

Be Opened...

In a world that often defines us by our differences, how can we be opened to live out God's grace?

By Pastor Sheryl Erickson

The theme you will hear at Good Shepherd the next few months is “Be Opened.” But “Be Opened” is not a political slogan or an advertising theme. **It's something Jesus said and did.**

In Mark's gospel, chapter 7, a man is brought to Jesus who is deaf and has a speech impediment. Jesus takes him aside from the crowd, puts his fingers in his ears, spits and touches his tongue, and speaks these words, “Be opened”. Instantly the man is healed. His life is forever changed by these two healing words from Jesus.

As we Worship, Forgive, Serve, and grow together around church this fall, we'll explore what it means when Jesus tells us to “be opened.”

Here are some foundational ways we become “opened” by Jesus:

...healing. When Jesus said, “Be Opened,” Jesus' words and actions were healing. Jesus offers that same power of healing to us. Because of Jesus, we become the “opened” ones. Our lives are no longer restricted. We become full of possibility in Jesus.

...freedom. As Christians, we are released by Jesus. When Jesus opens us - we are freed from those things that close us in on ourselves. We are no longer confined by the restraints that cut us off from others: sin, selfishness, turning a blind eye, or deaf ear, to the needs and cries of our neighbors.

...abundance. When we are “opened” by Jesus, it means we are opened to everything Jesus has to offer us in this world: love, forgiveness, justice, mercy, service & hope. When we are “opened” by the healing power of Jesus, his power works through us to heal broken relationships, heal our communities torn by division, even heal problems in the church.

What will Jesus' command to “Be Opened” mean for us at Good Shepherd in the weeks and months ahead as we live life together as the body of Christ? How will it impact the church as we start up church school and AMPED again, teaching our children about our faith? How will it impact the way we serve our neighbors in Madison and Verona? How will it impact our efforts as we move forward to call a new lead pastor? Or as we hold our annual Generosity campaign and ask one another to increase our financial giving and personal time toward the work we do together?

Jesus says, “Be Opened”. In a world that often defines us by our differences, how can we be opened to live out God's grace? I look forward to exploring with you what living in those healing words from Jesus look like in the weeks to come.

Blessings,



Baptisms

August 18, 2024: Alexander Morales, Nataly Alexa Morales, Naomi Atziri Morales—children of Veronica Santana and Alexander Morales

August 25, 2024: Owen Dale Richter and Bennett Thomas Richter—children of Molly and Nicholas Richter

Christian Sympathy

Christian Sympathy to Donna Skoug and family on the death of her husband, Keith, of Madison, WI, who died on July 27, 2024.

Christian Sympathy to Nan Schilling and family, and Brent Marshall and family on the death of their mother, Jean Marshall, of Verona, WI, who died on August 12, 2024.

Christian Sympathy to Nathan Marty and family on the death of his wife, Lois, of Madison, WI, who died on August 15, 2024.

Christian Sympathy to Paul Hutson and family on the death of his mother, Christina Hutson of Madera, CA, who died on August 12, 2024.

Christian Sympathy to Bev Lange and family on the death of her husband, Jerry Lange of Madison, WI, who died on August 19, 2024.



Family Donates Vehicle to Replace Good Shepherd Minivan

Thanks to Paul and Teresa Hutson for donating their 2008 Honda Odyssey to Good Shepherd to replace our aging cargo van. Their donation helps Good Shepherd avoid a costly expense, and earns them a tax write-off as well. If you would like to consider donating your used vehicle to Good Shepherd, please email accounting@gslcwi.com.

FINANCIAL DASHBOARD

July 2024 Update

Statement of Activity - General Fund

	Actual	Budget	Variance
Revenue	\$ 158,951	\$ 193,820	\$ (34,869)
General, Admin & Program Expenses	(164,277)	(201,569)	37,292
Mortgage Principal - General Fund	(4,914)	-	(4,914)
Revenue less Expenses and Mortgage	\$ (10,240)	\$ (7,750)	\$ (2,490)

Cash Balances

	June			
	July 2024	Fiscal YR 2024	YTD	Change
General Fund	\$ 491,653	\$ 496,430	\$ (4,777)	
Board & Mortgage Reserve Designated Fui	34,962	36,110	(1,148)	
Donor/Grant Restricted Funds	181,532	228,816	(47,284)	
Beyond Campaign Projects Fund	71,771	75,504	(3,733)	
Columbarium	74,880	63,195	11,685	
Total Cash & Investments	\$ 854,798	\$ 900,055	\$ (45,257)	

Mortgage Balance

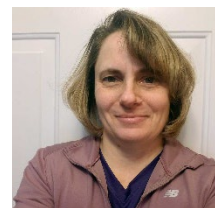
	June			
	July 2024	Fiscal YR 2024	YTD	Change
Loan Balance Outstanding	\$ 220,935	\$ 665,097	\$ (444,162)	-405928

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Meet the New Good Shepherd Board



Vern Andren
President
Term ends '26



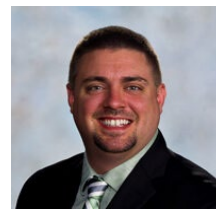
Betsy Johnson
Vice President
Term ends '25



Karen Smith
Secretary
Term ends '27



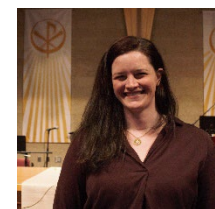
Tyler Gold
Treasurer
Term ends '25



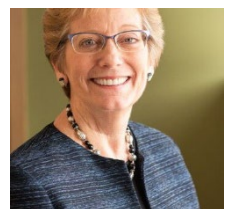
David Vogt
Term ends '25



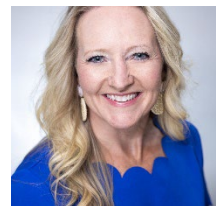
Paul Hutson
Term ends '27



Liz Deterding
Term ends '26



Deni Naumann
Term ends '26



Tonya Schram
Term ends '27

Call Committee Updates

Good Shepherd's Call Committee will conduct two mock interviews in September to see how well the committee is prepared to start receiving applications for the church's new lead pastor. If all things go well, they expect to have Good Shepherd's Ministry Site Profile posted on the ELCA website in the near future.



Combined Worship & Potluck

- Sunday, September 1 @ 10:00 a.m.
- Jared Stellmacher | jstellmacher@gslcwi.com
- Verona Campus

We gather as one congregation for one combined worship service followed by a potluck under the tent with brats and hot dogs served by the Holy COW!



Good Shepherd Dash

- Saturday, September 7
- Danielle Sill | Danielle.n.sill@gmail.com
- Race Begins at Madison Campus

Run, walk, scoot or bike from Madison to Verona Campus in this fun and unique race to support the work of Team World Vision Madison.



God's Work. Our Hands Sunday

- Sunday, September 8
- Dara Schuller-Hanson | dschuller@gslcwi.com
- Madison and Verona Campus

Good Shepherd will join ELCA churches around the country in acts of service for our neighbors on this special Sunday. We'll also bless LWR quilts.



Fall Kick-Off Sunday

- Sunday, September 15
- Joanne Zastrow | jzastrow@gslcwi.com
- Madison and Verona Campus

Welcome to Fall at Good Shepherd – we're celebrating in a big way this year with food, games and fun for everyone at all services.



Fall Baptism Class

- September 26 at 6 p.m.
- Emily Gold | egold@gslcwi.com
- Zoom

Meet with other families that are considering baptism and learn about the Biblical basis for baptism in this online class format.

Women of the ELCA Fall Retreat

- Saturday, October 5
- Helen Sheahan | helenswo15@gmail.com
- Bethany Lutheran Church

All women and friends are invited to the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin Women of the ELCA Fall Retreat. The theme is "Turning the World Right Side Up"



LITTLE BLESSINGS PRESCHOOL New Afterschool Program Launched

Little Blessings Preschool (LBPS) in Madison is starting a new afterschool program for elementary school children. Starting Monday, Sept. 23, we will extend our hours until 6 p.m. and be able to accept children kindergarten - 5th grade. Interested? Email LBPS Madison Director Heidi Anderson at handerson@gslcwi.com.

COLLEGE MINISTRY Stay Connected with Good Shepherd while on Campus

Keeping the Connection is a Good Shepherd Ministry that ensures students post-high school and college stay connected to the Good Shepherd community by sending cards and small packages throughout the year to wherever you call home. If you would like to sign up, please complete the form online at: gslcwi.com/ktc24

WORSHIP Fall Altar Flower Sponsorship

There are Sundays available in October, November and December to sponsor altar flower arrangements in memory or in honor of a loved one, or for special occasions. You can sign up on the Altar Flower Chart at the Madison Campus located in the lobby by the entrance to the office; online through our website at gslcwi.com/altarflowers. The cost when ordering online is \$52. You can also send 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.

GUEST SPEAKERS Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb's Presentation on Palestine

When: Sept 8 at 7 p.m. | **Where:** Midvale Lutheran

Born and raised in Palestine, Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb is a co-founder of Bright Stars of Bethlehem. He is founder and president of Dar al-Kalima University in Bethlehem. Previously, he was the pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church in Bethlehem. Raheb will provide a firsthand account of the current crisis in Gaza and the West Bank and how the work of Bright Stars of Bethlehem is offering hope in the lives of people experiencing extreme suffering and challenges.



Good Shepherd
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Madison Campus (MAILING ADDRESS)

5701 Raymond Rd.
Madison, WI 53711-4231
608-271-6633

Verona Campus

7291 County PD
Verona, WI 53593
608-845-8955

Fax 608-271-2657

info@gsclwi.com

gsclwi.com

Sunday Worship Times

In-Person & Online | gsclwi.com/live

9:00 a.m. Madison Campus

10:00 a.m. Verona Campus

6:00 p.m. Verona Campus

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage

PAID

Madison, WI
Permit No. 1265

Sunday, September 1
Combined Worship & Potluck
10:00 a.m. Verona Campus

Saturday, September 7
Good Shepherd Dash
9:00 a.m. from Verona to Madison

Sunday, September 8
God's Work Our Hands
All Worship Services

FALL KICK-OFF

Sunday, September 15

**FOOD & FUN FOR ALL AGES
AT EVERY SERVICE!**

Good Shepherd
LUTHERAN CHURCH

