



Welcoming the Wiggles

"...Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs."

--Matthew 9:19

Greetings in the name of the risen Christ!

I think that we can all agree that it is a wonderful thing to have kids in worship; seeing kids in worship gives us a sense of hope that the Church will indeed continue and that we are passing on our faith to the next generation. Kids also bring wiggles, and fidgets, and questions and unpredictability and sometimes parents worry that those wiggles and fidgets and questions won't be well received, especially if their child is extra-wiggly.

This fear of disrupting the proceedings, so to speak, is exactly what Jesus is addressing in the above quote from Matthew. The way I imagine it, Jesus is teaching a crowd, and in the crowd are some parents with wiggly kiddos who are having trouble sitting quietly and listening, kiddos whose legs itch and twitch to move, who are so interested in this person talking that they want to get close to him, to see what he looks like, perhaps even ask for a hug. So, like kids do these children are fidgeting, pulling on mom's clothes, "I wanna go see the man, I wanna sit up there". By this time, mom or dad is starting to feel the flush creep up their face as they anxiously shush the child, people around them start to look sideways and "tsk", even the disciples are starting to get annoyed. So the disciples try to send them away "there's a nice little patch of grass over there" they say, pointing in the distance, "you can hear him over there and the kids can run around."

It is at this point Jesus intervenes, "let the children come to me". Jesus understands wiggles, Jesus understands little hands that want to touch and little ones that want to know more, so Jesus makes a point to welcome the children, and bids us to do the same. Kids are wiggly, kids are curious, kids don't often sit quietly and listen, but kids are also curious, they experience the world through their senses, they want to touch and hear and taste and see, they want to know and experience this Jesus and it is our job as a faith community to welcome them into that experience wiggles and all.

This past week a small group of parents, and kids, met to talk about and start to design a wiggle-friendly church experience for our families. What does wiggle-friendly look like? We are dreaming of providing child-welcoming spaces that allow kids of all different wiggle levels to experience church in an engaging and fun way, from kids who are great sitting in church with activity bags to a "pray-ground" in the fellowship area that allows a little bit more wiggle-room and still offers a chance to see and hear the worship service, and to our nursery which will be a place for kids who need more space or quiet time. In each of these areas it is my goal to provide items that are supportive for kids who may have different cognitive and behavioral needs.

PASTOR'S WORDS CONTINUED

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The team and I are really excited to be starting on this ministry—for that is truly what it is—by creating a safe and wiggle-friendly experience of church we are inviting families to be a part of our community. We are reaching out to the families who have been “shushed” out of other churches, who have been told that their kids are “disruptive”, and we are living out Jesus invitation to let the little children come.

I welcome your prayers as we build this ministry, and I invite you to be a part of it! Please contact me if you want to be part of the planning team, and as we go forward we will certainly keep you all informed of what we might need for materials. Together, we can mentor our kids in faith and we can show them that God loves them, wiggles and all!!

Yours in Christ

Pastor Jess



NESTLINGS DIAPER BANK — NOISY OFFERING

Thank you, Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Nestlings Diaper Bank.

We raised enough funds to purchase a pallet of diapers and then some.

Nestlings
DIAPER BANK

ONLINE DEVOTIONS

Online Devotions

Join us for a weekly online devotional video that you can find on our YouTube page* and our Facebook page* Each day Pastor posts a short devotion where she invites you to “hold space” for a scripture passage, question, topic or ‘wondering’.

*Find us on YouTube: GSLC Holland, MI

*Find us on Facebook: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church-ELCA-Holland, MI

<https://www.facebook.com/GoodShepherdLutheranChurchHollandMI>

BOOK GROUP NEWS

The May Book Selection:

The Betrayal of Anne Frank
by Rosemary Sullivan

Book Group



With painstaking care, retired FBI agent Vincent Pankoke and a team of indefatigable investigators pored over tens of thousands of pages of documents—some never before seen—and interviewed scores of descendants of people familiar with the Franks. Utilizing methods developed by the FBI, the Cold Case Team painstakingly pieced together the months leading to the infamous arrest—and came to a shocking conclusion.

The Betrayal of Anne Frank: A Cold Case Investigation is the riveting story of their mission. Rosemary Sullivan introduces us to the investigators, explains the behavior of both the captives and their captors and profiles a group of suspects. All the while, she vividly brings to life wartime Amsterdam: a place where no matter how wealthy, educated, or careful you were, you never knew whom you could trust.

This book is now under fire for facts that cannot be verified, research that was poorly conducted and falsification of history. The European Congress of Jews and relatives of the alleged culprit have requested the book be pulled from stores saying “...its publication has tainted the memory of [Anne] Frank as well as survivors of the Holocaust.”

What do you think? Join us, read the book and we’ll find out at the next Book Group meeting on May 18, 2022 at 4:30 pm.

Book Group members will need to find their own copies to read since it is not available through Herrick District Library as a “group read”.

TAKING CARE OF GOD'S WORLD

Our Stewardship Emphasis

Are you a good steward of the gifts God has given you? The biggest gift God has given us is a PLANET THAT SUSTAINS LIFE AS WE KNOW IT. Are you a good steward of the planet? You may say —That is too big a subject, Den. Of course I care about the planet but what can I do about it? It is too big a subject.



Well it turns out we can do a lot of things. Your Stewardship Committee has decided to explore ways we can be good stewards of the earth as an individual, as a congregation, and as a community. We will be talking about these things in our newsletters, by emails, by posters in the commons area, and wherever we can.

Friday, April 22, was labeled Earth Day on the calendar but really every day needs to be labeled Earth Day if we want to sustain life on the planet as we know it. There were lots of TV programs about ways to help cleanup the earth and its atmosphere this week. I imagine there will be more.

The ELCA has a program called LUTHERANS RESTORING CREATION and it can be found on the the computer by going to “lutheransrestoringcreation.org.” They are encouraging Green Teams in the congregations to spread the word about this crisis.

It is obvious that the Polar ice caps are melting at an exponential rate. The greenhouse effect of too much CO₂ in the atmosphere is warming the earth and changing weather patterns and conditions. The western US is becoming drier every year.

Life as we know it will have to change and change drastically. I think that is why we resist talking about Climate Change because we know we are going to be asked to make changes in our lives. NO ONE WANTS TO MAKE CHANGES IN THEIR LIFE. WE LIKE IT THE WAY IT IS. But we have to if we want to leave an earth that can sustain life for our future generations.

Your Stewardship Committee has decided to talk about and spread the word about ways we can be good stewards of Planet Earth. The committee is made up of Elliott Eisaman, Brian Underhill, Ellie Buggeln, Pastor, and myself. If you are interested in helping on this committee please let me know and I will keep you informed. Help us become part of the solution instead of the problem.

Thank you.
Dennis Willaman

CHOIR NEWS



Rehearsals for May:

Sunday, May 1, 2022 9:30 am

Sing during Service

Monday, May 2, 2022 6:30 pm

Sunday, May 8, 2022 9:30 am

Sing during Service

Sunday, May 8, Mother's Day, is the last day for Choir this spring. Choir will resume, Monday, September 12, 2022 in the fall.

Thank You Choir for all your dedication, work and the joy you bring to our worship services through your music. We look forward to your return in the fall.

NOISY OFFERING – ESCAPE MINISTRIES

May and June Noisy Offering Recipient:
Escape Ministries



Our noisy offering for the month of May and June will be going to Escape Ministries in Holland. This organization works and intervenes in the lives of our youth who are at risk of falling through the cracks of society by connecting youth with resources, opportunities, and relationships rooted in the gospel. In particular they provide at risk youths with supervised job internships, education, and fitness just to name a few.



Our goal through the next 2 months will be to provide several sponsorships for youth for job opportunities in the community and we would like to provide a lunch for the youth and staff during these 2 months so this will allow us a volunteer opportunity as well. More to follow in the coming weeks.

SUMMER HOURS COMING SOON!



Yes! It's that time of year!

Summer office hours begin:

Memorial Day, Monday, May 30, 2022
Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday
9:00 am — 2:00 pm

CHURCH CLEANING SCHEDULE

Do you love to clean?
If so, you're in luck!

We Need Cleaners!!!

Check the schedule and sign up today.

| Dates | Name(s) |
|--|------------------------|
| Weeks of May 1 - 7 May 8 - 14 | Willamans Willamans |
| Weeks of May 15 - 21 May 22 - 28 | |
| Weeks of May 29 - June 4 June 5 - 11 | Norvells Norvells |

Sign-up is for a 1-week period and includes cleaning all areas of the church building: sanctuary, sacristy, entrance, hallway, bathrooms, kitchen, conference room, nursery and Commons.

To sign-up:

Use the Cleaning Schedule form in the Commons
or

Contact Deb in the office:

gslc.office@icloud.com

616.772.4075



SUNDAY SERVANTS – MAY

Please help us fill the spaces. Volunteer to be a Sunday Servant

Use the form in the Commons or contact Deb in the office.

616.772.4075 or gslc.office@icloud.com

| Date | Worship Leader/ Communion Assistant | Reader | Usher | Communion Set-Up/ Clean-Up | Counters |
|--|---|---------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|----------|
| May 1 3rd Sunday of Easter | WL - CA - Corinne * Becker | Sharon Wendt | Floyd Norvell | Vicki Russell | 1. 2. |
| May 8 4th Sunday of Easter | WL - CA - Kerry * Johnson | Kris Norvell | Dennis Willaman | Deb Ludwig | 1. 2. |
| May 15 5th Sunday of Easter | WL - CA - | | Mike Russell | Terry Grossman | 1. 2. |
| May 22 6th Sunday of Easter | WL - CA - | Floyd Norvell | | Kris Norvell | 1. 2. |
| May 29 7th Sunday of Easter | WL - CA - | | | Terry Grossman | 1. 2. |

SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Sunday Services and Activities are also on-line.

*Sunday Services, 10:00 -11:00 am, also available via Zoom 10:00 am and available later via YouTube

Choir Rehearsals, Mondays, 6:30 - 7:30

Quilter's Meet, Tuesdays, 10:30 am on site

Bible Study, Wednesdays, 10:15 - 11:30 am; Social Time 9:30 - 10:15 am

Book Group, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 4:30 - 6:00

(* link also available on the Breeze calendar)

FELLOWSHIP — MAY 2022

| | Set Up & Clean Up | Treats |
|--------------|-------------------|----------------|
| May 1, 2022 | | Corinne Becker |
| May 8, 2022 | | |
| May 15, 2022 | | |
| May 22, 2022 | | |
| May 29, 2022 | | |

PASTOR'S SCHEDULE



Pastor Jessica is available Monday - Friday

via phone, text, email and Facebook messenger.

Phone: (616) 403-4660

Email: pj.gslc@gmail.com

To view Pastor's weekly in-office hours, look on the Breeze calendar on our website at goodshepherdhollandmi.com

May

Birthdays

Lucien Preston 2
 Ellen Lichtman 5
 Chris Simoni 5
 Donna Vargo 7
 Jessica Underhill 8
 Lynda Parrott 10
 Jeff Hardy 15

Terry Grossman 22
 Corinne Becker 23
 Carol Ollermann 24
 Jon Hurt 26
 Bryan Blank 26
 Kris Norvell 27
 Vicki Russell 28



Anniversaries

Merle Malmquist &
 Wayne Nestander 23
 Kris & Floyd Norvell 24
 Perry & Lisa Person 25
 Laurie & Duane Schuldt 28

OUR THANKS AND PRAISE



The Measure of our Love

Computers connected to Zoom link = Families

Total Sunday Attendance: 173

families: 7

Average Sunday Attendance: 43

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Church Council Members:

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Jessica Bacon, Secretary | (920) 889-8706, jessica.lois.bacon@gmail.com |
| Steve Johnson | (616) 212-6833, sgjcfp@gamil.com |
| Rob Parrott, President | (616) 836-0172, parrott@chartermi.net |
| Vicki Russell | (616) 796-8606, vicki0528@gmail.com |
| Julie Wolff, Vice President | (616) 566-6251, wolffwife@gmail.com |

IN OUR APRIL PRAYERS

In Our April Prayers...

- **We Rejoice:** Kindi (related to Kris and Floyd Norvell) is in remission. Please continue prayers for a cancer-free diagnosis.
- **Congratulations:** to Nikki & Andrew Delo (like a daughter to Kris & Floyd Norvell) on the birth of Jordan Parker Delo, March 29, 4:14 pm, 6 lbs, 10 oz, 18.5" long. Mom and Baby are doing well, Dad is overjoyed.
- **Healing/Peace:** Eve, Ali & Bethany Andrus have Covid, Lucas Barton, diagnosed with Dushanes Muscular Dystrophy (son of friends of Julie Wolff), Zach Bergland (Beckers' nephew), Patricia Bradfield, Brian (Jessica Bacon's uncle), Beth Brumbalow undergoing kidney removal surgery (friend of Lois Robinson), Selena Casillas, 8 yrs old-diagnosed with cancer (friend of Ellen Lichtman), Bret D'Agostino, prayers for secure housing, Kody De Haan, Jim Dyke, Carol Essig (Bret D'Agostino's aunt), Sandy Edwards, diagnosed with ovarian cancer (friend of Corinne Becker), Judy Forsten (Marijo's Sister), Jessie George (Deb P-G's daughter), Carol Grossman (Steve's mother), diagnosed with cancer, Erlene Haskin, has entered Hospice Care, Randy Kasdorf (friend of Parrotts) suffered a stroke, Cathy Kelly, Iris Mears, (PJ's godmother), Howard Reister diagnosed with cancer (Sally & Ellen's brother), Roland Rivera, Casey Rostos' brain tumor has returned, needs surgery again (friend of Norvells), Janice Russell (Mike's sister-in-law), Katherine Slee (friend of Beckers), Kindi Smith, (Norvell niece) diagnosed with a very aggressive form of Leukemia, a blood cancer. Chad Stettnichs (cousin of Perry Pearson), Russ & Rita Taylor (Julie Wolff's parents) Rita has dementia, Tena (Howard Born's mom) hospitalized in Byron Center Justin Walker (Pastor's husband), Jon Wiening.
- **Prayers for Our World:** As the body of Christ in the world we pray for the people of Ukraine, that they may know that God is with them. We pray that God will open President Putin's heart to God's wisdom and end the violence against the Ukrainian people.
- **Assisted Living/Nursing Home/Homebound:** Christopher St. John (Son of Bonita Zielke), Bonita Zielke,
- **Serving Our Country:** John Bounthapanya (Som's nephew), Cortney and Konstantin Ivanov (Gigi Howard's daughter and son-in-law), Kayla Kleinjans (Stan & Debbie's granddaughter), Alex Miller, Andrew Wagner (Patricia Bradfield's grandson), Zachery Wiesner (Gigi Howard's son-in-law).
- **Prayer Partners:** Trinity Lutheran Church, Revs. Gerald Ferguson & Danielle Shealy; Trinity Lutheran Church, Rev. Mary Hughes, Millersburg; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Rev. Dana Hendershot, Mt. Pleasant; First Lutheran Church, Rev. William Uetrict, Muskegon.