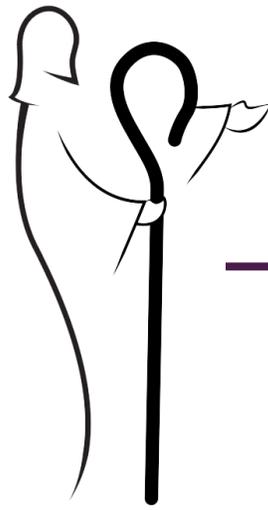


# THE STAFF NEWSLETTER

## SEPTEMBER

Good Shepherd  
Lutheran Church  
700 North Wright Rd  
Janesville, WI 53546  
608-754-0067  
gsluth@gmail.com



*What's happening at Good Shepherd*



Mark your calendars! On Sunday, September 12th, we will return to our 10:00 am worship time.

### PRAYER VIGIL SEPTEMBER 25

*"COME TO THE GARDEN WITH JESUS"*

All members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, friends and neighbors are invited to join us in a prayer vigil held in our greenery filled sanctuary on Saturday, September 25 from 7 am to 3 pm. A prayer vigil is a specific period of time set aside for continual prayers and we are asking you to prayerfully consider signing up for a 30 minute period of prayer. We would love to have you physically in church, our sacred space, but if that is not possible you may certainly pray at home. Either way, there is a sign up poster in the fellowship area, or you are most welcome to contact Ruth Demmon, Tami Schoeller or Gloria Oleston with questions or to sign up. In addition, if your personal schedule does not allow you to commit to a specific time, drop ins are always welcome.



Our mission is to provide you with a quiet, reflective place so that you may take all the time you need or want to spend time talking to God and then listening to what He wants to say to you. Your prayers can be for many things and for many people...Good Shepherd, the church council, our Pastor, the world, etc. You may also write a personal prayer request on the paper provided. You do not need to sign it. God knows who it is from. It will be given to our Pastor and to the Good Shepherd Prayer Chain.

***"The power of the prayer does not depend on the one who makes the prayer, but on the One who hears the prayer."*** Max Lucado in *The Great House of God*.

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

In Paul's first letter to the Corinthians chapter 16 verse 13 we hear, "Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do, be done in love." And in verse 16, "I urge you to put yourselves at the service of such people, and of everyone who works and toils with them."

This is actually part of Paul's closing messages in this particular letter. The second part, (verse 16) is speaking to supporting those that have devoted themselves to the service of the saints. Which means, Paul is imploring us to support each other. Remember that each of us is both fully saint, and fully sinner.

Yet this extends so much further. It means to encourage each other, lift each other up, and offer a helping hand with the ministries of the church. I see this as a strong gift of this congregation. It helps us to bind together as the Body of Christ. Each one of us, using our own gifts and talents to support God's church. Each of us, doing our part.

But this message, seems a bit cautionary. It begins with, "Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong." It seems that Paul might be worried. Maybe they were facing specific issues, or hardships that people had different opinions about.

And I see this as extremely viable in the context and culture we are currently experiencing. Sure, over time there have been other times of crisis. The black plague, polio, 9-11, the revolutionary war, and to many others to mention.

Each with its own struggles and challenges. Each, having never been experienced before. And for us, it has been the current pandemic. Let's be honest, we are all exhausted and frustrated by it. And there are constantly decisions to be made, that there are many opinions on.

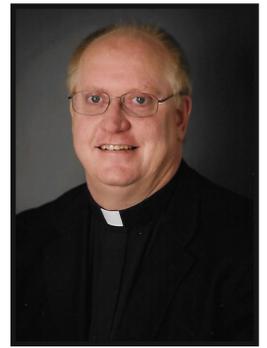
But, as Paul tells us, support each other, be strong, be courageous, keep alert, and stand firm in your faith. It's ok to have different opinions, but especially in times of strife, we need to remind ourselves that we belong to Jesus. That we are one body. And that we need to build up God's mission. Wherever it may lead, or whatever decisions are made. We are called to support, and not make it about ourselves.

In other words, in these trying times, wading thru uncharted waters, we need to let all that we do, be done in love. (even if we might disagree). And as the Delta variant moves thru our community, we are encouraged. Stay strong, be courageous, and stand firm in your faith. Working to support each other, and knowing that God's work continues to be done here, at Good Shepherd. Trust in God, and trust in those that also trust in God.

Because it is in that trust, that faith, that we are able to embrace hope. And it is where we find grace upon grace. Not from what the world offers, but in what God has already given us. After all, that is what truly matters. Just let everything you do, be done in love. Because we still belong to the One, who loves us unconditionally. And may

God be with you, until we meet again.

Pastor Mike.





My name is Chad Nelson and I would like to introduce myself and give a little background of who I am.

In July of 2021 I moved to Janesville from Madison with my wife Ericka. We live on the east side of Janesville just off of Morning Side Dr. I previously lived in Janesville from 2002 until 2009. I then moved to Madison where I worked for the Wisconsin Council of the Blind & Visually Impaired. In 2017 I resigned my job and traveled to Minneapolis MN for a 9 month training program for blindness training. This training incorporated techniques for non-visual learning of life skills. These skills included White cane travel where I learned different techniques to travel using my white cane to use public transit in Minneapolis and to also be able to learn the address system to enable me to find what I needed to find. I was good at this stuff before I went to Minneapolis, however I did learn some useful skills in efficient use of the cane.

I also learned braille, although I am still not good at reading it. It is funny because Ericka can read braille better than she writes it, and I can write it better than I can read it. In this class I also was given computer instruction which I already knew and am knowledgeable in using computers.

Industrial arts was my favorite class there. I made a box using hand tools that I use to store our remote controls. I also made an intricate music box for Ericka. I also made a porch swing that is probably going to become a bench.

The last but not least was Home Management. This skill, again, I had years of experience in. I did learn some new recipes, and some tricks to make working in the kitchen easier. One of the requirements to graduate from the program was that I had to prepare a meal for 50 people.

Throughout the years I have attended many churches, and because of my vision disability I never felt like I was accepted until I came to Good Shepard. The minute I spoke with Pastor Mike I felt welcomed. This welcoming atmosphere extended to the rest of the congregation. I have never felt accepted anywhere until now.

Ericka and I have been married since November 10 of 2018. This is both our second and last marriage. We met in 1988 in Wausau at Northcentral Technical college for a summer program that was meant for blind and visually impaired people to explore educational opportunities and to investigate possible careers. The best thing that happened to us, was each other. We met and were instantly inseparable. Being teenagers we felt something special for each other, but not really knowing that we loved each other even back then. When the summer program was over, we both went home, and of course, being stupid teenagers we failed to exchange addresses and phone numbers; we just never thought about it. We lost touch until 2015 when Ericka found me on Facebook, and the rest is history, or maybe I should say our future.

A few of my interests are reading a wide range of books from westerns to Stephen King and Dean Koontz, I also enjoy web site design/coding, accessibility testing to help web sites become accessible for people with disabilities.

If anyone has questions about my blindness, or any other information of interest please feel to ask. I plan to be associated with Good Shepard church for a long time to come. My goals are to give back to God in what ever way he requires.

~Chad Nelson

Hello! I'm the other half of Chad Nelson. He's kind of humble so to see what he is really like you need to chat with him. I know I talk to much but I love to listen to others even more so don't be shy.

I grew up in the Madison/Monroe area. Never really came to Janesville unless I had to attend something at the school for the Blind here in town. For better or worse I went to public school through my whole life. I have 2 younger sisters and blessed to have much family still in the area. My dad's folks who are in their mid nineties are still alive! Unlike my husband, I have always felt more accepted in church than in the real world of work because of my disabilities. Yes, I don't just carry a white cane but have Epilepsy too. It doesn't happen too much so don't be alarmed. It all hasn't stopped me from living life though. I have worked or volunteered with seniors and preschool kids most of my adult life and am a certified social worker. Mostly I've loved doing activities with seniors in the nursing home or assisted living facilities. I have also advocated both in local and state for making communities more user friendly for the disabled. I've taught Sunday School, Ushered, assisted with communion and attended the Lutheran church's Diakonia program. I was blessed with the opportunity to start Homebound Ministry programs in the past. But my real passion is to serve the Lord on any way He calls me. He's pulled me into new directions these days. Now I am looking for a new work calling. I enjoy but am no master of gardening, crafts, old time radio, walking, Jeopardy!, and writing. I also love theater arts and my baby sister used to be the director of JPAC. It runs in our blood! I love to read and I am willing to help in any way I can but, DO Not ask me to cook. That's my husband's department. I can and do it well. I just hate to do it.

We are both animal lovers and sadly had to rehome a cat to move here. It filled the void of not having children. Now I talk to the flowers outside. Thanks for welcoming us so to Good Shepherd Lutheran. God's here and we are glad to be surrounded by it!

~Ericka Nelson



Good Shepherd will once again host the ECHO Community Meal on Saturday, September 25, 2021 at noon at St. John's Lutheran Church, 302 N. Parker Drive. We will need 4 volunteers to assist with packaging meals at 10:45-12:45. Meals will be carry-out only due to Covid. Please call Rita Milbrandt at 608-931-1372 if you are interested in helping on Sept. 25th.

Can I really trust Jesus to provide for me daily? **REALLY** trust Him??

Lord, please forgive me when I don't trust you.





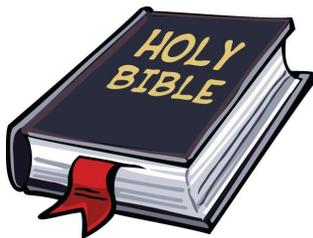
July 25 was the kick-off of the 2021 Stewardship program, “5 Loaves and 2 Fish”, based on the Miracle of “The Feeding of the 5,000”. The immediate challenge for the membership is to try to increase our individual monthly giving by 10% for August. Then by another 10% for September and each month thereafter. For me personally, the extra 10% was easy, but like others, I’m wondering if I have the faith that Jesus will take care of me as He promises. I’ll let you know each month. I look forward to hearing your stories.

Jesus blessed a meager 5 loaves and 2 fish, who are we to say He won’t or can’t bless our 10%? Our faith needs to be in Jesus, not concerned that we will not be able to make our commitment.

By the way, 35 (boxes) loaves of bread and 28 (cans) of fish have been contributed so far for our ingathering. Thank you to all who participated.

Looking ahead, October will be the month for our commitments to serve, November will be our financial commitments for 2022.

Cordy Madorin, Stewardship Chair



### Gospel lessons for September

- ◆ September 5 – Mark 7:24-37
- ◆ September 12 – Mark 8:27-38
- ◆ September 19 – Mark 9:30-37
- ◆ September 26 – Mark 9:38-50



Connor Jacob	9/4
Reggie Hare	9/7
Kaleb Isaacs	9/8
Denise Crandall	9/15
Tabitha Hornby	9/19
Zander Olson	9/24
Cristina Hanada	9/28
Carter Risch	9/28
Enid Branham	9/30
Gloria Jacobson	9/30
Todd Sullivan	9/30



Jerry & Robin Kuter  
9/29



## JULY NEEDS

**Canned Fruit**  
**Canned Meats**  
**Peanut Butter & Jelly**  
**Whole Grain Pasta**  
**Motel Single Serve Foods**  
**Hormel Compleats**

### Personal Items

**Diapers (Sizes 4-6)**  
**Toothpaste**  
**Dish Soap**  
**Laundry Soap**  
**Deodorant**  
**Shampoo**

## School Supplies

### Upcoming Calendar of Events

- ◆ 7/1-9/15 Las Vegas Raffle
- ◆ 7/6-12/28 Calendar Raffle
- ◆ 8/20 School Supply Distribution
- ◆ 10/23 Empty Bowl To Go Fundraiser
- ◆ 11/20 Thanksgiving Basket Distribution

*More details to come at [www.echojanesville.org](http://www.echojanesville.org)*



### **Summer Fund Raiser**

Please make a donation that will help families in need.

**Your donation can be given to your church,  
 marked for ECHO or sent directly to  
 ECHO, Inc.,**

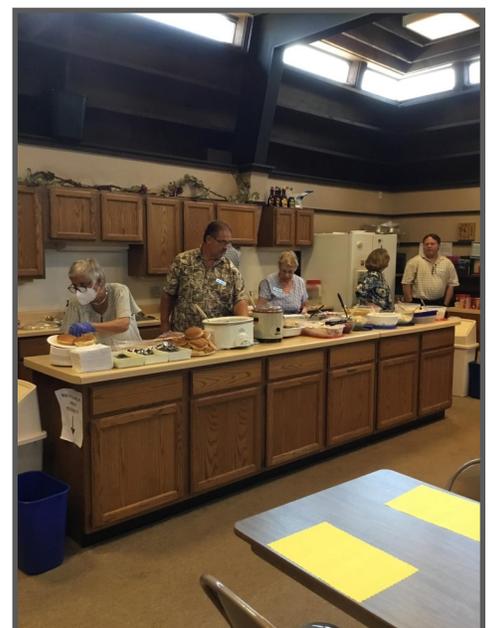
65 S. High St., Janesville, WI 53548

Donations can also be made safely on the ECHO website:

**[www.echojanesville.org](http://www.echojanesville.org)**

Thank you so much! *Life is an ECHO — what you send out, you get back!*

On July 25th, we had a congregational potluck to kick off our stewardship program, "5 Loaves and 2 Fish". Thanks to Kris Arneson for all the photos!







# SEPTEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 <u>9:30 am</u> Worship Svc	6 <b>Church Office Closed</b>  <b>Labor Day</b>  <u>7:00 pm</u> Boy Scouts	7	8	9 <u>6:30 pm</u> Council Meeting	10	11
12 <u>10:00 am</u> Worship Svc	13 <b>Church Office Closed</b>  <u>7:00 pm</u> Boy Scouts	14	15 <u>10:00 am</u> Dead- line for newslet- ter articles (October News- letter)	16	17	18
19 <u>10:00 am</u> Worship Svc	20 <b>Church Office Closed</b>  <u>7:00 pm</u> Boy Scouts	21	22	23	24	25 <u>7 am—3 pm</u> Prayer Vigil <u>10:45 am—12:45 pm</u> ECHO Commu- nity Meal
26 <u>10:00 am</u> Worship Svc	27 <b>Church Office Closed</b>  <u>7:00 pm</u> Boy Scouts	28	29	30		

# Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

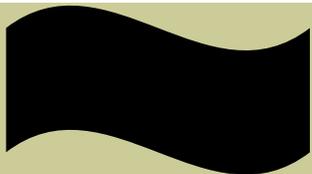
700 North Wright Road

Janesville, WI 53546



Return Service Requested

**SEPTEMBER 2021**



Phone: 608-754-0067  
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Join us for worship live  
on our Facebook page  
every Sunday morning at  
[https://  
www.facebook.com/  
GoodShepherdJanesville](https://www.facebook.com/GoodShepherdJanesville)