



# ANNUAL REPORT 2021



Point camera here!



**Good Shepherd**

#FORFARGOMOORHEAD



## gsChurch Council Report

Rev. Mary Suomala Folkerds & President Matthew Hallaway



Matthew Hallaway  
Council President

This has been a year of discernment for us at Good Shepherd. Discernment is a fancy word that means seeking God's will to make wise decisions. It involves knowing yourself, your abilities, and your mission while seeking God's guidance.

Martin Luther says this about discerning God's will: "God's will is done when God breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word."

*"God's will is done...  
when He strengthens  
and keeps us firm in  
His Word."  
—Martin Luther*

God's will is about trust and humility and seeking God in our words and actions, not about discovering one perfect path.

As we made decisions about how and when to re-introduce parts of our church life that were altered in 2020, we used a discernment tool that we borrowed from Christian pastor and author, Andy Stanley.

### Pastor Andy Stanley offers some guidance in how we make God-pleasing decisions. We have found them helpful.

- 1. Integrity question:** "Why am I doing this...really?" Be honest with yourself. You know what you have told other people. Is it what you are telling yourself?
- 2. Legacy question:** "What story do I want to tell?" After the chaos subsides, what story would you be proud to tell?
- 3. Conscience question:** "Is there a tension that needs my attention?" Sometimes this means that you shouldn't do something, but sometimes it means to take a pause.

- 4. Maturity question:** "What is the wise thing to do?" This is a bigger question than 'is it right or wrong?' And much better than the cheap question: 'will I get caught?'
- 5. Relationship question:** "What does love require of me?" This gets at the heart of "thy will be done."

These are the questions that the Staff and Council have wrestled with throughout the year as we have focused on how to do our mission of Gathering, Growing, and Going so that ALL may know Jesus.

### Our hopes for 2022:

- 1. Offer a Courageous Witness:** As life for everyone in our community is rapidly changing, how can we best get outside the walls of the church and put feet on our faith? What outreach opportunities and partnerships can we form this year that will stretch us?
- 2. Welcome a Pastor of Adult Faith Formation:** This leader will help us train up leaders among our congregation to expand our small group and Bible Study ministry. As a church family, we want to shift from offering a MENU of faith enrichment opportunities to offering a MAP of how adults can develop their faith and confidently articulate what they believe and why it matters.
- 3. Create a Strategic Plan for Funding our Mission:** Finances are the single greatest barrier to doing more to impact our community. We often set a goal for the mission that has to be scaled back slightly by the end of the year due to lack of staffing or financial resources. We will be setting out a plan for how to address debt, set some big goals, and invite the congregation to greater stewardship this year.

The challenges that we all face are not just complicated, they are complex. If they were just complicated, we could figure them out if given enough time. The challenges we face in church and in our world are not just hard to figure out, they are rapidly changing. It makes our mission and witness even more important. As the world continues to change, we are still called to Gather, Grow, and Go so that ALL may know Jesus.

God's Peace,

Rev. Mary Suomala Folkerds  
Lead Pastor

Matthew Hallaway  
Council President



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# gs Staff

## Office Hours

Monday–Thursday, 10:00 am–4:00 pm

Friday, 10:00 am–2:00 pm

The church building is open and phones are answered during these times.



**Pastor Mary Suomala Folkerds**  
Lead Pastor

PastorMary@ktgs.org



**Pastor Taylor Wilson**  
Pastor of  
Worship & Mission

PastorTaylor@ktgs.org



A call committee has been formed and is in the process of calling a Pastor of Adult Faith Formation.



**Deacon Julie Wilson**  
Children & Family Ministry  
Director  
Julie@ktgs.org



**Linda Bartholome**  
Congregation  
Engagement Director  
Linda@ktgs.org



**Diana Wright**  
Youth Director

Diana@ktgs.org



**Ryan Schatz**  
Technical Director

Ryan@ktgs.org



**Karen Skarpness**  
Data Systems & Finance  
Manager  
Karen@ktgs.org



**Stephanie Maier**  
Marketing Administrator  
(part-time)  
Stephanie@ktgs.org

## ADDITIONAL STAFF:

**Joan Engeseth**, *BeFriends Coordinator*

**Kathy Kassenborg**, *Financial Secretary*

**Matt Endreson**, *Choir Director*

**Casey Bartz**, *Worship Accompanist*

**Myrna Hanson**, *Adult Bell Choir Director*

**Pat Astrup & Joe Lindquist**, *Children's Bell Choir Co-Directors*

**Jake Curry**, *Chef*

**David Wirth & Dave Weidner**, *Custodians*

**Moses Long**, *Custodian (contracted through At Your Service Cleaning)*

## A Note from the Editor

by Stephanie Maier, Marketing Administrator

What a year! I am not a rollercoaster fan, but I feel like I have been on one for the past two years. About the time I think we are slowing down, another curve whips us around and upside down again.

The one constant has been Good Shepherd and the family we have all found here. This year, I reached out to various members of our congregation and asked them to do something us Minnesota Lutherans don't do...talk about our faith. Our volunteers were hesitant, but in the end they delivered beyond expectations. Note the facts and figures an annual report requires, but enjoy and dig into the "gsFaith Stories." God bless!

## gsFaith Stories: It Started with "Hello"

By Linda Fiedler, Welcomed by Good Shepherd



Linda & Craig Fiedler

After 20 years living in Montana—and 5 years before that living in Seattle—Craig and I decided (after a month of deliberation) to move back home to Moorhead. After months of getting settled, we decided to look for a new church home. Mostly done by me, since Craig worked most Sundays. After a few dismal attempts, I told him I was going to try this big church down the street, kind of out in the country. Upon entering the church this particular Sunday morning, I was greeted so warmly! I found a seat in a pew toward the back. I remember looking around at the beams and woodwork, thinking it reminded me of our small church in Montana. It all felt so familiar! After the service, several people introduced themselves. I was totally overjoyed! I thought "this is it!"

I brought Craig with the next time. His first comment was "the choir is bigger than the total congregation at our Montana church!" But people again greeted us and made us feel so welcome. Then he, too, was convinced this was the church for us. Deciding factors included: the warm welcome, the choir and great music, and the Pastors. All so wonderful!

Eight years later here we are. Life for me has changed. Craig passed away May of 2021. Pastor Taylor was a rock for us—from the beginning of Craig's cancer treatments to sitting with us in his final week. Being able to listen to services on the radio or online proved to be the light we needed each week.

I am so grateful to have found Good Shepherd and the friends I have made here. It all started with "hello"!

## Giving to Good Shepherd

We invite you to schedule your recurring gift today!

Thank you for your trust and support as we continue to gather, grow, and go for God's kingdom. To give electronically, visit [KnowTheGoodShepherd.org/giving](https://www.knowthegoodshepherd.org/giving) or text your giving amount to 84321. Checks can be made out to "Good Shepherd" and mailed or dropped off at the Church Office, 4000 28th St S, Moorhead, MN 56560.

## gsFaith Stories: Pay Attention to God's Little Nudges

By Colleen Hyde, Good Shepherd Cheerful Giver

A few years ago, when we were encouraged to consider increasing our annual giving, I thought about it and prayed about it. I decided to increase my giving for the next year, and to change it to twice a month, thinking that the smaller amounts



The Colleen Hyde Family

would be easier to adjust to. About 3 months later I was reviewing my bank statements, and I realized there were 3 monthly deductions to Good Shepherd! I had forgotten to cancel the original one and I felt like God had played a trick on me. I had given almost twice as much as I planned each month—without even noticing!

After recovering from the shock, I thought about it and prayed about it. God had shown me that I could easily afford this additional amount, so I decided to continue for the rest of the year. God just gave me a little nudge! *It's always good to pay attention to God's little nudges!*



## gsWorship & Mission

Rev. Taylor Wilson, Pastor of Worship & Mission



Rev. Taylor Wilson  
Pastor of  
Worship & Mission

In 2021, we shepherded our ministry through a global pandemic as we shifted from in-person to being the church in many avenues.

### A few highlights:

- + Launched a ministry podcast called "Life In FM"
- + Upgraded our technology gear and storage
- + Transitioned spaces in our building to make them more functional to our current ministry needs
- + Shared in preaching and pastoral care in different ways than I was trained to do, and did more weddings than weekends in the summer!

### Traditional & Contemporary Worship Services:

- + Work alongside staff and key lay leaders to plan and lead worship that is meaningful and engaging for our members and guests
- + Summer Campfire Worship at the fire pit (south lawn)
- + Adult Choir and Bell Choir started again this fall
- + Began taking classes in Worship Administration from Samford University to continue to grow in this new role

### Fargo Transitions:

- + Closed our Fargo site, due to the pandemic and the fiscal and time allocation realities that came with it
- + Transitioned our Fargo location from being a weekly service at a specific location to special events that take place outside our church walls:
  - + Monthly Worship Night Downtown Fargo
  - + Beer & Hymns
  - + Carols & Cocktails
  - + Other events with our local ministry partners

While these events and programs will continue to expand and change in 2022, know that we're grateful for what God has done, is doing, and is yet to do through Good Shepherd as we strive to be #ForFargoMoorhead!



*"Before I went to seminary, I was a songwriter and worship leader, so I've enjoyed including those areas into my role as pastor."*

—Pastor Taylor



Myrna Hanson and the Adult Bell Choir

### gsFaith Stories: Serving with Music (Part 1)

By Myrna Hanson

I began directing the bell choir in the fall of 2019. It has been a joy to work with this group to provide music to enhance worship. Some of the members have been new to playing bells, while others have played bells for years. It is nice to involve each of them to create music together.

My first career was as a public school band director, and I have taught piano lessons since I graduated from Concordia. I played in the bell choir when I served as Associate in Ministry at Bethesda. Directing the bell choir has allowed me to "pick up my baton" again, be involved with the bells, and use my musical gifts to serve at Good Shepherd. God has given me musical abilities and for me, using those abilities is a way to worship.

*If you would like to share your musical talents with Good Shepherd, email Rev. Taylor Wilson, Pastor of Worship & Mission, at [PastorTaylor@ktgs.org](mailto:PastorTaylor@ktgs.org).*

## gsFaith Stories: Serving with Music (Part 2)

By Joe Lindquist, Children's Bell Choir Co-director

For me, and I suspect many others, spirituality is often experienced through music. I grew up attending a traditional service with liturgy, pipe organ, and hymns at another Moorhead church. Singing along with others connected me to the body of Christ in a meaningful way. Today, I attend Good Shepherd with my wife, Katy, and our three children. We felt God calling us to Good Shepherd because we could be part of our local community and connect with other families with young children like ours. We attend the contemporary service for several reasons, and I have been blessed to be able to participate in the worship band.



Joe Lindquist

One of the gifts God has given me is the ability to do music. Participating in the band is fulfilling, because I know that I am contributing to others' worship experience, and I enjoy making music. In addition, I have made new friendships and strengthened old ones. I am also serving in a musical leadership capacity. Pat Astrup and I have been directing the children's Bell Choir this year. Teaching children to make music in a faith context is deeply satisfying. They are so precious to work with, and God's love gets imprinted on their hearts through the lyrics and mood of the songs.

Not everyone is a performing musician. With our diverse sets of gifts, we make up a fully functioning body of Christ. But for me, being involved in music at Good Shepherd has been a meaningful and fulfilling way to participate in the life and community of the church. Thanks be to God!



The Lindquist Family  
(left to right) Hope, Sonja, Katy, Micah, & Joe

## Worship Stats

Good Shepherd is available on-demand!

894

Instagram followers  
@gsMoorhead

270

Twitter followers  
@gsMoorhead

44

Episodes produced  
"Life in FM" Podcast

469

YouTube subscribers  
@MoorheadGoodShepherd

19,835

views

2,813

hours watched

### Top Videos

Holy Week Virtual  
Beer + Hymns &  
Easter Sunday

4,645

Facebook page likes  
@gsMoorhead  
from the USA to India,  
Philippines & South Africa

31,467

People Checked In

51 & 52

Sundays & Wednesdays  
of worship with pandemic  
safety protocols

25

people/week for  
in-person Wednesday Chapel  
(January-April)

300

people/Sunday for  
parking lot services (May)

667

text recipients

1,316

emails registered

24,211

total website visits

238

most visits in a single day  
(Christmas Eve 2021)

16,763

unique/new  
website visitors

75

people/Wednesday for  
Outdoor Campfire Worship  
(summer)

296

people/week indoors each  
Sunday (June-December)

278

people/week  
each Wednesday  
(September-December)





## gsChildren, Youth, & Family

Deacon Julie Wilson, Director of Children & Family Ministry  
Diana Wright, Youth Director



Dcn. Julie Wilson  
Director of Children & Family Ministry



Diana Wright  
Youth Director

What a whirlwind year of teaching kids to love, know, and praise Jesus!

- + 29 students participated in an at home First Communion milestone—they received a special blessing and communion at various Curbside Communion during Holy Week
- + 76 Third and Fourth graders received new Bibles
- + 20+ students participated in a Children's Bell Choir directed by volunteers, Joe Lindquist and Pat Astrup

### Vacation Bible School (VBS):

- + 2 weeks of VBS
- + 200 students registered
- + 48 youth and 15 adult volunteers—at least 12 youth helpers for both weeks of VBS!
- + \$1,300+ raised in special offerings for Gigi's Playhouse

### Church School:

- + 188 HelloBible boxes—at home church school materials—delivered to doorsteps each month throughout the 2020-21 school year
- + 343 Church School students, age 3-Grade 5, registered fall 2021
- + 45 leaders
- + 2 sessions, Wednesday evenings & Sunday mornings

*9 months of Noisy Offerings (loose change) for organizations, locally & globally—collected the first Sunday & Wednesday of each month!*



Christmas Program



Laying of the Hands  
Confirmation



Vacation Bible School

### Youth:

- + 156 kids signed up for confirmation programming, from 6-9 grade
- + 16 confirmation small groups for youth to grow in faith with one another
- + 26 students (10th graders) reaffirmed their baptismal promise through confirmation in October 2021
- + 6 weeks of Summer Stretch (summer youth group)
- + 26 tie blankets made and donated by youth to those in need in the community
- + 40-50 kids attending our monthly youth group events

*Summer 2022 Youth Trips:  
June 20-25 (middle school)  
August 4-7 (high school)*

Thank you for the many people who give of their talents, encouragement, prayers, and also financial gifts to help children grow in faith.

### gsFaith Stories: Finding My Faith

By Sonja Westrum, daughter of Joel and Lori Westrum



The Westrum Family

I started coming to Good Shepherd when I was in fifth grade. My grandma was a member of the second class of confirmed students back in the olden days. I really enjoyed going to youth events at church and going on a mission trip to Rapid City, SD. I grew in my faith on that trip. Confirmation was a good memory for me. I learned more about God's love for us and even his love for other people. My mom, dad, and I get involved in worship by serving communion. I enjoy my Good Shepherd family!





## gsEngagement

Linda Bartholome, Congregation Engagement Director



Linda Bartholome  
Congregation  
Engagement  
Director

Blink and miss—that’s how I felt about the year 2021! I am so blessed to work with a staff who is so creative and have enjoyed the many ways we were able to do ministry together! I also have the privilege of doing ministry each day with our wonderful congregation—both new- and long-time members.

### A few highlights from 2021:

- + 18 weddings & 2 vow renewal celebrations—on- and off-site—we officiate by our pastors
- + New Member Connection gatherings occurred via Zoom and in-person—78 new members joined our church family in 2021
- + Parades!—Greater Moorhead Parade (September) and the Concordia Homecoming Parade (October)
- + Our Giving Tree for our Churches United was a huge success! With the help of our Helping Hands, 7 carloads of Christmas gifts were delivered to our friends as well as several grocery and gas gift cards
- + Every Sunday and Wednesday, we have several volunteers who make things happen. Hospitality begins with someone greeting at both entrances and at the doors of the Sanctuary. Between greeters, ushers, readers, and communion servers, it takes about 20 volunteers for each service!
- + Altar Care continued to assist with decor and communion prep throughout the year
- + Online gsConnect Small Groups occurred throughout the year—through Zoom and in-person



Karl-Heinz & Carolyn Mertins

### gsFaith Stories: Small Groups, Big Connections

By Karl-Heinz Mertins,  
Good Shepherd Small  
Group Member

The Good Shepherd is, by regional standards, a large church. A person

who is interested in finding his/her future home of worship could feel intimidated by the size, expecting a certain level of anonymity. Of course, we know, nothing is further from the truth – this church is easily approachable and welcoming.

For me, the initial step was to walk right into one of the small groups, the Men’s Bible Study that meets on Thursday mornings. In fact, I do not know a better way to get an unfiltered impression of the prevailing atmosphere in a congregation, to sample kindness or chill, to experience tolerance or dogmatism, and to sense the quality of clergy/ members relations. Meeting the devoted study members of the Good Shepherd week after week definitely “closed the deal” for me; it also led to enduring friendships and additional efforts where some of us enjoy wrestling with a variety of spiritual texts.

Which small group may become your point of entry to the Good Shepherd?

### Ruby's Pantry:

We hosted Ruby’s Pop-Up Pantry on the third Thursday of every month. Ruby’s Pantry is for anyone looking to extend their monthly grocery budget. Ruby’s Pantry is not government-funded, and each donation is used to cover operational costs such as trucking, gas, and warehouse staff. It takes about 75-100 volunteers each month to make this ministry happen. There are tasks for each and every one of you! WE NEED YOU!

Ruby's Pantry & Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

**COMMUNITY FOOD EVENT**

\$22 = 20 boxes of food

3rd Thursday of Every Month  
Good Shepherd Gathering Space  
For ANYONE, no exceptions!

Volunteer and reserve your food share at [RubysPantry.org](http://RubysPantry.org)



Ruby's Pantry Volunteers



Ruby's Pantry Food Boxes

## gsFaith Stories: A Desire to Help

By Renee Lentz, Good Shepherd Volunteer



Renee Lentz

I spent most of my adult working life working with people. I started as an LPN and worked all over in acute care hospitals. When I was transferred to the psychiatric unit I found I especially enjoyed that. And I loved what our social worker was doing. So, I went back to school and got my social work degree. I worked in outpatient psychiatric programs as well as in hospital, partial hospital, and residential programs. I found

that I was especially interested in working with people with mental illness or chemical dependency and homelessness. The best part about all these jobs was the relationships I was able to have with the people I worked with.

I was given the opportunity to work with Sheltering Churches about 10 years ago. It seemed like a good fit, as many of my residential patients were also homeless. Good Shepherd volunteered to house homeless guests for two weeks every winter, I helped coordinate one week over Christmas at Oak Grove every year, and I volunteered to work shifts at other sheltering sites. That was an amazing time of service. Listening to some of our guests' stories was enlightening and humbling.

Helping with Ruby's Pantry has given me another opportunity to help people with needs. And working with all the other volunteers has been amazing. Through all of these experiences I have appreciated the relationships made with those in need, as well as with fellow volunteers and agencies that share the same desire to help.

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### Children's Dental Ministry (Linda B., staff liaison):

We began our partnership with Children's Dental Services (CDS) in May and are blessed to be able to host our friends each month. CDS is community-based dental care serving over 37,000 patients each year out of two full-service clinics in Minneapolis and through portable dental services in most Minnesota counties.

If you would like to support this important ministry, the Church Office is accepting donations of toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, and floss picks.



Children's Dental Services

### Helping Hands (Linda B., staff liaison):

It is a privilege of mine to meet with the Helping Hands each Tuesday; in May, we began meeting in-person! The Helping Hands support the church with their amazing gifts and talents, in addition to financially supporting many projects around the church and in our community. This group is an integral part of our once-a-month Ruby's Pantry ministry. They have taken ownership on making this ministry happen! Other examples of how our Helping Hands provide support: Good Shepherd Youth, MSU-M Crossroads Campus Ministry Projects, Pastors' Discretionary Fund, Habitat for Humanity build, parking lot maintenance, purchase of push-around lift, Radio broadcast, Painting and repair projects, ELCA Good Gifts, snow removal, and lawn care (mowing, thatching, spraying, and sprinkler system repair)

Our staff was able to celebrate our Helping Hands and their spouses/significant others with a Christmas Celebration on December 21. This was a great way for us to say "thanks" for all they do!

We look back and thank God; we look forward and trust God. Here's to 2022, as we look forward to an even better year full of His promises!



Helping Hands at the Habitat for Humanity Build



Serving at the Helping Hands Christmas Lunch



Helping Hands Christmas Lunch

## Women of the ELCA (Linda B., staff liaison):



The women of Good Shepherd met for Circle gatherings at the church starting in May and were blessed to have Dorothy Suomala as their Bible study leader throughout the year. *Gather*, the magazine that is used for our monthly studies, offers a mix of articles, theological reflections, devotions and stories of comfort and challenge that help readers grow in faith and engage in ministry and action.

Our Good Shepherd quilters were quite busy in 2021. Many quilts, as well as school kits, were sent off to Lutheran World Relief in October. Our afternoon quilters were also busy sewing lap quilts for many of our shut-ins, which were so appreciated.

In December, women gathered for the Advent brunch. We were blessed with our featured speaker—Jessica Rahman—whose presentation was titled “Spread the Sparkle.” Great fellowship and wonderful food were also shared (thank you Jake Curry and Judy Curry!).

The Women of the ELCA checking account balance at the end of 2021 was \$497.98. Revenue received mainly came from monthly Circle offering, in addition to contributions from our Good Shepherd members. We’re looking forward to more fellowship opportunities in 2022!



Women's Advent Brunch



Fellowship



Thanksgiving Eve Pie Social

## gsFaith Stories: Quilting for a Cause

By Barb Spilde, Good Shepherd Quilter



Barb Spilde

My grandmother was a quilter, my mother was a quilter, and I have become a quilter. I guess I inherited the ambition from them. Sewing was always fun, and I sewed a lot of clothes for our family. After I retired from Good Shepherd staff, I joined the Good Shepherd quilters. Mildred Bjerke gave me the job of setting up the frames and taught me how to tie.

Thus, my introduction into quilting at church.

My involvement grew and I began to sew tops and bottoms at home, as do many of our Good Shepherd quilters. Quilting at church involves putting them together by tying and then pinning and sewing the borders. Quilting has also brought together a group of ladies that share their faith through friendship and fellowship.

Going on many mission trips and seeing what Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and other mission organizations do has made me aware of the need for quilts and other necessities. Volunteering at Churches United and helping with sheltering the homeless at Good Shepherd has made me aware of the need in our area. Our GS quilters give away over 100 quilts each year. The majority of them go to LWR. Others go to people in the Fargo/Moorhead area. The need is always greater than the supply. Seeing the smiles on the faces of receivers of quilts and other necessities encourages me to continue sewing, sometimes instead of dusting and cleaning and doing other household chores, but my daughter always says, “Doesn’t it make you feel good to know that someone is going to receive a nice warm quilt from your sewing?” And I have to agree, it does.

Anyone interested in helping or learning how to quilt is always welcome! We quilt on Tuesday mornings in the Good Shepherd gym.



Quilts on Display at the Women's Advent Brunch

## Prayer Ministry:

2,589 Birthday Prayers + 1 weekly email to 50+ prayer warriors = prayers for YOU!

Share your prayers at [KnowTheGoodShepherd.org/live](https://www.knowthegoodshepherd.org/live) or email [GoodShep@ktgs.org](mailto:GoodShep@ktgs.org).



*Ina Dahlum with her BeFriender, Joan Engeseth*

### **BeFriender Ministry: The Voice**

*By Joan Engeseth, BeFriender Coordinator*

What is BeFriender Ministry? BeFriender Ministry is a listening ministry of care. BeFreinders are volunteers who are trained to provide support and companionship to people who are alone, isolated, or those who are going through a hard time. For some people, their BeFriender is their only link to the outside world.

One Sunday I was having coffee between services when I heard someone calling my name, "Joan, Joan, is that you?" I turned to see a woman coming toward me that I had never met before. "Yes," I said, "I am Joan." She told me her name and said she recognized my voice from the times I have called her on the phone to check to see how she was doing. We were both so excited to meet each face to face! The same thing happened again at our Women's Advent Brunch when I was seated at the same table as another woman I had been calling regularly but had never met before.

Currently we have 14 trained BeFreinders who regularly call, visit, or send cards to 92 members of our congregation. The group meets monthly at the church for updates and continuing education. We recently partnered with the Quilters Group to help distribute lap quilts to those we call or visit.

When someone who is feeling alone and isolated experiences a caring connection, whether it is a home visit, a phone call, or a card, or when someone with an aging parent suffering from dementia can share her story with a listening ear—that is the power of the BeFriender Ministry.

*If you or someone you know would like a visit or would like to join the BeFriender Team, email [BeFreinders@ktgs.org](mailto:BeFreinders@ktgs.org).*

### **gsFaith Stories: An Intentional Relationship**

*By Mackenzie Tadych, Council Secretary*

I believe every individual is lovable, important, and valuable. Therefore, it is my daily goal to inspire their passion, purpose, and strengths through intentional relationships. This was a driving factor in my relationship with my husband and our mission to find a church home. I grew up Lutheran in a small North Dakota town. My husband grew up Catholic in a large Minnesota city. We were on opposite sides of the spectrum but deeply believed the same thing. As we began planning our wedding and searching for our first home, we also knew we needed to find a church home. Our realtor invited us to Good Shepherd Downtown, and we both fell in love. It was the mission and the welcoming relationships that instantly made us feel at home. Coming from two different backgrounds, it was a place we could meet and grow together.

Good Shepherd has allowed us to grow stronger together with Christ as our center. The Bridge Group was a way we were able to connect with others our age and dig into tough topics. Being uncomfortable allowed us to grow deeper. The Bridge Group has not been meeting as much since COVID. We can see this affecting our growth journey and look forward to gathering again. I know God is at work even though COVID has separated us. It is my hope and prayer we would all be reunited soon.

We are expecting our first child at the end of March and are beyond excited to have such a family-centered church home to raise our baby girl in. Good Shepherd knows how to adapt, accept, and welcome with open arms. We are excited for the future vision of Good Shepherd and look forward to being a part of such a strong need in our community and lives.



*Tyler & Mackenzie Tadych are expecting their first child in March.*

## gsFaith Stories: Come As You Are

By Melissa Heath, mom of Ashley, Riley, and Lacey

I remember awhile back searching for a new church as a single mom. My focus was I wanted my kids involved in church, and I wanted them to know the Christmas story. Seems kind of silly, but the church we were attending didn't teach the kids the Christmas story. Looking back to then and now kind of makes me laugh. Wow, do we have so much more than just the story of Jesus.

Going through my divorce and being a single mom, I have always known that God has been with us, but I didn't really have an understanding in what capacity. I didn't get it. Growing up as a kid and teenager, I was never involved in church and rarely ever went to church. Becoming members of Good Shepherd has changed our life. When my kids were little, we would go to church and that was our routine. I remember when they were little, I would try to skip a Wednesday night and I would have two kids on the floor crying because they wanted to go to church, so we did go. Now it's different as my children are getting into their teenage years. I look back at our church and see it differently. Good Shepherd has become our safe place. It has been a place where we have been welcomed into with open arms and no judgments. My children love going to church, and they invite their friends to come along, because it's not just a place to worship and be close with God, but it's where our family is at and where we can be together in one place.

I don't think anyone can truly understand the safety that my children and I feel with Good Shepherd. I don't think I can explain it either. My kids feel it as we enter through the doors—with smiles and happiness on their faces and go hug those friends and families that they notice. They love all the activities and volunteering that they can help with. It brings tears to my eyes because I know my kids are truly happy.



The Heath Family:  
Melissa, Ashley, Riley, & Lacey



A Sampling of our Front Desk Volunteers (left to right):  
JoAnn Pedersen, Lisa Seljevold, Renee Lentz, & Linda Rundquist

## Volunteering for Good (Shepherd)

By Lisa Seljevold

Renee Lentz, JoAnn Pedersen, Linda Rundquist and Lisa Seljevold spent numerous years enjoying their helping careers at churches, health care facilities and schools. After their lives took unexpected twists and turns, they have been able to find new ways to "help" in the Good Shepherd office. Their volunteering gives them many perks: Structure in their day, Purpose, Chances to connect with new people, and opportunities to feel needed and serve Jesus.

"We feel so appreciated by the staff. They are so kind to us. If we have a conflict and are not able to be there for our volunteer hours, they understand."



Between greeters, ushers, readers, and communion servers,  
it takes about 20 volunteers for each service!

Volunteers are needed for a variety of roles!  
We invite you to BE the Church with us. Share  
your talents by contacting Linda Bartholome,  
Congregation Engagement Director,  
[Linda@ktgs.org](mailto:Linda@ktgs.org) or 218.233.4980.



## Baptisms

### *Celebrating*

- † Ryker James Yarber, 1-10-21
- † Violet Hope Lystad, 1-16-21
- † Emersyn June Abrahamson, 2-28-21
- † Brawley Jud Bryant, 3-7-21
- † Camden Allen Gary, 3-27-21
- † Evelyn Marie Monson, 4-10-21
- † Everly Diane Hegg, 4-10-21
- † Clara Marie Rogness, 4-25-21
- † Bria Orae Ellingworth, 5-1-21
- † Daler Steven Severson, 5-1-21
- † Jackson Tyler Kunkel, 5-2-21
- † Rielle James Narum, 5-9-21
- † Isabel Louise Roethel, 5-16-21
- † Lincoln Rodney Brakke, 5-22-21
- † Havanna Cecilia Hagen, 5-23-21
- † Harrison Floyd Hampton, 5-23-21
- † Kira Irene Rousar, 5-30-21
- † Makenzie Ruth Elhard, 7-18-21
- † Gemma Lillian Klev, 7-18-21
- † Mereleigh Rose Anderson-Foshag, 7-25-21
- † Walker Lee Foshag, 7-25-21
- † Margaret Adeline Schille, 7-25-21
- † Meredith Tamara Andreasen, 8-14-21
- † Benno Reed Rausch, 8-15-21
- † Peter Christian Rausch, 8-15-21
- † Blakely Marie Christensen, 8-22-21
- † Skylar Sue Moen-Morris, 9-5-21
- † Wells Jenson Musielewicz, 9-19-21
- † Lincoln Rodney Cannizzaro, 9-19-21
- † Oliver John Cannizzaro, 9-19-21
- † Berkeley Jo Bashor, 10-3-21
- † Eve Tyler Berg, 10-3-21
- † Ivy Dale Lassila, 10-3-21
- † Delilah Hagelstrom, 10-3-21
- † Kiara Hagelstrom, 10-3-21
- † Serenity Hagelstrom, 10-3-21
- † Vivian Hagelstrom, 10-3-21
- † Maya Elizabeth Alt, 10-9-21

- † Nils Henrik Gylland, 10-9-21
- † Grayson Wylie Wisnewski, 10-17-21
- † Cason Madix Kainz, 10-31-21
- † Kinsley Marie Dumke, 11-7-21
- † Cameron Ross Ferguson, 11-7-21
- † Pierce Riddle Bryant, 11-10-21
- † Everly Ann Sorum, 11-21-21
- † Anderson Paul Hogan, 11-21-21
- † Landry Dean Skjonsby, 11-21-21
- † Brynlee Laura Strautz, 11-21-21
- † Sutter Soren Altenbernd, 11-28-21
- † Lauryn Elizabeth Sorensen, 11-28-21
- † Taiton Thomas Dosch, 12-5-21
- † Elijah Kingdon Fike, 12-5-21
- † Claire Louise Weber, 12-5-21
- † Heath Thomas Spieker Ferden, 12-12-21
- † Kinsley Jane Nord, 12-19-21

## Departed Saints

### *Remembering*

- † Marilyn McClafflin
- † Laurell Nelson
- † Tammy Krause
- † Dorothy Sanders
- † Ryker French
- † Mardrie Fladgard
- † Jean Johnson
- † Birdie Grafsgaard
- † Craig Fiedler
- † Paul Eidbo
- † Lillian Likness
- † LaVerne Johnson (passed in 2020, celebration of life in 2021)
- † Howard Wergeland
- † Ann Ellenson
- † Marj Froemke
- † Linda Kemp
- † Lonna Lemke
- † Robert Sahr
- † Elsie Foss

## New Members

### *Welcoming*

#### *Received January & February 2021*

- + Karl-Heinz Mertins
- + Brittany and Matt Alexander, Hanna, Hattie
- + Loree and Dan Alverson
- + Shannon and Jeff Beauchamp, Lexi
- + Tina and Rob Bentz, Ivy
- + Rick and Gracia Dekarske, Orion
- + Carol Hvidsten
- + Kevin and Amber Martin, Casey, Laney
- + Lisa McDonald
- + Corey and Nicole Schille, Abby
- + Vern and Linda Tiede

#### *Received October 2021*

- + Samantha Bestland, Ryder and Rayce
- + Arley and Sharon Beitelsbacher
- + Sarah Davis
- + Harry and Carol Halvorson
- + Cheryl Klev
- + Peri Lapp
- + Linda Mandsager
- + Richard and Linda Olson
- + Christian Rausch and Kaitlin Fike, Devin, Peter, and Benno
- + Linda Rippy
- + Linda Rundquist
- + David Somdahl
- + Dianne Stenso

#### *Received December 2020*

- + Bryce and Alissa Fike, Brooklyn, Ella, Delilah, and Elijah
- + Justin and Amanda Lynnes, Haisley
- + Matt and Kristen Hogan, Henrik, Anderson
- + David and Beverly Melgaard
- + Katie Query and Charlotte Holland
- + Sharon Query
- + Christine Royal
- + Shannon Schmitz
- + Lucas and Anne Stram, Oliver, Amelia, Eden
- + Christopher and Andrea Strautz, Cailin, Brennan, Brynlee

## GOOD SHEPHERD COLUMBARIUM

The Columbarium, a monument with niches for funeral urns to be stored, is located just south of the Sanctuary. Good Shepherd members may purchase a niche for \$1,400/niche (holds up to 2 urns).

### Building Updates During the Pandemic



Nursery next to the Sanctuary



Family Room (formerly room 118)

Funds were raised from private donors to fix the organ in the Sanctuary.



Resource Room (formerly the Library) next to the Church Office

A new electronic sign was installed on the church lawn.



Nursing Mothers' Room across from the Kitchen



Worship Recording Studio across from the Gym

## FACE MASK POLICY

Vaccinated = optional

Unvaccinated = required & Under Age 18 = required

Good Shepherd will continue our mask policy through the end of February and then reevaluate during Lent. Thank you for being flexible with us!





## Financial Report: Treasurer's Report

Karl-Heinz Mertins, 2021 Council Treasurer



Karl-Heinz Mertins  
Council Treasurer

Growing up in my native country we often heard the expression "Geben ist seliger als Nehmen," which goes back to the words attributed to our Lord Jesus as reported in Acts 20:35, "it is more blessed to give than to receive." You all, as the congregation of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, have lived up to this calling in 2021. You generously offered your unique gifts, talents, and time to serve others in many practical ways as faithful stewards of God's grace. Additionally, throughout the vagaries of another difficult year that was once more impacted by COVID, your envelope giving and loose offerings amounted to a total of \$1,003,711 – just a smidgen of 0.3% or \$2,675 below the record-breaking result of the previous year. We finished 2021 on a high note due to an extraordinary giving spurt in December, when you exceeded the already optimistic monthly target for envelope giving and loose offerings by \$12,385. The final surplus ended up at \$131,831, which includes \$114,000 that we no longer had as a liability after our 2020 PPP loan was forgiven. *A heartfelt THANK YOU goes to each and all of you!*

On the expenditures side of the equation, diligent cost control efforts by our staff resulted in savings of 8.6% or \$98,822 against budget. Reaching this positive outcome in an environment where inflation picked up speed speaks volumes of the disciplined business conduct and deep sense of stewardship of our staff members. There was creativity in action, combined with the rejection of any frivolous or careless spending, while the pristine condition of our building and landscaping was well maintained. The growing technical side of modern worship experiences, online as well as increasingly in-person again, was addressed by dedicated staff, a new technical director, and modestly upgraded equipment. As part of the Congregation Ministry, a well-received and growing BeFriends outreach program was introduced. *A heartfelt THANK YOU goes to our tireless staff!*

It is more blessed to give than to receive. Our Leadership and Council understand that we as a church cannot receive and hoard treasures for our own benefit and pleasure. Even during a lengthy period of missing the budget, we remained

steadfast in our commitment to fulfilling, at a minimum, our tithing obligations based on envelope receipts as intended. As a result of this commitment, the total actual benevolence disbursements in 2021 reached 11.3% of envelope giving, or \$110,093 in absolute terms. The Benevolence Contribution page in this Annual Report provides a detailed overview of the Church-related and Local benevolences that were shared in 2021 by this church family. To maximize the impact of our mission support, the allocation and distribution of funds takes into consideration objective needs as well as demonstrated effectiveness of the receiving organizations. *A heartfelt THANK YOU goes to our Leadership and Council!*

I could, as some of you probably expect me to, shower you with reams of numbers, statistical analyses, and accounting details. Yes, we have detailed numbers to show in the appendix to these remarks – and yet, I come to believe that those metrics alone would fall short in describing the essence of the current condition and the future promise of our church, nor can they do justice to the vibrant spiritual life that goes on at Good Shepherd. You find it in the large number of children, who participate in Vacation Bible School (VBS) or gather at the altar to show the congregation their bell choir skills; you experience it in passionate music performances of the traditional and contemporary services, in the gatherings of small groups, and in the gracious volunteers who prepare and run Ruby's pop-up food pantry each month, to name just a few examples. *THANK YOU for being the church!*

*"I believe strongly in giving while living. I see little reason to delay giving... Besides, it's a lot more fun to give while you live than to give while you're dead."*

—Charles F. Feeney, who gave Cornell University a \$350 million donation to construct a new technology-based satellite campus on Roosevelt Island in NYC (2011)

### Aspirations, threats, optimism, and bold moves for 2022.

For the 2022 budget we took the 2021 actuals of each account line item as a basis and added single-digit percent cost increases where appropriate. The third pastor position has been estimated to begin in April, following a broad search and thorough vetting process. The surplus of 2021 has been transferred into the Ministry Initiative Fund (MIF). \$47,800 will be used for salary/benefits cost in 2022, and the remaining \$84,031 is earmarked for debt reduction efforts.

**Goal: Reducing debt.** We expect the current inflationary trends to increase costs for goods and services, and to cause interest rates to rise. In 2021, the capital cost for our 1st mortgage of \$1,375,733 (status 01/15/22) was \$103,638 for interest and principal. The fixed interest period of this mortgage ends in October 2022. Thereafter, debt service cost is likely to go up. Think how much more mission work we





could support in the F-M area and the world if we reduced our capital cost expense item. In 2022 we will enter into negotiations with Gate City Bank and

prepare a Debt Reduction Campaign for LCGS, with the objective of reducing our debt service load through early repayment in part.

**Goal: Reducing energy costs.** We expect the cost of energy (gas, electricity) to increase. The continued transition from conventional light fixtures and bulbs to LEDs will bring partial relief. We will also investigate the feasibility of adding solar panels to our property.

**Goal: Growing in generosity.** The joy of giving helps

us grow closer to Christ and leads to deeper satisfaction in our lives. If, for example, 100 new households feel moved to give \$20/month, the top line will increase by \$24,000. Communication with potential donors with substantial means may boost the mission work of LCGS. *It is more blessed to give than to receive.*



Pastor Mary at the Habitat for Humanity Build in Moorhead, MN

**600+ households donated to Good Shepherd's mission and nearly \$100,000 was given to partner ministries!**

Churches United for the Homeless, Habitat for Humanity, Pathways, FirstLink, New Life Center, Oak Grove Lutheran School, Valley Christian Counseling Center, and the YWCA Shelter

A big thank you to those who already support our mission. You are helping us gear up for a fruitful and transformative 2022. We are ready to worship, learn about God, and serve our neighbors in big ways. YOU are making that possible!



**Financial Report: Trust Fund Endowment**

*A gift for generations to come*

The ELCA Foundation provides professional gift planning services and options for our members, including:

- + Gifts made through wills, trusts, or estates
- + Charitable gift annuities and remainder trusts
- + Endowment funds and donor-directed distribution agreements
- + Qualified charitable distributions from your IRA
- + Gifts of cash, securities, and real estate

We now have more exciting opportunities, to create a legacy at Good Shepherd, reduce taxes, and sustainably grow the stewardship of our church!

For more information on these opportunities, contact a committee member or Rev. Keith Pearson, ELCA Foundation Regional Gift Planner, at 612.718.4197 or [Keith.Pearson@elca.org](mailto:Keith.Pearson@elca.org).

[Redacted Table Content]

**Trust Fund Committee:**

- + Joe Sumers, Chair
- + Katherine Halvorson
- + Dennis Nelson
- + Jim Lichtsinn
- + John Holland

## Financial Report: Statistical Report

Karen Skarpness, Data Systems & Finance Manager



Karen Skarpness  
Data Systems &  
Finance Manager

I pray God's  
blessings for  
you in 2022!

As you read this year's Annual Report, you have a chance to hear the stories of individuals who are part of our church family. In a similar way, our ministry "numbers" tell stories of faith, too. Here are some highlights:

<b>Membership</b>	
<b>Membership as of 1-1-2021</b>	<b>2,800</b>
<b>Members Received in 2021:</b>	
By Baptism	55
Transfer In	37
Affirmation of Faith	34
<b>Subtotal of Members Received:</b>	<b>126</b>
<b>Members Removed in 2021:</b>	
By Death	15
Transfer of Membership	28
By Removal	11
<b>Subtotal of Members Removed:</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Membership as of 12-31-2021</b>	<b>2,872</b>
<b>Ministerial Acts</b>	
Baptisms	55
Affirmation of Faith	34
Weddings	20
Funerals	19



Summer Block Party

## Fargo Moorhead Area Foundation (FMAF)

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd (LCGS) Family Members Appreciation (Designated Endowment) Fund (FMADEF)

On September 2, 2020, this fund was established by an anonymous donor to express appreciation for people that had a special impact on their life. The generous investments in this fund are securely administered to provide ongoing support to our church and organizations chosen by our church that provide benefit to families and children in Clay and Cass counties, per the policy to distribute annually 5% of the three-year average valuation of the fund.

Until the three-year average valuation of the fund can be calculated, the following donations, distributions, and values have been made:

Date	Distribution to LCGS	Value of LCGS Fund at FMAF
September 2, 2020	\$1,000.00	\$25,000.00
September 2, 2021	\$2,000.00	\$56,526.00

In accordance with distribution guidelines in the Designated Endowed Fund Agreement, 75% is distributed to Good Shepherd ministry areas, and 25% supports Community Outreach Efforts.

The following are the distributions for the \$2,000 grant received in 2021:

- + \$750 for Vacation Bible School at Good Shepherd on June 6-9, 2022, and June 13-16, 2022
- + \$750 for Good Shepherd Middle School & High School Youth trips on June 20-25, 2022, and August 4-7, 2022
- + \$500 for the "Heart of Clay" Correctional Ministry, whose focus is to bring the love of Christ to the incarcerated, their families, the recently released, and those serving in law enforcement in our community. In December 2021, this gift helped to provide 150 care packages (with a Christmas message inside) to people in jail and to current and former residents of "Crossing Home," a faith-friendly housing option designed to instill hope, accountability, and self-reliance for those affected by addiction and incarceration.

If you would like to make a gift to this fund in appreciation of your family or friends, please mail your donation (along with tribute details) to the Fargo Moorhead Area Foundation, 409 7th St S, Fargo ND 58103, with "LCGS FMADEF" in the Memo, or give securely online at [AreaFoundation.org](http://AreaFoundation.org). For more information, please contact Greg Diehl, Director of Gift Planning & Donor Services ([greg@areafoundation.org](mailto:greg@areafoundation.org)) or Eric Wilkie, FMAF Executive Director ([eric@areafoundation.org](mailto:eric@areafoundation.org)), or call them at 701.234.0756.



## Minutes: Annual Congregational Meeting

January 31, 2021 | 9:30 am

**Call to Order:** Having established a quorum President Joan Engeseth called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**Opening Devotions** were given by Rev. Dan Forsberg.

**Approval of the Agenda:** Jim Lizakowski made a **motion** to approve the agenda as written. Denis Johnson **seconded** the motion. **The motion carried.**

**Approval of the Minutes of last Annual Meeting on January 26, 2020:** Renee Lentz made a **motion** that was **seconded** by Matt Hallaway to approve the minutes of the last annual meeting held January 26, 2020. **Minutes were approved.**

**Approval of Special Congregational Meeting Minutes:** Emily Gess made a **motion, seconded** by Frank Svezia, to approve the minutes of the following meeting:

- **Special Congregational Meeting: November 22, 2020** to amend our constitution to include holding meetings by remote communication. **Special meeting minutes were approved.**

**Report of the President:** President Joan Engeseth quoted Charles Dickens: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..." as she noted the challenges of 2020 and the privilege it was to serve as Good Shepherd's president. She acknowledged that LCGS actually thrived this past year due to the exemplary work of the staff, and the dedication of council and church members.

**Reports of the Pastors:** LCGS's pastors summarized their annual reports highlighting the importance of good communication, careful discernment of ways to be the light and love of Christ, and the many reasons we have to celebrate the past year of ministry.

**2020 Financial Report:** Joe Braun highlighted the impact of a year of change and forward thinking on the church finances. LCGS ended 2020 with a surplus and a 9.8% increase in envelope giving. Consistent and recurring giving was significant to meeting the 2020 budget.

**Presentation and Adoption of 2021 Budget:** Joe Braun presented the 2021 Budget. He shared 3 important components in the proposed budget. 1) The budget was

prepared using a hybrid model. 2) The budget is based on a 7.9% increase in envelope giving. 3) An 8.3% increase for benefits/salaries reflect the high level of volatility in labor/labor costs. Vi Deilke made a **motion** to adopt the 2021 Budget. The motion was **seconded** by Mark Rice. **The 2021 Budget was approved.**

**Elections:** Katherine Halvorson, past president, presented a ballot of nominees for council and non-council positions. Hearing no additions to the ballot, President Joan Engeseth called for Pastor Mary Suomala Folkerds to review voting protocol. To comply with constitutional regulations, ballots will be mailed Monday, February 1, 2021 to each member present in the virtual meeting for written approval. These ballots can be returned via mail or brought to the church office.

### New Business:

**Recognition of Outgoing Council Members:** Pastor Mary recognized outgoing council members: Past President, Katherine Halvorson; Treasurer, Joe Braun, Spiritual Life Council representative, Denette Narum; and Secretary, Lisa Sjoberg.

**Adjournment:** There being no other business, Joe Braun made a motion, seconded by Beth VanderLinden, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and the meeting closed at 10:32 am with the Lord's Prayer.

### Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Nelson, Acting Council Secretary

### Addendum:

The tabulation of returned ballots for council and non-council positions resulted in the election of the following Council Officers and Committee Members for 2020:

- + Matthew Hallaway, President
- + Tom Staiger, Vice President
- + Joan Engeseth, Past President
- + Karl-Heinz Mertins, Treasurer
- + Mackenzie Tadych, Secretary
- + Mark Rice, Family Life
- + Angie Hegg, Family Life
- + Dan Altenbernd, Spiritual Growth
- + Frank Svezia, Outreach
- + Jerry Bjelde, Administration



Sundogs Over Good Shepherd

## Minutes: Special Congregational Meeting

October 27, 2021 | 7:00 am

Meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm by President Matthew Hallaway.

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Mary Suomala Folkerds led the congregation with prayer.

**Quorum was confirmed.**

### The following resolution was presented:

"NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following people be elected to the Call Committee, whose responsibility will be to recommend a candidate for our third Pastor to the members of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd: Vote for six (6). Nominations from the floor will be accepted; however, the nominee must give their consent for nomination."

Shannon Dahlberg	Denis Johnson
Dennis Fjeld	Brandie Streiff
Jason Hagelstrom	Kelsey Walter

The floor was opened for additional nominations. Jerry Bjelde asked that we cease the nominations and declare a unanimous ballot.

We prayed the Lord's prayer.

A **motion** was made by Renee Lentz, **seconded** by Gail Messerschmidt to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried.** The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 pm.

**Note:** The votes were counted after everyone turned in their ballot. One hundred twenty ballots were submitted; 118 ballots indicted "yes," while two ballots were unable to be counted.

### Respectfully submitted,

Linda Bartholome, Congregation Engagement Director  
Good Shepherd Staff

## Worship Schedule

*YOU are welcome here! God loves YOU!*

- + **Calendar:** [KnowTheGoodShepherd.org/calendar](https://www.knowthegoodshepherd.org/calendar)
- + **Worship:** [KnowTheGoodShepherd.org/sermons](https://www.knowthegoodshepherd.org/sermons)

The best way to stay connected with Good Shepherd is to sign up for our weekly emails via the *Online Connection Card* at [KnowTheGoodShepherd.org/live](https://www.knowthegoodshepherd.org/live).

A graphic with a blue and white background featuring a play button icon and a Facebook 'f' icon. The text reads: "GOOD SHEPHERD INVITES YOU TO WORSHIP! SUNDAYS 8:30 am, Traditional (in-person & online) 10:30 am, Contemporary (in-person & online) 11:00 am, WDAY 970 AM Radio WEDNESDAYS 5:00 pm, Supper 6:15 pm, Contemporary (in-person & online) Worship with us any time on-demand: Facebook.com/gsMoorhead YouTube.com/MoorheadGoodShepherd".



Jon Dahl



Rev. Dan Forsberg

## Staff Goodbyes in 2021

*The church is the people!*

This year, we said goodbye to Jon Dahl, Worship Arts Director, as he began a new opportunity with the Calvary Partner Network in Alexandria, MN. We also bid farewell to Rev. Dan Forsberg as he took the next step in retirement and joined Dilworth Lutheran Church as a part-time pastor.

Ryan Schatz joined our team as our Technical Director, and our Call Committee is busy working on finding a third pastor who will focus on adult faith formation. Rev. Mary Suomala Folkerds, Rev. Taylor Wilson, and staff continue to support nearly 3,000 members in their faith. We are able to do this with the support of our lay ministry of BeFriends and volunteers!



## A MESSAGE FROM ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP

*Elizabeth  
Eaton*

Dear friends in Christ,

The last year has been one of adapting and learning. In many places we have seen vibrant and vital ministry spring forth from changes made due to the pandemic. Digital worship opportunities have introduced to our congregations people who may never have walked into one of our buildings. Many congregations have found new ways to invite people to share their generosity through online giving. And many ministries have found just how vital they are as they continue to serve alongside people in their communities.

The first chapter of James, verse 17, reminds us that "Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." Yes, this has been a season of change, but Scripture also reminds us that we serve a generous, steadfast God.

While we stay rooted in God's enduring, unchanging promise, God also gives us the gifts of creativity and learning. Across all three expressions of the church we have used those gifts to serve God, love our neighbor and share the good news of Jesus Christ. In this time of change, we have opened our arms wider to meet people where they are, living into the reality that we are not defined or confined by the four walls of our buildings.

Through all this, I am so grateful for your generous sharing of creativity, time, talents and resources. All good gifts do come from God, and we are called to share and use those gifts. We have and will continue to answer that call. There is still much change and learning to come, but God's steadfast love energizes us for the work God is still doing in the world through this church.

*Elizabeth A. Eaton*

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

"Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."

# Bishop's Report



Northwestern Minnesota Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

"Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads because your redemption is drawing near."  
(Luke 21:28)

## Northwestern Minnesota Synod Report from Bishop Bill Tesch

Dear Partners in God's Mission,

It's been another hard year with COVID-19 infections still surging, continued political unrest and persistent economic uncertainty. Our natural inclination in such times is to hunker down, but Jesus taught otherwise. To his followers facing disturbing times, Jesus' counsel is, "Stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." (Luke 21:28). If Jesus' words were intended only for the end of all things, then they would have been of little use to his followers when he first spoke them, or to anyone over the last 2000 years. So, let's hear them in the way Jesus intends them—to meet us right here in the middle of our turmoil.

I hear in these words the promise that Christ our Lord will be present in the messiness of troubling times. I also hear an admonition to stand up and take notice of what Jesus is up to around here! I believe that when you lift your heads to see what Jesus is up to in your community, you will see a lot. Here's what I can see:

- + Jesus is showing up where he always has, and he is teaching us that this is enough. We do not have the solution to our political divisions or our public health emergencies. We only have the saving good news of God's love for every person through Jesus Christ, and Christ's presence with us in the word and the sacraments. One motto we could take away from this era of diminished programming is "Less effort. More Jesus." Jesus is freeing us to set aside all that does not pertain to sharing the Gospel, celebrating the sacraments and loving our neighbors.
- + Jesus is not letting us off the hook - he is continually turning our eyes toward his suffering beloved: from the parent of a black child who is terrified for their safety each time they go out in public, to the farmer at her kitchen table despairing over yet another failed crop. In former times we might have averted our gaze, but now we cannot look away. When we finally see the neighbor as our neighbor, then our collective redemption really is drawing near.
- + Jesus is gathering people in ways we may not have imagined before. Many congregations across our Synod are engaging new people through their online worship and ministries. New people will not walk into your church unless they have an invitation directly from you. Church buildings are no longer seen as public, but as private spaces only for the invited. The new public space is online: no invitation necessary - drop in anytime. The Gospel can be heard just as clearly from Facebook as it can from inside our buildings. Our challenge as the church of the 21st century will be to bring together our in- person and our online people to build communities with living connections of friendship and support.

And I am grateful for you because I see Jesus at work in you: in your continued faithfulness to him and in your continued generosity that fuels the ministry of the Gospel both in your own congregation and, through your mission support, across our Synod and around the world. Thanks to you, we are making good progress on the four strategic initiatives (see attached) that you affirmed in our strategic plan at the 2021 Synod Assembly. During the week of November 18, you gave over \$60,000 to our GiveMN Give to the Max campaign, which launched "Leadership Next" for recruiting and forming adaptive leaders who are servants of Jesus Christ. As of this writing, Mission Support from congregations is running 4.2% ahead of last year. If that trend continues, we will meet the ambitions plan that you approved for this fiscal year.



In the midst of the extraordinary challenges of these times, we have a great good Lord who does not hover safely above it all, but who is down in the mess with us - loving all people and calling them to believe the Gospel. Join me in lifting your head to see Christ at work in your community and in our world.

Pastor Bill Tesch  
Bishop of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod, ELCA

**Gather. Grow. Go.** Good Shepherd Moorhead  
4000 28th St S | Moorhead, MN 56560

Services are broadcast via Facebook + YouTube:  
[@GSMoorhead](#) | [@GSDowntown Fargo](#)



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[www.KnowTheGoodShepherd.org](http://www.KnowTheGoodShepherd.org)

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## Call Committee

Tasked with recommending a  
3rd Pastor for Good Shepherd

- Shannon Dahlberg
- Denis Johnson
- Dennis Fjeld
- Brandie Streiff
- Jason Hagelstrom
- Kelsey Walter

Bios available at  
[KnowTheGoodShepherd.org](http://KnowTheGoodShepherd.org)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



*gsMission*

“Gather Joyfully,  
Grow Spiritually,  
and Go Faithfully  
so that ALL may  
know the Good  
Shepherd  
and experience  
abundant life in His  
name.”

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