

PASTOR'S NOTE

You're Invited...



Dear Siblings in Christ,

Have you ever been invited to attend an event, and your experience turns out to be completely different than what you expected, but also exciting in ways you never could have predicted? That's how I feel about the last 18 months here at Good Shepherd.

The past year and a half have become one of the most challenging times in our congregational history. The COVID-19 pandemic, Pastor Joe's stroke and ongoing recovery and all the necessary adaptations we needed to function personally and institutionally; were undoubtedly like none we have ever seen! Throw in racial, political and all the other divisions present in our society, and it is enough to make anyone throw up their hands in defeat.

Yet, we have come through these challenging times and have found ways to thrive, even amongst these incredible changes. All of us were invited to find new ways to stay connected, to grow in our faith and find ways to have a significant impact on our Madison and Verona communities. Thanks to your generosity in the Beyond Campaign, we also were able to upgrade our facilities, including remodeling and soon a new sign at our Verona Campus to connect with our neighbors. We have also reduced our mortgage debt by more than \$1.5 million dollars over the past two years. And we did all of this during a pandemic! Who would have thought that would be possible 18 months ago?

All these accomplishments could not have happened without two things: our abiding faith in God who created the Church and continues to support its future, and YOU. Your prayers, time and financial commitment to the ministries of Good Shepherd have been critical over these past months. **Thank you!** Not just from your pastors and staff, but on behalf of all the people that have been positively affected by one or more of these amazing ministries and programs.

Your experience at Good Shepherd began with an invitation as well. From worshipping in the basement

of the parsonage on Whitney Way 60 years ago, to knocking on doors in Verona 20 years ago, to welcoming new members online during the pandemic; Good Shepherd is a place of invitation and welcome.

This month you will receive a new invitation to engage with God, each other and God's world. Starting this weekend, we will begin our 2022 Generosity Campaign: "You're Invited." Over the next few weeks, you will get to hear and read about the impact pastors and staff at Good Shepherd are making in the lives of our members and in our community.

This is Good Shepherd: A congregation who sees someone new and welcomes them. It's a congregation who invites people to more - more community and opportunities, more growth in our love for God and our neighbors. It's a congregation where an invitation given to us becomes an invitation we extend to others.

While we are still feeling the effects of all the changes that this disease has wrought, God continues to call us to be people of faith, trust and generosity. Your commitment to financially support Good Shepherd is the only way we can faithfully and boldly embrace God's dreams for our church. You are invited to respond, to pray and to take part in what promises to be another faith-filled year of living out the church's mission statement to Welcome, Forgive, and Serve! **This is Good Shepherd. You're Invited.**



Chris Enstad

Lead Pastor Chris Enstad

SHARED VISION COLLABORATION RETREAT RSVP for Vision Event October 11

Join us as we gather all committee chairs, co-chairs, board members, directors, staff and pastors to collaborate and align our direction with our Vision. Please register and select a meal by October 6 via this link: gslcwi.com/visionretreat or call Judy Hoard during church office hours. Contact Sara McCormack at skmccormack@gmail.com or 608-206-2315 with questions.

Statement of Activity - General Fund

	Actual	Budget	Variance
Revenue	\$ 253,453	\$ 281,260	\$ (27,807)
General, Admin & Program Expenses	(244,906)	(290,423)	45,517
Mortgage Principal - General Fund	(23,078)	(18,341)	(4,737)
Revenue less Expenses and Mortgage	\$ (14,531)	\$ (27,503)	\$ 12,972

Cash Balances

	August 2021	June 2021	YTD	Change
General Fund	\$ 598,932	\$ 528,060	\$	70,872
Board Designated Funds	597,271	643,169		(45,898)
Restricted Funds	409,455	505,107		(95,652)
Total Cash & Investments	\$ 1,605,658	\$ 1,676,336	\$	(70,678)

Mortgage Balance

	August 2021	June 2021	YTD	Change
Loan Balance Outstanding	\$ 1,688,890	\$ 1,761,941	\$	(73,051)

Baptisms

Rebecca Carney-Maxwell, baptized on September 5, 2021.

Piper Rose Carney, child of Rebecca Carney-Maxwell and Mark Maxwell, baptized on September 5, 2021.

Wyatt S. Kraemer, child of Kate & Jeff Kraemer, baptized on September 12, 2021.

Clara Marie Zeamer, child of Michael & Julie Zeamer, baptized on September 19, 2021.

Christian Sympathy

Christian Sympathy to Deb Polster, Alyson Schaefer, Keith Garland and families on the death of their mother, Bette Garland of Madison, WI, who died on August 17, 2021.

Christian Sympathy to Sue Hagen, Scott Hagen and Mark Hagen and families on the death of their husband/father, Dick Hagen of Black Earth, WI, who died on August 24, 2021.

Altar Flower Sponsorships Available

There are Sundays available in 2021 for you to sponsor an altar flower bouquet in memory or in honor of a loved one or for special occasions. The bouquet will be a beautiful addition to the altar at both campuses! You can sign up on the Altar Flower Chart for the remainder of this year at the Madison Campus located in the lobby by the entrance to the office. You can also sign up online by going to gslcwi.com/flowers OR sending an email to Judy Hoard at jhoard@gslcwi.com. Each arrangement is \$50. When paying by check, please make it payable to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church with "altar flowers" in the memo line.

Fall Book Group Begins this Month

Join Sarah Tuesday October 12, 19, 26 and November 2 for conversation on the book "Messy Spirituality" by Mike Yaconelli. This accessible book is for anyone who wonders if you are "enough" or knows the truth of not having it all together. Through stories and liberating prose, the book opens our eyes to the deep spirituality of being loved - shortcomings and all - by the God who meets you and transforms you during this messy and unpredictable life. This book is a good read for adults of all ages - and teenagers. All are welcome. We'll gather at our Madison Campus from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Please read through Chapter 2 for our first gathering. This book is available at barnesandnoble.com, Zondervan.com and Amazon.

Exploring the Return of Upward Basketball

We are exploring the possibility of bringing back the Upward Basketball program to Good Shepherd! We will only be able to do this if we can recruit a group of people who have a heart for working with youth and youth sports. If you are someone who would be interested in helping get this ministry started and run successfully over the next several months, please contact Rick Thomas at rthomas@gslcwi.com or 608-212-7582. We need people to work on a team to do one or more of the following tasks: overall season planning, player recruitment, coach recruitment, evaluation day organizer, data entry, practice night supervisor, game day supervisor, devotion planner and end of year ceremony planner. No experience necessary.

SERVICE

Helping Neighbors

There are many families in Madison and surrounding communities in need of household supplies and furniture. We cannot accept large donations at church but are in contact with families in need of pots and pans, utensils, dishes, toasters, rugs, towels, sheets, lamps, beds, microwaves, all kitchen items, wall art, vacuums, TV's, even couches. So, if you are moving, downsizing, or just looking to get rid of items, please call Donna at (608) 640-4931. Your gently used household items can really make a difference for these very thankful families.

FOOD PANTRY GARDEN

Fall Cornstalk Sale

It is time for pumpkins and hay bales, how about some cornstalks? Our Good Shepherd Food Pantry Garden has cornstalk bundles available for fall decorations. Suggested donation is \$10 each. All proceeds go to supporting the Food Pantry Garden. Cornstalks on sale at both campuses after worship on October 3 & 10.



You're
Invited...

Good Shepherd
LUTHERAN CHURCH

You're Invited...to lead

Bill Wilcox shares how leading an Amped Confirmation group shaped him

Bill Wilcox didn't realize what the Lord would call him into, back in 2007.

He was dealing with two major life events. His father died in March, and he found out he was losing his job of 27 years later that year.

"I was thrown off of my normal life balance," Bill said. "Something was needed in my life to help fill some social, emotional and even spiritual spaces." At Good Shepherd that summer, there was an announcement inviting people to be guides for its Confirmation ministry known as Amped. "(My wife) Brenda suggested that I should try this, to which I thought, what? No way, I can't do that!" Bill said. "What do I know about teaching, let alone teenagers? However, there was just a tiny little whisper way back in my mind saying "never say never."

After a few more weeks, those little whispers became louder. Without really knowing anything about Confirmation or what would be expected, Bill signed up to be an Amped guide. In September, Bill met the Amped director at the time, Sarah Iverson, along with nine 7th graders. He quickly learned the only way he could "guide" these young people was to be genuine, show he truly cared about them and let his faith experience grow along with theirs. Ninety minutes of Confirmation after a long school day could be a challenge. But "in those moments when things just clicked, the word awesome wasn't big enough to describe how that made me feel," Bill said.

One of his biggest memories came from memorizing Isaiah 43:1, "Don't be afraid, I've redeemed you. I've called your name. You're mine." This verse has become a favorite and helps remind Bill every day he is a beloved child of God. Bill has served as an Amped guide for eleven years. He is honored to be a small part of the lives of many outstanding youths at Good Shepherd. His faith has grown. But he only hopes those youth were able to gain even a portion from him as much as he has gained from them. "Remember, no matter what your age is, we are all God's Children and to try and listen to those little whispers that are coming from inside," Bill said. "It might just be The Holy Spirit and it might just change your life."

Your generosity to Good Shepherd makes it possible to have sustained excellence in Christian education through programs like Amped and leaders like Director of Spiritual Programming and Development Sarah Iverson, Amped director Becca Mortensen and Youth Assistant Laura Clark. As a faith community, we are transforming your good gifts into ways to invite all to fully participate in learning about our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We are helping them find connection to others and their own spiritual gifts.

Thank you for the ways in which you make this transformation in the lives of members like Bill possible. Please prayerfully consider what you can do to help support the ministry of Good Shepherd when you receive your Generosity packet in person or in the mail the week of Sunday, October 31.

Read more stories from our 2021 Generosity Theme at gslcwi.com/stories



Madison Campus (MAILING ADDRESS)
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Office Hours Update

Good Shepherd office hours are 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. in Madison and 8:30 a.m.- Noon in Verona Monday through Thursday. Both offices will be open 8:30 a.m.- Noon on Friday. The Madison building will be closed between 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. for the lunch hour.

October Event Highlights | gslcwi.com/events



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
Bible Presentation

Sunday, October 3
 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.
 Both Campuses



FAMILY FAITH
Baptism Class

Thursday, October 7
 6:00 p.m.
 Zoom Online



COMMUNITY EVENT
Car Show & BBQ

Sunday, October 10
 1:30 – 4:30 p.m.
 Verona Campus



FOOD PANTRY GARDEN
Harvest Dinner

Sunday, October 10
 5:00 p.m.
 Verona Campus



SHARED VISION
Vision Retreat

Monday, October 11
 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.
 Verona Campus



FELLOWSHIP
Hymn Sing

Monday, October 18
 7:00 p.m.
 Madison Campus



COMMUNITY CARE
Prayer & Share Dinner

Wednesday, October 27
 6:00 p.m.
 Madison Campus



COMMUNITY EVENT
Trunk or Treat

Monday, October 30
 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
 Madison Campus