



# THE PARISH PULSE

## *Love 'em Anyway*

BY PASTOR KOEPEL

*“Love each other as I have loved you.”* (Jesus’ words in John 15:12b)

That’s all I have for this month. Love each other. Love the people that God has given you. Whether it be a spouse, a parent, a child, a sibling, a co-worker, a classmate, a brother/sister at church...whoever God has placed in your life, **MAYBE EVEN (AND ESPECIALLY) THOSE YOU PERCEIVE AS UNLOVABLE.** ...love ‘em. As God has loved you in Christ...love them.

I dare you.

Love that person in your life unconditionally. Sacrificially.

Lay down your life...your very self for someone this next month (you know who it should be).

Lose your anger, your excuses, your denial, your bitterness.

Forgive. Once and for all, forgive. Forget the past and move on.

Listen.

Don’t argue.

Humble yourself...you don’t *have* to be right.

Life is too short for any of us to suffer from the sinful ailments mentioned above. You know it is. Stop trying to find that greener grass on the other side of the fence and recognize the fertile soil under your feet.

Find happiness in the people God has given you and fall at their feet. Serve them. Love and treat them as a precious gift, a very delight from your Creator, because that’s what they are.

Look for the reason(s) that God has put that person in your life. Find delight in it.

Above all, know this: that same person you are trying so hard to love will fail you, disappoint you, let you down, and there’s a really good chance you won’t be loved “unconditionally” back...but then again, if you were looking to be loved back, you weren’t really loving unconditionally.

The only One that doesn’t let you down, the only one who truly loves you unconditionally, the only one you can always depend on is the solid Rock, your Risen Lord, Jesus Christ. Lean on Him while you love even the unlovable...Lean on Him and remain in Him. Then see what happens.

*(Continued...)*

*“People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centered; Forgive them anyway.  
If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives; Be kind anyway.  
If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies; Succeed anyway.  
If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you; Be honest and frank anyway.  
What you spend years building someone could destroy overnight; Build anyway.  
If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous; Be happy anyway.  
The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow; Do good anyway.  
Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough; Give the world the best you’ve got anyway.  
You see, in the final analysis it is between you and God; It was never between you and them anyway.”*

-Mother Teresa

In His and your service,

Pastor K.

-P.S. Thank you all so very much for all the Lentin/Holy Week and Easter love! Your kind words, cards, gifts and prayers were all so very much appreciated! It is such a blessing to serve you as your pastor!

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## *Impactful Involvement*

by Chad Smith, *Congregational President*

Greetings Good Shepherd Family,

I was debating with a friend who's company is instituting a return to the office policy vs work from home from the COVID Era. He doesn't want to go to the office. He has a family, friends, and is most likely more efficient working at home. My viewpoint is that for the company, it's about growing the next generation of talent. These new younger employees may not have a family yet, or support structure and need to see their leaders modeling good behavior, presenting face to face and developing that social network. The company is willing to take a near term hit to productivity for the long term gain.

How does this apply to church? Getting involved at church impacts more than you. Who knows who you might make an impression on or provide guidance to with just a passing conversation. I also firmly believe modeling these behaviors for our children impacts them for a lifetime and builds the foundation for the next generation of not only church leaders, but community and business leaders.

There are lots of exciting activities going on that I encourage all of you to prayerfully consider how you can opt in.

I've made what I hope are life long friendships with many folks here at GSLC and pray you get the chance to do the same

In His Service,  
Chad Smith

## *Choosing Joy*

by Sharon Leinweber, *Fellowship Chair*

HE IS RISEN INDEED, ALLELUIA!

Dear Good Shepherd Family,

This Lenten season has been a difficult one for me. While watching on Facebook is ok, it is not the same as physically being in church worshipping together with fellow believers.

While my surgeries have held me back from doing many Fellowship events, many church members have stepped up, for which I am so grateful for and thankful to –

- The Fellowship Board for keeping things going
- The many people who have signed up to bring treats for Sunday Fellowship hour
- Those who provided Lenten meals
- Those who helped with the Lenten Meditation reception
- And on a personal note, those who sent cards, all the prayers and well wishes during my recovery

– Thank you!

Fellowship is truly alive and flourishing at Good Shepherd – it is my dream come true!

Looking ahead, there will be more opportunities to get involved – whether it is Fellowship, Evangelism, Stewardship, Education, or working with the Youth – find your passion and get involved.

May God Bless You  
Sharon Leinweber



# Playing Offense in Love

by Fred Kirchenwitz, *Head of Elders*

***Be Watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.*** - 1 Corinthians 16: 13-14

In the above scripture verses, Paul is addressing the congregational leaders of the church at Corinth who happen to be men. He wanted them to display manly virtues, "IN LOVE!" The Lutheran Study Bible goes on to say that, "the virtue of strength does not conflict with the virtue of love." In other words, strength and love should be in harmony with one another and not discord.

The reason I began my letter like this is because at February's Voters meeting, Pastor Koepsell quoted me as saying we should start "playing offense in love." To better explain what I meant, I think some context is in order. In a previous council meeting, we were reviewing the needs assessment survey that the congregation filled out. Number 3 on the prioritized list of needs was visiting delinquent members. My first comment was that we need a better definition of delinquent and that it always feels as though we are playing defense. Whether that means making excuses for why people aren't here; trying to accommodate everyone according to what the secular world views as important; or simply not setting our expectations high enough. I'd like to address each of these items with examples.

I realize that the world is a busy place, tugging all of us in different directions. After working for UPS for 30 years, I definitely developed a sense of urgency. Thinking ahead, how to multi-task, making every second productive, and that tends to wear on you! I feel this is especially difficult on our kids, whether it's sports, dance, music, theater, debate etc.... I played sports in high school and college. I went through it with my kids and I can't imagine it's gotten any easier in the past 10-15 years. In all the different things I listed you are expected to be there on time, all the time and to participate. That doesn't even take into account the financial cost. If you don't, they'll find someone else who will. Now obviously a church doesn't operate like that, but what if we set our expectations a little higher? Expect catechism students to treat this class with the same importance (or preferably more) as any other weekday class! Expect parents to help with memory work and take them to church regularly! We did something as simple as make an acolyte schedule for the 3 confirmation classes and the response has been awesome! They communicate with one another and it gets done. Just a couple of examples of playing offense in love!

As Elders when we visit members we haven't seen in a while, they will tell us that they haven't been making church a priority. Sometimes this is an excuse or possibly code for a bigger problem that's going on with them or their household. This is a perfect opportunity for some offense in love! Sanctuary is not only the house where we worship, but can be defined as "place of refuge or safety." Relationship problems, depression, job loss, illnesses or whatever burden you are carrying, know that God's house is the first place you want to be! Not a last resort.

John 15: 12-13, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."

As this Parish Pulse comes out, we just finished the season of Lent and celebrated Holy Week where Christ, who is love incarnate, did exactly what He said He would do. As mortal Christians, we can never make that type of sacrifice, but we can play a little less defense and a little more offense. ALWAYS in LOVE!

In His service, Fred Kirchenwitz





# *Transforming the World*

by Jill Botsford, LWML

ATTENTION LADIES: Lutheran Women in Mission has important information for you! First of all, our monthly meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month. Next meeting is April 9th; the time will go back to 6:30 p.m. for the spring/summer/fall. Please join us as we fellowship, have devotions, Bible Study, short business meeting, and learn about the opportunities to serve both in our local community and in the world around us.



Secondly, the Zone 11 Spring Rally will be held Saturday morning, April 20th at Divine Savior Lutheran in North Fond du Lac. We will meet at the church at 8:00 am., leaving promptly at 8:15 am. The rally theme is “A Single Loving Act Can Transform the World.” Please prayerfully consider coming along as we serve the Lord with gladness with other ladies from our zone. We will be collecting Gifts from the Heart until Thursday, April 18th (see bulletin or bulletin board for items being collected).

Our South Wisconsin District Convention will be June 14-15 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Sun Prairie. Please consider attending this uplifting and informative gathering.

Information for all these events are on the bulletin board, or you can contact Mary Becker, our group president. We would really love to see you at our next meeting! We are part of a large organization of the LCMS that does mighty things with our Mites. If you are unable to join us, please help by contributing each month when our Mite boxes are available in the narthex. You would be amazed at how our Mites add up and provide grants for many fantastic organizations that help spread the Gospel around the world. God bless your efforts in supporting the Lutheran Women in Mission!

## *Ascension Day & Worship Service*



Ascension Day is an important Christian holiday that marks the conclusion of the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ and his ascension into heaven. Observed 40 days after Easter Sunday, Ascension Day commemorates the moment when Jesus, after his resurrection, ascended into the clouds before the eyes of his Disciples. Various Christian denominations around the world recognize this event, each with unique customs and traditions.

According to the New Testament, Jesus appeared to his Disciples several times over 40 days after his resurrection, teaching them about the Kingdom of God. On the 40th day, Jesus led his Disciples to the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem, where he blessed them before rising to the heavens. The Acts of the Apostles (Acts 1:9-11) and the Gospel of Luke (Luke 24:50-53) detail this event, emphasizing the importance of Jesus’ ascension and the promise of His return.

The ascension of Jesus serves as a symbol of hope and assurance for Christians, as it signifies the completion of Jesus’ earthly mission and the beginning of His heavenly reign. It also symbolizes the promise of eternal life and the bestowal of the Holy Spirit upon the Disciples during the subsequent event of Pentecost.

Please consider joining us at Good Shepherd on Thursday, May 9th, starting at 7:00 pm as we hold a joint worship service with other churches & choirs in our circuit to celebrate this important day. Rev. Josiah Fitch, Associate Pastor, Peace Lutheran Church, Neenah, will be our guest preacher.



# *Music Ministry*

by Cam Bedroske, Music Director

"God Loves me Dearly, Loves even Me"

This was sung by our youngest members ever so sweetly in church. With God's words coming from their mouths and sign language from their hands; they reminded us that Jesus is our salvation. The strong love of our Father provided for our salvation by sending His Son Jesus. We are loved dearly with outstretched arms on a cross!

This is what our songs, hymns, and liturgy teach our littlest ones! That same music also holds us close as we age. God tucks His truths in music! He gives us hope, peace, joy, and forgiveness. We live with an eternal perspective. The Adult Choir witnesses this as we go caroling or visit people in the hospital. It is an honor to sing as a family to our family!

As of late, the Adult Choir has often been able to sing for funerals. That is also an honored opportunity to grieve, rejoice and support the singing of such wonderful hymns. Thank you so much choir.

I want to fill you in on our Bell Choir. We have been enjoying the opportunity to play these gorgeous instruments. This is a dedicated group. We are forming a committee to look into the possibility of owning our own Bells. More on that in the future. Thanks to all of you Ringers who are making it fun to learn. In the Fall we may be looking for a few more players!

On Palm Sunday afternoon 142 people came into our church to meditate on the Passion of our Lord. What a beautiful hour filled with excellent readers, and meaningful, rich music. Thank you choir, Lynn our accompanist, and our guest musicians. Our church's Fellowship Committee put together a delicious, friendly reception which allowed many friends to visit. Thanks everyone. God be praised!

Now on to upcoming events:

Sunday, April 14th at 1:30 pm. Singing for Community Friends at Bethel Home, 225 N Eagle St, Oshkosh, WI 54902

- Come and enjoy while the choir sings for/with the residents in the Chapel at Bethel Home.
- We are looking for volunteers to wheel/accompany residents from their meal or rooms to the Chapel. If you are interested, please contact Cam at 920-379-2037
- Length of time is 45 minutes.

Thursday, May 9th Joint Ascension Service at Good Shepherd 6:30 pm.

- We are hosting this special worship service/event.
- Joint Choirs add to the celebration. Each year we rotate and worship among our circuit churches.
- There will be opportunity to volunteer and help us welcome our visitors.

- Cam Bedroske, Director of Music



*"The Lord is my  
Strength and my  
Song. He has  
become my  
Salvation."*

-Psalm 118:14

# 2023 Year-End Reports

## **Board of Elders**

As with all church boards, the Elders are required to submit a year-end report detailing our different endeavors or tasks that we hoped or hoped to accomplish. Seems like an easy enough job, doesn't it? Give the congregation a laundry list of what we did. Give ourselves a pat on the back and move on to 2024, clean and simple. Or is it?

Truth be told, a lot of what we do goes unnoticed. We are usually the first to get to church and the last to leave always making sure things run smoothly. When members arrive, they receive a bulletin, enjoy some fellowship and proceed to take part in the worship service. We attempt to do that as well, all the while keeping an eye on Pastor Koepsell, taking the count, securing the offerings, changing the hymn boards, helping serve and clean up communion etc..... I'm not explaining this to toot our own horns, but instead to emphasize there's more to the Elder group than lighting the candles and ringing the bell. These tasks are not exciting or glamorous, but they are necessary! We take pride in doing them and this is our service in love to Him who first loved us.

At this time of year, the offering envelopes are available for pick up in the atrium. We usually give members the month of January before we take stock of who hasn't picked theirs up. This will then tie into church attendance and along with the data from the kiosks, give us a good idea of the specific members we need to contact. We make every effort to not just get them their envelopes, but to find out why their attendance is lacking and if all is ok in their lives. There is a constitutional process we went through a few years ago where letters were sent out to members we visited or were unable to contact over the course of the year. This is something we may have to look into again in 2024.

In June of 2023 we conducted CPR training and learned how to use the defibrillator. About 20 members attended besides the Elders so we increased the number of people who can help in case that emergency situation arises. A special thank you to Heather Klauer for leading us through it, as well as Todd for supplying the mannequins for us to work on.

Our duties/goals are pretty much in the church constitution, but if I had to summarize them into a single word, it would be SERVE!

1. Serve our church: making sure the service is reverent and sacred, the sacraments are administered, and the Word is preached.
2. Serve our members: in kindness, gentleness, humility and love
3. Serve our pastor: assisting him in any and all ways needed

Always doing this with joy, and always in that order! God's Blessings in 2024!

In His service, Fred Kirchenwitz

## **Board of Christian Education**

Kristie Zellner took over in late 2023 as the Chair for the Board of Christian Education. She brings many great ideas with her and plans an initial board meeting for Jan 29th, 2024. This coincides with the Board deciding to meet monthly on the last Monday of the month at 7:30 going forward. Notes from the monthly meeting will be provided to the Church Council for review.

### Highlights

The focus for the first half of 2024 will be Vacation Bible School and kicking off small groups. There were many good ideas as well as feedback from years past surrounding VBS. The larger topic is how to engage parents? The younger kids love VBS, so efforts will be made to make it desirable for older children, young adults, and families to want to participate. There is more work to be done but great brainstorming has been done to start things off in 2024.

We are also receiving a good amount of people completing the survey surrounding small group. The survey will run through February 2024. Towards the end of February into early March there will be opportunities for the small group hosts to come together to plan and promote throughout the congregation.

Thank you to the many volunteers throughout 2023 and we are looking forward to an exciting 2024!

Kristie Zellner

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### **2023 Sunday School**

We celebrated Easter with the children on Palm Sunday with some fun activities – Resurrection Rolls, Easter Egg Hunt (coordinated by the 6-8th graders), and a few crafts.

Our 2022-23 Sunday School year wrapped up in May. VBS was held on July 22, 2023. We had about 15 children participate in a new one-day format.

Sunday School was offered starting in September with classes for each age group. We currently have 33 kids involved from 3K to 8th grade. On December 17th, the Sunday School children had their Christmas program. It was a beautiful program that included many traditional Christmas songs and focused on the story of Christ's birth. We were blessed to have the adult choir join the children in singing. The Sunday School families also served an Advent meal to the congregation.

Nikole Vergin, Superintendent of Sunday School

### **Fellowship 2023 Year End Report**

A sincere thank you to an amazing group of women who have given of their time and talents this past year – Mary Becker, Jane Eichhorn, Chris Feutz, Cindy Meier, Vivian Mittelstaedt, and Krista Weiss.

Prayer Partners: 2023's Confirmation class was so big that receptions were held on April 26th, May 3rd, and May 10th. Prayer Partners and Confirmands had a chance to meet and get to know one another. These connections will provide an ongoing support system to the youth of Good Shepherd.

Sermon on the Green/Picnic: Finally, the weather cooperated with us and roughly 140 people gathered on the Green! Once again, Todd Klauer stepped up to do all the grilling and it was delicious. Thanks Todd! The dunk tank and bounce house were a success along with a cornhole tournament Fellowship style. Good food, good fun, good Fellowship – it was a wonderful day. Thank you to everyone who signed up to help, brought food, and stayed to enjoy the picnic.

Game Night: Thank you to Stacy Martin for heading up Game Night. It is a great way to meet members. Game night is held the second Friday of the month, from September to May. Please put it on your calendar and come when you can.

Fellowship Continues to Support:

- Fellowship Hour: Coffee and treats after the 8:00am and 10:30am services continue to provide an opportunity for fellowship. Have a favorite treat? Want to share? Please consider signing up for a Sunday.
- Funerals: A heartfelt thank you to Pat Dreger, Pat Phillips, Donna Tritt, Chris Feutz, and Jane Eichhorn for giving of their time serving the following funerals: Bud Hoepfner, Janet Dunham, and Sharon Hoepfner
- Greeter Program: Thank you to Vivian Mittelstaedt for continuing to lead this program. Thank you to the people who have agreed to be greeters at each service.
- Lenten Meditation: Fellowships provided the reception following the Lenten Meditation Service.
- Lenten/Advent Meals: Fellowship continues to provide a Lenten and Advent meal with the proceeds going to the Mission of the Month.
- Pie Social: Thank you to everyone who brought a pie to share at the social.
- Pastor Circuit Meeting: Fellowship provided refreshments for the Pastor Circuit meeting held at Good Shepherd.

### **In 2024**

- Fellowship will continue to serve and support when asked.
- The Prayer Partner program is doing well this year – thank you Prayer Partners. We will need Prayer Partners in September for the incoming Confirmation Class 1. Please consider being a Prayer Partner.

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- Sermon on the Green along with picnic will happen again this summer. Stay tuned for date and sign-up sheets. Great event to get involved with.
- Without giving too much away, watch for information on opportunities to get involved at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Leinweber Fellowship Board Chair.

### **Board of Trustee**

We coasted through 2023 without any budget busting maintenance catastrophes or unexpected major expenses. Several large (expensive) budgeted projects were completed or are in the schedule. One of these was re-lamping the sanctuary area as some members expressed difficulty reading when we had low sun light conditions. Another is painting of the sanctuary walls, which is scheduled to be done after Epiphany. We had some difficulty finding a contractor and then our schedules dictated that it had to wait until the Christmas decorations were taken down. One window in the sanctuary remains that needs the opener crank replaced which is somewhat involved and expensive to repair, this will be addressed when the weather warms up this spring.

We expect repair expenses will continue to be larger in the future than they have been in past years given the age of our building and infrastructure. As examples we had three water heaters that had to be replaced (two in the basement and one in the sacristy) and the refrigerator in the kitchen needed repair. These types of issues are not predictable and never ending, not tragedies just inconveniences. We also know that two air-conditioning units will probably need replacement as they were not working efficiently last fall and they both use obsolete refrigerant.

With winter on us, the parking lot snow removal contract is taken care of using the contractor from previous years. Sidewalk snow removal is accomplished by volunteers; there is a signup sheet in the narthex. As always there is an ongoing need for volunteers for snow blowing and lawn care. Volunteers are the lifeblood of a functioning church. Without them our earthly life would be much more expensive. We enjoy the services of many good volunteers, but we can always use more.

Going forward in 2024 we have a list of expensive “want to have” projects. This includes moving the garage to make it more serviceable and upgrading the parking lot lighting. We will have to wait and see how well the budget will stand up to some of these projects and prioritize them as we get into the New Year.

Sincerely, Craig Dreger

### **Stewardship Board**

**Time and Talents:** Once again, we have much to be thankful for at Good Shepherd. Among the many gifts of the Lord we experience here are the dedicated efforts of an army of volunteers. Much of the church’s business is handled by our volunteer council members, board chairs and committee members. We thank Diane Flouro for managing our finances, Chris Feutz for tracking donations, Heather Frieberg for pouring into our youth, Fred Kirchenwitz and all of the Elders, Sharon Leinweber and the Fellowship Board for treating members and guests so well, Col. Casey for guiding our missions outreach, Kristy Zellner for overseeing our Education projects, Craig Dreger for managing our facility needs, Kevin Konrad for guiding our nominating committee, Leslie Mason for strategic planning and recording council meetings, and Chad Smith for handling the above-mentioned motley crew as congregation president.

We are also so grateful for our Sunday School teachers and youth helpers and wish to thank Lynn Bridwell, Jenny Kirchenwitz, and all the teachers, parents, and leaders that helped create one of the best youth Christmas services I have ever experienced.

We are also thankful for the silent volunteers that serve on the Altar Guild to prepare for worship each service, and the volunteers that set up and take down for Christmas and Easter seasons. So, too, for the friendly greeters that welcome us to worship each week, the ushers that keep our services running smoothly, and the sound volunteers that run the livestream each week.

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What would we do without the Craft Ladies (and men) that devote so much time and creative energy to our increasingly well-attended and locally famous Fall Craft Fair? And the Eversons that run our highly successful SCRIP program? And let's not forget the men and ladies that lend their beautiful voices and instruments to beautify our worship and special events.

We are also so grateful to those rugged and hearty souls that brave the winter snows and summer heat to keep our sidewalks clear and our grass and grounds looking so nice.

Finally, we thank our paid staff for their incredible contributions to our shared Gospel ministry: Krista, for managing the daily church affairs, Cam, for directing our wonderful music ministry and Pastors Koepsell and Hayman for attending to the spiritual care of our church.

We are so blessed!

**Treasure:** The Lord has blessed us with a full year without debt. This has allowed us to pursue some non-critical, but nonetheless important upgrades to our worship facility, including new lights in the sanctuary to help us see better, new paint on the sanctuary walls to keep members and visitors from being discomfited during worship, completing the transition to and landscaping for our new digital sign for greater visibility in the community, a new fridge for upstairs hosting, new linens for our fellowship hall and other great projects in the works.

In the coming year, we will continue our building and grounds beautification through the stained-glass window project, moving the utility garage next to the parking lot, improving the sound projection in the sanctuary, and updating fellowship hall lighting.

Joyfully submitted, Daniel Weiss, Stewardship Chair

### **2023 Evangelism**

- We continued to collect food donations for the Lutheran Food Pantry and continued to support Wycliffe Bible Translators and Brushfires Foundation.
- Evangelism helped support Lenten Meals.
- We continued the "Mission of the Month" this past year. First and foremost, a big thank you to Krista Weiss for all her help updating the mission board and helping organize such a big project! Here is the 2023 mission's breakdown:
- January – Red Cross-Oshkosh: \$1,220
- February – Day by Day Warming Shelter \$1,198
- March – 1517 Organization: \$1,486
- April – Oshkosh Police Department Crisis Closet \$1,927
- May – Old Glory Honor Flight: \$1,266
- June – Concordia University Wisconsin Veterans Resource Center: \$1,279
- July – Oshkosh Back to School Fair: \$1,632
- August – Free Burma Rangers: \$1,590
- September – Trinity Lutheran School: \$1,403
- October – Grace Lutheran Church Pre-School: \$1,226
- November – Damascus Road Project: \$1,447
- December – Heroes' Hunt for Veterans: \$1,653
- Evangelism conducted six training sessions on "Everyone is HIS Witness" from the LCMS. We had 10 individuals trained on: what is witnessing, why do we witness, and "how-to" of witnessing.
- Good Shepherd sponsored several youth sports teams this past summer; getting our "Brand" out and before the local community.

### **2024**

This coming year, we will continue to support the "Mission of the Month" and our support to Wycliffe Bible Translators and Brushfires Foundation. If you have a mission that supports spreading the word of God, please send them my way.

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In the coming spring, Evangelism will conduct a second round of “Everyone is HIS Witness” from the LCMS. Keep an eye out for a sign-up roster and we look forward to seeing all of you in class!

We will continue to get our name out through sponsorship of local youth athletics.

As always, thanks be to God for the blessings he bestows on us so that we may in turn help and bless our neighbors.

Keith Casey

## *Mission Moments*

People of Good Shepherd,

Within the last month, we were able to go on a mission trip to Downtown Chicago through our school, Valley Christian School. We were able to in part because of your generosity. Whether it was through buying items we made for the Craft Fair or prayer, you helped support us on this trip. We feel so blessed to have a congregation that helps support us and are extremely grateful for all that you have done so we could go and share Christ in Chicago.

Over the five days we spent in Chicago, our team of 19 students and two chaperones had the opportunity to work with an organization called Jesus People. They work with lower income and homeless people by providing them clothing, food, and housing.

We worked at their store which offers people of lower income with clothing for free. We were able to help the one volunteer who ran the place. The amount of work we accomplished during our time there would have taken the lone volunteer weeks, if not months to accomplish. This store is located on the 5th floor of a building and every single bag of donations had to be carried up several flights of stairs. We carried up bags of donations and helped sort clothes into storage or hung them up in the store. The woman who we worked with was wonderful and taught us lessons about the value of patience and hard work.

We also had the opportunity to help prepare and serve food in the Jesus People soup kitchen. This was a blessing because their soup kitchen serves many people and it can be hard to prepare enough food. We got to talk to the people who we served food too. Some of our team members had really good conversations with people.

We had downtime before and after we worked at the store and soup kitchen. This was a really good time to build relationships with our fellow team members. We had morning devotions with small groups, and a worship time to end our days, as well as time to debrief about the day. This was enjoyable because we were able to grow closer to God and our team.

This mission trip stretched people out of their comfort zone and helped them to strengthen their God-given talents, but also expanded our views of the world we live in.

We had the opportunity to eat at a Thai restaurant and see the incredible ethnic diversity as we walked around downtown Chicago. We could see it represented in murals, restaurants, and the people we met. It was truly wonderful to be able to get a glimpse of different cultures meeting in one area.

Overall, it was a great experience and we definitely both felt closer to God afterwards. We are truly grateful for all the memories we were able to make and the experiences we had. Once again, we thank you for all your support and prayers.

Sincerely, Josie and Maddy Weiss



Maddy & Josie at Navy Pier



## Members in Motion

Greetings, members of Good Shepherd.

During the summer of 2023, I volunteered as a Counselor in Training or CIT at Camp LuWiSoMo, helping mostly adults with physical and mental disabilities and youth campers. Being a CIT is rewarding in so many ways, and gives valuable experience which can set you apart from others your age. Over the summer I logged over 250 hours of volunteer experience, growing as a leader and learning how to care for others. Being a CIT also means days spent making lifelong memories with amazing people, and helping other campers have the best experience possible. It was definitely the highlight of my summer, and I can't wait to go back and do it all over again this summer.

Having grown up attending camp LuWiSoMo almost every summer, being a CIT was a very special opportunity for me. Being able to give others the fun and carefree memories I looked forward to every year made me grateful for the summers I spent as a camper. Camp is a unique experience that I believe everyone should have access to. From the various outdoor activities like swimming and archery to strengthening my relationship with God through bible studies and chapel, camp is the perfect experience for young Christians. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church proudly supports Camp LuWiSoMo's mission and encourages families to visit this summer. Good Shepherd offers camp scholarships to help with the cost of camp. Contact the office for more information.



## “Generous Generational Duo”

Steve Sagmeister, one of the Turkey Trot directors, submitted the following article to Festival Foods after noticing Howard Hoppe's shirt at the Turkey Trot.

“While I was walking around greeting the volunteers that were handing out T-shirts, I noticed a gentleman wearing a Turkey Trot T-shirt that said 5th annual Turkey Trot. So I approached him and he said that he and his daughter Patti have been volunteering for Turkey Trot since its inception at Oshkosh West High School. He said that they have only missed two Turkey Trots since it started 16 years ago. Howard Hoppe, and his daughter, Patti Stinski, have always

volunteered together, and now they have added her son for the last two years, three generations volunteering for Oshkosh Turkey Trot. He said they do it because they have a lot of fun. They get to meet new faces and get to see people that have been coming for years, along with friends that participate in Turkey Trot.”

Howard and Patti are pictured here ( along with Jacob Stinski) holding their “Generous Generational Duo” award. What a wonderful tradition and way to give back to the community!





# *Your Gift That Keeps Giving*

by Daniel Weiss, *President of Sexual Integrity Leaders*

Dear members and guests of Good Shepherd,

A funny thing happened to me this winter. I was getting undressed one evening and, to my great and humiliating surprise, I popped the button off my pants. Now, threads get old; fabric tears. This, unfortunately, was on a pair of jeans. I've been on the earth long enough to know that a thing like this is rare. One might expect such an occurrence late in the afternoon on Thanksgiving Day, where one's eating companions might offer a knowing chuckle, but not on an ordinary evening.

Now, this story isn't about my extraordinary powers of expansion, but about what I did, or didn't do, next. The next morning, I couldn't find any of the other jeans I thought I had. Not really wanting to wear dress slacks, I put my jeans back on and carefully slipped the button back into its place. I found that if I applied enough pressure, the jeans would hold. Knowing this wouldn't be a problem I went about my day. In fact, I kept this up for a few days.

As the days wore on, though, the tear in my jeans got progressively worse. Pretty soon, my cobbled-together pants were struggling to stay on. I finally broke down and did the thing I least wanted to do: go clothes shopping.

I had the opportunity to share this story with sixty-five counselors in March at Focus on the Family. I was in Colorado for a site visit for our upcoming Summit in May and was invited to share some thoughts with a monthly gathering of Christian therapists that meets there. The point I made with the counselors was one with which they were all too familiar. Rather than take immediate action to fix my problem, I allowed it to linger on, getting progressively worse. I went shopping only when my situation was no longer tenable.

The late psychologist Edwin Friedman observed in *A Failure of Nerve* that people quite often are willing to endure chronic, albeit lesser, pain rather than endure the temporary, but more acute, pain of fixing the issue. Don't you find this to be true? We struggle through a sore joint for a long time before scheduling an appointment with the doctor. We let our resentments simmer rather than engage in the difficult task of reconciliation. This is certainly true for any hidden or shameful sin we may be struggling with. The fear of being known in our weakness keeps us hidden in the shadows, like our first parents.

This is how our broader society tends to operate as well. Government officials often ignore a problem until their constituents threaten to remove them from office. (Which might be preferable to those officials always looking for problems to solve that might be best left alone.) One example of this is how long it takes to fix most potholes.

Sadly, when it comes to helping parishioners navigate this sexually explicit and confusing culture, far too many churches remain hidden and silent rather than taking the difficult, but essential, step of openly addressing these challenging issues. There are many reasons for this—even good ones—but the fact is that many faithful Christians have been formed more by the world than the Word.

Since 2017, Sexual Integrity Leaders (formerly Brushfires Foundation) has narrowed its focus to helping churches and Christian leaders overcome hurdles to preaching the full Gospel of Jesus, especially as it relates to sexuality and human identity. This year's Summit is exploring the challenge of creating a culture of encounter. That is, how do our churches become places where people become comfortable and safe enough to come out of the personal shadows? More than that, how do we become a people that goes out into the highways and byways, looking for people to invite to the banquet of our Lord?

There are no easy answers, as is often the case with the most important things in life. Thankfully, God has been growing the SILS community over the past few years. Our registration for this year's event is the highest it's ever been. We have more than two dozen experts sharing their experiences. We continue to learn, discern, and yearn for God's ongoing redemptive action in the world.

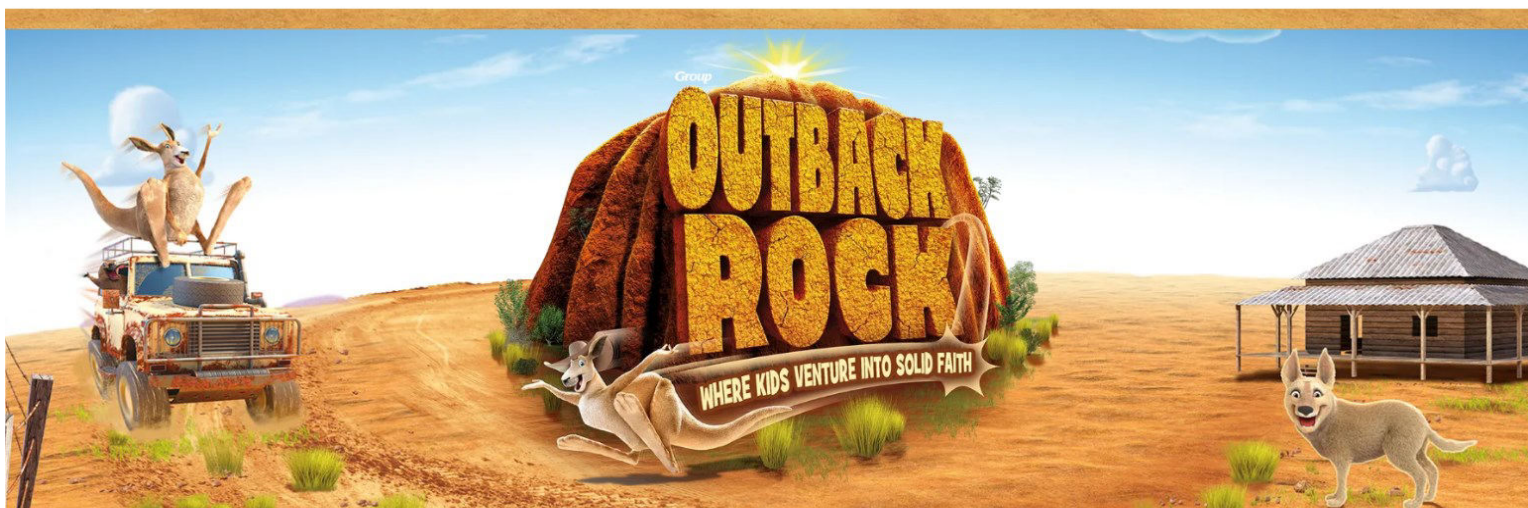
(Continued on page 13)



The missionary dollars from Good Shepherd make it possible for me to offer deep discounts to a local pastor who just left his church to focus more fully on sexual and spiritual healing. Another beneficiary of your providence is a U.S. Air Force Chaplain who has recently been granted official approval to offer sexual addiction counseling at his post. By God's grace, you have invested in our work. We, then, are able to invest in leaders all over the country (and internationally). They continue to pass these blessings along in places we would never reach. This is a wonderful picture of the Body of Christ sharing His blessings, each according to his or her unique gifting and calling.

I welcome your prayers as we conclude our preparations for the Summit. Things are hectic, but God is in control. I look forward to sharing Summit stories in the next Parish Pulse.

For the health of the Body,  
Daniel Weiss  
President, Sexual Integrity Leaders



## ***Unleash God's Word***

**During Outback Rock VBS, children encounter God's Word in unexpected and memorable ways! The VBS leaders emphasize straightforward Bible truths, making it simple for kids to recall and put into practice in their daily lives!**

**Youth will learn that God is always with us by hearing verses and stories such as:**

**"I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)**

**God is with Joseph. (Genesis 37:1-45:15)**

**Jesus dies and comes back to life, then appears to his followers. (Matthew 26:26-28:20)**

**VBS will be held Saturday, June 15th from 9:00 am - 3:30 pm. You can sign up now at: <https://vbspro.events/p/events/e51a4c> or scan the QR code. There will also be more information at church.**

**If you have questions, please contact Kristie Zellner at 608-316-0547**



# Treasurer's Report

by Diane Flouro, Treasurer

The 2024 calendar year has now begun, and we are now entering spring; although as mild as the weather has been, it truly felt like we entered spring a while ago. Summer is soon upon us, so if you are one to travel and spend time away from home to enjoy the beautiful Wisconsin winter, consider giving through Joyful Response to continue to support our church in your absence. There are forms in the fellowship area as well as in my "in" basket in the church office. If you are unfamiliar with Joyful response, feel free to reach out to me and I will explain how easy it is to use.

We continue to do well financially. More members are giving through Joyful Response which is very helpful to both me and the Financial Secretary, Chris Feutz. For those new to our church, the bi-monthly newsletter always contains the financial status as of the last two months, so this one will contain January and February 2024. If you have any questions whatsoever, please feel free to call, email or chat with me in church. My cell phone is (920) 420-5841 or email at [flourodi@yahoo.com](mailto:flourodi@yahoo.com). Here is a summary of the designated funds and the last couple of months of giving/expenses:

Yours in Christ,  
Diane Flouro

## GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

2024 MONEY MARKET DETAIL	Jan 2024	Feb 2024
Undesignated Funds	105,911.15	108,221.56
Memorial Fund-General	7,209.33	1,709.33
Music-Choir Fund	3,318.00	3,318.00
Craft Fair Funds	13,408.94	13,408.94
Youth Fund	300.00	300.00
Sign Fund	995.48	995.48
Technology Fund	771.53	771.53
Landscaping Fund	300.00	300.00
Strategic Initiatives	3,620.00	3,670.00
Strategic for Stained Glass	5,210.00	8,350.00
Strategic Fund for Lights/sound	8,660.00	8,660.00
Building Fund	240.00	240.00
<b>TOTAL MONEY MARKET</b>	<b>149,944.43</b>	<b>149,944.84</b>

Memorial fund changes due to amounts going to stained glass windows

## GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

2024 TREASURER'S SUMMARY	Jan 2024	Feb 2024
Regular Giving	28,088.35	33,017.00
Strategic Fund	230.00	1,840.00
Mission	196.00	774.00
Thrivent Dep	695.00	178.00
Other	50.00	
Other-Craft Fair	55.00	
Interest	217.23	371.86
Scrip Income (net with Exp)	98.42	214.22
Total Income	29,630.00	36,395.08
Total Monthly Expenses	42,697.81	18,700.13
Monthly 2024 Budget	31,985.42	31,985.42
Monthly Expenses over (Under) Budget	10,712.39	(13,285.29)
West Point Bank Checking	12,035.75	20,416.56
West Point Bank Savings	52.29	52.29
West Point Bank Money Market	149,944.84	149,944.84
LCEF Savings	37,953.87	46,565.39
CD	75,000.00	75,350.34

Jan Exp: \$11,587 painting; \$4,100 stained glass windows

## Official Acts

### Baptism

Teyla Marie Brunner, daughter of Tim & Samantha Brunner - 2/4/2024

Finn Glen Drexler, Finn Glen Drexler, son of Matthew & Betsy Drexler - 2/17/2024

Arthur Glen Galla, son of Kyle & Keri Galla, 3/24/2024

### Called to Heavenly Home

Pastor Charles Reehl, 9/27/1932 - 2/18/2024

Laurita Dina Daugherty, 5/09/1937 - 3/02/2024



## Birthdays

### April

Apr 1 Barry Brehmer  
Apr 1 David Doan  
Apr 1 Samuel Mehn  
Apr 2 Kinsey Koepsell  
Apr 2 Andrew Schaick  
Apr 5 Gerald Sprague  
Apr 6 Don Borgen  
Apr 7 Ruth Wagner  
Apr 7 Apryl Weed  
Apr 9 Jane Eichhorn

Apr 12 Amber Leinweber  
Apr 13 Gene Gohlke  
Apr 14 David Leinweber  
Apr 15 Carter Crowe  
Apr 15 John Davis  
Apr 16 Kiley Nicholson  
Apr 17 Avery Rodig  
Apr 18 Joshua Dreger  
Apr 18 Shelley Goding-Rivera  
Apr 18 Ken Ruehl

Apr 20 Harper Tritt  
Apr 22 Ericka Potratz  
Apr 23 Theresa Bray  
Apr 24 Dennis Bostwick  
Apr 24 Will Bray  
Apr 24 Joanne Brinkman  
Apr 24 Phillip Steinbeck  
Apr 25 Andrew Klatt  
Apr 28 David Wagner

### May

May 1 Louise Gabert  
May 1 Jackson McMillan  
May 3 Susan Hinrichs  
May 3 Ronald Meier  
May 3 Jackie Wagner  
May 4 August Hibben  
May 4 Matthew Martin  
May 4 Karen Schuster  
May 6 Samantha Brunner  
May 7 JoAnn Haskins  
May 7 Jenny Kirchenwitz  
May 7 Craig Skadah  
May 7 Becky Tuchscherer  
May 7 Abby Zink  
May 8 Terri Kramer  
May 10 Manette Flouro  
May 11 Mike Kuble

May 12 Kay Mitchell  
May 12 Don Riedel  
May 12 Erin Schettle  
May 12 Joshua Werner  
May 13 Frank Jarvenpaa  
May 13 Landon Leinweber  
May 13 Ruth Nevers  
May 15 Mary Busby  
May 16 Barb Bandelow  
May 16 DuWayne Besaw  
May 17 Anne Fogtman  
May 17 Kristy McMillan  
May 17 Karyl Stephenson  
May 18 Hannah Bruss  
May 20 Lynn Paulus  
May 21 Chad Smith

May 21 Sara Suwalski  
May 22 Benjamin Mehn  
May 22 Olivia Werner  
May 23 Naomi Schroeder  
May 24 Faulkner Charles  
May 25 Mike Radloff  
May 25 Nolan Tokarski  
May 25 Barb Wiley  
May 26 Steven Tritt  
May 26 Karen Wenzel  
May 27 Ashlyn Weed  
May 28 William Beck  
May 28 Susan Danula  
May 28 Heather Klauer  
May 29 Finn Hinrichs  
May 29 Lucille Pflanzner  
May 29 Abby Stowe

### April

## Wedding Anniversaries

### May

Apr 8 Jeff and Linda Everson (32)  
Apr 10 Lee and Carol Zuberbier (42)  
Apr 11 Jim and Sharron Ziemer (60)  
Apr 20 Jack and Joan Schloesser (61)  
Apr 22 Becky Tuchscherer and John (35)  
Apr 23 Joe and Lisa Abitz (19)  
Apr 25 John and Brenda Hawig (37)  
Apr 28 Brad and Barb Wiley (40)  
Apr 30 Wesley and Shirley Radloff (64)

May 7 Gary and Ruth Galow (64)  
May 9 Tim and Samantha Brunner (9)  
May 9 Mike and Patricia Phillips (54)  
May 9 Mike and Deb Radloff (37)  
May 10 Robert and Eileen Loewe (55)  
May 10 Branden and Kristin Mike (16)  
May 12 Jacob and Fallon Crowe (18)  
May 14 James and Lori Purath (41)  
May 15 Gary Bunke & Jan Peterson-Bunke (11)  
May 15 Brian and Steffanie Nagler (31)  
May 17 Mary and Barry Czarnecki (38)  
May 17 Todd and Heather Klauer (27)

May 17 Larry and Lynn Paulus (49)  
May 18 Aaron and Lori Bruss (22)  
May 21 Katie and Rob Rodig (19)  
May 22 Pastor and Susan Hinrichs (48)  
May 22 Brian and Lisa Spaeth (20)  
May 23 Don and Bonnie Borgen (65)  
May 23 Kurt and Emily Brunner (43)  
May 23 David and Darci Doan (37)  
May 25 Kevin and Sandra Dordel (39)  
May 25 Phillip and Kari Steinbeck (27)  
May 27 Bill and Marian Fenlon (46)  
May 27 Joshua and Kyla Werner (7)

*"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." - Ephesians 4:2-3*



## Council & Board Members

OFFICE	NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
PRESIDENT	CHAD SMITH	132 KEATON CT. OMRO 54963	(262) 442-0061
VICE-PRESIDENT	KEVIN KONRAD	1735 GRABER ST. OSHKOSH, WI 54901	(920) 279-7694
RECORDING SECRETARY			
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	CHRIS FEUTZ	3925 SUMMERVIEW DRIVE OSHKOSH, WI 54901	(920) 420-4426
TREASURER	DIANE FLOURO	2981 HOMESTEAD DRIVE OSHKOSH 54904	(920) 420-5841
BOARD OF EDUCATION	NIKOLE VERGIN	909 W 11TH AVE OSHKOSH, WI 54902	(920) 312-2098
BOARD OF EDUCATION	KRISTIE ZELLNER	1624 BURDICK ST OSHKOSH, WI 54901	(608) 316-0547
ELDERS	FRED KIRCHENWITZ	1640 DEERFIELD DRIVE OSHKOSH, WI 54904	(920) 420-5684
EVANGELISM	KEITH CASEY	1536 MILTON CIR. OSHKOSH 54904	(785) 209-4781
FELLOWSHIP	SHARON LEINWEBER	2485 SHERIDAN ST OSHKOSH, WI 54901	(920) 216-4842
STEWARDSHIP	DAN WEISS	8252 CTY RD E OMRO 54963	(920) 642-3990
TRUSTEE	CRAIG DREGER	5004 LEONARD POINT ROAD OSHKOSH, WI 54904	(920) 420-8751
YOUTH	HEATHER FRIEBURG	910 CEAPE AVENUE OSHKOSH, WI 54901	(920) 509-9299

## Pastoral Visits

Hospitalized? Or you desire a call? If you are going into the hospital, please call and let the office know. We do not always receive information from the hospital in a timely manner so that the appropriate visitation can be made. Also, hospitals can no longer release information about admittance and room number, if you have not signed a waiver. If you want a home visit from Pastor Koepsell, a call, or other service, please contact the church office with your request 920-231-8445.

## Donations/Classifieds

Before you donate an item to the church, please check with the Church Council. They can assist in placement or find the best use for your donated item. Don't forget to utilize the Classifieds Section on our website. Check it out! There are several free items listed. This is also a great place to sell items. Go to: <https://www.goodshepherdinoshkosh.com/classifieds.html>  
Thank you!

## Contact Information

Rev. Gregory A. Koepsell, Pastor  
pastor@oshkoshgoodshepherd.org  
Cell (763) 913-8445 - Call or text Pastor anytime

Krista Weiss, Office Manager  
Office Hours: M-TH 8:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Office (920) 231-0530  
krista@oshkoshgoodshepherd.org

Web Site: goodshepherdinoshkosh.com  
E-Mail Address: church@oshkoshgoodshepherd.org  
Facebook.com/oshkoshgoodshepherd.org

### Worship Services:

- Thursday - 6:30 pm
- Sunday 8:00 & 10:30 am

### Coffee Hour & Refreshments

- Served every Sunday in Atrium after worship service.

### Bible Study

- Women's - Saturday mornings 8:30 am
- Men's - Saturday mornings 7:00 am
- Adult - Sundays 9:30 am  
Wednesdays - 10:30 am

### Sunday School

- Sundays at 9:15 am during the school year.

