

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
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THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

JULY 2021

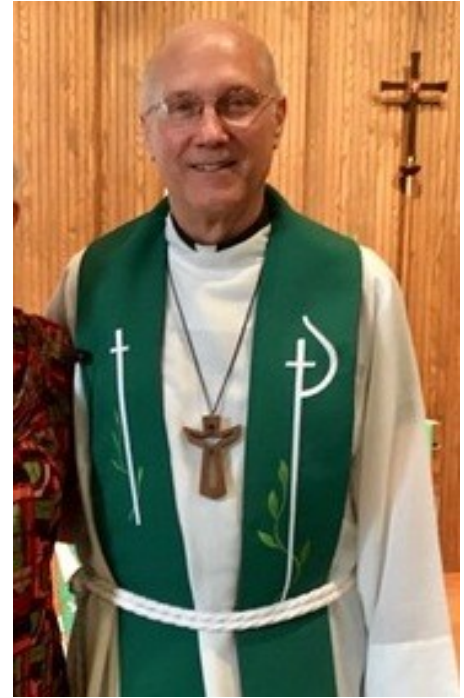


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Last month Terry O., Lynn S. and I were privileged to attend the Metro Chicago Synod gathering via Zoom. I'd like to remind everyone just how important these gatherings are. Good Shepherd is not in the proclamation business alone. We are supported by all the other congregations in our Synod as well as the entire ELCA.

The "business" of the church involves things like passing a budget, electing synod council members, amending the constitution as well as worshipping and wrestling with challenging topics such as racial justice. It may at times seem that we are engaged in things that are either trivial or outside the bounds of the church (social justice issues or even politics).



However, this is all gospel work because we engage in it to further the reign of God, to share the love of Christ, to make a difference in our world. Throughout the assembly I experienced one body with many members, united with Christ in baptism. I experienced us being the church, hearing and wrestling with the gospel, opening our hearts and minds to listen to others, making commitments to God's mission of love in the world.

That is why I am so grateful to all who helped plan the assembly, to all who worked and volunteered to make it actually happen, and to all members of the synod, for engaging in this important work with me. What we did was important. The decisions we made matter. Now we get to put them into action, trusting that the Spirit will continue to guide and empower us. That's what makes assemblies exciting!

Think about being a delegate next June when we will actually meet in person again!!

Have a great July and may we all Thank God for the Freedoms our Ancestors gave their lives for!!!!

Pastor Dave

Financial Report for May

	<u>Month</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$14,481	\$ 87,812
Expenses	27,455	106,203
FUND BALANCE	(\$ 12,974)	(\$ 12,269)

THANK YOU for your faithful giving!



Christmas in July is Here!

The Social Ministry Committee is happy to announce that Christmas in July is back! Starting Sunday, July 11th through Sunday, August 1st, we will collect donations for families in need in School Districts 21 and 23. District 21 serves most of Wheeling and portions of Buffalo Grove, Arlington Heights, Prospect Heights, Mt. Prospect, and Northbrook. District 23 serves portions of Prospect Heights, Wheeling, Arlington Heights, and Mt. Prospect. Once again, we will collect school supplies, hygiene supplies, gift cards and monetary donations to distribute to these districts. A "Christmas in July" table will be set up in the narthex with sign-up sheets and representatives from the Social Ministry Committee to assist you. Donation containers will be set out in the narthex and in the hall by the church office. You may also drop off your donations at the drive-by Hunger Drive event on July 16th from 10 a.m. - 12 noon in the church parking lot. Forms to purchase gift cards through Denise Mariner will be available through August 1st. It is a wonderful opportunity to help children and families in need in our own communities.

Thank you for your support!

1 John 3:18 – "... Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action."



Renew, Revise and Rekindle Task Force

Exciting News! The Task Force team is planning to sponsor two events in the next few months:

- + The first one is sponsoring a picnic/gathering for the congregation in August. This would be a listening and sharing opportunity for our church members to discuss what is involved in reaching out and welcoming neighbors and visitors.
- + The second event would involve the whole congregation in planning and hosting a neighborhood **Community Fair**. This could be held in conjunction with First Responders Sunday and Sunday School Rally Day in September. Anyone with creative ideas for this event, please step forward!
- + The Task Force met several times in June to review proposals for permanent boulevard signage. We are anticipating the improvement of the identification signage in front of our church building that would include electronic messaging.



"I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me."
-Jesus in John 10:14

On behalf of LSSI, and especially our many clients, we want to thank the many congregations across all three of our ELCA synods that raised over \$35,000 for Good Shepherd Sunday! Your generosity, partnership, and commitment to helping us carry out our mission of spreading healing, justice, and wholeness throughout our state to those we serve is truly admirable.

We also want to share a special thanks to an anonymous donor who provided matching grants of \$5,000 to each synod, all of which exceeded that total. With the matching grants, over \$50,000 will support our work with our many clients across Illinois.

If you haven't seen the video we shared with congregations for this event, I encourage you to watch it. It highlights our Intact Family Services program, devoted to keeping children in danger of being removed from their homes with their parents.

We look forward to partnering with our congregations again next year in the service of our neighbors.



B.E.A.C.H.

BEST ESCAPE ANYONE CAN HAVE!



*Be anxious
for nothing*

PHILIPPIANS 4:6

LifeHopeandTruth.com

"I AM ABOVE ALL THINGS: your problems, your pain, and the swirling events in this ever-changing world. When you behold My Face, you rise above circumstances and rest with Me in heavenly realms. This is the way of Peace, living in the Light of My Presence. I guarantee that you will always have problems in your life, but they must not become your focus. When you feel yourself sinking in the sea of circumstances, say "Help me, Jesus" and I will draw you back to Me. If you have to say that thousands of times daily, don't be discouraged. I know your weakness, and I meet you in that very place."

From "Jesus Calling" devotional for February 8th



God Bless America

God Bless America,
land that I love;
Stand beside her,
and guide her,
Through the night
with the light from above.

From the mountains,
To the prairies,
To the oceans, white with foam,
God Bless America, my home sweet home.

— Irving Berlin

"God Bless America" is an American patriotic song written by Irving Berlin during World War I in 1918 and revised by him in the run up to World War II in 1938. This simple one-verse song became an overnight hit, and a hopeful song as war threatened. "It's not a patriotic song," composer Irving Berlin said in a 1940 interview, "but an expression of gratitude for what this country has done for its citizens, of what home really means." Today, many Americans consider "God Bless America" an unofficial national anthem of the United States.

Irving Berlin wanted a song that brought Americans together, not set Americans apart. When it came to "God Bless America," he put his money where his mouth was. He donated all the royalties from the hit song to the Boy and Girl Scouts of America through the God Bless America Foundation. That arrangement is still in effect today.

Other wartime songs would remind Americans what they were fighting against. Berlin's "God Bless America" reminded them what they were fighting for.



I told my wife she was drawing her eyebrows too high. She looked surprised.



News from the Northwest Suburban Interfaith Council

On Sunday, May 23rd the NW Suburban Interfaith Council created our first Zoom presentation when, live from Israel, we toured the interfaith history and places of worship in Jerusalem. We thank Talia Jacobson for her wonderful guided tour and to over 140 people who participated as viewers.

Based on our viewership's positive feedback from our virtual tour, we plan to have another Zoom presentation later this summer. To keep informed, please visit our website at www.northwestsuburbaninterfaith.org

On June 27th, 2021, the NW Suburban Interfaith Council hosted our 8th annual "i-Walk" event. Like last year, this year's event was a virtual one, again due to COVID concerns. Last year, thanks to our donors and volunteers, we raised over \$10,000. Those contributions and 100% of the contributions raised from this year's event will go to our communities' four faith-based food pantries.

To contribute, please see our Facebook page at <https://tinyurl.com/d85r7ve9> or send a check to the NW Suburban Interfaith Council, PO Box 5301, Buffalo Grove IL 60089.

Thank you to our past and current supporters....Richard Rosen (President)

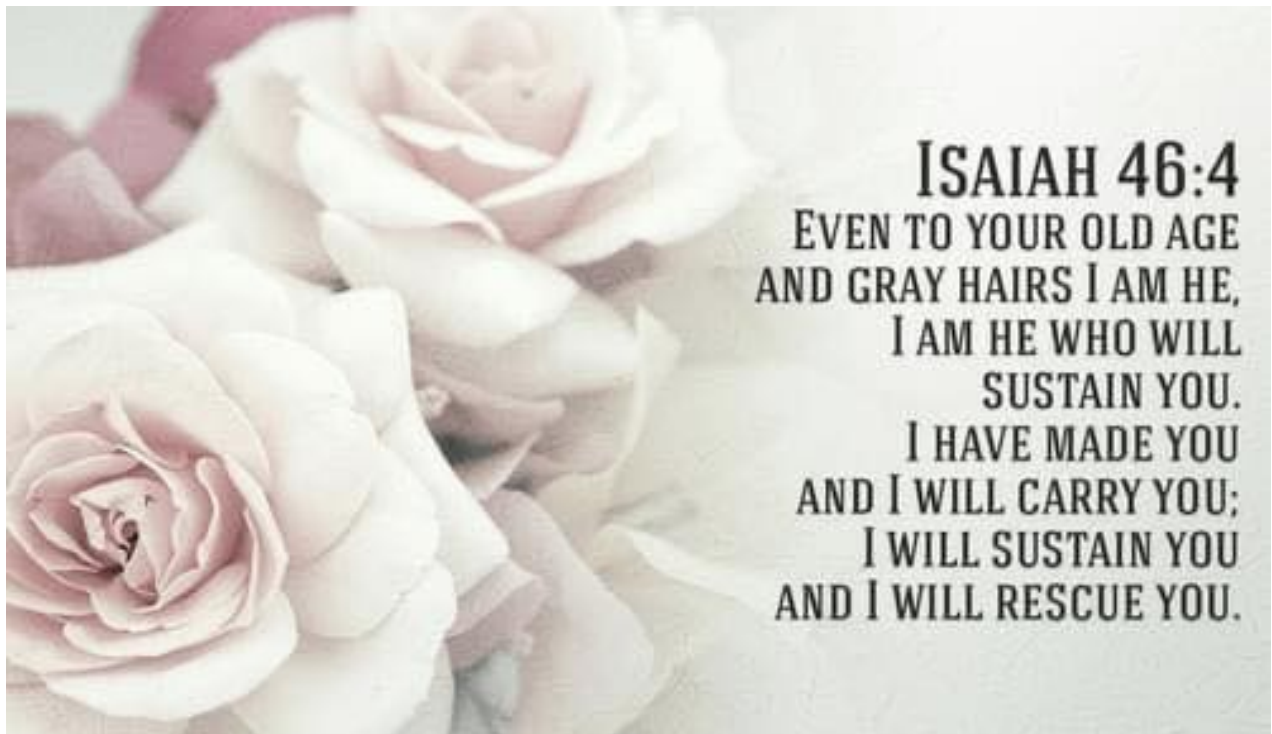


What's New in Social Ministry

The Generosity Fund continues to bless numerous organizations in our area. Many thanks to the individuals who made these gifts possible.

The Generosity Gift for May was given to Roseland Community Good News, whose mission is to provide Christ-centered child care to high school, college and low income working moms in a nurturing environment. Donations are used for putting food on children's plates, supporting moms so they can continue their education, and rebuilding the community one mom at a time.

In June, \$600 was given to the Lake County chapter of Habitat for Humanity, which brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.



ISAIAH 46:4
EVEN TO YOUR OLD AGE
AND GRAY HAIRS I AM HE,
I AM HE WHO WILL
SUSTAIN YOU.
I HAVE MADE YOU
AND I WILL CARRY YOU;
I WILL SUSTAIN YOU
AND I WILL RESCUE YOU.

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

*A CONGREGATION OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
A STEPHEN MINISTRY CONGREGATION*

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Office hours: Monday – Friday

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

“Knowing Christ and Making Him Known”

We're on the web:
www.lcgoodshepherd.com

