



You Don't Always Have to Smile

Greetings in the name of the risen Christ!

May, if you are not aware of it, is Mental Health Awareness Month; the idea is that if we highlight mental health, mental illness, and the available resources, we, as a society, can reduce stigma and create incentives to improve the mental health system. The reality is that we don't talk much about mental health, or mental illness, in the Church; and the Church is exactly where we need to be creating a safe, sacred space for those conversations.

Mental health struggles can affect anyone, at any time, including people within our faith community. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), approximately 1 in 5 adults in the U.S. experience mental illness each year, and the occurrences of mental illness among youth is on the rise. The post-COVID reality is that our society as a whole is anxious, lonely, and depressed. Yet, the number of people seeking treatment is far less than the number of people experiencing mental illness. All too often seeking treatment is seen as being weak, or mental illness is seen in the church as being a result of limited faith; something you can pray away.

Let me be clear: mental illness is not a weakness. Struggling with your mental health is not a flaw, a choice, or something that you can “power through.”

That last bit is important. Throughout my ministry, I have often encountered the idea that we need to be “put together” when we are at church. We need to smile and be nice, that church is not the place to bring our mess. We believe that if we let our mess through then we won't be good role models, or we will look weak.

Jesus said, “Come to me all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens” (Matthew 11:23-12:3) This invitation to bring our heavy burdens to God means that we don't always have to smile. Our faith community is intended as a safe and sacred space for all of us to be who we are, in whatever state we are, where we can be prayed for and supported in our struggles. God knows our struggles; God knows that sometimes it takes every ounce of strength and focus we have just to get up out of bed. God knows sometimes we just can't smile.

And God provides.

God provides community to support us in prayer, and to be present when we would hide away, and God provides people with knowledge and skills to help us manage our mental health. This May, and every day really, please remember that you are loved and valued. If you or someone that you know is struggling with mental health, please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Jess or seek help at a mental health facility.

May God guide you in peace and surround you with their holy, healing presence. Amen

In Christ, *Pastor Jess*

ALL CHURCH BREAKFAST AND CHURCH CLEAN-UP

The Men's (All Church) Breakfast and Church Clean-Up was a success.

A small band of hardy volunteers accomplished several project goals.

We were able to tend to these items:

- Clean the window exteriors,
- Put out the bird houses,
- Pick up litter from the grounds,
- Weed some of the rock and flower beds,
- Remove the Emmanuel portion of the sign.

Thank you to everyone who helped. The grounds look great!



Julie Wolff and her friend Eric putting up the birdhouses



Tom Ludwig removing the Emanuel Assemblies of Dios portion of our sign.



Brian Underhill, the younger, cleaning windows.



Tom Ludwig; Sam Rogers working on garden beds.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Save the Date!

Vacation Bible School
August 7 — 9, 2024
12:00 — 3:00 pm
Lunch Included!

This year we are excited to announce that we are partnering with First United Methodist Church to provide VBS to the community. Can you help?



Opportunities to Help

We are looking for volunteers (older youth and adults) to help:

- plan,
- build sets,
- serve lunch,
- help out with the kids.

If you are interested please contact Pastor Jess.

OUR KILDEER NEST



A Kildeer nest was discovered during the church clean up. The nest is in the bed of rocks at the back of the parking lot.

It will take 2 - 3 weeks for the eggs to hatch and the nestlings to become self-sufficient.

Please give them space during this time.



GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS



Good Shepherd and God's Work Our Hands Reaches Tucson, AZ

by Kris Norvell

Wintering in Tucson is a wonderful pleasure that Floyd and I take advantage of every year. Although we are not physically with our church and congregation during this time, we remain deeply connected in spirit and we miss our church family very much.

Within the realms of Desert Trails RV Park, where we stay, Floyd and I continue our volunteerism while we are away.

Whether it be the Salvation Army Angel Tree at the Desert Trails, helping with tasks and events, assisting our neighbors or volunteering at other non-profits, we want to be as giving as we can be to our "second home" community. Through our giving, we connect with God in a very special way. **1 Peter 4:10:** As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

THE NEED

Homelessness has been a visible challenge for the Tucson area for many years. In the last 5 years homelessness rose to a crisis level. Since 2018, there is a 300% increase in persons requesting a place to stay and unsheltered homelessness has risen 60%. We, along with our neighbors at Desert Trails, have felt the need in our area and try to help in small ways by donating food, clothing, and funds when we can to the Primavera Foundation in Tucson.

THE PLAN

Primavera Foundation is a long-standing non-profit organization focusing on homelessness in Tucson and the surrounding areas. They offer shelter, education, and assistance to the homeless and marginalized.

Their mission: Primavera co-creates tangible pathways out of poverty for individuals and families. We focus our efforts on the root causes of poverty and homelessness and partner with community members as they overcome barriers that kept them from obtaining safe, affordable, permanent housing.

THE ACTION

In February, the Volunteer Coordinator at Primavera came to Desert Trails to talk about the crisis; people in the community who suffer from lack of housing, food and basic essentials and how Primavera helps them. We brainstormed ideas about how Desert Trails could help.

Our call to action was swift. We needed our project to be short and meaningful since most residents at Desert Trails leave for home by April 1st. The park residents decided on a great project: make "Survival Kits" to give to the clients of Primavera as needed.

We gathered a team of volunteers to lead and manage the project. My experience at Good Shepherd was a true blessing because we have completed this very same project very successfully many times. The Survival Kit for Primavera has a specific list which includes many of the same items as we have collected at church. The Desert Trails residents collected donations and cash to purchase the items for a 3-week period. We organized an assembly line to fill gallon bags with the items, which ranged from shampoo, soap, and laundry detergent to personal hygiene products. We collected and filled 25 gallon-bag Survival Kits, along with additional items like wipes and \$90 in cash.

(Continued next page)

GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS - CONT.

THE OUTCOME

Our coordination team brought the Survival Kits and donations to Primavera in March. The Director and her team were extremely happy about Desert Trails' donations. She advised us that she had received a request from the Veteran's Association in Tucson for EXACTLY 25 Survival Kits that morning!

There are many lessons that we can learn from an experience like this. Most importantly, God's hands have no boundaries. Our work and our learning at Good Shepherd can extend as far as we want – the further the better.

SHAINA UNDERHILL OPEN HOUSE



Join us in celebrating our graduate,
Shaina Marie Underhill,
Zeeland West High School, Class of 2024.

Open House

Saturday, June 1, 2024, 12:00 - 3:00 pm
Lawrence Street Park,
100 West Lawrence Ave.
Zeeland, MI 49464

BOOK GROUP NEWS

May Selection:

The Radium Girls by Kate Moore



Book Group

“Amidst the excitement of the early twentieth century, hundreds of young women spend their days hard at work painting watch dials for troops overseas using glow-in-the-dark paint made with radium. They are well paid and consider themselves lucky—until they begin to fall mysteriously ill. As the corporations try to cover up a shocking secret, these determined shining girls suddenly find themselves at the center of a historic and deadly scandal.

Written with a captivating voice and galloping pace, *The Radium Girls* illuminates the courage and tenacity of these incredible women, whose determination to fight back led to life-changing regulation, advanced nuclear research, and ultimately saved countless lives.”

Goodreads

Books are available to sign out in the Commons.
Next Book Group meeting is May 15, 2024, 4:30 pm.

LET'S GET OFF THE RAILROAD TRACKS

Earth Day was April 22nd on the calendar. Earth Day should be everyday in my opinion but at least society has put it as one day on the calendar. Now it may be Earth Week or Earth Month. What are we supposed to do? Celebrate that we have this earth to live on or what? Our Earth and its atmosphere is unique so far. None of the other planets that NASA has explored can sustain life as we know it.

As Christians we believe God has provided us with this planet and its atmosphere for our benefit. We believe that God wants us to spread God's love throughout the world and to be good stewards of the earth. It appears, however, that we humans are creating conditions that are changing the planet and its atmosphere.

The earth's polar ice caps and the glaciers are melting at an alarming rate. The ocean levels are rising and coastal lands and properties are being covered or eroded away and the temperature of the oceans and our atmosphere is steadily increasing.

I heard a man speak about this phenomenon and he put it this way: I feel like I have taken my family and friends for a picnic and we are picnicking on a railroad track and I can hear a train coming but we are reluctant to get off of the track.

Science has determined that the earth is heating up because we have too much CO₂ in the atmosphere. What causes CO₂ to get into the atmosphere? The burning of fossil fuels is one of the major formations of CO₂ and other Greenhouse Gases. The biggest activities that produce the most CO₂ are when fossil fuels are burned in the production of electricity, heating, transportation, manufacturing, construction, and agriculture.

Until several decades ago the CO₂ that was produced was able to be absorbed by the earth and the ocean. We have reached a point, however, where we create more of these gases than the earth and ocean can absorb. So what can we do about it?

If we don't take action we will continue to become a hotter planet. This will change the climate and the weather patterns. This will change the way we grow food and our whole economic system. As good Christian stewards of this earth we should take some action.

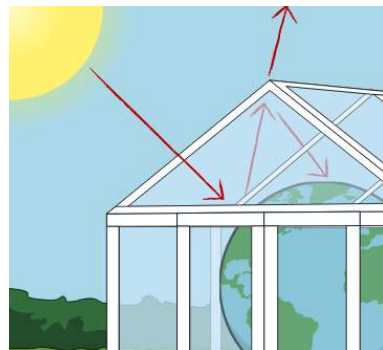
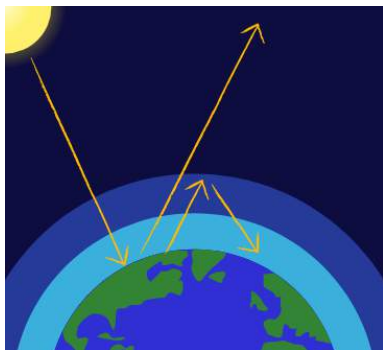
I propose that any of you who are concerned about this issue, as I am, contact me. Maybe we as a congregation can find ways that we can be part of the solution and not the problem. Maybe we can help slow the production of CO₂ and the other Greenhouse Gases.

Let's get off the RR tracks.

Thank you.

Dennis Willaman

Dennis Willaman: willamandennis780@gmail.com or 616.335.2447



SPRING FLING ALL CHURCH PICNIC



The MET invites you to an all church picnic on Sunday, May 19, 2024. Join us immediately after church for lunch and outdoor fun at Hemlock Crossing Park.

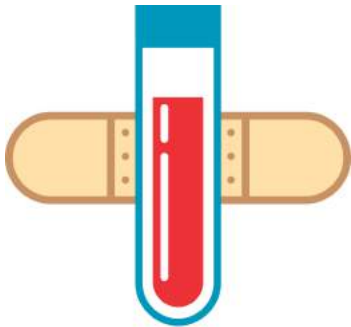
8115 West Olive Road
West Olive, MI 49460

Hemlock Crossing has grills and two small picnic shelters. Feel free to bring additional chairs to enjoy the outdoor space. Participants can enjoy over six miles of trails, scenic outlooks, and a spacious nature center.

GSLC is providing a grilled meal. Volunteers are encouraged to sign up to bring salads and desserts to share your delicious cooking. Watch for a sign up sheet for all attendees with additional details in coming weeks.

The MET (Membership and Events Team)

BLOOD DRIVE, NOORDELOOS CRC



Blood Drive at Noordeloos CRC

May 14, 2024, 2:00 - 7:00 pm.

Appointments preferred, walk-ins welcome as schedule allows.
See flyer on the board in the Commons for more information.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Road Work Ahead!

We were notified by the Ottawa County Road Commission that work on 112th Ave. between Riley and Quincy has been scheduled for this summer.

The first project is a culvert replacement.

The second project will include milling off the current asphalt, resurfacing the road with two lifts (layers) of asphalt and restoring the 2 foot wide gravel shoulder. Work will be completed in several stages. The length of time for the project is unknown.

112th will remain open during construction, however, it will become single lane traffic using lane closures and traffic control. We are currently waiting for information on when this project will start.

For more information, see the notification on the Commons board.



NOISY OFFERING

Wings of Mercy – May/June Noisy Offering



What is Wings of Mercy? For patients who can't travel commercially, Wings of Mercy is a unique nonprofit organization providing free air transportation to distant medical centers. As a faith-based organization, they seek to honor God by serving and sustaining life for those in need. Founded in 1991 by Peter VandenBosch, Wings has flown over 8,000 missions.

Serious or rare illnesses are not always treatable at local or even regional medical centers. The best treatment can be hundreds of miles away. Even when insurance will cover treatment, it rarely covers transportation. Wings of Mercy connects people in need with volunteer pilots who can fly them to their destination.

Wings ensures that 80% of all donations go directly toward sustaining the cost of the flights. Pilots donate their time and often their aircraft but it is the generosity of donors that pays for the fuel needed for these trips. For more information or to read testimonials visit their website wingsofmercy.org



We appreciate your support!

Mission and Outreach Committee

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

SUMMER HOURS BEGIN



Summer hours

Tues., Wed., Thurs.
9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Memorial Day, May 27, 2024
through Labor Day, September 2, 2024

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING



The Measure of Our Love

Computers connected via internet = Families

Total Sunday Attendance: 196

Families: 9

Average Sunday Attendance: 49

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 5 6th Sunday of Easter	WL-Brian Underhill CA-			Deb Ludwig	1. 2.
May 12 7th Sunday of Easter	WL - CA-	Kylie & Caroline Lindsley	Tom Lindsley	Kris Novell	1. 2.
May 19 Day of Pentecost	WL - CA- Kris Norvell	Floyd Norvell			1. 2.
May 26 The Holy Trinity Sunday	WL - CA -				1. 2.

FELLOWSHIP — MAY

Fellowship Sign-up.



Treats and Set Up & Clean Up	
May 5, 2024	
May 12, 2024	
May 19, 2024	
May 26, 2024	Norvells

CHURCH CLEANING SCHEDULE

Cleaning Schedule: April 28 — July 6, 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 April 28 - May 4 May 5 - 11	Bill & Suzanne House Bill & Suzanne House
Weeks of May 12 - 18 May 19 - 25	Bill & Karrie Foster Bill & Karrie Foster
Weeks of May 26 - June 1 June 2 - 8	
Weeks of June 9 - 15 June 16 - 22	
Weeks of June 23 - 29 June 30 - July 6	

DOGWOOD IN BLOOM

Our Dogwood tree in bloom,

April 30, 2024.



MAY

Birthdays

Tiffany Letourneau 5
Ellen Lichtman 5
Chris Simoni 5
Donna Vargo 7
Jessica Underhill 8
Lynda Parrott 10
Terry Grossman 22
Corinne Becker 23
Carol Ollerman 24
Jonathan Hurt 26
Kris Norvell 27



Anniversaries

Kris & Floyd Norvell 24
Perry & Lisa Pearson 25
Laurie & Duane Schuldt 28

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, (Sec)	(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	(616) 403-4660, pj.gslc@gmail.com

IN OUR APRIL PRAYERS

In Our April Prayers...

- **Congratulations:** Kris & Floyd Norvell are the proud great grandparents of Theodore, born December 29, 2023. Mother, Madison, and baby are doing well.
- **In Thanksgiving:** Molly, (Deb P-G's friend), received a cancer-free diagnosis.
- **Ministry of the Month, April:** Resilience and our own Mission & Outreach Committee Ministries.
- **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), 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, Steven Dwyer (Lynda Parrott's cousin), 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), Claire Smith (Norvell's grandniece) at Helen DeVos Children's Hosp, may need a heart transplant, Stella, 6 yrs old, (Sally Ponstein's friends grdaughter) needs a kidney transplant. The students & staff of Tom Green Elem. School, Buda, TX, following a school bus accident (the Russells daughter teaches there), Suzanne (Ellie's daughter) prayers for resolution of gastrointestinal problems, Russ & Rita Taylor (Julie Wolff's parents), Sara Thompson (Corinne's friend) cancer diagnosis, Justin Walker (Pastor's husband) Wally Willaman (Dennis' father).
- **Healthy Pregnancy:** Kelsey Hanson, (Jan Mahalak'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:** First Lutheran Church, Rev. William Uetricht, Muskegon; Harbor of Grace Lutheran Church, Rev. Jake Ferra, Muskegon; Trinity Lutheran Church, Rev. Sarah Samuelson, New Era; Bethany Lutheran Church, Rev. Chrysanne Timm, Northport.