

God's Reconciliation Project: Good News in Divided Times

A summer preaching series from
Paul's Letter to the Romans



Dear Friends in Christ,

The theologian, N.T. Wright, wrote, "The deeply personal reconciliation between the creator God and the human race in and through Jesus the Messiah can hardly be explored too often, or too thoroughly." The Christian church on earth has spent a lot of time thinking, writing and preaching about either individual salvation and spiritual growth or trying to make the church politically relevant by trying to bring one group or another's version of the Kingdom of God into existence.

What both projects do ignores the fundamental truth of God's saving action; namely, that Jesus Christ's death on the cross has reconciled us to God and our enemies. There must be a way that our individual faith and trust in God, combined with our communal efforts to be God's hands and feet, can bring unity across divided families, communities, and nations. The question we will explore in this preaching series for the second half of the summer is, "How might God's saving and reconciling act in the death of Jesus Christ be a model for the reconciliation of our divided world?"

We will explore Paul's writings to the church in Rome as our basis for our preaching, singing, and praying. I invite you to bring your Bible to church or check in on these messages at home or on the road in your own worship, devotions, and study.

Revisiting this theme will help us unpack our church's mission to "Forgive as we have been forgiven" as we welcome and serve each other and our communities. This is as radical a notion in this contemporary age as it was 2,000 years ago.

Pastor Chris Enstad

Sunday, July 16 | Romans 8:1-11 "Broken Spirits, Broken Bodies"

Sin and pain damage our human bodies as well as our souls. The body and spirit are not separate but are interrelated with each other in large and small ways.

Sunday, July 23 | Romans 8:12-25 "Labor Pains"

God brings restoration despite our pain and brokenness. There is no need to wait until we get it all perfectly figured out or have achieved some holy level of spirituality to participate in this grace and mercy! We are God's adopted children, each and every one of us.

Sunday, July 30 | Romans 8:26-39 "Inseparable"

No amount of sin or brokenness can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. We say that "forgive as we have been forgiven" is a part and parcel of our mission and vision. This is grace that does not have to be manufactured by our own feelings about each other, it is imputed to us by Jesus.

Sunday, August 6 | Romans 9:1-15 "All-Inclusive Grace"

God chooses us all, despite our differences and divisions.

Sunday, August 13 | Romans 10:5-15 "The End of the Law"

God restores what is broken – not anything we do can achieve that restoration. What does it look like to live as creatures of grace rather than the law? We seem to have all the freedoms in the world and yet all of us exhibit some level of soul-sickness that means that something isn't quite right.

Sunday, August 20 | Romans 11:1-2a,29-32 "God is in Control"

Though brokenness remains, we trust in God's restoration project. The ultimate building project, whole people, whole church, whole world.

June Baptisms

Nolan Leonard Maddox, son of Cody and Kayla Maddox, was baptized June 11, 2023

Jaelyn Kay Bubolz, daughter of Josh and Lisa Bubolz, was baptized June 25, 2023

Christian Sympathy

Christian sympathy to Greg Vlack & family on the death of his father, Verne Vlack of Middleton, WI who died on June 4, 2023.

Christian sympathy to Lois Jacobsen and family on the death of her sister, Anne Jensen, of Palo Alto, CA who died on June 9, 2023.

Christian sympathy to Cara Moll & family in the death of her father, Jerry Duncan of Indian Land, SC who died on June 22, 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@gslcwi.com



Good Shepherd is Seeking a Middle & High School Ministry Coordinator

Good Shepherd is looking for someone to join our Children, Youth and Family team as a full-time Middle and High School Ministry Coordinator. This position will focus on the administrative tasks and program coordination for 6th-12th grade ministries, working alongside Sarah Iverson, Director of Spiritual Development & Interim Youth Director. Ideal candidate is highly organized, detailed orientated, can work collaboratively, and enjoys the process of executing the work of youth ministry. Find the job description at gslcwi.com/jobs or email Sarah Iverson.

FINANCIAL DASHBOARD

May 2023 Update

Statement of Activity - General Fund

| | Actual | Budget | Variance |
|------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| Revenue | \$ 1,811,192 | \$ 1,746,645 | \$ 64,547 |
| General, Admin & Program Expenses | (1,835,629) | (1,859,732) | 24,103 |
| Mortgage Principal - General Fund | (92,281) | (66,495) | (25,786) |
| Revenue less Expenses and Mortgage | \$ (116,718) | \$ (179,582) | \$ 62,864 |

Cash Balances

| | May 2023 | June Fiscal 2022 | YTD | Change |
|--------------------------|--------------|------------------|-----|-----------|
| General Fund | \$ 551,328 | \$ 691,410 | \$ | (140,082) |
| Board Designated Funds | 188,154 | 411,295 | | (223,141) |
| Restricted Funds | 388,987 | 376,270 | | 12,717 |
| Total Cash & Investments | \$ 1,128,469 | \$ 1,478,975 | \$ | (350,506) |

Mortgage Balance

| | May 2023 | June Fiscal 2022 | YTD | Change |
|--------------------------|------------|------------------|-----|-----------|
| Loan Balance Outstanding | \$ 711,926 | \$ 1,306,410 | \$ | (594,484) |



COMMUNITY FUNDRAISERS

Shredding Event and Food Pantry Food Drive

It's time again to bring your papers that you need shredded to the Thrivent office—load up your vehicle and bring your piles, stacks, and boxes of paper! Come any time between 8 - 11 a.m. on Saturday morning, July 15, to the Thrivent parking lot at 708 Heartland Trail in Madison. Have all your papers in bags or boxes, and a member of the team will carry it from your vehicle to the shredding truck. They will accept items to be shredded until the truck is full. Staples and rubber bands do NOT need to be removed. 3-ring binders, hanging file folders, binder clips and plastic sheet protectors cannot be shredded. In addition to your items needing to be shredded, please consider bringing items that will benefit families who visit the Good Shepherd Food Pantry. For every non-perishable item donated, Thrivent will give \$3 to the food pantry; Thrivent will donate up to \$3,000 total in matching funds to the food pantry! The Holy COW will also be on-site, serving free coffee and pastries throughout the event.



Have you stopped by the COW lately?

The Church on Wheels has been moooving at full speed all over the Madison area this Summer – with many more events to come!

Visit gslcwi.com/holycow for upcoming stops



Experience Community & Fun at Music Mondays this Month

Once again, Summer at Good Shepherd has been marked with many gatherings that bring together the entire community for fellowship. At Music Mondays, we're joined by local musicians and the Holy COW provides a pay-what-you-can meal along with fresh, free produce from the Food Pantry Garden.

5-7 p.m. on the Madison Campus Front Lawn

- July 10 – Common Chord
- July 24 – UW Marching Band

COMMUNITY EVENTS BBQ Rib Competition Returns to Madison

On Saturday, July 22, bring your appetites to Madison Campus for some of the finest BBQ Ribs in the neighborhood! We are bringing back our much beloved BBQ competition, with proceeds from the event supporting the Good Shepherd Clothes Closet. Interested in entering your ribs in the competition? Contact Rick Thomas at rthomas@gslcwi.com to sign up!



CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

Kinder Creation Camp

This camp is geared specifically towards little learners, ages 3 - completed Kindergarten. Discover God's creation through outdoor exploration, musical movement and hands-on creations. The camp is July 17-19 from 9-10:30 a.m. at the Verona Campus. Register online at gslcwi.com/summer

Camp Create-It

Explore your God given creative gifts. If you love to craft, cook, try messy experiments, make music or just plain CREATE; this is the space to experiment with some hands-on creations. The camp is July 31-August 3, from 9:00 a.m.- Noon at the Verona Campus and is geared towards completed K through 4th grade. Register at gslcwi.com/summer

WORSHIP & MUSIC



Worship in the Park at Tower Park this July

696 Fairview Terrace, Verona, WI

Each Thursday night in July, Good Shepherd and the Holy COW will be at Tower Park in Verona from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. for an evening of worship, communion, and a meal from the Holy COW. Invite a neighbor for a taste of what worshipping God can look like!

Lift Your Voice in the Summer Choir

Throughout the summer Sundays of July 2, 16, August 6 and 20; EVERYONE is invited to sing in the Summer Choir at the Madison Campus. Simply meet at 8:20 a.m. for a brief rehearsal in the sanctuary and share it for 9:00 a.m. worship the same Sunday. If you've been contemplating joining the GS Choir, or have been wondering what it might be like, or just love to sing; this is a great opportunity for you! New voices and all ages are welcome! Contact Jared Stellmacher at jstellmacher@gslcwi.com if you have any questions. If you're interested, just show up on Summer Choir Sundays.



EVENTS Trivia Night Under the Verona Tent

Join us under the tent on Wednesday, July 19th at 6:30 p.m. for a super fun night of trivia. Premier Trivia will be on site to host this event. Come as a team of 4, or we'll assign you to a team when you arrive. Prizes! Fun! Fellowship!



MEET GOOD SHEPHERD Summer Coffee Group on July 13

Enjoy a cup of coffee, a donut, and a good conversation July 13 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! Contact Sarah Iverson with any questions.



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CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**Annual Meeting set for July 23
at Verona Campus at 12 p.m.**

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 have any questions about material for the annual report, please email Director of Administration Rick Blum at rblum@gsclwi.com.

This Meeting will be available both in-person and as a livestream via Zoom. The link will be distributed via our website and e-mail.