

PASTOR'S NOTE

Exploring The Liturgy of Politics

What does it mean to pursue Spiritual Formation for the Sake of our Neighbor?

Dear Friends in Christ,

I had the opportunity to attend the Larger Church Conference for ELCA Senior Pastors a few weeks ago. This annual conference is not sponsored by the ELCA but has been organized and supported solely by pastors and para-church sponsors for well over 20 years. It is an opportunity for leaders of multi-staff churches to come together for four days of dynamic speakers, fellowship and connection with each other and organizations that hope to help the current and future church.

One of our guest presenters this year was **Kaitlyn Schiess**, a staff writer at Christ and Pop Culture who also happens to be one of Eric Holmer's teaching assistants at Duke Divinity School! Her book, *The Liturgy of Politics: Spiritual Formation for the Sake of Our Neighbor*, was our assigned reading for the week and formed the basis of her presentation. Her thesis is particularly relevant to our church and our world as we enter another divisive election season in a divided culture and country: Do we know what our Bibles say about God and God's world, or do we just not care? In other words, are we aware of how our actions, beliefs and statements reflect our beliefs and faith in Jesus?

The answer, according to Schiess, lies in our spiritual formation. Most spiritual practices have tended to be intensely individualistic: e.g., judging their efficacy based on if they make us "better people" or feel "closer to God". Schiess believes the better question to ask is, "What am I being formed to love?" or, "How does this spiritual practice form me in ways that have consequences for how I treat my neighbor, sometimes through political participation?"

The crux of Schiess' argument is this: We already participate in liturgies of politics that shape us in unintentional ways and that we receive

without any real critical or second-order thinking. Many Christians believe that the church should "stay out of politics." But the reality is that our faith plays a huge part in our life with other people, which, in fact, IS political. There are many "gospels" taught to us every day whether we are aware of them or not. The prosperity, patriotism, security and supremacy gospels are just four that Schiess identifies. Ironically, none of these "gospels" are the Gospel: Jesus Christ is risen and ascended and will come again to establish the Kingdom of God here, on earth. Salvation has been won for us by Jesus Christ. The fruit of our salvation, therefore, is that Christians pledge allegiance to a new leader, and a new creation, not one that plays to our sinful, divisive and fearful natures but one that calls us to live the resurrected life in the here and now. Jesus saved us so that we might serve each other and our neighbors; free from fear of death, isolation or our own self-regard.

In short, Jesus' coming kingdom, the kingdom we catch glimpses of every day, is a kingdom of shalom. Shalom is much more than the simple word – peace. It encompasses a state of being and yearning around wholeness and intactness. It's the way things are supposed to be, not the way they are. We stand to gain deeper understandings of God's shalom if we lean into healthy conflict and abandon the status quo to bring us out of the darkness of our divisions to live truly for each other. As we enter a divided time, as residents of an already divided country, ask yourselves "Is this really the way things are supposed to be?" If your answer is "no", then let's figure out what building shalom might look like in our church and communities in the days and months to come. The word for this way of being is "diapRACTICE": practicing our faith while remaining in close dialogue with each other around the holy sacraments. More on this to come.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Chris Enstad

Pastor Chris Enstad



Christian Sympathy

Christian sympathy to the family of Mike and Anne Bodden. Mike died on December 20, 2022 and Anne died on March 15, 2023, both of Madison, WI.

Christian sympathy to Amy Haskins & family on the death of her mother, Betty Carlson of Rockford, IL who died on April 25, 2023.

Christian sympathy to Elaine Bugge & family on the death of her husband, Larry Bugge of Madison, WI who died on April 26, 2023.

Christian sympathy to Spencer Johnson & family on the death of his mother, Lana Johnson of Middleton, WI who died on April 27, 2023.

Christian sympathy to Pat Westimayer & family on death of her husband, Steve Westimayer of Madison, WI who died on April 30, 2023.

Christian sympathy to the family of Marj Pope. Marj died on May 3, 2023 in Madison.

Christian sympathy to Beth Ringgenberg & family on the death of her mother, Helen Ringgenberg of Iowa City, IA who died on May 10, 2023.

Christian sympathy to Patty Weiler & family on the death of her father, Edward J. O'Connor of Belleville, WI who died on May 15, 2023



New Member Gathering on July 16

'What does it mean to be a member of Good Shepherd? Join us after worship on Sunday, July 16th at our Verona campus and find out! We'll have a new member luncheon where you can learn more about membership at Good Shepherd, and we can learn more about you. Lunch provided. Please reach out to our Hospitality Coordinator Ronda Beggs with any questions, or RSVP at rbeggs@gsclwi.com

FINANCIAL DASHBOARD April 2023 Update

Statement of Activity - General Fund

	Actual	Budget	Variance
Revenue	\$ 1,656,423	\$ 1,587,859	\$ 68,564
General, Admin & Program Expenses	(1,656,494)	(1,690,666)	34,172
Mortgage Principal - General Fund	(82,875)	(60,450)	(22,425)
Revenue less Expenses and Mortgage	\$ (82,946)	\$ (163,257)	\$ 80,311

Cash Balances

	April 2023	June Fiscal 2022	YTD	Change
General Fund	\$ 595,954	\$ 691,410	\$ (95,456)	
Board Designated Funds	212,821	411,295	(198,474)	
Restricted Funds	402,628	376,270	26,358	
Total Cash & Investments	\$ 1,211,403	\$ 1,478,975	\$ (267,572)	

Mortgage Balance

	April 2023	June Fiscal 2022	YTD	Change
Loan Balance Outstanding	\$ 786,630	\$ 1,306,410	\$ (519,781)	



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Neighbors Gather at Madison Campus for Annual "Stop the Violence" Event

Sheray Wallace of the Meadowood Health Partnership (pictured above) gathered community partners for a special gathering sponsored by Oak Bank. Over 200 meals were served from the Holy COW as visitors learned about anti-violence initiatives and connected with community organizations. Thank you to everyone who stopped by!





Join Stephen Ministry this Fall

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 Ministry 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 or by phone at 608-333-4932.

MEET GOOD SHEPHERD

Summer Coffee Group Starts this Month

Enjoy a cup of coffee, a donut, and a good conversation on the second Thursday of the month (June 8th, July 6th, and August 10th) at 10:30 a.m. in the Good Shepherd Room at the Madison Campus. This gathering is open to all as a time to visit with folks you know, and folks you don't know yet. Think of it as an extension of the lobby on Sunday morning. Other snacks and friends are welcome.



EVENTS

Bingo Night at Verona Campus June 21

Join us under the tent in Verona on June 21 at 6:30 p.m. for a fun evening of Bingo! The Holy Cow will be there with something delicious! Everyone is welcome!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Annual Meeting set for July 23 in Verona Content Needed for 2023 Annual Report

Good Shepherd's annual congregational meeting will occur Sunday, July 23 at noon at our Verona Campus. At the meeting, the congregation will approve board members for the coming year along with approving a new budget. The church will also publish the annual report for the congregation in connection with the meeting. If you are connected to a group or committee that usually is represented in the report, we will need to receive all materials going into the report by Friday, June 16. If you have any questions about material for the annual report, please email Director of Administration Rick Blum at rblum@gslcwi.com.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



Family Friday Dinners Start June 2 in Verona

Are you a family with children under the age of 12? Connect with other families at a meal served by the Holy Cow under the Verona Tent on June 2, July 7 & August 4 at 5:30 p.m. Food, beverages and toys will be provided. If interested, contact Emily Gold at egold@gslcwi.com.



Register today for VBS June 19-22

Blast off on a galactic adventure to shine Jesus' light. Crafts, games, snacks and music are provided for kids age 3-completed 2nd grade. Register at gslcwi.com/summer.



Upcoming Fun Nights

- Incoming Freshmen, Wed. June 14 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Email Sarah Iverson at siverson@gslcwi.com.
- Elementary age children who have completed K-4th grade, Tues. June 27, 6:00-7:30 p.m. Register at gslcwi.com/summer.
- Incoming Middle School students, Wed. June 28, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Register at gslcwi.com/summer.



FELLOWSHIP

Good Shepherd Night @ the Duck Pond

Join Good Shepherd on Tuesday, June 13 at 5 p.m. for a special night enjoying a Madison Mallards game. Purchase your tickets online at gslcwi.com/mallards

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES



Serve the Congregation as a Worship Volunteer

Interested in getting involved but not sure where to begin? Considering serving as a worship volunteer! Did you know that it takes about 15 volunteers each Sunday to make sure worship runs smoothly? We need folks to usher, greet, assist with communion and host our coffee bar. We'd love to add you to one of our worship teams. It's a great way to serve your church family and to get to know people! Training is available. Interested? Please reach out to our Hospitality Coordinator Ronda Beggs at rbeggs@gslcwi.com.

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Connect with the COW this Month!



Music Mondays

Gather on the front lawn of our Madison Campus for an evening of live music and delicious food from the Holy COW Food Truck. A variety of artists take the stage and there is something for everyone to enjoy!

DATES

6/12, 6/26, 7/10,
7/24, 8/7, 8/21
5-7 p.m.

LOCATION

Madison
Campus
Front Lawn



Worship in the Park

The Holy COW is the Church on Wheels! Throughout the summer, we will be gathering for worship services in parks across the community. Stop by for a story, food and a brief worship service.

DATES

Visit gslcwi.com/holycow
for schedule

LOCATION

Visit gslcwi.com/holycow
for Locations