Good Shepherd News

August Newsletter

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SUNDAY WORSHIP TIME: 9:30 AM
OFFICE HOURS: TUESDAY – THURSDAY 9:00 AM TO 12:00 PM

Joining God's Mission

And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. Mark 16:15

As God's people, we are invited to participate in that mission through both outreach and evangelism. These are not separate programs or committees but complementary ways we live out our baptismal calling as disciples of Jesus Christ. Oftentimes, these two ideas are misunderstood.

Outreach is the way we embody Christ's love in our community. We care for our neighbors, welcome the stranger, feed the hungry, visit the lonely, comfort those who grieve, and work for the well-being of our community. Through these acts of compassion and hospitality, we bear witness to the love of Christ in tangible ways. Outreach is not about attracting people to an institution; it is and trust the Holy Spirit to do what only the Spirit can do.

Outreach and evangelism belong together. One demonstrates God's love through service; the other speaks God's promises through the Gospel. Together they reveal the fullness of Christ's ministry. Acts of kindness without the Gospel can leave people wondering why we serve. Words without loving action can seem empty. Jesus consistently did both—proclaiming the Kingdom of God while healing, feeding, welcoming, and restoring those around Him.

Every Christian shares in this calling. Outreach is not only the work of a committee, and evangelism is not reserved for pastors or those who feel comfortable speaking about their faith. Each of us has opportunities to participate in God's mission through everyday acts of hospitality, conversations with neighbors, invitations to worship, and compassionate service. In our homes, workplaces, schools, and neighborhoods, God is already at work.

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Church Events

Sundays @ 9:30 am
Worship Service

Wednesdays @ 5:00 Bible Study

- **Aug 15 @ 9:30 am**
  Women of Good Shepherd
- **Aug 18 @ 10:00 am**
  Finance Committee
- **Aug 25 @ 6:00 pm**

As a congregation, we seek to be a community that reflects Christ's love in both word and deed. We gather around Word and Sacrament to be nourished by God's grace, and then we are sent into the world to serve. Trusting not in our own abilities but in God's promises, we participate in His mission with confidence, knowing that the Holy Spirit continues to gather, enlighten, and sustain the Church.

May God open our eyes to see where He is already at work in our community, give us hearts that welcome all people with Christ's compassion, and grant us the courage to joyfully share the hope that is ours in Jesus Christ.

In Christ,
Pastor Jennifer Zahnow

Prayer Concerns

Please keep the following people in your prayers…

Anthony, Tony, Kim, Wanda, Matt, Carroll, Margaret, Ann, Baby Jasmine, Blanca, Diva, Eddy, Leslie, Leo, Mary C, Olivia, Kaye, Brandi, Ethan, George, Pam, Mary, Jena, Marcia, George, Casey, and Roy.

Please pray for the ELCA Presiding Bishop, Rev. Yehiel Curry, our Synodical Bishop, Rev. David Nagler, and our Synod VP, Jeff Cours

Faith Sharing in Your Daily Life

- Witness your faith with your own family by gently stating "I believe..." Commit to regular prayer before meals and family devotions.
- Play Christian music when listening to background music.
- Monitor the television viewing of your children; take time to explain why something might offend or please you.
- Commit family needs, struggles and decisions to prayer. Use "God-language" in your conversations with children and other family members.

1st	Margaret Myers
7th	Derek Hughes, Jr
15th	Casey Cashio
22nd	Phyllis Lundgren
28th	Dylan Urbany
30th	Annika Ricalde

Thank You, Good Shepherd

On Tuesday, July 28th, 96 backpacks were delivered to Centralia School District's Neighborhood Resource Center—a blessing to help young students begin the school year with confidence and hope.

With grateful hearts, we thank Matthew 25 for funding the backpacks, our congregation for providing school supplies, and everyone who packed and delivered them. Above all, we give thanks to our Lord Jesus Christ, whose love and provision made this outreach possible.

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever." - Psalm 136:1

President's Message

As we move into the last month of Summer, it always amazes me as how quickly time passes. It is very important that we always take the time to appreciate each season God has created. Summer is not always the favored season depending on our age and lifestyle, but it is my favorite. I love the warmth of the sun and try to be outdoors as much as possible. However, I do appreciate AC as much as anyone for indoors. I plant a small garden and always look forward to fresh Tomatoes and Basil. I enjoy planting seeds and am always amazed and excited to see the first signs of growth as a tiny bit of green comes through, and the continued growth process just never gets old to me.

Last month Pastor Jennifer gave a sermon about how we must continue to plant good seeds based on Matthew 13. As I thought about this, our congregation is a wonderful example of seeds planted in good soil. We are sturdy, strong, and have weathered both good, not so good, and some pretty bad times, but here we are. Now, it is our time to continue to plant and grow. Pastor Jennifer gave us seeds to plant along with a container and good soil to get us started. It is difficult to put ourselves out there, but we are all good soil, and the seeds are all those in need or may be looking for a church home. We must continue to find ways to reach out and let the community know our doors are always open to anyone looking for a place of worship.

Many thanks to Pastor for her hard work putting together the wonderful July 4th celebration. We enjoyed the fellowship of other local churches, our congregation as well as local community residents.

This past year we had the opportunity to host a Mini Mart. This was a wonderful opportunity to showcase our beautiful property and talk about Good Shepherd. I will always be grateful for this wonderful opportunity. We could not have done this without the faithful help and support from Sharon, Marv, and Lynette. Also, a few others who gave the gift of their time when they could. My sincere thanks to all of you. Unfortunately, July was the last time they would be with us due to the zoning laws in Buena Park. I will miss talking to the vendors and all the visitors that stopped by. Now we must all get busy and put on our thinking caps to find other ways to farm new seeds to help Good Shepherd grow.

*"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds you plant."

God Bless you all
Jessie Council President
*Robert Lewis Stevenson

Food Donations for Centralia School District
Neighborhood Resource Center

Food is being collected for the Neighborhood Resource Center to provide meals for students and families in need during school holidays, when school meals are unavailable. Donated food will help these families get through the holidays. The following items are needed:

> Spaghetti; Spaghetti sauce; Oatmeal Instant Quaker boxes; Cereal boxes, Granola bars; Mac & Cheese Instant boxes; Pancake Mix; Rice; and Beans.

If you cannot shop for these items but would like to donate money instead, please indicate the amount on your envelope offering with a statement FOR FOOD Donations, and we will be glad to shop for you. If you have questions, please see Barbara, Carol, or Cathy.

Property Update

Marv fixed the pew kneeler and support board on the vanity board in the front pew in the Sanctuary. Thank you, Terry, for showing it to him. Robert also let Marv know about oil stains in the west parking lot and Marv removed the floor fan and pushcart from the breezeway between Room 1 and Conference Room B. Pastor bought a battery for the TV in the Sanctuary and we will replace the battery as soon as Zachary gets home from vacation.

Robert, from 3D Tree Service, trimmed the palm trees, and reshaped the tree on the Preschool Playground that lost a branch last year and cut some of the pine tree on the playground too.

Marv is sanding the picnic tables, and he will fill the holes with wood putty and then re-stain with Killian's help. He and Sharon changed the Church sign, and she continues to prune roses and pick up clothing on the campus. Thank you, Irene, for your delicious sweets and coffee on Sunday mornings.

Sharon Castellaw
Property Chair

Good Shepherd Book Club

We are taking the summer off, but our members are enjoying their favorite beach reads. We will meet again on September 17 to discuss Lisa See's book, **Daughters of the Sun and Moon**.

Treasurer's Report for August 2026
June 2026 Review

Envelope Giving for June 2026 was $6,101 which is $560 under the monthly 2026 Budget but, year-to-date the total giving is $982 over the 2026 Budget. **Thank You for your faithful giving**. For June 2026 the Net Income was ($1,582) and Year-to-Date $23,886. There was $7,250 transferred from the Endowment Fund in June. The church's pledge to the Synod is current.

While the June financial reports show the last full month of activity, they help the Finance Committee guide the church's finances. Between monthly reports, Kim, the bookkeeper, provides a weekly update of the checking account balance to ensure we are covering our checks.

Richard Lutz
Treasurer

Stewardship Corner

As I entered the church, I saw a mother and her two children waiting for someone. I visited briefly with them. I knew why they were there. The food pantry was open for "business" for those in need. But, we didn't talk about that even though they seemed a bit nervous in just visiting.

I was there to donate to the food pantry to help pay for the needed food. When I saw the anxious looks in the mother's eyes, and more so in the eyes of her two children, and the smiles they greeted me with, I felt uncomfortable ... like a "meltdown" suddenly had hit me.

As I walked to the church office, I tore up the check I had written and re-wrote it for a larger amount. As I did that, I wondered if it would be enough, not only for the family I just visited with. What about the others that would be going through the same thing that day? Is it ever enough? The "moment of decision," I believe, was the urgency that God laid before me that day, and I am thankful for that faith experience. God did not allow me to say to myself, "I'll give more next time!"

It was an "attitude adjustment" moment for me and made me realize that God allowed me to be in that specific situation at that particular time and moment, and what a difference it made!

Women's Ministry

Community Blessing

Each month, we gather to bless our hygiene kits and treat bags. Some may wonder why we do this and what purpose it serves. As I sat on Sunday while these items were being blessed, I found myself reflecting on the many ways God's blessings are present in this simple act of love and service. A blessing for the generous gifts that provide the funds to purchase the supplies.

A blessing for the many willing hands and caring hearts that put them together.
A blessing for our church, called to reach beyond its walls and serve our community with compassion.
A blessing for the person who is refreshed in body and spirit by a simple hygiene kit.
A blessing for the person who receives a treat bag with a meal and is reminded, even in a small way, that they are seen, valued, and loved
A blessing goes a long way.

Opportunities to Connect and Grow in Faith

September 26 - Women's Co-op Day Retreat at Good Shepherd. This retreat is led by the women of Good Shepherd, Our Redeemer, Bethlehem, Mt. Calvary, Christ, and King of Glory.
Please see Cathy if you would like to attend.

October 24 - Precious Life Baby Shower.
Please see Cathy if you would like to help with this event.

October 31- Trunk or Treat. Please see Pastor Jennifer if you would like to help with this event.

December 6 - After worship, there will be a special event with food.
Please mark your calendars. More information to come….

December 12 - Women of Good Shepherd Christmas Tea.
Please see Cathy if you would like to help with this event.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
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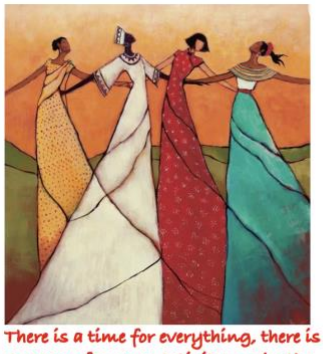

There is a time for everything, there is a season for every activity under the heavens. (Ecclesiastes 3: 1)

BELOVED COMMUNITY WOMEN'S RETREAT
"TO EVERYTHING, THERE IS A SEASON"
SATURDAY, SEPT. 26, 2026
9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

Join us for a day of worship, fellowship, and inspiration as we gather in beloved community to celebrate God's creation and deepen our commitment to caring for the earth. Together we will worship, sing, enjoy a delicious lunch, plant new life, and discover ways to bloom where God has planted us. We are honored to welcome Rev. Melissa Maxwell-Doherty, retired Vice President of Mission & Identity at California Lutheran University, as our guest speaker. This year's retreat will also highlight the Pacific Marine Mammal Center in Laguna Beach and its ministry of rescuing, rehabilitating, and releasing marine mammals while promoting ocean stewardship. The retreat will be held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Buena Park. The cost is **$30 per person**, which includes lunch and all materials. Donations to support the Pacific Marine Mammal Center (cash or checks payable to the Center) will also be gratefully accepted. Registration is now open. Contact Cathy for more information.