



## Springtime Prayer

O Dancer of Creation, the earth awakens to an urgent call to grow.

In the hidden recesses of my wintered spirit, I, too, hear the humming of your voice, calling me, wooing my deadness back to life.

My soul yawns, stretches, quickens, as the energy of spring revives my weariness...

As the filtering patterns of early sunlight lift the shades of green in every growing thing, I enter into spring's unlettered words of life.

For a while my doubts, anxieties, and worries become like chapters in some ancient book whose text no longer claims my full attention.

I am content to sit, watching spring turn the pages of this animated publication, eager to discover the invigorating story reflected in my own springtime revelation.

Tell, Wise Awakener, why is it easier to believe in a stem of new grass, or the opening bud of a fresh purple crocus, than it is to believe in the greening of me?

Rupp, *Prayers to Sophia*, pp.88-89]

Greetings in the name of Christ!

It's Spring! Green shoots are starting to come out of the ground, and it seems that everywhere we look we can see God's continuing creative activity in the world.

Joyce Rupp expresses the beauty of God's continued creative activity in the poetic prayer above. The words that she uses to express growth and new life also resonate within me as I look ahead to Easter. On April 13<sup>th</sup> we celebrate Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem, we walk together through the solemn events of Holy Week and then rejoice with all creation as we behold the risen Christ.

We, as a community of Eastered believers, are meant to continue growing in our new life, branches connected to the vine and growing out into the world bearing the fruit of the gospel. Just as creation continues to grow, to seed itself, to create new shoots out of the emptiness of winter, we too are meant to continue to grow, to green. The gospel is planted and greened in us through the Word, the waters of baptism, and the bread and wine of Holy Communion. Through the many things that winter our spirits, God continuously greens new life within us, replacing the dead boughs with green shoots.

As we move into summer and cultivate our own gardens, I wonder—what is greening in you? What do you need to nurture within yourself—to tend to and nourish so that it may grow within you? Perhaps you need to nurture your spiritual self, to take time to water and feed your spirit in the midst of your busy day. Perhaps you need to cultivate your time with your family, to make space to care for and truly attend to the relationships that sustain you. Whatever it is, God is greening something in you and my prayer is

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## PASTOR'S PAGE CONTINUED

that each of us will tend to and nurture the green shoot that God is growing in us, that we may grow into the person we were created to be, that we may grow out into the world bearing the fruit of God's love. Amen, Alleluia.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jess



## HOLY WEEK READERS NEEDED

### Holy Week Readers

We are in need of some joyful readers  
for our Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship services.  
Reading the scripture is a great way to participate in the worship experience and  
it is something that you can do at any age!

Sign-up sheets are on the table in the fellowship area.

Thank you so much!

Palm Sunday: the narrator is a large part, all others are small parts.

Narrator  
Peter  
Pharisee  
Judas  
Pilate

Maundy Thursday: all parts are small.

Readings:

First	Fifth
Second	Sixth
Third	Seventh
Fourth	

Good Friday: each reading contains a Word and 2 Bible passages.

Readings:

The First Word  
The Second Word  
The Third Word  
The Fourth Word  
The Fifth Word  
The Sixth Word

## LENTEN SCHEDULE

Lenten Soup Suppers - Wednesdays

6:00 - 6:50 pm: April 2 & 9, 2025  
(before Holden Evening Prayer)



Holden Evening Prayer - Wednesdays

7:00 pm: April 2 & 9, 2025

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Palm Sunday Service

10:00 am: April, 13, 2025



Maundy Thursday Service

7:00 pm: April 17, 2025

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Good Friday Service

7:00 pm: April 18, 2025



Easter Sunday Service

10:00 am: April 20, 2025

## NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our new members!

Our newest members joined us the end of February:

Sheila, Brian, Becca and Toad Dixon,  
Andre, Jill and Nicole Letourneau,  
Eric and Melinda Mueller,  
Sam Rogers and Naomi Wahl, and  
Mary White



## FROM THE TREASURER

### Giving Statements



As we hit tax month, if you are making contributions to Good Shepherd and would like a 'Giving Statement' for 2025, Please consider the following:

- 1) make online contributions through our Breeze software; OR
- 2) request giving envelopes you can place in the weekly offering plate.

With either of these methods, we can capture your name and address for quarterly/annual statements.

If you have any questions, please see Michael Russell, Treasurer.

## SPRING CLEAN-UP

### Good Shepherd Annual Spring Clean-Up

Saturday, April 5, 2025 — 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Projects include: Cleaning up the rock beds, Pruning, Weed control efforts, and a General tidying up of the grounds.

Please bring gloves, shovels, rakes and pruning tools

Come Join Us — Many hands make light work!



## FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

### What is the JOY OF GIVING?

In one of our meetings Pastor suggested we have people express the JOY OF GIVING either verbally or in writing to share with the congregation. My first thoughts were “who is joyful about giving? Most of us are very conscience about “getting” enough money and time just to raise a family and pay the bills. Giving is way down the list of things we want to do.” Once you realize you have enough, however, then it is hard to change directions and start giving of yourself and your possessions.

The earlier you learn to give, the more giving you will be. Teaching children to give is important for their development. They learn this trait from their parents so it is important for parents to realize that and start teaching the JOY OF GIVING as early as possible.

The JOY OF GIVING is to know that through the giving of your Time, Talents, or Treasures you are helping someone else.

When we give our Time, Talents, and Treasures to creating quilts and school kits we know that someone, somewhere will be receiving these and benefiting from them.

When we give to the Community Action Agency “Walk for Warmth” program, we know that someone will be kept warm this winter.

When we give to Wings of Mercy and participate in their annual fundraiser we know that someone will be helped to get medical care even though they are far from the medical facility.

When we participate in the worship service and choir we know that all of us will have the opportunity to feel the presence of God and share it with others.

When we bake bread, set up and clean up for the Sunday communion, we know that others will be able to feel the presence of God and the church family as they take communion during the service.

When we give of our Time, Talents, and Treasures to the church we know that the church is not only providing for its members but it is also providing for others through its members.

May we all feel the JOY OF GIVING through our membership in Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

Dennis Willaman

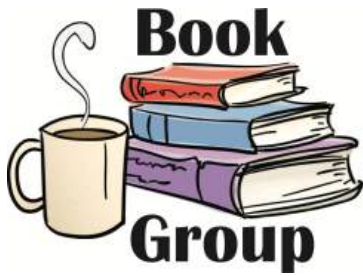




## BOOK GROUP NEWS

April Selection:

***Stuck in Manistique*** by Dennis Cuesta



We return to our regular third Wednesday of the month, April 16, 2025 at 4:30 for our discussion of ***Stuck in Manistique*** by Dennis Cuesta. Books are available on the desk in the Commons for sign out.

Mark learns he is the beneficiary of his estranged Aunt Vivian's estate and travels to Petoskey, Michigan for a meeting with the attorney. While there he learns that his aunt's home is in Manistique, which is in the Upper Peninsula, another 120 miles north, and across the 5 mile long Mackinac Bridge. I should mention, Mark has a fear of bridges.

After finally arriving, he is exploring Aunt Vivian's large victorian home when the door bell rings. Mark tries to ignore it but the young 20 something girl with chestnut brown hair is insistent. "I was wondering if you had a room?" Confused Mark asks "Room for what?" "To stay the night —what else?" Surprised to learn that his aunt is the owner of a Bed and Breakfast he has more to consider than he had expected. As more and more guests arrive expecting rooms (and breakfast) Mark has many different stories to unravel and many decisions to make.



## PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

### ***The Measure of Our Love***

Computers connected via internet = Families

Total Sunday Attendance: 248

Families: 20

Average Sunday Attendance: 50



## BREEZE ACCESS

### Breeze Access

Breeze is the church management software system that we use to maintain records for Good Shepherd.

If you are a member or a regular attender you may have access to sections of Breeze. Within Breeze you could access other Good Shepherd people to locate their address, phone number or email address should you wish to contact them.

You also have access to online giving, to set up recurring giving, manage your giving weekly or monthly, or check your own giving record.



There also is an events tab that allows you to see dates and times for events, office hours, or Pastor's available time in her office.

If you wish to receive an invitation to join our secure Breeze group or if you have any questions, see Vicki Russell or Elliott Eisaman who are happy to provide a preview or send you an invitation.

## KIDS' FOOD BASKET



Sunday, March 23, 2025, we welcomed Rosemary Irvine, board member for Kids' Food Basket Ottawa & Allegan Advisory Board.

She spoke to us regarding Kids' Food Basket and what they do for the children and their families of our community.

# NOISY OFFERING

## March/April Noisy Offering

### Kids' Food Basket



“Our mission is to nourish children to reach their full potential. To realize a hunger-free West Michigan for all children, we must work together as one community.

We increase healthy food access for our communities through the growth and distribution of sustainably grown vegetables and fruits on our chemical-free farms.” (from [kidsfoodbasket.org](http://kidsfoodbasket.org))

Thousands of servings of fresh veggies and fruits are packed in the “Sack Suppers” that are sent home with children each school day.



### Food Sack Project

#### Adding a Touch of Love to Sack Suppers

Along with our Noisy Offering gift we will also be donating decorated lunch bags. Some ideas for decorating include your favorite animals or pets, rainbows, shapes or inspiring words. Inspiring words can be “Your are Amazing”, “Be Somebody Who Makes Everybody Feel Like A Somebody” “Always treat others the way you want to be treated” or “I am brave, I am kind, I am strong, I am smart, I am helpful.” This project can be done at church or at home. Sacks and information sheets are on a table in the Commons.

#### What you'll need:

Brown or white 8lb lunch sacks, crayons or markers  
(sacks are available in the Commons)

#### What to skip:

Avoid using paint, glitter, feathers or stickers. They tend to come off and mix with the food that gets packed in the bags.

#### Not accepted:

Any bags with religious or political symbols or messages since many Sack Suppers go to public schools.

Mission and Outreach Committee

Carolyn, Suzanne, Branden, Julie, and Pastor Jessica



## SUNDAY SERVANTS

### Sunday Servants Needed for April

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](mailto:gslc.office@icloud.com)

Date	Worship Leader/ Communion Assistant	Reader(s)	Usher	Communion Set-Up/ Clean-Up
<b>April 6</b> <b>5th Sunday of</b> <b>Lent</b>	WL- CA-	Brandon Bacon		Vicki Russell
<b>April 13</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b>	WL - CA- Eric Mueller	Eric Mueller		Deb Ludwig Maundy Thurs: Deb Ludwig
<b>April 20</b> <b>Easter</b>	WL - CA-			Terry Grossman
<b>April 27</b> <b>2nd Sunday of</b> <b>Easter</b>	WL - CA -			

## FELLOWSHIP SIGN-UP - MARCH

### *Fellowship Sign-up.*



Treats and Set Up & Clean Up	
<b>April 6, 2025</b>	Bacons
<b>April 13, 2025</b>	
<b>April 20, 2025</b>	
<b>April 27, 2025</b>	

# April

## Birthdays

Neveah McCaughan 2  
Melinda Mueller 4  
Tom Ludwig 5  
Tessa Letourneau 8  
Ellie Buggeln 9  
Sharon Wendt 11  
Eve Andrus 17  
Bill House 18  
Duane Schuldt 18  
Shaina Underhill 30  
Joan Lamb 30



## Anniversaries

Brian & Jessica  
Underhill 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  
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](mailto:pj.gslc@gmail.com)

To view Pastor's weekly in-office hours, look on the Breeze  
calendar on our website at [goodshepherdhollandmi.com](http://goodshepherdhollandmi.com)

## COUNCIL MEMBERS

### Church Council Members:

Branden Bacon (VP)	(920) 889-8707, <a href="mailto:branden.bacon@gmail.com">branden.bacon@gmail.com</a>
Dylana Eisaman	(616) 953-0603, <a href="mailto:dylana.pinter@gmail.com">dylana.pinter@gmail.com</a>
Suzanne House	(616) 655-9732 <a href="mailto:wlsmhouse@icloud.com">wlsmhouse@icloud.com</a>
Michael Russell	(616) 283-6723 <a href="mailto:miker163@yahoo.com">miker163@yahoo.com</a>
Brian Underhill (Pres)	(616) 292-7194, <a href="mailto:underhillbrian@yahoo.com">underhillbrian@yahoo.com</a>
Pastor Jess	(616) 403-4660, <a href="mailto:pj.gslc@gmail.com">pj.gslc@gmail.com</a>

## IN OUR MARCH PRAYERS

### *In Our March Prayers...*

- **Our Sympathies:** to the family and friends of Steven Dwyer (Lynda Parrott's cousin) who passed away early February, and to the family of George Preisler, former member, who passed away the end of February.
- **Ministries of the Month, March:** Kids' Food Basket and our Mission & Outreach Committee.
- **Healing/Peace:** Dennis Willaman, back surgery successful, Kirk & Roberta Addis, (decades long friends of Norvells), Kirk's treatments for liver and bone cancer causing severe side effects. Andrew (Cathy Sytsma's nephew), dealing with neurological condition, Lucas Barton, diagnosed with Dushanes Muscular Dystrophy (son of friends of Julie Wolff), Zach Bergland (Beckers' nephew), Jake Bird, cancer treatment (Corinne's son-in-law), Greg Bolton, (friend of Julie Wolff), 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, Mark DeGraaf, stage 4 cancer, Diane (close friend of Kris Norvell) for new cancer treatment success, cancer diagnosis, Steve Dwyer (Lynda Parrott's cousin), Jayce Genzinger (Tammy Walter's step-niece's son) born preemie in July, twin died, needs our prayers, Jessie George (Deb P-G's daughter), Tessa Hurt (out-of-town member) diagnosed with Myelofibrosis, Jan (Cathy Sytsma's sister), Steve Johnson, foot surgery recovery, Beth Lefever (friend of Tammy Walters) for housing and employment as she returns to the Holland Area. Tiffany Letourneau, being treated for breast cancer, Iris Mears, (PJ's godmother), Richard Mueller (Terry Grossman's dad), Perry Pearson, ankle surgery recovery, Roland Rivera, Casey Rosel (Norvell in-law relation) diagnosed with cancer in her skull, surgery occurred July 9, Janice Russell (Mike & Vicki's sister-in-law) cancer diagnosis, Jerry Shoup, Kathy Shoup, Katherine Slee (friend of Beckers), Claire Smith (Norvell's grandniece) recovery from transplant surgery, Stella, 6 yrs old, (Sally Ponstein's friend's granddaughter) needs a kidney transplant, Rick Taylor, (Julie Wolff's cousin), Russ & Rita Taylor (Julie Wolff's parents), Sara Thompson (Corinne's friend) cancer diagnosis, Justin Walker (Pastor's husband), Julia Wentz, chemotherapy treatments.
- **Healthy Pregnancy:** Madison Visser, (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), Mitchell Johnson (Parrott's nephew), Zachery Wiesner (Gigi Howard's son-in-law).
- **Prayer Partners:** Messiah Lutheran Church, Rev. Thomas Pederson, Constantine; Christ United Church, Rev. Alex Aivars, DeWitt; Evangelical Lutheran Church, Rev. Matt DEames, East Jordan; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Rev. Carl Ballard, East Lansing; University Lutheran Church, Revs. Emily Shipman & Zachary Shipman, East Lansing.