

Dear Beloved Church-

As I have now been your Interim Pastor for a full year, you may be wondering, "What's happening? What's next? Do they have any leads on a new pastor yet?" Hopefully this letter will help to answer some of the questions you may be having.

**The Pastoral Transition Process** outlined by our synod has four phases.

- **Phase One: The time after the pastor announces their departure.** In the case of Good Shepherd, this first phase was more abrupt with the death of Pastor Susan. However, this is the time in which the synod works with the congregation to make arrangements for interim or bridge ministry.
- **Phase Two: Self-Study & Visioning Process, Congregational Profile.** This process which has been led by me was completed when we submitted a package called the Congregational Profile to the synod and it was approved by Bishop Davenport. (There is one final document to be submitted which is a financial review of the congregation. As soon as the outside auditor sends her report, all of the Profile's details will be finalized.)
- **Phase Three: The Call Process.** The Call Process begins when the Congregational Profile has been approved by the Synod's Office of the Bishop. At this point, the congregation selects a Call Committee. (This is basically where we are now.)
  - \* *Next!* The Call Committee receives the names of possible pastoral candidates in a highly confidential process.
  - \* After the Call Committee interviews pastoral candidate(s) and hears them preach, it eventually recommends one pastoral candidate to the Council.
  - \* If the Council agrees, the Council calls a special congregational meeting; this is done in coordination with the Office of the Bishop which appoints a deputy to run the meeting. Normally, the pastoral candidate leads worship and preaches at a Sunday morning worship service, which is followed by the special congregational meeting as described in the congregation's constitution.
  - \* If the congregation decides to issue a call to the pastoral candidate, and the pastoral candidate accepts, then he or she becomes the next regularly-called pastor of the congregation.
  - \* The Interim Pastor leaves.
- **Phase Four: Implementation with Next Pastor.** The congregation welcomes the new pastor. This new partnership is celebrated with a formal installation service. The arrival of the next pastor is not a time when "things return to normal," but is a continuing part of transition. Throughout the Synod and beyond there are resources for congregations as they continue to live into the future to which God is calling them.

### About the Call Committee

At the Church Council's July meeting, Tony Scheivert was nominated and approved to serve as the Call Committee Chairperson. Serving along with Tony are the following members: Christiana Bangura, Ashley Dively, Vince Herman, David Nussbaumer and Hanny White. Please remember the committee in your prayers as they begin their important work.

The Call Committee will be meeting with the Transition Team and the Church Council in the next few weeks and on their own. This is so that they can be prepared to meet with pastoral candidates whose names are submitted for their review. Please know that the Call Process is **extremely** confidential.

- ♦ **The Call Committee** will not share information about any candidate with the exception of the one they recommend to the Congregation Council.
- ♦ **The Congregation Council** will not share information about the candidate recommended by the Call Committee until they decide to present the candidate to the congregation for consideration.
- ♦ **The Congregation** will not seek to gain information about candidates from the Call Committee or the Congregation Council during the interview stage. When the Congregation Council recommends a candidate to the congregation for consideration for call, the congregation is asked to maintain confidentiality until after the call vote is held. This allows the candidate time to inform his/her congregation of the new call.
- ♦ **The Interim Pastor** will not seek or provide any information about any candidate to the Call Committee, Congregation Council, or the congregation. Typically, the Interim or Bridge Pastor does not know the identity of any candidate.

What this means, is that for the time being, neither the Church Council nor I will have any information about pastoral candidates. The Call Committee may share information such as "we will be interviewing a candidate" but that's about it. When they do have information that can be public, we will share it with you as soon as possible.

None of us know how long this process will take. I can't tell you how long I will be here. What I can tell you is that things are going well. This is a healthy, stable congregation that is not just surviving, you are thriving in noticeable ways. As we move into the fall, I hope you will take advantage of new and old opportunities for ministry as we strive to know, live and share God's Word!

*Pastor Heidi*



## A Message from the Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry

September is here and I am excited to have a fall full of activities for the church to participate in.



**Rally Day-** School has started and we are so excited to kick off our fall programming. Come for a blessing of the backpacks and stay after worship for a special hour of fellowship. All are invited to attend.

**LIFT** will start back up September 17th immediately following worship. We are excited to have a new curriculum, *Whirl*, which is a lectionary-based Sunday School program. This means the lessons will correspond with the lessons from each week's worship service. LIFT is expected to last no more than thirty minutes and everyone is invited to attend.

**Youth Group Fun!** Immediately following worship on September 24th we will be exploring an escape room. All youth in grades 5-12 are invited to come join the fun, fellowship and pizza!

**BINGO-** On October 21st we will be hosting a *Bag and Basket Bingo* as a fundraiser to support youth attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in 2024. If you are interested in donating a bag or basket please contact me at [CYFM@luthgoodshp.org](mailto:CYFM@luthgoodshp.org).



**Trunk or Treat-** Saturday, October 28th we will be having a Trunk or Treat in the lower church parking lot from 10am-12pm. You can sign-up to host a decorated trunk at the Welcome Center. We hope you will invite your friends, family and neighbors to trick or treat with us!

BINGO							
15	28	37	51	73			
6	17	32	45	61			
9	15	★	60	70			
12	26	44	52	66			
7	22	34	48	72			

If you have any questions or ideas to share, please contact me by email or call 267.463.3914.

Thanks! Katie Schnaath

## Our Church Directory is Online!

View our church directory online or via the FREE mobile app today.

To view the directory online, go to [members.InstantChurchDirectory.com](https://members.InstantChurchDirectory.com) and follow the prompts under "Sign In" to "Create a login now." Please remember, you must confirm your email address before you can sign in.

There is also a free mobile app available for download at the Apple® App store in iTunes®, Google Play™ store and the Amazon Fire App Store. Simply search for "Instant Church Directory" to get the download.

You will need to use your email address as listed in our directory to create a log-in the first time you use the directory online and via the mobile app.

## Need help or have questions?

Please contact Sandy or Pastor Heidi.



Our Church Directory is powered by [Instant Church Directory](https://InstantChurchDirectory.com).

## Parsonage Update

The Property Committee has been working diligently to prepare the parsonage for its next inhabitants. This summer the kitchen was fully renovated. Most of the interior has

been painted and a professional cleaner will be "deep cleaning" the house shortly. The current plan is to rent the house with a three-month lease, followed by a month-to-month agreement. This should give the congregation sufficient flexibility so that when a new pastor is called, they would be able to move into the house.

Given the present cost of housing, the parsonage should be a real plus for pastoral candidates.



### Women's Retreat

**Friday, September 29th through Sunday, October 1st**

This retreat is designed to provide women with an opportunity to enjoy time both individually and collectively, participate in creative activities, explore outdoors, have time for rest and renewal, and be in the beauty of God's creation in a peaceful setting.

Learn more at [bearcreekcamp.org/womens-retreat](https://bearcreekcamp.org/womens-retreat).

Registration is open now!

## Monthly Pancake Breakfast

**Saturday, September 16, 2023 8-10 am**



This event is open to the public.

Tell your friends and neighbors.

Join us for pancakes, french toast, bacon, sausage, eggs/omelets made to order, hash browns, dry beef gravy, baked goods, fruit, coffee, tea and juice.

\$10 adults/\$4 children

## Hanny's Bible Study

Hanny's Bible Study will resume on Wednesday's at 10:30 am beginning September 6, 2023 in the Café.

All are welcome!



## Thanksgiving/Christmas Meals & Gifts

Social Ministry is again offering full meal makings for both Thanksgiving and Christmas to members of the congregation, their families and friends. Please think about the people you know who would benefit from this offering and take the registration forms to them to complete and return by October 15, 2023. Please make special note of the dates for returning the registration and the pick up dates. Thank you from Social Ministry.

Call the office at 610 384-2035 for a form!

## Music Opportunities!

**Handbell ringers needed!** No experience necessary. First rehearsal is on Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 in the sanctuary. Please see Martha or email her at [mchan@luthgoodshep.org](mailto:mchan@luthgoodshep.org) before 9/4 if you are interested in joining.



**Adult Choir!** I invite you to join the Adult Choir in our quest to worship our Lord. We will start rehearsal on Thursday Sept. 7 at 7:00 pm in the music room. We sing at the 9:30 am service on Sundays from September through May and other special services. Even if you feel you do not know how to sing you can join. My job is to teach you. We have a lot of fun while we try to worship the Lord to the best of our availability. Looking forward to seeing some new faces!!! Feel free to contact Donna Fesmire, [dfesmire@luthgoodshep.org](mailto:dfesmire@luthgoodshep.org), with any questions.



## New Member Orientation

Are you or someone you know interested in learning more about becoming a member of Good Shepherd? We will have an informational meeting on Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup> immediately following the worship service. If you have any questions, please contact Pr. Heidi, [hrodrick@luthgoodshep.org](mailto:hrodrick@luthgoodshep.org).



## Giving

Activate the QR Reader to make an online gift to the general fund or designated ministries.



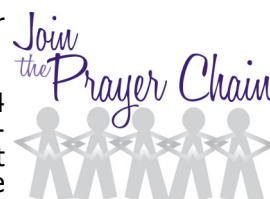
## Thrivent Choice Dollars

Are you a member of Thrivent? You may have unused Choice Dollars! Choice Dollars can be designated to Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. Another great way to keep our ministries going! Check with your Thrivent Representative for more information.

## Prayer Chain Updates

Kim Tapscott has the prayer chain up and running!

Kim can be reached at 484 678-9255 for all prayer requests. You can also contact Pr. Heidi or Sandy at the church office.



If you would like to be a part of the Prayer Chain, please contact Kim and she will see that you are included!

## The Blessings Box

**Add the Blessings Box to your shopping list!** Every day a Good Shepherd volunteer replenishes the Blessings Box with non-perishable food, personal care and household items. Often when they arrive, the box is nearly empty which tells us that people depend on us as a regular resource. With changes to SNAP, the need for assistance only increases. Additionally, spring into summer can be a difficult time for people in need. As you do your weekly shopping, please remember this important ministry.

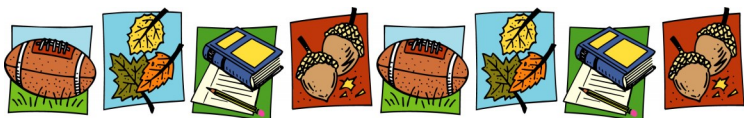
## Church Council

At the August Council meeting, the following officers were elected to council:

**President:** E.B. Smith  
**Vice President:** Hank Dermer  
**Secretary:** Sue Durborow



Congratulations and thank you!





9/1 Darlene Hoskins  
Dave Murray  
Betty Lou Flinn  
9/6 Lisa Barnes  
Melanie Black  
9/9 Heidi Nussbaumer  
9/10 Cyndy Dermer  
9/11 Colin Gasbarro  
9/15 Augustulyn Tarr  
9/16 Susie Gberi  
9/17 Chip Breuninger

9/18 Pr. Heidi  
Evan Albright  
9/20 Margaret Roth  
Michael Williams  
9/22 Hawah Anderson  
Makayla Clark  
9/23 Sally Williams-Sammond  
Barbara Flowers  
Josh Black  
9/24 Deb Mentzer  
9/25 Bradley Rubincam  
Stephanie Griffith  
Frederick Franklin  
9/28 Elizabeth Davis  
9/29 Cecelia Faut  
9/30 Karen Smith  
Mark Neff

9/3	Bob & Carol Bisignaro, Jr.	40 yrs.
9/7	Ed & Kandy Waas	56 yrs.
9/9	Todd & Sabrina Matukaitis	17 yrs.
9/14	Elinore & Terrance Zaplitny	55 yrs.
9/14	Cyndy & Hank Dermer	32 yrs.
9/18	Bob & Sandy Haines	41 yrs.
9/19	Cheryll & Kevin Morris	36 yrs.
9/19	Frederick & Anna Franklin	72 yrs.
9/21	Noel & Carolyn Harje	60 yrs.
9/21	Kevin & Cheri McMenamin	38 yrs.
9/22	Sharon & Randy Davidson	33 yrs.
9/26	Donald & Hubertha Althouse	49 yrs.
9/26	Sanne & Steve Eisenhauer	14 yrs.
9/27	Shane & Tara Zaplitny	26 yrs.
9/29	Pam & Francis Taylor	23 yrs.
9/29	David & Meredith Nussbaumer	12 yrs.
9/30	Bill & Stephanie Griffith	23 yrs.



### Financial Update - June 2023

**Receipts:** Total Current Receipts through June 2023 were up (+3.4%) compared to the same period in 2022. Adult Receipts (pledged giving) was up (+5.9%). Other Adult Receipts were up (+6.2%). Hall Donations/Rental Fees were up (+17.2%). Mortgage Receipts were down (-34.1%).

**Expenses:** Total Current Expenses through June 2023 increased by (+29.0%) compared to the same period in 2022. The largest portions of the increased expenses were due to Staff salaries and Property maintenance.

### July 2023

**Receipts:** Total Current Receipts through July 2023 were up (+6.5%) compared to the same period in 2022. Adult Receipts (pledged giving) was up (+0.4%). Other Adult Receipts were up (+68.6%). Hall Donations/Rental Fees were up (+18.6%). Mortgage Receipts were down (-28.6%).

**Expenses:** Total Current Expenses through July 2023 increased by (+19.9%) compared to the same period in 2022. The largest portions of the increased expenses were due to Staff salaries and Property maintenance.