



168 Hours

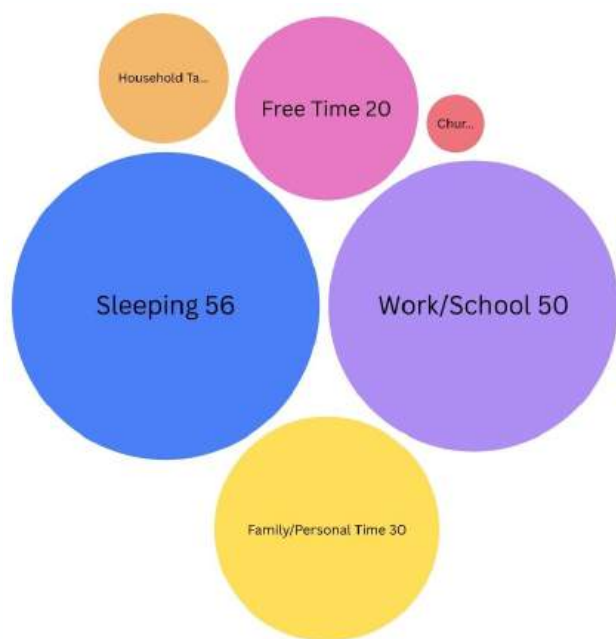
Greetings in the name of Christ!

This month I find myself thinking about how we measure our lives. In the song "Seasons of Love" from the iconic musical "RENT" the characters sing:

*525,600 minutes—525, moments so dear
525,600 minutes—how do you measure—measure a year?
In daylight, in sunsets—in midnights, in cups of coffee.
In inches, in miles—in laughter, in strife.
525,600 minutes—how do you measure a year in the life?*

We don't often think about our time in terms of minutes in a year. Usually, we think about our time in terms of hours in the day-how many hours a day we spend on different parts of our lives. This month, I am inviting you to think about how you spend the hours in a week.

Now, for those of you who are math averse: 24 hours in a day equals 168 hours in a week. How do you think the average American family spends those hours? The answer might surprise you.



Sleeping 56 Hours

Work/School 50 Hours

Family/Personal Time 30 Hours

Free Time 20 Hours

Household Tasks 10 Hours

Church/Faith 2 Hours

Out of 168 hours in a week, the average family spends only about 2 hours at their place of worship or involved in faith community activities.

PASTOR'S PAGE CONTINUED

What does this mean? It doesn't mean that you need to necessarily spend more time at Church; it does mean that the richest place for faith formation, especially for children, is at home, with family and trusted adults. Because you don't need a seminary degree to talk about God's presence in our lives and in the world. You don't need a specific, structured Bible study to talk about scripture, you don't even need a special activity. Faith is formed in the ordinary moments of our lives, through the ordinary experiences and rituals of our lives like making meals and eating together, riding together in the car, bedtime and bathtime rituals. All of these ordinary moments can become holy ground where we can experience God's presence in our personal lives and the lives of our families.

We can experience God's presence when we are with our families in some of these ways:

- When you walk out your front door, point out to your family that God is knocking and wants to be a part of our lives (Revelation 3:20).
- When you look at the night sky, reflect on how God created the two trillion galaxies with 400 billion stars in each of them (Isaiah 45:12).
- When you are walking with your family, point out that God takes care of the birds, and They will take care of us (Matthew 6:26).
- Say a breath prayer with your family- a short prayer as you take a deep breath and exhale (Psalm 46:10).

Part of our mission as the Church is to support families (in all the ways that they are formed) in weaving faith into the fabric of their daily lives. As part of that mission we will be offering monthly tips on weaving faith into our ordinary moments both in the Newsletter and on our Facebook page. We will be introducing Intergenerational Faith Family events throughout the year, like 5F Sundays (stay tuned for more information!) and our upcoming Back to School Family Fun Night on Wednesday, August 26th which is an intergenerational event open to EVERYONE in our faith family.

We will also be offering these exciting learning opportunities for Parents, grandparents, and all grown-ups through a Lily Grant, in partnership with Faith Forward at Grandview University in Iowa.

—Grandparenting Faith Sunday, October 18th 7-8:15 pm via Zoom

—Parenting Faith Sunday, October 25th 7-8:15 pm via Zoom

We have 168 hours in a week filled with moments of opportunity to connect with each other and with God. Together, let's discover how we can turn ordinary moments into holy moments. May God bless you and hallow your ordinary moments this month.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jess

WINGS OF MERCY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Pancake Breakfast



Grab your spatulas and smiles! We are helping with the Wings of Mercy Pancake Breakfast again!

An information sheet, with the various roles, and a sign up sheet are on the table in the Commons. Please pick your preferred time slot(s) and role(s).

Saturday, August 15, 2026

Set up: 6:30 - 8:00 am

Breakfast: - 8:00 - 10:00 am

Wrap-up/Clean-up: 10:00 am- 12:00 pm (Noon)

West Michigan Regional Airport

60 Geurink Blvd., Holland, MI

Shortly after turning onto Geurink Blvd. look for a large red and grey hangar on the right.

Wings of Mercy generously shares some of the raised funds with Good Shepherd. This year, the money will go toward a new electronic sign for the front of the church.

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Blood Drive!

Our next blood drive is
Thursday, August 27, 2026
11:00 am to 4:45 pm



Those who donate in August receive a \$20 Amazon Gift Card by email. Terms: rdblood.org/August.

Sign-up sheets now available on the table in the Commons.

GREEN THUMB SUNDAY



Green Thumb Sunday showing progress with weeding and performing future weed control around our sign and in other areas.

l-r, Tenley & Tiffany Letourneau and Kris Norvell.

THANK YOU

Congratulations and Thank You

Eric Mueller graduated July 11, 2026 from the Diakonia program of the Northern Illinois Synod.

He was the supply worship leader and preacher for Pastor Jess on Sunday, July 19 and 26, while she was on vacation.

Saying the benediction with the children of Good Shepherd. Kids-l-r: Quinton, Clay, Latham, Jackson, Edwin, Gracie, Becca with Toad.



BACK-TO-SCHOOL FAMILY FUN NIGHT!

Back-to-School Family Fun Night

Are you ready to celebrate the end of summer and the start of a new school year? Please save the date on **Wednesday, August 26th, from 5:30p to 7:30p!**

We will have exciting activities like:

- Yard Games! - Grill Out! - Bonfire! - S'mores!
- Fun Bible Study! - Mini Bowling! - Back-pack Blessing!

We look forward to seeing helpers and fun enthusiasts of all ages join us to celebrate the transition to school. We hope to see you there!

Christian Education Team and Membership and Events Team



DEB IS RETIRING!



Deb Is Retiring!

Please join our Church Council in thanking and congratulating Deb on her well earned retirement! Deb has decided on October 9 as her last day working with us at Good Shepherd.

Council will be seeking a new person to serve as Church Administrative Assistant. If you know anyone who may be interested, please notify a member of Council.

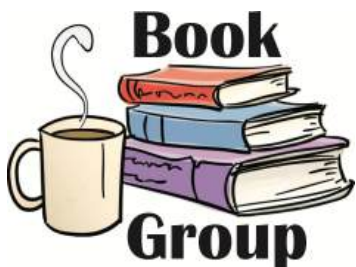
Thank you for all your hard work, Deb!

Church Council: Pastor Jessica, Dylana Eisaman, Naomi Wahl, Mike Russell, Branden Bacon, Bill Foster

BOOK GROUP NEWS

Selection Sign Up: 2026 - 2027

***Months still available: Oct. 21, 2026,
Feb. 17, March 17, April 21, & May 19, 2027***



This Book Group year, we will continue to give you, the reader, the opportunity to select a book that you would like to read and discuss. You may sign up for a meeting date, (3rd Wed.), without knowing the book title.

When you have selected a book, please write name and author on the sheet and indicate whether it is a book bag or if we are acquiring our own copy. (The book bags are increasingly difficult to obtain.) For September's selection, the book will need to be picked by the middle of August to be included in the newsletter.

Please write a brief intro for the book and send it to Deb, in the office, for that month's newsletter. It would be helpful if you could locate some discussion questions. Some books include questions or questions are available on the internet as well.

The sign up sheet runs from September 2026 - May 2027 and is on the shelf under the bulletin board in the Commons

CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION

CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION

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 oceans 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 200 years, society is producing more than the earth's vegetation and the oceans 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 city-wide and even has 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 Dennis Willaman or Ellie Buggeln and we will get you more information.



AROUND OUR BUILDING

Recent views around our building.



Dwarf Snapdragons, July 15, 2026

Baptismal Font, November 4, 2024



Decorated for Pentecost Sunday,
May 28, 2026



NOISY OFFERING

July/August Noisy Offering Recipient CASA



Children's After School Achievement (CASA) is a community after-school program of Hope College that promotes educational achievement among underrepresented children.

By way of intentional collaboration with local schools, we seek to build strong learners in the early years of their education, support their right to quality education, and promote equal access to the tools they need to be successful.

To do so, we offer one-on-one tutoring sessions to 110 elementary school students during the school year and individualized classroom instruction and enrichment to 85 students during a six-week summer program. Casa has worked alongside schools and parents for more that three decades.

The primary emphasis at CASA is to address each child's educational needs during our year-round programming sessions. Our Staff and volunteers guide referred students in homework assistance, reading time, and school subjects that are identified as challenging for each particular student. The year-round program features transportation to and from sessions, family and school communication, and monitoring and assessment of student progress.

Education is one of the keys to a future of promise, hope, and fulfillment. at CASA, we enhance children's lives by working with the schools to help our young students to improve their literacy skills, understand math concepts and become critical thinkers. We have grounded the program in relationships by ensuring that every child has a continuous one-on-one experience with a tutor who is ready to work with him or her each day of program in the the academic year. In the summer, our certified teachers an teachings assistants lead classes that are intentionally small and designed to creatively enhance learning. We are committed to recognizing the value of hilfren by tapping into the innumerable assets honoring their strengths, and expanding the possibilities in the future.

(From: hope.edu)

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING



The Measure of Our Love

Computers connected via internet = Families

Total Sunday Attendance: 191

Families: 7

Average Sunday Attendance: 48

ORPHANED DISHES

There are orphaned containers on the desk in the Commons that would love to go back home.

If they are familiar, please make their wishes come true.



CRAFTS & CONVERESATION



Crafts and Conversation

is moving from monthly to seasonal craft nights. Our next evening will be “Creepy Crafts” themed, Wednesday, October 14, 2026.

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.

Come join us this Sunday!



GREEN THUMB SUNDAYS

Green Thumb Sundays

Tending to Our Plants
and Garden Beds after Church.

2nd Sunday of Each Gardening Month

Bring: work gloves, pruners, buckets, wheelbarrows,
and any other tools needed for gardening.

Meeting next on August 9, 2026



SUNDAY SERVANTS

Sunday Servants Needed for August

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
August 2 10th Sunday of Pentecost	WL- CA- Mary Sue Dawsey	Floyd Norvell		Deb Ludwig
August 9 11th Sunday of Pentecost	WL - CA- Joan Maring	Joan Maring		Deb Ludwig
August 16 12th Sunday of Pentecost	WL - CA -	Branden Bacon		
August 23 13th Sunday of Pentecost	WL - Eric Mueller CA - Eric Mueller	Eric Mueller		
August 30 14th Sunday of Pentecost	WL - CA -			

FELLOWSHIP SIGN-UP — AUGUST

Fellowship Sign-up.



Treats and Set Up & Clean Up	
August 2, 2026	Norvells
August 9, 2026	Sally Ponstein
August 16 2026	Bacons
August 23, 2026	
August 30, 2026	

AUGUST

Birthdays

Marcel Letourneau 5
Chan Vixayphone 13
Ellery Pearson 27
Elliot Eisaman 30



Anniversaries

No Anniversaries listed
for August

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, Tuesdays, 11:00 am on site. No Quilting in December.
Women's Bible Study, Wednesdays, 10:30 am, September - May.
Weekend Bible Study, Saturdays, 10:00 am, September - May.
Book Group, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 4:00 pm. September - May.
Green Thumb Sundays, 2nd Sunday of the month, 11:15am. April - September.
Crafts & Conversation, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6:00-8:00pm. Year Round.

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 (Pres)	(616) 953-0603, dylana.pinter@gmail.com
Bill Foster	(989) 329-6482 WilliamTFoster22@gmail.com
Michael Russell (Trea)	(616) 283-6723 miker163@yahoo.com
Naomi Wahl (VP)	(605) 376-7173 whldw220@aol.com
Pastor Jess	(616) 403-4660, pj.gslc@gmail.com

IN OUR JULY PRAYERS

In Our July Prayers...

- **Ministries of the Month, July:** CASA at Hope College & Worship Committee
- **Healing/Peace:** Corinne Becker, recovery from cataract surgery, Barton Family (friends of Julie Bolton), Corinne Becker, breast cancer, Zach Bergland (Beckers' nephew), Bryan Blank, former member, needs a kidney transplant, Greg Bolton, (brother-in-law of Julie Bolton), 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, Brian Dixon, the Dixon family, Shawn Felgenhauer (Kerry Johnson's sister) prayers for continued healing, Jessie George (Deb P-G's daughter), Gigi Howard, gastrointestinal issues and swelling, Tessa Hurt (out-of-town member), Holly Johnson, (Steve & Kerry's daughter), Jeanne Klynstra, severely broken right arm near shoulder, Connie Lentz (friend of Kathy Shoup), Ellen Lichtman is in the hospital with shingles. John & Judy Madison, (Lois' neighbors) both undergoing cancer treatment, Ron Meyer, Pat Ponstein (Sally's sister-in-law) having treatments at home but not progressing well, Dorothy Postema (Deb P-G's mom), Katherine Slee (friend of Beckers), surgery recovery, Emma Spinnenweber, (Ellie B's sister) in intensive therapy for a stroke, Sara Thompson (Corinne's friend) cancer diagnosis, Jessica Underhill, knee surgery on June 11, Steve Unruh (Corinne's bro.) colon cancer treatments, Joe Vanderlaan (nephew to Sally P. & Ellen L.) severely injured in a car accident, Julia Wentz, chemotherapy treatments.
- **Assisted Living/Nursing Home/Homebound:** Craig & Carol Ollerman, Christopher St. John (Son of Bonita Zielke), Dick & 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:** Saron Lutheran Church, Rev. James Smith, St. Joseph; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Rev. Jonathan Reid, Sutton's Bay; St. John's Lutheran Church, Rev. Vicky Blough, Three Rivers; Rev. Paul Busekist, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Traverse City.