



Fall and "Big Feelings"

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus the Christ!

It's finally Fall! Well, by that I mean that it is finally September which means cooler weather (I hope) and changing leaves. The season of Fall also brings the final push of a tumultuous election cycle. Throughout the past year I have heard from many of you that the discourse around politics has left you feeling, among other things, disillusioned, anxious and exhausted. To put it in terms I would use with my son: this election cycle is giving all of us "big feelings."

For the past few weeks a small group has been studying the Draft Social Statement on Civic Life and Faith from the ELCA. If you are interested in reading it you can ask me for a copy or find it here (https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Current-Social-Writing-Projects/Civic-Life-and-Faith?_ga=2.87763678.716529297.1724863582-536896597.1708974682)

The statement defines politics as "the activities of deciding how to govern and order life in community...decisions about "who gets what, when, where, and how" to fulfill the purpose that all may flourish." Glossary, DSSCLF pp. 53 lines 2280-2283. Therefore we as Christians, created to be in community and called to serve our neighbor, are meant to be interested in and involved in Politics.

What we are not called to be is Partisan. We are not called to let our affiliation with a political party or social movement, or philosophy overshadow our commitment to the gospel which calls us to love God and love our neighbor. We are imperfect and sin permeates all of the institutions in our society, there is no perfect party. In Article 20 of the social statement, we hear "In the Lutheran tradition the question to ask of government is 'how faithful is it to God's purposes of well-being, including caring for the most vulnerable members of the community?'"

That is our purpose: To work, as best we can, toward God's vision of wholeness and well-being for all of creation. To do that we have to engage in civil life. We must be willing to have difficult discussions. We must be willing to hold space for opposing viewpoints while also holding ourselves and others accountable for "caring for the most vulnerable members of the community" or, in Lutheran terms, loving and serving our neighbors.

Continued next page

FALL AND "BIG FEELINGS" CONT.

Beloved, this is a stressful time, and we have "big feelings" about the issues we face as a country and how to address them. God calls us to be bringers of hope, but God does not expect us to do this alone. We are created to be in community with each other, so, lean into your community. Pray for elected officials and candidates, connect with family and friends and the faith community, and come to the table to be fed by the bread of life. For we know, at the end of the day, that our ultimate hope is in God because "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8: 38, 39.

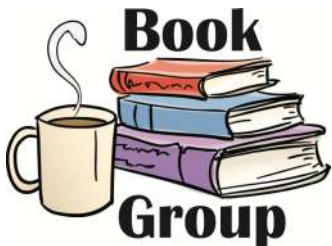
Yours In Christ,

Pastor Jess

BOOK GROUP NEWS

September Selection:

Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver



This book was inspired by *David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens. Dickens tells of his own experiences as he made his way from a poor, unhappy childhood to becoming a successful writer. The problems of Dickens' time, and the damages done to children with his background, have yet to be solved as evidenced in the story of ***Demon Copperhead***.

Set in Appalachia ***Demon Copperhead*** is the story of Damon, a boy raised by a teenaged single mother who has very little. He experiences foster care, child labor, addiction, troubled schools, loves and losses. Relying on his dead father's good looks and his own charm and wit, he develops a talent for survival in contemporary times.

Demon Copperhead was a co-recipient of the 2023 Pulitzer Prize for fiction.

Our discussion is September 18, 4:30 at church. Books are available at the welcome center. Please sign your name by the number of the book that you take. Contact Vicki Russell if you have any questions.



WINGS OF MERCY PANCAKE BREAKFAST



Wings of Mercy Care Affaire Pancake Breakfast

Thanks to all of you that joined for another amazing successful pancake breakfast fundraiser with Wings of Mercy! We again served about 500 people at the Care Affaire event. This is another excellent turnout for their biggest fundraiser of the year.

Grace Spelde, the Managing Director of Wings of Mercy, shared the following: "Thank you again for our magnificent volunteers for the pancake breakfast on Saturday. Your group did a phenomenal job with the pancakes and sausage... Please let me know if you would like to do it again next year, we would certainly love to have you!!!! Most of all, thank you for helping us share the love of Christ with this community! He shines through in every one of your volunteers!"

Grace also would like us to get all volunteers together for a picture. Let's try to assemble our volunteers at a Sunday service.

Wings of Mercy has asked to share the blessings from the fundraiser with a \$1000 check toward a special project at our church. This is great seed money to continue investing in our building and congregation.

Thank you all for making a difference in our community.

Branden Bacon

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



l-r, Dennis Willaman seated, Eric, Deb Ludwig, Brian Underhill Tom Ludwig

WINGS OF MERCY CONTINUED



Tom Ludwig
Jessica Bacon

Jacob Bacon, front
Brian Underhill, back



l-r, Carolyn
Willaman,
Julie Wolff,
unknown,
Jessica
Underhill



OFFICE HOURS



Summer Hours
Ending Wednesday, September 4, 2024

Tues., Wed., Thurs.
9:00 am — 2:00 pm



Regular Hours
Resume Friday, September 6, 2024

Mon., Wed., Fri.
9:00 am — 2:00 pm

GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS

Gods Work, Our Hands!

This year we have two God's Work, Our Hands service events:

BestPals Animal Rescue Center.

Saturday, September 21, 2024 from 10:00 am -12:00 pm

We will get to play with some furry friends while also helping out with some projects around the grounds. You can sign up in the Commons.

Benjamin's Hope Harvest Festival Saturday.

September 28, 2024 from 2:00-6:00 pm.

We will be helping out with games at their annual Harvest Festival just like last year. Set-up is at 2:00 pm and the Festival runs from 3:00-6:00pm. You can sign up on the sheet in the commons.



FROM OUR CARE OF CREATION TEAM

Reimagine Trash!

Have you ever wondered what exactly happens to your recycling?

Our "Care of Creation" team is hoping to organize a group tour of the Kent County Recycling Plant in Grand Rapids to get a glimpse of how we can Reduce, Reuse and Recycle our trash. The tour will also explore where our recyclables go and what products they can be found in. Please let Ellie Buggeln know if you are interested, (616) 399-0591, (616)745-4096 or elliebuggeln@gmail.com.

The Kent County Recycling Plant is a proud member of NextCycle Michigan Partner Network. The Network brings together a variety of sectors all committed to accelerating solutions for material recovery, recycling and in turn the circular economy.



CHILDREN'S CORNER CLEANUP - INSECT PREVENTION

Children's Corner Cleanup and Insect Prevention

Volunteers worked hard to help clean up the commons on Saturday, August 10 to reduce insect activity. We also enjoyed a hearty breakfast.

We successfully removed traces of food and insect remains from the children's areas and the perimeter of the commons, high and low. We also sprayed insect deterrent around the perimeter of the building.

Thank you to our hard working volunteers of all ages!

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

At breakfast: l-r, back, Marcel Letourneau, Tom & Makensie Adams, Tinley Letourneau, front, Cooper Adams



l-r, front - Tessa, Tiffany & Tinley Letourneau, Rebecca Adams, back - Dennis Willaman and Marcel Letourneau.

Tessa Letourneau and Tom Ludwig.

NOISY OFFERING

September/October Noisy Offering BestPals Animal Rescue Center



A note from the staff at BestPals -

Our team at BestPals Animal Rescue Center is so happy to have the opportunity to be the recipient of Good Shepherd's Noisy Offering and God's Work Our Hands volunteer program again this year! Your help is instrumental in saving the lives of homeless cats and dogs in our community. With your help we can rescue even more. Each pet we take in has a story. Whether their owner must move, has passed away, or can no longer care for their pet, we are there to help.

At BestPals We have many stories to tell. The greatest ones are about our relationship with our partners, like Good Shepherd Lutheran Church; working together for a common purpose to help all God's living creatures have safe and happy lives.

A little bit about us-

BestPals is a 501(c)3 non-profit animal rescue. We are a no-kill promise volunteer run organization with no paid employees. We are successful in our mission to take in owner-surrendered cats and dogs and our community understands we are here to help and share the responsibility of saving lives. It is a happy ending for the intake pet who is given all the medical attention they need, is loved, trained, and nurtured until adoption. After adoption, we remain available to the adoptive family.

Since opening our doors in 2013, we have rescued over eight hundred homeless cats and dogs, and we have increased our annual rescue numbers year after year. We are one of only two animal shelters approved by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in Ottawa County. As a testament to our commitment to our community, BestPals has won the Best of the Best of all non-profits in our area for the last 8 years.



Together we Rescue!

ROAD CONSTRUCTION



112th Avenue road construction is completed.

All that's left is to paint the lane lines.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School

This year we had a joint Vacation Bible School with First United Methodist Church of Holland. First United is located downtown Holland at 57 W. 10th Street near Centennial Park.

Volunteers from Good Shepherd assisted with prep work and set up, (Kerry Johnson); planning & organization (Lynda Parrott); served lunch, (Kris Norvell), and were Shepherds leading the kids to their different activities, (Tori & Kylie Lindsley). Pastor Jess planned and lead the kids in Worship



Bible Story Time
Kylie & Caroline Lindsley on left, James Walker far right.



Hallway Games while Waiting.
James Walker on left, Kylie Lindsley center in green.

Fun with Water.
James Walker in front in yellow and blue, Kylie Lindsley on far right getting more water out of the faucet.



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SCHOOL KITS

It's LWR School Kit Collection Time

We Have Reached Our Goal!

Thanks to the generosity of our Church family, we have reached our goal of collecting enough school supplies to create 100 school kits for Lutheran World Relief. And we have enough supplies to create 9 additional kits.

All extra supplies will be stored away as a start on our school kit collection next year.

Thank You Very Much!

Merci Mille Fois!

Mille Grazie!

Asante Sana!

Terima Kasih Banyak!

Arigatou Gozai Mashi Ta!



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS & SCHOOL KIT ASSEMBLY DAY!

Blessing of the Backpacks & School Kit Assembly Day

Back 2 School Sunday, September 15, 2024.

Bring your backpacks and receive a blessing during Worship.

Afterwards, we will have a blast assembling school kits, enjoying treats, and making a fun craft!



SUNDAY SERVANTS - SEPTEMBER

Sunday Servants Needed for September

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
September 1 15th Sunday of Pentecost	WL- CA-	Tom Ludwig		Deb Ludwig
September 8 16th Sunday of Pentecost	WL - CA-			
September 15 17th Sunday of Pentecost	WL - CA-			
September 22 18th Sunday of Pentecost	WL - CA -			
September 29 19th Sunday of Pentecost	WL - CA -			

FELLOWSHIP SIGN-UP - SEPTEMBER

Fellowship Sign-up.



Treats and Set Up & Clean Up	
September 1, 2024	
September 8, 2024 Baptism	
September 15, 2024 Kit assembly & blessing	Pastor Jess and The MET
September 22, 2024	
September 29, 2024	

CHURCH CLEANING SCHEDULE

Cleaning Schedule: August 4 – September 28, 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

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 Sept. 1 - 7 Sept. 8 - 14	Dennis Willaman Dennis Willaman
Weeks of Sept. 15 - 21 Sept. 22 - 28	Parrotts Parrotts
Weeks of Sept. 29 - Oct. 5 October 6 - 12	
Weeks of October 13 - 19 October 20 - 26	
Weeks of Oct. 27 - Nov. 2 November 3 - 9	
Weeks of November 10 - 16 November 17 - 23	

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING



The Measure of Our Love

Computers connected via internet = Families

Total Sunday Attendance: 167

Families: 2

Average Sunday Attendance: 42

SEPTEMBER

Birthdays

Dylana Eisaman 1
Nicole Letourneau 7
Quinton Eisaman 8
Julia Wentz 14
Nolan Hurt 18



Anniversaries

Dylana &
Elliott Eisaman 5

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
Quilter's Meet, Tuesdays, 11:00 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 - Thursday
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 AUGUST PRAYERS

In Our August Prayers...

- **Ministry of the Month, August:** Benjamin's Hope and our Care for Creation Team.
- **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, Bret D'Agostino, Mark DeGraaf, stage 4 cancer, Diane (close friend of Kris Norvell) for new cancer treatment success, Steven Dwyer (Lynda Parrott's cousin), Jim Dyke, 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, Beth Lefever (friend of Tammy Walters) for housing and employment as she returns to the Holland Area. Tiffany Letourneau, being treated for breast cancer, Jan Mahalak, back surgery, will take several weeks for recovery, Iris Mears, (PJ's godmother), Nathan (Sally Ponstein's grandson), surgery complete, healing well, pray for continued recovery, Diane Oberlin (former attendee) has cancer, Roland Rivera, Casey Rosel (Norvell in-law relation) diagnosed with cancer in her skull, surgery occurred July 9, Richard Russell's cancer has returned, Katherine Slee (friend of Beckers), Claire Smith (Norvell's grandniece) recovery from transplant surgery, 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:** Shelby Ahlstrom (Norvell's granddaughter).
- **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:** Peace Lutheran Church, Rev. Travis Wilson, South Haven; Peace Lutheran Church Rev. Julie Winklepleck, Sparta; New Life Lutheran Church, Supply Pastors, Spruce; Spruce Lutheran Church, Rev. Leslie Nye, Spruce.