



Fostering Beloved Community

Grace and peace to you, in the name of Christ our Savior.

I have been thinking a lot about community lately. Thinking about things like what makes a community? Who is part of our community? Why is community important? Recently, I was contacted by someone who had visited Good Shepherd. This person emailed me because she experienced the community of Good Shepherd as welcoming and loving and so, when a friend of hers approached her to see if she could recommend a place to host a community dinner, she thought of Good Shepherd.

As it turns out, her friend is one of the founders of the Intercultural Association of Michigan, an interfaith group that is dedicated to fostering community by gathering neighbors together for food and conversation. In this case, they wanted to see if we would host an Iftar, the evening breaking of the fast for Muslims during Ramadan. The goal: simply to get to know our neighbors; to build community.

And community is more important now than ever. As we head into an election year, it is hard to ignore how divided we are as a country. We are wary of those who do not agree with us and we are being bombarded online and in the media with messages designed to sow division, mistrust and fear. The only way to counteract this division is by intentionally reaching out to others to support and encourage one another in this experience of living.

Through Christ we are part of a beloved community. In Jesus we see what that looks like; grace and mercy are abundant, we can taste, see, touch and feel the love of God at the Table and in the waters of baptism, everyone is invited into connection and community with God—the things the world uses to divide and to define do not apply here—and we are all part of God's creative process of turning the world upside down.

We are divided, as a nation, as humans. We are, many of us, lonely and searching for meaningful connections. We are afraid of the future, of each other, of losing our place in the world. We are desperate to belong. Here and now the act of sharing a meal with our Muslim neighbors and learning each other's stories is an act of revolution and hope. Making it known that we are a safe place for the struggling, the marginalized, the ones who have been turned away from other places and the ones who have been here since the beginning, is an act that brings healing.

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THE PASTOR'S PAGE CONTINUED

Beloved of Good Shepherd, let's be hope-bringers by being beloved community for all those who seek belonging, let's hold one another in love and let's open our arms to our neighbors. In the name of the One who created us, the One who saves us and the One who gathers us together. Amen.

In Christ,

Pastor Jess

SAVE THE DATE



Sunday, March 17, 2024, 7:30 pm

Good Shepherd will be hosting an Iftar for the community.

What is an Iftar?

During the holy month of Ramadan (March 11-April 9, 2024) our Muslim neighbors practice fasting from food and water from sunrise to sunset every day. The Iftar is the sunset meal that breaks their fast for the day. Together with members of the Intercultural Association of Michigan, we will gather at 7:30 pm on the 17th to learn a bit about Ramadan, pray and share a meal together at sunset.

I encourage you to join us for conversation, fellowship and wonderful food!

Please R.S.V.P to the office by Sunday, March 10th so that we can plan for food.

TIME CHANGE



Daylight Savings Time

Begins:

Sunday, March 10, 2024
2:00 am

LENT @ GSLC – CONGREGATIONAL ART PIECE



Congregational Art Piece

Beginning on Wednesday, February 14th through Palm Sunday you will have the opportunity to contribute to a cross mosaic that will be revealed on Easter Sunday. A wooden cross will be placed in the fellowship area along with a basket of broken tile; you are invited to take pieces of tile—if you are so moved you may write prayers, worries, hopes, etc. on the back of each piece—and glue them to the cross to create the mosaic.

LENT @ GSLC – GROUP LENTEN STUDY



Group Lenten Study:

“Have a Beautiful, Terrible Lent” by Kate Bowen

Sundays

11:15 - 12:15

March 3, 10 and 17, 2024

LENT @ GSLC – MIDWEEK ACTIVITIES



Holden Evening Prayer & Midweek Meditation Online

Wednesdays,

March 6, 13 & 20, 2024

LENT @ GSLC – WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Palm Sunday: 10:00 am, March 24, 2024



Maundy Thursday: 7:00 pm, March 28, 2024



Good Friday: 7:00 pm, March 29, 2024



Easter Sunday: 10:00 am, March 31, 2024

WALK FOR WARMTH

Walk for Warmth Ottawa County Community Action Agency



Walk for Warmth, an annual two-mile walk organized by the Ottawa County Community Action Agency, raises money to keep the heat on for financially qualifying families in Ottawa County who have received a utility shut-off notice for gas, electric, water or deliverable fuels like propane. 100% of the funds raised stay in Ottawa County to help your neighbors.

The Walk for Warmth 2024 event will be:

Friday, March 8, 2024

6:00pm - 8:00pm,

and start at

EV Construction

86 E. 6th St.

Holland, MI 49423

The event is scheduled in the evening this year. You are welcome to wear your glow gear and join us for a night of fun that will include walking, a bonfire, food trucks, prizes, warm hearts, and more! A sign-up sheet will be placed in the commons for interested families.

ANNUAL MEETING 2024



Annual Meeting Results - 2024

The 2024 Budget was approved.
Brendan Bacon and Dylana Eisaman were elected to
the Church Council.

No Synod Assembly representatives were elected.

FAMILY MOVIE EVENT

Family Movie Event.

The MET invites you to join us at church for popcorn and a movie. The feature film selection is *Instant Family*, a movie about forming a family through foster care and adoption. *Inside Out* will be playing on an iPad with coloring activities in the Commons. Thank you for joining us for fellowship!



3:00 pm, Saturday, March 16, 2024

BOOK GROUP NEWS

March Selection:

The Marriage Portrait by Maggie O'Farrell



Book Group

“Florence, [Italy], the 1550s. Lucrezia de’ Medici, third daughter of the grand duke, is comfortable with her obscure place in the palazzo: free to wonder at its treasures, observe its clandestine workings, and devote herself to her own artistic pursuits. But when her older sister dies on the eve of her wedding to the ruler of Ferrara, Modena and Reggio, Lucrezia is thrust unwittingly into the limelight: the duke is quick to request her hand in marriage, and her father just as quick to accept on her behalf.

Having barely left girlhood behind, Lucretia must now enter an unfamiliar court whose customs are opaque and where her arrival is not universally welcomed.”

“Full of beauty and emotion...an extraordinary portrait of a resilient young woman’s battle for her very survival”

from Goodreads, February 7, 2024

MEN'S BREAKFAST



Next Men’s Breakfast is
Saturday, March 2, 2024, 9:00 am.

See you there!

SPONGEBOB THE MUSICAL



Shaina Underhill in *SpongeBob the Musical*

Shaina Underhill is taking part in Zeeland East’s production of *SpongeBob the Musical*. She is playing the part of Karen. Ticket information is on the blue board in the Commons. Or go to zeelandhighplayers.com. Let’s support Shaina and all her hard work.

7:00 pm March 6, 7 & 8, 2024

2:00 pm March 9, 2024

2023 STEWARDSHIP REPORT

A 2023 STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Your Stewardship Committee has some encouraging news about our congregation's 2023 efforts. The committee defines stewardship as the way the congregation uses its Time, Talents, and Treasures to spread God's Love. We all have limited Time, Talents, and Treasures so how we use them is important.

Stewardship Throughout the World

This congregation has supported a quilting group that produces around 100 quilts each year. The quilts are sent to Lutheran World Relief which gives them to refugees who usually have very little. Our congregation has also assembled dozens of School Kits and sent them to Lutheran World Relief to give to children who do not have the bare necessities to attend school.

Stewardship within Our Community

Our active Mission and Outreach Committee has provided several opportunities for our congregation to support worthwhile community organizations that help to spread God's Love including:

Community Action Agency "Walk for Warmth" to help pay for heating homes.

Resilience - Annual May Baskets Campaign for women needing basic household items.

BestPals Animal Rescue Center. - 10 year anniversary party for pets needing a home.

Wings of Mercy - Holland Care Affaire for transportation to medical facilities.

Grand Ravine Senior Housing - Summer Picnic and Christmas Party to show seniors that we care.

Benjamin's Hope - Harvest Festival to provide a place for those who need special care.

Samaritas - Christmas Wish Collection for children in foster families.

Stewardship within Our Congregation

To spread God's Love by doing these worthwhile activities for others around the world and within our community we have to have a functioning congregation. There are a number of jobs to keep our functioning congregation going, including:

Hiring staff— Pastor, Music Director and Administrative Assistant

Baking bread for communion and setting up and cleaning up after each Sunday worship service

Changing the sanctuary paraments when necessary

Greeting visitors and preparing and cleaning up the snacks and coffee for the after service social time

Cleaning the church building interior weekly so it is presentable

Maintaining the church building and grounds

Participating in the worship service and choir

Handling Sunday offering and keeping financial records

Serving on committees

Updating the computer program containing membership records

Operating the sound system and computer during worship service

Caring for other members of the congregation in need

Serving on church council or as Treasurer or as Financial Secretary

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2023 STEWARDSHIP REPORT CONTINUED

Stewardship within Our Congregation continued:

Ushering, or reading the Bible verses each Sunday or serving as a Communion Assistant
Playing a guitar for the church service.

All of this requires the Time, Talents, and Treasures of our membership. Without these efforts we don't have a functioning congregation and, therefore, we don't share God's Love within the community and the world.

The Treasures of the congregation are usually measured by the dollar amount contributed by the congregation for the general operation of the church. In 2023, a surplus in contributions of \$7,846 over expenses was received. This was very good news. In 2022, the previous year, the congregation had a deficit of \$16,294. In fact, the congregation had depleted a lot of its reserve funds to cover deficits the past few years since the pandemic.

Last year was a banner year for our congregation. Let's make 2024 a banner year also.

Thank you from your Stewardship Committee.

WINTER PHOTOGRAPH



Early morning view with the rising sun.

February 7, 2024

COMMUNITY EVENT: THE SOUL OF POLITICS

Community Event: The Soul of Politics

Join us for an engaging panel discussion featuring Dr. Fred Johnson from Hope College, Sarah Leach from the Holland Sentinel, Christy Berghoef, Communication Consultant, and Rev. Dr. Jared Cramer, St. John's Episcopal Church.

Sunday, March 10, 2024, 3:00—4:30pm
Port 393 Event Center,
393 Cleveland Ave, Holland, MI 49423

This Event is sponsored by Holland UCC, Hope Church and
Vote Common Good: West Michigan.

NOISY OFFERING

March/April Noisy Offering: Resilience



For the months of March and April our Noisy Offering will be for Resilience. Formerly the Center for Women in Transition, Resilience supports all survivors of domestic and sexual abuse through housing programs, counseling, support and education. Resilience also offers education for the community on ways we can provide safe spaces for those who are experiencing abuse.

During the months of March and April we will also be accepting donations of items for the May Basket program. These items are necessary for hygiene and housekeeping in daily life and yet are often not covered by any assistance programs and are cost prohibitive for people who are trying to leave abusive situations. You can find a list of the items we are collecting below. Thank you for your generosity and support of this important community ministry!

Resilience May Baskets

Cleaning Products

Dish Soap, Dish Racks, Dish Cloths/Sponges,
Dishwasher Detergent, Laundry Baskets, Laundry Soap

Baby/Kid Products

Baby Wipes, Baby Shampoo/Body Wash, Baby/Kids Sunscreen,
Bug Spray, Baby Lotion, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste

Personal Care

Sunscreen, Lotion, Lip Care, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste

Feminine Care

Menstrual Pads—Light, Medium, Heavy, Overnight
Tampons—Light, Medium, Heavy

We appreciate your support!

Mission and Outreach Committee

Carolyn W., Julie W., Branden B., and Pastor Jessica

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING



The Measure of Our Love

Computers connected via internet = Families

Total Sunday Attendance: 178

Families: 13

Average Sunday Attendance: 44

Ash Wednesday Attendance: 18

SUNDAY SERVANTS – MARCH

Sunday Servants Needed for March

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
March 3 3rd Sunday of Lent	WL- CA- Lynda Parrott	Branden Bacon	Mike Russell	Vicki Russell	1. Mike Russell 2.
March 10 4th Sunday of Lent	WL - CA-		Mike Russell	Vicki Russell	1. Mike Russell 2.
March 17 5th Sunday of Lent	WL - CA-	Branden Bacon			1. 2.
March 24 Palm Sunday	WL - CA -	1. 2. 3.		Deb Ludwig	1. 2.
March 28 Maundy Thursday	CA -Kerry Johnson	1. 2.		Deb Ludwig	NA
March 29 Good Friday	NA	1. Tom Ludwig 2.		NA	NA
March 31 Easter Sunday				Deb Ludwig	1. 2.



FELLOWSHIP — MARCH

Fellowship Sign-up.



Treats and Set Up & Clean Up	
March 3, 2024	Parrotts
March 10, 2024	
March 17, 2024	Bacons
March 24, 2024	
March 31, 2024	

CHURCH CLEANING SCHEDULE

Cleaning Schedule: February 4 — April 27, 2024

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 or 616.772.4075



Dates	Name(s)
Weeks of February 4 - 10 February 11 - 17	Dennis Willaman & Gary Bowman Dennis Willaman & Gary Bowman
Weeks of February 18 - 24 February Feb. 25 - Mar. 2	Parrotts Parrotts
Weeks of March 3 - 9 March 10 - 16	Bill & Suzanne House Bill & Suzanne House
Weeks of March 17 - 23 March 24 - 30	
Weeks of March 31 - April 6 April 7 - 13	
Weeks of April 14 - 20 April 21 - 27	

March

Birthdays

Shane Hurt 2
Patricia Bradfield 11
Tessa Hurt 12
Kerry Johnson 15
Jonas Pearson 27



Anniversaries

Jon & Tessa Hurt 24
Nathan & Meggan
McCaughan 25

SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Sunday Services 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:

Branden Bacon,	(920) 889-8707, branden.bacon@gmail.com
Dylana Eisaman	(616) 953-0603, dylana.pinter@gmail.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 FEBRUARY PRAYERS

In Our February Prayers...

- **Healing/Peace:** Angelyn & Chad (Dylana's sister & husband) safe travels to Vietnam to finalize adoption, Lucas Barton, diagnosed with Dushanes Muscular Dystrophy (son of friends of Julie Wolff), Karson Becker (Russell's grandson) healing prayers, Zach Bergland (Beckers' nephew), Greg Bolton, (friend of Julie Wolff), Gary Bowman, Patricia Bradfield, 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, Kory Casey, (mother of Kris Norvell's friend), stage 4 breast cancer, Bret D'Agostino, Mark DeGraaf, stage 4 cancer, Diane (close friend of Kris Norvell) at Mayo clinic for treatment for inoperable cancer, John & Amber Fanthorpe (friends of Russells) John is recovering from brain surgery, Jessie George (Deb P-G's daughter), Carol Grossman, (Steve's mom), cancer has returned on top of Parkinsons, Rick House, Tessa Hurt (out-of-town member) diagnosed with Myelofibrosis, Tiffany Letourneau, being treated for breast cancer, Kory Mace (friend of Kris Norvell), Iris Mears, (PJ's godmother), Molly (friend of Deb P-G) diagnosed with uterine cancer, Diane Oberlin (former attendee) has cancer, Lori Ponstein diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer, Roland Rivera, Casey Rostos (friend of Norvells), Richard Russell's cancer has returned, Katherine Slee (friend of Beckers), Stella, 6 yrs old, (Sally Ponstein's friends grdaughter) needs a kidney transplant. Suzanne (Ellie's daughter) prayers for resolution of gastrointestinal problems, Russ & Rita Taylor (Julie Wolff's parents), Justin Walker (Pastor's husband).
- **Healthy Pregnancy:** Kelsey Hanson, (Jan Mahalak's daughter), Sarah Hitchcock, (Naomi Wahl's daughter), Madison Visser (Norvells grdaughter-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), Zachery Wiesner (Gigi Howard's son-in-law).
- **Prayer Partners:** Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Rev. Domingo Shriver, Ludington; Victory Trinity Lutheran Church, Rev. Ron Iris, Ludington; Trinity Lutheran Church, Rev. Bill Huether, Manton; Hope Lutheran Church Rev. John Sleziak, Marlette.