



'Eastered' People

"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." – 2 Corinthians 5:21

He is risen!!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

He is risen indeed; warmed by the risen Son and still feeling the excitement of Easter morning's discovery of the empty tomb we have entered in to a new reality; we are 'Eastered' people. As followers of Christ some two-thousand years after the events of that first Easter morning we have already been living in this new reality, this Eastered world, and yet it is never a bad thing to be reminded of what this new reality means for us. What this Eastered world holds for us.

Firstly, this new world means freedom. True and complete freedom; in this new post-resurrection world we are radically and completely free from the law. We are free from worry about where we will go when we die, free from fear about how God will judge us. In this Eastered world we are no longer bound to the responsibility of our own salvation. We cannot make ourselves righteous enough to restore our relationship with God. We can't restore our relationship with God. God's forgiveness is not dependent upon our actions. The Eastering of the world does not require anything from us, God is not waiting for our 'yes' or 'no' to Easter the world. That has already been done. On a cross, on a hill outside of Jerusalem, in the death of a carpenter by crucifixion that hardly anyone in the first century noticed, the world was completely turned around. On that weekend, unknown or ignored by most of the first-century world, the entire cosmos was changed forever. The act was done, finished. Your salvation and mine was secured. Once for all; this means that our actions were not even taken into account. We were saved before we were even part of the world; given God's righteousness before we were born.

This means we are free from trying to attain it, keep it, or convince others to accept it. So, if our salvation and others is already assured, then what is the point of belief in Christ? What is the point of faith? What are we Eastered to do?

That is the central question for those of us living in the new reality. What are we to do? We are to bear Hope; for hope is the other part of being Eastered. Hope is the by-product of this new reality. We know that we are forgiven; we know that death no longer has the last word; we know that the last word is a resounding 'Alleluia!' We can take what life throws at us because we know to whom we belong. But others do not know this. There are plenty of people who don't know that they are Eastered; who are living a life half-dead in their guilt and shame and sin. There are plenty of people who are stumbling in darkness because they don't know the Son has risen or they think that they have to make the Son rise in their lives and just can't seem to do it. Plenty of people in need of hope.

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PASTOR'S PAGE CONTINUED

And don't we just have it in abundance! Friends we are filled with it, overflowing with it, loaded up with baskets of hopeful bread and fish for all the hungry. So let's start feeding, let's start distributing hope by the basketful wherever it is needed. Let's ask what this community needs and let's work together to provide it.

We have been hope bearers in our community for a long time; we volunteer at different ministries in the area and our noisy offering to different missions is evidence of our gifts being multiplied to feed many and there are still more to feed.

We are Eastered people. Living in an Eastered world. We are a people of hope, and sometimes we are a people in need of hope; each of us is occasionally hungry ourselves or deep in darkness and unable to see the Son-light. The great news is that we are hope-less, there is hope in Christ Jesus and when we are hungry, there is plenty of bread.

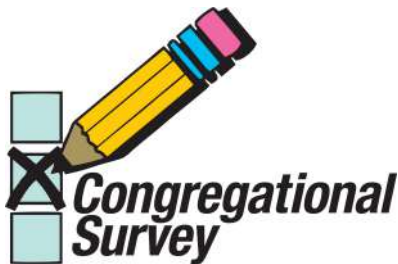
Let us then share our hope by the basketful, the cupful, the mouthful, to all those in need and let us come back to the table when we are in need. For the Son has risen. The morning has broken. The world has been Eastered.

Alleluia!!

Yours in Christ

Pastor Jess

MEMBERSHIP & EVENTS TEAM SURVEY



What Would You Like to Do?

The Membership and Events Team (The MET) is interested in your thoughts on which events you would like to have at GSLC. A survey is available in the commons that we ask you to fill out and return to the church office. We will work to schedule the events with the most interested participants and planners. Please share your creative suggestions for good activities!

FAMILY GAME NIGHT



Family Game Night

Join us for a fun-filled family game night!
Bring a couple of your favorite board games,
a snack to share
as well as beverages for your family.

Saturday, May 6, 2023, 6:00 pm

SPRING CLEAN-UP



Steve and Terry Grossman

l-r, Branden Bacon, Steve Grossman, & Brian Underhill

l-r, Floyd Norvell, Jacob Bacon, & Brian Underhill



Thank You!

A BIG thank you to all who participated in the Spring Clean-Up; to those who planned and coordinated and to those who did the work.

It Looks Great!

Kris Norvell



QUILTS AND SCHOOL KITS



Where did our 2022 quilts and school kits go?

They went to 19 different countries:

Angola, Armenia, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Georgia, Guatemala, Haiti, Jordan, Lebanon, Mali, Niger, Peru, Poland, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, and Ukraine.

Quilts distributed: 220,317

School kits distributed: 90,860

Thank you all for your generosity in assisting with these two projects.



GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS

God's Work Our Hands = A Summer of Service

Your Mission and Outreach Team wants everyone at Good Shepherd to have an opportunity to help serve our community. We realize that having one day of service may not fit your busy lives so this year we are planning a Summer of Service. Every month from June through September we will participate with a different non-profit organization. Not only will we have 4 dates but we will have 4 different organizations to serve. Watch for information as we plan these 4 opportunities. We hope you can participate in 1, 2, 3 or even all 4 as we show how Good Shepherd's Hands do God's Work in our community.



CHOIR NEWS

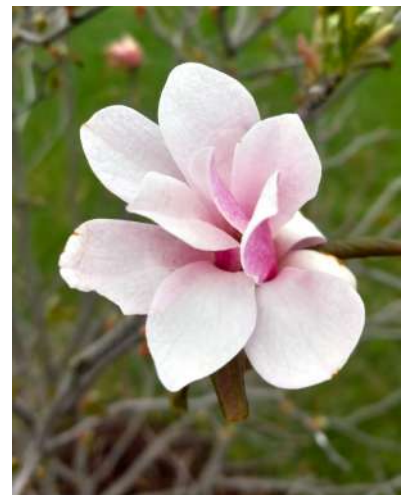
Choir Practice

Monday May 1: Final Choir Practice - 6:30 pm

See you in the fall!



SIGNS OF SPRING AT GSLC



BOOK GROUP

May Selection:

Peace Like A River

by Leif Enger

Book Group



Peace Like A River, by Leif Enger, a richly evocative novel narrated by an asthmatic 11-year-old named Reuben Land, is the story of Reuben's unusual family and their journey across the frozen Badlands of the Dakotas in search of his fugitive older brother. Charged with the murder of two locals who terrorized their family, Davy has fled, understanding that the scales of justice will not weigh in his favor. But Reuben, his father, Jeremiah—a man of faith so deep he has been known to produce miracles—and Reuben's little sister, Swede, follow closely behind the fleeing Davy.

Affecting and dynamic, *Peace Like a River* is at once a tragedy, a romance, and an unflagging exploration into the spirituality and magic possible in the everyday world, and in that of the world awaiting us on the other side of life.

NOISY OFFERING

Noisy Offering - May and June 2023



Our Noisy Offering for May/June is BestPals Animal Rescue Center. See their story below. BestPals is also the 1st of our God's Work Our Hands projects. We will be assisting them at their 10 Year Anniversary Party, June 25, 2023, 11:30 - 5:00 pm

BestPals Animal Rescue Center – Our Story

BestPals Animal Rescue Center is a non-profit shelter in Holland that takes in owner-surrendered cats and dogs. Our mission is to provide a guaranteed adoption for owner-surrendered companion animals and to partner with other organizations to provide a No-Kill community. We also take in transfers from local overcrowded shelters when we can. We provide a service to our community's homeless animal population that other organizations can't. We are a No-Kill Promise shelter, committed to finding a forever home for every animal that enters our doors. Most of the cats and dogs come to us in need of necessary and immediate medical treatment. As a small shelter, a large part of our donations go to emergency veterinary care for the animals we take in.



Founded 10 years ago, our Executive Director, Michelle Kenat, realized her lifelong dream to have a shelter where cats and dogs could be loved and cared for in a no-kill environment. Her love for animals led her to work in shelters in her home town of Chicago. After moving to Holland, she was able to put her plans for BestPals into place.

We believe that every companion animal should have a forever home where they are loved and cherished. Sadly, this is not always the case. Many shelters are paid by their county to take in strays, but they do not have to accept owner-surrendered pets. BestPals focuses on the owner-surrenders, the ones that no one else will take and, because we are a no-kill shelter, every dog and cat will remain with us until they are adopted. We will always take a pet back if the owner is no longer able to care for them. Our surrender program is judgement free. We work with pet owners to find solutions to keep or take back their pets if possible. BestPals' adoption process is stringent. We check every potential adopter to ensure they can and will take care of their new best pal. All pet adoptees are fostered by the potential adopter first, prior to the adoption, to ensure a good fit for the pet and the adopter.

BestPals has been voted Holland's "Best Of The Best" of all non-profit organizations the last 7 years in a row. It is truly a testament of our dedication to the cats and dogs we serve every day.

BESTPALS PARTY



Save the Date!

BestPals Animal Rescue Center for GWOH, June 25, 2023, at 11:30.
There will be plenty of time to enjoy the free event with your family as well.
More information coming soon.

OUR PRAISE AND THANKS

Dear Partners in Ministry:

Thank you for helping to make this 2022 Christmas MERRY for children in need!! Your thoughtfulness this season is a blessing, and an encouragement to a child, providing gifts from a person who cares about them and wishes them all that a child should enjoy during this blessed season....

On behalf of the people served by Samaritas, thank you for your in-kind contribution of household products for the Samaritas New Americans Program....

We are blessed that you share in our mission - Serving people as an expression of the love of Christ. Your partnership in connecting, empowering and transforming lives in our community is priceless.

Sincerely,
David Morin
Interim, Chief Executive Officer
Kelli Dobner
Chief Advancement Officer

2 letters rec'd March 30, 2023

Good Shepherd Lutheran,

Thank you for supporting our Walk 4 Warmth again this year. Your 'noisy offering' is such a kind, clever idea. Thanks again!

Kindly
The OCCAA Team
Jen, Lupita, Megan, Kerri,
Christopher

Rec'd April 5, 2023

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP NEWS

Are you recycling yet? Have you looked into your CARBON FOOTPRINT? Have you cut back on burning fossil fuels? If not, why? As good Christian stewards we need to take care of this earth God has provided for us. Not only that but we would want to provide a livable environment for our future generations.

Glaciers and the polar icecaps are melting. Land along our coast is disappearing under water. Islands in the Pacific have become uninhabitable. Extreme weather conditions seem to become more prevalent. The average temperature of the earth is rising.

The latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change compiled by hundreds of scholars and approved by the representatives of 195 countries says that if we don't stop polluting the atmosphere and completely stop by 2050 the earth will be in extreme danger of not providing an environment that will support life as we know it. The way society conducts commerce has to change.

Now these are just predictions. But they are by the best scientists on the planet. Predictions can be wrong but more often than not, when they are based on scientific facts, they will have a lot of truth associated with them. To disregard these predictions and to hide our heads in the sand seems to be a poor way of praising God. We were born on this earth. It is the only earth we know of that can support our way of life. To ignore these predictions seems to be very selfish on our part. Future generations are depending on us.

The Good Shepherd stewardship committee has realized this fact and is trying to encourage our church community to do what we can to save this earth's environment.

This committee would like to encourage you to:

Participate in recycling if your local refuse collection provides that service. In the city of Holland, where I live, they have provided us with a large recycling bin and will take paper, cardboard, plastic containers, metal, and glass. There are some restrictions but mostly, the items must be clean and dry. If you don't have access to recycling at your home the church has some alternatives for you.

- There is a large bin in the kitchen to collect clean and dry plastic containers.
- There is a large bin in the entrance way to collect aluminum pop cans that can be returned for \$0.10 a can. The money will be used to support youth activities.
- A PaperGator bin is located on the church property and newspapers and office papers can be collected in it.
- The quilting group recycles material making quilts for refugees to be delivered by the Lutheran World Relief.
- The church has replaced many of its light bulbs with LED bulbs which use much less fossil fuel. We are planning to replace even more.
- Egg cartons are recycled to the Community Action House to be used by their Food Club store.
- The church is looking at putting solar panels on the church roof to reduce burning of fossil fuel.

There are many other things the church could be involved with to save the environment. If you are interested in helping us develop these activities just let me know.

Dennis Willaman
Chairman, Stewardship Committee



SUNDAY SERVANTS — MAY

Sunday Servants Needed for 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(s) | Usher | Communion Set- Up/Clean-Up | Counters |
|--|---|---------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| May 7 5th Sunday of Easter | WL-Brian Underhill CA-Corinne Becker | Branden Bacon | Elliott Eisaman | Deb Ludwig | 1.Elliott Eisaman 2. |
| May 14 6th Sunday of Easter | WL - CA- | Kris Norvell | Floyd Norvell | Vicki Russell | 1. 2. |
| May 21 7th Sunday of Easter | WL - CA-Brian Underhill | Tom Ludwig | Brian Underhill | Deb Ludwig | 1. 2. |
| May 28 Pentecost | WL - CA - | | | Lynda Parrott | 1. 2. |

FELLOWSHIP — MAY 2023

Fellowship Sign-up.



| Treats and Set Up & Clean Up | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| May 7, 2023 | Suzanne & Bill House |
| May 14, 2023 | |
| May 21, 2023 | Underhills |
| May 28, 2023 | |

CHURCH CLEANING SCHEDULE

The new cleaning schedule for March 5 - April 29 is below.
Please take a turn and sign up to clean.

Sign-up: 2-week period preferred, however, 1-week period is acceptable. Cleaning 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



| Dates | Name(s) |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Weeks of April 30 - May 6 May 7 - 13 | Dennis Willaman & Gary Bowman |
| Weeks of May 14 - 20 May 21 - 27 | |
| Weeks of May 28 - June 3 June 4 - 10 | |
| Weeks of June 11 - 17 June 18 - 24 | |
| Weeks of June 25 - July 1 July 2 - 8 | |

THE MEASURE OF OUR LOVE

The Measure of our Love

Computers connected via internet = Families

Total Sunday Attendance: 221

Families: 28

Average Sunday Attendance: 44



May

Birthdays

Lucien Preston 2
Ellen Lichtman 5
Chris Simoni 5
Donna Vargo 7
Jessica Underhill 8
Kathy Miller 10
Lynda Parrott 10
Jeff Hardy 15
Terry Grossman 22
Corinne Becker 23
Carol Ollerman 24
Jon Hurt 26
Kris Norvell 27
Vicki Russell 28



Anniversaries

Carol & Craig Ollerman 18
Kris & Floyd Norvell 24
Perry & Lisa Pearson 25
Laurie & Duane Schuldt 28

SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Sunday Services and some Activities are also on-line.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87525508195?pwd=MmtjVENGaUg3ODFuaXhhUHR1TVR3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 875 2550 8195

Passcode: 022399

Sunday Services, 10:00 -11:00 am, also available via YouTube
Choir Rehearsals, Mondays at 6:30 pm, September - May
Quilter's Meet, Tuesdays, 10:30 am on site. No Quilting in December.
Women's Bible Study, Wednesdays, 10:15 am, September - May
Book Group, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 4:30 pm.

PASTOR JESS' 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

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Church Council Members:

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Jessica Bacon, | (920) 889-8706, jessica.lois.bacon@gmail.com |
| Larry Heckel | (616) 399-8238 (H), (616) 403-1476 (C), laurenceheckel@icloud.com |
| Steve Johnson | (616) 212-6833, sgjcfp@gamil.com |
| Brian Underhill (Pres) | (616) 292-7194, underhillbrian@yahoo.com |
| Julie Wolff (VP) | (616) 566-6251, wolffwife@gmail.com |
| Pastor Jess (Sec) | (616) 403-4660, pj.gslc@gmail.com |

IN OUR APRIL PRAYERS

In Our Prayers...

- **Our Sympathies:** to the family of Ted Plakke (Vicki R.'s cousin) who passed away April, 14, 2023; and to Rob & Lynda Parrott and family on the death of Rob's brother, Morrie, on Tuesday, April 11, 2023. He had just entered hospice care.
- **In Thanksgiving:** Ellie Buggeln is healing well from the broken pelvis and Covid. Dorothy Postema, (Deb P-G's mom), heart surgery is successful, still healing. Rose Heckel is now at home and recovering from Covid.
- **Healing/Peace:** our members with Covid, the Aikens/Preston family, house fire, Lucas Barton, diagnosed with Dushanes Muscular Dystrophy (son of friends of Julie Wolff), Zach Bergland (Beckers' nephew), Greg Bolton, (friend of Julie Wolff), Tom & Elizabeth Brookover, (friends of the Wentz') Tom has a rare form of ocular cancer, Selena Casillas, 8 yrs old-diagnosed with cancer (friend of Ellen Lichtman), Bret D'Agostino, Kody De Haan, Diane (close friend of Kris Norvell) at Mayo clinic for treatment for inoperable cancer, Carol Essig (Bret D'Agostino's aunt), Jessie George (Deb P-G's daughter), Larry Heckel, Rose Heckel, in hospital with Covid but doing well, Cathy Kelly, Suzanne Kjoller (Ellie's daughter) in hospital, prayers for a diagnosis & pain relief, Jack Klynstra had heart attack in December, Tiffany Letourneau, diagnosed with breast cancer, Iris Mears, (PJ's godmother), Trudy & Dale Medendorp, (close friends of Vicki R.), Dale diagnosed with stage 4 cancer, Molly (friend of Deb P-G) diagnosed with uterine cancer, Diane Oberlin (former attendee), has cancer, Rita Ponstein, (Sally's sister-in-law), Dorothy Postema, (Deb P-G's mom), Howard Reister diagnosed with cancer (Sally & Ellen's brother), Roland Rivera, Lois Robinson, fell at home, Casey Rostos (friend of Norvells), Katherine Slee (friend of Beckers), Russ & Rita Taylor (Julie Wolff's parents), Taylor, (Sally P.s granddaughter) who witnessed the MSU shootings, Som Vixayphone, Justin Walker (Pastor's husband), Jon Wiening.
- **Prayers for Our World:** We pray for the Community of MSU and for the Lutheran Campus Ministry at MSU, for the victims and families of mass shootings and for those affected by the train derailments in the US.
- **Healthy Pregnancy:** Rebecca Adams, Ali Le Pere (Ludwig's niece).
- **Assisted Living/Nursing Home/Homebound:** Christopher St. John (Son of Bonita Zielke), Bonita Zielke,
- **Serving Our Country:** John Bounthapanya (Som's nephew), Ryan Felgenhauer, William Felgenhauer, and Evan Felgenhauer (great-nephews of Kerry Johnson), Cortney and Konstantin Ivanov (Gigi Howard's daughter and son-in-law), Koa Rosally (Terry Grossman's grandson), Andrew Wagner (Patricia Bradfield's grandson), Zachery Wiesner (Gigi Howard's son-in-law).
- **Prayer Partners:** Messiah Lutheran Church, Rev. Dan Stoneback, Bay City; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Revs. Daniel Ward & Bob Garrels, Big Rapids; St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Rev. Rheanna Goodrich, Bridgeport; Zion Lutheran Church, Rev. Scott Torkko, Cadillac; Peace Lutheran Church, Rev. Neil Brady, Charlotte.