



Welcome the Little Children

Then [Jesus] took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

Mark 9: 36-37

I love kids. I do.

I love having kids in worship, I love their questions, their observations, their body language, basically their whole way of being kids. Which is why I really like the above verses from Mark 9 which was our gospel reading a few weeks ago. On that Sunday I asked the question why God would have us look to children to understand God; children are unpredictable, imaginative, and honest. God is unpredictable, imaginative, and honest. To welcome children into our community means that we open ourselves to imagination, vulnerability, and chaos. Guess what, to welcome God into our midst also means that we open ourselves to imagination, vulnerability, and chaos.

So, what does it mean to really, truly, welcome the child or the children into our faith community?

Does it mean that we expect children to act like small adults in worship? What kind of spaces do children need to learn and grow in faith? What wisdom do our young people have to pass on to us?

These are questions that I would like us to consider, as we move out of pandemic time and back into ordinary time. Because it is my hope that by discussing these questions and listening to your young people, we can grow a faith formation ministry that is intergenerational, relying on the shared wisdom of all ages.

As fall sets in and kids are back to school, it is time for us as a community to look at the way in which we welcome learners of all ages, and especially how we welcome kids. Over the next weeks and months, I will continue asking questions and seeking input from members of all ages to develop faith formation events and activities that are welcoming and inclusive of all kids and families.

I value the wisdom and experience that each of you has, and I ask you to share it as we work together to welcome the children and their families into our community of faith.

Yours in Christ

Pastor Jess

RECYCLING — PLASTIC BAGS AND FLEXIBLE PLASTIC FILMS

Meijer stores

have been recycling plastic grocery bags for quite some time now but I bet you did not realize that other plastic films can also be recycled in those Meijer bins. Here is a list of items that is printed on the side of the bin that can be recycled:



- Grocery Bags
- Case Overwrap for bottles & cans
- Product Wrap
- Newspaper Sleeves,
- Dry Cleaning Bags
- Salt/Pellet Bags
- Ice Bags
- Air Pillows for shipping/packing
- LDPE/HDPE films
- Food Storage Bags
- Cereal Liners
- Bread/Buns and Rolls Bags

Other stores that recycle flexible plastics:

Family Fare Grocery Stores,
D&W Grocery Store,
Target

If the item is not completely clean and dry you could ruin, hinder, stop, delay, or increase costs for the recycling process.

Can we recycle styrofoam? It depends.

First you have to decide what type of styrofoam you have.

1. Some is used as a tray for food you purchase in the grocery. (Black, white, pink, yellow, blue trays for meat, watermelon, etc.)
2. Some is used for food you purchase at a fast food restaurant. (Cups, plates, take-out containers)
3. Some is molded into a cylinder and can be squeezed. (tubes etc.)
4. Some is molded into other shapes and is soft and can be squeezed and it returns to its original shape. (Specialized packing materials)
5. Some is used as packing to take up space. (Packing peanuts, etc.)
6. Some is molded into a shape and when you try to change its shape it will crumble into tiny lightweight white balls. (Coolers and molded packing materials)



Number 5: can be recycled at the UPS store on Butternut Ave. and James. As long as they are clean they will take them and reuse them for shipping.

Number 6: can be recycled at two manufacturing centers in the Grand Rapids area. They can only take clean, white styrofoam with out any tape or paper attached. They cut it up and recombine it with new product to create a final new foam product.

I have not found a place to recycle numbers 1, 2, 3, or 4 yet. A lot of businesses used these products.

If you have more accurate information on this subject, please contact Dennis Willaman. 616-335-2447 or willamandennis780@gmail.com.

RECYCLING LOCATIONS — STYROFOAM



Atlas Molded Products
8240 Byron Ctr. Ave. SW
Byron Center, MI 49315
800-626-9942

Just north of Walgreens at the intersection of Byron Ctr. Rd. and 84th Ave. The bin is in front of the building facing the street. There is a drop off box in front of the manufacturing plant available 24 hr. a day.

Michigan Foam Products
1820 Chicago Dr. SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49519
616-452-9611

East on I-196 to exit 72. Right On Chicago Dr. 1.2 mi. To Michigan Foam Products. Recycle bins are at Main office toward back of facility. Only available during business hours (M-F 7-3:30)

PASTOR'S SCHEDULE



Monday: 10:30 am - 3:30 pm —in the office,
Tuesday: 10:30 am - 3:30 pm —by appointment
Wednesday: 10:15 - 11:15 am —Welca Bible Study via Zoom
11:00 am - 3:30 pm —in the office
Thursday: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm — available by appointment.

Pastor Jessica is available Monday - Friday
(Fridays for emergencies only.)
via phone, text, email and Facebook messenger.

Phone: (616) 403-4660

Email: pj.gslc@gmail.com

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES

Stewardship Committee Meeting Minutes 9-8-21

Attendance: Elliott Eisaman, Brian Underhill, Dennis Willaman

- ◆ We need to show members how supporting the church is a good expenditure of their Time, Talent, and Treasure.
- ◆ We must let people know the ways they can help with the church's ministries.
- ◆ We need to show, as clearly as possible, the connection between contributions received and how they have been used to show God's Love.
- ◆ We continued our conversation with an interest in the stewardship of the earth, its resources, and the environment. Recycling was a major part of the conversation.
- ◆ Our church is providing a space for a dumpster to collect paper that can be recycled. An article for the newsletter to encourage people to properly use the container to collect the allowable items for recycling was published in the September newsletter.
- ◆ There are 2 more recycling articles that we will try to have published in the October newsletter. These are concerning the recycling of "styrofoam" and the recycling of "plastic grocery bags".
- ◆ In November and December we will attempt to collect Estimate of Giving cards to give the Council an idea of projected income for the church and to give each member of the congregation the opportunity to evaluate their relationship with God and the church and how much that relationship is treasured.
- ◆ In January we plan to start to find ways to evaluate our Carbon Foot Print. How much Carbon Dioxide each of us is contributing to the atmosphere which is causing the warming of the earth.

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday October 7th at 7:00pm at the church. All are welcome. Please contact Dennis Willaman if you plan to attend so we can have enough materials available.

SAMARITAS CHRISTMAS GIFT CARDS — 2021



Good Shepherd has partnered with Samaritas for many years during the Christmas giving season by donating gifts to foster children in our community.

Although the pandemic continues to hurt our community, we still want to help. So, we have decided again to assist Samaritas' foster children by purchasing \$25 gift cards for as many children as we can.

Suggested gift cards are from Walmart, Meijer, Target and Amazon. Please drop off your gift cards to the GSLC office by December 1, 2021. If you are not able to come to church, you can order a gift card from any of these stores online and send the printed version to our office at gslc.office@icloud.com. Deb will print the card out and give it to the Samaritas representative for the families.

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS



Helping with Parking Lot Games at the Camp Sunshine fundraiser.



First Responder Thank You Notes and Cards



Our many helping hands.

Thank you Everyone for using your hands to do God's Work. Literally hundreds of lives have been touched.



REFORMATION TRUNK OR TREAT



Reformation Trunk or Treat!

Join us in celebrating the Reformation on Sunday, October 31, 2021! Come to worship dressed as your favorite Bible character or favorite Saint then stay for crafts, treats and "trunk or treating" in the parking lot! It's a fun family event you are sure to enjoy!

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SCHOOL KITS

School Kit Update

As of September 30, we have 71 School Kits assembled and ready for shipping. Hopefully we will be able to complete nine more giving us a total of 80 School Kits. This will use the last of our backpacks on hand.

Lynda Parrott was able to purchase 120 backpacks, boxes and school supplies with the Thrivent Grant funds. Shipments are slowly trickling in. Yay, Lynda!

Marijo and Dale Cramer have graciously agreed to transport the School Kits and Quilts to the West Michigan Lutheran High School in Wyoming on October 20. Thank you Cramers!



BOOK GROUP NEWS

Book Group

The Secret Keeper by Kate Morton

October 20, 2021, 4:30 pm at Good Shepherd



The October book selection is The Secret Keeper by Kate Morton. During a summer party at the family farm in the English countryside, sixteen-year-old Laurel Nicolson has escaped to her childhood tree house and is happily dreaming of the future. She spies a stranger coming up the long road to the farm and watches as her mother speaks to him. Before the afternoon is over, Laurel will witness a shocking crime. A crime that challenges everything she knows about her family and especially her mother, Dorothy—her vivacious, loving, nearly perfect mother.

Now, fifty years later, Laurel is a successful and well-regarded actress living in London. The family is gathering at Greenacres farm for Dorothy's ninetieth birthday. Realizing that this may be her last chance, Laurel searches for answers to the questions that still haunt her from that long-ago day, answers that can only be found in Dorothy's past.

Dorothy's story takes the reader from pre-WWII England through the blitz, to the '60s and beyond. It is the secret history of three strangers from vastly different worlds—Dorothy, Vivien, and Jimmy—who meet by chance in wartime London and whose lives are forever entwined. *The Secret Keeper* explores longings and dreams and the unexpected consequences they sometimes bring. It is an unforgettable story of lovers and friends, deception and passion that is told against a backdrop of events that changed the world.

NOISY OFFERING — CAMP SUNSHINE



Camp Sunshine's Mission: To offer experiences that model and nurture a culture of inclusion, grace, and joy, through which people with and without disabilities can transcend barriers and value both their own gifts and the talents of others.

Since 1983, Camp Sunshine has offered people aged 12 to 50 with developmental disabilities summer camp experiences in a safe, caring, and inclusive environment. We offer four-day overnight camp sessions with activities designed to meet participants' recreational, emotional, physical, spiritual, and relational needs. Uniquely, each camper is paired one-to-one with a volunteer counselor for the entire four days at camp.



Camp Sunshine creates spaces for campers to feel included, learn from others, and grow in friendship. Within our programs, volunteers receive as much as they give and learn as much as they teach. Most of all, we have fun!

There is a joyful spirit about Camp Sunshine that is transformative for every person who participates.

SUNDAY SERVANTS — 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	Usher	Communion Prep/ Clean-up
October 3 19th Sunday of Pentecost	Lynda Parrott - CA	Laurie Schuldt	Duane Schuldt	Deb Ludwig
October 10 20th Sunday of Pentecost	Carolyn Willaman			
October 17 21st Sunday of Pentecost	Tom Ludwig			Deb Ludwig
October 24 22nd Sunday of Pentecost				
October 31 Reformation Sunday				Vicki Russell

CHURCH CLEANING SCHEDULE

August-November, 2021 – Cleaning Schedule Sign-up

Dates	Name(s)
Weeks of August 8 - 14 August 15 - 21	
Weeks of August 22 - 28 August 29 - September 4	Lynda Parrott Norvells
Weeks of September 5 - 11 September 12 - 18	Willamans Willamans
Weeks of September 19 - 25 September 26 - October 2	Lynda Parrott
Weeks of October 3 - 9 October 10 - 16	Sharon Wendt
Weeks of October 17 - 23 October 24 - 30	
Weeks of October 31 - November 6 November 7 - 13	Lynda Parrott
Weeks of November 14 - 20 November 21 - 27	

Sign-up is for a 2-week period and includes cleaning all areas of the church building - sanctuary, entrance, hallway, bathrooms, kitchen, conference room, nursery and Commons.

To sign-up:

Use the Cleaning Schedule form in the Commons
or

Contact Deb in the office:
gslc.office@icloud.com
 616.772.4075



CHOIR NEWS

Choir Postponed to the end of October

After being part of a discussion with the worship committee regarding singing, reading the CDC recommendations and researching the Delta Variant information, I am postponing choir. Even with vaccinations, Covid and the Delta variant can be spread through particles in the air, through a mask, and affect individuals with and without vaccines. The goal is to resume at the end of October depending on the status of this information and CDC recommendations.



OUR THANKS AND PRAISE

Dear Friends in Christ,

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to you for your gracious prayers, kind words, cards, texts, calls, emails, and treats sent to us during our boating accident earlier this summer and Rob's recent hip replacement surgery. Your kindness and caring touched our hearts so deeply and is so very appreciated. May the love of our Lord surround all of you.

Love in Christ,
Rob and Lynda Parrott

rec'd Sept. 22, 2021

The Measure of our Love

We have started to count computers connected to the Zoom link as families since not everybody signs in to the worship services.

Total Sunday Attendance: persons, 97 families, 9
Average Sunday Attendance: 24
documented persons



October

Birthdays

Duncan Hardy 6
Edwin Eisaman 8
Brian Underhill II 9
Som Vixayphone 9
Floyd Norvell 12
Justin Walker 12
Jessica Rivera-Walker 27



Anniversaries

Pastors Justin & Jessica
Rivera-Walker 22
Stan & Debbie Kleinjans 25
Andy & Elizabeth Rohrer 29

SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Sunday Services and Activities are also on-line.

*Sunday Services, 10:00 -11:00 am, also available via Zoom 10:00 am and available later via YouTube

Quilter's Meet, Tuesdays, 10:30 am on site

Bible Study, Wednesdays, 10:15 - 11:30 am; Social Time 9:30 - 10:15 am

Book Group, October 20, 2021, 4:30 - 6:00

(* link also available on the Breeze calendar)

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Church Council Members:

Jessica Bacon	(920) 889-8706, jessica.lois.bacon@gmail.com
Bryan Blank	(616) 312-9358, knalbb26@gmail.com
Elliott Eisaman	(716) 785-0918, elliott.eisaman@gmail.com (President)
Rob Parrott	(616) 836-0172, parrott@chartermi.net (Vice President)
Vicki Russell	(616) 796-8606, vicki0528@gmail.com (Secretary)

IN OUR SEPTEMBER PRAYERS

In Our September Prayers...

- **Healing/Peace:** Allan Anderson (brother to Lois R.) starting radiation for cancer, Chuck (friend of Lois R.) starting treatment for cancer, Brian (Jessica Bacon's uncle), Lucas Barton, Zach Bergland (Beckers' nephew), Bryan Blank, Patricia Bradfield, Selena Casillas, 8 yrs old-diagnosed with cancer (friend of Ellen Lichtman), Kody De Haan, Jim Dyke, Carol Essig (Bret D'Agostino's aunt), Sandy Edwards, diagnosed with ovarian cancer (friend of Corinne Becker), Judy Forsten (Marijo's Sister), Alyssa Gorraiz, Sally H. (Laurie Schuldt's friend, stage 4 lung cancer), Amy K. (friend of Kris Norvell), Randy Kasdorf (friends of Parrotts) suffered a stroke, Cathy Kelly, Gene Mohr, (Uncle of Tori Lindsley) who is recovering from 3rd degree burns, Rob Parrott, Roland Rivera, Mike Russell, Richard Russell (Mike's brother), Katherine Slee (friend of Beckers), Stephanie Thep Saenebouttarath (Kris & Floyd's niece), Chad Stettinichs (cousin of Perry Pearson), Russ & Rita Taylor (Julie Wolff's parents) Rita has dementia, Donna Vargo, Justin Walker (Pastor's husband), Jon Wiening.
- **Prayers for Our World:** We remember those families in Michigan, the country and around the world who have lost loved ones due to Covid-19; and families affected by the economic downturn as a result of Covid-19.
- **Health Pregnancy:** Nikki and Andrew Delo, friend of (actually like a daughter of) Kris and Floyd Norvell. Ashley & Tyler Visser, expecting a girl in April, (Norvell's granddaughter/son).
- **Assisted Living/Nursing Home/Homebound:** Christopher St. John (Son of Bonita Zielke), Bonita Zielke, Maureen (Eve Andrus' ex mother-in-law),
- **Serving Our Country:** John Bounthapanya (Som's nephew), Steve Dyke, Ben Johnson (Parrotts' nephew), Cortney and Konstantin Ivanov (Gigi Howard's daughter and son-in-law), Kayla Kleinjans (Stan & Debbie's granddaughter), Alex Miller, Andrew Wagner (Patricia Bradfield's grandson), Zachery Wiesner (Gigi Howard's son-in-law).
- **Prayer Partners:** Trinity Lutheran Church, Revs. Robert Linstrom, Daniel Schewe & Karen Niemeyer, Grand Rapids; St. John Lutheran Church, Supply Pastors, Grayling; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Rev. Betsy Kamphuis, Greenville; Grace Lutheran Church, Rev. Kenneth Scheck, II, Hastings.