



*Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church
521 Cypress Street
Manistee, MI 49660
231.723.7161
gslc49660@gmail.com*

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

As I begin to write this communication to the parish, I almost don't know where to start. I did not see this coming.

On that Tuesday morning, Judie and Bev stopped at my study door to say hello. I was in the midst of a coughing spell. They both encouraged me to see a doctor. Later that same day, I stopped at the local urgent care facility to talk about my difficulty in breathing. They shared with me that I needed to drive myself to the ER as they were too busy to deal with me. Being a man, I went home. However, by 3:00 AM I was in trouble.

I then drove myself to the ER and by 2:00 PM the next day I found myself in the midst of a visit with my primary care physician. The blood test was not good. He immediately referred me to the oncologist office and from there it seemed to all go downhill. A fog seemed to enter my head. Cancer? Not me. Norma was in Ohio with my dad. I immediately called her and asked her to come home only saying that I needed her home.

At that appointment I learned that I had MDS, a very nasty kind of blood cancer. The oncologist didn't mince any words about the possible outcome, which scared me to death. A couple of days later I made another trip to the ER. This time I was diagnosed with pneumonia. Two days in the Ludington hospital and then a transfer to Grand Rapids for another 8 days. It was there that I learned that the pneumonia needed to be brought under control before any treatment for the cancer could begin. The infectious disease doctors said at least 12 weeks of treatment was needed to clear up the lungs.

Real God, Real Presence, Real People

Our Mission:

To be followers of Jesus Christ by sharing God's grace and forgiveness through our loving witness and service to all.

Our Vision:

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Traditional Eucharist

Sundays at 9:30 am

Contemporary Eucharist

Saturdays at 5:30 pm

Fast forward a week as we made our way back to Grand Rapids to talk with the bone marrow folks. The only way to cure the disease is with a bone marrow transplant. They are of the opinion that because of the aggressiveness of the cancer we cannot wait 12 weeks. If you are confused at this point, so are we.

Nonetheless, we will meet with the local oncologist on March 26 to learn of her opinion. My brother is packed and waiting to drive north as soon as they call so that he might be tested for a match. At this point, he is probably my best hope for the bone marrow.

So, what have I learned? Life isn't fair. Things happen that none of us can ever understand. Why me? I could ask again and again. But of this I am certain. God our Father is in the midst of this and is working to do His good will. We are not forsaken regardless of what others may think or say. I belong to Him. My plans for the future are simple. I am believing God for a full and complete recovery

I am so thankful for your love and support. Every day I receive cards reminding me of how much I am loved. Meals are being brought to our door and I am experiencing God's love in a way I never imagined. Thank You! I miss you all so much.

My prayers are extended for each of you as well, especially as we make our way through this horrible virus that is threatening our world. Please join me in prayer for the medical workers, and prayer for those who have been afflicted. God is in the midst of that "mess" as well. With God's grace, we will get through all of this.

Much love, Pastor Jim



ONLINE SERVICES

Join us on our website, www.gslcman.org, for services of prayer, meditation, and worship. A new service will be posted each weekend. It is our prayer that you will experience God's healing presence and peace as you join in these worship services.

Please join us on Easter as we sing the song below at a distance, but together.

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
 now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
 where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

LIBRARY NEWS

HELLO GOOD SHEPHERD READERS. The month of March is half over, so here's my March reader suggestions. This month I decided to choose two books from our own shelves. I must confess I read them several years ago and enjoyed them. I decided to read them again to refresh my memory. The first one is "An Invisible Thread" by Laura Schroeder and Alex Tresniowski. This is a true story about an 11-year-old panhandler, a sales executive and an unlikely meeting. A story of two people connecting and both lives changing all for the good. The second one "The Only Road North" by Erik Mirandette was written by a young man from Grand Rapids, MI. This is a gripping story of his missionary work in Africa followed by his 9,000 mile motorcycle travels from the southernmost point of Africa to the Northernmost point on the only road North. A good read and a true story. The two books from February will be moved to the table in the Library to make room for these on the table outside the Unity Room. They will all be shelved in December. Don't forget our one year challenge. Keep track of what you've read for a prize in December. I was asked if you can count the books you read other than our selections. Absolutely, but you need to keep track and it is helpful if you make a list. And when you read a really interesting book that you think others may enjoy, let the committee know and it can be purchased. Sooooo, happy reading in the month of April. It seems we will have more time to read for the next several weeks.

Your Good Shepherd Bookworm

(Library Committee: Sharon and Kirk Hayden,
Nancy Masters, Elaine McWatt and Dolores Widgren)



Memorials were given in March in the name of

Rosemary Preuss

&

Doris Bowling

A MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT

After listening to all the political statements and with utmost concern for our congregation I have consulted with Council and decided to cancel all church related activities until the current crisis is over. I am not happy with the situation, but I would be really distraught if someone got sick from the virus being transmitted during our church activities. We are currently putting a service online that can be found on our website, www.gslcman.org. Just scroll down until you see a box that indicates the service (eg Service of the Word Lent 4) and click on it. At this time it is recorded weekly. The church office remains open for calls although the doors are locked. As you enter the building there are sanitary wipes and hand wash on a table just inside the door. Please avail yourselves of these measures on entering and leaving while maintaining at least the recommended 6 foot spacing between people.

During this difficult time our ability to communicate with one another is severely tested. It is difficult if not impossible to get timely information to all of you. If you wish to be notified of Good Shepherds' urgent information like weather closings send the office an email indicating that and we will add you to the list. Laurie Seidelman has started a Facebook page "Women who Pray" for inspiration and information sharing. Contact her for addition to that list.

While we are all saddened by the lack of community, the physical church goes on. Please keep in mind that we return from what we have been given and continue your tithes and offerings. These can be mailed to the church or sent via tithely.com, a link to which can be found on our website (www.gslcman.org).

Pastor Jim's Health issues continue so keep him in your thoughts and prayers as he makes decisions about his diagnosis. Pray for the doctors so that they can come up with a unified and understandable course of treatment.

Please continue your prayers for Good Shepherd, our parishioners, our government officials, the people that are sickened by this virus and Pastor Jim.

Respectfully Submitted,

Walt Seidelman
Council President

FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

Just a quick note to let you know that the Church office remains open during the hours of 9 AM & 3 PM, Mondays through Thursdays. The entrance is locked and admittance is limited to essential personnel only. We want the Church to be clean and disinfected so that when the times comes to open the doors again, everyone entering will be safe. Anyone who does enter the building must have no symptoms of a virus, must practice social distancing, and take proper precautions such as washing hands, using sanitizer, etc. The more serious we take this, the quicker it will be over!

All of that said, the business of the Church and its ministry goes on. I am here to attend to that business but I'm also here to attend to the Church and all of the members and guests who make up the Church family. Should you need anything, want information, have a concern, want a status report, please feel free to call or email the office. I will do my best to help, If I can't help, I will certainly try to steer you in the right direction. While this is truly a trying time as Good Shepherd faces both the absence of our Pastor (and my great boss) and dealing with a pandemic, we will get through this.

Stay safe, stay home, be well.

Susan (that's me in the office)



SAVE THE DATE

VIRTUAL COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday, April 7 at 6 PM.

PALM SUNDAY: Although there won't be services at the Church on the weekend of Palm Sunday, there will be blessed (Thank you, Pastor Jody!) palms. Palms will be available outside the entrance to the Church on **Saturday, April 4 and Sunday, April 5**. Just drive up and help yourself. **Please remember to practice social distancing when you come by, sanitize your hands or wear gloves, and only touch the palms you will be taking home.**

VIRTUAL COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday, April 28 at 6:30 PM.

nance fees otherwise paid for by the Church. The grass will be cut by Bob Skiera, Dennis Mikula, Sandra Zupin, and Eric Zupin on a rotating basis. The parking lot on Magill street is an issue as many neighbors park their cars, trucks, and trailers there. Dennis Mikula will speak with those neighbors. Pastor Jim Friesner made a motion to post signs on the Magill parking lot to remind neighbors the lot is the responsibility of Good Shepherd. Jackie Harms seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- c. Tuition Assistance program & Tuition Assistance Committee: Committee currently consists of Pastor Jim Friesner, Micheal Amor, and Deb Kelley. Formation of committee to be put in announcements with request for volunteers. Micheal will ask Gary Schlinkert to be on committee. Committee will report back to council at next meeting.
- d. Motion by Jackie Harms to table Tithe.ly. Seconded by Sandra Zupin.

- e. Display case still needs photos of Clarence Schultz and Sue Majkszak. Pastor Jim will follow through with display case. Pastor Jim also asked To Amor to label doors and exits of church and apologized to property committee for going around them. Motion by Sandra Zupin to change display case & label all entrances/exits.
- f. Susan Nowak to create sign up sheet for current contact information for congregation member that can be transferred to Phonevite.

Correspondence/Communication: None.

Committee/Ministry Reports – Motion to accept by unanimous acclamation.

Action items from December 15, 2019 meeting

Formation of a Tuition Assistance Committee & creation of a Tuition Assistance program added to January 2020 Council meeting agenda.

Action Items from this meeting

Parking lot on Magill
Sign up for current contact info for Phonevite
John Anderson to be tapped for vacant council position
Door labels
Display case
Flowers for Walt Seidelman
Motion to Adjourn / Prayer at 8:30 PM

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 6:30 PM.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Minutes of January 28, 2020 Council Agenda
Approved 2/25/20

Our Mission: To be followers of Jesus Christ by sharing God's grace and forgiveness through our loving witness and service for all.

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Meeting called to order by Jackie Harms at 6:30 PM.

Absent: Walt Seidelman

Spiritual Reflection-Prayer: Pr. Jim

Approval of the Agenda:

Add Annual Business to New Business

Add "Display Case" as "e" in Old Business

Cancellation of weekend services added as "f" in Old Business.

Sandra Zupin is aware of an outside group interested in using the building. Can contact Susan.

Sandra Zupin motioned to approve the agenda. Bob Skiera seconded.

No Public Comment

Micheal Amor motioned to approve Proposed Minutes of the December 15, 2019 meeting. Dennis Mikula seconded.

Treasurer's Report

Announcements will contain information about snow days. Contact information will be collected for the purpose of informing folks of cancellations on the weekends.

Weekly offerings will be posted in announcements each week and monthly offerings will be posted in monthly newsletters.

Motion by Dennis Mikula to accept Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Deb Hansen. Motion approved.

Motion by Sandra Zupin to pay the bills. Seconded by Micheal Amor. Motion approved.

No report from Pastor.

Old Business

a. Vacant seat on the Council: Dennis Mikula will ask John Anderson.

b. Parking lot on Highway: Bob Skiera reported that he and Dennis Mikula met with manager of Wild West Tobacco. Tobacco will maintain the parking lot on Cypress Street. This will save GSLC mainte-

PARISH PRAYER CONCERNS

Manistee County Medical Care 1505 Parkdale Ave.
Leona Amerell, Mary Kukla, Donna O'Rorke

Green Acres Retirement Community 1835 12th Street
Audrey Ann Amburgey, Lois Rosenow, Bob Tobey,
Irma Thompson, Al Kukla

Prayers for those in the military

Alana Bergstrom, James Dutkavich, Thomas Dutkavich III, Spencer Linke and all those who are serving or have served.



THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

Rest in Peace

"We have once again been reminded that we have not here an abiding city."

Gary Hansen

Long-time congregation and choir member passed away on February 29, 2020. Information on a memorial service is not yet available.

Brett Madsen

Passed away on March 4, 2020. A graveside service with military honors was held on March 9 at the Maple Grove Township Cemetery in Kaleva

Rosemary Preuss

Passed away peacefully on March 6, 2020. A funeral service was held on March 12 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

"May God grant peace to their memory, comfort to their families, and grace to us all as we seek to live our lives to God's glory."

Prayers for Parish Members, Family, & Friends

Alan & Louise
 Olive Baker
 Jack Bauman
 Kelly Bjorkquist
 Shirley Blakeslee
 Bob
 Keith Brown
 Jackie Burmeister
 Aiden Chambers
 Cora Brinkley Cook
 Diana Dutkavich
 Tom Dutkavich
 Tom Dutkavich, Jr.
 Marc Edmondson
 Jane Fortier
 Jim Friesner, Sr.
 Pastor Jim Friesner
 Pat Garber
 Terry Guthridge
 Mary Heuck
 Marion Hilliard
 Lea Illig
 Eric Johnson
 Rick Kaminski
 Ed Knaffle
 Duane Keith,
 Paul Byro's son
 Carol Krull
 Coby & Gary Lange
 Betty Lytle
 Jon Madsen
 Pat McGinnis
 Anthony Metiva
 Tammy Sue Metiva
 Phyllis Miller
 Pat Murdock



Nicole
 Norm Olson
 Terry & Rose Pierson
 Jane Reeves, daughter of
 Bob & Ruth Skiera
 Vickee Sawhill
 Benjamin Schultz
 Dale & Laura Shoemaker
 Karen Skiera
 Randy Skiera
 Bill Smith
 Dale Sparks
 Laura Stefanski
 Mark Steigenga
 Robert (RT) Williams
 Ann Ziehm
 John Ziehm
 The family of Doris Bowling
 The family of Richard Guthridge
 The family of Gary Hansen
 The family of Doug Jensen
 The family of Joanne Shannon
 Kohan
 The family of John Kuenzli
 The family of Brett Madsen
 The family of Sue Bosscherm
 Kuechenmeister
 The family of Charles & Rosemary
 Preuss
 The family of Walter Seidelman

PARISH BIRTHDAYS



1	Darwin Anderson		
2	Sloane Vartyak	13	Frances Holmes
8	Betty Griegel	14	Dave Majkszak
9	Teresa Miller	14	Lois Rosenow
9	Marje Johnson	17	Martha Brown
10	Eric Zupin	18	Pat Ziehm
11	Mark Bergstrom	19	Courtney Madsen
11	Kay Meister	20	Dianna Dutkavich
12	Daniel Funk	26	Sara Madsen
12	Sandy Mikula	27	Donna O'Rorke
13	Marjorie Heuck	30	Dale Shoemaker

THANK YOU NOTE

"God is Good"

A note of thanks to my family & friends at Good Shepherd for the many acts of love and kindness while I was at West Shore and the Medical Care. (Almot 2 months!) God has truly blessed me with each and every one of you. I want to thank each of you for your prayers, acts of kindness, visits, flowers (daffodils from Marge Johnson), phone calls, and cards.

God bless you!

- Ann

Hope to see you soon!

CHURCH OFFERINGS

Offerings received by the Church between the dates of March 14 and March 25:

\$1349.00