

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

June 2023



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My Summer Prayer

As I begin the summer months,
gracious and loving Jesus,
remind me of Your ever present
guidance and love.

Give me confidence in Your presence,
remembering all that I have been
taught this year and let me
live it in my summer experiences.

As I work, play and enjoy
my family and friends this summer,
may I feel Your love within me,
guiding me toward all
that is right and just.

Let me be grateful for the gift
of summer, Jesus. Allow me
to enjoy it safely and remind
me daily of Your love for me.
Amen.



June 2023

What is going to happen now that Pastor Dave will be saying good-bye sometime this year? Sooner or later, it is a question we all ask. We want to know what the future holds. It is June, and June means the end of the school year and the beginning of summer. It is the time of year lots of people ask, "what's going to happen now?" Graduates, especially, want to know what the future holds for them.

Even the church finds itself asking, "what's going to happen now?" Jesus rose from the dead, spent forty days with his followers teaching them, sharing Holy Communion with them, praying with them. Then he ascended into heaven and it was one surprise after another and it had the church worrying about the future.



Now, if you think all the followers of Jesus were excited about the changes that were happening, you are mistaken. The first followers of Jesus were about as open to change as we are. Sometimes we are excited about changes, but other times we want things to stay the way they are. The changes kept happening in the early church and the anxiety level among the first Christians was rising and the leaders said, "we've got to do something about this." So, they did what churches always do, they had a meeting. The story of this meeting is told in Acts, chapter 15.

The meeting was not about what color of carpet they should buy. No, they were trying to figure out who should be part of the church. Reports kept coming in about non-Jewish people getting baptized. People were upset that Paul and the other missionaries were telling new converts they didn't have to follow Jewish customs. They said, "sure, non-Jewish people can be saved, but they must adopt all the Jewish laws and customs." It was a serious issue.

Well, the leaders finally agreed that the church is for all people and the non-Jewish people didn't have to adopt Jewish laws and customs. Two huge changes! Gentiles could be part of the church and the new people didn't have to follow the old customs and rituals. The people asked, "How is this going to work? What's going to happen now?"

What happened? More changes. Paul had a vision in which the Lord told him to go to Macedonia. So, Paul and his companions went to Macedonia, to the city of Philippi, which was a Roman colony. The first thing that happened was that Paul talked to a group of women and one of them, Lydia, opened her heart to the message of God's grace, and she

and her household were all baptized. The Gospel was now penetrating the Roman Empire!

God was determined to reach all people everywhere! Even if that meant more changes! We learn something from the early church. We see that God was always out in front of the church, leading the way! The church was not always eager to go there, and often resisted the changes, but God patiently led them and helped them adapt and change.

How did God help them? By keeping them focused on what was most important. As Peter stated, "we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus." The grace of God in Jesus Christ was most important. It still is today. This never changes! All kinds of things can change, and do change - with school, with work, in the community, in our homes, in the church, in the world. What doesn't change is the radical love God has for you and for people everywhere! It was this love which led Jesus to the cross. It was this love which erupted from the grave on Easter morning.

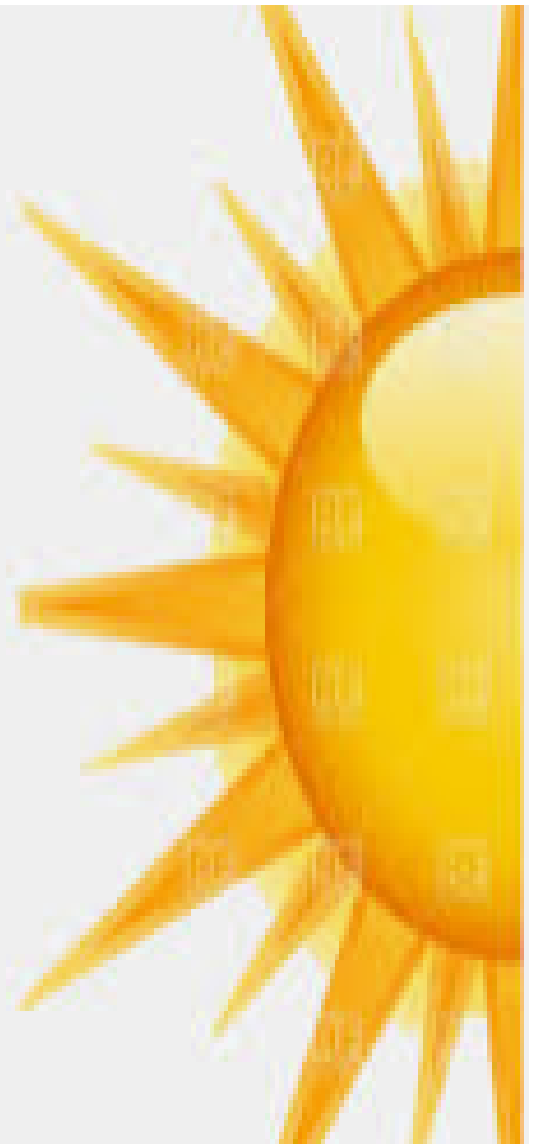
It was this love which was poured out on the followers of Jesus on Pentecost. This love is for you! It is firm and unwavering and won't ever change. This is the main thing, and when you keep the main thing the main thing, you can handle all kinds of changes because you know that God loves you and is committed to you!

The early church was grasped by the love of God and it was this love which empowered them to face all kinds of changes. That's the kind of God we have! The God we encounter in the Bible, the God who comes to us in Jesus Christ, is a God of grace, a life-giving God who loves you and everyone with the most radical love you have ever known. And even when you find yourself asking, "what's going to happen now?" you have a God who hangs in there with you, a God who never, ever gives up on you!

Since I am retiring soon?!?!, let me take this opportunity to express a word of thanks to all of you. Nancy and I have been delighted to spend the past five years with you. It has been a tremendous joy for both of us and it has been a great honor and privilege for me to serve as your pastor. Together we have served the Lord. Together we have served people in our communities and throughout the world.

Looking back, we can see that God has been at work among us. Looking forward, we know that God will continue to be at work in and through this congregation. God has promised to do so, and God has a way of keeping the promises God has made to us. Good things will happen as you follow Jesus and share the grace of God with one another and with the people in our community. We will keep you in our prayers and will be excited to watch as Good Shepherd becomes even stronger. May God be with you and bless you! Keep the faith. Love God. Love others. Be the people of God!

Pastor Dave and Nancy



Angel services wanted



The altar is one of the most important parts of a church service. The altar guild is a faithful group that devotes their time to set up, maintain and clean the altar.

The LCGS **Altar Guild** is looking for additional members (angels to volunteer). If you or someone you know is interested, please speak to Denise or an **Altar Guild** Member.

Altar Guild volunteers set up for Communion prior to services and clean up following services 2 times every 3-4 months.

Financial Report for April

	<u>Month</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$20,580	\$86,137
Expenses	\$20,671	\$90,383
FUND BALANCE	(\$91)	(\$4,246)

Thank you for your faithful giving.

*Happy
Father's
Day*

GOD TOOK THE STRENGTH OF A MOUNTAIN,
THE MAJESTY OF A TREE,
THE WARMTH OF A SUMMER SUN,
THE CALM OF A QUIET SEA,
THE GENEROUS SOUL OF NATURE,
THE COMFORTING ARM OF NIGHT,
THE WISDOM OF THE AGES,
THE POWER OF THE EAGLES FLIGHT,
THE JOY OF A MORNING IN SPRING,
THE FAITH OF A MUSTARD SEED,
THE PATIENCE OF ETERNITY,
THE DEPTH OF A FAMILY NEED,
THEN GOD COMBINED THESE QUALITIES,
AND THEN THERE WAS NOTHING MORE TO ADD,
HE KNEW HIS MASTERPIECE WAS COMPLETE,
AND SO, HE CALLED IT—DAD.

Courtyard Improvements Completed!



Repaired patio and new sidewalk



Grass growing in the re-soiled yard



Stone path to Resurrection Garden



New drainage system



Replanted hostas along new side-

Help beautify our garden...

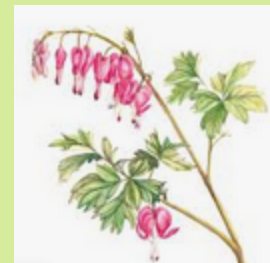
Donations are now being accepted of perennial plants that perform well in the shade.

Shade loving plants will be planted in the garden along the office windows.

Leave your donations there for the garden team to plant.

Notify the church office if you leave donated plants.

Thank you!



The Courtyard Garden Team is now active and are requesting volunteers to assist with watering and weeding the gardens during the summer and fall. The schedule sign-up sheet is posted on the church office window.



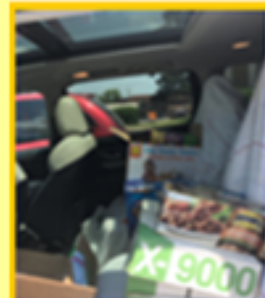
Congratulations Daniel



Parking Lot Hunger Drive

Mark your calendar for the next Hunger Drive:

Friday, **June 16th** From 10:00 AM until Noon.



The Wheeling Township Food Pantry
needs your help now, more than ever!

All donations are so appreciated by Wheeling Township and especially by those they serve! Feel free to bring your donations each Sunday. Ask your family, friends and neighbors to contribute also.

Spread the word: Tell your friends and neighbors!

The Top 5 Most Needed Items for June are:

Beans - white northern, cannellini or kidney

Beef stew or corned beef hash

Fruit - peaches, pears, pineapple

Jelly

Potatoes - instant mashed, au gratin, four cheese, scalloped

Watch your email or call the church office for updates to the above list.
Please remember we cannot accept fresh fruit or fresh vegetables.

THANK YOU For your faithful and generous
Support of our monthly **Parking Lot Hunger Drive!**



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

May 17, 2023

Thank You

Lutheran Church Of The Good Shepherd
1111 N Elmhurst Rd
Prospect Heights, IL 60070-1011

Dear Lutheran Church Of The Good Shepherd,

Thank you for your gift of \$4,135.58 to ELCA World Hunger.

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God (Romans 5:1-2).

As a church, we believe that God's grace is freely given to us. This brings us peace and hope. It makes a difference in our lives. Through your gifts to the ministries of the ELCA you share this amazing grace with others and help people around the world feel the transformational power of God's love.

Your generosity is getting at the root causes of hunger and poverty in over 60 countries, including the United States. It provides access to clean water, health care, agriculture, livestock, education, and peace and justice. Through your gifts you join the whole church in working toward a just world where all are fed.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God shines through you.

In Christ,

Amanda White

Amanda White
Director, Congregational Generosity

P.S. Please see the reverse side of this letter for your receipt.



Christmas in July is Coming!

Christmas in July is coming! The Social Ministry Committee is happy to announce that the Christmas in July program will take place **July 9th through July 30th**. We will once again provide school supplies, toiletry items, and gift cards for families in need at our local school districts. Look for the CIJ table next month in the Narthex!

June 2023

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7:00 PM Thurs Nite AA	2 7:00 PM La Iglesia - Prayer Meeting	3
4 8:45 AM Mutual Ministry 9:30 AM Communion 10:00 AM La Iglesia - ASH	5 9:30 AM EEC - Easy Exercise Class 6:30 PM TOPS	6 7:00 PM Abigail Circle 7:00 PM Finance 7:00 PM La Iglesia - Choir Practice	7 7:00 PM Rebekah Circle 7:00 PM La Iglesia - Bible Study	8 7:00 PM Thurs Nite AA	9 7:00 PM La Iglesia - Prayer Meeting	10 8:00 AM Men's Study Group
11 9:30 AM Communion 10:00 AM La Iglesia - ASH 10:30 AM Get Your Game On	12 9:30 AM EEC - Easy Exercise Class 6:30 PM TOPS	13 7:00 PM Board of Ministers 7:00 PM La Iglesia - Choir Practice	14 7:00 PM La Iglesia - Bible Study	15 7:00 PM Thurs Nite AA	16 10:00 AM Hunger Drive in Parking Lot 7:00 PM La Iglesia - Prayer Meeting	17 7:00 PM Cursillo
18 9:30 AM Communion 10:00 AM La Iglesia - ASH	19 9:30 AM EEC - Easy Exercise Class 6:30 PM TOPS	20 7:00 PM La Iglesia - Choir Practice	21 11:30 AM Out to Lunch 7:00 PM La Iglesia - Bible Study	22 7:00 PM Thurs Nite AA	23 7:00 PM La Iglesia - Prayer Meeting	24 8:00 AM Men's Study Group
25 9:30 AM Communion 10:00 AM La Iglesia - ASH	26 9:30 AM EEC - Easy Exercise Class 6:30 PM TOPS	27 7:00 PM La Iglesia - Choir Practice	28 7:00 PM La Iglesia - Bible Study	29 7:00 PM Thurs Nite AA	30 7:00 PM La Iglesia - Prayer Meeting	

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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

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Prospect Heights, IL 60070

Phone: 847-537-4353

Email the church office at
goodshepnk@aol.com

Rev. David Beese, Pastor

Gloria Sun Oh, Director of Music for Traditional Services

Susan Baushke, Director of Musical Ensembles

Teresa Swinson, Office Administrator

Office hours: Monday – Friday

9:30 AM to 3:30 PM

“Knowing Christ and Making Him Known”

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

