This article has been a long time coming: 28 years in the making to be exact.

Last month my wife and I retired from every day parenting when we dropped our youngest Noah off at West Point. All three of our children are off and on their own and now it is just Cathi and me.

After 28 years of focusing on the welfare of our kids every day it is suddenly somehow over.

Many of you are reading this and remembering when your nest became empty while others are in the midst of parenting and wondering if you will ever not have kids’ shoes all over the place.

In this article, I want to give you my perspective on parenting while pastoring.

Being a dedicated pastor and parent was hard and often I felt like I was failing at one or the other or both. I lived with a great deal of anxiety for much of the time.

The truth is that I stole time and love and attention from my kids to give to people in the church and then turned around and fell short in my pastoral duties so that my kids did not feel like they always came second. Much of the time I felt like I was pretty much disappointing everybody.

I am not really sure why I am sharing this; I just feel like I need to say it.

I am not looking for sympathy but I want you to know that often I thought that this life of being a pastor and a parent was crazy and impossible.

But God’s grace was sufficient. God gave tremendous grace to my children.

None of them feel wounded by my neglect and all of them still feel positive about the church and being pastor’s kids. My daughter is working in a church. Now the fact that they have the absolute best mother in the world is the biggest reason for this but they also seem to be generally cool with their dad who struggled with being a workaholic.

And all of the congregations we have served were full of gracious people who not only supported my efforts to be a faithful Christian dad but loved our kids warmly as well. Some folks did not get it but no one was mean.

Today life seems really good and both Cathi and I are excited about spending more time socially with all of you.

So why did I struggle with myself so much? I will have to pray on that some.

But to all of you who feel like you have so many important responsibilities that you are not meeting any of them and feel anxious and discouraged: Peace.

The fact that you are striving so passionately to be there for the people in your lives shows that you are genuinely trying to be faithful with your life. God sees your heart, He is and will bless you, grace is all around you.

Be better at this than I was by giving yourself the grace that you so generously give to others.

In Christ,
Pastor Todd Wallace
Proposal to amend Bylaws (BL13.07): extend Deacons maximum term limit.
Currently 1, 3-year term to a maximum of two consecutive 3-year terms. Effective 2018.

What is a Deacon?
The position of Deacon was one of the earliest offices of ministry created by the early church as recorded in Acts 6. It is a direct extension of and a complement to the Pastoral Office and therefore it functions similarly to the office of the Ordained Pastors. At The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Deacons are directed to:
- share the responsibility of teaching God's Word
- distribute Holy Communion
- bring comfort and counsel to the people of God through compassionate listening and personal prayer ministry

They work diligently to foster the spiritual vitality of the congregation and model lives of passionate worship. Above all, Deacons serve when called up. They say "yes" when the task must be done and the good of God's people must be advanced. Deacons do not have the primary responsibility of Word and Sacrament ministry but they extend this ministry far and wide throughout the congregation and into the community.

Why do we want to extend the term?
The role of the Deacon at Good Shepherd has changed significantly over the past few years. They have migrated from social hosting responsibilities to a pastoral care oriented deacon body as their primary focus. Experience has shown that time is required to mentor newly elected deacons so they understand and are comfortable with the expectations and responsibilities of serving in a pastoral role. If appropriate, and the individual feels called, deacons should be allowed to build upon and share their experience as an effective, mentoring, ministry team member. A consecutive service commitment will be coincident with existing vacancies (1, 2, or 3 years).

Constitution and Bylaw Compliance
As required by our Constitution (C16.05), this proposal is now presented to the congregation for their review and open for comments. Comments or suggestions should be directed to Doug Stewart stewardd@winfirst.com, Gary Incaudo gincaudo@pacbell.net or any Council member. This proposal will be presented to the Council for their approval on September 25, 2017. If approved by Council, the amendment to the bylaws will be ratified at the annual Congregational meeting, November 12, 2017.

Nominating Team
The nominating team is now developing recommendations to fill open elected and appointed positions* to serve starting January 2018. If you feel called to serve or would like to make a recommendation for an open position, please contact a member of the Nominating Team. (*Council, Trustees, Deacons, Trust Fund, Nominating and Financial Review.)

Lucy Stewart lstewart@surewest.net  Virginia Edlund jaedlund@aol.com
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Enjoy easy access to our calendar, sermons, and more by downloading our free mobile app! Search Good Shepherd Sacramento in the App Store or Google Play Store.
Leadership Update //

The first piece of our important work together to steward the Good Shepherd ministry into the future is complete!

1. We affirmed the assets and challenges of our church by listening to our members through surveys and personal interviews, and hosting a panel discussion with community leaders.
2. Good Shepherd leadership assembled a Vision Team to build a Vision Frame unique to our congregation based on your input as well as foundational commitments of our body of believers. The Vision Frame documents our mission, commonly held values, strategy for pursuing ministry, and measures of our success.
3. From the completed Vision Frame, the Vision Team discerned our long-range vision, grounded in the unique reality and context of our congregation that is presented in our Vision Frame.
4. The Vision Team proposed one and three-year goals for progressing toward our long-range vision to complete the Good Shepherd Purpose Map.
5. The completed Purpose Map and corresponding Executive Summary report were presented by Project Consultant Kristin Wiersma and members of the Vision Team to the congregation on July 23rd.

Next steps as we proceed toward Strategic Planning to achieve our congregation’s one and three-year goals:

1. You are encouraged to reflect and pray about the proposed vision and goals and provide feedback to Vision Team members in the coming weeks. The shared vision will go to Council for adoption in August, followed by a member vote to affirm our congregation’s mission at the annual meeting in November, pursuant to the Good Shepherd Constitution.
2. A newly assembled Strategic Planning Team will lead development of a comprehensive strategic plan for pursuit of our one and three-year goals. Milestone Planning Teams are currently being put together to work on specific components of the strategic plan to support this process. If you are interested in joining a Milestone Planning Team, please contact Elizabeth Shults at elizabeth@gchurch.us or (916)483-0451.

Good Shepherd Trust Fund //

The Good Shepherd Trust Fund is accepting grant requests until August 31, 2017. The proposed use of funds must enhance the work of the church by establishing new ministries and stewardship opportunities additional to and apart from the general operation of Good Shepherd. Please visit gchurch.us to access the 2017 Trust Fund Grant Request Form and submit a notice to the Trust Fund Committee that you intend to submit a grant request (select the MORE tab and FORMS page to access the Trust Fund Grant Request Form).

Pray For Our Men and Women in the Military//

August Events //

8/6/17 — iMPACT Sunday @ 11:00AM with special guest musician Missy Robertson

8/12/17 — Faith & Family Night @ The Rivercats Game.

8/26/17 — GS Kids Wet N’ Wild Block Party @ 2:00PM

8/27/17 — GS Kids Sunday School Kick-Off @ 10:00AM

8/27/17 — GS LIFE Party @ 9:30AM

8/27/17 — Get Plugged In Sunday @ 9:30AM

8/30/17 — IKON Resumes @ 7:00PM

Save The Date //

Saturday evening - October 14
“Luther’s Reformation and the Future of the American Church”
Special speaker - Professor Hans Weirsma
Augsburg College, Minneapolis, MI

Share our heritage by inviting friends and members of other churches, Lutheran or not.
An evening to remember the anniversary of the posting of Luther’s 95 Theses
Hosted by GS Council

Fall Rummage Sale
October 6th & 7th
9:00-3:00
Get Plugged In to one of our many ministry opportunities happening this Fall! Join us in the courtyard on Sunday, August 27th, during fellowship hour to learn about our many classes, small groups, bible studies, etc. that will be beginning in September. See you there!

GS LIFE Party //

GSLife is an online place to deepen our sense of community at Good Shepherd. It simplifies the way we communicate, connect and engage with one another. Did you forget the last name of someone you just met at church? Are you considering joining a new service group? Do you need to know the time for an upcoming event that you don’t want to miss? Want to match faces to names in your Bible study class? GSLife can help you with all of this and more.

Through GSLife you control what you share with Good Shepherd friends and members, and how your church communicates with you. Do you want to receive information via email or text? Do you prefer to receive no communications at all? Do you want all members to know your home address, or only your friends? You choose.

It’s easy to become a part of GSLife! **Attend the GSLife Party on Sunday morning, August 27th** in the Fireside Room to sign up for access to GSLife, receive personal training on how to use GSLife, and have your photo taken for upload to our online directory. If you simply can’t wait that long, visit the Good Shepherd website, gschurch.us, and click on the MORE tab to access GSLife. Sign up for your personal account and use the information on the home page to help you get started.

**Sunday Services** at 7:45 AM (30 Minute Service), 8:30AM (Classic), and 11:00AM (Contemporary). Fellowship at 9:30AM.

Educational Hour from 10:00AM-10:45AM: Adults (Fireside Room), IKON YOUTH (Ikon Room—6th-12th grade), Kids (GS Kids Room—age 2 years - 5th grade). Library open on Sundays 9:30-11:00AM.
Save The Date //
All are welcome to kick-off our new Sunday School season with our community Block Party on 8/26!!!
Hello Friends of the Preschool,

Wow! It’s August already. We are beginning to wrap up our theme: **ANIMALS FROM AROUND THE WORLD**. The love for God’s Creation is definitely felt at Good Shepherd Preschool. I am sure that we have future veterinarians, zoologists and loving pet owners in our midst.

To help bring this amazing summer to a close; we are going on an adventure to the Sacramento Zoo on Wednesday, August 2nd. It promises to be a great day full of excitement as we see God’s Animal World up-close and personal.

**We are enrolling for the 2017-2018 school year**, enrollment applications can be picked up in the main preschool wing (the blue door). **Please help our preschool by spreading the word**. We are God’s hidden gem. Unfortunately Arden Way has signage codes that make it difficult to put a permanent sign or even banners out on the street helping people find us. **We need you!**

Thank you for continuing to support us through Thrivent Choice Dollars, Designated Offerings and Raley’s/ Bel Air’s Extra Credit program. Our preschool program uses this support to present a wonderful program full of God’s amazing love.

I would also like to thank those who continue to bring in their CA CRV recycling to support our **Recycle Program**. It’s a wonderful program that helps cover the cost of extras without cutting into our program budget. One way it helps is by taking care of all our preschool pets; providing the necessities for their survival. Anyone who owns a larger fish tank knows there is much more in the upkeep of an aquarium then just fish food. Our tank is a wonderful ice breaker for many children coming to preschool for the first time and a wonderful focal point in our Science Center.

**A SMALL NOTE REGARDING THE RECYCLE PROGRAM.** We only accept Glass, Aluminum, and Plastic drinking containers stamped with the CA CRV logo. All other items such as tin cans, wine bottles, milk containers, empty food containers should be recycled in your home recycle bins. Thank you for your understanding.

Sandy Oakes, Director
916-483-0466
preschool@gschurch.us
iMPACT Sunday //

Join us Sunday, August 6th @ 11:00AM -- iMPACT's 20th Anniversary in Outreach!!!

EVENT TIMELINE:

9:15AM: iMPACT Directors (Yvette Quiroga, Shirley Seatri and Amy Smith) will share at the end of our Classic Service

9:30AM: Resume Cafe and cake in the Courtyard. Coffee is on us!!!

11:00AM: iMPACT takes over the Contemporary Service with special music by Missy Robertson, camp videos, and fun for campers and iMPACT families.

12:00PM: Lunch in the Courtyard (Nacho Bar-- ALL are welcome!)
Contact Us

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