the Shepherd's Song

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
3990 N. 112th Avenue, Holland, Michigan 49424
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November 2026



Honoring God's Masterpiece: Stewardship and Solar Power

"When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. You made them rulers over the works of your hands..."

Grace and peace to you, Beloved, in the name of God, Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier.
These words from Psalm 8 never fail to inspire a sense of wonder in me. Not only did God speak creation into existence, but God also invites us into the creative act of nurturing and protecting our small part of it. An important part of Good Shepherd's witness in the community is being good stewards of the resources God has provided, and in recent years we have looked at the opportunities that solar power might provide in that area.

Council and Care for Creation Solar Proposal

Good Shepherd has been considering solar panels for our church since at least 2022 as a way to expand the ministry of our church and be good stewards of our planet. In 2024, Council commissioned the Care for Creation (CfC) Team to research whether solar panels may be a good fit. CfC found solar is a good choice for reducing greenhouse gases and has a solid financial benefit. We will have a special meeting after church on Sunday, November 15, 2026 to review the findings and vote (in-person) on whether solar is the right direction for our church. This decision is time sensitive because the government rebate is only available to projects completed by December 31, 2027.

Pastoral reflections on Solar for GSLC

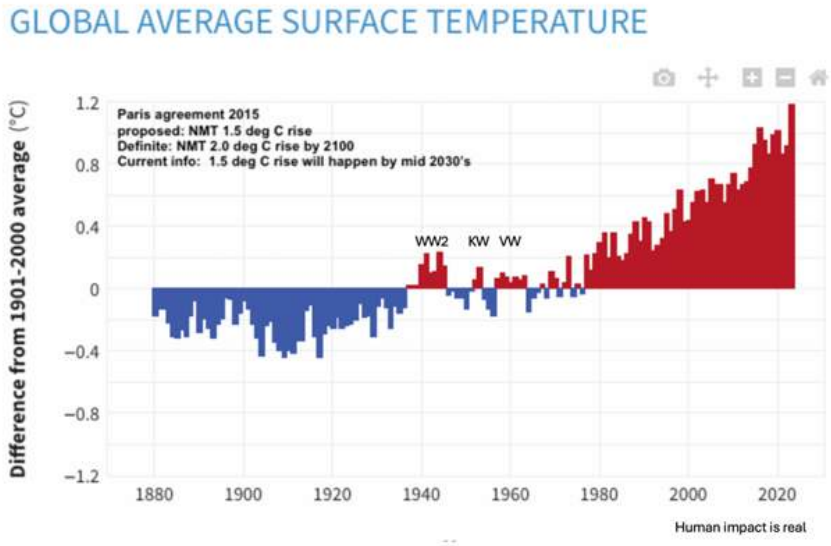
As Lutheran Christians, we recognize that when we claim, as the Psalmist does, that God has given us rule "over the works of [their] hands", it is not a license to exploit, but a holy calling to care for what God has made. We are called to respond to the grace that God has given us with gratitude, and freed to serve our neighbors, which also includes caring for the earth we all share. Transitioning to solar power is a deeply faithful way to live out this calling. By capturing the very sunlight God set in place, we lower our carbon footprint, protect the vulnerable neighbors who suffer most from environmental harm, and free up financial resources for our ministry.

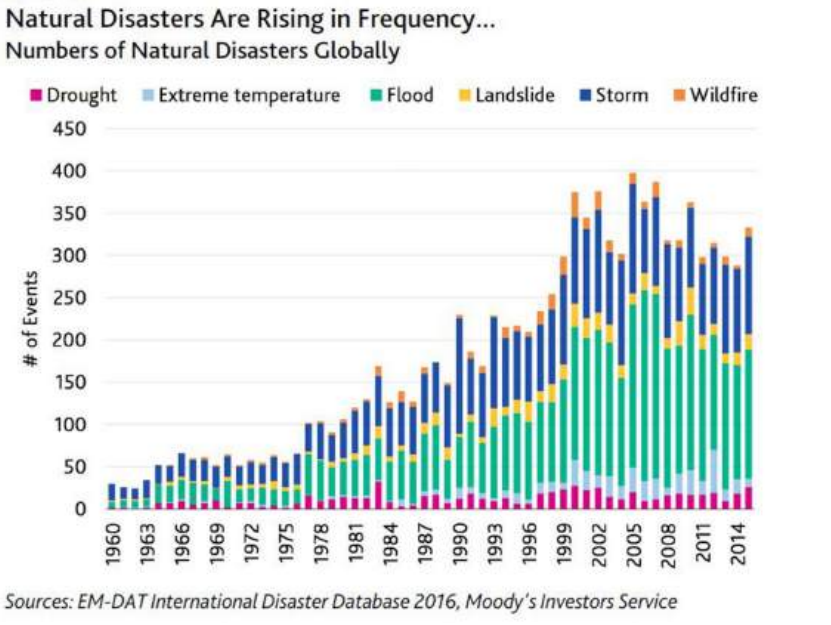
The Climate Case for Solar – Taking Care of the Earth for our Kids

1. Climate warming due to human activity is real and will cost many more human lives and many more trillions of dollars from rising oceans, and stronger storms and altered weather patterns causing fires, floods and flooding.

2. Past history clearly shows that global warming events are typically followed by severe climate cooling and sunless years causing starvation for many.

3. Solar and wind are the least expensive and the least polluting technologies for producing electricity and provide the best possibility for people to become energy independent.





Solar Faithful System Under Consideration

Council reviewed quotes for several systems and found that the **Solar Faithful 6.43kW** system was the least daunting entry point for a GSLC solar system. Highlights of this system:

Provider: Solar Faithful which has done over 70 very satisfied churches and is a faith-based solar ministry.

Energy Generation: System provides up to 43% of GSLC annual power usage. We don't expect solar generation to exceed church energy consumption often. We would get a credit to our bill for any excess energy generated to the grid.

Price Control: The system is expected to reduce the church's electric bill for the next 30-40 years with self-generated power and locking out additional Consumers Power rate increases.

Upkeep: System maintenance is expected to be minimal. The proposed solar panels have a 25-year product warranty and a 30-year performance warranty.

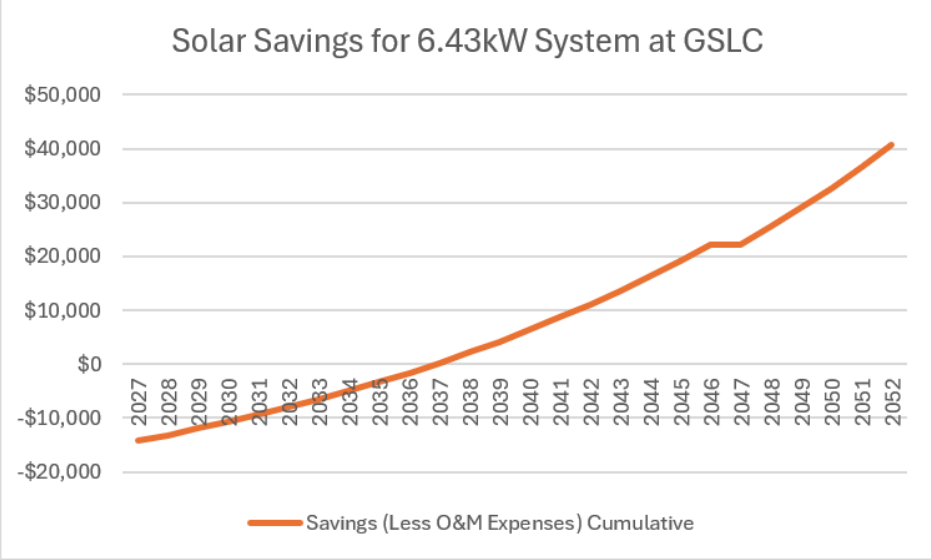
Location: Panels are planned to be installed on the Commons roof, above the kitchen and offices. Other system components would be added to the mechanical/electrical room.

Price: The total project cost is quoted at $25,694 with an expected rebate of $10,277 once the job is completed. **The net cost after rebate is $15,417** before counting any pledges from the congregation.

ROI: After the government rebate, the system is expected to pay for itself in **less than 10 years**, not counting any pledges from the congregation.

Long-Term Energy Generation: Solar faithful expects the proposed system to generate **$56K of energy savings** at GSLC in the first 25 years (less O&M expenses).

Timeline: Signing a contract by the end of 2026 ensures installation is scheduled after the spring thaw and completion prior to the December 2027 deadline for the federal rebate.



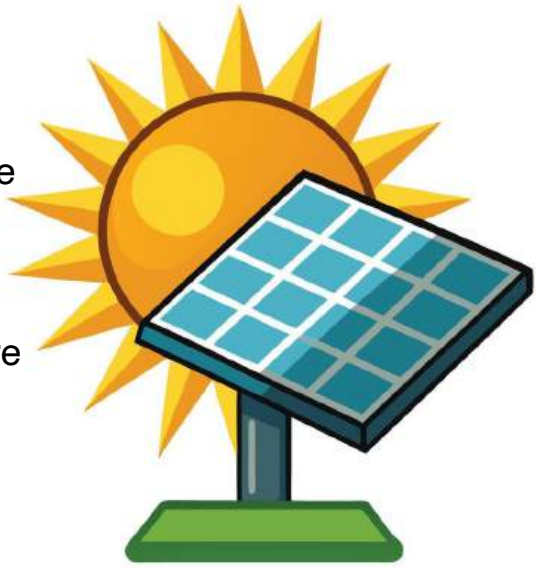
Care for Creation Research About Solar in Michigan

Both installers and other churches have confirmed that solar is financially viable in Michigan. We have received testimonials from three other churches in the Western Lower Peninsula that are happy with their solar panel installs in addition to congregation members with direct solar experience.

The Bacons have had solar panels on their house since 2020 and Dylana works at the Outdoor Discovery Center which also benefits from solar panels.

We have excerpts from testimonials on the bulletin board in the Commons.

Funding a Potential Solar Project - Pledge Drive



A pledge drive is beginning and will continue until the special meeting on November 15, 2026. If the cause of solar panels is something you are inspired to contribute to financially, please follow the directions on the pledge board to share your confidential commitment. We ask that you only pledge funds that are beyond your normal giving and not "rob Peter to pay Paul". This drive will help us understand the financial support that solar panels have from the congregation and are an important part of how we present the solar system for the vote on November 15, 2026.

Thank you Good Shepherd Lutheran for thoughtfully considering the difference we can make for our church, our community, and our children's future with a solar system.

- Council and Care for Creation Team

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

Fun things coming up!



Introducing Fifth Sunday Fun! Did you know several months during the year have an extra Sunday? It's true, so why not do something a little extra on those extra Sundays with some intergenerational fun? One of the most effective ways to build faith in our kids is by building meaningful connection with trusted adults they are not related to. So, every fifth Sunday, we will offer an opportunity for everyone—from our youngest to our oldest—to bond, share faith stories, and build memories through a fun activity after Worship. Our first event is on November 29, 2026.



Join us for some intergenerational fun after worship! With November 29, 2026 being the first Sunday of Advent, we will make Jesse Trees to take home as part of your Advent faith practice. This is a great opportunity for all generations of our Church family to share stories and create Advent memories.

Safeguarding our Kids: We are looking for adults (or High School aged kids) to be Sunday School helpers.

We have a big Sunday school class (yay!), and we are committed to keeping our kids safe, to do this we want to make sure that we have two (2) adults with the kids during Sunday school. If you are interested in being a Helper please talk to Pastor Jess or Eric Mueller. Thank you!



PET BLESSINGS



Brandi Russell receives her blessing from Pastor Jess!

On Saturday, October 3, 2026 we had a wonderful turn-out for our Drive-Thru Pet Blessings!

Pastor Jess also went to Best Pals on October 6, 2026 and Copland's Farm on October 7, 2026 to extend blessings to the animals there.

KIDS' FOOD BASKET

On Saturday, October 17, 2026 we went to Kids' Food Basket in Holland to assist in putting together sack lunches. During our visit we were able help in:

- **Packaging 320 servings** of pretzels for sack supper meals!
- **Preparing over 200 servings** of cheese tortillas for sack supper meals!
- **Decorating 21 sack supper bags!**

In supporting Kids' Food Basket we are able to help them move closer to their mission of ensuring every child has access to healthy meals.



L-R: Pastor Jess Rivera-Walker, James Walker, Gracie, Clay, and Hillary Coopland

RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

On Sunday, October 11, 2026, the congregation celebrated Deborah Postema-George's years of service as Administrative Assistant. She served the church since 2019, and we wish her the best in her retirement!



Deborah Postema-George and Pastor Jess



Deborah Postema-George and Pastor Jess



L-R: Jessie George, Deborah Postema-George, and Pastor Jess

NOTE FROM DEB

Dear GSLC Congregation,

Thank you so much for the wonderful retirement send-off. Thank you also for the beautiful quilted gifts. I have received many compliments on them and love them both. I have enjoyed working for and with many of you on a regular basis and miss you already. Thank you also for the prayers and support you have sent my way for family health issues and deaths. As my grandmother used to say "they are balm for a weary soul."

I look forward to seeing some of you again when I start meeting with the quilters after Christmas. Again, thank you. You have been a blessing in my life.

Deb

FRESH LANDSCAPING

Have you noticed our fresh landscaping? Phase 1 is well underway- led by our resident Master Gardener, Kris Norvell, we have new greenery in the front of the church!

Thank you to all who came out to help place these plants!



A look at the new additions to the exterior!



L-R: Branden Bacon, Floyd & Kris Norvell, Jessica Bacon, Jackson Kleinjans



Branden Bacon and Jackson Kleinjans water the new additions to the landscaping!

COMMUNITY ACTION HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Good Shepherd was in the Community Action House Newsletter! Please see the article below.

COMMUNITY
ACTION HOUSE

In August, a volunteer group from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church joined us at our Northside Resale Store! After seeing a back room full of clothing and household goods ready to be stocked, **the group jumped in and, in just two hours, got everything out onto the sales floor.**

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church has been a steady supporter of Community Action House since 2011, finding tangible ways year after year to care for our neighbors. Earlier this year, their Women's Group donated boxes of personal care products for neighbors in need. **From donating essential items to sharing their time and talents at Resale, we're grateful for the many ways Good Shepherd Lutheran Church continues to take action alongside us to build a stronger community.**



L-R: Carolyn & Dennis Willaman, Steve & Terry Grossman, Kerry Johnson, Corinne Becker, and Vicki & Mike Russell

REMINDER- DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS!



Make sure to move your clocks back an hour on October 31, 2026, and get an extra hour of sleep before our November 1, 2026 All Saints Day service!

WELCOME NEW STAFF

On Sunday, November 8, 2026, we will welcome our new Administrative Assistant, Jennifer Durkee. Please join us!



SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



A Special Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, November 15th, 2026 at 11:15 am.**

Please see our article at the beginning of this month's newsletter for details regarding the proposal for Solar Panels.

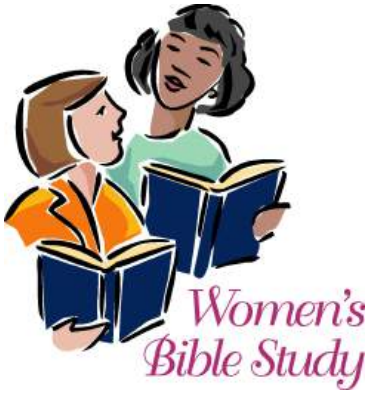
Members must be present to vote on this proposal.

HANDCHIME CHOIR

The Handchime Choir will be playing for the congregation at the Christmas service on Sunday, December 13, 2026.

Rehearsals will be 11:15-11:45 on Sunday, November 22, 2026 and Sunday, December 6, 2026. All are welcome to join!

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



The Women's Bible Study will not be meeting on November 25, 2026 in preparation for Thanksgiving.

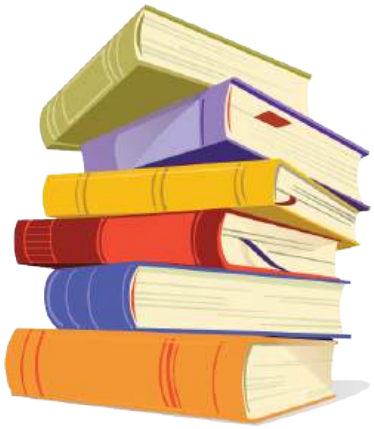
We will be meeting at 10:30am on all other Wednesdays during the month.

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Women's Christmas Party will be on Tuesday, December 8, 2026, at 6:00pm.



BOOK GROUP NEWS



November Selection:
Between Sisters by Kristin Hannah

November Book Club will discuss *Between Sisters* by Kristin Hannah. She is a popular author but this title, published in 2003, is not one we have discussed.

All are welcome to join us at 4:00 on Wednesday November 18, 2026.

Sisters, Meghann and Claire, have been estranged for over two decades. Meghann has become a high powered divorce attorney; Claire is a single mother living in a small town. When Claire decides to marry she prepares to reunite with her sister. Will they get beyond their painful upbringing to find if they have a bond, something in common? Is it true that no one knows you like your sister? *Between Sisters* by Kristin Hannah is a contemporary family drama about sisters, second chances and family reconciliations.

NOISY OFFERING

November/December Noisy Offering Recipient

Samaritas



Samaritas' mission statement is simply, "Serving people as an expression of the love of Christ." Their vision is: Samaritas will walk alongside individuals and families to nurture lasting personal growth, connection and empowerment in order to realize their fullest potential, creating the opportunity for people and communities to thrive.

Samaritas has a number of areas in which they extend assistance, including serving foster children, aiding struggling families, creating new and safe homes for refugees, providing affordable living communities, and offering Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services. (From: samaritas.org)

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING



The Measure of Our Love

Computers connected via internet = Families
Total Sunday Attendance: 219
Families: 11
Average Sunday Attendance: 55

DECEMBER EVENTS!

Be sure to make note of the following dates for December!

- **Tuesday, December 6, 2026 at 6:00pm:**
  Women's Christmas Party
- **Wednesday, December 7, 2026 at 6:00pm:**
  Crafts and Conversations - Christmas Edition!
- **Sunday, December 13, 2026 at 10:00am:**
  Handchime Choir at Service
- **Thursday, December 24, 2026 at 7pm:**
  Christmas Eve Service



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!



CHOIR REHEARSAL



Join us for choir!

Monday evenings in the Sanctuary, 6:30 - 7:30 pm.
All voices are welcome!

SUNDAY SERVANTS

Sunday Servants Needed for November

Please help us fill the spaces. Volunteer to be a Sunday Servant
Use the form in the Commons or contact Jenn in the office.
616.772.4075 or gslc.office@icloud.com

Date	Worship Leader/ Communion Assistant	Reader(s)	Usher	Communion Set-Up/ Clean-Up
November 1 All Saints Day	WL- CA- Carolyn Willaman	Carolyn Willaman		
November 8 24th Sunday of Pentecost	WL - CA- Joan Maring	Joan Maring		Terry Grossman
November 15 25th Sunday of Pentecost	WL - CA -	Branden Bacon		Joan Lamb
November 25 Christ the King	WL - CA -			
November 29 1st Sunday of Advent	WL - CA -			Deb Ludwig

FELLOWSHIP SIGN-UP — NOVEMBER

Fellowship Sign-up.



	Treats and Set Up & Clean Up
November 1, 2026	
November 8, 2026	
November 15, 2026	Bacon
November 22, 2026	
November 29, 2026	

NOVEMBER

Birthdays

Steve Grossman 8
Doreen Ritt 15



Anniversaries

Brian & Sheila Dixon 5
Deb & Tom Ludwig 24
Marcel & Tiffany Letourneau 28
Deborah Postema-George & Rick George 29

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 November and 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.

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 OCTOBER PRAYERS

In Our September Prayers…

- ***Ministries of the Month, September:*** Kids' Food Basket and LWR Quilts.
- ***Healing/Peace:*** 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); Kevin Cawley (Lynda Parrott's son-in-law); Mark DeGraaf, stage 4 cancer; Diane (close friend of Kris Norvell), cancer; Brian Dixon; the Dixon family; Jared & Abby Felgenhauer (great-nephew of Kerry Johnson), prayers for a healthy pregnancy- due Feb '27; Shawn Felgenhauer (Kerry Johnson's sister); Joan Garrett (Laurie Schuldt's mother); Jessie George (Deb P-G's daughter); Don Henry (Joan Maring's brother), inoperable kidney cancer; Gigi Howard; Kristen Howard (Kerry Johnson's niece), end stage cancer; 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); Tracy Lovell (former member), surgery recovery; John & Judy Madison (Lois' neighbors), both undergoing cancer treatment; Lauren Meeker (family of Mike & Vicki Russell), difficult hysterectomy; Ron Meyer; Don Ponstein (Sally's husband), surgery for blockage; Sally Ponstein; Katherine Slee (friend of Beckers), surgery recovery; Sara Thompson (Corinne's friend); Steve Unruh (Corinne's bro), colon cancer treatments; Julia Wentz, chemotherapy treatments; Callie Willis (family of Mike & Vicki Russell), breast cancer.
- ***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 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:*** Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Supply Pastors, Alpena; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Supply Pastors, Alpena; St. John Lutheran Church, Supply Pastors, Baroda; St. Peter Lutheran Church, Rev. Edward Ruble, Battle Creek.