



Grace and Peace to you Friends in Christ!

I pray that you are well and staying healthy during this time of sheltering in place. I know that this is a difficult time for all of us. This pandemic has hit us at the most holy time of the Church year, affecting every aspect of our lives, including worship. Ours is an embodied faith; we proclaim that Jesus is God enfleshed, we gather to share the sacrament of communion, proclaiming the bread and wine as the very body and blood of our savior, our faith is rooted in connection, living our faith as the body of Christ in the World. At this time of the year when we celebrate God's solidarity with us in the person of Jesus the Christ it is especially painful to be physically separated from one another.

It is alright to feel hurt and to be upset. As your Pastor I grieve that I am not able to physically visit the sick, gather with you in worship or share in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. I am especially grieved that we will not be able to celebrate Holy Week and Easter together, indeed we will not be able to gather together as a congregation for the rest of April. It is important for us to recognize our grief over the loss of our daily rituals, we need to give ourselves space to feel what we feel. It is also important to have people that we can talk to in order to process what we are feeling.

I am committed to being there for you during this time. I am available by phone, email, text and Facebook Messenger: (616) 403-4660, pj.gslc@gmail.com. I will also be posting often on our facebook page and I invite you to do the same. Post pictures of what you are doing to stay positive and be creative during this time. Post pictures of the things you are doing to help others or just things that make you happy. I invite you to send me your personal prayer requests so I can continue to pray for you and your families.

I will also continue to do live worship on Facebook and live Bible Study, I will be sure to keep you informed on our page so check our Facebook page often!! Our Holy Week worship schedule will include Palm Sunday (April 5) at 10:00 a.m., Good Friday Worship (April 10) at 7:00 p.m. and Easter Worship at 10:00 a.m. In order to make these worship experiences as meaningful as possible there are a couple of ways you can participate. For Good Friday I invite you to find a cross at home (or make one) and take pictures of you with the cross in different areas of your daily life and places where you see Christ. You could take a picture of the cross during family game night, or outside of a hospital, you could take the cross with you when you go grocery shopping and take a picture as well—hospitals, police stations, grocery stores, gas stations, these are all places that are essential to our survival and these are people who are risking infection to help out. If you are doing something for your community, like sewing mask covers or donating medical supplies, take a picture with a cross. We want to gather all of these pictures for our Good Friday Worship so we can see where Christ is dwelling with us. Send the pictures to me directly via email or text or post them on our page with #GSLCcrossproject.

Of course, Palm Sunday comes before Good Friday, so I am inviting you to participate in a Palm Sunday processional, at 9:00 a.m. On Sunday, April 5, grab whatever greenery you have, open your windows and stick your head out, or go out to your driveway and have your own parade, singing your favorite Palm Sunday hymn (I will have suggestions up). Invite as many friends as you want to participate and film it. Then post it on our facebook page as a comment when worship begins at 10:00 a.m. That way we can all see each others processional and be a part of it together!!

Though we are apart, we are still the body of Christ and we are bound together by the Holy Spirit and by hope, let us never forget that. May God gather us in Spirit, connect us in this time of separation, comfort us in our grief, open us to new possibilities and strengthen us to love one another.

Peace be with you in the name of Jesus the Christ,

Pastor Jess

LENTEN SERVICES



Wednesdays during Lent

Livestream on Facebook

April 1 — Lenten Devotional and Prayer Service
6:00 - 7:00 pm

EASTER WEEK SERVICES

Easter Week Schedule

Livestream on Facebook

Good Friday Reflection and Prayers
Service — April 10, 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday Service — 10:00 am



NOISY OFFERING

Our noisy offering for March and April was designated for the Holland Free Health Clinic before the issues with COVID-19 that we are currently facing. Although the HFH Clinic does not treat COVID-19 there are many ways they help those under-served in our community who still need other services such as dental, vision, mental health, hearing and diabetic support. Check out their website to see all that they do:
<http://www.hfhclinic.org>.

We know many of you are being cautious and staying home. We encourage you to still support Good Shepherd and our ministries by mailing in donations to our general/building fund, and noisy offering or going to our website to donate. Scroll down to the GIVING link at the bottom of our website <http://goodshepherdhollandmi.com> to contribute online.

In addition, we will collect items that can be given to clients of the clinic as part of their Healthy Living Care Packages. Items needed include the following:

- Exercise equipment (1-2 pound weights, yoga mats, stretch bands, etc.)
- Outdoor family games (frisbee, jump rope, toss and catch game, etc.)
- Daily vitamins
- Almonds, trail mix
- Deodorant
- Sunblock



LIVESTREAM SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Livestream on Facebook March 29 - April 30

Sunday Services, 10:00-11:00am

Bible Study, Wednesdays, 10:00-11:00am

Lenten Devotional and Prayer Services, April 1, 6:00-7:00pm

Good Friday Reflection and Prayer Service, 6:00-7:00pm

Easter Sunday Service, 10:00 - 11:00am

EASTER EGG HUNT

This year's Easter Egg Hunt has been cancelled. See you all in 2021!



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School —

Giving our youth a fun and meaningful experience!

Sunday School Schedule: April 19, (cancelled)
& May 17, 2020



BOOK CLUB NEWS

Hello Everyone -

I hope that this finds you HEALTHY and practicing social distancing!

In light of the "Stay at Home" order, I have no way to get our April book selection to any of you. And I am not sure that we will be able to meet in April, if the executive order is extended, which seems likely. So! I am going to reschedule this particular book for next year. I read it and it is very good. We can look forward to that in our future.

The library staff has contacted me about our March book - they are closed, so there is no way to return the book bag at this time. They are waiving overdue fees, etc, and I will need to return the bag once the library is open again. I have all but 2 books, and I am not worried about that at all at this point.

Hopefully we will be able to meet in May! In the meantime, I will be working on scheduling book bags for next year. If you have any suggestions, please send them to me! I hope to have a book bag for each month that we meet next year.

Take care, everyone. You are all in my prayers as we weather this storm.

Laurie



GENEROSITY

Because of Your Generosity... Sunday Children's Sermon

If our children have a loving relationship with God it will give them the strength and confidence they will need to face all obstacles they will encounter in life. Their education must start early and last a lifetime. The Sunday Children's Sermon is a good first step to instill a belief in a loving God who loves them dearly and always will.



FIT 4 MOM



Update: Jaclyn is on Maternity Leave!

Fit 4 Mom and Yoga classes will not be held in April or May due to Jaclyn's pregnancy.

Congrats Jaclyn!



VENDER AND CRAFT YOUTH FUNDRAISING EVENT



Vender & Craft Youth Fundraiser

Saturday, April 18

**Has Been Postponed.
More information at a later date.**

NEWS FROM NIGER

Building Molds to Make Clay Stoves.

From Michael and Rachel Ludwig

With the population of Niger being 97% Muslim, Community Health Evangelism (CHE) is used as "...a way for pastors to share skills that clearly help their neighbors and clearly show the love of Jesus that they preach."



"It doesn't initially make sense to most pastors we train why they should worry so much about health practices and making clay stoves. But the theology behind CHE, of healing what is broken in the reconciling power of Jesus, is what most often convinces them."

"Reconciliation to the rest of God's creation is where the training on efficient clay stoves comes in. Using clay stoves that cook with 60% less wood means looking ahead and not simply being reactive in our solutions, care, and love for creation. The question that the CHE method is always struggling with is, 'How do we find local solutions that people can love and share?'"

Of those taught to make the stoves, only 1 of the 10 continues to do so. The stoves were successful in attracting neighbors' attention and interest, both Christian and Muslim, and new relationships were forged when the pastors demonstrated using the stoves. However, there are worries that the stoves won't heat the food well enough, that the pans used for cooking are unstable in the stove and unsuitable for the type of cooking traditional to the region. Even with obstacles to overcome, they are responding to local problems using local resources helping people to experience true health.

On the home front, Rachel continues to home school the kids using field trips to further their education. They are requesting prayer support for their 2 year old son and his hip dysplasia. The family have planned to be in the U.S. for several months this year so he can undergo surgery and recovery. (Note: with the COVID-19 crisis, that may be in jeopardy.) They also request continued prayers for their ministry.

OFFERING OPTIONS

Continuing our Generosity...

Even though we are not able to gather in person for worship services right now, the work of our church continues and your financial support of our ministries is still important. Here is a list of ways you can continue your offerings at this time.



Tithes and offerings

Mail: You may mail a check to the church office at 3990 112th Avenue, Holland, MI 49424.

Phone: On a temporary basis, Vanco Payment Systems, our online giving provider, will accept contributions for Good Shepherd over the phone. The phone number is 800-675-7430.

Online: Contributions may be made online using the "Giving" link on our website (www.goodshepherdhollandmi.com). Contributions can be made to any fund (general, 10C-P, noisy offering, etc.) and can be set up as one-time or recurring contributions.

If you have questions regarding giving online or by phone, contact Elizabeth Rohrer at 616-633-5480 or elyrohrer@gmail.com.

LOWERING OUR MORTGAGE PAYMENTS



THE “10C-P” PROGRAM “UPDATE”

This designation “10C-P” designates extra contributions to the church’s Mortgage Fund that will be used to pay down the principal on the loan. The **10C** is the Mortgage Fund account number and the **P** will be for the principal. Any funds given toward this program should be designated 10C-P on the check or envelope or online designation.

Our current mortgage payment is \$4,258 monthly which is \$51,096 annually. This is a major portion of our budget. On Nov. 1, 2020 the interest rate for our loan will no longer be fixed at 3.875%. It will be the current interest rate that is charged on new loans as of Sept. 15, 2020. That rate will be fixed for the next 5 years of our loan.

Our current principal owed is \$245,000 and the principal owed on Nov. 1, 2020 is expected to be approximately \$220,300. If we can lower our principal owed to an even lower amount before Sept. 15, 2020 we could lower our monthly payment for the next 5 years. Our loan company, the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA, calculated that if we could lower our principal by an extra \$35,000 we might have a payment of \$3,367 monthly. This would reduce our loan payment to \$40,404 annually. A big drop over what we are paying currently.

The new interest rate will be set on September 15th and the monthly payments will be set based on our principal owed on September 15. Sunday Sept. 6 will be the last collection taken and processed before September 15. All funds for this project must be received by Sunday, September 6, 2020.

Can we raise an extra \$35,000 before Sept. 6, 2020 to make this happen?

As of this writing we have received \$18,080 toward this program.

If you are inclined to help make this happen with whatever you can afford for the next 5 months, please consider doing that. Your gifts should be marked “10C- P” and they will be used to lower our principal owed before the Sept. 15, 2020 deadline.

Remember: this needs to be extra funds over and above what we are already receiving because we will have to pay our current monthly loan payment of \$4,258 each month through Nov. 1, 2020. Any extra contribution, designated “10C-P”, no matter how small, will be used to lower the principal owed.

If you have any questions please contact Dennis Willaman, at 616-335-2447 or email at willamandennis780@gmail.com.

April

Birthdays

Nevaeh McCaughan 2	Don Burmeister 2
Tom Ludwig 5	Ellie Buggeln 9
Elizabeth Rohrer 9	Sharon Wendt 11
Kaitlin Zylstra 12	Eve Andrus 17
Duane Schuldt 18	Andrew Walters 18
Merle Malmquist 20	Emma Rohrer 20
Laura Kinne 21	Shane Wagner 29
Joan Lamb 30	Elmer Martinson 30
Shaina Underhill 30	

Anniversaries

Brian & Jessica Underhill 28



OFFICE HOURS DURING COVID-19

Office hours during the COVID-19 crises are:
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Be aware that though Deb is still working in the office, the outer doors are remaining locked. If anyone should need to come to church during open hours, Deb will need to be notified ahead of time to let them in.

OUR THANKS AND PRAISE

The Measure of our Love

Total Sunday Attendance March 1-15: 123
Average Sunday Attendance March 1-15: 41



CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Church Council Members:

Ellie Buggeln	(616) 399-0591; elliebuggeln@gmail.com
Elliott Eisaman	(716) 785-0918 elliott.eisaman@gmail.com
Debbie Kleinjans	(616) 88607918 deborahkleinjans@gmail.com
Chris Manzo	(616) 405-3048 chrismanzo@outlook.com
Jessica Underhill	(616) 848-9367 brianjessunderhill@yahoo.com

PASTOR'S SHELTER-IN-PLACE SCHEDULE



Pastor Jessica is available Monday - Friday

via phone, text, email and Facebook messenger.

Phone: (616) 403-4660

Email: pj.gslc@gmail.com

PASTOR'S NEW SCHEDULE

Beginning January 5, 2019, Pastor Jess' schedule will be as follows:

Mondays:	9:30am - 4:30pm, GSLC Office
Tuesdays:	By appointment, cell phone, or email
Wednesdays:	10:00am-11:30am, (Bible Study), 1:30pm-4:30pm, GSLC Office
Thursdays:	12:30pm-4:30pm, GSLC Office
Fridays:	DAY OFF--Unavailable except for emergencies
Saturdays:	By cell phone or email
Sundays:	GSLC Worship, Fellowship and Events. After 12:00 available by cell-phone and email.

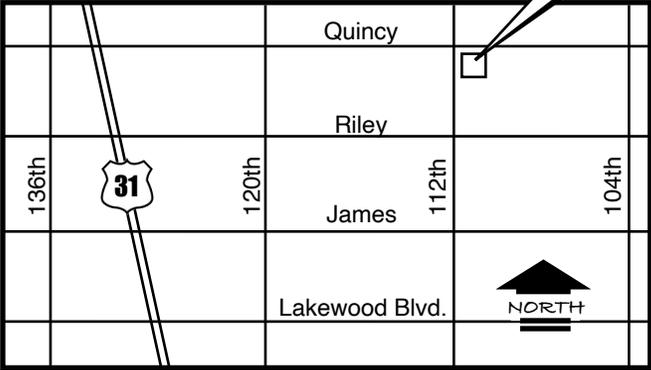
Pastor Jess' email is: pj.gslc@gmail.com, and cell phone is: 616-403-4660.

In Our Prayers...

- **Our Sympathies:** to Sally Ponstein and Ellen Lichtman on the death of their brother Kim.
- **Healing/Peace:** Jill & Jordan Berens and their unborn son (granddaughter of Jim Dyke), Beth Brumbalow (friend of Lois Robinson), Russell Bradfield (Patricia's husband), Gretchen Buggeln (Ellie's daughter-in-law), Rick Artwick (Dawn Sjaarda's uncle), Lucas Barton, Zach Bergland (Beckers' nephew), Bryan Blank, Karen Blank, Olivia Boomershine (friends of the Norvells, youngest daughter of Ross and Kelly), Cassie, (friend of Chris Manzo), Kodi DeHaan, Carol Essig (Bret D'Agostino's aunt), Judy Forsten (Marijo's Sister), Alyssa Gorraiz, Kate Haaser (daughter of Rose Hechel), Erlene Haskin, Hilda (member of Emanuel A. de D.), Jared P-H, (Dawn Sjaarda's cousin), Julie and family (friends of Dawn S.), JM & RM (friends of Sjaardas), Cathy Kelly, Brandi Ketchum (friend of Underhills), Andrew Linn (friends of the Beckers), Bob Lutz, Joan Jose, Alex Norvell (Kris and Floyd's nephew), Sue Norwick, George Preisler and wife Donna (former members), Roland Rivera, Richard Russell (Mike's brother), Katherine Slee (friend of Beckers), Terry Speese (Friend of Pastor Jess), Christopher St. John (son of Bonita Zielke), Roland Walters, (Father-in-law of Tammy), Myrlene Weishaar, Bonita Zielke.
- **Prayers for Our World:** Knowing that we are part of the body of Christ in the world and that we are fellow residents, we pray for the planet and the global community. We pray for all those communities, ecosystems and habitats devastated by wild fires and floods. For all those who have been devastated by the recent volcanic eruptions. For areas in the world torn apart by war, famine and disease. For those who are separated from their families because they have been detained or incarcerated. For religious communities, schools, workplaces, military bases, cities, communities, families and people who have been devastated by violence. We pray that the presence, peace, healing and reconciliation of God be felt and practiced in each of these places.
- **Assisted Living/Nursing Home/Homebound:** Allan Malan, (Eve's dad), Ruth Bergan (relative of Corinne Becker).
- **Healthy Pregnancy:** Tessa Hurt, Hillarie Kinne (Parrott's daughter), Samantha Wagner (Patricia's granddaughter-in-law). Mariah Vixayphone (Som's granddaughter).
- **Serving Our Country:** John Bounthapanya (Som's nephew), Kody DeHaan, Steve Dyke, Ben Johnson (Parrotts' nephew), Cortney and Konstantin Ivanov (Gigi Howard's daughter and son-in-law), Eric Johnson (Steve & Kerry's son), Kayla Kleinjans (Stan & Debbie's granddaughter), Alex Miller, Andrew Wagner (Patricia Bradfield's grandson), Zachery Wiesner (Gigi Howard's son-in-law).
- **Prayer Partners:** Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Rev. Wayne Shearier, Niles; Bethany Lutheran Church, Rev. Chriysanne Timm, Northport; Faith Lutheran Church, Rev. Ellen Schoepf, Okemos; Hope St. John's Parish Oscoda, Supply Pastors, Oscoda; Montana Synod, Bishop Laurie Jungling, Great Falls, Montana.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
corner Quincy & 112th, two miles east of US 31
Holland Township

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
3990 N. 112th Avenue
Holland, MI 49424



SUNDAY SCHEDULE
Worship & Celebration • 10:00 am
Coffee & Conversation • 11:15 am
Sunday School (September - May) • 10:20 am

Visit our web site at
www.goodshepherdhollandmi.com
e-mail to gslc.office@icloud.com