

# TOGETHER



**Seth Hartwell joins staff as Director of Worship and Music**

**FALL WORSHIP THEMES FOCUS ON THE TREE OF LIFE**

**ANTI-RACISM GROUP INVITES KEN WHEELER TO GOOD SHEPHERD**

**GOOD SHEPHERD PUBLISHES BOOK ABOUT ETHIOPIA RELATIONSHIP**

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## WORSHIP

Worship with Communion onsite at  
10 a.m. every Sunday and online at  
[goodshepherdmpls.org](http://goodshepherdmpls.org).

## TOGETHER TEAM:

Connie Fukuda-Clark, *chair*,  
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Pastor Deb Bergstrand,  
Pastor Karl N. Jacobson,  
Mark Halvorson, Seth Hartwell,  
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ON THE COVER: Director of Worship and Music Seth Hartwell  
with Pastor Deb Bergstrand. Photo by Mara Halvorson.

# TOGETHER



**THIS IS WHO WE ARE HERE, AND WHAT WE ARE ABOUT:**

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD: FAITH THAT WORKS**

## OLD BEGINNINGS

BY PASTOR KARL N. JACOBSON

Doesn't it feel good to be back? Back from a trip, back from the cabin, back in touch with old friends, back to familiar surroundings, back in the swing of things. . . .

Fall is a season of getting going again, of re-engaging, of returning to regular patterns and practices. What is more, many of us are still coming back out of the shells that the COVID craze drove us into, and finding (I hope) that it does feel good to be back – back in school, back in worship, back *together*.

I know that for me personally that has been particularly true as I have been plugging away at plugging back in. It feels good to be back.

Fall is a time of old beginnings, of returning to regular schedules and activities and, perhaps, to old, familiar priorities. As we start up the program year at Good Shepherd, there will be many opportunities to come back: to education for all ages on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings, to choir and bells, to worship and service, to the shared life we find in Jesus.

In a very real sense, there is nothing “new” about what the fall brings. These are old patterns of living. But these old patterns are the stuff of our life together. Together. To gather; around our shared faith, to explore what life in Christ means for us as go back out into the world after we've sung and prayed, been gifted with bread and wine and forgiveness.

This isn't a new beginning, come Sunday, Sept. 10. It's an old one. And it will feel good to be back.

My invitation to you – to us all – in this time of old beginnings is to jump in wholeheartedly. Don't hold back. Find the place or the event or the group of folks at Good Shepherd that you find meaningful, and join in. Because we need you. As Psalm 133 puts it so beautifully:

<sup>1</sup> How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

<sup>2</sup> It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.

<sup>3</sup> It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the LORD ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

I look forward to seeing you all back again!



**FAITH THAT WORKS IS FAITH THAT CAN TRANSFORM THE WORLD – “MINE,” “YOURS,” “OURS,” “THE.”**



# Worship and LifeLines Themes for Fall

BY PASTOR KARL N. JACOSBON AND SETH HARTWELL, DIRECTOR OF WORSHIP AND MUSIC

## Worship Texts and Themes

### September

#### The Tree of Life

- 10 Genesis 2:4b-9
- 17 Psalm 1
- 24 Revelation 22:1-7

### October

#### Sharing the Harvest, We Are Stewards of God's Gifts

- 1 John 15:1-15
- 8 Micah 6:1-8
- 15 2 Corinthians 9:6-7
- 22 Matthew 6:19-21

### Oct. 29

#### Reformation and Confirmation Sunday

Ephesians 2:1-10

### November

#### The Psalms and the Savior

- 5 Psalm 2
- 12 Psalm 110
- 19 Psalm 132
- 26 Psalm 118:15-29

### December

#### Awaiting the Savior

- 3 Isaiah 2:1-5
- 10 Isaiah 6:1-13
- 17 Isaiah 7:10-17
- 24 Luke 1:5-13 [14-25] 57-58

### Dec. 25

#### Christmas Day

Luke 2:1-20

### Dec. 31

#### First Sunday after Christmas

Mark 1:1-20

## Tree of Life Liturgy

In July, the Worship and Music committee along with Pastors Bergstrand and Jacobson discussed themes for the fall and gravitated towards the Tree of Life.

Stemming from the powerful emotions of turning a fallen memorial tree into a Lenten cross, which became an Easter tree overnight, we felt a strong desire to again connect with the imagery of the tree in how we worship as a community in Christ. Imagery of trees span from Psalm 1 – a tree planted by streams of water . . . whose leaf does not wither – to Revelation 22 – the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. How perfect would it be for a liturgy be sung to reflect our connection to the miracle of creation?

A liturgy written by Marty Haugen and Susan Briehl in 2000, called “Holy Communion: Tree of Life Setting,” may be familiar to some here at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, as it was sung around the time it was first published. It is also a familiar liturgy to both Pastor Bergstrand and me, as we both sang the Tree of Life liturgy when we were at previous calls. You probably remember Marty Haugen hymns and the wonderful Holden Evening Prayer. The Tree of Life liturgy beautifully gathers us together as one voice to worship through word and sends us out into the world with nurtured faith.

Come and gather beneath the Tree of Life.

*Soli Deo Gloria*

*Seth Hartwell*



Good Shepherd's "Life Tree" is a sculpture by Paul Granlund, hanging above the baptismal font. It represents our baptismal journey, for God is with us through all the phases and times of our lives.

## LifeLines

This fall, LifeLines, our Sunday morning adult study time before worship, from 9 to 9:45 a.m., returns on Sept. 17 – the week after Rally Sunday.

Our themes this fall will focus on what it means to live as Christian people in a world that is filled with diversity and, all too often, discord.

What are the non-negotiables that our faith has to offer?

How does our faith shape the way we think about life together with peoples of other faiths?

As believers in Jesus, what is required of us when we see injustice and wrongdoing?

The first two weeks will focus on the central claim of our faith tradition and set the basis for what follows.

### Sept. 17, 24

*Living "Justified," the doctrine on which the church stands, or falls*  
A brief review of the Lutheran Confessions

### Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

*Living with Differences*  
A survey of world religions – what we need to understand  
(We will be using Huston Smith's *The World's Religions* as a guide.)

### Nov. 5, 12, 19, 26

*Living Our Calling*  
We are blessed to be a blessing – faith in action

### Dec. 3, 10

*Living Now the Promise of Tomorrow*  
The nature of hope, and how hope changes the world

Join us Sunday mornings in the parlor!



The sculpture on the column at the front of the Sanctuary, one of sculptor Paul Granlund's later works, is an image of the various phases of life – a circle of birth, maturation, old age, and death. The old man at the bottom right of the image has assumed the posture of a fetus: death as a new birth. All the phases of life are connected to the crucified Christ rising from a grapevine. The sculpture is based upon a text from the Gospel of John: "I am the vine and you are the branches."

The sculpture inspired Susan Palo Cherwien's hymn text, "O Blessed Spring." The first and last verses embrace the life-long love God offers.

O blessed spring, where word and sign  
embrace us into Christ the Vine:  
here Christ enjoins each one to be  
a branch of this life-giving Tree.

Christ, holy Vine, Christ, living Tree,  
be praised for this blest mystery:  
that word and water thus revive  
and join us to your Tree of Life.

Text © 1993 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress



# Hospitality Team Hosts Corn Feed

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 2023

PHOTOS BY MARA HALVORSON, MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR



Hot weather drove us inside to air-conditioned comfort and safety, but we didn't care. The music by the Fleshpots of Egypt, the food, and the fellowship were delightful! Thanks, Hospitality Team, for hosting us!





# Holiday Musical Is “Scrooge”

BY TOR JOHNSON, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES & PERFORMING ARTS

The first Holiday Musical I directed at Good Shepherd in 2010 was the musical, “Scrooge,” which starred Peter Samuelson as Scrooge, David Anderson as Jacob Marley, Mark Brakke as the Ghost of Christmas Present, and Ella Krafve as Tiny Tim, as well as many other Good Shepherd members.

Since then, the Holiday Musical has changed a lot over the years. Most of the participants are not members of Good Shepherd, but it’s still a very vital part of our ministry here. This time, Ralph Johnson, who has been in almost every musical since 2011, has graciously decided to come out of retirement to take on the role of Scrooge. Once again, Cathy Davenport will assist with everything.

Auditions for children ages 5 and up are Sept. 14 and 15 from 4 to 8 p.m. The performances are Nov. 30, Dec. 1 and 2, at 7 p.m., with a matinee on Dec. 2 at 2 p.m.

Contact Tor Johnson if your child is interested in auditioning or if you are interested in being an adult member of the cast.



The Baptism of  
Lucy Marie Okano Kooiman

[IN OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH]

## LIFE PASSAGES

### BAPTISMS

LUCY MARIE OKANO KOOIMAN

Feb. 5, 2023

KINSLEY RUTH LOHBECK

July 16, 2023

### DEATHS

MARJORIE MEESTER

Nov. 29, 2022

DONNA BERG

Dec. 22, 2022

SALLY WILLIAMS

Jan. 17, 2023

ELAINE BONNEVILLE

Jan. 27, 2023

CHRISTINE NELSON

Feb. 21, 2023

MARCIA FISHER

March 5, 2023

JEANINE EIDE

March 6, 2023

MARY IRELAND

March 9, 2023

HAZEL ODEN

June 15, 2023

ALLEN NELSON

June 16, 2023

PHIL DAVIDSON

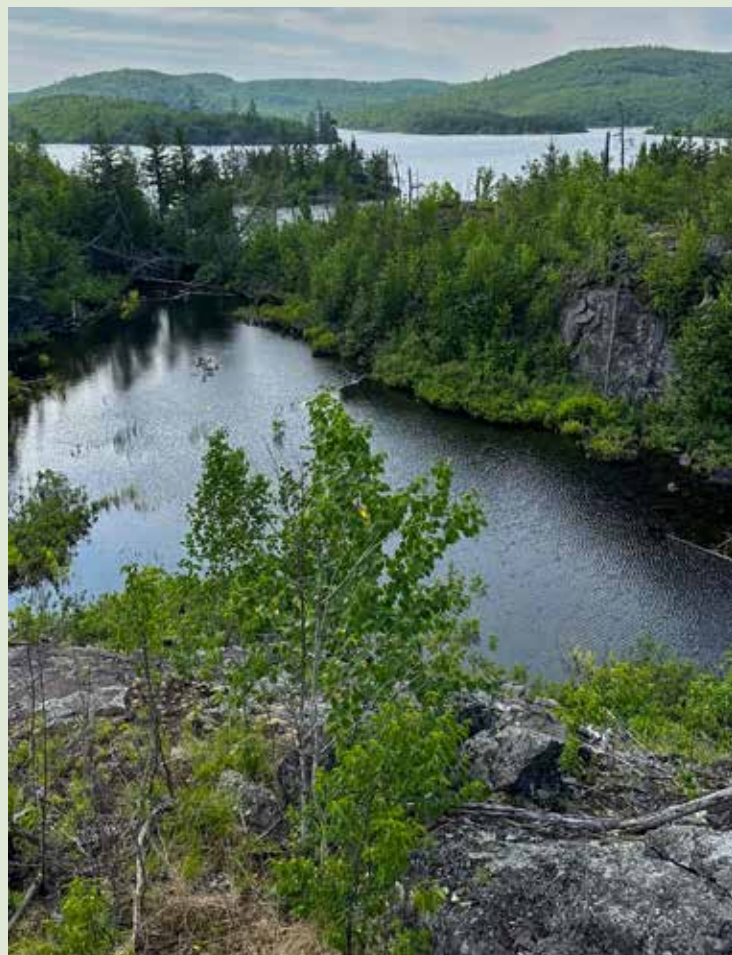
Aug. 11, 2023

# Good Shepherd Youth Experience Bou

BY MARK HALVORSON, DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES, OFFICE OPERATIONS

Well, we did it again. We loaded up a van full of students and headed north to Grand Marais, took a left and 60 miles later found ourselves at Wilderness Canoe Base – nestled at the end of the Gunflint trail on Seagull Lake – just like we left it a year ago.

Our tradition of traveling up to and out into the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness is something that makes the youth ministry experience at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd unique and special. While lots of churches take kids north, we have been able to have groups of middle school and high schoolers go out together on trail. Veterans who know Seagull Lake like the back of their hands find themselves paddling with rookies who maybe aren't sure which end of the paddle to hold quite yet. We've been able to break down some of the boundaries



or specific ways churches assemble groups, and just let students who want to go be in creation the chance to do so . . . together

This crew of seven students, ranging across six grades and seven years of age, worked beautifully together. After a short while, you would think that this exact group goes out year-in-and-year-out. It was an awesome crew to spend a week with.

After one night in camp where we spent time planning our route, packing the equipment and food packs and getting ourselves all situated and were treated to good night's sleep on mattresses, we pushed out the next morning for four days and three nights on trail – deep in the wilderness.

It's a difficult experience to put into words, an experience that I hope everyone gets to have at some point in their lives. It's an





# ndary Waters

experience that connects you to the creation poetry and helps you see how great and grand and expansive this world is even if when we're still in our own backyards. It's a trip that always generates experiences that turn into stories that are difficult to explain.

Whittling our own dinner utensils, culinary delights whipped up daily out of common camp food. Sunrise and sunsets, a few (million) mosquitos. The second longest portage in the BWCA. . . . Completed twice in one day, which included the added bonus of a pirated backpack (that's a great story – ask me or a kid about that one). The list goes on and on and while the saying, "You had to be there," feels like a cop-out, the reality is you kind of had to be there.

In the midst of the stories that were silly and funny and lighthearted, there were moments of deep conversation, the awareness of how we are connected to the nature all around us. We got to watch sunrises and sunsets and gaze from the top of cliffs, we spent time talking about what makes us . . . us and building each other up – something adults don't do a great job of. There was also a close call with a gang of seagulls, but that's a better in-person story as well.

For six days this summer, all of us got to push "pause" on what have become extraordinarily busy lives. We were able to build each other up and support each other. We began, strengthened, and deepened friendships. Next summer, we will be back and maybe we'll will have two groups. Maybe some people will stay on-base. Who knows, but the BWCA will be there, Wilderness Canoe Base will be there, and we will be there to help students experience the beauty and the tranquility and the power of those waters to our north.





# Children Enjoy Vacation Bible School and Drama Look Ahead to Sunday School

BY TOR JOHNSON, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES AND PERFORMING ARTS

A lot happened in the Children's Ministries/Performing Arts world this summer, and there's equally a lot to look forward to this fall.

## Vacation Bible School

First of all, after waiting for Minneapolis schools to finally let out, we had an awesome session of Vacation Bible School (VBS). Good Shepherd members and non-members alike, ages 3 to 11, had a blast as we learned several stories from the Gospels. Our theme was "Matthew, Mark, Luke and John: The Gospels That Go On and On!"

Our daily activities included singing, arts and crafts, story time, juggling for Jesus, games and service projects. On our final day, we performed a lovely dramatic presentation with songs for all the families.

Special thanks to Cathy Davenport, Sasha Jensen, Ella Krafve, Annika Onstad, Colton Davenport for their support, and to Mara Halvorson for her creative videos and graphic designs. Also, thanks to all the Middle School youth staff from Good Shepherd!

## Summer Dramatic Play Camp

With the help of Cathy Davenport's expertise in all things administrative and her emotional support, we put together another fun-filled, educational, and creative two weeks of Dramatic Play Camp.

For 10 days, the church was filled with drumming, juggling, singing, dancing, acting, arts and crafts, laughter, and loud voices bouncing off the walls! Both weeks ended with fun performances made up of dancing and mini-plays that were written by the children. Special thanks to Cathy, of course, Ella Krafve, Annika Onstad, Mara Halvorson, and Colton Davenport.

## Sunday School 2023-24

This fall, I'll be starting my fifth year as Director of Children's Ministries, including Sunday School. Each year, I've come up with my own theme and curriculum for our Sunday School families. This year, the theme is "The B-I-B-L-E, Yes That's the Book for Me!" The year will be divided into six different, four- to six-week series that will be devoted to different themes from the Bible.

Dramatic Play Camp involved lots of children in song, dance, and movement.



Children at Dramatic Play Camp were ab





# Thematic Play Camp,

The different series include:

- Jesus and His Disciples
- Animal Adventures in the Old Testament
- Advent and Christmas Already?!
- A Parable Problem
- 40 Days in the Desert and Lent
- Death, Resurrection, and Beyond!

Each Sunday from 9 to 9:45 a.m. will be filled with singing with Seth Hartwell, story time, games, and arts and crafts.

As in the past, parents are more than welcome to stay and join in the fun while getting to know other parents and kids. As always, we'll also put on two dramatic presentations with songs for Advent and Palm Sunday. The kids and families are encouraged to stay for worship and to help me with my weekly Kids' Time presentation. Sunday School starts with a party on Rally Sunday, Sept. 10. Hope to see you there!



Vacation Bible School was a celebration!



Vacation Bible School included activities, colors, fun for all!

le to perform for their family and friends.



Vacation Bible School used spaces throughout the building.





# Seth Hartwell Joins Staff as Director of

BY PASTOR DEB BERGSTRAND



“Music,” says Seth Hartwell, “is a gift from God and its purpose is to praise God.” During the past four months, Seth has been doing just that at Good Shepherd: Leading us to praise God through music.

Seth’s musical excellence and collaborative team spirit have enlivened the staff, choirs and musicians. All of us delight when we hear his beautiful singing voice. Pastor Jacobson was pleased to announce in July that Seth has accepted a permanent position at Good Shepherd as Director of Worship and Music.

We will formally welcome Seth at a reception in September. Until then, here’s some background, as we all get to know him better:

## Where did you grow up?

I grew up on the family farm outside of Council Bluffs, IA, near the famous Loess Hills of southwestern Iowa. My father is the last to farm there – of a long line of farmers dating back to the 1880s. I went to the same high school that my father went to, where I played football, basketball, clarinet in band, sang in choir, and performed in show choir. Of course, being from Iowa, I wrestled as a young lad.

## How did you get interested in music as a profession?

My mother was an All-State clarinet player. My father was an All-State singer. They both encouraged me – when I showed an

interest in playing an instrument or in joining the tenor section of their community choir. But it was truly at Lutheran Summer Music Camp, a month-long academy held at Luther College, where I felt I was being guided towards a profession in music. I learned about the connection between music and faith, that I belonged, and that if I worked hard and practiced I could be successful.

## Tell us about your family life.

I live in the Minnetonka/Chanhassen area, just off of Highway 62, with my wife Liz and our two children, Anna (14) and Jacob (10). We have a Golden Retriever puppy and two angry cats, so it is a miracle when I am not covered in hair. Liz and I met at Lutheran Summer Music Camp and were married at Mt. Calvary Lutheran in Excelsior, MN. When she was done with law school, we moved to Albuquerque and then moved back to Minnesota in 2018. Liz is a family law attorney at Best & Flanagan.

## What is your educational/vocational background?

I hold a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Valparaiso University and a Master of Music degree in Vocal Performance from the University of New Mexico. I began my career as a band and choir director in southwest Iowa. I then went to graduate school in Albuquerque, NM, and served as Music Director at





# Worship and Music



Seth, his wife Liz, and their children, Anna and Jacob

St. Paul's Lutheran Church for six years. Most recently, I served as an interim choir director at Normandale Lutheran Church, Minneapolis.

A musician is constantly gigging, so I sang in the Bach Society in Santa Fe, oratorio as a soloist with several orchestras in New Mexico, and spent two summers at the Santa Fe Opera. I currently sing in the National Lutheran Choir.

## Why have you chosen to work at Good Shepherd?

I love working in a church setting because I get to share the good news every week. I get to assemble volunteers from all walks of life and encourage them to share their gifts. I was intrigued about Good Shepherd because I had been singing one of Ralph Johnson's pieces, "Thee We Adore," for years in Albuquerque. I concluded that Good Shepherd enjoyed the same music I did.

## What else do you want us to know about you?

I love a variety of things and dabble in a variety of interests other than music – movies, history, cooking, and roasting my own coffee, to name a few.



Seth directs the Good Shepherd Choir and the Alleluia Choir.

In summary, Seth says: "I am so grateful to be here because of the wonderful and dedicated people. I am so excited to be sharing music in worship with you!" He learned early in his career – at Lutheran Summer Music Camp – that at its heart, music is about collaboration, not competition.

May God continue to guide Seth as he leads us in musical collaboration and praising God in the days ahead!







10

# QUESTIONS WITH NEW MEMBERS

BY CONNIE FUKUDA-CLARK

*Note: All of the new members, with the exception of Adele English, were former members of Zion Lutheran Church in Uptown Minneapolis. After 95 years, the church closed in Fall 2022.*

## 1 HOW DID YOU DECIDE TO JOIN GOOD SHEPHERD?

A decision was forced upon us when Zion Lutheran in South Minneapolis closed its doors after nearly 130 years of ministry at 33rd and Pillsbury Avenue. Though we were grieving, we acted on our Bishop's advice not to delay affiliating with another congregation. We are glad our choice was Good Shepherd.

*Lyndy and Diane West*



Diane and Lindy West

## 2 WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT BEING MEMBERS AT THE CHURCH?

Worship, singing in the choir and seeing our kids, spouses and grandkids.

*Lyndy and Diane West*

## 3 WAS GOOD SHEPHERD'S PROXIMITY TO YOUR HOUSE A FACTOR IN CHOOSING THE CHURCH?

I only live four blocks from the church, but I also went to the Lutheran Church-Shepherd of the Hills in Shoreview. Good Shepherd feels so much like theirs.

*Adele English*



Adele English

## 4 DO YOU ENJOY BEING IN THE GIFT OF YEARS GROUP?

I very much enjoy The Gift of Years Group. I like the books we have read and the good discussions, but most of all the wonderful women of the church I am meeting.

*Adele English*







Stan and Carolyn Due

### 5 WHAT MAKES GOOD SHEPHERD UNIQUE?

Good Shepherd is unique to me in that it is a larger church with multiple pastors, a new and modern building, a thriving choir and multiple activities yet it has the warmth and welcoming of a small close-knit church.

*Stan Due*

### 6 HOW DOES GOOD SHEPHERD COMPARE TO ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH?

“In that warmth and welcoming, it is very much like Zion Lutheran. I already feel included whenever I attend services and have enjoyed the relationships I’ve formed at the Monday morning Men’s Group. These are the kinds of things I enjoyed at Zion in the past and will continue to enjoy at Good Shepherd in the future.

*Stan Due*

### 7 HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT GOOD SHEPHERD (E.G., FRIEND, NEIGHBOR)?

I first heard of Good Shepherd years ago when my sister and her family were members there. I mostly attend services online and find the streaming to be very well done. It’s been difficult to go through the closing of our beloved Zion Lutheran Church, but Good Shepherd has certainly welcomed us with open arms!

*Carolyn Due*

### 8 WHAT ACTIVITIES AT THE CHURCH WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN PURSUING?

More recently, Diane and Lyndy West attended both Zion and Good Shepherd. I’d often hear tidbits about Good Shepherd activities. I’m interested in the Book Club and have started reading the first book.

*Carolyn Due*

### 9 HAVE YOU EXPLORED WAYS TO VOLUNTEER AT THE CHURCH?

I attended a men’s conversation and coffee group on a Monday morning. I also helped at a spring clean-up day. I was very over committed at Zion, so I’m taking it slowly at Good Shepherd before committing for a while.

*Carl Hendrickson*

### 10 DID YOU RESEARCH OTHER CHURCHES BEFORE DECIDING TO JOIN GOOD SHEPHERD?

We did not research other churches to any great depth. I watched a worship service on Good Shepherd’s website. We also talked with other former Zion members about congregations they had visited. We came to Good Shepherd at a friend’s invitation, where we met acquaintances on our first visit. Other people we met were very welcoming, and we felt comfortable instantly.

*Sharon Hendrickson*



Carl and Sharon Hendrickson

Now the Church is not wood and stone, but the company of believing people; one must hold to them, and see how they believe, live, and teach.

MARTIN LUTHER

# New Website Provides New View

BY MARA HALVORSON, MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

As the seasons change and fall approaches, there is excitement brewing here at Good Shepherd. During the summer, we have been working hard to launch a revamped and updated website that truly reflects the vibrant spirit of our community. With this redesign, we are embracing a new view, a more modern look, and an incorporation of our church's colors – all aimed at providing an enhanced online experience for our congregation and visitors alike.



## Embracing Change: A fresh look for a renewed purpose

Change is often met with mixed emotions, but in this case, we believe it's an opportunity to better serve our community. The redesigned website brings forth a breath of fresh air, showcasing a clean, modern aesthetic that captures the essence of Good Shepherd.

## Colors of Our Community: Symbolizing unity and spirit

Drawing inspiration from the vibrant hues of our church's logo, the revamped website embraces a palette that symbolizes unity and the spirit of our congregation. Infusing our identity into the design, these colors serve as a visual representation of our shared values and beliefs.



**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP →**  
**Sunday mornings at**  
**10 a.m. in-person or**  
**online!**

**JOIN US LIVE →**

## A Window into Our World: Photos and videos of our community

What better way to showcase the vibrant life we have than through visuals that capture our moments of togetherness, celebration, and service? The new website features an array of photos and videos, offering a glimpse into the experiences and memories shared by our congregation. From heartwarming smiles to moments of worship, these visuals reflect the true essence of who we are as a church family. *A thank you to Jeff Burrows and Colton Davenport who offered their skills in drone footage, videography, and photography.*

## Welcoming All: Embracing newcomers with open arms

Our website's redesign focuses on extending a heartfelt welcome to first-time visitors and newcomers. With an inviting and user-friendly interface, we aim to provide a positive and inclusive experience that reflects the warmth and acceptance of our community. Through engaging content and testimonials, we strive to convey our church's impact, encouraging all to join our journey of faith, love, and service.

## Updated and Refreshed: A hub of information

Although the website may look different, all the essential information you need remains intact. We meticulously updated and refreshed the content to ensure everything you seek is easily accessible. From worship themes and ministry details, to small groups and resources, the website continues to be the central hub of information.





Drone pilot extraordinaire, Jeff Burrows took video of the exterior of the building for the new website. This video will change with the seasons.

### Giving Made Simple: A new page for donations

In our commitment to continuous improvement, you'll notice the giving page has been updated as well. (*Giving will still be through Vanco and your current login will remain the same.*) With this page seamlessly integrated into our website, you no longer have to leave the comfort of our virtual home to support the community you love.

### A World of Creativity: Embracing the possibilities

This refresh has opened up exciting new possibilities for our website. We can now express our creativity more freely, allowing us to promote who we are and what we do here in innovative and captivating ways. The possibilities are endless, and we are eager to explore this new frontier of online presence.

As Rally Sunday approaches, we eagerly anticipate unveiling our updated website to the world. This digital transformation is not just about aesthetics. It represents our commitment to growing together, embracing change, and reaching out to the broader community. Our online home will now be an even better reflection of our warm, welcoming, and loving church family.



### Uniting Our Worship Community: Worshipping online

For those of you who worship with us online, you may notice on the new website, the livestream has moved to its own “Worship” page! Still easily accessible from the homepage, this now allows us to tie all of our worship information together (*livestream, bulletin, worship theme, etc.*). The livestream serves as a testament to our commitment to staying connected and fostering a sense of togetherness – no matter how short or far the distance – as we continue to worship, grow, and thrive together.

Colton Davenport and Mara Halvorson took lots of photos during worship and other events at Good Shepherd. This photo is by Colton Davenport.



# Women of Good Shepherd Renew Faith Through Community and Conversation

BY PASTOR DEB BERGSTRAND

“What is your recipe for hope?” was an important question the women of Good Shepherd were asked when they attended the “Renew” conference at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Eden Prairie. Twenty-six women from Good Shepherd participated in the event in April. It was a time to reflect on hope, loss, faith and courage, as a foundation for renewal in our lives.

The “Renew” speakers were excellent. For many, however, the most valuable part of the experience was the conversation and sharing that occurred among one another. “I thought the speakers were fine, but what I really liked was talking to the other women,” said one participant. “It’s so helpful to share common experiences – especially about hard things,” said another. “I’m just glad we can get together and support one another,” offered a third.

The desire to continue to connect in community and conversation was expressed. As a result, another event, Pizza and Podcasts, was born. In June, we shared pizza and listened to the words of Kate Bowler. In July, we heard a talk from Jacqueline Bussie. On Aug. 23, we gather once more for time together and listen to a



talk about the topic “Empathy.” Conversation and community are at the heart of these gatherings.

I believe whenever we gather to encourage one another to learn and grow in our faith, God is present. When we are supported by our friends in Christ, we are strengthened in God’s promises to love others more deeply in the world. May the women of Good Shepherd continue to strengthen one another in hope and love!

If you want to know more about the Women of Good Shepherd, please connect with Pastor Deb Bergstrand or Tara Halvorson. Thank you to the Good Shepherd Foundation for a generous grant to help make these events possible.

## Retreat This Fall

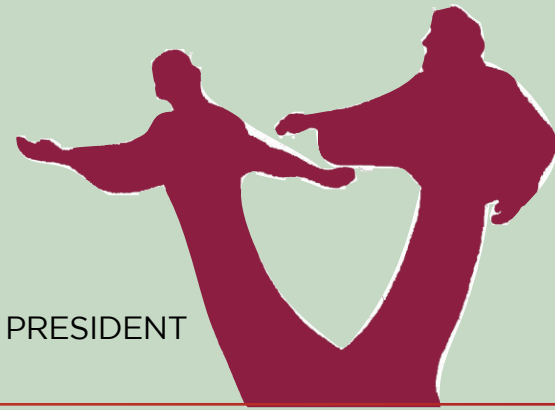
This fall, we will gather for an all-day women’s retreat on Saturday, Nov. 4, with the theme, “Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil.” Our guest speaker will be author and professor Dr. Jacqueline Bussie. Please mark your calendars to participate in this fun event that will include music, art, yoga, food, prayer, worship, conversation, and more. It will be a day to find hope, share our faith, and get to know one another better.





# Foundation Approves Five Grant Requests

BY NANCY RYSTROM, GOOD SHEPHERD FOUNDATION BOARD PRESIDENT



The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd Foundation Board has approved five 2023 grants totaling \$45,500.

## Good Shepherd Anniversary Gift

The Foundation Board approved a \$30,000 grant at the end of 2022 for Good Shepherd mortgage principal reduction. This grant celebrated the 100th anniversary of Good Shepherd and was paid in early 2023. We look forward to Good Shepherd's future ministry and its next 100 years.



## Tapestry Ministry

The Foundation Board approved a \$5,000 grant for Tapestry to be used for new activities to support faith formation for youth and families. Tapestry is a vibrant and growing bilingual ministry of the Minneapolis Area Synod. The congregation primarily serves Latino/Hispanic families from Richfield, Bloomington, and South Minneapolis. In her thank you to the Foundation, Pastor Melissa Melnick Gonzalez said: "We are growing in numbers and in our faith and discipleship and you are a part of this!"



## Women of Good Shepherd Ministry

The Foundation Board approved a \$2,000 grant for the Women of Good Shepherd to be used as seed money for renewing that ministry, including use as approved by pastoral staff to support those who needed assistance to attend the Renew



2023 Conference in April. The Board is excited to support the reconnections and growth in the Women of Good Shepherd ministry.

## Good Shepherd Bell Refurbishment

The Foundation Board approved a \$5,500 grant to refurbish the Good Shepherd bells used by the Bell Choir. The bells were last refurbished ten years ago. Periodic refurbishment is necessary to support the integrity of the bells, both musically and visually. We will see and hear the refurbished bells this fall.



## Good Shepherd Anti-Racism Group

The Foundation Board approved a \$3,000 grant for speaking fees and travel expenses associated with Rev. Kenneth Wheeler's presentation at Good Shepherd on Oct. 25, with any balance of the grant used to support activities led by Good Shepherd's Anti-Racism Group. Rev. Wheeler is a retired ELCA pastor and author of *US: The Resurrection of American Terror*. He has experienced firsthand the terror and pain of being black in America. Most of his writings and lectures focus on race, faith, and social justice.



Rev. Kenneth Wheeler

## Thank You for Your Support!

Members of Good Shepherd are also members of the Foundation. Thank you for your contributions! The Foundation is grateful for memorial, celebration, and legacy gifts that enable the Foundation to continue its support for the congregation and its outreach.

# Put Kenneth Wheeler on Your Calendar

By PASTOR JEFF BARROW

Along with the Anti-Racism Team, I am excited to welcome Pastor Ken Wheeler to Good Shepherd on Oct. 25.

I had the privilege of serving alongside Pastor Wheeler in the Greater Milwaukee Synod. In fact, when in 2011 I was elected to be the bishop in Greater Milwaukee, it was Pastor Wheeler who I asked to preach at my installation. He has been a trusted colleague for many as well as a strong voice for justice throughout the ELCA.

Pastor Wheeler has written a book called *US . . . the Resurrection of American Terror*. It is a reflection of his growing up in Jackson, MS, during the era of Jim Crow laws as well as his experience of being a black pastor and a life-long Lutheran in a predominantly white church body. He suggests that Good Shepherd people read his book before he comes to speak with us. It is available on Amazon.

The title of the book may sound quite daunting, and Pastor Wheeler has some strong words for the church which he has served faithfully for more than 40 years. What gives him great credibility is his own willingness to be vulnerable and the loving pastoral heart with which he speaks.

Pastor Wheeler has had a marvelous reputation – not only as a great preacher, but also as compassionate soul able to build bridges. For a time, he served on the Greater Milwaukee Synod staff under Bishop Peter Rogness. During that time, he served in some interim settings helping congregations in transition get to the next good place. Pastor Wheeler's last stop before retirement was as a senior pastor in the heart of the city of Milwaukee, a strong, predominantly black congregation that served not only its parishioners but also had a tremendous outreach in the neighborhood.

Pastor Wheeler's book has been very well received around the country and has challenged the church to look inside itself at the racism that not only surrounds us but is part of the fabric of our institution.

For me, the book had another impact. It allowed me to see more clearly the heart, the humanity, the deep faith of someone I already claimed as a dear friend.

I hope you will join the Anti-Racism Team in welcoming Pastor Wheeler to Good Shepherd. It promises to be a powerful and enlightening time together.



“

**There are some things if you are white in America that you will never have to think about, worry about, or have fears about. This is the power and privilege of white supremacy.”**

**REV. KENNETH W. WHEELER**





# Worship at Lake Harriet Bandshell

SUNDAY, AUG. 13, 2023





# Good Shepherd Plans Trip to Companion Congregation, Nuestro Salvador, This Fall

BY KAREN WALHOF, DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH

In October 2023, members of Good Shepherd will be traveling to Montivideo, Uruguay, to meet with members of our companion congregation there, Nuestro Salvador.

While at Nuestro Salvador, the Good Shepherd travelers will learn more about that congregation's ministries, meet its members as well as venturing out to the ministries with which Nuestro Salvador is aligned.

Pastor Octavio Burgoa writes that Nuestro Salvador is eager to welcome visitors from Good Shepherd and share their experiences.

Nuestro Salvador's relationship with Good Shepherd began in 2006, when an ad hoc committee of the Momentum for Mission program explored ministries in Latin America that might provide an opportunity with which Good Shepherd might partner. That committee picked Nuestro Salvador. The hope was that this arrangement would allow more congregation members to



participate in a mission trip to one of our global partners and would be less expensive and time-consuming than trips to Ethiopia.

During the first two years, visitors from Good Shepherd spent time at Nuestro Salvador. A couple years later, several Nuestro Salvador members came to Minneapolis to visit our congregation. Then, a couple years later, serving in Young Adults in Global Mission,

Dave Matyi was assigned to Nuestro Salvador by the ELCA for a year's work. He helped renew our relationship with them. Then five years ago, a half dozen people traveled there again to reconnect.

The trip will be a time of face-to-face conversation and relationship building, especially as our Good Shepherd brothers and sisters learn more about Nuestro Salvador's ministries, get to know individuals there, and solidify the relationship that has been built up through earlier visits.



The congregation of Nuestro Salvador, gathered to celebrate their 70th anniversary.



# Good Shepherd Publishes Book on Our Relationship with the Church in Ethiopia

BY KAREN WALHOF, DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH

Sitting with some Ethiopian friends this spring, talking about Good Shepherd's now-18-year relationship with the church in Ethiopia, one said, "You should write this down."

Recognizing that those who started this process are aging, that we are moving into a second generation of leadership, and that it is a unique relationship between a single congregation and a variety of ministries within the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, it seemed like a good idea. We would document what we have done and what developed as we worked and learned together.

And so it was. Since I was involved in this ministry from the beginning and had time, I resurrected the journals I kept for each journey to Ethiopia along with numerous documents related to specific ministries – Aira Hospital, Onesimus Nesib Seminary, the REAL girls, the Victimized Orphan Children Program, and several other forays in ministry – and set about to document what had happened, what we had done, what God has done. Pastor Karl Jacobson has written a foreword. Others involved in these ministries have provided evaluation and suggestions. Laura Stein is the editor.

Good Shepherd began this partnership in 2005 by starting Momentum for Mission, our congregation's decision to seek a global ministry partner. Through careful conversation,



Participants in the Victimized Orphan Children Program in Nekemte, the ministry that first brought us to God's people in Ethiopia

we determined that the ministry should focus on health and education, youth and children. It should involve all ages in our congregation, have both financial and hands-on components, with a three-year time frame. That's where we began.

The relationship which has developed has blessed Good

Shepherd beyond our initial dreaming of what it might bring to us or what we might contribute. We now are part of the global church – varied, unique, striving, struggling, blundering, gospel-focused, joyful, renewing, wondering, wonderful! In 2005, we definitely set out on a course of action with careful preparation and the best intentions.

It was a good start. But you will see that, on this journey together, at times God got in the way and moved us in other directions, and our relationships evolved beyond what we ever had anticipated. We have been blessed beyond description. And we are currently 18 years into it, with no plan to turn back.

This book documents what has happened in this relationship between Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd and the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus. Much of that story is rich and beautiful; some parts are difficult and uncertain. But know, it is an honest telling of how God's people have found their way together.

Copies of the book, published by Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, will be sent to key people and offices in Ethiopia (both in Addis Ababa and in Aira) and in the ELCA, as documentation of what has transpired as well as inspiration for future partnerships.

Additional copies will be kept at Good Shepherd – in pastoral offices, the outreach office, and the Heritage Room. Finally, copies will be available for sale at \$10 each at Good Shepherd for a limited time. On Sunday, Sept. 24, copies will be for sale in the narthex. After that date, go to the office (on weekdays) and the Welcome Center (on Sundays) to purchase a copy. Checks should be made out to Good Shepherd. The Giving Kiosk in the narthex may be used to purchase copies by credit card. All income from sales will go into the Outreach Ethiopia benevolence budget.



# We Will Celebrate Jubilee with Aira in 2025

BY KAREN WALHOF, DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH

President Melkamu from the BirbirDilla Synod in Aira, Ethiopia, has written to us:

Many greetings from EECMY [Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus] BirbirDilla Synod to you and your family in the holy name of our Savior Lord Jesus Christ. We are all fine in God's ministry. The congregations are still growing in spite of different problems you may know.

If it is the will of God, Birbir Dilla Synod is planning to celebrate jubilee in March 2025. Our plan is to celebrate 90 years for Aira Hospital and Lalo Aira School, 70 and 50 years for our clinics, and the 25th year for our Synod.

In the Bible, Jubilee years were special times of celebration – usually every 50 years. And what a celebration it will be! Good Shepherd has been involved in ministries in the BirbirDilla Synod for 18 years now. The Aira Hospital and its clinics have been at the center of our support and partnership there.

The Aira Hospital was founded by German missionaries. It is a treasured resource for residents in the West and was, for many years, the only full-service hospital between Khartoum and Addis Ababa. New government-run hospitals have been built in the last 15 years, but Aira Hospital remains a highly-respected source of health care

for thousands in western Ethiopia.

In 2010, Good Shepherd was instrumental in shipping a 40-foot sea container full of hospital equipment (including two operating room suites and dozens of hospital beds) from local non-profit Global Health Ministries to Aira Hospital. It has revolutionized the care possible at the hospital. In addition, several regional clinics are associated with the hospital, offering

increasing care on a more local basis, especially obstetric care. This has been assisted by equipment supplied by Global Health Ministries and financed in great part through Good Shepherd. Aira Hospital is the only hospital owned by the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus.

Our relationship with the Birbir Dilla Synod has only deepened in the last few years, since our last visit in 2019, and we look to them for continuing information on the congregations there and the violence that afflicts their lives.

The Lalo Aira Secondary School is a wonderful church-owned school in Aira, and there is a large alumni association in the Minneapolis area.

With the current political situation in Ethiopia, because of conflict in the west, it would not be possible for Good Shepherd members to join them in Aira. But March 2025 seems a long time away, with plenty of time for peacemaking, so we pray for that! Whatever the situation, we will find ways to celebrate with them, salute the ministries they continue in Christ's name, and rejoice at God's faithfulness through these institutions for the last many years.

If you would like to provide leadership in planning this jubilee, please contact Karen Walhof.





## SCRIPTURE STORY

# Do Not Worry – Matthew 6:25-34

BY PASTOR JEFF BARROW

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the gentiles who seek all these things, and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today (Matthew 6:25-34).



I read these words at the funeral of my own dear mother. She was a beautiful human being, but also a Norwegian woman who seemed to worry about everything.

She worried not so much about what she would eat, but rather about what she would feed to others. Mom was actually a good cook, although that was never her passion. After all, she married into a family where practically every meal was a banquet. So in her own mind, she was forever falling short of expectations.

She also worried about what she would wear, which was totally unnecessary. People always remarked about how pretty she was, how beautifully she dressed. But, of course, not every pretty woman feels pretty all the time. Mom struggled with depression for much of her life.

Her superficial worries were what to eat and what to wear. I think she had an empathy for the hurts of others. As a teacher, it was often the kids who struggled, who didn’t seem to fit in, who kept her up at night. I know she worried about starving children in this world.

At the same time, my mother had a great God – a God who always seemed to be there in the best of times and in the worst of times. Thus for her children and for others, she was often the voice of faith, who provided words of assurance and hope in a sometimes puzzling world.

Faith for Mom was never a rubber stamp of what she had been taught to believe. In fact, like the Psalmist, she was not afraid to go toe-to-toe with the Almighty.

As Mom aged, I think God prevailed. I think she began to see more clearly life as the gift that it truly was. While she never stopped wrestling with God, I think she found some great sense of peace and let the day’s own troubles be sufficient for the day.



# The Transformation Project

## An Evolving Story of Community, Faith, and 100 Pounds of Clay

BY BRITA TARACKS

**What happens when you combine some artists,  
100 pounds of raw clay, along with a text?**

**“We are what he has made us, created in Christ  
Jesus for good works, which God prepared  
beforehand to be our way of life.”**

In the winter months of 2020, Good Shepherd artists Linda Kerker, Brita Taracks, and Mary Zeleny were thinking about 100 pounds of clay and how they could turn it into the community-based, liturgical art project for Lent. As always, they kept these three objectives in mind:

- Begin with the text, the focus of worship for the season.
- Involve the community: Everyone can take part regardless of abilities or talent.
- Upcycle materials: Use inexpensive, upcycleable, unconventional materials.

The artists saw an underlying symbolism in the clay. Working with this soft, malleable earth seemed an apt reminder of the Lenten theme, “We are but dust and to dust we shall return.” We envisioned transforming the 100 pounds of clay into what we called “Circlets of Hope,” messages of God’s redeeming love, which would eventually be used to create a large celebratory piece of Easter art. Following the Easter season, the art would be disassembled and made into individual messages of hope to spread to others.

First, invitations went out to members of Good Shepherd to join us Wednesday night during Lent to shape the clay and make Circlets of Hope. The Good Shepherd community gathered the first two Wednesday nights in Lent to transform this raw clay.

People of all ages worked shoulder-to-shoulder, pressing and pinching the clay into Nordic Ware cookie stamps with various designs – a bee, a flower, snowflakes, geometrics. Each disc of clay bore the unique fingerprints of the person who made it. No two were alike. We created over 600 of them! Then, the discs of raw clay were dried, kiln-fired, dipped in beeswax and buffed. The plan was to nestle them into the glowing, hot coals of the Easter vigil campfire where heat and smoke would add yet another layer of something unique and beautiful. Then they would be used to make a giant celebratory piece of art for Easter morning.

But, after only two clay sessions, COVID-19 came and we were on lockdown. No more gatherings at church. What would we do? How long would this last? No one knew. It was hard to imagine what was ahead. We were even more grateful for those first few production evenings at church. Creating these art projects is always a shared experience of faith. Something special always happens when we come together; group energy always transforms the art being made. The Holy Spirit consistently shows up in the process, leading us somewhere we hadn’t planned to go and creating the results we had yet to imagine.

We persevered! The last few weeks of Lent we met outside, gathered around Mary’s campfire – social distancing of course – to finish smoke firing the circlets and redesign the plan for the art. This was an important time for us, being able to share our own fears and support each other through lockdown.

The cancellation of the Easter vigil campfire required us to change plans. Instead, our small group (standing six feet apart, of course) gathered around Mary’s home campfire for three nights. Circlets in the fire, we shared our thoughts and stories about how COVID-19 was affecting our lives. While dodging smoke and flying sparks, it became real to us that these circlets had specific purpose, more necessary now than ever. How could they bear God’s message of hope in these times, especially with social distancing and the shelter-at-home mandate?

There would be no gatherings for Holy Week or Easter Sunday. It obviously didn’t make sense for them to become art for the sanctuary. Change of plan: the circlets could go out to members with Easter’s message of hope instead. Our first idea was to deliver these Easter messages to each member household, but that proved to be too much of a logistical nightmare!

Our second idea was to distribute them at the Easter Sunday drive-through. Members were invited to come to the church parking lot Easter morning. We greeted each car and handed each a Circlet of Hope. They would be tangible signs of our togetherness while we had to be apart. The tag read:

**CHRIST IS RISEN!!** Because Christ is risen, we have hope and celebrate even in the midst of COVID-19 uncertainty and despair. Easter’s message of HOPE is real!





This Circlet of Hope is your connection with the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, a community that celebrates the mystery and profound joy of Easter. It is also a piece of an evolving art project, something that began as a lump of clay that is becoming a message of God's love.

Weeks later, after George Floyd was killed, we took circlets to 38th and Chicago to witness that sad scene. We talked to a lot of people, but mostly listened and handed out circlets of hope with the Easter message. We shared the Easter message with people beyond our Good Shepherd community. The circlets even have a Facebook page so anyone could find out about the project.

Months later, that fall, we were making plans to reopen and have church services again. How could we once again redesign this art project? Our plan was to make a large tree-like form – 13 feet high, out of rebar. The shape of the tree resembled a Linden tree, which is heart-shaped. We positioned it in the main parking lot entry. As people returned to church, they were asked to bring their Circlets of Hope and hang them on the tree. Filling the tree with circlets became a visual sign of our togetherness to celebrate the return.

The Holy Spirit plays an active role in these art projects, inspiring and directing creative ideas from beginning through the finished product. As COVID-19 required us to be creative with our lives and challenged us to be open to reinventing this community art project, we trusted the Holy Spirit to inspire each idea and the

next iteration. Circlets of Hope project became a living example of community, faith, and togetherness.

Circlets of Hope manifest the relationship of religion and faith. We talk about how the church “shapes” who we are. Like these cookie stamps, our religion is a “common stamp,” a language of faith, tradition, history, rites, and ideas shared by a community. The way each of us is “pushed and formed” by this religious stamp is, however, unique. This other side of the clay stamp bearing our unique fingerprints demonstrates that faith is personal and individual, living deep in our souls in private, wordless places where each of us knows God. On one side we appear somewhat standardized, pushed and molded into form by church, family, friends, and community. But on the other side, we’re marked by unique fingerprints, bearing witness to our individual and messy, bumpy, inconsistent journeys of faith.

For by grace you have been saved through faith,  
And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

Because Christ is risen, we have hope and celebrate even in the midst of COVID-19's uncertainty and despair. Easter's message of hope is real! This Circlet of Hope is your connection with Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd – a community that celebrates the mystery and profound joy of Easter. It is also a piece of an evolving art project, something that began as a lump of clay that is being transformed into Easter's message of hope.

4801 France Avenue South  
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Kiaja and Marlin Klabo  
deliver Meals on Wheels  
to our homebound  
neighbors.