

Volume 2 | Spring 2024

The Shepherd's Horn



*Stories of faith & ministry from the community of
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Cincinnati, OH.*

Welcome



Hello, and welcome to Good Shepherd! I'm Lorne Hlad, Senior Pastor and head of staff at the church. Thank you for taking a moment to review our Spring edition of the Shepherd's Horn Magazine.

This March marks one year since I joined the congregation, and I continually give thanks for the many ways God has abundantly blessed our community over the past year. Like early spring buds beginning to emerge on trees, signs of new life are emerging all around us at Good Shepherd. God is bringing more and new people who are joining us in weekly worship, our ministry to families with young children is expanding, music ministry is flourishing, and our core local and global ministry partnerships are thriving due to the selfless service of our people who strive to be the heart, hands, and feet of Jesus every day.

In January, our long-range Vision Taskforce began its work with the help of lead navigator Bryan Rose from Auxano Church Partners. The Vision Taskforce, comprised of 13 diverse representatives from the congregation, will continue meeting through September as we work to discern the unique ways God has equipped GSLC to live into the great commission and make disciples in the 21st century.

Soon, the task force will launch a congregational engagement survey across Good Shepherd to gain important insights about people's strengths and challenges when engaging in our current ministry. This survey, along with future listening posts and congregational forums, will provide opportunities for everyone to participate in the visioning process as we work toward a renewed sense of mission and long-range strategic plan.

Along with learning more about the Vision Taskforce's work, inside this edition, you will also read inspiring stories highlighting the many ways God's mission for the world is active through our ministry at Good Shepherd.

As you read along, I pray you are filled with joy and hope for our future together!

God loves you, and I do too!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lorne Hlad".

Dr. Rev. Lorne Hlad
Senior Pastor

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Front cover photo: Palm Sunday worship from 2018. Above photo: GSLC members attending the annual Found House: Interfaith Housing Network Breakfast

Upcoming Congregational Meeting

by Pastor Lorne

All Good Shepherd members are encouraged to attend a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 5th from 10 am to 11 am in the Sanctuary.

At this meeting, our congregation will vote on important updates to the Good Shepherd's Constitution and Bylaws, share important ministry highlights from the previous year of ministry, and update you on the work of the Mission & Vision Taskforce.

The Good Shepherd Constitution and Bylaws are the governing documents of our congregation and were last updated in 1996. In order to keep this document in accordance with our denomination, several necessary revisions are required.

These revisions can be summarized across three areas:

1. *To make overdue updates to the language and statutes ensuring our constitution reflects our current ministry structure. The constitution reflects an administrative structure from decades past and does not reflect our current staffing model.*
2. *To align our constitution with the 2022 model constitution of our denomination, the ELCA requires certain provisions to be adopted when a congregation changes its governing documents.*
3. *To change our bylaws to align our fiscal year with the calendar year beginning on January 1st, 2025. Currently, GSLC operates on a fiscal year starting September 1st and ending August 31st.*



All proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws will be shared in advance of the May 5th congregational meeting.

While we need to attend to these critical business matters of the congregation, our time together on May 5th is also a terrific opportunity to gather in community and be re-ignited in the ways God is calling us forward in mission.

Save the date for Good Shepherd's
Congregational Meeting on
Sunday, May 5th from 10 - 11 am

Impacts of the Taft Elementary Food Pantry

by Kathy Shuman



Who knew when the GSLC Taft Ministry expanded to start an actual Taft Elementary Food pantry in 2018 how many lives would be touched? Lives of both clients and GSLC volunteers have been positively changed. There have been growing pains, as well as adjustments to accommodate the families, schedule, and school staffing at Taft. Originally we had one refrigerator and now we have two full-sized freezers (purchased through donations and grants) to hold even more frozen vegetables and meats.

Groceries are supplied primarily by the FreeStore Food Bank, supplemented by generous donations from GSLC funding and congregation members. Periodic giveaways have included crock pots and can openers financed through Thrivent grants, generous amounts of cereal from Christ Hospital employees, and hygiene kits from a God's Work, Our Hands project and a local book club. This past Christmas toilet paper, paper towels, Tide laundry detergent, gift bags and Kroger gift cards were donated by the Mount Auburn Community Development Corporation. We also give away donated books.

“Children, no matter how smart, can’t learn if they’re hungry. The surest way out of poverty is education and food.” - GSLC Member

We currently have a dedicated core of volunteers that includes Roy and Erllys Johnson, Carolyn Kercsmar, Mary Naylor, Patty Jonason, Lisa and David Schackmann, Sue Matz, Beth Townsend and Kathy and Bill Shuman. (We are always grateful for additional volunteers.) COVID was a detrimental factor in meeting pantry needs for nearly two years, and we are still rebounding.

“The pantry helps my family beyond measure. We are forever grateful.” - From a family who uses the pantry.

We have grown from an average of 30 to 40 families per month pre-COVID to 70 to 80. The pantry is currently open the second and fourth Thursdays of each month from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. and from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. We stock the shelves one Wednesday



Pictures: Pantry freezer & “Open for Business” (Pg. 5), Pantry volunteers (above), volunteers serving at Taft Elementary through the Adopt-a-Class program Taft (opposite).

a month. We provide updated refrigerator magnets publicizing our days/hours of operation and the school sends out “blasts” to all the families through school announcements and class Dojo.

This mission has been a tremendous blessing to both the families we support and the volunteers who make it possible! We thought it might be uplifting for the congregation to hear some firsthand comments from people familiar with the Taft Food Pantry.

From the families:

I appreciate everything the pantry does for us families. The love they show, the kindness and the love in their hearts mean so much to me.

The pantry helps me feed my family through rough times. It is truly a blessing.

It helps me when I’m on my last and can’t afford groceries. Also helps me have dinner for the night.

The pantry helps my family beyond measure. We are forever grateful.

With everything so expensive, trying to stretch money is hard. With the food and items we get from Taft Food Pantry helps us to not lack food.

It’s hard to express how much it means to us the help we get from you. Thank you so much for what you’re doing!

The pantry helps me because I am short on food and

it helps me get through the days until I get paid again! It’s very helpful and great ways to reach families and children in need. We are humbly grateful.

Very helpful. I have been able to feed my family in times of need. The staff is very nice, polite, and understanding.

Thanks for all that you do. Thanks for opening this pantry to help families feed their families.

Thanks for helping me feed my family.

I don’t always have the cash to feed my family. I love everything you do.

Hope, blessing, caring, helpful.

With food I get from the food pantry it saves me money so I can buy more produce which my children love.

The food pantry helps me and my daughters because sometimes I cannot make it.

My twins have type 1 diabetes and the extra food has helped us out so much.

Thank you for everything you do for us parents and our kids.

From the Volunteers

I have worked in the Taft food pantry for several years and it’s great fun. I’ve met so many new people

and look forward to seeing them each month. A few of us have shared a recipe or two. They have become new friends. I look forward to my pantry days!

Volunteering ... has been an enormous privilege. Providing meals helps children thrive and succeed. It is an added blessing getting to know my fellow GSLC co-workers and share stories, interests and experiences.

It is very self-satisfying knowing we 'make a difference' in the lives of families. I enjoy learning about their families.

Feeding the hungry has been a mission of mine over

the years. I delivered Meals on Wheels to help those unable to provide for themselves due to age or infirmity. Now I am working at the other end of the age spectrum. Children, no matter how smart, can't learn if they're hungry. The surest way out of poverty is education and food. I love seeing the smiles on the kiddo's faces as they leave with bags of good food.

Volunteering...[provides] me an opportunity to positively interact with people in our local Cincinnati area that I would likely never meet. It allows me to proactively share God's love and generosity to people who often feel overlooked and overwhelmed.

All March, help us support the Taft Food Pantry by participating in the Lenten Food Drive! Calendars of requested items available in the lobby.

Blessed through Kids Connect

by Amber Holdt

Being part of Kids Connect has been an incredible journey for my family and me. From being a parent to now taking on a leadership role within the program, I've witnessed firsthand the profound impact it has had on our lives. Over the years, Kids Connect has evolved into an indispensable part of our community, shaping both our spiritual growth but also fostering a sense of belonging and unity among us.

Watching my children participate in Kids Connect has been a source of immense joy and pride. Seeing their faces light up as they engage with their peers, share their faith, and build lasting friendships fills my heart with gratitude. Through this program, they have not only deepened their understanding of Christianity but also developed essential social skills and learned the value of teamwork and cooperation.

Moving from a volunteer to being responsible for nurturing the younger kids has been incredibly rewarding. It's a privilege to play a role in shaping the spiritual journey of the next generation and witnessing firsthand the profound impact that Kids Connect has on their lives. Whether we're exploring biblical

stories through interactive lessons or engaging in fun activities that reinforce Christian values, every moment spent with these young minds is a reminder of the importance of passing on the gift of faith to future generations.

But perhaps what I cherish most about Kids Connect is the sense of camaraderie and shared purpose it fosters within our community. From holiday celebrations to service projects, this program has provided countless opportunities for our family to come together, bond with other families, and create cherished traditions that we look forward to year after year.

In a world where connection & community are more important than ever, I am immensely grateful for the blessing of Kids Connect and for everyone who plays a part in making it possible. Together, we are not just teaching our children about Christianity; we are building a foundation of faith, love, and fellowship that will guide them throughout their lives.



Ministry Partner Highlight: Haitian Timoun Foundation & CLM

by Pastor Lorne

She's known hunger for as long as she can remember.

In fact, she has no experience of what a "full" stomach feels like. She rises early every morning and gets busy assessing the damage to her dwelling caused by the winds and rain that fell throughout the night. She tries to work early in the morning before the scorching temperatures rise. She knows how painful it is to labor in the heat without access to water.

She is filled with love and worry for her children and gladly sacrifices her own meal so they might eat. It's never enough to go around, and she weeps at the sight of their beautiful black hair as it increasingly turns red - a sign of severe malnourishment.

While the odds are stacked against her, she hasn't stopped dreaming. She's tenacious and resilient. She fights every single day to live. She's physically weak, but emotionally she's a heavy-weight champion. She wants a path to a better life and if empowered the

right way, she knows deep within her soul that a hopeful future for her family is possible.

She is not alone. She is just one of the many thousands of women who live in desperate poverty in the Central Plateau of Haiti. Just a 90-minute flight away from America's abundance, her everyday struggle is a scandal of our shared humanity.

Chemen Lavi Miyò (CLM), or "The Pathway To a Better Life" program empowers Haiti's poorest women to lift themselves out of ultra-poverty, with hope and vision for their futures.

CLM not only works to break the cycle of desperate poverty, it also results in the generational change impacting whole communities...

The CLM initiative is one of The Haitian Timoun Foundation's longest running partners in Haiti,





Pictures: Maya, HTF's in-country Director with a CLM Graduate (opposite), CLM graduates (above).

and throughout the years, HTF has successfully launched and funded over 1,000 women through this life-changing program.

Fonkoze's CLM program employs specially trained case managers to work with CLM members throughout an intensive 18-month process to help them build sustainable livelihoods and the confidence and skills necessary to further grow them and create a better life for themselves and their families.

To begin, CLM provides each member with the productive assets – such as livestock or a commerce inventory – needed to start two income generating activities. All CLM members also receive the materials to construct a 9x9 meter home with a sturdy roof, a stable floor, and a latrine; and a water filter.

Each member also receives a small cash stipend while her fledgling business grows and free health-care in partnership with Zanmi Lasante, Partners in Health's Haitian sister organization.

But the CLM case managers remain at the heart of the program. Case managers make weekly visits to every member, which often require overnight stays and hours-long hikes to reach women in Haiti's most remote locations. During their visits, CLM case managers provide each member with confidence-building, enterprise management, and life skills training. They also help each woman to successfully navigate the unique challenges she encounters throughout the process and to build a plan for her future as she moves forward. In turn, the women provide the hard work, determination and resilience to succeed.

Our ministry partners at the Haitian Timoun Foundation will soon launch a new cohort of 150 women through the CLM program later this year and we can help!

It costs \$2,000 to fully fund a women through this 18-month program, and through this year's Resurrection Project Good Shepherd is seeking to raise \$25,000 to support this initiative. In addition to the money generously given by members, the Good Shepherd Endowment Fund will match every dollar up to an additional \$25,000. Combined, this gift of \$50,000 will fully fund 25 women and their families through CLM and help them discover a pathway to a better life!

The Resurrection Project will run from Easter through Pentecost. Be sure to include "Resurrection Project" or "Haiti" in the memo line of any donations.

CLM not only works to break the cycle of desperate poverty, it also results in the generational change impacting whole communities for decades.

The Resurrection Project begins on Easter Sunday and will run through Pentecost. Help us raise \$25,000 to fully fund 25 women and their families through the CLM program!



Mozart's Requiem

by Dr. Kevin Seal

In the history of western music, there are very few choral works that have enjoyed as much enduring popularity as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's setting of the Requiem Mass. There are also few works with such a storied and salacious history, inspiring other works of art such as Peter Schaefer's play *Amadeus*, which was made into one of the most decorated films in history 40 years ago.

Mozart was an extremely busy composer. He was also a child prodigy, writing his first musical compositions at the young age of 5 (what were you doing when you were five? I certainly wasn't doing any composing!). By his death at the age of 35, he had written over 800 works, from small scale minuets to 4-hour operas, and everything in between. Mozart worked HARD and composed at an almost frenetic pace. However, he was not the most responsible with money, and even though he enjoyed a period of intense composition and many commissions in the last year of his life, his family was almost always in financial need.

So, therefore, when a messenger arrived at his house in mid-July of 1791 with a commission for a Requiem Mass from an anonymous benefactor, we can assume he felt it was necessary to say yes. What he didn't know is that the benefactor behind the commission was a certain Count Franz von Walsegg, who had a penchant for commissioning works by

composers of the day and passing them off as his own in private performances. He had commissioned the Requiem in honor of his late wife, who had died in early 1791, and likely intended to have the work performed as his own in early 1792, on the first anniversary of her death.

After taking the commission, Mozart began work on the Requiem, but his work was interrupted by other pieces he was working on, including the major operas *La Clemenza di Tito* and *The Magic Flute*, as well as his clarinet concerto and other works. Mozart did not find time to work on the Requiem in earnest until October of 1791, and by that time he had begun to suffer from ill health. He worked on the Requiem feverishly from early October until mid-November, until his health took a turn for the worse and he was bedridden beginning on November 20th. He never recovered, dying at home in the early morning of December 6th, 1791.

He was a child prodigy, writing his first musical compositions at the young age of 5

Out of the 12 total movements in the Requiem, Mozart had only completed two or three by his death. He had also completed significant portions of seven others, most notable the vocal parts. His widow,



Pictures: 2022's Spring Concert (opposite), First page of Mozart's autograph score of Requiem (top left), 1782 portrait of Constanze Mozart (top right), portrait of Mozart at age 14 (bottom left), 2022 Spring Concert (bottom right).

Constanze, needed the commission to be finished to receive full payment. She passed the score on to Mozart's pupil Joseph Eybler, but Eybler was unable to complete the task, likely due to his great reverence for Mozart and his inability to satisfactorily emulate his style. The score was then passed to Franz Xavier Süssmayr, another of Mozart's pupils, who completed the work. In the end, the beginning of the work through the "Hostias" movement can confidently be said to be by Mozart, even if much of the finishing work was done by Süssmayr. However, from the "Sanctus" movement on, the work takes on a obviously different, simpler character, and it is clear that these movements are original compositions by Süssmayr.

This coming weekend, on March 17th at 3:00 PM, we will hear a performance of Mozart's Requiem, as completed by Süssmayr. This performance is a part of our Music in Kenwood series this year and will be performed by the Good Shepherd Festival Choir, joined by the Sycamore High School Select Ensem-

ble, with a professional orchestra and soloists. All are invited to this free performance of one of the greatest choral masterworks of all time.

Join us for the three remaining concerts in the "Music in Kenwood" Concert Series:

A Spring Concert ft. Mozart's Requiem on March 17th at 3 pm, a jazz concert ft. the Phil DeGreg Trio on April 14th at 3 pm, and a choir recital featuring Heidelberg University's Concert Choir on May 15th at 7 pm.

Learn more at goodshepherd.com/music-in-kenwood.

Middle School Mix: Growing in Faith Together

by Jude | 7th Grade Confirmation Student



It's funny that a "retreat" actually does the exact opposite—my opportunity to attend the Hopewood Pines Retreat a few weeks ago helped advance my friendships and my relationship with God. It pushed forward my confirmation journey and life in general.

The retreat center is on a huge piece of property past Columbus, Ohio and has a large lodge and a bunch of cabins along a path. It's always fun to walk into a new place where you'll be staying a couple of days, it felt like a vacation with friends. I was assigned to cabin 13 with the other guys and our chaperone. Even now, when I think back, the time relaxing in my cabin with my friends was a favorite part. In the weeks leading up to it, I imagined it to be a lot like a Summer camp, so I was looking forward to going in the middle of Winter and seeing what a cold weather camp would be like. I rode up there with four of my friends, and we caravanned, so there were, I think, 12 or 13 of us total. Everybody was a little worn out on the car ride, on Friday after school. It was kind of a crammed day to get home from school, grab all my stuff and make it to church, but I was getting excited that the day was finally here. Our confirmation group is starting to get really close and I knew it was going to be fun.

Once we arrived, everyone got their second wind. It was so cold and way out in the middle of nowhere, and it felt great to be outside. We unpacked our gear, hung out in our cabins, and then went to the main lodge. We played a couple of games and ice breakers with other church groups and then had a really good dinner (for all the foodies reading this, it was surprisingly great). Then back to our cabins where we all just talked and hung out. It was during this downtime that we actually got to know each other a lot better.

I felt connected to the whole group and to God and part of something bigger.

On Saturday, we woke up and there was snow on the ground, which was awesome, the windows were frozen over, everything was frosted and cold and silent. After a hot shower, we went to the main lodge for breakfast and prayer. Afterwards, there was so much



Pictures: Jude & Mia. performing a skit at the retreat (opposite); the whole Confirmation group at the Middle School Mix Retreat (above).

to do—hiking, hanging out with the lodge pet turtle, and some crafts which were really fun. We had good conversations at the table while we had something to do in front of us.

Worship service was peaceful. Usually at Summer Camp, it's intense and strong, but it felt quieter at this experience. We sang worship songs that were familiar and some new ones and shared communion. I felt connected to the whole group and to God and part of something bigger, which I am grateful for. Later that night, my cabin got together, stayed up a little later than we should and watched the Chiefs game. Not being an NFL fan, I learned a lot about Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce (good), the Miami Dolphins (bad), terrible refs, lucky players, and cheating coaches. In the end, most of my friends were okay with how it turned out and survived the drama. I just laughed and told them all about golf.

I had a great time. My friendships are stronger, I grew in how I think about prayer and being with God in the moment, and it was so nice to get away in open space to be able to think. Thank you to Jen Jarman especially, and to Good Shepherd for caring about us and creating these spaces for us.

55+ Club: Connecting Seniors Since 1985

by Ian Peat



The 55+ Club has been bringing seniors together in fellowship & service since 1985. The group does this through monthly meeting which provide members meaningful relationships, informative and entertaining presentations, and community outreach.

While the 55+ Club is a ministry of Good Shepherd, anyone over the age of 55 is welcome to join (even if you are not a GSLC member). We currently welcome people from all over the Greater Cincinnati area. The club is a great opportunity to meet new people and extend the community of Good Shepherd beyond of our church walls.

We gather in the Fellowship Hall on the first Tuesday of the month at 12 pm (noon) starting in February. Our meetings begin with a catered lunch followed by a one-hour program that varies each month. The cost of the program is \$20 per month, which covers the cost of food and the program (reservations can be made by check made out to “GSLC 55+” and mailed to John Van Osdol, 7355 Village Drive, Mason, OH 45040). Reservations need to be received by the Monday before the meeting so that we can get a headcount for the catering.

Program highlights from previous years have been speakers who have given us insights on the history of the City of Cincinnati and the Museum Center. People have also presented on gardening and astronomy. We’ve even had the Zoo out several times to bring animals and talk about the natural world. Musical acts, such as soloists, choirs, and bands sharing music from a variety of genres and time periods, are always a big hit.

This year, we welcomed Hamilton County Prosecuting Attorney Melissa Powers and Chief Assistant Prosecutor Matt Broo who educated us about the latest scams and schemes that target seniors and how we can avoid them. In March, Dr. Cathy Rosenbaum spoke about sleep health and strategies to improve our own sleep habits.

We will welcome Museum Center docent Barbara Jennings in April to present “Union Terminal: A City Within a City” where she discusses how the renowned train station transitioned into becoming the Museum Center. In May, Dean Regas, Astronomer in Residence at the Grand Canyon, returns to dazzle us with his vast knowledge of the solar system and uni-

verse. Larry Bresko has been hard at work scheduling an engaging guest line-up for the year.

Through the leadership of Nancy Quilhot and the generosity of our members, we are also able to support a number of non-profit organizations throughout the year - organizations like the NEEDS (North East Emergency Distribution Service) Food Pantry, US Marine Corps Toys for Tots, Ronald McDonald House, Matthew 25 Ministries, and the Neediest Kids of All. Support takes a variety of forms, such as raising money, collecting pill bottles, or donating toys or food to organizations.

We are also an adventurous bunch who like to go on trips. Last year, we took a boat cruise on the Ohio River that included lunch. This year, we are going to LaComedia to watch a hilarious musical, "The Church Basement Ladies Plowin' Thru" on Friday May 31st, details to be provided in our April Newsletter. If you aren't on our mailing list, you can grab a current copy of the newsletter at the "Happening Now" board. Lois Watson, who wears many hats in our group, also organizes these trips.

All of the above only happens because of our members, some of whom have served in one or more capacities for many years. Getting each meeting ready is a true team effort. On the Mondays before the luncheon, the Monday Morning Work Crew sets up the tables and chairs. Then Pauline and her assistants, Cathy Bresko and Anne Peat, get everything ready for the caterers and lunch. The Crafters (Sylvia Mabry, Lois Watson, Jackie Cutshall, Nancy Quilhot, Pauline Barthel, and Anne Peat) meet on the third Tuesday of the month to make the center pieces which are placed on the tables during Monday's set up. Clean-up is a group effort with everyone chipping in.

Ann Dorward makes the cardboard tents that list birthdays of members. Past President, John Kalberg, calls the tables for lunch. I would be remiss if I didn't mention Scott Puthoff (GSLC Director of Digital Ministry & Communication) who puts the Newsletters together and the flyer of the next month's presenter to be placed on each table. He also helps with any technical questions for presenters.



Pictures: Queen City Sisters performing in October 2023 (opposite), members enjoying the boat cruise in October 2023 (top), the annual Toys of Tots collection (bottom).

We are also grateful for our current 55+ Club 2024 Board Members: Ian Peat (President), Pauline Barthel (Kitchen), Larry Bresko (VP/Programs), Lois Watson (Secretary/Travel), John Van Osdol (Treasurer), Sylvia Mabry (Crafters), Nancy Quilhot (Outreach), and Ann Dorward (Sunshine).

So join us this month! Come for lunch, meet some new friends, and hear a great presentation at the 55+ Club on the first Tuesday of the month at 12 pm.

Find out more by emailing John at jvanosdol@cincinnati.com or calling Ian Peat at 513-984-2652.

New Member Profile: The Berg Family

by The Berg Family

Tell us a little about yourselves: We are the Berg family and our names are Anne, Neil, Joel (18), Asher (15), and Ian (11). We moved to the Cincinnati area in 2008 following a job change for Neil. We settled in Blue Ash in 2012. Neil is a data scientist who likes playing hockey, guitar, & volunteering for our kids' scout troop. Anne enjoys volunteering at the kids' schools and scout troop, and playing flute & other instruments from around the world. Joel plays the viola & violin, loves mixing sound for live performances and film, composes electronic and orchestral music, and is an Eagle Scout. Asher plays the electric & upright bass, owns a lawn care business, and loves welding and repairing small engines. Ian he loves roller coasters, football, playing board games, and being outside. As a family, we like traveling, board games, and playing music together.

Tell us about your faith journey: Anne & Neil are both cradle Lutherans. Anne was a Jr/Sr high youth director at our church in our previous town. When we moved to Cincinnati, we hadn't really found a church home where we wanted to settle, but Good Shepherd felt like home when we first visited.

What led you to Good Shepherd? When we walked in the door, we saw several familiar faces from our neighborhood, as well as a few others we knew. Ian saw his friend Isaac when we walked in, and he was ready to stay! We felt very welcome here.

What was it about Good Shepherd that worked for you? The people! We have felt welcomed, have enjoyed meeting people, and our kids have gotten plugged in to things they are interested in. We enjoy the messages during worship and the intergenerational community. We've all enjoyed the Connect Hour, and Joel has enjoyed getting to work with the live streaming and sound. Neil & Anne have both really liked getting to know people through Pub Theology and The Shift small groups.

What excites you about the future with the community of Good Shepherd? We are excited to keep growing here! It's fun to watch the kids grow up in student ministries, to see each of us being able to plug in and serve in ways that are best suited to our interests and gifts. We are excited to continue to meet more of you and grow through conversation and study.



Who are the Bible Babes?

by Jackie Cutshall



Who are the Bible Babes and why are they called by such a catchy and alliterative name?

Bible Babes is a Bible study group of women of all ages. We meet twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 10 am. Our leader is Anne Miller. The name of the group comes from the first study book we used that was called “Bad Girls of the Bible” focusing on how God uses all kinds of people to bring his Word to the world.

As we were trying to think of a name for our group, one member remarked that these women were all considered “babes” in their day.

The name “Bible Babes” just clicked.

We usually use a printed, small study book of 6-8 or more sessions. In the Fall of 2023 we did a study on the armor of God based on Ephesians 6:10-20. In January and February we have been doing a 4 session study of the writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

After Easter we will be studying the book of Romans using a study guide called “How To Be A Christian Without Being Religious”. Let Anne Miller know if you would like a copy.

Women of Good Shepherd – come and join the “Babes”!

The Bible Babes meet September through May on the 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month at 10 am.

You can learn more about the group and get information on how to join by emailing the group’s organizer, Anne Miller, at ranco@cinci.rr.com.

Learning to Serve Through Tweens

by Pastor Alex

You can't miss the Tweens on Souper Bowl Sunday when they are collecting for the NEEDS Food Pantry. It is a very fun day and a great opportunity for the Tweens (4th - 6th grades) to help tackle hunger in a tangible way. I love seeing their enthusiasm and energy as they collect and label the donations for the NEEDS Food Pantry.

What you may not know though is that Tweens take part in multiple service opportunities throughout the year.

Over the past few years the Tweens have visited St. Marks Community in Milford, OH, a Graceworks Lutheran Services' community of people who are elderly. Tweens have helped with a cookout, donated holiday care packages and even completed a few interviews with the residents so they could learn more about the saints of Saint Mark's. During past Advent Retreats, where they spend the night talking about the season leading up to Christmas and watching a Christmas movie, they also put together Christmas Care Packages for the residents of Graceworks to share a little Christmas cheer!

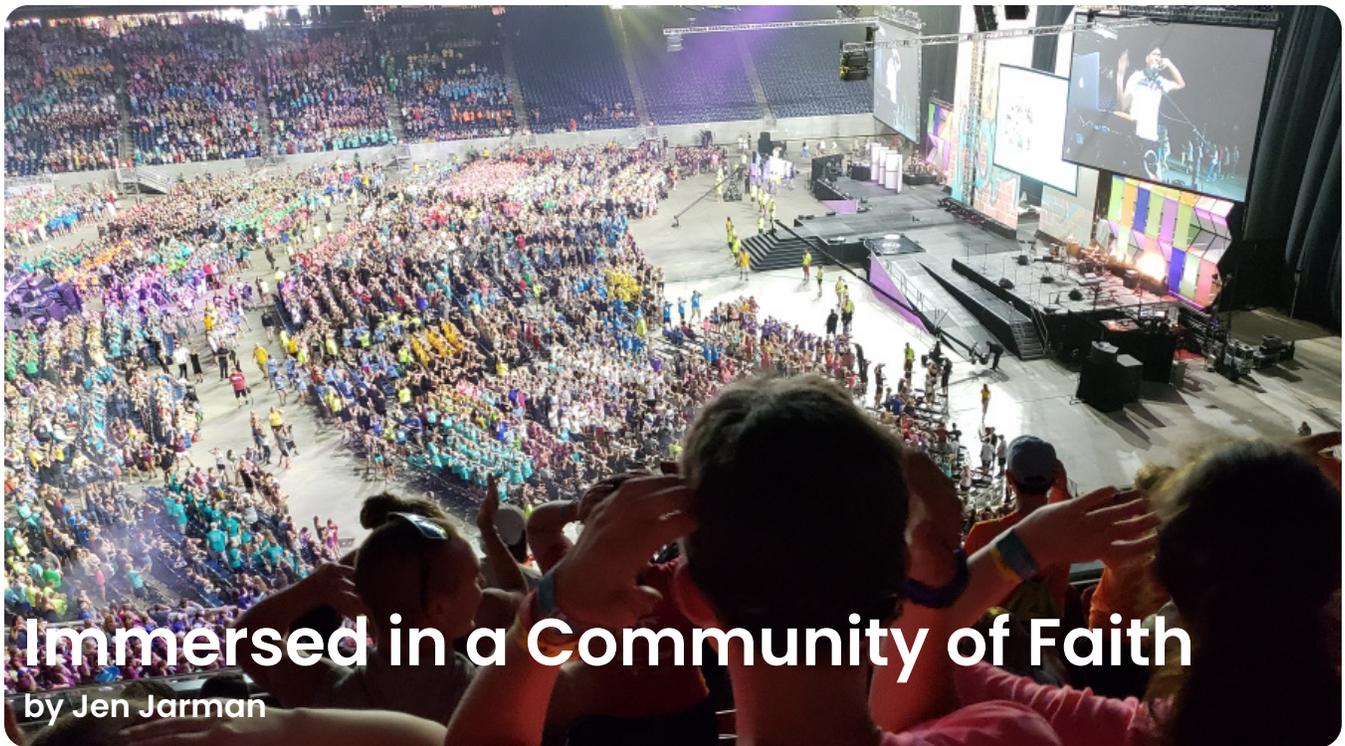
This year, we had to reschedule our Advent retreat, which became an Epiphany Retreat. During the retreat, students assembled winter emergency kits for Graceworks' residents which included, among other things, a flashlight (an obvious choice for the Season of Light). The flashlights are super helpful for the residents, who have expressed concern about not having access to one during power outages from winter weather.

The Tweens also help hide eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt, provide hospitality during Trunk or Treat, and have even done their own special service projects during Vacation Bible School that support organizations like Matthew 25 Ministries. In short, the Tweens are great examples of what it means to exist as a body of believers who do more than simply receive God's grace - they share it as well.

I'm so proud of the students in our Tweens ministry and the ways they seek to be a blessing to the world through not only their words, but also their actions!



Pictures: Souper Bowl of Caring in 2024 (left); care packages for Graceworks made in December 2022 (right).



Immersed in a Community of Faith

by Jen Jarman

What exactly is this Youth Gathering trip all about?

Every three years in the ELCA, thousands of high school youth and their adult leaders gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives.

This summer, the Youth Gathering will be hosted in New Orleans. While the 11 youth and 4 adults from Good Shepherd will experience unmatched Southern hospitality in the Big Easy, the 5 days will be a transformative moment in their faith journeys.

In preparation for this summer's Youth Gathering, two of our adult leaders, Julie Dietrich and Lisa Lysne, offer their perspective on why the Youth Gathering is so important that they are dedicating months of preparation time to make sure that Good Shepherd's youth have as meaningful Youth Gathering experience as possible.

What makes the Youth Gathering such a unique

experience that you give up a week of your summer to attend it?

Julie: I have had the privilege of attending 2 other Gatherings as a chaperone in the past. Each one was an amazing experience for me as an adult, and was made even more special to observe the young adults take an adventure on their Faith Journey. Many of them were experiencing worship in a new way. We came from a very traditional church and experiencing contemporary worship was a first for them. The Gathering is where I first experienced the true meaning of, "All are welcome" and you can feel it! Everyone is gathered for one common purpose - to celebrate and immerse ourselves in being Lutheran - Right? No! All are welcome! They worshiped with people who looked different, sounded different, worshiped different, and it was AMAZING. I can't wait to return after 20 years to experience it all over again with our kids!

Lisa: I absolutely love working with this age group for so many reasons. They are creative, unbelievably insightful, and incredibly funny. I feel like they teach me as much as we teach them. Having learned all the "nuts and bolts" of being Lutheran, this is a pivotal time of life for them in their personal and spiritual

growth and it is a privilege to be on the journey with them as they make decisions about their own faith, values, and life's meaning during this critical period of transitioning into young adults. The Gathering can have such a powerful impact on this journey and it is so incredibly fulfilling to see the kids experience, many for the first time, the concept of "the whole church" as something beyond the walls of Good Shepherd - in fellowship and in worship with thousands of other students, in serving the local community, and in experiencing the broad global impact of the ELCA through interactive learning. I also love watching them experience the culture, history, and environment of a completely different city from what they are used to and the new perspectives it brings. And it is so wonderful to see how trips like this create such connection in the group and build positive, lasting memories that serve to strengthen their faith and engagement with the church. I get just as much out of the experience, maybe even more, than the kids do!

What do you hope the youth who attend the Youth Gathering experience as a result of attending?

Julie: I hope our youth are able to open themselves to experience the full power of the Holy Spirit when 40,000+ teenagers are all singing, dancing, and worshipping God all at the same time in the Superdome. I hope they are able to put down the thoughts of "who is watching?" or "I don't want to look stupid" and just be present in the moment. It's powerful.

Lisa: Much of what I stated above. That they develop a stronger sense of community, fellowship, and appreciation of their faith; that they gain an understanding of the whole church as a powerful, broadly-reaching force to put God's work into action and some new ideas for ways they think they want to engage in that effort; and that they return with great memories, strengthened friendships, and some personal and spiritual growth.

Do you have a highlight from a previous Youth Gathering - what was it, why was it a highlight, etc.?



Pictures: 2018 Youth Gathering (Pg 19) and 2006 Youth Gathering (above).

Julie: I have so many! It's hard to choose... the most impactful moment was hearing Archbishop Desmond Tutu speak at the 2000 gathering in St. Louis. The most fun was the theme, "Dancing at the Crossroads" where dozens of Christian artists performed live all week. The most emotional was taking communion with 45,000 people and witnessing young people experience a faith-formation milestone.

Lisa: Mass Gathering - worshipping with 30,000 kids every night in the stadium. The feeling of being immersed in a community of faith on that scale is really hard to describe, but the emotion definitely almost brought me to tears more than a few times.

What are you looking forward to about the 2024 Youth Gathering?

Julie: My first trip to NOLA was with my mom. I'm really excited to share the same "first" with my daughter. I'm looking forward to seeing the Lord stir up in our kids the same excitement and connection with Him that I have seen in past Gatherings.

Lisa: Just being part of helping to deliver an incredible experience for the kids and witness the power of the event and its impact on them!

We appreciate all of the support that the community of Good Shepherd provides to the youth and adults going to the 2024 Youth Gathering and we can't wait to share our experience with you when we return home.

Finding Courage in Faith – VBS!

by Amber Holdt

Participating in VBS will be a new experience for me. In the past, I've been accustomed to spending my time in the craft room, but now I have the exciting opportunity to select the theme. So, step into the glow of adventure and warmth as we unveil the exciting new theme for this year's Vacation Bible School: Camp Firelight!

In the midst of summer's warmth, from June 24th to 28th, 2024, Good Shepherd invites children, ages 3 – completed 6th grade, to embark on an unforgettable adventure at VBS. This year, our journey is illuminated by the flickering flames of Camp Firelight. As the embers dance and the stars twinkle overhead, children gather around the campfire to discover the timeless truths of faith in a setting filled with warmth, wonder, and boundless possibilities.

Psalm 56:3 “Whenever I'm afraid, I put my trust in you” serves as a guiding light for our week-long adventure, reminding children that even in the face of fear and doubt, they can find refuge and strength in the unwavering love of God. The sentiment of this verse resonates with me as I step into this new role filled with a blend of excitement and fear.

As the children gather in the halls of GSLC, they will learn to:

Trust God to:

- **Go with Us!**
- **Lead the way!**
- **Share Wisdom!**
- **Give Us Peace!**
- **Spark Joy!**

VBS isn't just any old program—it's one fantastic part of our church's promise to help kids grow closer to



Jesus. With cool activities, fun lessons, and awesome worship, we're on this epic adventure to find out more about what the Bible teaches us. It's like a big welcome hug where everyone's invited to learn and have fun together!

As the week of VBS comes to a close, the memories stay with us long after we've left. Kids leave feeling more confident and sure of themselves, holding onto the words of Psalm 56:3. Parents see the change in their children, impressed by how much their faith has grown and how happy they are. Come be a part of that change!

We understand that everyone has busy schedules, but even a few hours of your time can make a world of difference. Whether you can commit to one day or the entire week, we welcome your help with open arms. As you prayerfully consider joining our team, I pray that you too, find the courage to trust in Him. Come join our team for an unforgettable Vacation Bible School experience around the campfire at Camp Firelight!

Registration for VBS opens for ALL on April 15th at 10 am.
Learn more at goodshepherd.com/vbs



Experience all of the Easter story by beginning with Palm Sunday, bearing witness to Christ's sacrifice, and celebrating His triumph over the cross.:

Palm Sunday | March 23-24

Celebrate Jesus' triumphant return to Jerusalem with Palms and Holy Communion.

Worship Times: 5 pm Saturday, 9 am Sunday (Contemporary), and 11 am Sunday

Maundy Thursday | March 28

Remember the Last Supper & Christ's call to serve others with Holy Communion & the stripping of the altar.

Worship Times: 12 pm (30 minute abbreviated service) & 7 pm

Good Friday | March 29

A stirring service that bears witness to Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

Worship Times: 12 pm (30 minute abbreviated service) & 7 pm

Easter Egg Hunt | March 30 at 4 pm

Hear the Easter story, sing songs, hunt eggs, and have a snack. Open to children through 3rd grade. Saturday worship follows at 5 pm.

Easter | March 30-31

Love & life win! Celebrate the empty tomb and Christ's victory over the cross.

Worship Times: 5 pm Saturday, 9 am Sunday (Contemporary), and 11 am Sunday

Easter Breakfast | March 31 from 9:30 am to 11 am.

Enjoy a light breakfast of bagels, baked goods, yogurt, and drinks in the Fellowship Hall.

Note: Sunday & evening worship services live streamed at goodshepherd.com/worship.



Our Mission

*To be a caring Christian community
where we Share God's grace, Grow
in faith, and Serve others.*

Worship

*Saturdays at 5 pm (Traditional)
Sundays at 9 am (Contemporary)
Sundays at 11 am (Traditional)*

*Sundays live streamed at
goodshepherd.com/worship*

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Assistant Preschool Director

*The Shepherd's Horn is a quarterly publication of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Cincinnati, OH.
Archived copies of The Shepherd's Horn can be found online at goodshepherd.com/the-shepherds-horn.*

Upcoming Events

Learn more at goodshepherd.com/events

A Spring Concert ft. Mozart's Requiem

March 17th at 3 pm

Experience the emotion of Mozart's Requiem performed by a choir & professional orchestra.

Holy Week Worship

See Page 22

Experience the full Easter story by worshipping with Good Shepherd this Holy Week.

Easter Egg Hunt

March 30th at 4 pm

Hunt eggs and hear the Easter story! Open to kids through 3rd grade. Optional 5 pm Saturday Easter Worship follows.

Easter Worship

March 30-31 | Normal Worship Times

Celebrate Christ's victory over the cross!

Easter Breakfast

March 31st from 9:30 am to 11:00 am

Enjoy a light breakfast in the Fellowship Hall with friends and family.

Prayer Workshop

April 6th at 10 am

Preschoolers are invited to learn about prayer with fun, interactive activities

Phil DeGreg Trio Concert

April 14th at 3 pm

A concert by Cincinnati's premiere Jazz pianist and his trio.

Hear We Stand Presentation

April 28th at 9 am Worship

6th Grade students are presented with "Hear We Stand" in preparation of Confirmation.

Baccalaureate

May 5th at 11 am Worship

Celebrating and blessing our graduating Senior High students.

Heidelberg University Concert Choir

May 15th at 3 pm

A wonderful evening of music with a premiere collegiate ensemble.

Change Service Requested

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