



Celebrating the Holy Spirit

Greetings in Christ!

Fall is officially here, and it's not just the crisp Autumn wind moving here at Good Shepherd; the Holy Spirit is, too! From our quilters to our kiddos, we're celebrating milestones, experiencing renewal, and sharing the love of God in Christ in our community. So, this month I want to take this space to highlight the work of the Holy Spirit here at Good Shepherd.

Transitions: "For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven." (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Transition is a part of life together. This fall, our community will undergo a personnel transition as we wish our Administrative Assistant, Deb Postema-George, blessings on her retirement and we welcome our new Administrative Assistant, Jennifer (Jenn) Durkee. Deb has served this community faithfully since 2019, has brought laughter and joy to the office, and has been instrumental in supporting the ministry of Good Shepherd. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with her and get to know her. We will be honoring Deb with a blessing and sending during worship on October 11, 2026.

Renewal

Have you noticed any new additions here at Good Shepherd? This Fall, our little slice of Holland is getting an updated look! Can you spot the updates? A new cement slab and fence now house both the Paper Gator and the dumpster; the outside of the building is receiving a bit of a 'facelift' with a new coat of paint, and new plants are popping up by the sign and in the front. We give thanks to the Council, along with the help and expertise of our own Master Gardener Kris Norvell, for the hard work they are putting in to create a beautiful and sustainable building and grounds. Please keep an eye out for announcements and opportunities to get involved with this project over the coming weeks.

PASTOR'S PAGE CONTINUED

Celebrations

This fall, we are celebrating growth and commitment to ministry in a few ways...

New Members

On Sunday, September 27, 2026 we were excited to welcome 12 new members (including 5 youth under the age of 18!)

Kids!

We have been blessed by the number of young families who have chosen to be a part of our faith community. Our Sunday School is thriving, and we are beginning Confirmation instruction with a class of seven; it's the largest class I have had the honor of teaching in my almost eleven years as your Pastor. Thank you to the members of the Children's Education Committee for all of their hard work.

Quilts!

The Quilting group, one of the longest-running ministries here at Good Shepherd, began in 1995. Gathering weekly to piece together and sew beautiful quilts for Lutheran World Relief. They started by shipping fourteen quilts, and that number has steadily increased, averaging over one hundred quilts per year since 2010. In the thirty years between 1995 and 2025, the total number of quilts sent out into the world totaled 2,846. I anticipate that we will reach 3,000 by 2027. Thank you, quilters! For your dedication, your infectious laughter and conversation, and, most of all, the love that you put into each and every quilt that you make!

Yes! The Holy Spirit is indeed moving here at Good Shepherd, and there is room for everyone's unique gifts in the work that God calls us to. Where might the Holy Spirit be moving in your life this season? How might the Spirit be nudging you?

May the Holy Spirit burn brightly within you and make you ready for the transformative work of God. Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jess



NEW MEMBERS



L-R: Lathan, Clay, and Gracie Coopland



L-R behind: Ben and Hillary Coopland
L-R front: Clay and Gracie Coopland



Pam Quitiquit



L-R Olivia and Mercy Biswas, Arthona Mondol,
Gracia Biswas



Ruma and Sobi Biswas



Oliver and Ruma Biswas

SOME OF OUR LWR QUILTERS



Sharon Wendt selecting notions.



Ellie Buggeln ironing fabric.



Terry Grossman pinning quilt.



Mary Sue Dawsey and Joan Lamb
choosing yarn.



Lois Robinson sewing quilt binding.



Carolyn Willaman and Mary Sue Dawsey trimming quilt.

BEST PALS ANIMAL RESCUE CENTER



On September 12, 2026 we gathered at BestPals Animal Rescue Center to help clean, fix some things, and spend time with the animals. We had a very productive day.

Gracie and Clay Coopland had a wonderful time reading to the cats!



L-R: Jessica Bacon, Jessica Underhill, Floyd Norvell, Eric and Julie Bolton



Gracie and Clay Coopland



L-R: Eric and Julie Bolton, Branden and Jessica Bacon, Pastor Jess, Jessica and Brian Underhill, Dylana and Edwin Eisaman, Brian Underhill II, Kris Norvell, Michelle (owner), Floyd Norvell

CHURCH PICNIC

On September 13, 2026 we met together at Helder Park for our church picnic. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and delicious food!



Members enjoying food.



L-R Facing away from camera: Tom Lindsley, Kris Norvell.

Facing toward camera: Floyd Norvell, Chuck Thor.



Making careful selections of what to enjoy next.

NEW PLANTS COMING!

From: Kris Norvell



Exciting News!

We're working on a new landscape for Good Shepherd! Phase 1, which includes the front of our church building and our sign will be completed this fall. We need lots of help on this beautification project and we want you to be a part of it, so watch for more information coming soon.

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

Fun things coming up!

October 3, 2026	11am - 2pm Drive-Thru Pet Blessing
October 14, 2026	6:00pm Crafts & Conversation - Halloween Edition
October 25, 2026	Reformation Sunday—Wear Red!!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Retirement Celebration

Sunday, October 11, 2026, we will celebrate Deb Postema-George, our retiring Administrative Secretary. Please join us.

CRAFTS & CONVERSATION

Join us on Wednesday, October 14, 2026 from 6:00pm - 8:00pm for a night filled with Creepy Crafts, or bring your current project to work on!



BOOK GROUP NEWS

October Selection:

The Road by Cormac McCarthy



A story following a father and young son's journey across a post-apocalyptic America as they search for the sea.

This book looks into the grim actions people would take given the right circumstances, and what it means to keep hope alive in the midst of such turmoil.

We will meet on October 21, 2026 at 4:00pm for the discussion.

Selection Sign-up for 2026-2027:

Month still available: May 19, 2027. Please see sign-up sheet in the Commons.

DRIVE THRU PET BLESSINGS

Drive - Thru Pet Blessings will be available on Saturday, October 3, 2026 from 11:00am - 2:00pm. All pets are welcome!



KIDS' FOOD BASKET



God's Work Our Hands Volunteer Opportunity!

Join us on Saturday, October 17, 2026 from 9:30am -11:00am at Kids' Food Basket Holland. We will be helping with Sack Supper preparation!

Sign-up sheet is on the table in the Commons.

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Blood Drive!

Our October blood drive will be on Thursday,
October 29, 2026, from 11:00am - 5:00pm.
Join us in giving the gift of life!



TRUNK OR TREAT



Join us on Thursday, October 29, 2026
at 6:00pm for Trunk or Treat!
Show up in costume and pass out candy
(or add some to your candy pail) and play games!

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

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!



SAVE THE DATE



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

NOISY OFFERING

September/October Noisy Offering Recipient

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)

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 "You 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

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING



The Measure of Our Love

Computers connected via internet = Families

Total Sunday Attendance: 326

Families: 13

Average Sunday Attendance: 81

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY



If you have someone in your life who has passed away during the year that you would like to have remembered in the All Saints Service on November 1, 2026, please let the church office or Pastor Jess know.

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 October

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
October 4 19th Sunday of Pentecost	WL- CA- Kris Norvell	Tiffany Letourneau		Terry Grossman
October 11 20th Sunday of Pentecost	WL - CA- Joan Maring	Joan Maring		Terry Grossman
October 18 21st Sunday of Pentecost	WL - CA -	Branden Bacon		Vicki Russell
October 25 Reformation Sunday	WL - Eric Mueller CA - Eric Mueller	Eric Mueller		Deb Ludwig

FELLOWSHIP SIGN-UP — OCTOBER

Fellowship Sign-up.



Treats and Set Up & Clean Up	
October 4, 2026	Terry Grossman
October 11, 2026	GSLC
October 18, 2026	Bacons
October 25, 2026	

OCTOBER

Birthdays

Suzanne House 5
Andre Letourneau 6
Edwin Eisaman 8
Brian Underhill II 9
Som Vixayphone 9
Floyd Norvell 12
Tom Lindsley 14
Tori Lindsley 15
Karrie Foster 16
Eric Mueller 21
Pastor Jess 27
Cooper Adams 30
Liam Johnson 30



Anniversaries

Pastor Jess Rivera-Walker
& Justin Walker 22

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.

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 SEPTEMBER PRAYERS

In Our September Prayers...

- **Ministries of the Month, September:** Kids' Food Basket and LWR School Kits.
- **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, Shawn Felgenhauer (Kerry Johnson's sister), 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), 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, Callie Willis (family of Mike & Vicki Russell) breast cancer, 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:** Christ Lutheran Church, Rev. Rob Schmidt, Wyoming; Covenant Hospital Pastoral Care Dept., Deacon Kathy Bonn, Saginaw; Feat of Victory Lutheran Church, Rev. Haley Van Beaman, Acme; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Rev. Christopher Laughlin, Allegan.