



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Newsletter



August 2020

A "Leap" of Grace

The Book of Ruth sets before us two noble characters, Ruth and Boaz. Each took a "leap" of grace, acting beyond the bounds of common sense, where another individual chose instead to act in their own interest. Orpah chose to return to her family and her gods. Ruth chose to stay with Naomi, to become a widow in a foreign land. How could Orpah not ask, "What is Ruth thinking?" Boaz chose to redeem Naomi's property and to marry a Moabite woman. The unnamed "Mr. So-n-So" calculated the financial risks of acting as a redeemer and would not. How could he understand the choice Boaz made?

How do we figure them out? Ruth beautifully declared her commitment to stick with Naomi and to worship

Naomi's LORD. Why worship the LORD who had left Naomi without husband or sons in a foreign land? What could it be but that she had seen how the LORD had sustained Naomi through her loss?

Boaz had no obligation to redeem that property or to marry Ruth. The Law made no provision for someone like Ruth. He acted not according to the letter of the Law, but in the spirit of the Law. He reflected the grace of the LORD, who loves us in spite of what we have deserved.

How do people figure us out when they see us making the choice to act against our best interests, selfless, not selfish choices?

An athlete wrote to his former coach in

distance running. The letter chronicled all the things the young man had never been able to understand about his coach: the level of investment of time and of himself in such a mediocre runner, the grace and patience toward such an immature young man, and so on. The letter ended, "...and coach, today I met Jesus Christ, and *I figured you out.*"

Jesus declared that the Old Testament Scriptures testified about him. The Book of Ruth shows us Boaz, the kinsman redeemer and points us to the Redeemer who would come from his family line. Ruth, the woman of noble character, sets before us the character of the Church, the Bride of Christ.

In Christ, Pastor John Paustian

Worship & the Ministry of the Word

Join us for worship at Good Shepherd! Thursdays at 5:00 & 6:30 pm and Sundays at 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am. We continue to promote social distancing and make hand sanitizer available for everyone.

Our **Summer Sermon Series** continues through August focusing on the work of the Holy Spirit.

PLEASE NOTE – Our 11:00 am service is set aside for people who have special health and safety concerns. Everyone will be required to wear a mask at this 11:00 am service. There will be no congregational singing, and the liturgy will be shortened. There will be WELS choir mu-

sic played however. We are offering this special service at 11:00 am to help more of our members with special health and safety concerns to feel comfortable worshipping with us at Good Shepherd. We will continue to offer our regular service format at the other 4 services.

Musical Group - Sunday, August 2nd, a WELS contemporary musical group called "Unworthy" will play at our 8:00 and 9:30 am services. Theme – Learning to love all people the way Jesus does. The Thursday services will follow our regular liturgy. A freewill offering will be gathered to help support their music ministry. Invite your friends to join us!

Online Worship - A recorded version of our worship service from each week-end is available online at our website www.goodshepherdwels.org. We will continue to offer these services online each week. Simply click on the online worship service to view it anytime.

Cable TV Service – our worship service can be viewed on Charter channel #987 at 4:00 pm Tuesday, or Friday at 9:00 am.

Personal Devotions - Your pastors are also happy to meet with you personally for a devotion and the personal celebration of the Lord's Supper. Call us at 334-7881 to set up an appointment.

Public School Catechism Class will be

Worship (continued from p. 1)

held Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:00 beginning Wednesday September 2nd. This is a two year course of instruction for 7th & 8th graders not attending our school. Pastor Paustian will lead the class the first half of the year, and Pastor Hein the second half. Since our goal is spiritual growth, students will also want to attend worship and Sunday School regularly. Attendance at Sunday School is expected to be prepared for Confirmation. Interested

families need to call Pastor Hein this summer at 334-7881 to set up an appointment to meet personally about the goals of Catechism instruction and to register their child before the first class.

Our new Bible Information Class, "Our New Life with Jesus" will be held Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm, beginning September 2nd. (13 Sessions) This course covers the fundamental

teachings of the Bible--a refresher course for our members and a great introduction to the Bible for those who would like to learn more. This course serves as our Adult membership class. There is no cost or obligation to join. Come and learn more. Invite a friend or family member to join you. To register in advance, contact the church office at 334-7881. Led by Pastor Robert Hein.

Special Events

Retirement Celebration for Joan Kulow

On Sunday August 16th we will celebrate the retirement of Joan Kulow, who faithfully served here for all 46 years of her teaching ministry. Join us in thanking the Lord for the blessings we and our children have received through her ministry. A special presentation will be made at the end of the 9:30 am service. Following the service, join us for a celebration meal in the gym and a program in the church.

We will practicing safe distancing. Servers will wear gloves and masks. A card box will also be available for sending best wishes and gifts.

If you can't join us for this celebration, please offer a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord for the blessings God has poured out upon Joan during her ministry. If you plan to attend the meal or can help serve, please RSVP at online link listed here or call the church office at 262-334-7881.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0a49acae2fa4fd0-miss1>

If you're willing to help provide food, supplies, or help serve, please click this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0a49acae2fa4fd0-miss>

40th ministry anniversary - Looking ahead, we will celebrate the 40th ministry anniversary of Mrs. Cathy Wilk Sunday September 13th at our 10:30 am service, with a meal and program to follow. Look for more details to come.

Classroom Renovation - A new classroom for the 1st grade is on track to be finished for the new school year. Thanks to our volunteers, GOAL group, and other supporters who are making this project financially possible.

Stay Connected - To receive a weekly ministry and prayer chain update, send an email to revRhein@wels.net with that request.

Donations welcome - Our Landscape Committee is doing a wonderful job of beautifying the grounds around the church. They have a plan to change the view looking out the narthex windows to the East. You can view the plan on a display board in the narthex. Donations are welcome to help fund this project. \$800 is still needed to completely fund this project.

The Rams Open Golf Outing will be held at West Bend Lakes on Saturday, September 12th at 9:00 a.m. Registration opens at 8:00 a.m. Due to COVID-19, we are limited to 100 golfers (last year we had 136). Therefore you must register AND pay before the event to reserve your spot. First come, first

serve basis. This year there will not be a meal after golf, just the auction/prize drawings. Golfers will be given a sandwich on the turn during golf. To make a donation, be an event / hole sponsor, or volunteer, contact Stacy Geiger at 262-808-7403. Registration flyers will be outside of the school office and found on www.goodshepherdwels.org soon. Thanks for supporting our school fundraiser!

Christ-teens Pizza and Brownies Sale

will be held in August to help raise funds for their activities. Fill out an order form by August 15th and return it to the box in the narthex. Pickup is in the lower level kitchen Sunday August 23rd. Thanks for your support!

Join us for Good Shepherd Family Evening Bible Fellowship & Fun!

This will take the place of VBS this year.

Monday, July 27 from 6:30-7:30 pm – Theme: God's Wonderful Work of Creation

Monday, August 3 from 6:30-7:30 pm: Celebrating the Special Way God Made Us (Come both nights or either one) Engaging Bible Story, Singing, Craft project, Family Bible Trivia game, and Snack.

Because of concerns for social distancing:

Special Events (continued from p. 2)

- We will sit together as families
- All children must come with a parent or guardian 18 or older.
- Families may bring other children with them, under their supervision.
- Member and non-member families

are welcome

- We will practice social distancing and handwashing. Masks not required, but welcome.
- Free. Come enjoy the fun, and learn more about God's love for you!

- Register online at www.goodshepherdwels.org, or call the church office at 334-7881 by July 20th.

Ministry Update

School Update from Principal Dan Schultz

Thanks for the faithful service of our called workers - We recognize the ministry of Ms. Joan Kulow and Mrs. Cathy Wilk who retired after many years of dedicated service to families of Good Shepherd and Shepherd of the Hills. We also recognize Mrs. Jeni Schleeff who served as a support teacher for reading and math and Mrs. Melissa Linton who served as our upper grade teacher. Jeni will be moving out of the area with her husband for his vicar call, and Melissa will be having a baby. We thank the Lord for providing our school with these dedicated workers.

Welcome new teachers - Our new teachers, Mr. Josh Gibson (Grade 8) and Mrs. Nicole Gibson (support teacher) have found a house in the area. They have three children, Jude, Harris and Calvin. Our new 3rd grade teacher, Mrs. Marlee Hill and her husband Tim and daughter Zoie have found a house and have also moved into the area. As part of our joint school partnership, they are members of Shepherd of the Hills. Please keep these families in your prayers as they make this change in their lives.

Accreditation - Our application for accreditation in the 2019-2020 school year was approved as a nationally recognized exemplary school by WELSSA based on successfully implementing and accomplishing ongoing improvement objectives.

Covid and School – This last year sure

was a challenge, but we received many positive comments concerning our great teaching staff and the steps they took to continue education. We also thank our parents as much as was accomplished because of their extra efforts for their children. As we look forward to the coming 2020-2021 school year, we are planning to have our school open and operating in the fall. We are optimistic that we will be able to welcome students back to our school classrooms for face to face instruction. We are excited to reopen our campus to facility use and activities, while simultaneously providing a plan which aims to uphold health and safety practices.

Technology - We are excited to be able to purchase 40 additional Chromebooks for the coming school year which will provide 1 to 1 Chromebook usage in grades 7-8. In addition, the new chromebooks and a couple extra charging stations will allow us to expand Chromebook usage in grades K-4.

Ice Cream Social – Good Shepherd Lutheran School is hosting an ice cream social for new and returning school families Sunday August 23rd from 1:00-3:00 pm. Come meet the teachers and get to know new and returning families and classmates.

School Opening Chapel for the start of the new school year at Good Shepherd is Monday August 24th at 8:30 am. Everyone is invited to attend and ask for God's blessings upon the new school year. The new school session begins that same day at 8:00 am.

Ministry Structure and Bylaw Review -

In 2019 Good Shepherd leaders gathered input from leaders of various areas of ministry and a cross section of our members concerning key areas of ministry to enhance. A Task Force, working with consultant Jeff Davis, developed a three year Action Plan of goals to strive for, which was adopted by our Coordinating Council. This Action Plan was shared with our members at our Building People Connections emphasis. Now we are striving to meet those goals. One area focuses on **Member Ministry Enhancement**.

- Initiate a congregation-wide member ministry effort helping God's people discover their strengths and linking them to service.
- Develop a system to train and prepare church leaders and volunteers for service.
- Revise our church structure to increase involvement and ownership from all the members of our church family, male and female, young and old.

1) We want to remove anything from our Bylaws which HINDERS member involvement

2) We want to adopt Bylaws which ENCOURAGE member involvement.

Task Force Members - Pastor Dennis Lemke, Jim Sievert, and Pastor Robert Hein met and reviewed the Bylaws of Morning Star Lutheran Church, Jackson. They updated their Bylaws in recent years with the purpose of getting more men and women involved in

GOOD SHEPHERD EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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www.goodshepherdwels.org

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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 Update (continued from p. 3)

ministry. We believe they have a good model for us to learn from. We have scheduled an informational meeting **Monday, July 20th at 6:30 pm** at Good Shepherd. Morning Star staff minister Tom Banazak will also be present to explain the benefits of their Bylaws and answer our questions. We are inviting leaders of various areas of ministry, but any interested members of Good Shepherd are welcome to attend.

Building "People"Connections Update - The Lord continues to bless our "Building People Connections" stewardship appeal as our brothers and sisters in Christ have pledged \$742,024 in three year pledges, with \$161,291 received as of April 26, 2020. 152 giving units are participating so far. Our goal is to reduce or eliminate our \$1.2 million dollar

Sunday School -Plans are being made to observe safety guidelines in our classrooms in the new program year beginning the Sunday after Labor Day. New teachers are needed for the coming year to limit the class size for our youngest students and to replace Cheryl Henckel, who is stepping down after many years of faithful service. More information and registration forms will be posted online.

The Lutheran Boy and Girl Pioneer Leaders are planning adjustments for their programs for the coming year to deal with safety concerns. More information will be available online in the near future.

Special Gifts

\$50 in memory of Sandy Pucher from Little Lambs for Time Out For Moms

\$50 in memory of Sandy Pucher from Michelle Weston-Pucher for Little Lambs

\$20 in memory of Beth Wagie from Wayne & Diane Robinson for Building People Connections

\$50 in honor of Lloyd & Joyce Gatzke's 65th Anniversary from Jerry & Joan Krug for Building Connections

\$20,000 in memory of Kathy Lochen from family and friends for Memorial Fund

\$90 in memory of Kathy Lochen from family & friends for Current Expenses

\$45 in memory of Kathy Lochen from family & friends for Building Connections

\$50 in memory of Kathy Lochen from Ken & Marcia Weber for the New Classroom Fund

\$20 in memory of Betty Kohlwey from Jerry & Arlene Prochnow for Building Connections

\$1,325 in memory of Betty Kohlwey from family and friends for School Tuition Assistance