



Year In Review

2018



A MESSAGE FROM TIM BROWN, SENIOR PASTOR



Beloved,

One of my favorite writers, naturalists, and unintentional theologians, John Muir once wrote, “We all travel the Milky Way together, trees and people...”

We all do. And I’m privileged to travel with you, with the trees of North Carolina, and with the God that connects us all to one another.

This year, going with the tree theme, I’m hoping for some rootedness (though I know there will be some up-ending surprises). We’ve been together four Christmases, and this is about the normal pattern for such huge change: ups and downs and spins and turns. It takes three to five years to settle into a place, a pattern, a new way of being.

And, of course, it takes a lot of trial, error, and turnover. It just does. We like to pretend that those sorts of things aren’t part of the change equation, but they are.

They are part of the life equation.

So, as is my yearly practice, in the midst of all the twists, turns, and loop-de-loops, I want to put forth my annual list of gratitude, joy, and pride.

Gratitude

- for the gifts of John Jahr and the wonderful music he’s brought with him
- for our wonderful preschool that continues to shape hearts and minds with love and God’s hope
- for the gifts of the Call Team who had the insight to bring John to us
- for Pr. Marsha who continues to surprise and amaze me as a dedicated and talented servant of Christ
- for our outgoing and incoming Council members
- for all of the people who give selflessly of their time and treasure to change lives here at GSLC
- for the vision God is continuing to impart upon this place as we serve North Raleigh and grow into what’s next
- for the faithfully departed we lovingly laid to rest in God’s promises here at GSLC in 2018, especially for Cindy, Ruthe, Orv, and Charlotte
- for all of our volunteers and lay leaders: youth leaders, choir assistants, choir directors, hospitality, evangelism, property, finance, personnel, Memory Café, Coffeehouse, Building Independence, Family Promise, Council, altar guild, Stephen Ministers, and Outreach Team
- for musicians who praise God weekly here, sharing their gifts with the world
- for growth in WOW (Worship on Wednesdays)

Joy

- for our 16 Baptisms in 2018
- for our 17 Confirmands in 2018
- for our wonderful staff and volunteers who serve with such joy
- for the 73 new disciples who have joined us in our ministry
- for the hundreds of worship servers, ushers, acolytes, technical wizards, and designers who have spent countless hours helping this community praise God

Pride

- for the many, many disciples serving throughout Raleigh on Rally/Raleigh Days this year
- for the great work of advocacy that our Outreach Team embarked upon this year
- that we tackled a stretch budget without fear
- for the great leaders and youth who went to the ELCA Youth Gathering this year
- for widening our welcome
- for hundreds of hungry mouths fed out of our kitchen monthly
- for countless lives changed in the name of Christ

We're not done, of course. But let us root ourselves, people and trees together, in the love of Christ who continues to call this community into the future. We are changing, moving, growing...this can't be denied. Let's root deeply into it and see what comes to life.

See you in church,
Pr. Tim Brown

In loving memory of

Cindy Davis

Ruthe Harrill

Orv Melcher

Charlotte Sheldon

In celebration of the baptism of

Grayson Ansel
Jameson Burris
Rachelle Burris
Tessa Chaffee

Harlowe Davis
Zane Gonyier
Doug Long
Jacob McFee

Liam Ochman
Avett Richardson
Brandt Rupert
Caleb Thacker

Chadwick Thacker
Karalynn Thacker
Avery Walker
Mary Scott Blackmon

In celebration of the confirmation of

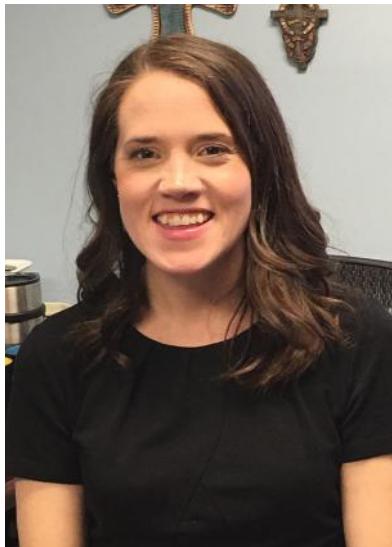
Leah Armentrout
Rachel Bohl
Joshua Cash
Trevor Darnell
Emma Dellinger

Nolan Erickson
Garrett Fox
Arkin Haugland
Jessica Hollebrands
Madalyn Hutchinson

Grant Jensen
Logan Mize
Cate O'Brien
Emily Sloman
Ian Summers

Rachel Vorhees
Samantha Waller

A MESSAGE FROM MARSHA ANDERSON, ASSOCIATE PASTOR



By nature, an Annual Report is chock-full of the activities and programs that kept us busy this year. It speaks to a congregation that is vital, creative, and active.

And there, in the middle of the busy whirlwind, is God. God is in the activity, of course. But also, God is there in the silence between things...in the prayers that surround all we do...in the quiet center that propels us forward.

We do so much, and hopefully, all that we do is grounded in that powerful place of quiet wisdom – grounded in the movement of the Spirit.

The Spirit is at work among us. That is evident! And the Spirit calls us forward: to new ventures, new possibilities, new ministries. It is an honor to move with the Spirit and with all of you, and it is exciting to dream about our future together.

Here are some places I saw the Spirit at work in my key areas of ministry in 2018.

Congregational Care

- We launched Visitation Ministry, dedicated lay people who spend time with our homebound members.
- I attended Stephen Leader training and began to work with our remarkable Stephen Ministers.
- I began training in Spiritual Direction, adding depth and knowledge to my pastoral care.
- We dreamed about the addition of a part-time Visitation Pastor to better care for our church community.

Outreach

- This was our first full year with a new Outreach Coordinator, Monica Lavery. Her enthusiasm and commitment have enlivened our work.
- We created the Refugee Circle of Welcome Team which will partner with Lutheran Services Carolinas to resettle a refugee family in 2019.
- We advocated for our neighbors in need more often, through letter writing and rallies.
- Looking to the future, we laid groundwork for engagement with a local community organizing group.

Adult Education

- We continued to explore varied and challenging topics through Bible Studies, Book Studies, Sermon Series, and Sunday Morning Education. The depth of engagement with scripture and the spiritual life is astounding and energizing.

As I reflect on my first full year of ministry with you, I am so grateful for all that we have accomplished together. But more than that, I feel blessed to know you and to be getting to know you better all the time. It is an honor to walk with you as we all follow the movements of the Spirit.

Peace+

PM

A MESSAGE FROM THE OUTGOING COUNCIL PRESIDENT



Looking back on my six years on Council, there has been considerable change at GSLC. With all that change, the foundation for a stable, growing and service-orientated large church has been established.

Council started 2018 with goals to improve communication, increase emphasis on service, examine our worship services, add a Visitation Pastor, and look into potential building projects. Over the past year, we have used stories to communicate and share how GSLC is changing people's lives. With the addition of an Outreach Coordinators, we have grown service opportunities at GSLC. Worship on Wednesday (WOW) has provided an opportunity for fellowship and worship for families with younger children and has grown from once a month to twice a month in 2019. While the current funding levels have pushed the

Visitation Pastor out, the ground work of developing the job description has been laid. Finally, the parking lot planters built in 2018 provided fresh produce and learning opportunities throughout the spring and summer.

And I have confidence that that 2019 Council will provide the leadership required for continued growth, service and "getting about our father's business." Thank you for allowing me to serve.

From the Council,
Rich Mielke (President 2018, outgoing 2019)

GSLC COUNCIL



Nelson Nunalee, incoming President 2019

In 2018, I witnessed amazing growth at Good Shepherd. We continued to feel challenged and inspired by the leadership of Pastors Tim and Marsha. We experienced a transition in our music program, including an "all hands on deck" interim period and culminating in the hiring of the wonderful John Jahr. Our outreach efforts are expanding and experiencing increased focus under the guidance of Monica Lavery. We are growing. We are serving. We continue striving to make Christ the center of our worship and work. May it be so in 2019. I am grateful to serve on your behalf.

GSLC COUNCIL (continued)



Andrew Ballard, incoming Vice President 2019

Nancy and I became members of Good Shepherd in 2000, shortly after relocating to Raleigh from Maryland. Our adult children, Patrick and Caitlin, grew up in the arms of our congregation and were guided by the love and support of this faith community. I am blessed to enter the second year on council with a group of faithful, thoughtful, and caring people working together to help guide us through the upcoming challenges and opportunities. Together with all of you, my brothers and sisters, we will continue to grow and build upon our solid foundation. Good Shepherd offers so many ways to serve our local and greater communities and our church family has lots of love, talents, and gifts to share. I look forward to continuing my faith journey with you and working to help fulfill God's vision for us.



Brad Buff, incoming Council member 2019

I feel honored to return to the GSLC Council after a 30-year hiatus. My wife, Ann, and I are charter members and were blessed to raise our four children in this community. As we roll into 2019, I hope to help rekindle the mission spirit of the early years of this church, where everyone belonged and served because we believed that this church could do good things in North Raleigh and beyond, and we could not do it with half the church sitting on the sidelines as spectators. Take a hard look at the financial history of recent years. We have spent more than we gave 4 of the last 6 years, with a significant portion of our giving coming from a small percentage of families. That can not, and should not, continue in a community as financially blessed as ours. We can do much greater things, but only if we all work together, sharing our time and talents along with our treasures as we are able.



Kate Greengrove, incoming Secretary 2019

My family and I have been members of GSLC since 1998. I am in the final year of my second 3-year term on Council. GSLC remains a vibrant, growing church – in size and in impact to the community. There is much work to do, however, and I encourage everyone to find a way to contribute to our good work in Raleigh and around the world. We are a church that is confidant in God's grace. We embrace all people -- questions, complexities and all. Let us welcome everyone who comes through our doors! And let us continue to encourage all generations to participate in every aspect of the church – together. Keep the energy of the Holy Spirit alive on the corner of Sawmill and Creedmoor through your time, talents and generosity!



Elizabeth Lindsay, incoming Council member 2019

My husband, Aaron, and I began attending Good Shepherd in 2012 shortly after getting married and joined soon after. We very quickly got involved with a young adult Christ Care group and met some of our best friends through the church. We have since had a son, Connor (2), who recently started attending the new two-year-old Sunday school class. It is has been really fun to watch him learn about God along side his peers. As a new member to council, I am excited to continue to grow in my faith, and I am looking forward to learning more about the ins and outs of the church, having grown up in a non-denominational church, and to seeing all of the different ways God is working through members of our congregation.



Ginny Poston, outgoing Secretary 2019

As I leave my tenure on Church Council, I thank the congregation for the honor of serving as one of your representatives! I am overwhelmed with how proactive, engaged and productive our leadership is and am grateful the vibrant present, and vision for the future, of Good Shepherd. I give thanks for our incredible staff and council members for your commitment to live out our mission at GSLC, in Raleigh and the world! And I'm excited to see what's next.



Claudia Rivera

My family and I have had a notable experience at Good Shepherd! This year I have 3 teenagers at home... Gaby, Lorena and Ainara (our exchange student from Spain). My husband, Richard, and I were delighted to start our journey here many years ago and continue to have great experiences. Both he and I have contributed to different areas of the church, and this year will be my 2nd year on Council. I am hoping to represent you well on Council and welcome any questions and/or concerns you may have. If we have not met, please introduce yourself to me anytime! I am very enthusiastic to see what visions, achievements and perspectives 2019 will bring for GSLC.

STEWARDSHIP

203

pledges received
for 2019 giving

\$211.98

increase

in pledge amount per giving unit

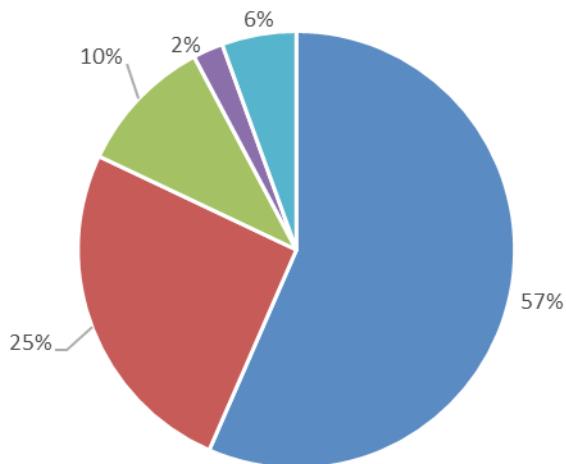
\$3,860.94 \$4,072.90

2017

2018

average amount pledged
for the upcoming year

GSLC Mission Ministry - 2018



■ Synod Benevolences

■ Mnene Orphan Support*

■ Families Together

■ Lutheran Family Services

■ Other (Circle of Welcome*, Coffeehouse*, Evangelism,
Family Promise, Memory Café*, World Hunger*)

\$13,000

extra given in 2018
to Lutheran Disaster Response,
North Raleigh Ministries,
and Good Shepherd's mortgage*
off 2017 surplus

*with this extra principal payment,
mortgage will be paid off by November 2020

*Includes dedicated account funds

A Reflection

by Patrick Kinlaw

The theme of Good Shepherd's stewardship campaign in 2018 was "Parables: God's Story + Our Story." As members of the Stewardship Team, we were excited about this campaign and the vision behind it.

The gospel parables teach us about the importance of sharing our gifts to further the Kingdom of God. Good Shepherd is such a generous congregation, both within the community and to the world beyond, that our experiences provide many opportunities to reflect on parables. All of us can apply the gospel parables to our own lives. All of us have parables for one another, some of which we were fortunate to hear and read this year in different forums. In helping with a stewardship campaign around this theme of parables and stories, two reflections have come to mind over and over.

First, the stories of how all people are valued at our church. Our congregants and those we serve are both the old and the very young, families and individuals with many types of identities, half a world away and sitting next to us on Sunday. May we continue valuing the stories of all people and sharing our stories with one another.

Second, the collective story of Good Shepherd is one of ministry in many forms, ministry that is made possible by church members giving generously. Through the church, we are able to support the actions of our fellow Good Shepherd members and of the ELCA, even when we might not be able to participate directly in those ministries as individuals.

The Stewardship Team is grateful for your generosity during 2018, and we look forward to our life of faith together during 2019.



Communion Assistants during Sunday morning worship at Good Shepherd.

PRAISE



550

glow sticks
used at the 5pm Christmas Eve
worship service



220+

anthems
shared in worship



40

worship bags
used on Sundays by families
with young children



11 WOW Services 3 Christmas Eve Services 16 Mid-Week Services

176
worship
services



>300
people

served in worship as assisting ministers, acolytes, banner wavers, readers, Welcome Team members, communion assistants, prayer team members, musicians, ringers, choir members, Pick Me Up drivers, baristas and altar guild

A MESSAGE FROM JOHN JAHR, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” Colossians 3:16-17

Greetings, people of Good Shepherd. Thank you for inviting me into your midst. 2018 has been a year of change for you and for me. For you, 2018 began with a search for a new musician. For me, it began with a search for a “next” position after 10 years in rural Minnesota. I’m glad that those searches led us to each other, as I’m greatly enjoying my time here. Thank you for showing me such warm hospitality as I’m settling in. Thank you for the meals, the well wishes, the gift cards, the invitations to your homes... I’m overwhelmed by your generosity.



When you read this report, I will have been here at Good Shepherd approximately six months. In that time we’ve made music together in a variety of ways. We’ve learned new hymns as well as sung old favorites. We’ve experimented with new liturgies and orders of service. We’ve laughed together and cried together as we seek new ways to tell the old, old story through word and music.

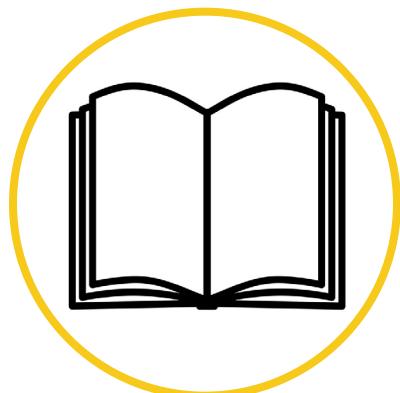
Thanks to everyone who participates in the worship and music life of Good Shepherd. Whether it is singing in the choirs, serving as readers, assisting ministers, communion servers, ushers, altar guild, or seasonal decorators, it takes many hands and voices to make our worship profoundly meaningful and beautiful. Thanks to the choir directors who do such a great job leading all of our ensembles! Thanks to my co-workers, who make coming to work fun.

I’m looking forward to seeing what 2019 holds in the musical life of Good Shepherd. I believe God has great things in store for us.



HeartSong Youth Choir shares the gift of music during Sunday worship.

LIFE



27

individuals

meet each Tuesday for
Bible Study with the Pastors



1:8

committed adult
leader-to-teen ratio

for each grade in Good Shepherd's
youth ministry



31

active Stephen
Ministers

provided over 800 hours of care in
25 caring relationships



70

supportive
congregants

listened to stories from the 2018 ELCA Youth
Gathering, wrapping up our journey to Houston, at
cross-generational Sunday Morning Education

A Reflection

by Sami Waller (in photo below)

Good Shepherd creates a wonderful community where youth and adults can come together to worship God and to create lifelong friendships. Events such as the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, TX helped increase the relationship among the participants who went.

The Gathering was in June, and it was something that I'll never forget. From the start, there were thousands of Lutherans walking the streets of Texas clad in different colors to represent their churches. All those people already had something in common which helped create a community for the Gathering. Something that also connected us was the common currency there, wristbands. The wristbands would be traded among participants of the Gathering. On them would be the name of the church and where they were from. It was cool seeing how people from Iowa

were becoming good friend with people from Florida. Every night of the Gathering all 31,000 participants would enter the NRG Stadium and hold a mass gathering where we would hear three speakers talk about the theme of that day. Coming home I realized that I was not the same person as I was before. I realized that I was part of a huge community and that no one is ever truly alone. The Gathering allowed people to come closer to God and each other.

Back at home, there are many ways to connect to the church. One way is through music. Good Shepherd allows people of all ages to come together to sing via choir. Choirs, such as HeartSong, create a small community of people who can share their love of music. Things such as youth group and Sunday School also help create a connection within the Good Shepherd community. Youth are able to come together each Sunday to come closer with people in their grade and with God. With this community, people can feel comfortable with being themselves at Good Shepherd.



Good Shepherd's youth and adult participants in the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, TX

SERVICE



6

families

serve on Visitation Ministry, providing visits and prayers for ill and homebound members of our community



15

years

of providing food and shelter at Good Shepherd to families in transition through Family Promise



1

ton

of food donated to the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina to provide emergency relief and support to people in North Carolina as they began to rebuild from Hurricane Florence



208

Magi Tree gifts

given this Christmas to foster children, adults with developmental delays, and those rebuilding after hurricanes in Eastern North Carolina

A Reflection

by Alice Boyce

As Lutherans, we see serving others as a way to respond to God's call to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31). My family became members of Good Shepherd in 1991, and our daughters grew up in this church, surrounded by the love and support of a faith community that prioritizes serving our community with compassion. Over the years, we've participated in countless service opportunities that aligned to our interests and life stages.

About 11 years ago, our daughter's confirmation class was invited to serve at GSLC Coffeehouse, a monthly fellowship of positive and healthy social interaction between adults of all abilities to meet, mingle and have fun. There were helpers of all ages, some who were there for the first time (like us) and others who had faithfully served in this ministry for years. A few things struck me:

- I had no idea that such a large group of people were coming together to connect with God's grace.
- Most of the guests were not members of our

church, but they felt welcome and accepted; and the opportunities for socializing helped them build new connections that would not normally have occurred.

- Each helper found a job they could do easily. The youth and adults who were helping genuinely enjoyed it, and most would return to serve again. Our family has served continuously ever since.

In 2018, GSLC Coffeehouse completed its 21st year of ministry to our community, welcoming 175 guests on average each month. Guests travel from Raleigh, Cary, Wake Forest, Durham, Garner and beyond to attend our Coffeehouse. Each guest receives a warm welcome and many will say that Coffeehouse is their favorite thing and not to be missed.

Coffeehouse simply would not be possible without the support of GSLC members and friends, and over 100 adults and youth actively support Coffeehouse in various ways - donating food and drinks, setting up, preparing food, transporting guests, serving dinner, socializing, cleaning up, and more. And, a special connection occurs with the guests and others when families and youth participate in Coffeehouse.

See you at Coffeehouse!



A team of Good Shepherd volunteers ready to work at Habitat for Humanity.

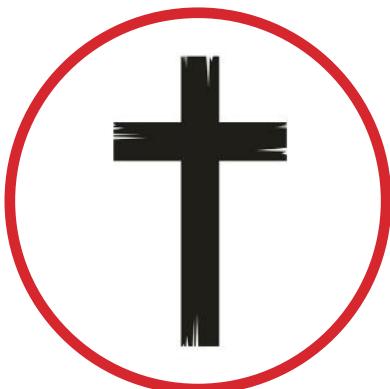
FORMATION



1

new SME class

Frolic is designed for our 2-year-olds and parents to creatively explore Bible stories together



10

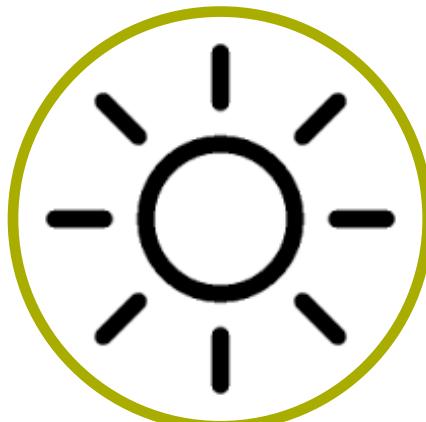


4

faith practices

families engage in around the dinner table every Worship on Wednesday.

The four faith practices include caring conversation, ritual and tradition, devotion, and service.



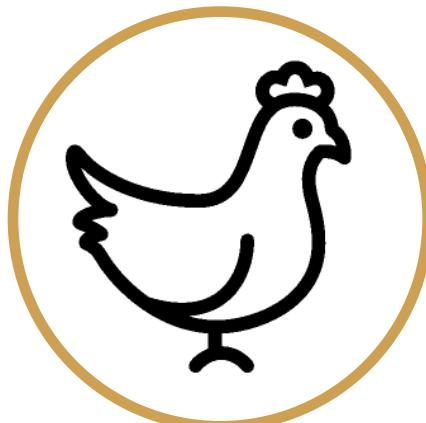
Day Camp

64 kids registered

9 camp counselors

25 youth volunteers

4 adult leaders



Summerfest

43 kids registered

25 youth volunteers

18 adult leaders

2 pastors

A MESSAGE FROM BARB NEWCOMER, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Have you ever thought about “WHY” Children’s Ministry? Here is a thought, “What is rooted in the heart of a child is almost impossible to uproot in the life of an adult.”

Jesus put the child amid His ministry and, therefore, we should put the child amid the church. Not only do I believe that God blesses this, but if we were honest this would be the most strategic use of our resources and it would bear the most fruit for the Kingdom of God in the future.

Here are some reflections on children and adults that I have seen in 2018.

Agape Day Camp Fun, smiles, friends, growing faith, and so much more happen the week of day camp. A family of five boys came to day camp as campers through Families Together several years ago. Now, three of the boys are youth leaders during the week and the other two remain campers. Every year they look at me and say, “Don’t forget to call our mom next year!”

Summerfest 43 children shared their talents to tell the story of a girl named Faith who lost her Grandma’s chickens in a dream and, in doing so, came to realize that she must have “faith” in God. The gift of children telling a message on Sunday morning is a blessing for everyone.



Worship & Wonder Children are told stories from the Bible by a storyteller using handcrafted materials on Sunday mornings. The older children’s Bible knowledge has grown as they help and share stories with the younger children. Adults interact with our children during Wonder Time, acting, drawing, reading, or recreating the story.

Building Youth Groups (BYG) A young adult who grew up going to BYG recently asked me if she could continue to participate in BYG in an adult role. These weekend at Camp Agape are experiences our child will never forget and will have a huge impact on their faith journey.

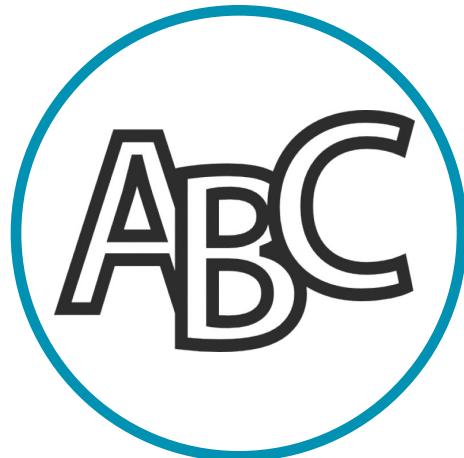
Many thanks to all the adult and youth leaders who helped make Children’s Ministry a success in 2018.

Remember, children are so important to the church and the lives of all ages. Watching a child being an acolyte, serving communion, singing, or something as simple as a smile or a hug can brighten anyone’s day!



Sunday Morning Worship & Wonder class for 3 year olds - 3rd graders

PRESCHOOL



26

letters & sounds

that our preschoolers learn through LetterLand, the phonics program that is also used in Wake County kindergartens



31

Bibles

given to preschool graduates at the end of the school year



8

families

are able to attend Good Shepherd Lutheran Preschool with tuition assistance



15+

gifts of service

given through visits/activities with Springmoor Retirement Community, toothbrushes/floss for Helen Wright Center, candles/toys to Families Together, Meals on Wheels placemats, Memory Cafe menus, & Urban Ministries food donations

A MESSAGE FROM DEANNA KLIMEK, PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

Our 31st year finds us well! Our 12 classroom teachers dedicate their time, experiences and talents to make our school of 88 students one of the best in North Raleigh. Our Music & Movement teacher is celebrating her 15th year with us! We also have a Spanish teacher and 3 excellent aides who help us achieve our goals. We are blessed to have two volunteers come once a week to help in the classrooms.

Our active parent volunteer group, Friends of the Preschool (FOP), also helps to make our school great. They assist in finding room parents for each class and organize the fun parties, receptions and fundraisers. **They build a stronger parent community** and host teacher appreciation meals throughout the year.

Thank you, GSLC, for making a difference by coming to our spirit nights at local restaurants and linking your Harris Teeter grocery card to our preschool. These fundraisers supplement our scholarship fund and help us purchase needed supplies. We are currently **helping eight families with tuition expense** this year.

Our staff are life-long learners, so we have been building our skills on a curriculum for social and emotional development called **Conscious Discipline**. It is used in many schools, pre-k through high school across the country. Two of us even attended the Conscious Discipline Summer Institute for 7 days in Chapel Hill last summer.

The preschool has placed a priority on **serving the community** around us. Our children decorate placemats for Meals on Wheels and menus for Memory Café. They make candles for Families Together; they portion beans and rice for the Food Bank; they make cards at Christmas and Valentines Day to give to Springmoor residents. They also have a toothbrush challenge where they earn toothbrushes to give to the Helen Wright Center.

As part of our service, the 4 and 5-year-old children visit Springmoor residents on a regular basis. Reverse trick-or-treating has been lots of fun, and we made and gave away **40 gifts in treat bags** to residents, all in Halloween costume! New this year we formed a relationship with a more independent group at Springmoor who come to visit us to do activities with the children. They even participate in Music & Movement.

Please **come visit us** any time. We would love to show you what we do! This is a place where children experience life, not just school. Children are having fun, learning through play, while at the same time learning about our loving God through the example of the adults who care for them and encounters with friends they have made here.



Fun in the classroom at Good Shepherd Lutheran Preschool.

A MESSAGE FROM ANDREW BUCK, DIRECTOR OF CROSS-GENERATIONAL MINISTRY



“There is no such thing as successful youth ministry that isolates teenagers from the community of faith.”

Mark DeVries, Family-Based Youth Ministry

On the first Sunday evening in December, as youth group was just getting started in the Fellowship Hall, we welcomed a brand-new visitor. This guest stood in awe, marveling at the many gathering students, the intense game of “9 Square In The Air” taking place, and the detailed preparations being made for dinner together. The gymnasium was vibrant and alive, as it is every 1st and 3rd Sunday evening of the month, with middle schoolers, high schoolers, and their adult leaders. But until she stepped foot into the controlled chaos, our visitor, Donna Parkinson (aka Donna 5:30) had no idea we even existed. I share this story is because I know Donna is not alone.

The Church does a great job isolating teenagers from the community of faith. We hold Sunday school during worship, create youth rooms in far-off corners of the church basement, and we silo-off the youth ministry at time and space apart from the life of the congregation. We do this with the best intentions. But by now, I believe we should know better.

According to Mark DeVries, whose *Family-Based Youth Ministry* was first published TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO(!!), *“those who grow in their faith as adults were teenagers who either (1) came from families where Christian growth was modeled in at least one of their parents, or (2) they had developed significant connections with an extended family of adults within the church.”* In fact, he argues that the more successful a church’s youth program is, the more detrimental it will be to that congregation’s ministry to youth. How we, as Good Shepherd, pass the faith to the next generation is not through a program, but through cross-generational relationships both with our own children as well as the children in the pew next to us. When we grow our children and teen’s “cloud of witnesses,” we grow the Church.

As we continue the slow and steady work of integrating young people out of the silo and back into the congregation, there are many things to celebrate at Good Shepherd today. For one, Sunday evening youth group, which exists to foster relationships between youth and caring adults, has reached over 57 youth since October. I attribute this reach to the six committed adult leaders who consistently show up to love, laugh with, and do life with their designated teens. Oh wait, make that SEVEN committed adults. As of January 6, we’ve had to add a new youth leader to accommodate our growth. And who is the new leader, you ask? None other than Ms. Donna “5:30” Parkinson.



A MESSAGE FROM MIKE SARDI, DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

We are grateful for your regular, generous, and cheerful giving. Because of your stewardship, we were able to renovate the kitchen and bathrooms in the Education Wing. These are the restrooms used by the congregation on Sundays and our preschoolers, so it was important to have them newly-remodeled and updated. We were also blessed to pay a little extra off our mortgage principal, which will enable us to pay off the loan in less than two years.

2018 was the second-best giving year to the operating budget in the history of GSLC. The giving for 2018 was \$1,181,555, while our operating expenses were \$1,238,624. This resulted in a budget deficit of \$57,069. Keep in mind that we renovated the preschool kitchen and bathrooms at a cost of \$29,180, and we ended up titheing our 2017 reserve of \$13,198 in 2018. These two expenses account for over \$42,000 of our deficit.

Our dedicated giving in 2018 was \$51,222, making our total giving \$1,232,777. Our church building is aging, and it has been a blessing to have a contingency fund available so that we can age gracefully. With your continued support, we will be able to keep our church building well-maintained so that we can provide for the growing ministries at Good Shepherd.



2019 Spending Plan



Good Shepherd's Missional Budget 2019

Growing a Christ-Centered Community through Life-Changing Service by:

***Embracing all of God's Children.**

Everyone is welcome here, and we're widening that this year. We embrace and encourage diversity, we sing and pray and contemplate the scriptures as they shape and form us into more hospitable humans, and a more grace-filled, Christ-centered community. Our choirs and participants span all ages and are growing! We embrace participation over perfection. We support our local camp initiatives through work days and camping at Agape and Kure Beach, while also supporting people across the world we've never met through Mnene Parish and Lutheran Disaster Response. We host and volunteer with Coffeehouse, Memory Café, and Family Promise, practicing God's hospitality. Our yearly day camp hosts around 60 children, and our pre-school has over 80 children enrolled. We have Stephen Ministers for those who need spiritual connection in times of crisis, and we started a Visitation Ministry to meet our growing care needs.



***Connecting with God and Others.**

We love our mission outpost here in North Raleigh. We want to be radically hospitable. Our faith formation and cross-generational focus continue to take root. Each year over 170 regular worship services happen at GSLC, with an average of over 460 people gathering each week, including our new Worship On Wednesdays service for young families with children of all ages and abilities. Sermons are relevant while reverent. Worship music is a mix of historic and modern and a bit of bluegrass. We strive to connect people with God each week. God is not done with us yet! We have more to do this next year.



***Developing Life-Long Disciples.**

GSLC is a giving church. We annually offer over 10% of our budget away, and that doesn't even include the special gifts we collect. Every month our Synod, Lutheran Services Carolina, and Pan Lutheran Ministries receive our gifts. Our Sunday School, Confirmation, and Youth Groups continue to grow, encouraging us to solidify ministry positions, both paid and volunteer. We visit those who cannot be with us on Sunday mornings with robust Helping Hands and Eucharistic ministries, keeping them connected to the faith. Our pastors meet with area leaders and those in crisis to help bring the peace of God. We advocate, and are getting louder, on behalf of the poor and vulnerable in Raleigh. Our building houses groups and organizations as they seek to live out God's mission.

***Serving with Compassion**

Good Shepherd is a serving church. Our Rally Day continues to engage our community in serving Raleigh. Each month we host dinners in our Fellowship Hall, dancing with all of God's children. Each week worship utilizes the gifts of musicians and friendly faces to praise God. We've trained ministers for service in God's work throughout the world. We take seriously God's call to live out our faith!



Total 2019 Proposed Budget: \$1,277,134

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church's Line Item Budget 2019

	<u>2019 Budget</u> <u>(proposed)</u>
Congregational Care	\$3,700
Children's Ministry	\$11,000
Youth Ministry	\$11,550
Christian Education	\$4,450
Sunday Morning Education	\$3,500
Confirmation	\$3,950
Benevolences	\$128,776
Evangelism	\$1,200
Outreach Ministry	\$6,500
Giving Processing	\$900
Administration	\$49,550
Financial Administration	\$24,100
Hospitality	\$3,500
Property	\$106,750
Synod & District Convention	\$1,734
Mortgage	\$214,056
Total Worship & Music	\$16,750
Personnel	\$683,668
Council Expenses	\$1,500
 Total 2019 Budget	 \$1,277,134
Total 2018 Budget	\$1,298,287

Explanation of 2018 to 2019 Budget Changes:

- Director of Children's Ministry position becomes full-time, increasing personnel expenses by \$15,111.
- Partnerships have been established with Industrial Areas Foundation and Lutheran Services Carolinas to increase our advocacy and help settle a refugee family in 2019, increasing expenses by \$3,000.
- The difference between the 2018 and 2019 budgets is accounted for by ministry areas tightening belts and requesting fewer funds for the year.



7000 Creedmoor Road
Raleigh, NC 27613
919.848.1573
www.gslchurch.org