

Youth ministry



I was at a Christian youth camp somewhere in the Rockies when I left my horse to climb above the treeline and sit upon a rock. This is where I was when I asked Jesus into my heart. I was 14. I had a community of friends & a herd of horses below me; I was outside surrounded by nature; I was immersed in trusted spiritual leadership; it was my choice to be where I was in my life at that moment.

Join me the 1st Thursday of each month for Holy Yoga at GSC 7-8pm with Fellowship to follow. Let's UNITE in the Joy of gently challenging movement, Delight in LIBERATING our minds, bodies & spirits as we breathe with intention and attention, and practice witnessing the LOVE of Christ that is embodied within each of us. How do you Reflect Christ in your daily actions? This is the question we will consider as we move together in May.

Suggested reading for a potential YOUTH book club & campfire sociable Friday June 16 - Hinds' Feet on High Places - Hannah Hurnard
Cori

The Mission of our Ministry

Our mission states: **“Good Shepherd Community Church is a family of faith where God loves, Christ leads and people serve.”** The purpose of this mission statement is to be a reference for our ministries. Throughout the year, we will highlight one ministry in each monthly newsletter to educate our readers and invite them to pray and participate in the work we do for God's glory. This month we are highlighting our Shepherds ministry.

The Shepherds ministry was begun in 2008 to augment the kindness and caring that already exists in our Good Shepherd community. Our church is full of loving people who take care of one another. The Shepherds Ministry provides us with an intentional way to communicate information and check in with people so that opportunities for caring are not overlooked. Each Shepherd has a list of 8-10 members with whom they try to stay in touch on a regular basis to pass on information about what is happening at Good Shepherd Church, or just to check on how each person is doing.

The Shepherds include Joan Altenhof, Eleanor Dyck, Rita Gernandt, Marlene Knechtel, Val Kuelker, Ruth Nickel, Lana Miller, Pat Lim, Shirley Klockow and Rick Beck.

Do you know who your Shepherd is?? If you have any questions or concerns please let your Shepherd know. If you are aware of anyone who needs care let your Shepherd know, or speak to Shirley Klockow.

Prayer is a witness to the presence of God's love. As Joan indicates, “I found the prayer chain a blessing and a comfort. I do get feedback from some of the people that have requested prayer giving thanks



GSC Children made 30 Easter bags for the Food Bank families.

Mission & Outreach

Thank you for your support for the DIC project for razors and gently used towels. More donations came in after the end of March. In the end GSC delivered 3 bags of gently used towels and 1 bag of new towels as well as the 450 disposable razors. The DIC really appreciates your generosity.

Way to go one and all—THANKS

When I moved from my first pastorate to my second pastorate, fifty-one years ago, Father Al, the local priest, who within a year moved to one of the most prestigious parishes in the state, attended my farewell; he told me it was the first time he had ever been inside a Protestant church building. In my second parish, a year later I had part of an ecumenical small-town Thanksgiving service that included the local Catholic priest, who told me he had never prayed using his own words rather than those in a prayer book or missal. At a Protestant funeral I attended a few years ago, a Catholic priest spoke. It is good to be reminded of what progress we have made in ecumenical relations among the followers of Jesus.

Recently I attended a lecture by a nun and seminary professor of New Testament, at a progressive local Roman Catholic parish. In the question period following, she was asked about ordination of women. She said that for her this was not a priority. She actually said, somewhat cynically, ordaining women would be like putting goldfish in a shark tank. Far more important, she said, was to be about the local ministries to which we feel God has called us, which do not require ordination. And those ministries are often ecumenical, sometimes interfaith.

In March I spent a day at Tricklebee Café, a new ministry of the Moravian Church in a poorer neighborhood of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I met a few volunteers from a variety of churches. One, a recent college graduate, is spending a few years in the Lutheran Volunteer Corps, working in a Moravian ministry. I spoke with a customer who said that in a troubled world this felt like a place of peace. A friend in her twenties works in a parachurch agency serving mainly Mennonite and Church of the Brethren congregations; she is part of an intentional community that lives in a house owned by a local Presbyterian congregation. A young United Methodist friend, a graduate from a college of the Christian Reformed Church, has been serving in an Anglican social service site in an east African nation through Mennonite Central Committee.

These are examples of how traditional denominational divisions are melting in the minds and lives of many. But most of us are not young, unmarried, and free to take a year or two to explore.

In congregations and groups of congregations, persons are looking for ways—often outside the walls of a church building—to help people know they are worthwhile and of value, continuing in the spirit of Jesus. In my community, representatives of Protestant and Catholic congregations are meeting to discern how they can best support local immigrants afraid of sudden deportation. A mother in her forties, a teacher's aide in a middle school, found that her class requires backpacks that many students could not afford. So she persuaded her congregation to subsidize backpacks for poorer students.

Our Lord calls us to look for ways we can be in mission, continuing the ministry of Jesus to those around us.

Lord Jesus, our Chief Elder, you were able to see the needs of those around you, whoever they were. You knew that our deepest need is to be in loving relationship with our Creator, and you came so that we may know our Creator more clearly. Empower us and enlarge our imaginations, so that we may joyfully be about the ministries you set before us. Amen.

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