



An Invitation for Conversation

Grace and Peace to you, from God our Creator and from our Redeemer, Jesus the Christ.

This month I am inviting you all to join me for an evening of information and conversation about the role our faith plays in our political lives. Now, I know that, for a long time, it has been taboo to speak those two words in the same sentence, but the reality is that we can't, nor should we, separate what our faith tells us about how we treat others and our civic responsibility. As followers of Christ, we commit to "love our neighbor as ourselves" and follow the example of Jesus in caring for the poor, the marginalized, the hurting and the hungry. We commit to seeing others as Beloved of God in Christ, and to acting with compassion and love toward those we disagree with. So, the question becomes, how do we live out those commitments in a world that is increasingly politically divided, with every side claiming that God supports only them?

These questions are uncomfortable, our faith and our politics involve deeply held beliefs and strong emotions; and most of us would rather not talk about them than risk confrontation and disagreement. However, we are in a time when the public conversations that are happening are increasingly uncivil and there are political parties using the name of Jesus to support actions that directly harm the poor and the marginalized. In short, this conversation is one that we, as people of faith, need to have.

Which brings me to the invitation. You are invited to join me on Thursday, August 17th in attending a forum sponsored by the Ottawa Unifying Coalition*. The theme of the forum is "Faith and Politics in Ottawa County," and will take place from 6-7:30 p.m. at Central Park Place in Grand Haven. Afterward we will gather for refreshment (place TBA) and conversation on what we heard and what we learned. I believe that part of our work as Christians is to continue learning, growing and wrestling with difficult issues and difficult conversations with love and respect for each other.

I look forward to seeing you on the 17th, God guide us in our learning and in our wrestling with difficult but important issues, amen.

Yours in Christ

Pastor Jess

*You can find more information on the Ottawa Unifying Coalition and this forum at <https://www.webelong-oc.org>.

FROM NORTH/WEST LOWER MICHIGAN WELCA



Dear Vicki,

Thank you for your donations to Synod and Churchwide.
We're so happy to hear from a "new" congregation!

I have passed your letter on to our Living Threads editor and you should see it in the next edition.

Our next gathering will be in the spring, usually in the last of April on Saturday. We'd love to see you there!

On June 10th the **Let the SONshine In** Tapestry event included a free will offering. \$150.00 was generously contributed by those who attended and was then matched from the existing Tapestry account. That \$300.00 was sent to the North/West Lower Michigan WELCA and will be shared with the national WELCA organization. Because many churches are struggling to bounce back from COVID there was a request in the spring WELCA newsletter, "Living Threads", to "share your secret" from WELCA groups who were able to have events and to make contributions to synod and the national WELCA group. An article was written to accompany our donation which may appear in the next issue of "Living Threads". Above is the note of appreciation that we received. Thank you to those who contributed and enabled us to make that contribution.

FROM GRAND RAVINE SENIOR HOUSING

Dear Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,

Your thoughtfulness meant so very much. We are so grateful for your hospitality, food, and fun games! Our residents had a fantastic time! Thank you.

Grand Ravine Senior Housing

Added notes:

Thank you - Kathy A., Joyce J.

Thank you, enjoyed - Lib

God Bless - Deann C.

Thank you so much, stay safe & God bless - Bev L.

Thank you so much for the food & fun! - Deb S.

Thank you for your kindness! God bless all of you! - Jacque S.

Thank you soooo much for the wonderful meal and games Saturday - Pat B.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness in bringing the gluten free bread! May God bless you all. - Pat L.

So enjoyed all of you! Especially Gary! - unsigned

God loves a cheerful giver.
2 Corinthians 9:7



GRAND RAVINE COOKOUT - GWOH - A SUMMER OF SERVICE

Grand Ravine Senior Housing Cookout

We had a great party at the Grand Ravine Senior Housing in Allegan on July 15. Thank you to all our Good Shepherd participants and organizers to make this summer service cookout so much fun!

Larry's cooking, including pulled pork and baked beans, was a big hit with residents. These entrees paired well with the creamy potato salad and coleslaw Dennis and Larry procured. Pastor Jessica helped round out the meal with cookies, brownies, and cupcakes. The residents were very excited to have leftovers for days to come!

There were concerns leading up to the event that we may have rain, but instead we had a cool partly cloudy afternoon great for lawn games. After a great meal, residents joined the Good Shepherd volunteers in working off the meal with some friendly competition including corn hole, ring toss, and a squirt gun game.

Thank you all for another great Summer of Service event!



The Mission and Outreach Committee: Julie, Vicki, Carolyn, Branden, and Pastor Jessica

L-R Eric Bolton, Julie Wolff, Branden Bacon & Carolyn Willaman

L-R Gary Bowman, Floyd Norvell & Eric Bolton

Vicki Russell, Floyd Norvell, Dennis & Carolyn Willaman & Eric Bolton



GRAND RAVINE COOKOUT - GWOH - CONTINUED



L-R Pastor Jess & Gary Bowman

Eric Bolton



L-R Pastor Jess, Gary Bowman,
Branden Bacon, Vicki Russell &
Floyd Norvell



It's LWR School Kit Collection Time

Education is one of the strongest tools a community has for breaking the cycle of poverty. Ensuring that girls attend school, especially in places where their access is deprioritized, has even stronger results. That learning leads to a better life for the students, their families and their communities.

This year we are starting out with a surplus of supplies left from last year. Below is a list of items we still need.



- 353 - 70-page spiral bound notebooks
- 47 - pencil sharpeners
- 19 - pairs safety scissors
- 224 - blue or black ink pens
(no markers or gel pens)
- 23 - boxes of 16 or 24 crayons

We have already reached our goal for
Erasers - 123
Rulers - 129
Pencils - 114 bundles

Supplies will be collected
Now - August 31, 2023

We are also collecting money to help off-set the cost of backpacks and postage.

Questions? Contact:

Ellie Buggeln: 616-399-0591, elliebuggeln@gmail.com

Sharon Wendt: 616-399-0204, kiwiynk@yahoo.com

Drop off supplies at the church,
Tues/Wed/Thurs
from 9:00 - 2:00,
Sunday Mornings or
Anytime you're in the building.

Please:

- Give new items only.
- Do not donate items with religious symbols or messages or a congregational name.
- Do not donate items with US flags, military or patriotic symbols, references to the armed forces, or anything with camouflage.

BOOK GROUP NEWS



Book Group

“When we lift up women, we lift up humanity.”

Melinda French Gates

September Selection:

*The Moment of Lift:
How Empowering Women Changes the World*
by Melinda French Gates

After years of travel, humanitarian work, and extensive research, Melinda introduces us to the women she's met along the way. Their stories are brutally honest, gut-wrenching, inspiring and triumphant. They show us how, time and time again, empowered women rise up and bring their families and communities with them.

Melinda also shares her own personal journey to finding her voice and becoming an advocate for women and girls, explaining how the women she has met have called her to action. And at this critical moment, she calls us to action too—urging us to drive progress in our homes, workplaces, and communities.

The Moment of Lift will fill your heart with hope and ignite your sense of urgency.

FROM BESTPALS ANIMAL RESCUE CENTER

Dearest Congregation of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for your generous support of BestPals Rescue. Your kindness allows us to continue to rescue the cats & dogs others cannot, and ensure quality care.

We deeply appreciate the above-and-beyond help you gave us in making our 10 Year Anniversary Celebration a huge success. We look forward to our continued partnership in the year to come. Together we rescue!

Thank you,



MEN'S BREAKFAST — MEMBERSHIP & EVENTS TEAM

Men's Breakfast:

During our July Men's Breakfast we learned that we have congregants born everywhere from Texas to New York to Wisconsin and we have many global travelers within our church. It's amazing what you can learn during times of fellowship!

Next Men's Breakfast at Church
Saturday, August 12 @ 9:00am

A sign-up sheet is available in the commons if you would like to join our next event. You are welcome to sign up to bring a favorite breakfast item to share (optional).

We will be performing a church project during the gathering. Let a member of the MET know if you have suggestions for a church project to help keep up the church or grounds.

The MET (Membership and Events Team)
Julie, Pastor Jessica, Jessica B, and Branden

L-R: Tom Ludwig, Mike Russell, Brian Underhill, Floyd Norvell, Dennis Willaman, Steve Johnson and Branden Bacon



FREE CONCERT

Music Unites Us, Free Concert at Kollen Park.

Join us as we listen to Cumbia, Vietnamese, Ukrainian, Ugandan and other music as we celebrate the diverse abilities and cultures in our community. Featured soloists are Cuong Luong, Nina Tritenichenko, Samuel Nalangira, and Julia LaGrand with guest quartet, Grupa Super Nova accompanied by the Holland Symphony Orchestra. See flyer for more details.

7:00 pm, August 12, 2023, Kollen Park Bandshell.



Food available for purchase from:
Abeshi Ghanaian Cuisine, Mezkla Taqueria & Fruteria
Crepes by the Lakes, Robinson's Popcorn

FROM THE MET (MEMBERSHIP & EVENTS TEAM)

WE WANT YOU!

To elaborate, we are excited to have your participation in planning events! Many hands make for light work and the same is true for getting these events rolling.

Cookout or Beach Picnic:

We received exceptional interest in some type of Cookout/Picnic. Do you have ideas for what would be fun? Contact a member of the MET and we will make this happen.

Theme/Progressive Dinner:

Do you have a creative or zany idea for a themed dinner or progressive meal? We'd love to try it! Reach out and we will match you with other interested planners.

Spring Bash and Car Show:

We have some sporty cars in our congregation that could make for a great spring event to draw in the community. We can also make this our big 2024 fundraiser with a rummage and bake sale. Think yard games. Think balloons. Think fire trucks. We don't know what this will shape into yet, but let's think big! Your creative ideas are welcome as we try to get our name out in the community.

The commonality between all these is that we would love to have your ideas to make these happen! If you have a passion for any of these events or something else, reach out to a MET member.

Our next scheduled event:

Game Night — Saturday, September 16, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

We look forward to seeing you there. 😊

The MET: Jessica B., Branden, Pastor Jessica, and Julie

JULY NEWSLETTER CORRECTION

Ooops!

Bill House (far left) was misidentified as Gary Bowman in the July newsletter. My apologies to Bill and Suzanne.



GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS

God's Work Our Hands = A Summer of Service

We are half way through our summer of service opportunities. Our first, **BestPals** Celebration had 13 Good Shepherd volunteers (Branden, Jessica and Jacob Bacon, Bill and Karrie Foster, Bill and Suzanne House, Floyd and Kris Norvell, Vicki Russell, Dennis and Carolyn Willaman, Julie Wolff). Next, the BBQ at **Grand Ravines** had 10 volunteers (Branden Bacon, Eric Bolton, Gary Bowman, Larry Heckel, Floyd Norvell, Pastor Rivera-Walker, Vicki Russell, Dennis and Carolyn Willaman, Julie Wolff). Thank you to all of our volunteers.

Our Noisy Offering recipients will benefit from our noisy offering collection and also from our participation in the service opportunity your Mission and Outreach Committee has planned.

The Noisy Offering Recipients for the remainder of 2023 are:

July/August: **Wings of Mercy**

September/October: **Benjamin's Hope**

November/December: **Samaritas**

The 2 remaining service opportunities are:

August 19: **Wings of Mercy, Holland CareAffaire** pancake breakfast, 6:30 - 12:00

September 30: **Benjamin's Hope Harvest Festival**, 3:00 - 6:00

October 1, 2023 will be our **Celebration of Service** with a luncheon after worship.

For more information see your Mission and Outreach Committee: Branden Bacon, Vicki Russell, Carolyn Willaman, Julie Wolff or Pastor Jessica.



SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Summer Office Hours

Memorial Day - Labor Day,
May 29, 2023 - September 4, 2023

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
9:00 am - 2:00 pm



NOISY OFFERING

Wings of Mercy - July/August Noisy Offering



Some Wings of Mercy facts:

The Wings of Mercy office is located in Zeeland, Mi.

Over 8,000 missions have been flown.

It costs about \$1 for every mile in the air for aviation fuel.

The average trip is about 790 miles.

Some grateful Wings of Mercy travelers:



Michelle — This organization has helped my husband twice. We were not in any financial position years ago to help out, but since last year we are very proud to be able to give something back. Thanks for all you do.

Richard — Thank you for taking our precious grandson to the hospital in Green Bay, Wisconsin, so he could have his heart checked. You are the tangible arms of Jesus.

Julianne — You saved my life and I can never say thank you enough.

Lucy — We are most thankful for the wonderful pilots who volunteer their time and resources to make our medical appointment trips less stressful.

GWOH EVENT - WINGS OF MERCY HOLLAND CAREAFFAIRE

GWOH Event: Wings of Mercy Holland CareAffaire #3 in our Summer of Service

The **Wings of Mercy Holland CareAffaire** will be held on **Saturday August 19, 2023** from 8:00 am until Noon at the West Michigan Regional Airport, 60 Geurink Blvd., Holland, MI 49423. We will have the privilege and responsibility to prepare and serve the pancake breakfast. We will be mixing pancake batter, pouring and flipping pancakes, cooking sausage, serving and helping with clean up.

We need volunteers for 2 shifts 6:30 - 9:30 am and 9:00 am to Noon. The sign up sheet is on the table in the commons.

In addition to the pancake breakfast, at the CareAffaire, there will be a 5K run, vintage airplanes, helicopter and plane rides, drone demo, flight path simulations, Coast Guard flyover, Holland Police Rescue demo, classic cars and more.



NOORDELOOS CRC BLOOD DRIVE



**Tuesday
August**

15

2:00 PM – 7:00 PM

**Helpful tip:
Make sure to eat a healthy
meal and drink plenty of
water before donating.**

Noordeloos Christian Reformed Church Summer Blood Drive!

Join us for this lifesaving event!

4055 112th Avenue, Holland 49424

Donate for a chance to win \$1,200 in e-gift cards for a new TV, computer, or any new home entertainment device.* Please use the QR code to sign up, or call (866)-642-5663 to schedule an appointment.



PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

The Measure of our Love
Computers connected via internet = Families

Total Sunday Attendance: 210

Families: 9

Average Sunday Attendance: 42



SUNDAY SERVANTS - AUGUST

Sunday Servants Needed for August

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
August 6 10th Sunday of Pentecost	WL- CA- Vicki Russell	Branden Bacon	Mike Russell	Terry Grossman	1. 2.
August 13 11th Sunday of Pentecost	WL - CA-	Tom Ludwig		Deb Ludwig	1. 2.
August 20 12th Sunday of Pentecost	WL - CA-	Branden Bacon		Deb Ludwig	1. 2.
August 27 13th Sunday of Pentecost	WL - CA -				1. 2.

FELLOWSHIP AUGUST 2023

Fellowship Sign-up.



Treats and Set Up & Clean Up	
August 6, 2023	Bacon
August 13, 2023	
August 20, 2023	Bacon
August 27, 2023	

CHURCH CLEANING SCHEDULE

Our July 23 - Sept. 16 schedule is FULL!

Thank you to all who signed up!

Watch for the new September - October schedule, coming soon.

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 July 23 - 29 July 30 - Aug. 5	Ludwigs (only 1 week) Sharon Wendt
Weeks of August 6 - 12 August 13 - 19	Russells Russells
Weeks of August 20 - 26 Aug. 27 - Sept. 2	Dennis Willaman & Gary Bowman Dennis Willaman & Gary Bowman
Weeks of September 3 - 9 September 10 - 16	Fosters Fosters



No need to sort glass, plastics or other recyclable items when dropping them off at an Ottawa County Recycling Facility!

AUGUST

Birthdays

Chan Vixayphone 13
Ellery Pearson 27
Vaughn Aikens 30
Elliott Eisaman 30



Anniversaries

No documented anniversaries this month.

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 Zoom
Choir Rehearsals, Mondays at 6:30 pm, September - May, begins Sept. 13, 2023
Quilter's Meet, Tuesdays, 10:30 am on site. No Quilting in December.
Women's Bible Study, Wednesdays, 10:30 am, September - May
Book Group, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 4:30 pm. September - May

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 JULY PRAYERS

In Our July Prayers...

- **Sympathies:** to the O'Donnell and Rivera Families on the loss of Pastor Jess' aunt, Christine O'Donnell, June 21, 2023; to Bret D'Agostino and family on the death of his aunt, Carol Essig.
- **Congratulations:** to Rebecca & Tim Adams on the birth of Makenzie Rose, Sunday, July 2, at 2:19 pm, 7lb. 5oz., 20.5" long. The family is doing well. Cooper, although unsure, is starting to come around to the idea of a sister. to David and Ali Le Pere (Ludwig's nephew). Ali gave birth to healthy twin girls, Lucy and Molly, on June 21, 2023. Mom and girls are doing well.
- **Praise and Thanksgiving:** Howard Reister (Sally & Ellen's brother) almost cancer free after experimental treatment, Rita Ponstein, (Sally's sister-in-law) kidney transplant was successful, Rita is out and about and happy to be driving again.
- **Healing/Peace:** 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, Dylan Brophy, age 26, (nephew of Kris Norvell's friend), stage 4 melanoma, Ellie Buggeln, Kory Casey, (mother of Kris Norvell's friend), stage 4 breast cancer, Christine (PJ's aunt), Bret D'Agostino, Mark DeGraaf, stage 4 cancer, Kody De Haan, Diane (close friend of Kris Norvell) at Mayo clinic for treatment for inoperable cancer, Jessie George (Deb P-G's daughter), Larry Heckel, Rose Heckel fell, she was in rehab at Freedom Village, is now at Royal Atrium Inn, Cathy Kelly, May Kingsley & family, Suzanne Kjoller (Ellie's daughter), Joan Lamb broke her hip and is recovering from surgery, please pray for pain control and healing, Tiffany Letourneau, diagnosed with breast cancer, Kory Mace (friend of Kris Norvell), Iris Mears, (PJ's godmother), Trudy & Dale Medendorp, (close friends of Vicki R.), Dale diagnosed with stage 4 cancer now at home and on hospice care, Anthony Milanowski, (friend of Larry Heckel) being treated at Cleveland Clinic, Molly (friend of Deb P-G) diagnosed with uterine cancer, Diane Oberlin (former attendee), has cancer, Rita Ponstein, (Sally's sister-in-law), Howard Reister diagnosed with cancer (Sally & Ellen's brother), Roland Rivera, Lois Robinson, fell at home, Roland Rivera, A.J. Rosally (Grossman's son-in-law) heart attack, Koa Rosally (Grossman's grandson), Casey Rostos (friend of Norvells), Katherine Slee (friend of Beckers), Russ & Rita Taylor (Julie Wolff's parents), Justin Walker (Pastor's husband), Jon Wiening.
- **Healthy Pregnancy:** Rebecca Adams, Dylana Eisaman, Ali Le Pere (Ludwig's niece), Madison Visser (Norvells granddaughter-in-law).
- **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), Andrew Wagner (Patricia Bradfield's grandson), Zachery Wiesner (Gigi Howard's son-in-law).
- **Prayer Partners:** Calvary Lutheran Church, Rev. Zachary Nelson, Elk Rapids; Trinity Lutheran Church, Rev. Richard Stieve, Frankfort; Zion Lutheran Church, Rev. Andreas Teich, Freeland; Edgewood Lutheran Church, Rev. Len Dahlgren, Fruitport; Peace Lutheran Church, Rev. Megan Crouch, Gaylord.