Our first Thursday evening worship service will be Thursday, May 28th at 6:30 pm. If regulations allow, it may also serve as our Graduation Service for our 8th graders. Sunday worship services will be held at 8:00 and 10:00 am beginning May 31st.

Summer Bible Studies for all ages will be held in church at 9:15 am beginning May 31st, digging deeper into the sermon topic of the day.

Ministry Update

The Coronavirus has impacted our stewardship emphasis, forcing us to postpone our Celebration Sunday scheduled for March 28-29th. Yet, we rejoice that the Lord moved his people so far to return promise gifts for the next three years totaling \$723,000. What a blessing! These gifts will be used to reduce our expansion project mortgage thus freeing up funds for other ministry priorities. You may still return your promise sheet to the church office in person or by mail.

Online Giving - We invite you to continue offering your freewill offerings whether through online giving, sending your offering check through the mail, or dropping it off during office hours Monday- Thursday 8-11 am. To sign up for secure online giving, go to our website www.goodshepherdwels.org, click on the "offering" button, to take you to a giving portal. You may give a one time gift or ongoing offerings. All categories from our

envelope packet are also available online for your convenience. Call the office if you need assistance.

Our church will receive some funding from the government Payback Protection Program to help pay our workers at Good Shepherd School and Little Lambs during this economic shutdown.

The financial impact of the Coronavirus has affected us all in varying degrees. God's Word encourages us to give in keeping with our income. Because of lost income, some people may need to offer less. Others whose income continues may then wish to offer more to help meet our needs. We encourage each member to count their physical and spiritual blessings and return their first-fruit offerings as a joyful act of worship and with confidence in the Lord to provide for our needs.

God's Word teaches, "For if the willingness is there, the gift is

acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have. Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need." 2 Corinthians 8:12-14



One of our action plan goals is to revise our

church structure to increase involvement and ownership from all the members of our church family, male and female, young and old. A subcommittee is studying this issue and reviewing the bylaws of other WELS congregations.

Opportunities to Help Others – Keep your eyes and ears open for opportunities to help people facing challenges during this health crisis. Perhaps you can get groceries for an elderly family. Offer a phone

GOOD SHEPHERD EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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www.goodshepherdwels.org

Please like us on Facebook:

Good Shepherd Lutheran—West Bend, WI

Our Congregational Purpose

Compelled by the love of our Good Shepherd, we gather together around God's Word to

WORSHIP our Lord with joy,
GROW spiritually,
SERVE God and others in love,
SHARE the good news of Jesus.

*My sheep
listen to my
voice,*

*I know
them,*

*They follow
me.*

*I give them
eternal life
and they
shall never
perish.*

*No one can
snatch them
out of my
hand.*



Ministry News

call or letter of encouragement. Purchase a meal "to go" to help those working in the restaurant business. Buy a gift card for future use and purchase an extra gift card to help a family who is facing financial needs right now. Let the pastors know of anyone facing extreme financial needs.

Our **2020-2021 Ministry Plan** is being developed and will be presented for approved at our **Voter's Meeting** now scheduled for Wednesday, May 27th at 7:00 pm. This includes a proposal to issue another one year Call to Pastor Richard Lauersdorf.

Presently our income is tracking closely with our expenses. We thank the Lord for moving the hearts of his people to offer their first-fruit offerings to support our ministry plan and the Lord's work elsewhere. Always remember however that we don't give to "pay the bills." We offer God our firstfruit offerings in gratitude for the incredible blessings we enjoy from him. We give, trusting in the Lord to provide for our needs, and we give to make the most of the ministry opportunities God places before us. All voting members are encouraged to attend.

Call News – We rejoice that Joshua Gibson accepted his call to serve as our 8th grade teacher and his wife Nicole accepted her one year call to serve as a K/1 Reading and Math teacher for our school. We also look forward to welcoming Marlee Hill as our new 3rd grade teacher. Cheryl Henckel declined her call to serve at West Salem, WI and will continue to serving among us. We wish them all God's blessings in their ministries!

Retirement Celebrations - We will thank the Lord for the blessings we have received through the ministry of Joan Kulow at her retirement celebration Sunday June 14th at the 10:00 am worship service, with a meal and program to follow. Look for more details to come. The celebration of Mrs. Cathy Wilk's retirement after 40 years in the public ministry has been postponed until Sunday, September 13th.

The **Parental School Choice** program deadline has been extended until May 14th. To learn more, go to our school website at www.goodshepherdwels.org.

Special Gifts

\$100 given in memory of Patsy Krug from Jerry Krug for Organ Fund.

\$50 given in memory of Sandy Pucher from Ken and Marcia Weber for New Classroom Fund