

PASTOR'S NOTE

# What Makes Us Uniquely Good Shepherd

And why AI won't be taking over this column anytime soon...

## Dear Friends and Family of Good Shepherd,

The news has been full of reports about the "Rise of Artificial Intelligence," or AI, in the past few months. This is a field of research that has been recognized as an academic discipline since 1956! It is only in the last few years, and truly the last twelve months, that it seems the foot has been on the technological accelerator as new breakthroughs and subsequent portability to mainstream applications has taken off. I thought it would be an interesting thought experiment to ask the ChatGPT AI to write my newsletter article for May. Here is the result:

Dear Church Family,

As we embrace the month of May, I invite us to take a moment to contemplate the various reasons we have to be encouraged and revitalized. Firstly, we have the wondrous blessing of spring. The days are lengthening, the temperature is rising, and the flowers are blossoming. This time of year is symbolic of new beginnings, an opportunity to sow seeds and witness them flourish. Secondly, we have the power of community. We are surrounded by individuals who cherish and support us. We possess a church family that is constantly present for us, no matter what. Thirdly, we have the strength of faith. We trust in a loving God who has a plan for our lives. This provides us with hope for the future, even when life is challenging. In the midst of all the hurdles we face, we must not neglect these blessings. Instead, let us allow them to inspire and motivate us. Thank you for being a part of our church family. Your love and support are truly appreciated.

*Sincerely,*  
Your Senior Pastor

Not too bad for an inspirational spring update for a generic church I suppose! But as I read this response, I couldn't help but feel that something was missing...

There are 317 churches in Dane County, 156 just in Madison. Nearly all those congregations will put out some form of newsletter this month. And most of those will include some sort of message from their pastor or pastors.

What is it about Good Shepherd that makes us unique compared to all the other choices out there? That is the question that we have been praying and planning around for nearly six years! From the hard work and prayer that has been invested in our Mission and Vision Statements, our Statement of Welcome, and now our Strategic Plan we keep asking the question: "What is the unique calling for our community of faith in this place and time?"

Through our mission to Welcome, Forgive and Serve we have started to build out 6 pillars of focus for these next few years: Worship, External Relationships, Internal Relationships, Hospitality, Spiritual Formation and Leadership/Professional Development. While these six pillars certainly don't encompass everything that makes Good Shepherd unique, they will help us to focus our work together to have the greatest impact with faithful stewardship of our time and resources.

In all these conversations, however, I keep coming back to YOU! It is the people of Good Shepherd that make us truly unique amongst the multitude of choices available today. We believe it is our calling in a divided world to be a place where people from all backgrounds, politics, social statuses, or whatever title our culture gives to you, can come together to share in the reconciliation that has been won for all people in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Have a blessed May! Alleluia! Alleluia!



Pastor Chris Enstad

**Baptisms**

Emerson Ellen Gonzales and Lillian Gonzales, children of Stephanie Benson-Gonzales and Nick Gonzales baptized on April 30, 2023

**Christian Sympathy**

Christian sympathy to Becky, Matt and Sadie Skibo on the death of husband/dad, Jim Skibo of Madison, WI who died on April 14, 2023.

Christian sympathy to Eileen Hochmuth & family on the death of her mother, Frances Trainor of Mt. Horeb, WI who died on March 21, 2023.

Christian Sympathy to Good Shepherd member Mary Schwartz on the death of her husband, John Schwartz of Darlington, WI who died on April 19, 2023



**Staff Transition Coming this Month to Youth & Family Life**

Good Shepherd's Director of Youth and Family Life, Becca Feldhacker will be leaving our staff as she moves into a new role with the Collaboration Project. Becca will wrap up her role at Good Shepherd on May 14. This will allow her to close out the program year with the Affirmation of Baptism service (May 7), the Amped Guide Dinner (May 10), Senior Night (May 11), and Senior Recognition Sunday (May 14). We will gather in the near future to give thanks to Becca (and Dan) for their ministry with and for us. Sarah Iverson has offered to serve as Director of Youth and Family Life Ministry in an interim capacity through at least the summer, as the Children, Youth and Family Committee and the Board examine the structure of our programs and ministry. We will use this time to ensure we are in alignment with our strategy and goals for our church and our ministry to youth and their families. A BIG thank-you to Sarah for her willingness to serve again. As a church community, we give thanks to Becca and Dan for their ministry not only to our youth but to our families and wider community through these almost 5 years of service! Thank you, Becca, for walking alongside this community. We are excited to see where your next steps take you!

**FINANCIAL DASHBOARD**  
**March 2023 Update**

**Statement of Activity - General Fund**

|                                    | Actual       | Budget       | Variance  |
|------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| Revenue                            | \$ 1,484,636 | \$ 1,429,073 | \$ 55,563 |
| General, Admin & Program Expenses  | (1,499,087)  | (1,521,599)  | 22,512    |
| Mortgage Principal - General Fund  | (73,632)     | (54,405)     | (19,227)  |
| Revenue less Expenses and Mortgage | \$ (88,083)  | \$ (146,931) | \$ 58,848 |

**Cash Balances**

|                          | June         |              |     |           |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|-----|-----------|
|                          | March 2023   | Fiscal 2022  | YTD | Change    |
| General Fund             | \$ 690,702   | \$ 691,410   | \$  | (708)     |
| Board Designated Funds   | 98,154       | 411,295      |     | (313,141) |
| Restricted Funds         | 424,093      | 376,270      |     | 47,823    |
| Total Cash & Investments | \$ 1,212,949 | \$ 1,478,975 | \$  | (266,026) |

**Mortgage Balance**

|                          | June       |              |     |           |
|--------------------------|------------|--------------|-----|-----------|
|                          | March 2023 | Fiscal 2022  | YTD | Change    |
| Loan Balance Outstanding | \$ 816,808 | \$ 1,306,410 | \$  | (489,603) |



**REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT MINISTRY**  
**Donation Event Gathers Supplies to Help Welcome New Neighbors**

Dozens of volunteers from Good Shepherd gathered to collect donations April 15 to help a refugee family from Burundi. The initiative to start a refugee assistance program at Good Shepherd came from long time member Ross Lyman, who helped aid refugees at a church he belonged to in the Chicago area a few years ago. When he and his wife Cathy moved to Madison, Good Shepherd impressed them with their efforts at outreach — except for helping refugees. “I was surprised we weren’t doing more,” Lyman said. He started investigating the possibility of starting a program at Good Shepherd, especially since many refugees from Ukraine and Afghanistan were moving into the church’s Meadowood neighborhood. He learned all refugee resettlement in the Madison area was run by Jewish Social Services (JSS), whom he had never worked with before. Yet he realized that Good Shepherd and JSS shared a common goal – helping refugees integrate into the community.

**Read the full story at [GSLCWI.com](http://GSLCWI.com)**



CONGREGATIONAL CARE

## Stephen Ministry Training Returns this Fall

Are you blessed with gifts of caring, compassion and empathy? Are you looking for a way to put those gifts to use in service to others? We are recruiting participants to join our Good Shepherd Stephen Ministry group with a training course beginning this Fall. Stephen Ministers serve as supportive listeners and prayer partners to anyone who feels a need for encouragement in their lives. They provide empathetic, confidential support to their care receivers. Stephen Minister training is one evening a week for several months, culminating with a commissioning service at the conclusion of the training. Regular Stephen Ministry meetings, after completion of training, occur one evening per month. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to enrich your gifts and use them to provide Christian caring to those needing help. For more information and to discuss any questions contact Stephen Ministry Leader Karna Boquet at [karnakitzrow@yahoo.com](mailto:karnakitzrow@yahoo.com) or by phone at 608-333-4932.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

### Enneagram Book Group

In February we hosted a wonderful workshop with Dr. Drew Moser, who helped begin to look at the Enneagram as a tool of discernment to help us better understand ourselves and others. Regardless if you attended the workshop, all are welcome to be a part of a month- long book group, exploring Dr. Moser's book, "the ENNEAGRAM of DISCERNMENT". We'll meet in the Verona Campus lounge on from 6:30 -7:30 p.m. on Wednesday nights - May 10, 17, 24, and 31. A zoom link will be made available in eNews. Please read the first 2 chapters for our first gathering. Contact Sarah Iverson with questions at [siverson@gslcwi.com](mailto:siverson@gslcwi.com).



LITTLE BLESSINGS PRESCHOOL

### Now Enrolling for Fall

Now is the time to sign up your preschool student for the Fall. There are openings at both Madison and Verona locations. Learn more and enroll at [littleblessingsps.com](http://littleblessingsps.com)



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

### Playgroup on Tuesdays at Verona Campus Gym

Caregivers and children up to age 3 are welcome to playgroup Tuesday mornings in the Verona campus gym. Together we'll enjoy structured story time, music, free play and connection. Questions, contact Emily Gold [egold@gslcwi.com](mailto:egold@gslcwi.com)

### Baptism Class via Zoom on May 18

The class is open to all families preparing for baptism. Learn how we practice the sacrament of baptism at Good Shepherd and connect with other families. The class will be offered via Zoom. For more information or to register for the class, visit: [gslcwi.com/baptism](http://gslcwi.com/baptism). For questions about baptism, contact Emily Gold at [egold@gslcwi.com](mailto:egold@gslcwi.com)

FACILITIES



### Seeking Vehicle Donation for GSLC

Do you have a car, van or truck that you would like to donate? Good Shepherd is seeking a new vehicle to replace the older van we have used for many years. Contact Brent Marshall at [blmarshall@gslcwi.com](mailto:blmarshall@gslcwi.com) if interested in helping out.



### Love Cutting Grass? Mow at GSLC!

It's time to fire up the riding mower once again. Good Shepherd is seeking folks who are interested in volunteering a few times per year to help cut the grass. Volunteers are needed for both campuses. Contact [blmarshall@gslcwi.com](mailto:blmarshall@gslcwi.com) to sign up to mow.



FELLOWSHIP

### Good Shepherd Night @ the Duck Pond

Save the date for Tuesday, June 13 at 5 p.m. as Good Shepherd heads to the Madison Mallards for a game. More details on how to buy tickets coming this month!

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

### Team World Vision Sunday is May 21

Every year a team of runners from Good Shepherd and the wider Madison community join forces to make a difference. By gathering sponsorships for running or walking in the Madison Marathon, they help raise money for clean water around the globe. This is your year to sign up! Join a team of runners and help make a difference. Learn more during worship on Sunday, May 21 or contact Danielle Sill at [danielle.n.sill@gmail.com](mailto:danielle.n.sill@gmail.com)



CONFIRMATION

### Affirmation of Baptism Service May 7<sup>th</sup>

We gather at the Madison Campus on Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. to welcome 33 confirmands as they affirm their baptism. There will be a livestream of the service available at [gslcwi.com](http://gslcwi.com).



**Good Shepherd**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Madison, WI  
Permit No. 1265

# Galaxy of ADVENTURES

Summer at Good Shepherd



## Register Today for VBS June 19-22 at Verona Campus

Blast off on a cosmic quest to shine Jesus' light through music, craft, story and play.

Ages 3 - Completed 2nd grade, 9:00 -11:30 a.m. at Verona campus.

Registration and information for this program and all of our summer opportunities at:

[gslcwi.com/summer](http://gslcwi.com/summer)