



# Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

BUILDING A BIGGER TABLE

## Good Shepherd 2020 Annual Report

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Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
2020 Congregation Meeting  
November 15, 2020

*We, the people of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church are a:*

*Family of Faith,  
Created by God in baptism,  
Forgiven and Fed in communion with Christ,  
Gifted and Enlivened by the Holy Spirit for our life,  
And mission together.*

*In faithful witness to all God does for us,  
We commit ourselves to:*

*Invite and Welcome people of God's diverse  
community to work and worship together,  
Preach and Teach the Word of God, nurturing  
people of all ages to grow in faith,  
Love and Serve one and all as challenged  
by the Gospel, sharing the bounty of  
our lives with others.*

*Guiding Principles*

*Follow Jesus' example—Stand against injustice—Grow community connections—Bring joy—Practice generosity  
—Listen for understanding*

Call to Order

Opening Prayer

2020 in Review

Vote on Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Thank Current Council

Council Elections

Spending Plan

Thank Staff

Announce 2021 Council

Closing Prayer

Adjourn

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
2019 Congregational Meeting Minutes**

**November 17, 2019**

The meeting began with a slideshow video highlighting events from 2019. Linda Schuessler commented that the video clearly showed the joy of our members and families have while working on God's mission. Thank you to Pastor Jen for creating.

The meeting was officially called to order by Church Council President Linda Schuessler at 11:42 with a quorum (minimum of 31 people) present.

Pastor Jeanette Leisk opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Vote on Agenda**

Linda called for a vote to accept the Congregational Meeting Agenda as written. Ann Stone moved to accept the agenda; the motion was seconded by a member of the congregation and was unanimously approved.

**Approval of Minutes**

Linda presented the 2018 Congregational Meeting Minutes for approval. Ann Stone moved to approve the 2018 minutes as written, and a member of the congregation seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Thank Current Council**

Linda thanked the current council members and their families for their time and work. She also thanked Pastor Jen for her leadership and guidance.

**Council Elections**

Please see the supplied proposed 2020 Council Nomination ballot. It is two-sided and notes the council members and committee chairs that are up for election and that are continuing to serve their terms. Linda asked for any other nominations from the floor specifically for the two open chair positions (Stewardship and Youth Ministry) and for two Synod Assembly voting members/representatives to attend on June 20. Corrine Baker nominated Nicole Thompson and ?? nominated Bill McBlaine as Synod representatives. Pastor Jen nominated Jodee Heidmann for Youth chair. Beth Hickey was nominated for Stewardship chair but was unable to accept. There were no other nominations for Stewardship. Scott Baker moved to approve the slate of Council Nominations by voice acclamations the motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Ann Stone moved to accept the ballot as amended by the nominations from the floor; the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

President – Linda Schuessler  
Treasurer – Scott Baker  
Recording Secretary – Sally Eastman  
Worship & Music – Teresa Szkromiuk  
Education – Christine Redon

Vice-President – Sue Cottrol  
Financial Secretary – Denise Gray  
Legal Trustee – Jen Hoyle  
Community Outreach – Denise Gray  
Youth – Jodee Heidmann

Finance – Randy Parker  
Staff Support – Cheryl Malloy  
Stewardship – vacant

Property – Denise Elfes  
ALIVE – Scott Ponsor  
Synod Assembly – Bill MacBlane, Nicole Thompson

## Constitution

Last year, the church's constitution committee went through the constitution making updates and changes, some were mandated to comply with the synod's constitution. At the 2018 congregational meeting, the constitution was approved by a two-thirds vote, but it must be ratified without change at this year's meeting. **Scott Baker moved to accept the constitution as approved by the congregation in 2018 effective ... or January 1, 2020...** Bruce Purdy seconded. After minimal discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.

## Spending Plan (2020)

Bruce Purdy presented the proposed 2020 spending plan. The total is \$454,285, which is a 2.5% increase over the 2019 spending plan. The council spent several hours and meetings dedicated to discussing and finalizing this proposed plan. Bruce noted that the Property spending plan was created by estimating utilities, adding in existing contracts and focusing on repairs that we know need to happen. Many repairs such as replacing/repairing the roof will be paid for out of the long-term maintenance fund, which is not part of the spending plan. Bruce motioned to accept the spending plan as proposed; Scott Baker seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

Kim Anderson asked what line item 5450 Christian Education Support funded. Amy Hadley answered that it included confirmation, first communions, Sunday school supplies, adult bible studies and the anti-racism committee. Kim suggested that we highlight this line item as she believes it is important to acknowledge that this church is proactive and explicit in our conversations about race, and we should be proud of it.

Nicole Thompson asked if the spending plan included any projects to bring the church building into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, specifically internet access in the basement. Corry Robb answered that we will be switching our service from Verizon to Comcast who will run a line allowing us to get high-speed internet. We already have the hardware necessary, and the costs of Verizon versus Comcast are the same so no adjustments to the spending plan are necessary.

Scott Baker noted that the Council will be creating a list of projects that may be able to be completed in 2021 and their costs so that we can accurately include them in the 2021 spending plan. If you know of any such projects, please make the appropriate committee chair of the council aware.

A long-term maintenance plan was created several years ago but was not kept up with. This plan includes things such as replacing HVAC systems and the roof, carpet, etc. A few years ago, the congregation voted to increase the amount we put into the fund each year; it is now at 5%. For 2020, that means approximately \$22,000 will be added to the fund. As of October 31, 2019, there is \$103,000 in the fund. We will deplete this fund by approximately 50% when we replace the roof (late 2019/early 2020 due to leaks) if our insurance does not cover any of the cost. The

Building Campaign that is just wrapping up is covering the costs of facility repairs and replacements this year.

After this discussion, the congregation voted unanimously to approve the 2020 spending plan as presented.

### **Thank Staff**

Linda wanted to extend a thank you to all of the marvelous staff of Good Shepherd. Thank you for all the work you have given us this year.

Paul – bookkeeper

Hector – custodian of five years

Rhonda – organist

Daniel – choir director

Elise – new office administrator/secretary

Denise – education

### **New Business**

Scott Baker motioned for the congregation to give the church council power to transfer funds from the contingency fund to any other line item to cover any overages of more than 25% in 2019. Bruce Purdy seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The 2019 spending plan includes \$5,000 in a contingency fund. The constitution says that if any line item is more than 25% over and funds need to be transferred from the contingency to cover those overages, congregational approval is needed. Currently, the minor repairs line item in facility is 27% over (about \$2,700-2,800) due to the flooding in the basement, plumbing repairs, painting and elevator repairs. Scott does not think any other line item should go over the 25% threshold, but if we don't give the council approval to cover any line items and another goes over, we would need to hold another congregational meeting. The vote on the motion was approved unanimously.

### **Welcome Council**

Linda welcomed the new council and noted that both out-going and in-coming council members are welcome to attend the next council meeting on December 9.

### **Closing**

Pastor Jen added her thanks to the staff who are passionate and faithful. Many thanks to Linda as our council president; she has taken on a lot this year. Thank you also to Ed Sutherland who needed to resign as property chair, and Denise Elfes who took over. Thank you to Corrine Baker who helped out in the office while the secretary position was vacant. Thank you to the constitution committee and all who do things behind the scenes and in front. We are thankful! She closed the meeting with a prayer. Bruce Purdy motioned to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:22 pm.

# Proposed 2021 Council Nominations

New Nominations Are Underlined

Returning Members in bold Show Term Serving

**Returning**

Nominee

Write-in

## Officers:

*Serve one year term; limit three consecutive terms*

**President** Sue Cottrol \_\_\_\_\_

**Vice-President** Lori Strauss \_\_\_\_\_

*Serve one year term; no limit on consecutive terms*

**Treasurer** Scott Baker \_\_\_\_\_

**Financial Secretary** Denise Gray \_\_\_\_\_

**Recording Secretary** Sally Eastman \_\_\_\_\_

*Serve two year term; no limit on consecutive terms*

**Legal Trustee** Beth Hickey \_\_\_\_\_

## **Ministry Chairs**

*Serve Two Year Term; no limit on consecutive terms*

**Community Outreach** **Denise Gray** (1/1/20-12/31/21)

**Education** **Christine Redon** (1/1/20-12/31/21)

**Evangelical Outreach** Robbie Morris \_\_\_\_\_

**Communications** Corinne Baker \_\_\_\_\_

**Stewardship** Chris Hoeffner \_\_\_\_\_  
**Worship and Music** **Theresa Szkromiuk** (1/1/20-12/31/21)  
**Youth** **Jodee Jewell** (1/1/20-12/31/21)

**Committee Chairs**

*Serve Two Year Term; no limit on consecutive terms*

**Finance** **Randy Parker** (1/1/20-12/31/21)  
**Property** **Denise Elfes** (1/1/20-12/31/21)

**Staff Support** Scott Ponsor \_\_\_\_\_

**Mission Endowment Fund Committee (5 members)**

*Three Year Terms; limit is two consecutive terms*

**Chris Hickey** (2019-2021; 2nd)  
Scott Baker (2021-2023; 2nd) \_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Edwards (2021-2023; 2nd) \_\_\_\_\_  
Denise Gray (2021-2023; 2nd) \_\_\_\_\_  
Heather Martin (2021-2023; 2nd) \_\_\_\_\_

**ALIVE Representative** \_\_\_\_\_

# Reports

## Interim Pastor Report - Looking Back and Moving Forward

*For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. (Romans 15:4)*

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I joined you in September, but I know that early in 2020, your council held a retreat and made goals and strategic plans building on your past faithful and effective ministry here at Good Shepherd. Hearts and hands were excited to work through those this year, and, then...the Coronavirus pandemic hit. Your leaders followed the prescribed direction of government and health officials and suspended worship and all activities.

You all pivoted to Zoom worship; musicians adapted; communications adapted; teachers adapted; volunteers adapted, and:

Worship continues. Education continues. Service continues. Hope continues.

Your elected and non-elected leaders took the pandemic seriously and lead you well.

In the midst of that, your beloved Pastor Jen Leisk discerned a move to be near family and answered a call to a church in Massachusetts. Pandemic and all, you sent her off well with a great celebration: "She Built A Bigger Table".

And, then, your council needed to welcome an interim pastor. Your council leaders are efficient, watchful and faithful. Thank you to the council for your faithful witness and welcome as the interim pastor and your ministries of service in God's kingdom.

Highlights since I arrived in September have been the God's Work. Our Hands. food and pantry drive in September, and again in October, and is on the calendar for November also. Your generosity to the growing needs is salve to the wounded souls of our time. It was a joy to be in on the last preparations of the youth for their Confirmation and then celebrate them on Reformation Sunday. The antiracism team initiatives and dialogue with our Muslim brothers and sisters are hope in a harsh world and a national church body that, despite efforts, is not diverse.

The search for your next pastor will take some time, but not too much, so be of good courage. The search is in good hands with your call committee members who are wise and seeking to discern God's will in the search for your next pastoral leader.

*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. (Hebrews 13:8)*

During pastoral transition times, it's good to pause and reflect. Jesus is our savior. He is the savior of the world. This does not change as it says in Hebrews.

During this time of transition and in this time of pandemic, I encourage reflection upon these questions: Why do we do what we do as a church and what is the purpose of the church? Often God works through disruption to guide and correct our ways of living and being together in the world. Being attentive to signs of God's leading will align Good Shepherd with God's will for our life together and service to the world. Trust these words from the Psalmist:

*I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you. (Psalm 32:8)*

Good Shepherd is a generous community. So far, finances remain in good standing and in line with the 2020 spending plan. I am grateful for your continued stewardship of your money, time and talents. I am also grateful for the Embrace the Bigger Table matching grant opportunity provided by anonymous members of Good Shepherd. Please consider giving to this campaign, while still completing your original pledge or intention of giving to Good Shepherd. Embrace the Bigger Table allows Good Shepherd to, indeed, embrace the bigger table you have built and will continue to build by tending to infrastructure and antiracism initiatives.

*For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. (Romans 15:4)*

Right now, in the days after the election, we are all pretty tired. Tired of divisions. Tired of derision. Tired of hate. Because we have hope and encouragement in Jesus Christ, we can be hope for our neighbors and nation right now. Hope will lead us out of hate. In the next several months, let love flow, hope, too. Be filled and strengthened with God's love through worship and relationships here at Good Shepherd. And, share that love with all the world. Spread it across the divide. Hope and love. They will heal.

Finally, it is a blessing and a privilege to be your Interim Pastor. I am grateful for your welcome and help acclimating to Good Shepherd. I find the staff to be dedicated, faithful servants. You are blessed to have Daniel Jackson, Denise Steene, Elise Lewis, Hector Hernandez, Paul Lund, and Rhonda Rose pouring their hearts into their roles and responsibilities at Good Shepherd. Thank you Daniel, Denise, Elise, Hector, Paul and Rhonda. Your work and dedication reflect the glory of God.

In Christ, with gratitude,  
Pastor Wendy Moen, Interim

## Congregation Council President Report

What a year this has been! It sometimes feels like we are living in the Biblical times that we have only read about—floods, disease and changing leaders. I must start by saying how proud I am of our congregation, and how privileged I am to serve as Congregation Council President. The year began with the annual Council Retreat. We came away from the Retreat with very focused yearlong goals.

In a nutshell, there were four values we wanted to reinforce and focus on this year- to be a positive force in the community, ensure worship nurtured people's faith, address social concerns, and to incorporate all people/members into congregational life. Additionally, although we have many stakeholders, we identified five we wanted to concentrate our efforts on this year-- teens and our college students, young families and youth, Guest House, Alexandria neighbors, and current members.

Then the pandemic occurred, and our focus quickly became how do we continue to worship without our church building. A Covid-19 taskforce was organized and met regularly to discuss this issue among many others relating to the virus. Could we hold a live service online? What about communion? What if our giving drops and we can't pay our employees and/or our bills? There were so many things to consider and to try and plan for. Many decisions were made and then updated as the situation changed. Not surprisingly, the congregation took it all in stride and rose to the occasion. I couldn't have been prouder of not just our official leader, Pastor Jen, but of all our lay leaders and members. We met our financial obligations and continued to support our community and each other. Although we didn't zero into all our goals and stakeholders we had set for the year, we upheld the values we had identified and included family members and friends from afar into our services.

And the floods came. More than once. We at Good Shepherd have, unfortunately, experienced floods for many years in the basement level. This year was no different except that the building was technically closed. We owe much thanks to a handful of individuals that routinely recognize the flood is coming and try to prepare the building and then clean the mess up afterwards. These individuals, our own very dedicated members, provided their time and physical effort to repair, restore and many times mop the water from the floor. For this I offer thanks and praise.

And what a surprise in the middle of all this Pastor Jen announced she was leaving! Our world as we know it was turning upside down and all around. We acknowledged that life is short and precious, and sometimes hard decisions must be made. Although we knew we would miss Pastor Jen tremendously, we sent her off to Massachusetts and her family with our love and blessings.

A new door opened for us. Pastor Wendy joined our congregation. We welcomed her in the middle of all this turmoil and she has calmly taken the reins from Pastor Jen and is moving us forward. I thank her for her can do attitude and willingness to not only challenge us but to inspire and energize us as we enter this new era. We have a bright and exciting new beginning ahead of us.

I am honored to work with a Pastor and Council that is committed, and I am grateful to each of the Council members and congregants for the gifts of time and talents they have shared. Thanks to all our volunteers, including Ushers, Lay Assistants, Lectors, Altar Guild, Sunday School teachers, and Choir members. Thanks also to our dedicated staff.

As we move into 2021, I believe that through prayer and faith, together we will continue to be a thriving congregation that welcomes everyone, is an active and caring partner in our community, and is a well-governed church. I am impressed at how we come together and contribute to the work of our church.

Yours in Christ,  
Linda Schuessler

## **Staff Support Committee Report**

The Staff Support Committee tends to the needs and interests of the staff, and assists the Pastor as staff supervisor. Cheryl Malloy was the Staff Support Committee chair January through July; Sherry Sterling filled the position August through December.

The Staff Support Committee completed a review and update of the Personnel Policy Handbook. The major changes this year were the inclusion of new policies: the child protection policy, inclement weather policy, emergency action policy, weapons policy and alcohol policy.

During the building shutdown for COVID 19, the GSLC staff continued to work. They all are to be commended for exploring ways to do their jobs under such unusual circumstances. In response to a request by our insurance carrier, notes were made to be included in the GSLC file concerning changes in work practices while the church building was shut down.

## Legal Trustee Report

Jen Hoyle, LEGAL TRUSTEE

This year we filed a claim for the flood damage that occurred in May 2020. We received \$10,000 (our maximum coverage) and decided to increase our coverage to \$25,000 for years to come at a nominal \$95.00 annual increase.

## Evangelical Outreach Report: Welcome and Connect Committee

Before the pandemic, we set up the red bags for visitors, and I created a short overview video that introduces visitors to the core values of Lutheranism and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. We also hosted a Newcomer Brunch on March 8th. Six people attended, and Pastor Jen provided an orientation to ELCA and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

A week later everything changed. When the church closed for the pandemic, Pastor Jen gave me the emails and contact information for people who had been attending Good Shepherd and considering joining, and I sent out weekly Shepherding emails that were provided by Pastor Jen.

That gave me the chance to ensure that they were connected to the Good Shepherd Newsletter.

In October, I began working with the Church Secretary, and Finance Secretary to research how we can use the new PowerChurch software to update the member information and create a church directory with photos so that people can build deeper connections with each other. So far we have completed an online survey that will be sent out in November.

Finally, I am working with Pastor Wendy to enhance the way that we invite visitors and prospective members to signal their interest in learning more about Good Shepherd in this online workshop environment.

## Call Committee Report

Our Call Committee has been diving into the work of preparing to call a new Pastor for Good Shepherd. We are focused on coming together as a team to support and learn from one another in this holy work. To that end, we have learned about the ELCA call process and begun a study of discernment, using the book, Pursuing God's Will

Together: A Discernment Practice for Leadership Groups, to focus our learning and discussion.

Our time together as a Call Committee includes Bible study and reflection so that our steps will be guided by scripture. We are committed to creating space and opportunity to hear God's voice and to discern God's will in our work.

We are creating a process that allows for congregational input into describing both the strengths and the needs of our congregation, and the talents we hope our next Pastor will bring. We plan to create surveys and offer focus groups to allow congregation members to share their experiences and reflections on who we are as a congregation, and what type of Pastor will serve God's will for our ministries and mission. We do not have an exact timeline for this process, but we are moving diligently forward. We are meeting weekly, and are eager to feel progress toward our goal of calling a Pastor.

Ephesians 4:1-6 was a passage lifted up at one of our recent meetings. It speaks of coming together as one with humility, love, and patience and to celebrate the glory of God. We share this passage with you for your own prayer and reflection.

"As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."

We ask you to pray for our congregation and our call committee as we walk this path. We appreciate the importance of the work, and the need to seek God's will and hear God's voice throughout our journey together.

# GSLC Anti-Racism Team Report

Good Shepherd's Anti-Racism Team provides activities and outlets for individuals to:

- Learn about the experiences, tragedies and triumphs of our African American brothers and sisters through history and to today.
- Explore and prayerfully reflect on racism, white privilege and unconscious bias
- Stand with those who face discrimination
- Act to stem structural racism.

Team members:

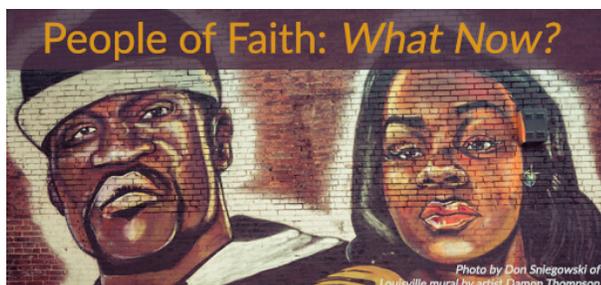
Kim Anderson  
Corinne Baker  
Bob Cottrol  
Dora Cottrol  
Sue Cottrol

Meredith Hurt  
Daniel Jackson  
Pastor Jeanette Leisk  
Pastor Wendy Moen

Andrea Ponsor  
Scott Ponsor  
Bruce Purdy  
Cassi Smith  
Lori Strauss

We're guided by the resolution adopted by council in August 2015, Our Response to Racism and the Murders at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, Charleston, SC. A copy of the text accompanies a print of Mother Emanuel Church hanging just outside the sanctuary (pictured below) and is available online: [www.gslutheran.net/learn/anti-racism](http://www.gslutheran.net/learn/anti-racism).

## 2020 Activities

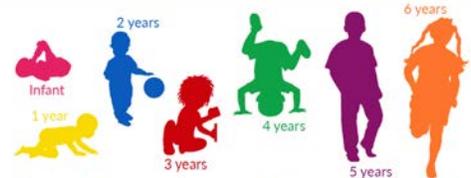


The Anti-Racism Team invites you to a discussion series where we'll engage with this question toward answering it with action. Sundays at 12:30 PM  
Nov. 22 | Nov. 29

Join discussion online: [www.gslutheran.net/learn/anti-racism](http://www.gslutheran.net/learn/anti-racism)



**THEY'RE NOT TOO YOUNG  
TO TALK ABOUT RACE**



Young children notice race. Adults worry that talking about race encourages bias in kids, but silence reinforces racism because children draw their own conclusions using what they see. Families play a key role in helping kids develop positive attitudes about race and diversity and the skills to promote a more just future—but only if we talk about it! [LEARN MORE](#)

© 2018 • The Children's Community School • childrenscommunityschool.org  
1212 South 47th Street, Philadelphia PA 19143

**Racial Equity Letter from the DC ELCA Synod Council**

We, the members of Synod Council, write to you to convey the aches of our hearts in this moment of racial reckoning for our country. We lament for the sins of racial injustice and white supremacy, and we recommit to building a more just and equitable society...



Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's Work, Our Hands

**SYNOD COUNCIL LETTER**  
**Racial reckoning. Lament.**  
**Recommitment.**

**The March on Washington Film Festival**

Online Sept. 20-27  
*Until the story of the hunt is told by the lion, it will always glorify the hunter. -African proverb*

Film screenings (most on-demand during the festival), panel discussions, performing arts



MARCH ON  
WASHINGTON  
FILM FESTIVAL

**WHO TELLS THE STORY?**  
VIRTUAL FILM FESTIVAL

**How Then, Do We Account?**

*"This is a tragedy, and sometimes the criminal law is not adequate to respond to a tragedy, and I fully acknowledge that," said (Kentucky Attorney General Daniel) Cameron[1].*

How then do we account for the murder of Breonna Taylor in her own home? ...

How long, O Lord?  
*How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? -Psalm 13:1*  
How long, O Lord? This ancient lament comes to me all too often and does again as we confront that another Black man has been shot by police...



**BLACK  
LIVES  
MATTER**

<p>Bible Study  <i>Troubling the Waters for Healing of the Church  A Journey for White Christians from Privilege to Partnership</i></p> <p>A conversation and study online Tuesdays at 8 PM and Wednesdays at 11 AM beginning June 23/24</p> <p><i>White privilege is the ability to grow up thinking that race doesn't matter.</i></p>	
<p>Mass Poor People's Assembly and Moral March on Washington  June 20 and 21</p> <p>The Poor People's Campaign is a movement to end the interlocking injustices of systemic racism, poverty, militarism and the war economy, ecological devastation, and the distorted moral narrative of religious nationalism.</p>	
<p>Webinar Recording</p> <p>The National Low Income Housing Coalition hosts Dr. Ibram X. Kendi, author of <i>How to Be an Antiracist</i> and <i>Stamped from the Beginning</i>, who will discuss racial equity during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. #RacialEquityandCOVID.</p>	
<p>DC Synod Racial Equity Listening Series</p> <p>June 18: First listening session with panel  July 2: Lutheran theology &amp; African religion  July 16: Public health &amp; policies  July 30: Community organizing &amp; leadership development</p>	
<p>Service of Repentance and Commemoration of the Emanuel 9 Martyrs  Hosted online by the ELCA Metro DC Synod</p> <p>Followed by online discussion hosted by Good Shepherd to share reflections and conversation</p> <p>An Emanuel 9 reflection by Rev. Tiffany C. Chaney: <i>What Will We Say Next Year?</i></p>	

SE Synod Webinar Recording + Follow-up

Ahmaud Arbery was killed on territory of the ELCA SE Synod. In the wake of arrests in his murder, SE Bishop Kevin Strickland, Presiding Bishop Rev. Elizabeth Eaton and other ELCA leaders discuss the ELCA's resolution condemning white supremacy. *Where do we go from here? Where do you?*



Video Reflection from Pastor Jen  
*Let us not be distracted.  
An invitation to reflect and act.*

Take some time today and sit at the feet of Jesus. Who is Jesus in these days? He is the ones who have suffered. George Floyd. Breonna Taylor. Ahmaud Arbery. Others whose names we know and too many we don't. Our black and brown brothers and sisters. *How are we called to respond?*



Dedication of *Jesus of the People* by Janet McKenzie

In the mystery and wonder of God, we are each created unique and in the image of God. *Jesus of the People* is a reminder that envisioning God is like looking in a mirror and seeing all of God's children in our reflection.

[www.gslutheran.net/learn/jesus-of-the-people](http://www.gslutheran.net/learn/jesus-of-the-people)



Reconstruction Series  
*The U.S. history we probably didn't learn in school*

A series on Reconstruction where we watched portions of the 4-part PBS documentary on this brief but pivotal time in our ongoing American democracy experiment.

<https://www.pbs.org/weta/reconstruction/>

Documentary segments 9:30-10:30 AM on Sundays:

Jan 19

Jan 26

Feb 2

Feb 9

Speaker: Dr. Gary Gallagher, John L. Nau III Professor of the American Civil War, University of Virginia  
Thursday, Feb 13, 7 PM



All are welcome to participate on the anti-racism team or in any activities that speak to them. It's our hope that a variety of forums for education, conversation and exploration help us, as individuals and a faith community, approach dialog and reflection that can be difficult and uncomfortable in an open and spirit-filled manner.

Respectfully submitted,

Corinne Baker, Chair  
GSLC Anti-Racism Team  
Nov. 15, 2020

## Youth Ministry Report

Youth ministry started the year enthusiastically at a winter retreat at Caroline Furnace on February 7 with 12 youth and 2 adults that included snow tubing and making special Valentine's Day cards for our college members. The youth hosted the chili cook-off on February 22 with the School Street Ramblers band again providing musical entertainment.

We had a game night scheduled for March 13, but that was the beginning of the covid quarantine, so it was cancelled. We had a few online game nights during the spring. Our next big event was presenting senior fleece blankets to our graduates: Maggie Patrick, Killian Vetter, Jessica Lopez, and Addison NewRingeisen; thankfully we had tied them earlier in the year.

Youth helped receive donations for God's Work Our Hands Day and are invited to help with the next food drive on November 22. We thought we'd be planning for the ELCA Youth Gathering, but that has been postponed until 2021.