

GOOD NEWS

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

The Quarterly Newsletter

Summer 2026

Something is happening...

There is new energy at Good Shepherd. Attendance and giving are up, conversations are becoming more honest, laughter comes more easily, and we are actively discerning where God might be leading us next.

The first six months of this year have been one of the most active and significant seasons in the life of this congregation in many years. Living Waters invited people to listen more closely to God and to one another. More than 30 people took part, including six new or returning members, with 25 attending regularly.

More important than the numbers, people who had worshiped beside one another for years began sharing their faith, questions, and life experiences in new ways. New members learned more about what it means to be Lutheran and found a real welcome here. Relationships deepened.

We gathered for a Leadership Retreat to ask what kind of congregation we want to become and what kind of leaders we want to develop. Out of that work came *Our*

From the Pastor's Desk

Shared Commitments, which names how we hope to communicate, navigate conflict, respect roles, and live together with courage, honesty, and grace.

Getting everyone involved in shaping the Ministry Site Profile, we conducted surveys and held small group conversations about who we are, what we value, what gets in our way, and what we hope for. People spoke candidly, listened to each other, and some real clarity started to emerge.

The Vision Retreat took us deeper still, into what genuinely moves us. Not simply what a church should do, but what this congregation actually cares about. We shared concerns about children who need safe and creative places to grow; a desire to know our neighbors better; care for those navigating grief, caregiving, or mental health challenges; and a sense that music can reach people who might not come through our doors for

Continued on page 2

worship. We also imagined new access points for connection; blessing bikes or animals, gathering around shared interests, and creating spaces where people can experience welcome. One theme stood out especially: care for people who have been wounded by the church, and a desire to respond with compassion and support.

These ideas are still taking shape. But they come from real conversations and real people in this congregation. Not from strategy, but from the heart.

Through all of this, the Transition Team and Call Committee have been listening and gathering what they heard into the story of Good Shepherd. They completed our Ministry Site Profile which will introduce Good Shepherd to pastoral candidates across the ELCA. The plan is to share copies at our next fellowship hour.

That document is something the congregation should be genuinely proud of. It does not present a perfect picture. It tells the truth about where we have struggled, what we carry, and where we have been. But it also tells the truth about where we are genuinely alive, what we care deeply about, and where we sense God

calling us next. It is an honest picture. We have not fixed everything. I would not be honest if I said we had. But something real has shifted. There is new energy, deeper connection, and a growing willingness to have hard conversations, care about people outside our walls, and trust that God is doing something in this place.

This summer, I invite you to come and see. Come to worship. Stay afterward for opportunities to connect with each other, share stories, and have fun. Come see what is taking shape here.

I know some of you, for a variety of reasons, have not been able to fully participate in all that's happening. This newsletter is a chance to catch up, give you a sense of what's new, and invite you into the next phase of life at Good Shepherd.

You will hear from the Transition Team, your Call Committee, and others about mission trips, ministries, and moments that have shaped our life together. You will also hear about our developing website, children's ministry, and fall programs taking shape.

It's not too late to get involved. If you're curious, or hopeful, or just looking for a way in, come take part. There's a place for you here.



Call Committee Corner

Your Call Committee hit the ground running and has been working overtime to complete the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) and get it ready for submission to the ELCA. The Transition Team worked hard on gathering and analyzing data, congregational assessments, and preparing their assigned parts of the MSP. They have now handed the torch to the Call Committee, and we are so grateful for all their hard and excellent work and for the huge head start they gave us.

Our first goal as a committee was to create an upbeat, yet reflective MSP, and to do it quickly. Council has now approved the final Ministry Site Profile, and we are preparing for the next steps in the call process.

Our next steps will include meeting with Pastor Charlane from the synod for training on the interview process and creating our set of interview questions.

It is important to note that once we begin interviewing, every applicant will be treated the same way — with the same questions, the same method, and all Call Committee members present for each interview.

At this point we do not know how soon we may have interested candidates to interview, as there are quite a few other churches in transition at this time. So now we will wait and see, keep praying, growing, and moving forward as a community of faith.

Please pray for your Call Committee, for discernment and wisdom. If you have questions, please ask any of the members of the committee.

Yours in Christ,
The Call Committee

Andrea Puck, co-chair	Diane Dahms
Steve Barrett, co-chair	Vic Davis
Debra Gruttadauro	Mary Nickols

Church Website Update



We're excited to share an update on our new church website — it's coming together beautifully, and we're grateful for everyone's help.

The pages are taking shape with thoughtful content for ministries, events, and ways to connect. More than a site, it is becoming a place that reflects who we are as a church family.

A huge, heartfelt thank you to everyone who sent photos, wrote articles, shared memories, and offered information about ministries and events. Your images capture our life together, and your words give the site heart. Volunteers who helped gather historical materials and event details have made this project feel like a true community effort. Right now, we are polishing things: checking text for clarity, making sure pages feel welcoming, listening to early feedback, and making small adjustments so the site is simple and friendly for everyone.

Looking ahead, our projected rollout date is mid-July. As we get closer, we would love any last-minute photos, stories, or updates you would like included. Please send them to Norman or Diane.

Thank you again for your time, creativity, and encouragement. This website belongs to all of us, and we can't wait to share it as a new, welcoming home for our community online.

Diane and Norman

THE TRANSITION TEAM'S JOURNEY

The Transition Team's journey started in April last year and concluded this June when our final Ministry Site Profile contributions were delivered to the Call Committee.

Our team's mission was to assist Pastor Carol as she guided the congregation during this interim period. We were asked to help by listening carefully, facilitating honest conversations, and gathering important insights. This helped us tell Good Shepherd's story in the Ministry Site Profile using the voices, hopes, and experiences of the congregation. Because of this, the Call Committee was able to move more quickly and thoughtfully into the next phase. The work included:

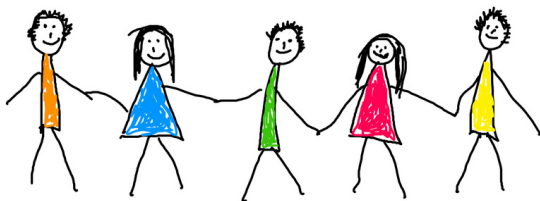
- Congregational conversations on history, hopes, and challenges
- Tables of Eight small-group conversations on pastoral leadership and future direction
- A congregational survey that asked a broad scope of questions about who we are and our future
- Reports and recommendations shared with the Council
- Helping with preparation, participation, and small-group facilitation related to the Leadership Retreat, Vision Retreat, Living Waters, Fresh Expressions, the Synod outreach workshop, language access technology, and community outreach planning

We are especially grateful for the faithful work of the Transition Team members: Heather Jerome, Tim Friederichs, Corinne Barrett, Donna Kemper, and Norman Puck, along with Pastor Carol Been. Over the past year, they gave their time, listened carefully, asked thoughtful questions, and helped Good Shepherd prepare for this next chapter.

Thank you, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, for your trust, participation, honesty, and support throughout the process.

You are in very good hands with the Call Committee you elected. The committee quickly absorbed the information provided by the Transition Team, moved the Ministry Site Profile forward with remarkable speed and care, and has begun preparing for the next steps in calling the right pastor for our church. Please continue to support and pray for the Call Committee as they carry out this important work. Thank you for all your support,
Norman and Pastor Carol

Ministries in Motion



NEW CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Please join an ad hoc Children's Ministry planning group. We will meet in the library on Tuesday, July 14, at 4:30 p.m. This first gathering will begin exploring how Good Shepherd can better welcome, support, and nurture children, grandchildren, and their families, both in our church and in the neighborhood.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH CONVERSATION

Open to all outreach-minded folks



As Good Shepherd moves through the interim, we are continuing to flesh out our vision, asking where God may be calling us to serve, welcome, and build relationships. A Community Outreach conversation is being planned for mid-July as a first step toward listening, sharing ideas, identifying challenges and possible next steps.

Coming This Fall



Living Waters Returns

Our spiritual renewal and formation journey, Living Waters, will return this fall. Watch for more information later this summer about dates, topics, and ways to participate.



Good Shepherd Community BBQ

Friday, October 9th
and Saturday,
October 10th



God's work. Our hands.



September 13, 2026

This year's project for God's work. Our hands. will be visits to shut-ins with "goody bags" of useful and fun items.

We are planning to visit LCGS shut-in members and friends. If we have enough volunteers, we may also be able to visit some Ivy Park residents who do not regularly have visitors.

We have asked Corinne Barrett to help us put together a list of items for the goody bags, similar to the Christmas bags for seniors we have done in the past. The lists will be ready sometime in August. We will ask for donations and volunteers to help organize the bags before Sunday, September 13.

We will also need volunteers to make visits on God's work. Our hands. Sunday. It would be wonderful if someone with music skills would be willing to play and sing for Memory Care Unit residents.

Please consider how you might help.

Ida Nuttall

WORSHIPING TOGETHER, WELCOMING ALL

This month will bring some new and familiar experiences together to enhance our summer worship services.

Welcome, Jordi Faxon

We are happy to introduce Jordi Faxon, who will be our summer accompanist. Jordi and Noah Umamoto had the same piano teacher, and Jordi comes well recommended by Noah. Jordi will join us beginning July 12 and will share his musical talent at the keys through September 6. Please join us in giving him a warm welcome and thanks!

Pentecost Altar Greenery

Throughout the Pentecost season, you will notice more greenery in the altar display. Some of the plants are live and some are artificial, but together they help tell the story of life and renewal emerging from hard places. Stones and gardens appear throughout the Old and New Testaments as signs of strength, faith, and new creation. Our altar reminds us of the new life we have in Christ. Would you like to add your own green plant? Talk with anyone on the Worship & Music Committee if you are interested.



WORSHIPING TOGETHER, WELCOMING ALL

Ancient Words

Be part of the service! We are bringing back a summer tradition by having a Bible bearer process down the center aisle carrying a Bible to Pastor while the congregation sings “Ancient Words.” If you wish to participate, you may bring a favorite Bible from home or use a pew Bible. Please let one of the Worship & Music Committee members know which Sunday you would like to participate between July 5 and September 6.



Welcoming Our Siblings from El Buen Pastor

This summer, Good Shepherd began welcoming members of Iglesia Luterana El Buen Pastor for worship and communion once a month. We have invited them to join us on third Sundays so we can get to know each other better during fellowship.

As we learn how to be a more welcoming space for those who don't have English as a first language, Council approved a trial of OneAccord, a translation app that allows Spanish-speaking worshipers to follow the service and sermon more fully.

Thank you to Norman Puck for helping us find ways to extend hospitality, build relationships, and practice welcome in a concrete way. We will continue listening to feedback from El Buen Pastor and learning together as we go.

Have a fun and safe summer! We look forward to seeing you!

Your Worship & Music Team

Faith Across Borders

JAMAICAN ADVENTURE

For 25 years, members of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd have traveled to Jamaica in January or February to join fellow Christians in sharing Christ's love with the disadvantaged.

Jamaica is a beautiful, mountainous island. Most of our work is at Westhaven, a care facility for moderately and severely disabled youth and adults in the mountains outside Montego Bay. We ride a bus for about an hour over "sketchy" roads to reach Westhaven. As our bus slowly climbs from our all-inclusive resort on the coast to the care facility in the mountains of St. James Parish, we often listen to Rev. F.C. Barnes' "Roughside of the Mountain."

As our bus pulls into Westhaven, many of the residents come out of their cottages to greet us.

Our long-time Mission Jamaica coordinator, Janice Smith, knows most

of the residents at Westhaven on a first-name basis. There are five cottages in the Westhaven complex, and Janice visits most of them to greet her favorites.

Mark Nelson and I usually work in the Veira cottage ("cottage #1"). Like Janice, we have developed friendships with some of the residents. Mark has a special relationship with a severely disabled resident, whom he usually feeds breakfast and/or lunch. Mary Nickols enjoys working with teacher Faye in the Westhaven school.





Not all Mission Jamaica participants work directly with the residents. About half work painting or repairing buildings. Others build small homes through the J'Abode ministry for families in nearby communities.



In 2026, we witnessed firsthand the effects of Hurricane Melissa, a Category 5 hurricane that devastated western Jamaica in October 2025. The dedication of the nurses and aides at Westhaven in the face of this devastation was inspirational. It is an honor to work with these caregivers and a real joy to care for the children of Westhaven.



We work for three and a half days and play for three and a half days in Jamaica. Join us for a balanced and inspirational winter adventure in Jamaica.

By Dr. Tim Friederichs
June 24, 2026

SANTA CRUZ AL SALVADOR PRAYER CHILD PROGRAM

“Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.” — Matthew 18:4-5

A highlight of every Santa Cruz al Salvador delegation is meeting with the 120 prayer children at the school in Guillermo Ungo where we exchange letters between students and sponsors and take photos of the students with their gifts.

The sponsor’s donation pays for the student’s gift, school supplies received at the beginning of the year, and a family food and staples basket usually given in the middle of the year. The letters from sponsors and these gifts encourage the students to do well in school. The suggested annual donation of \$125 also supports the school with needed supplies and helps fund 15 university scholarships.

Each delegation shares meals in the homes of as many prayer children as possible. It is amazing how quickly sponsors move from being strangers to becoming friends, and even family. This is a testament to the trust built between Santa Cruz al Salvador and the school community after 31 years of visits focused on building relationships for better lives.



PRAYER CHILD PROGRAM continued



Ron Weaver from Trinity Presbyterian was a wonderful example of that. This big-hearted man sponsored a child without knowing anything about him before joining our November/December 2025 delegation. He met the five-year-old boy with Down syndrome during a meal at the family's home, and it seemed like a match made in heaven. The child and his mother came on our field trip in El Salvador, and it was beautiful to see them grow close despite barriers of language and culture.

This year, more than 30 children still need sponsors. We have lost some longtime sponsors and would be grateful for new sponsors to step up so each student receives this valuable support and encouragement. Other than the donation, the only requirement is to write one card or letter that will be delivered by the delegation and to keep the student in your prayers.

If you would like to sponsor a child, please see Steve or Corinne Barrett or Dr. Tim Friederichs. Pastor Carol, Tim, and Steve are planning a special El Salvador Sunday sometime this summer, with a pupusa lunch following worship. Date to be announced. The 2026 delegation dates are November 16-24. Please talk to Steve if you are interested in learning more.

A horizontal banner with a yellow-to-green gradient background. The text "President's Message" is centered in a dark blue serif font. The text is framed by two thin, curved lines, one green on top and one yellow on the bottom, that sweep across the banner.

President's Message

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It's been a while since I sent my last message. I have had many changes in my life since December 31, 2025. I've retired from Civil Service; working part time - more like full time - as an assistant manager for Brooks Brothers, and I'm still able to support the church in many ways.

Now, I have been asked to take the California Tax School course and work with my former colleague in tax preparation next year. I majored in accounting in high school and earned an Associate Degree in Accounting in 1983 from Wayne Community College.

It may seem like a lot of change, but for me, it's not. Through the years, I have gone through changes and was able to adapt quickly. Yes, it took time and research, learning things old and new, but I always came out on "top of my game."

That's what change does. It challenges you to find the real "why" or seeking the truth. Sometimes, you'll find out that some procedures were done wrong and learn how to fix them. Sometimes, you find that some things can't be fixed, but there's a way to go forward that will eventually address the issue or problem.

Here's the deal. You can't be afraid of change; you must embrace it. Life has taught me that you learn something new every day. There is no cap on learning. In the end, you will be open to many things that can make you better.

Keep your focus on Christ, and you will be able to "walk on water." It is when our focus looks in a different direction that we fall.

Peace, Mark Nelson

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

We are a diverse congregation where all are welcome!

Our Mission Statement

To Know Christ as Savior, Lord, and Friend;
To Grow in Christ through Worship, Bible Study, Prayer, and Christian Fellowship;
To Go in Christ's name to proclaim the Good News of His love, care for the needy, and make Disciples of all.

Council, Ministries, and Staff

DISCIPLES

All Members of LCGS

STAFF

Pastor

Pastor Carol Been
Interim Pastor

Admin Assistant

Brittany Ventura

Custodian & Hall Rental Coordinator

Sonia Godines

Bookkeeper

Mary Ann Henriques

2026 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pastor Carol Been
Mark Nelson, Pres.
Corinne Barrett, V. Pres
Carol Melland, Sec.
Dan Kemper, Treas
Cindy Fresh
Andrea Puck
Casey Jerome
Tom Campbell

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Call

Andrea Puck
Steve Barrett

Church and Society

Ida Nuttall

Finance & Stewardship

Chris Jensen
Dan Kemper

IT & Website

Norman Puck
Diane Dahms

Personnel

Corinne Barrett

Property

Tim Martin
Andrea Puck

Worship & Music

Debra Gruttadauro

MINISTRIES

Food Bank:

Cathie Montero

Jamaica Mission/ Worship & Music:

Tim Friederichs

Santa Cruz al Salvador:

Steve Barrett

Quilting Ministry:

Donna Kemper

Prayer Shawl Ministry:

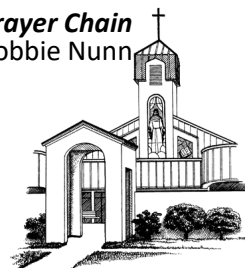
Jana Mattox

Tabitha's Joy

Ida Nuttall
Kim Legard

Prayer Chain

Bobbie Nunn



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