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Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord!

*"And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones.'"*

Luke 12:17-18

As we move into the heart of summer, I hope this season brings you moments of rest, renewal, and reflection. My prayer is that this change of pace offers you the space to take a breath, step back, and thoughtfully consider your life - where it's headed, what it's filled with, and what, if anything, might need adjusting.

*(Continued on page 2)*

The scripture quoted is part of the Gospel reading we will hear in worship on August 3. Jesus tells a parable about a rich man whose life is full. He pauses to reflect, asking himself what to do with his abundance. His answer? Build bigger barns.

In many ways, we can relate to this man. While the definition of "rich" varies depending on which kingdom you're referencing—God's or the world's—most of us know what it means to feel full. Full schedules. Full closets. Full calendars. Full inboxes. Our lives are often crowded not just with possessions, but also with activity, information, noise, and distraction.

And so, we find ourselves echoing the man in the parable: *"What should I do?" "I will build bigger barns."*

For us, this may mean another storage unit, a crammed garage, or even more time-consuming commitments. But is more space, or more stuff, really the answer?

Jesus offers us something different: not more room for more things, but a new way of being. Like the woman at the well, we are invited to drink from the living water that truly satisfies. What if our lives are already full enough - not in terms of capacity, but of content? The real question isn't whether our lives are full, but *what they are full of*.

Summer can be a sacred time to take inventory. What do we need to let go of? What habits, possessions, or priorities

might need to be cleared away? And just as importantly, what should take their place?

You may have heard the advice that if you want to get rid of a bad habit, you cannot simply eliminate it and leave the open space, that you need to fill that space with a good habit instead. God does not call us to live empty lives, but *full ones*—filled with the right things.

Just a couple of weeks ago, as we celebrated the Day of Pentecost, the people were filled with the Holy Spirit. Later in the book of Acts, in 13:52, it says that the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

In Romans, the Apostle Paul speaks to both the Jews and the Gentiles in 15:13 saying, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound (i.e. be filled with) hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

The riches Jesus gives us - daily bread, living water, eternal life - are beyond compare. We are already rich beyond measure, not by the standards of the world, but through the grace of God. So rather than building bigger barns, let us make room in our hearts and lives for the fruit of the Spirit: *"Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, and self-control."* (Galatians 5:22)

This Season after Pentecost, our theme is: **Spirit Formed. Spirit Filled. Spirit Led.**

Let's embrace that fully. Let the Spirit help you clear out what needs to go, and fill you with what gives life.

May this summer be a time of sacred reflection, Spirit-filled living, and joyful abundance.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Ted

## **Vacation Bible School Is Coming – Join Us for “The Great Catch!” Saturday, July 12, from 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM at GSLC**

Get ready for a morning full of fun, faith, and friendship! Kids ages 3 through 5th grade are invited to join us for Vacation Bible School as we get hooked on the story of Jesus as he calls His first disciples to be *fishers of people*.

This year's theme, “**The Great Catch: Following Jesus,**” will help children discover what it means to follow Jesus with their whole hearts. The morning includes:

- Uplifting songs
- A Bible story kids will remember
- Hands-on crafts
- A tasty snack
- Exciting games and activities



### **Not registered yet? No problem!**

It's not too late—registration forms are available in the church entry  
or online at [glsc-lawrence.org](http://glsc-lawrence.org).

Bring a friend and come be part of “The Great Catch”! We can't wait to see you there!



## JUSTICE • MATTERS

Our Nehemiah Action Assembly was held in May with over four hundred in attendance. Commissioner Amber Sellers committed to identify and gather a group of stakeholders from Lawrence and Douglas County to explore proven systemic solutions to address youth trauma in our community. Andy Brown, Deputy Secretary for the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services and Kelsee Fout, Maternal and Child Behavioral Health Director with the Bureau of Family Health at Kansas Department of Health and Environment, committed to explore proven systemic solutions to address youth trauma in our community. We heard powerful testimony from Jessica about the power of healing and resilience after significant childhood trauma. We heard from Jason and Renae about how the work to end homelessness impacted their lives. They were connected with resources,

support and housing. And we celebrated the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between Kansas WorkforceOne and Dwyer Workforce. Students are now being enrolled in CNA classes.

We held a gathering in June where we celebrated our Network Members who are the heartbeat in making the JUSTICE MATTERS NEVERENDING STORY. That NEVERENDING STORY includes affordable housing, mental health, restorative practices in our Schools, elder care workforce, ending chronic homelessness and reducing youth trauma.

Good Shepherd was presented the award for Highest Percentage of Regular Worship Attendance at the Nehemiah Action Assembly!







## ELCA Central States Synod Assembly Notes

Submitted by Wally Resner and Mary Ricke, 2025 GSLC Delegates

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The Pentecost-based theme of the synod meeting was *Renewed by the Spirit*. It was a very “Holy Spirit-filled” event.

Our current Central States synod Bishop, Rev. Susan Candea, presided over the meeting. In addition, our national ELCA Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton, was present all three days, presenting a couple times in as well as leading the group with the ballot process for the election of our new Central States Synod Bishop.

It was special to meet so many Central States Synod people, so filled with the Holy Spirit, along with several people we already knew. Mary was able to visit with her pastor and wife from her home congregation in Hoisington, KS.

The election of our new Bishop took several ballots, narrowing the candidate list on each ballot. As we prepared to vote on each ballot, it was preceded by singing, praying, and finally a time of silence, allowing the Holy Spirit to work before our voting. This was another tremendous reminder of how the Spirit works. Once the candidate numbers were down to three, they were each individually presented with several questions that they answered for the voting body.

Finally, based on the voting on each ballot, only two remained on the final ballot. They were Donna Simon and Zac Sturm. The final vote was extremely close with Donna Simon being elected as our new Central States Synod Bishop on Saturday morning, June 7, 2025.

There were various amendments voted on and passed. We not only voted for the new Bishop but also for other synodical positions.

We listened to the Treasurer's report with the good news of a surplus this past year as opposed to a budget deficit the previous year. Still a reminder to us that congregational giving is on the decline as it's been over the past 20 years. The proposed budget for fiscal year 2026 was presented and approved.

### Personal Highlights

- Worship services were held as part of the synod assembly, both on Thursday, June 5, and Saturday, June 7.
- There was a wonderful worship band which included clergy from various Central States churches. Their music added so much to the sessions.

- We were graced with the presence of Bishops from three neighboring synods. Each spoke for a few minutes with emphasis on relationships, not only in Christ but between synods and with each other. An emphasis was placed upon Luther's explanation of the third article:

*I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to Him, but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His Gifts and sanctifies me in the one true faith. What a great reminder of our Lutheran doctrine and how we are brought to faith through the power of the Spirit and not by our own doing.*

- Five churches with a majority of immigrant membership, and their leaders, were introduced to the Assembly to discuss how they are being affected by some of our current national government's programs.
- Information on both of the synod's properties, Hollis Center and Camp Tomah Shinga, was presented.
- The new president of Bethany College in

Lindsborg was present and spoke to the gathering.

- We were treated to a wonderful meal on Thursday night, lunch on Friday, and a beautiful celebration on Friday night for the Bishop Susan Candeia, and the Bishop's Associate Rev. Dave Whetter.
- Pastor Ted Mosher had been asked previous to the convention to provide a video, thanking Rev. Dave Whetter for his years of service to the Central States Synod. This was presented near the end of Saturday's session.
- Saturday's session included a powerful Bible study by Rev. Dave Whetter talking about our baptism and the new command that Jesus gave to love one another. We were given some time to talk around our table and what this new commandment meant to us and finally shared some of our thoughts with the entire assembly. We concluded with an uplifting service filled with prayer, Bible readings, a message and singing.

Thank you for allowing us to serve as your GSLC delegates, alongside Pastor Ted.

## Seeking Cleaning Volunteers

As is our practice, when a need arises, we bring it to the attention of the congregation and invite you to respond. There are a range of tasks that go into operating a church and congregation, and some are up front and visible, and others – like cleaning – that are not. Regardless of visibility, ALL are valued and appreciated.

The ranks of cleaners has thinned a little over the past year, and we have a need for additional volunteers to help. Some people currently are scheduled in a rotation while others are occasional cleaners (e.g., once a quarter, or twice a year, etc.).

The tasks, all on the main level, are equivalent to light housekeeping: cleaning in the restrooms, vacuuming, cleaning glass (mirrors and doors), and emptying the wastebaskets. Instruction sheets have been created, and training/first-time walk-through is available.

Interested? Please let Kirsten know ([gslc.ks@gmail.com](mailto:gslc.ks@gmail.com), or call 785-843-3014).

# Music and Worship

## NEWS & UPDATES

**We recently wished godspeed to Elena Cressy**, Music Minister for Classic Worship. Elena will be pursuing her doctorate at the University of Iowa this fall.

**June 29th was Reconciling in Christ recognition Sunday.** As a Reconciling in Christ congregation, we welcome, include, recognize and advocate for our LGBTQIA+ siblings through worship as we celebrate God calling us to be an open and affirming faith community while making us all one in Christ.

**There will be more** information on the GSLC choir later, after our new Music Minister for Classic Worship is hired.

## UPCOMING MUSIC & WORSHIP CALENDAR

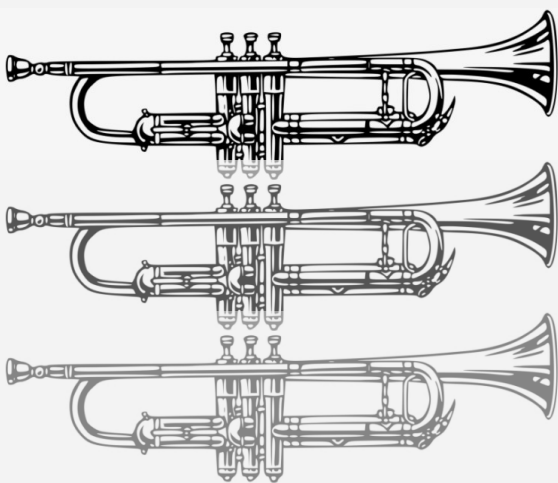
July 9, 7:00 pm

Joint Worship Committee meeting

August 31, 10:30 am

Worship in the Park

\*You can see the entire GSLC calendar on our website – [gslc-lawrence.org](http://gslc-lawrence.org)



## SUMMER MUSIC:

During the summer months, while choir is on 'vacation,' we would like to encourage the congregation to share their musical gifts in the 11:00 am Classic Worship service. Let Thad Reist know if you're interested in playing or singing.

Thad: 785-556-0333 or [tjreist@yahoo.com](mailto:tjreist@yahoo.com)

# WORSHIP IN THE PARK

Mark your calendars for Sunday, August 31st (Labor Day weekend). We will be taking our Sunday morning worship to the park!

We will meet at Dad Perry Park, Harvard Rd. and Monterey Way, for our **10:30 am worship (ONE SERVICE)**. Then , we'll enjoy a potluck picnic after the service.



We meet in the north shelter, entrance off Harvard Rd.

There are restrooms, plenty of parking, electricity, playground equipment, nature trails, and room to play basketball, soccer, frisbee and more. You might want to bring lawn chairs or folding chairs and insect repellent.

In case of inclement weather—check our website, [www.gslc-lawrence.org](http://www.gslc-lawrence.org) or call the church office, 785-843-3014. after 9:00 am for a change of location.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the outdoor service, please contact Megan Ebke or Thad Reist. Volunteer opportunities consist of coordinating and transporting worship supplies and playing guitar. To help with the potluck, contact one of the Hospitality Ministry Team members.

Kelley Witmer, Worship Committee Chair, [kelly@wheatfieldtechnology.com](mailto:kelly@wheatfieldtechnology.com), 785-760-0155  
Megan Ebke, Worship Leader – Worship 2.0, [megan.ebke@gmail.com](mailto:megan.ebke@gmail.com), 785-844-1830  
Thad Reist, Organist/Pianist—Classic Worship, [tjreist@yahoo.com](mailto:tjreist@yahoo.com), 785-556-0333



# Hospitality Committee

## Help Shape the Future of Christian Education at GSLC - SURVEY



The Christian Education Ministry Team is excited to hear from you! We're conducting a short survey to better understand the interests, needs, and desires of our church family when it comes to growing in faith and spiritual learning. Your input

will help us plan meaningful opportunities for Bible studies, book discussions, and other Christian education offerings in the coming year.

### Why Christian Education Matters

Christian education is about more than just learning—it's about deepening our relationship with God, strengthening our foundation in Scripture, and walking alongside others as we grow in discipleship. Whether you're new in your faith journey or have been studying the Bible for years, there's always more to discover and experience together.

### Make Your Voice Heard

The survey is brief but important, and we invite everyone—youth, adults, new members, and long-time attendees—to participate. We want to know what matters most to you. What topics interest you? What formats work best? Your feedback helps shape a ministry that reflects the real needs and passions of our community.

### How to Participate

You can fill out the survey in one of two easy ways:

- **Paper surveys** are available in the church entry. Just drop your completed form in the offering baskets/plates or in the church office.
- **Online option:** Fill it out using our [Google Form link](#).

**Please return all survey responses by July 31.**

Let's work together to build a vibrant, Christ-centered learning environment for all ages. Thank you for taking a few minutes to help us plan and grow!

—The Christian Education Ministry Team

# Hospitality Committee

## Hospitality Ministry Team Exploring AED Device and CPR Training for Good Shepherd

The Hospitality Ministry Team is always seeking ways to help Good Shepherd be a safe and welcoming place for everyone. As part of that mission, we are looking into acquiring an **Automated External Defibrillator (AED)** for our church facility, and we'd like to know if there's interest in offering a First Aid/CPR class for our congregation and volunteers.

An AED is a portable device used to treat sudden cardiac arrest—a life-threatening condition that can happen to anyone, anywhere, at any time. The device analyzes the heart's rhythm and, if necessary, delivers an electric shock to help the heart re-establish a normal rhythm. AEDs are designed to be simple to use, even for people without medical training, and can make a critical difference in the minutes before emergency services arrive.

Installing an AED and training members in **Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)** would help ensure that we're prepared to respond to emergencies with care and confidence. It's just one more way we can look out for one another in love and service.



To move forward, we'd love your input!

- Would you be interested in attending a CPR and AED training class at the church?
- Are you already certified in CPR or have medical training? If so, we'd love to know who in our congregation may already be able to assist in an emergency.

Do you have experience with AEDs or knowledge that might help us as we research and acquire the right equipment?

Please contact Kim Mosher or the church office or sign up in the narthex if you're interested. Your feedback will help us determine next steps. Your feedback and support will help us make our church a safer place for all who gather here.



# Green Pastures Preschool

Greetings from the Preschool!

We had a busy spring growing our students in knowledge as well as God's love. I am always so thankful as the season's change to see their renewal of energy as well! The school year ended with several highs and we are already looking forward to next school year.

Enrollment for next year opened in February and we were full up on the first day we opened to the general public! I am hoping that this is a trend that will remain in the future. Word of our little school and the excellence we proved is spreading!

Our students enjoyed several special days and celebrations this spring. We celebrated Kansas Day with cowboy gear and some fun prairie songs. Our Valentines Party was a hit as well. In May we had our Caterpillar and Butterfly Tea Party where each student invites a special adult in their lives to attend. There were many smiles and sweet moments with family and friends. The kids enjoyed field day out on the playground and the year finished with our Graduation Ceremony. The graduates looked very cute in their caps and gowns and I heard many parents say how thankful they were for our teachers and preschool family!

This summer we have already held our preschool summer camp. Ms Emily and I ran it and 11 students enjoyed some water play and ocean activities. There were lots of new friends made which always makes me happy.

We've got the carpet cleaners set to come after the church holds VBS. We are planning a few preschool playdates for families this summer as well as our ice cream social in August. The summer always goes fast and I'm trying to stay on top of things in our 'off' season.

We ended another year and said goodbye to some families we've known for many years. It's always bittersweet, but then the new families arrive and we begin again. I'm thankful for the opportunity to continue to spread God's love to these students and their families. Thank you to Good Shepherd for supporting us in this mission!

- Day Beck, Director