



The Shepherd's Voice

Serving Rockland County, NY, & Northern Bergen County, NJ

SEPTEMBER 2015

Reaching and Risking to Welcome the World in the Word that has come among us in Jesus Christ.

HOT DOG SUNDAY is September 13th

Following the 10:30 a.m. service, join us in Fellowship Hall for our annual lunch of hot dogs, with all the fixings. It's a great opportunity to reconnect after the summer with those members we know, as well as to meet new people.



FALL WORSHIP RESUMES

Starting September 13th, we will have three services each Sunday at: 8:15, 9:30 & 10:30 a.m., with Sunday Church School at the 10:30 hour.

FROM THE PASTOR

We'll be right with you.....The news is getting around that Kathleen Harpster is leaving us after three and a half years of service. When I began as your Interim Pastor last September, we had a full-time Youth and Family Director and a full time Program Director, in addition to highly experienced secretaries. Now it's down to me and the secretaries, so give us a minute.

I can assure you that the same high quality work will be produced,; there will just be a little less of it coming from staff. The gaps will have to be filled the old-fashioned way: by volunteers. And in the meantime, we might have to wait a little longer or even leave some things undone for awhile. Of course, Brenda remains, working with me to plan and lead inspiring worship. Our great music program will continue unabated.

But I can tell you that I have complete confidence in our future, not because we are extraordinary (which we are) but because God is faithful. It is the Holy Spirit who inspired a group of immigrants to start this congregation in the summer of 1901. That same Spirit guides and sustains us now.

As we prepare to start the Fall season, I am excited about Confirmation, Bible Study, Theology Pub, and the fun milestones like Hot Dog Sunday and Oktoberfest. I am confident that God will continue to bless us and we will continue to thrive. You can help by being patient and by coming forward to help out.

To borrow a phrase from President Kennedy: *Ask not what your Church can do for you, ask what you can do for your Church.*

Henry Morris, Interim Pastor

SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL RESUMES

Sunday School is just around the corner! The first day of classes will be Sunday, September 13th, at 10:30am. Please bring all children from PK-5th grade to Fellowship Hall at 10:15 for final registration.

Parents of Pre-K 3 - 4-year-olds through 5th grade will be receiving registration forms in the mail,. For those who are new to Good Shepherd, there will be forms available on the day of registration, in the church office or a form can be downloaded at www.gspr.org. We look forward to seeing you all in September!



SAVE THESE DATES...

BIBLE STUDY resumes Wednesday, Oct. 7th, at 7:30 p.m., in Pastor's Office.

THEOLOGY PUB (21+) resumes Tuesday, October 6th at the Nanuet Hotel. All men and women over 21 years of age are welcome to participate.



The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

112 North Main Street
Pearl River, New York 10965

OUR MISSION

**“Welcoming the World in the
Word that has come among us
in Jesus Christ”**

WORSHIP

Sundays: 8:15, 9:30, & 10:30 a.m.

CONTACT US

Church Office: (845)735-2243

Fax: (845)735-0819

E-mail: office@gspr.org

Web site: www.gspr.org

Creative Play Pre-School: (845)735-2737

AT YOUR SERVICE

The Reverend Henry Morris, Interim Pastor
Richard Struck - Council President
Robert Bergman - Treasurer
Maureen Connolly - Creative Play Director
Dale Damon - Church Secretary
Steve Damon - Bookkeeper
Brenda Ferguson - Organist/Director of Music
Dagmar Klein - Church Administrator
The Reverend John R. Taylor - Pastor Emeritus



LIFE STATIONS

Baptisms

Hugo John Orfini

Date

8/30/15

Deaths

Eileen Feist

Date

7/22/15

To the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Family,
Food for the Poor wishes to thank you for the welcome you extended to Pastor Kadel on our recent visit to your parish. On behalf of our less fortunate brothers and sisters of Latin America and the Caribbean, we thank you for having shared in their lives. They, and you, are blessed by your generosity.

In Christ,
The Food For The Poor Family

**2015 ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE
INTO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY
OCTOBER 11th
office@gspr.org**

Voice Publication Deadline

Items to be included in *The Shepherd's Voice* must be submitted to the church office by **September 11th**, for the October 2015 issue. Electronic submission (e-mail) is preferred. Articles submitted after the deadline may not be published, due to space and time restrictions. Please e-mail articles to: secretary@gspr.org.

GET YOUR COPY OF THE “VOICE” E-MAILED....

It will be exactly the same *Voice* that you've been receiving through the mail, but delivered via e-mail instead. That way you receive your copy faster, and we save on mailing expenses. To sign up for the e-Voice, send an e-mail to secretary@gspr.org, as well as the e-mail address you'd like us to use.

God's Work, Our Hands

On Sunday, September 13th, we have the opportunity to join with several churches to put meals together, fortified macaroni and cheese, which will be donated to the *Center for Food Action* in New Jersey. This is organized by Outreach Inc. and will be held at Christ Lutheran Church, in Woodcliff Lake. Volunteers sign up for a 2 1/2 hour shift (12:30-3:00 or 2:30-5:00) that includes training, refreshments, and work on an assembly line. The age range to participate is from early elementary school into the nineties. Check out the website for more information http://setup17.finalweb.net/site/cpage.asp?sec_id=180000813&cpage_id=180090127, or call Herman or Lone Mensing at 201-664-1235. You can also help by donating: For \$54 you can provide food for 216 people. Advent Lutheran in Wyckoff recently did this and prepared 92,000 meals! Please call Lone or Herman and sign up. We've done it before and it's fun and very fulfilling.

The Good Shepherd Church Council Current Roles

Richard Struck, President
 Sue Baumeister, Vice President
 Kim Arcidiacono, Secretary
 Robert Bergman, Treasurer *
 Rev. Henry Morris, Interim Pastor
 Rob Bayer, Property
 Werner Boecker, Financial Secretary
 Barbara Bow, Worship & Music Chair
 Brian Brooker, Property
 Robert Callan, Youth Representative *
 James Cleary, Youth & Property
 Christine Dingler, Stewardship
 Wendy Gates, Finance
 Trish Habas, Esq., Safe Church & Youth
 Steve Habina, Youth
 Jayne Knarich, Social Ministry Chair
 Janet Maleski, Evangelism Chair
 Carole Meehan, Social Ministry
 Herman Mensing, Stewardship Chair
 Ken Merring, Personnel Chair *

* Indicates Non-Voting

Many Thanks to Kathleen Harpster!

Kathleen Harpster has served as our Good Shepherd Program Director for 3 ½ years. Recently she has decided to step down from this position. Kathleen has ably managed many church programs during her tenure, injecting great life and insight into them and drawing many volunteers to work in spreading God's word. Kathleen has been the ultimate professional in juggling an ever-increasing load of major duties. The church will miss her greatly in this role. Fortunately, Kathleen will remain a member of our Good Shepherd family and will participate as her time permits, just not as a staff member. We are certain that everyone joins us in earnestly thanking Kathleen for her wonderful service. We wish her the very best and we look forward to continuing to have her among us!

The Church Council & Staff

From the Council President – WELCOME BACK!

September marks the beginning of the Good Shepherd fall season. This month we are re-engaging in our full church calendar and the many wonderful worship, fellowship and spiritually enriching programs offered by our church. I earnestly hope that you all had a great summer, with time spent with family and friends, and with the opportunity to relax a bit and reflect upon the blessings we all enjoy. Your Church Council and our devoted church staff have been hard at work preparing for our fall season. I want to use this opportunity to highlight currently important activities at Good Shepherd. This is not a complete list, but a cross section of exciting Christ-centered approaches being planned. There are other articles in this addition of the Voice that will have further details on some of these topics.

Call Committee: Our dedicated Call Committee has been interviewing ordained clergy and listening to sermons from potential Pastoral candidates. They have already spent many hours deliberating about the type of Pastor we need for Good Shepherd and will continue their work until they are ready to recommend a preferred candidate to the Church Council. Once Council is presented with a recommendation, we will meet with that person to continue our due diligence. The final step will be for the Congregation to vote on a candidate. As I have stated many times, all of us in our Congregation have a stake and a say in choosing our next spiritual leader. We look forward to this opportunity in the near future!

Financial Support: Thanks to your faithfulness and attendance at most church services, our members' financial support has been pretty steady throughout the spring and summer months. Staff has held down expenses, as well. Reminders of giving needs have been placed in several of our summer *Cross Connection* bulletins. July figures show that we had 2015 income of \$27,127 vs. \$20,301 for the same 4-Sunday month in 2014. Part of this income was obtained through an increase in electronic giving, with revenue of \$9,600 in July 2015 vs. \$6,501 in July 2014. This demonstrates that congregants have responded positively to e-giving messages on Sundays in recent months. Please continue to financially support your church as we continue through our transition in finding a new Pastor.

Sunday School: Our talented and devoted Sunday School teachers have been working to open our program on Sunday September 13th. Children Pre-K – 4th grade will gather together for their opening worship at 10:30 AM and then go to their individual classrooms. 5th grade students will go directly to their classrooms. Once again, there will be an opportunity for children who enjoy singing to participate in Cherub Choir. We thank our cherished teachers and staff for their long-term commitment to our vital Sunday School program. Parents have already received a mailing about Sunday School and we are all excited to get started!

Youth & Education Board: Under the leadership of Rich Bowman, this dedicated team has worked through the summer to plan youth outings and other interesting approaches to engage our all-important youth participants in spiritual development, building relationships and growing in faith. In the coming weeks, please consult the church calendar at www.gspr.org to view scheduled youth activities!

From the Council President, continued from p. 3

Worship & Music: Our three service schedule resumes on September 13th. With the retirement of John Lampkin as our Composer-in-Residence in May, Pastor Morris, Music Director Brenda Ferguson and others have been interviewing and auditioning candidates for a new position to be called Contemporary Worship Pianist. We have had several quality applicants and will have made a decision by the time you read this issue of the *Voice* in September. We look forward to some new and vibrant additions to our 9:30 Contemporary Service this fall! Our thanks also go to the many volunteers from the Altar Guild and to our ushers, lectors, musicians, worship assistants, greeters, counters and so many more who make our three service opportunities available each week!

Confirmation Classes: Pastor Morris will be leading our 6th, 7th and 8th grade students in Confirmation classes this year. With the able assistance of Rich Bowman and parental volunteers, Pastor is working on the curriculum and approaches designed to make Christ's message alive in the minds and hearts of our young confirmands as they grow in maturity and understanding of their adult role in church life. If your child is eligible for Confirmation classes, please see Pastor Morris or the church office about enrolling.

Capital Campaign Study Group: In July, Council appointed a committee to study the maintenance and physical improvement needs of the church. This group is charged with recommending and prioritizing projects that improve access to church facilities, new spaces for future growth and program development, as well as normal maintenance requirements. They will also recommend to Council as to whether we should initiate a Capital Fund Drive to raise money for these improvements, out side the normal budgeting process. Council will receive their recommendations and make a decision by mid-fall.

So, you can see there is a lot going on at Good Shepherd! We invite you to join us on the many functioning committees working in our church life. Actually, instead of the word 'committee,' I would like to begin using the term 'Ministries', for this is truly what they are. We have many 'Ministries' at Good Shepherd that spread God's word of forgiveness and salvation in so many different ways. Those of you who have given a lot, "A BIG THANK YOU," and those who wish to give more of their time, "WE HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU AT GOOD SHEPHERD". See me, Pastor Morris, Council Members or the church office about your area of interest.

Welcome to Fall; it is good to have you back with us!!

Richard Struck

SUMMER SOLOISTS - THANK YOU!!

Our 9:30 Worship services at Good Shepherd have come alive with beautiful music, thanks to the Volunteer Summer Soloists. You have contributed your talents in separate rehearsals and lessons, and made our Worship ring with beauty and joy.



Carol Brundage, soprano
Barbara Bow, Cantor and alto
Geraldine Goumas, soprano
Robert Callan, Cantor and tenor
Michael Callan, pipe organ
Matthew Lauer, pipe organ
Richard DiFalco, piano
Rob Bayer, Cantor and bass
Kya Tricarico, soprano and clarinet
Brielle Nostro, soprano
Connie Kopperman, soprano
Merold Westphal, tenor
Bob Klein, Cantor and tenor
Bridget Klein, flute
William Klein, double bass
Rick Struck, Cantor and bass
Jeanne Struck, alto



Good Shepherd is fortunate to have a varied and excellent sacred concert series

FREE to everyone....a gift to this church and community.

Please join us in the serene beauty of our sanctuary, and mark *** your calendars early!

MUSIC @ NOON 2015 Sacred Music Concert Series

September 27 Noon	Sacred Songs and Arias - Part II Robert Callan, tenor
October 17 7:00 pm	Heavy Metal - Tuba Quartet Oktoberfest - Larry Zaidan
November 22 Noon	Christ the King Concert Renaissance Camerata & Canzona Youth Orchestra

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

December 2, 9, 16 12:30 pm	Advent Candlelight Organ Meditations
December 13 Noon	Christmas Cantata Sanctuary Choir and Friends
December 20 Noon	Traveler's Christmas Pageant Michelle Zaro, director
December 24	Christmas Eve Concerts:
4:30 pm	Christmas Pageant & Organ School
7:30 pm	Renaissance Camerata & Canzona Youth Orchestra
9:30 pm	Evening Bells Christmas Eve



So hard to believe that summer is almost over and the fall schedule at Good Shepherd is about to begin.

The first meeting of WELCA is on Tuesday, September 8th at 1:30 PM in the parlor. Our program will be our annual Grab Bag auction. Please bring a new wrapped item to be auctioned off. This is our fund raiser and they are always lots of fun.

Ladies, if you are a member of Good Shepherd, you are a WELCA member. There are no dues, but we do have a "free will" offering. We meet the 1st Tuesday of every month. After a short business meeting, we have a program and enjoy great refreshments and fellowship. Our goal is to increase our membership and to participate in outreach programs here at church, in our county, and beyond. We are all needed to make our goals successful. So, please join us. If you have any questions or need a ride, call Barbara Bow at 845-215-5866 or Mary Iseman at 845-623-7638 and arrangements will be made. With prayers and God's help, we look forward to a good year.

Blessings to all and thank you.

Thank You!

Dear Members and Friends of Good Shepherd,

Many of you know that back in May, I had surgery on my right (dominant) hand. Unfortunately, there have been complications and my hand is not healing as I had anticipated. After much consideration and prayer, I have resigned from my position as Program Director effective August 21, 2015. My hope is that time away from work will allow my hand to recover.

I want to thank all the wonderful people here at Good Shepherd. It has been an honor to serve you. I look forward to worshipping with you after a brief time away.

In Christ's name,

Kathleen Harpster

CONFIRMATION NEWS

Those being Confirmed on October 25

Prior to being confirmed, candidates must complete their Faith Statements and Witness Projects. Here are a few important dates to put on your calendars:

Friday, September 18 to Sunday, September 20 – Camp MaHeTu Confirmation Retreat, 9th Grade Confirmation Class Members are encouraged to be Junior Chaperones

Thursday, September 24 – 7 to 8:30 p.m. – Fellowship Hall - Project and Faith Statement

Sunday, October 4 – Faith Statements must be submitted to Pastor Morris by this date

Wednesday, October 14 – 7 to 8 p.m. – Fellowship Hall - Confirmation Class “Witness Night” presentation to the Church Council (Set-up from 6 to 7 p.m.)

Thursday, October 22 – 6:30 to 7 p.m. – Sanctuary - Rehearsal & Robe Fitting

Sunday, October 25 – 10:30 a.m. – Sanctuary – Confirmation (Meet at 10 a.m. to robe)

For more information, please contact the Church Office at (845) 735-2243.

Christian Education

Incoming 6th through 8th Grade Confirmation Class

Confirmation Class begins on **Thursday, September 10**, from 7 to 8:15 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for all confirmation class students grades 6th through 8th and their parents. To accommodate “Back to School” nights, we’ll also offer an identical class on **Thursday, September 17**, from 7 to 8:15. Students and their parents must attend one of these sessions.

After September, each grade will meet once a month on a Thursday evening. In addition, several times throughout the school year, we will be asking parents and confirmation class students to join together in a family gathering to discuss our confirmation journey.

Confirmation students are strongly encouraged to attend the MaHeTu confirmation retreat from September 18 to 20. See the MaHeTu article elsewhere in this newsletter. For more information, contact the Church Office at (845) 735-2243.

MaHeTu Confirmation Retreat – Fri., Sept. 18 at 5:30 pm to Sun., Sept. 20 at Noon.

As part of our Confirmation program, all 6th-8th graders for the 2015-2016 school year will kick off Confirmation with this awesome retreat experience. Registration costs of \$50 for participants and \$25 for our High School Jr. Chaperones (9th-12th graders). **Registration is due no later than September 13.** There will be time for learning, but more importantly, it will be a time for students to get to know each other and to have lots of fun! **Activities include swimming, games, fishing, skits, and a camp fire on Saturday night.** Contact Rich Bowman for details about participating and/or volunteering at: rbbp@yahoo.com or (845) 627-6967, or contact the church office at (845) 735-2243. Registration forms are also available on the youth bulletin board on the second floor of the church’s

Join the Youth & Adult Education Ministry Team

Looking for a place to put your talents to work to help Good Shepherd’s ministry? The Youth & Adult Education ministry team is looking for team members to assist with planning and organizing the various youth, children, and adult education ministries of Good Shepherd. Use your hands to do God’s work. Even if you’re only available once in a while, we would appreciate your help. Our children are the church’s future. You can make a difference by becoming involved! Our next meeting will be **Monday, September 21, at 7 p.m.** Come and ask questions and be a part of these important ministries. For more information, contact Rich Bowman at (845) 627-6967, by email at rbbp@yahoo.com, or call the church office at (845) 735-2243.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REHEARSALS

Attention all SCS students: Its time for the Annual Good Shepherd Christmas Pageant !

All students Pre-K - 5th grade are welcome to come out and join us. Rehearsals begin September 20th and will run for one hour after the 10:30 service ends. We will present our pageant December 20th, as part of the Music at Noon Ministry.

We also welcome any middle school or high school students who wish to earn community service hours for their school's requirement.

Please contact Michelle Zaro at: zarom@aol.com



STERN AUDITORIUM/PERELMAN STAGE

Saturday, October 17th at 8:00 p.m.—A Prayer for Peace

Jason C. Tramm takes the podium in his Carnegie Hall debut as he conducts the MidAtlantic Opera Orchestra and Chorus and the Seton Hall University Choir in a unique presentation of the music of peace of three faiths.

Tickets on sale now at www.carnegiehall.org or call Carnegie Charge at (212-247-7800).



Leonard Bernstein eloquently stated, "This will be our reply to violence: to make music more intensely, more beautifully, more devotedly than ever before". In response to current world violence and inspired by Bernstein's mandate, Maestro Tramm has fashioned a concert performance designed to underscore humanity's universal connection through music.

"A Prayer for Peace" will feature classical music selections from composers of Muslim, Jewish and Christian faiths, whose music transcends its individual context and gives voice to the composers' vision of peace.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Food, Faith & Friends Returns on Tuesday, September 22 at 7 pm

We cordially invite you to join us for Food, Faith & Friends on Tuesday, September 22, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the church parlor. Come share in this opportunity to meet new people, share a little about our faith journeys (including our questions), and eat a meal together. Bring yourselves, an open heart, an open mind, and an appetite! Watch the Sunday *Cross Connections* bulletins in September for more details. If you have any questions, please contact Rich Bowman at rpbp@yahoo.com or (845) 627-6967.

**Food, Faith
& Friends**

CREATIVE PLAY STARTS ANOTHER SCHOOL YEAR

The laughter and beautiful voices of our children will be filling our hallways and classrooms and we are so excited for the arrival of school.

Our summer camp program was a wonderful success, with many adventures and games and throughout the four weeks. There was much fun and laughter not only from the children, but the teachers and counselors, as well. A big thank you to Renee Bucci and Fran Taibi for their hard work and creativeness in running this special program.

Our teachers have been busy organizing and decorating their classrooms in anticipation of back to school fun. Our clean-up committee met on August 22, to help us get the rooms in sparkling shape.

Our UPK classes will resume early this year, on September 2, 2015, and our three-and four-year-olds, in the cooperative Creative Play classes, will start September 9 & 10.

We still have some openings in all our programs, so if you know of anyone who is looking for a fun learning experience for their child, please have them call the school (735-2737), and we would love to meet them.



MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

Good Shepherd's Men's Breakfast Group will resume meeting on the third Saturday of every month at 9:00 am in the Church Parlor. All men of Good Shepherd are invited to join in for fellowship and a great breakfast! Mark your calendars for September 19th!

Good Shepherd Church Committees / Ministries

Recently several members have asked about the status of our Good Shepherd Church Committees. The Church Council prefers to use the term 'Ministries' in describing our Committees, since each coordinates a specific Ministry designed to spread God's message in our current world. The Constitution and our Bylaws specify certain standing committees and the Council has established some special committees over time, to handle specific short-term issues that arise. Here is a summary of our current Committees / Ministries:

Standing Committees: Each is open to new members and could use your help now!

Worship & Music: Barbara Bow, Chair—This committee coordinates all aspects of our worship life, including all Sunday and special worship services, appropriate music, Altar Guild needs, special recognitions, and all enhancements to our worship life, in close coordination with the Pastor.

Finance: Werner Boecker/Bob Bergman, Co-Chairs—The Finance Committee oversees the financial needs of the church, guides budget preparation, supervises preparation of financial statements, and coordinates counters and bank relationships.

Property: Brian Brooker/Rob Bayer, Council Liaisons— The Property Committee determines the ongoing building and grounds needs of the church, plans property budgets, negotiates contracts for service, and supervises all maintenance and construction projects, as needed.

Evangelism: Janet Maleski, Chair—The Evangelism Committee coordinates all church outreach efforts, both within and outside the church family, including Sunday greeters, Name Tag Sunday, Pearl River Day, the committee fair, missionary support, and other outreach efforts.

Stewardship: Herman Mensing, Chair—The Stewardship Committee establishes ongoing stewardship awareness, including year-long financial giving plans, care for the environment, educating members about time, talent and treasure opportunities in order for us all to be faithful stewards of all that God has provided to us.

Youth & Education Board: Rich Bowman, Chair—This board replaced the former Youth Committee and Christian Education Committee several years ago when volunteer leaders were not available for these roles. Coordinates Confirmation classes, plans and executes youth activities at church and offsite, and all adult education programs.

Fellowship: Lynn Beers/Pat Hoffman, Co-Chairs—Fellowship coordinates all fellowship opportunities such as the Oktoberfest, Hot Dog Sunday, special social events such as Pastor Havrilla's farewell luncheon, and other means of creating stronger bonds of friendship and support among members.

Social Ministry: Jayne Knarich, Chair—The Social Ministry Committee assesses community needs and develops programs to meet these needs, including God's Global Barnyard, the Bronx and NJ turkey runs, and *People to People* food collections. These and other approaches are designed to directly help people in need, whether the need is food, shelter or advice as to which governmental or private agency can best provide help for a particular need.

Safe Church: Pamela Kromar, Chair—This committee coordinates all Safe Church requirements, including training, awareness, policy clarification, as well as implementing procedures to keep all Good Shepherd members safe.

Personnel: Ken Merring, Chair—Handles the business needs of staff, such as setting salary, benefits, recruitment, severance and ongoing support for the staff, in close cooperation with the Council President.

Auditing Committee: Frank Getchell, Chair—The committee conducts audits of church finances, including bank statements, deposits, expenses, approval processes and any issue that impacts church financials and record keeping.

Nominating Committee: Each year at the Annual Meeting, the Congregation elects a Nominating Committee to seek out candidates for election to the Church Council for the following year. At our last Annual Meeting, in November 2014, the Congregation elected the following members to this Committee: Lynn Beers, Bob Bergman, Carol Dyer, Deb Frederick, Steve Habina and Ken Merring.

Current Special Committees: These are established by the Church Council to perform certain critical but short-term functions, and are not open to additional members at present.

Call Committee: Walter Lauer/Eileen Kennedy, Co-Chairs—The Call Committee was appointed by the Church Council in February 2015 with the mission of recruiting a new Pastor for Good Shepherd. They are charged with being deliberate and careful in their pursuit, with no exact timeline to end their work. Ultimately they will recommend a single candidate to the Church Council, which after evaluating the candidate further, will present him/her to the full Congregation for a vote.

Capital Campaign Study Group: Don Widmayer, Chair—This Study Group was appointed by the Church Council in July 2015 and charged with examining the physical needs of the church, both in terms of maintenance and any desirable construction projects that could make the buildings more accessible and enable the church to grow its ministries in the future. They are also to recommend if the church should conduct a special Capital Fund Drive outside the normal budget process in the near future. Their report is due to Council in October 2015.

Pay It Forward For Mission

Last April, the Evangelism Committee shared with the congregation a great video from the missionary we help support, Pastor Miriam Schmidt. We learned about her work with the Bratislava International Church and the Young Adult Global Missionaries. Over the last several months, Good Shepherd members have shown an amazing outpouring of love and support for Pastor Schmidt. The ELCA recently notified us that we have contributed \$2081 already this year, which exceeds our \$1500 commitment. Thank you to all who helped Good Shepherd honor our pledge.

Unfortunately for Pastor Schmidt and her family, they have been faced with medical challenges. Following are her letters explaining their journey.

Dear Sponsors:

As many of you know, we have been facing serious medical complications with Jeremy's leg and foot since January of this year. The following Pastor's Letter (also published on our blogsite, domavbratislava.wordpress.com) details the decisions we've recently made about our life and call.

We thank you so deeply for all of your support during the last three years of our Global Mission Call in Slovakia and Hungary.

Grace and peace - and health - to you and yours.

Pastor Miriam Schmidt

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Pastor's Letter, June 2015: Sudden Goodbyes

I have been waiting for a brilliant introduction to flow from my fingers for this pastor's letter. Words from an Icelandic folktale echo in my head: *When you wake up in the morning, you never can tell what might happen to you during the day.* Yes -- like when you wake up in the morning in the Italian Dolomites, and your spouse goes to the playground with the girls, and comes back with a broken leg, and the broken leg leads to serious foot and nerve complications, and the medical complications lead you back to Minnesota.

There is no brilliant introduction. Instead, I simply write with the announcement that we have made the decision to end our Global Mission call in Central Europe. Our official end of service date will be September 30th. I will work for the most part remotely until then, making two trips by myself back to Slovakia and Hungary in July and later in August-September. The girls will stay here in Minnesota with extended family and with Jeremy, who with Mayo Clinic's help, will be doing what he is advised in order to one day walk normally again.

Our reasons for leaving our life and call in Slovakia and Hungary early are, in the end, simple. Jeremy's medical situation is serious: After meeting with a very competent orthopedic surgeon at Mayo Clinic's Sports Medicine Branch, Jeremy was told that his case was (unfortunately) "interesting." He was given a referral to an even-more-of-a-specialist orthopedic surgeon at Mayo Clinic in Rochester. That appointment will take place on June 30. Whatever prognosis that appointment may offer, it seems already abundantly clear that Jeremy will be in recovery for multiple months into the future. To that end, we need the ongoing proximity of family to help us, and access to good English-language medical care. Of course, this simple decision has complex repercussions for me. I was not ready to say goodbye to the Bratislava International Church. I was looking forward to accompanying another group of Young Adults in Global Mission in their year of service in Hungary. I was excited for Ursula to begin first grade at the Lutheran Slovak-language elementary school across the street. Part of me is saddened -- that the life I thought was not yet finished *is* finished, or will be very soon.

I am old enough to know that I am -- we all are -- replaceable. The Bratislava International Church will go on, empowered by the Spirit of Christ Jesus, fed weekly with word and sacrament. The YAGMs in Hungary will have a new mentor, who will have gifts and skills I do not. Ursula will start school in the USA, happily, even as the Slovak folksongs she learned in preschool remain imprinted somewhere on her bones. In other words, in the mercy of God, we will adjust, and the world will adjust to our sudden goodbyes. And there will be new beginnings for all involved. I remain thankful for many things: We are here in the USA with supportive family from east to west coasts; we have grandparents, an aunt, and an uncle here in Minnesota who are helping us care for our daughters midst Jeremy's pain and our waiting; we have been wholeheartedly supported by the ELCA Global Mission office, and by so many other church people, praying for us, reaching out to us.

All of this helps us hope for healing, which is not always an easy thing to do. It's strange how disability and pain become -- so quickly -- familiar bedfellows. It's been less than 6 months since Jeremy's initial injury, but we are more used to his crutches than we'd like to admit. It can even seem presumptuous, dangerous even, to hope for healing that may or may not come. I think of the hemorrhaging woman in Mark 5 in a new light: After 12 years of bloody pain, and enduring much in the hands of physicians, how do you keep hoping, praying for healing?

Yet she does. And we do. As importantly, maybe more, you do. You, who are our family and friends and sponsoring congregations, hope and pray for healing, for Jeremy and for our whole family. For this, I am deeply grateful. Hope is a heavy thing; we need to carry it together. Carry it as church, carry it in Jesus' name, carry it in God's amazing grace.

In closing, this pastor's letter is only a piece of my goodbye -- my goodbye to a call and to individuals I have grown to respect and love in Slovakia and Hungary. Practically speaking, we are not done yet. There is still work for us to do for this year's YAGMs and this year's Horizon intern and BIC worship on July 5 and 12. Later in August and September, I will get to help orient the interim YAGM coordinator for Hungary and interim BIC pastor, both of whom Global Mission is committed to calling for service in Central Europe.

You will hear from me again about this progress, and when we know more, I will update you on Jeremy's foot and the-general-state-of-our-family.

The Rev. Miriam Schmidt

(update letter on p. 10)

PAY IT FORWARD FOR MISSION (continued from p. 9)

July 28, 2015 Update

To our Mission Supporters, far and near,

I just wanted to pass on the news that Jeremy is home after what the surgeon deemed a successful surgery. Dr. Ryssman "released" a nerve, and straightened 4 of his toes. Jeremy now has pins in two of his toes which will be pulled out in two weeks' time. Jeremy is doing fairly well, and thankful for the drugs he was prescribed that include but also significantly exceed Tylenol (the only drug he was given leaving the Italian hospital after his first January surgery.) Jeremy says that after the last 7 months, "it's a different road."

The next couple of weeks he'll be resting with his foot up at home. We continue to hope and pray for healing in both foot and nerves.

Thank you, so much, for all your thoughts and prayers and ongoing support. We'll update you in the weeks ahead.

May God, who is our peace, give you peace at all times and in every way.

Miriam

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) will be starting up their twelve week class on mental illness for families who have a loved one with a psychiatric illness on **Saturday, Sept. 26**. Classes will run twelve consecutive Saturdays from 9:30am-12noon. The program is **FREE**. All materials are supplied by NAMI. Pre-registration is required. No walk-ins will be allowed. Classes will be held at the Rockland Psychiatric Center in Orangeburg in Bldg # 57, the Admin. Bldg. on the First Floor. All major disorders will be covered. Instructors are trained and certified. This course is only being offered twice a year. Registration is starting now. For further information or to register, please call our NAMI office at: (845) 359-8787 or send an email to Chris@namirockland.org or visit our website at www.namirockland.org.



OUR Cupboards are Bare! And the Need is Still There!

~ Shopping List ~

Cereal or Oatmeal
Canned Juice & Juice Boxes
Canned Vegetables
Canned Chili & Beef Stew
Individual Fruit Servings
Snacks (Apple Sauce, Peaches, etc.)
Soup (Dry & Canned)
Beans (Dry & Canned)
Pasta (All Varieties)
Macaroni & Cheese (Boxed)
Flour, Rice & Sugar
Tomato Sauce & Tomato Puree (Canned & Jarred)
Tuna Fish
Mayonnaise (Regular & Reduced Fat)
Cooking Oil (in plastic bottles)
Peanut Butter & Jelly
Parmalait & Powdered Milk

~ Other Needed Items ~

Diapers (All Sizes)	Shampoo & Conditioner
Toothpaste & Toothbrushes	Feminine Hygiene Items
Toilet Paper & Tissues	Deodorants and Lotions



(Donations can be left in our Food Bin, located at the entrance of the Education Bldg....THANK YOU!)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10:00 CP Teacher Mtg/Classrooms	2 UPK First Day of School 9:00/12:30 UPK 7:00 CP Mtg-Sanctuary & Classroom 7:00 Worship & Music-Parlor	3 9:00/12:30 UPK 9:30/1:00 Visitation Day 11:30 Staff Meeting-office 7:00 CP Mtg-Sanctuary & Classrooms	4 9:00/12:30 UPK 9:30/1:00 Visitation Day 7:45 AA/Fellowship Hall	5
6 15 PENTECOST 9:30 Holy Communion Service 6:00 AA/Fellowship Hall	7 LABOR DAY Church Office closed Creative Play closed 	8 9:00/12:30 UPK 1:00 Piecemakers 1:30 WELCA	9 9:00 Golden Stitches—FH 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK 3day 3's & 4's first day of school 4:30 Executive Committee Mtg.	10 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK 3's first day of school 11:30 Staff Meeting-office 7:00 Evangelism-Parlor 7:00 Confirmation (6-8th)-FH 7:30 Sanctuary Choir-Sanctuary And Choir room	11 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK  7:45 AA/Fellowship Hall	12 10am-12pm Usher Training-Sanctuary & FH
13 16 PENTECOST 8:15 Holy Communion Service 9:30 Contemporary Service 9:45 Sanctuary Choir rehearsal 10:30 Worship Service/Baptism 11:30 Hot Dog Sunday-FH 5:00 MaHeTu Jr Chaperone meeting- Location to be announced 6:00 AA/Fellowship Hall	14 Creative Play Closed	15 Creative Play Closed 1:00 Piecemakers	16 9:00 Golden Stitches—FH 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK 7:00 Church Council Mtg.—Parlor	17 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK 11:30 Staff Meeting 4:30 Sacristy Singers-Sanctuary & Choir Room 7:00 Confirmation (6-8th)-FH 7:30 Sanctuary Choir-Sanctuary and Choir room	18 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK MaHeTu retreat 7:45 AA/Fellowship Hall	19 MaHeTu retreat 9:00 Men's Breakfast-Parlor
20 17 PENTECOST MaHeTu retreat 8:15 Worship Service 9:30 Contemporary Service 9:45 Sanctuary Choir rehearsal 10:30 Holy Communion Service/Baptism 11:30 Pageant Rehearsal-Sanctuary 6:00 AA/Fellowship Hall	21 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK 6:00 Evening Bells-choir room 7:00 Renaissance Camerata 7:00 Youth & Education mtg-Parlor 8:00 Canzona Youth Orchestra 9:00 Solos-Choir rm & Sanctuary	22 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK 1:00 Piecemakers 7:00 Food, Faith & Friends-Parlor 7:00 Boy Scouts—FH	23 Creative Play Closed 9:00 Golden Stitches—FH	24 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK 11:30 Staff Meeting 4:30 Sacristy Singers-Sanctuary & Choir Room 7:00 9th grade Confirmation Class project & robe fitting 7:30 Sanctuary Choir-Sanctuary and Choir room	25 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK 7:45 AA/Fellowship Hall	26 6:30-8:00pm Parent Reception-FH (preK-4th grade families)
27 18 PENTECOST 8:15 Holy Communion Service 9:30 Contemporary Service 9:45 Sanctuary Choir rehearsal 10:30 Worship Service/SCS Teacher installation/Cherub Choir 11:30 Pageant Rehearsal-A9 12noon Music @ Noon-Sanctuary Sacred Songs & Arias Part II by R.Callan 6:00 AA/Fellowship Hall	28 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK 6:00 Evening Bells-choir room 7:00 Renaissance Camerata 8:00 Canzona Youth Orchestra 9:00 Solos-Choir rm & Sanctuary	29 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK 1:00 Piecemakers 7:00 Boy Scouts—FH	30 9:00 Golden Stitches—FH 9:30/1:00 Creative Play/UPK	September 2015		



COME TO OKTOBERFEST 2015

October 17th at 6:00 p.m.

(Doors will open at 5:45 p.m.)

Come for an evening of German atmosphere, great food, entertainment, music, raffles, children's activities, and fellowship

Entertainment: Larry Zaidan's Tuba Quartet

Menu: Roast pork and gravy, potato pancakes, potato salad, sauerkraut & bratwurst, applesauce, green salad, rolls and an apple dessert (hot dogs for children). Beer, wine, cider, and soda.

Cost: Adults \$15.00

Children \$9.00 (12 and under)

Family: \$50.00

Children under two are free

Wine and beer: \$5 each – limit of two drinks per adult

We are looking for "many hands to make light the work" so watch for sign-up sheets for: set-up, decoration, cook/work in kitchen, serving, and clean-up. We are also looking for individuals and church groups to make up baskets for the tricky tray table. Pick a theme and be creative! Raffle tickets for a beautiful handmade quilt will also be sold. They are \$2.00 each, or 3 for \$5.00. The quilt is displayed at the entrance of the school. Winner need not be present to win!

Please fill out the form below and send to church office with payment, with "**Oktoberfest**" indicated on the check. Confirmation will be by e-mail or telephone.

Only 125 tickets will be sold and the deadline is October 7th

OKTOBERFEST 2015 – October 17th 6:00 p.m.

NAME: _____

E-mail or telephone # for confirmation: _____

of Adults: _____ **# of Children:** _____

Wine: ___ ___ **Please indicate the # of glasses & # of servings**

Beer: ___ ___ **Please indicate the # of glasses & # of servings**

Total: \$ _____



Enjoy the Convenience of Online Giving

Good Shepherd Church wants to remind you that you can give to the church through our “**eOffering**” website link at www.gspr.org. We offer an online giving option as a way to automate your regular weekly and special offerings. Electronic giving offers convenience for individual congregation members and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

eOffering can direct debit your checking or savings account in the amount and frequency you choose, and transfer those payments directly to Good Shepherd’s bank account.

To set up your online eOffering account, please visit Good Shepherd Church’s website (www.gspr.org), look for the word “Give” in the box on the lower left hand side of the home page, and click “**eOffering**” to enter Online Giving. Click to create a new profile and follow the directions on the page. Once you create a profile, you can, at any time set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation, or view your online donation history.

As you contemplate future financial contributions to Good Shepherd Church, please consider electronic giving. The church office can provide you with additional information. If you have any questions or need assistance setting up an eOffering profile, you can also contact Rich Bowman at (845) 627-6967 or by email at rpbp@yahoo.com.