



## Too Deep for Words

*<sup>26</sup> Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words.*

*Romans 8:26*

*By the rivers of Babylon— There we sat down,  
and there we wept when we remembered Zion.*

*On the willows there we hung up our harps.*

*For there our captors asked us for songs,  
and our tormenters asked for mirth, saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"  
How could we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?*

*[Psalm 137: 1-4]*

Grace and Peace to you, in the name of Christ!

The above verses from Psalm 137 are the inspiration for one of my favorite songs on my Lent playlist, "On the Willows" from the musical "Godspell." In the musical, this song is sung by the disciples as they wait for Jesus, who is praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, and it conveys sorrow and a longing for what has been. These words are a prayer: a sigh of despair, a lament, an unburdening of the soul, all wrapped up in these four verses.

Prayer is at once an easy concept, and a difficult concept. We understand that prayer is coming to God with our laments, our desires, our intercessions and our needs. Yet, it remains something that is often hard to do. Sometimes we don't have the words to express what it is we need, sometimes we don't know what we need. Sometimes we don't even have the energy to more than fall on our knees. Sometimes we try to lay down our burden, but we have a hard time actually letting it go. The Apostle Paul assured the congregation in Rome that at these times the Holy Spirit will intercede for us, and in the book of Psalms we have a prayerbook that gives us language to express the entire spectrum of human emotion from anger to joy.

In some of the most difficult times in my life, I have turned to the book of Psalms for guidance. Here we find hymns and songs and prayers written by exiles and kings and ordinary people who have poured out their hearts to God in times of faith and of doubt. Which is why the book of Psalms seemed to be an appropriate theme for this season of Lent.

## PASTOR'S PAGE CONTINUED

Pastor's Page Continued:

This Lent, we recognize that it has been a heavy time in our world and in our country. Many of us are carrying burdens of grief, heartache, and anxiety. This season of Lent, you are invited to bring what you are carrying to God, using the Psalms as your guide, through different prayer practices that include intercessory prayer, embodied prayer, prayer as play, artistic prayer and meditative prayer. It is my hope that by participating in these prayer practices, you will find something that invites you into a deeper relationship and brings you hope.

God bless you this Lent and bring you into deeper communion with one another and with the Holy One.

Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jess



## LENTEN EVENTS

### Wednesdays During Lent

Soup Supper - 6:00pm

Holden Evening Prayer - 7:00pm

We are hosting a soup supper at 6:00pm followed by Holden Evening Prayer at 7:00pm. Council will provide the soup for February 25 & March 25, 2026. There will be a Sign-up Sheet on the table in the Commons for the Wednesdays in between.



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### Lenten Prayer Stations

Prayer Stations are set up in the Commons and in the hallway. They are available for use during Office hours Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays from 9:15am - 1:45pm and Wednesday evenings from 5:00 - 6:45pm.



## LENTEN EVENTS CONTINUED



### Maundy Thursday Service

Service begins at 7:00pm  
Thursday, April 2, 2026.



### Good Friday Service

Service begins at 7:00pm  
Friday, April 3, 2026.



### Easter Sunday Service

Service begins at 10:00am  
Sunday, April 5, 2026.

## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME CHANGE

### Time Change

Sunday,  
March 8, 2026  
2:00 am

Put your clocks 1 hour forward!



## FIRST COMMUNION

### First Communion



If you are a parent whose child has expressed interest in taking Holy Communion, please talk with Pastor Jess about setting aside time for Holy Communion Instruction.

## STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship Is...



*Love in Action*

### Stewardship Meeting

We will be having a Stewardship Meeting  
at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Wednesday, April 8, 2026,  
7:40 pm - 8:30 pm.  
Anyone and Everyone are welcome to come!

## NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

### Welcome!

A heartfelt welcome to Doreen Ritt and long time attenders, Ellen Lichtman and Sally Ponstein, who became members February 15, 2026.



## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

### Congregational Meeting



### Annual Meeting Quick Summary

Bill Foster & Naomi Wahl were voted onto Council.

Eric & Melinda Mueller were approved as voting representatives to the annual Synod Assembly.

The 2026 Budget was approved.

## NEW DISABILITY MINISTRY



### New Disability Ministry Grant

We have received a micro-grant from the Center for Disability Ministry at Western Seminary. If you are interested in how we can build our ministry with people of all abilities, particularly children, please talk to Pastor Jess so we can plan our first meeting.

## WEEKEND BIBLE STUDY

### Calling All Members

#### Who *Meant* to Read the Bible More This Past Year.

The Weekend Bible Study—where faith gets real, questions are welcome, coffee is strong, and no one will make you read out loud unless you *really* want to.

Whether you're a lifelong Bible scholar or still trying to find Habakkuk, you're invited. Come for the Scripture, stay for the discussion, and leave with encouragement (and possibly snacks). Join us as we grow in faith, strengthen one another, and discuss important topics in today's world and how they relate to scripture.

Saturdays at 10:00am at church. Bring a bible if you wish, but we'll have some on hand too. Let's get together and strengthen our faith as we delve into scripture.

Saturdays, 10:00 am at Church



Bible



Study

# THE STATE OF THE PLANET

## THE STATE OF THE PLANET

Many of us are well aware of the destruction our global society is causing to the earth and its atmosphere. The earth and the oceans are heating up. It may just be a few degrees, but it is enough to make drastic changes to our lives. The polar ice caps and glaciers are melting. The oceans are rising. People have had to relocate from their islands in the Pacific because of it. Habitats for life on land and in the ocean are changing rapidly.

Scientists have found that changes in the global temperature are due to the atmosphere trapping more of the sun's heat. The elements trapping the heat are called GREEN HOUSE GASES (GHG), and they are produced when fossil fuels such as oil, coal, or natural gas are burned. The vegetation on earth and in the oceans once was able to absorb these gases and recycle them, but, for the past few hundred years, society is producing more than the earth's vegetation can absorb and recycle.

This situation can paint a very bleak picture. However, there are a lot of things people are doing to combat this dark scenario. The city of Ann Arbor is in the process of reducing its GHG output and has even implemented a property tax to finance the effort. Solar panels are being installed all over town in an effort to reduce the production of GHG's. Detroit and Lansing are making similar efforts. The GREAT LAKES RENEWABLE ENERGY ASSOCIATION (GLREA) has a zoom meeting in which anyone can tune into every Thursday evening at 7:00 pm. The hour-long presentation focuses on how Ann Arbor, Lansing, Detroit, and individuals within Michigan are using renewable energy sources to reduce the need to burn fossil fuels. The GLREA organization has representatives that follow the Michigan Public Service Commission and advocate for the use of solar in energy rate structures. Energy from the sun and wind is suddenly the cheapest power on the planet and growing faster than any energy source in history.

To care for God's Creation, we need as much of this type of activity as possible. If you are interested in helping you can contact me at [willamandennis780@gmail.com](mailto:willamandennis780@gmail.com) for more information.

Dennis Willaman



# COMMUNITY ACTION HOUSE VOLUNTEER EVENT



Brian & Jessica Underhill

I-r, Eric Mueller, Kerry & Bill Foster

The CAH Volunteer Event took place on Saturday, February 21, 2026. CAH staff were pleased and grateful for the assistance.



I-r, Jessica Underhill & Kris Norvell

# COMMUNITY ACTION HOUSE VOLUNTEER EVENT CONT.



l-r, Melinda Mueller, Kerry & Steve Johnson



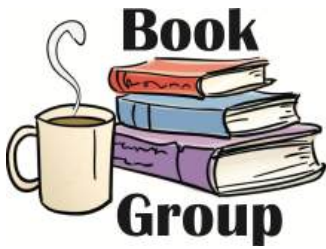
Dennis & Carolyn Willaman

## Our Happy Volunteers

l-r, Brian Underhill, Kris Norvell, Melinda & Eric Mueller, Kerry & Bill Foster, Carolyn & Dennis Willaman, Kerry & Steve Johnson. front, Jessica Underhill.



## BOOK GROUP NEWS



Join us in March for *Broken Country*  
by Clare Leslie Hall

*Broken Country* follows Beth, a bookish woman living in the English Countryside in the late 1960s, whose life with her devoted husband, Frank, is disrupted when her first love, Gabriel, returns to the village with his young son. The story alternates between the past and present, exploring Beth and Gabriel's initial romance, the tragic loss of Beth's son, Bobby, and the complex emotional fallout of rekindled feelings. The novel is set against a vivid backdrop, highlighting the rhythms of farming life and the close-knit community. ([wellreadtart.com](http://wellreadtart.com))

The Book Group meets next on  
Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 4:00pm.

## NOISY OFFERING



March/April Noisy Offering Recipient  
BestPals Animal Rescue Center

Our Noisy Offering for March/April is BestPals Animal Rescue Center. BestPals is a non-profit shelter in Holland that takes in owner surrendered cats and dogs. Their mission is to provide a guaranteed adoption for owner-surrendered companion animals and to partner with other organizations to provide a No Kill community. They also take in transfers from local overcrowded shelters when they can.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL



Sunday School Programing

After the Children's Message during the worship service, children will be directed to meet their teachers in the Commons for Sunday School.

Each class will include a lesson, singing songs, and doing a craft.

Come join us this Sunday!

# THANK YOU FROM COMMUNITY ACTION HOUSE



RECEIVED  
FEB 18 2026  
BY: *[Signature]*

To Good Shepherd Lutheran Church:

Thank you for your generous in-kind donation to Community Action House. As a community-funded, community-powered nonprofit organization, your steadfast support exemplifies what our community chooses to accomplish together. Thank you for helping us nourish, equip, and empower our community.

Your support nourishes our community by increasing access to healthy food for our neighbors who need it the most. Our Food Club meets needs in a sustainable, dignified, and empowering way by providing healthy food access in an inviting, grocery-store-style environment. At the Community Kitchen, we provide nutritious meals with a focus on community, opening the door for us to equip our neighbors with the resources needed to move forward. Across each of our programs, your generosity helps families access the healthy food, tools, and skills they need to move forward.

Everyone needs a community that believes in them - their worth, their dignity, and their potential. Your generosity is building a community where all of our neighbors have what they need to thrive, and no one faces challenges alone. **Thank you for being our community's expression of care.**

Sincerely,

Scott Rumpsa  
Chief Executive Officer

Renee Rivard  
Vice President of Development

## PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

From Lifeline Ministries:

Thank you for your donations, support and prayers for our mission.

Every contribution makes a difference.

Willi Watts

Rec'd Feb. 19, 2026



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

Computers connected via internet = Families

Total Sunday Attendance: 189

Families: 9

Average Sunday Attendance: 47

## SUNDAY SERVANTS

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

Date	Worship Leader/ Communion Assistant	Reader(s)	Usher	Communion Set-Up/ Clean-Up
<b>March 1</b> <b>2nd Sunday of</b> <b>Lent</b>	WL- CA- Mary Sue Dawsey	Mary Sue Dawsey		Terry Grossman
<b>March 8</b> <b>3rd Sunday of</b> <b>Lent</b>	WL - CA-	Sally Ponstein		Vicki Russell
<b>March 15</b> <b>4th Sunday of</b> <b>Lent</b>	WL - CA -			Terry Grossman
<b>March 22</b> <b>5th Sunday of</b> <b>Lent</b>	WL - CA -			Terry Grossman
<b>March 29</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b>	WL - CA-			Lynda Parrott

### FELLOWSHIP SIGN-UP — MARCH

*Fellowship Sign-up.*



Treats and Set Up & Clean Up	
<b>March 1, 2026</b>	Kris Norvell, Vicki Russell, Church
<b>March 8, 2026</b>	
<b>March 15, 2026</b>	
<b>March 22, 2026</b>	
<b>March 29, 2026</b>	

# MARCH

## Birthdays

Shane Hurt 2  
Patricia Bradfield 11  
Tessa Hurt 12  
Kerry Johnson 15  
Mary Sue Dawsey 27  
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.  
Quilter's Meet, Tuesdays, 11:00 am on site. No Quilting in December.  
Women's Bible Study, Wednesdays, 10:30 am, September - May.  
Pray Without Ceasing weekly prayer service, Wednesdays, 6:00 pm.  
Book Group, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 4:00 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 (Sec)	(920) 889-8707, <a href="mailto:branden.bacon@gmail.com">branden.bacon@gmail.com</a>
Dylana Eisaman (VP)	(616) 953-0603, <a href="mailto:dylana.pinter@gmail.com">dylana.pinter@gmail.com</a>
Bill Foster	(989) 329-6482 <a href="mailto:fosterbk@charter.net">fosterbk@charter.net</a>
Michael Russell (Trea)	(616) 283-6723 <a href="mailto:miker163@yahoo.com">miker163@yahoo.com</a>
Naomi Wahl	(605) 376-7173 <a href="mailto:whldw220@aol.com">whldw220@aol.com</a>
Pastor Jess	(616) 403-4660, <a href="mailto:pj.gslc@gmail.com">pj.gslc@gmail.com</a>

## IN OUR FEBRUARY PRAYERS

### *In Our February Prayers...*

- **Our Sympathies:** To the Bacon family and friends on the passing of Branden's grandmother, Marilyn, on December 24, 2025. To Justin Walker, (Pastor's husband) brother Rodney, and their families on the passing of their father/grandfather, Roger Walker, on January 19, 2026, and to the family of Dan Eckes (Pastor Jess' Uncle) who passed away on Friday, January 23rd..
- **Ministries of the Month, January:** Community Action House and Pastor Jess.
- **Healing/Peace:** Beth Andrus (Eve's daughter) surgery on Dec. 30, Randy Bacon (Branden's father) healing from open heart surgery, Barton Family (friends of Julie Bolton, Corinne Becker, surgery went well, promising prognosis, Corinne Becker, breast cancer, Zach Bergland (Beckers' nephew), Jake Bird, cancer treatment (Corinne's son-in-law), Bryan Blank, former member, needs a kidney transplant, Greg Bolton, (brother-in-law of Julie Bolton), Patricia Bradfield, Mary & Wayne Cagle (friends of Sally Ponstein) Wayne diagnosed with lung cancer, Mark DeGraaf, stage 4 cancer, Diane (close friend of Kris Norvell) cancer diagnosis, Dan Eckes (PJ's uncle) recovering from open heart surgery, Nan Ehram, (Julie Bolton's sister-in-law), cancer diagnosis, Shawn Felgenhaur (Kerry Johnson's sister) prayers for continued healing, Jayce Genzinger (Tammy Walter's step-niece's son) born preemie in July, Jessie George (Deb P-G's daughter), Tessa Hurt (out-of-town member) diagnosed with Myelofibrosis, Jan (Cathy Sytsma's sister), Holly Johnson, (Steve & Kerry's daughter), Connie Lentz (friend of Kathy Shoup), Tiffany Letourneau, being treated for breast cancer, Linda (Lois Robinson's daughter) has pneumonia, Marilyn (Branden Bacon's gr.mother) is in hospice, John & Judy Madison, (Lois' neighbors) both undergoing cancer treatment, Iris Mears, (PJ's godmother), Ron Meyer, Kris Norvell, neck surgery Nov. 7, Pat Ponstein (Sally's sister-in-law) is in the hospital, Dorothy Postema (Deb P-Gs mom) hospitalized with bacterial infection, Sharon Redding (Lois R's grdaughter' m-i-l) has stage 4 cancer and is on hospice care. Rick, (Brian Dixon's dad) undergoing treatment for sepsis, Elizabeth and Janice Russell (Mike & Vicki's niece and sister-in-law respectively) prayers for continued improvement, Elizabeth Russell (Mike & Vicki's niece), recovery from brain surgery, Greg Russell, (Mike's brother), back surgery and heart attack, Janice Russell (Mike & Vicki's sister-in-law) healing prayers, Greg & Janice Russell (Mike's brother & sister in law) injured in a car accident, Vicki Russell, recovering from laparoscopic knee surgery, Jan. 7, Katherine Slee (friend of Beckers), Claire Smith (Norvell's grandniece) recovery from transplant surgery, Stella, 7 yrs old, (Sally Ponstein's friend's grdaughter) prayers for non-rejection of transplant, Russ Taylor, (Julie Bolton's father) surgery recovery, Sara Thompson (Corinne's friend) cancer diagnosis, Chuck Thor, Brian Underhill, Steve Unruh (Corinne's bro.) colon cancer treatments, Tim Wahl, (Naomi's brother) recovering from back surgery on 10/30, seriously injured in a fall, Julia Wentz, chemotherapy treatments, Dennis Willaman.
- **Assisted Living/Nursing Home/Homebound:** Christopher St. John (Son of Bonita Zielke), Dick Straith, Susan Straith, 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), Koa Rosally (Grossman's grandson), Zachery Wiesner (Gigi Howard's son-in-law).
- **Prayer Partners:** Bethany Lutheran, Rev. Chrysanne Timm, Northport; Faiath Lutheran, Rev. Megan Floyd, Okemos; Hope St. John's Lutheran Church, Supply Pastors, Oscoda; Cross of Christ, Rev. Sherry McGuffin, Petoskey.