



A Place to Belong

Grace and Peace to you in the name of the Triune God in whom we live and breathe and have our being!

A while back I attended a Synod Continuing Education event that centered on outreach and connection with those who are considered “millennials” and younger. One thing that stood out to me was learning that the thing younger people (here I mean “millennials” and younger) are searching for, especially in their faith community, is a sense of belonging. This makes sense in our post-COVID-19 world when loneliness and disconnection are consistently named as major sources of anxiety and depression. In short, people are looking for a place to connect authentically with others, to be seen and accepted for who they are.

Belonging, community, connection, and acceptance. It seems like the church is the perfect place to find these things, doesn't it? The sad reality is that for many people the church has not been a safe place where they belonged. We, in the church, like to say that we welcome all, that we don't need to be specific on who is welcome and who is safe in our community but the reality is that many, many people—people of color, those who identify as female, children, indigenous people, elderly people, people experiencing poverty or homelessness, our LGBTQ+ siblings—have experienced the church as a place that they very specifically don't belong. They have experienced the church as an institution that does not see or accept them and uses the Bible to tell them they do not belong. Yet, we keep hearing that the church is dying, and that people are leaving the church in droves. Perhaps that is because the message that some people belong and some people don't, has been made abundantly clear. People are leaving because the church often tells them they are not welcome.

The way back to full pews and a vibrant church is connection. We need to be a safe place of belonging for all people, but especially for those who have been told over and over again that they are not welcome.

How do we do that?

By demonstrating, through our actions and our words, that we are a place where you are seen and accepted for who you are because God sees and accepts you for who you are. We are a beloved community of people who are being transformed daily by the Word and the Holy Spirit, and we are in this together. When we do this, when we welcome the ones who have not felt welcome in other places, we reflect God's limitless creativity, imagination, and love.

Continued next page

A PLACE TO BELONG CONTINUED

Finding a place to belong and to connect authentically with others is critical to our well-being and I believe that this beloved community can be a place of belonging and connection for all types of people. I believe that we can open our arms to those who have felt unwelcome in other places, communicating the love of God in Christ through our hospitality and love. In fact, in many, many ways we are already that kind of church. So, let's lean into our identity as a welcoming place, let's be intentional about reaching out to those who have been pushed out, or who have felt unwelcome in the church, and inviting them into the love, connection, and belonging of God.

Yours In Christ,

Pastor Jess

OUTREACH AND CONNECTION OPPORTUNITIES IN JUNE



Holland PRIDE 5K Walk/Run

Saturday, June 8, 2024
8:00-10:30 AM

Gather in the parking lot to hand out water and be cheerleaders for the participants in this annual event! Sign-up in the Commons or contact Deb in the office.



Holland PRIDE! Festival

Saturday, June 29, 2024
12:00 – 5:00 PM

This is a great opportunity to meet new people and joyfully share the love of Christ! Good Shepherd will be hosting a booth along with Peace Lutheran Church. You get to enjoy the day, meet great people, have a ton of fun, and invite people to worship with us! What could be better? There are many shifts available (shifts are about 2 hours) and you can sign up in the Commons or contact Pastor Jess.

SPRING FLING ALL CHURCH PICNIC

Thank you! to everyone who provided food, supplies, and willing hands to help with the picnic.

Greatly appreciated.

Sally Ponstein, Dennis & Carolyn Willaman.



front l-r, Kerry, Liam & Steve Johnson, back l-r, Dennis Willaman, Larry Heckel, Rob Parrott.



Michael Russell, back l-r, Jessica Bacon, Rob Parrott, Rebecca Adams, Kris & Floyd Norvell.



front l-r, Tim, Mackenzie & Cooper Adams
back l-r, Elliott, Quinton & Dylana Eisaman,
Paster Jess.



SPRING FLING ALL CHURCH PICNIC CONT.



I - r, Shaina & Brian Underhill, Tom, Tori & Kylie Lindsley, Jessica Bacon, Dylana & Quinton Eisaman, Pastor Jess and Rob Parrott.



front I-r, Branden Bacon, Suzanne House, Julie Wolff, middle I-r, Tori & Kylie Lindsley, back I-r, Caroline Lindsley, Brian Sr., Brian Jr. & Shaina Underhill



Tom Lindsley,
Tom and Elliott
were our grill
masters for this
event.



I-r, Sally Ponstein and Deb DeYoung

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. VBS will be held at FUMC, 57 W. 10th St. Holland, 49423.

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.

BOOK GROUP NEWS



Book Group

The Book Group is on Vacation!

Look for our next selection to arrive in August

September Selection:
Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver

RESILIENCE DONATIONS



Pastor Jess with Nicole Stewart, Program Support Specialist for Resilience: Advocates for Ending Violence

Our May Basket donations for the March/April Noisy Offering. We were able to provide 6.5 baskets full of household supplies, baby and child care items and adult personal care items.



Along with our supply donations we were able to donate \$634.68 raised through our Noisy Offering.

ROCK AROUND THE LOT



A giant **Thank You** to all those who helped with the rock project. Our garden beds had become overgrown with an over abundance of iris infiltrated by weeds. Plans were drawn up to knock down the plants in the beds, add plastic coverings anchored by smaller stones and larger rocks. Other beds throughout the parking lot were raked and the large stones repositioned.

I-r Sam Rogers, Bill Foster, Mike Russell, Dennis Willaman, Brian Underhill Jr. & Sr.

Solar Panels Information

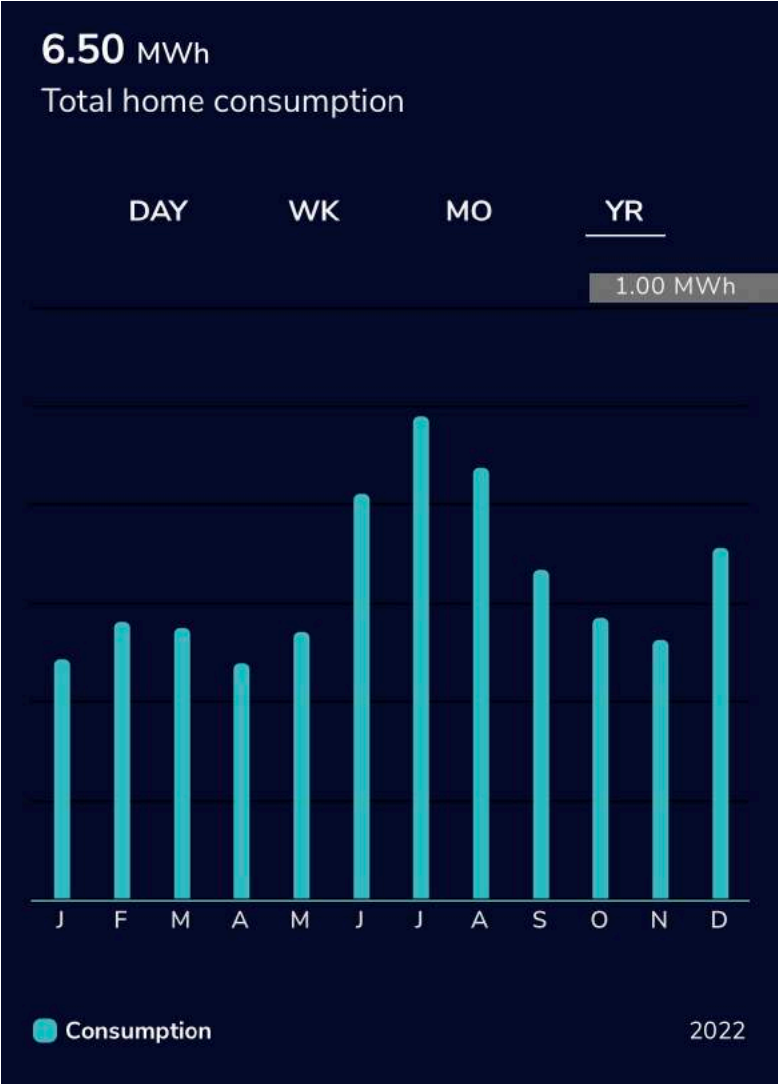
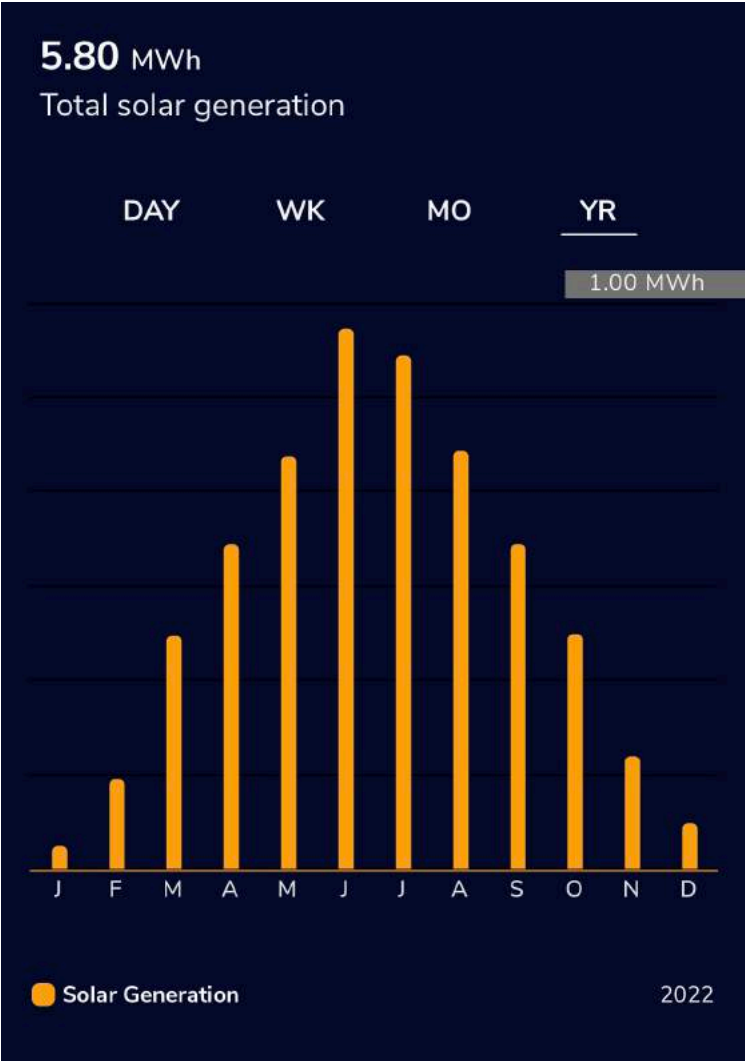
Hello GSLC,

Our church recently held the inaugural meeting of the Care for Creation Team. It's exciting to have collaboration on sustainability as a church community.

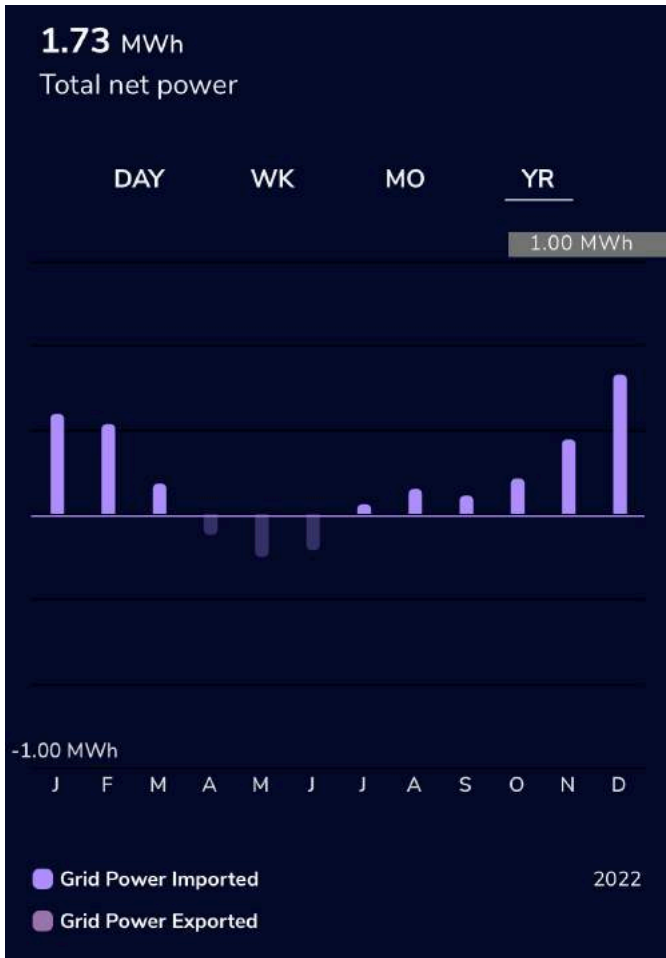
I have been asked about measures our family takes to reduce our environmental impact. Here are a few of the common questions about solar panels:

Do you get enough sun for your solar panels?

- It's very seasonal. In the winter, the Consumers bill is slightly reduced. In the summer, we pay Consumers about \$12 per month. Here are images from our app showing total generation, total consumption, and total net power by month in 2022:



CARE FOR CREATION CONTINUED



- Note: the math doesn't add up perfectly. I assume this is because the inverter takes energy to run and there is some energy loss converting from DC to AC. (The solar panels run on DC and the grid runs on AC.)

What happens when you generate more energy than you use?

- Excess energy goes to the grid. Consumers Energy does net metering and gives you credit for future months if you generate more than you use. Check with your energy provider.

What is the ROI (return on investment) like for solar panels?

- This depends on your sales deal, the government incentive, and whether your roof or yard is obstructed from sun. Our ROI is probably around 15 years (depending on the Consumers cost hikes year-on-year). Our purchase price was higher because we bought a backup battery.

Should I get a backup battery for solar?

- Backup batteries are good for power outages, but otherwise unnecessary. We don't get enough sun across seasons to take a household off the grid.

What maintenance do solar panels need?

- Usually none. I have not done any maintenance on them since install in spring of 2020.

Do solar panels damage your roof?

- Not if installed correctly. Typically they protect the shingles underneath and can help keep your home cooler in the summer.

Do solar panels wear out fast?

- Our solar generation has not changed notably year to year. We have a great warranty for our panels as well. We are warranted to be generating 80% or more at the end of 30 years.

Warranties

Module product workmanship warranty

SILFAB SIL-300 ML mono PERC

25 years**

30 years

≥ 97% end of 1st year

≥ 90% end of 12th year

≥ 82% end of 25th year

≥ 80% end of 30th year

Linear power performance guarantee

Certifications

SILFAB SIL 300 ML mono PERC

ULC ORD C1703, UL 1703, IEC 61215, IEC 61730-1 and IEC 61730-2 Certified.

CARE FOR CREATION CONTINUED

Does warranty work hurt your roof?

- Typically no. The panels can usually be popped off and replacements popped on the brackets without any roof impact. The brackets are drilled into the roof and remain in place unless you replace your roof.

What if I replace my roof?

- Typically the panels and brackets would need to come off during the roof install. Some solar installers offer one free removal and reinstallation of the brackets and panels. Check with your installer.

Would I recommend solar panels?

- Yes. In the long run I view them as a good investment and a way to reduce fossil fuel dependence.

How do I get started?

- Most solar providers offer free assessments and quotes. You can get several bids to get a deal you are happy with.

I'm happy to chat if you have other questions!

Branden Bacon



ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Road Work Ahead! Update:

The culvert replacement and ditch restoration on 112th Ave. are completed.

Still to come, repaving of 112th between Riley and Quincy. We are still waiting for a status report on when that will occur. The road will narrow down to a single lane during that time.



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 OFFICE HOURS



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: 179

Families: 7

Average Sunday Attendance: 45

SUNDAY SERVANTS — JUNE

Sunday Servants Needed for June

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 |
|--|---|---------------------|-------|-------------------------------|----------|
| June 2 2nd Sunday, Pentecost | WL- CA- | Tom Ludwig | | Deb Ludwig | 1. 2. |
| June 9 3rd Sunday, Pentecost | WL - CA-Corinne B. | Mary Sue Dawsey | | Deb Ludwig | 1. 2. |
| June 16 4th Sunday, Pentecost | WL - CA-Lynda Parrott | Carolyn Willaman | | Deb Ludwig | 1. 2. |
| June 23 5th Sunday, Pentecost | WL - CA - | | | Vicki Russell | 1. 2. |
| June 30 6th Sunday, Pentecost | WL - CA - | | | Vicki Russell | 1. 2. |

FELLOWSHIP — JUNE

Fellowship Sign-up.



| Treats and Set Up & Clean Up | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| June 2, 2024 | |
| June 9, 2024 | Corinne Becker & Mary Sue Dawsey |
| June 16, 2024 | |
| June 23, 2024 | |
| June 30, 2024 | |

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 May 26 - June 1 June 2 - 8 | Dennis Willaman & Gary Bowman Dennis Willaman & Gary Bowman |
| Weeks of June 9 - 15 June 16 - 22 | |
| Weeks of June 23 - 29 June 30 - July 6 | |

EXTERIOR SIGNS OF OUR FAITH



JUNE

Birthdays

Carolyn Willaman 3
Jim Dyke 15
Jacob Bacon 16
Rob Parrott 23
Meggan McCaughan 25
Perry Pearson 28



Anniversaries

Steve & Terry Grossman 4
Dave & Sharon Wendt 26

Congratulations to:

Ron Meyer & Deb DeYoung-
Meyer who were married
May 24, 2024

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 MAY PRAYERS

In Our May Prayers...

- **Congratulations:** Kris & Floyd Norvell are the proud great grandparents of Theodore, born December 29, 2023. Mother, Madison, and baby are doing well.
- **Our Sympathies:** To Steve & Terry Grossman, family and friends of Carol Grossman, Steve's mother, who passed away on April 26, 2024. Her memorial service was held May 3, 2024.
- **In Thanksgiving.** Wally Willaman (Dennis' father), has recovered from pneumonia; Eve Andrus is feeling much better and recovering quickly..
- **Ministry of the Month, May:** Wings of Mercy and our Membership Events Team and their ministries.
- **Healing/Peace:** Eve Andrus, pneumonia, Claire Smith (Norvell's grandniece) transferred to Mott's Children's Hosp. in Ann Arbor, she does need a heart transplant, 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, Bret D'Agostino, Mark DeGraaf, stage 4 cancer, Diane (close friend of Kris Norvell) 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), Rick House, Tessa Hurt (out-of-town member) diagnosed with Myelofibrosis, Tiffany Letourneau, being treated for breast cancer, Iris Mears, (PJ's godmother), 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), Sara Thompson (Corinne's friend) cancer diagnosis, Justin Walker (Pastor's husband).
- **Healthy Pregnancy:** Kelsey Hanson, (Jan Mahalak's daughter).
- **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:** Faith Lutheran Church, Rev. Bruce Thorsen, Okemos; Synod Assembly 2024, Bishop Craig Satterlee, Ms. Sandra Schlesinger, VP and attendees; Hope St. John's Parish, Supply Pastors, Oscoda; Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Rev. Sherry McGuffin, Petoskey; Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church, Rev. Nicole Smith, Plainwell.