

Thanksgiving Dinner Boxes - Thanks for Giving!
Karen Kallansrud

Thank you for helping families who are experiencing food insecurity have a great Thanksgiving. Your generosity will allow 150 St. Louis families to enjoy a delicious dinner.

We are again partnering with Wings Love and Care Food Pantry. They have been feeding and supporting families throughout the years.

Angie Liggins, the program director works closely with schools in St. Louis who have families living below the poverty level, who will be receiving meals this year. In addition, meals will also go to families around the neighborhood of Wings on South Jefferson.

For each meal box we will collect:

- 15 oz. corn 2 cans
- 15 oz. green beans 2 cans
- 14 oz. cranberry sauce 1 can
- 15 oz. yams or sweet potatoes 2 cans

- 6 oz. stuffing 1 box
- 1 box mac and cheese with liquid cheese sauce pouch
- 2 packets gravy
- 1 turkey roasting pan
- turkey size oven baking bag
- 1 box Little Debbie treat

Look for the display in the narthex. Be sure to pick up a shopping list at the table.

Would you like to make a donation to purchase a turkey? Either donate by check (Turkey Donation in memo line) or donate online below:

Turkey Donation $30

Do you want to get involved? Simply sign up for these activies in the narthex:

- **November 15:** Join us in the Narthex at noon to sort, count, and box all the collected food.
- **November 19:** Join us at Love and Care from 9-11am to pack boxes.
- **November 20:** Join us at Love and Care from 9-11am to distribute boxes.

What a blessing it is to be able to work together this year to provide meals for families in need.



Josh Brecht
Lead Pastor

Who is Jesus Calling Me to be in this Election Cycle?

You may have noticed we are in the midst of an election cycle. Maybe you, too, get multiple calls, texts, and emails each day from complete strangers trying to recruit your vote? (How do they all get my contact info anyway?? A question for another day.)

The world feels heavy right now. It seems like every election feels more consequential than the last. The pressure gauge gets turned up to 11 and we are told we need to pick a side and defend the tribe. Perhaps you have even been told, “Real Christians vote _____.” Or “If you are a Christian, you can’t vote _____.”

I am always suspect of any message that seeks to force me to pick a side and paint the other as enemy. I am always wary of any voice that seeks to reduce complex issues to a simplistic either/or. There are many voices trying to tell us how we, as Christians, should vote. I want to challenge us to take a step back from that dangerous precipice and ask a better question.

Who is Jesus calling me to be in this election cycle?

Don’t get me wrong. There are very real issues, and as citizens our faith should guide us on how we use our voice to work for good. At the same time, my vote is simply one out of millions. It can feel like my vote doesn’t make a difference. It does. I encourage us all to get out there and vote. That is the gift of living in a democracy, and we should never take that for granted. For people of faith, especially in this polarized world, we have an incredible opportunity to move beyond just considering who or what we will vote for, but who Jesus is calling us to be in this moment.

Every moment, every interaction is an opportunity for ministry.

Every interaction we have with another human being is an opportunity to share the love of Jesus Christ. Last year we spent ten weeks on The Essential Jesus, exploring the core of what it means to follow him. Who is Jesus calling us to be

- People who love our neighbors and our enemies (real or imagined
- People who turn the other cheek, and reject violence (physical or verbal)
- People who produce the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness)
- People who know that every human being bears the image of God (those we agree with or disagree with), and how we treat the least of these is how we treat Jesus himself

- People of humility and grace, who reject the false idols of power and scapegoating, but walk in truth and reconciliation

Over the coming days I will be praying for our nation and my neighbors in it. A portion of my prayers will be for good outcomes, for the right leaders, and that God's will would be done. Yet a portion of my prayers will be focused on who God is calling me to love today. Who might be in my path that needs some extra grace? Who is struggling that needs extra care? Who is facing strained relationships over political differences and needs a compassionate, non-judgmental ear to listen?

The problem of division cannot be fixed by winning; it can only be healed by reconciling. Jesus is the great reconciler, and we have an opportunity to be a different voice. A voice of curiosity, compassion, and hope. Regardless of the outcome of any election, Jesus is still Lord. At the end of the day, our primary citizenship still resides in the kingdom of heaven. Get out and vote. But most importantly, get out and love your neighbor as Jesus has loved you. Loving one another as Jesus has loved us makes all the difference in the world.

In love,
Pastor Josh

The Essential Jesus

2027 Guatemala Mission Trip
Melissa Huse

What can happen when young people and adults learn, serve, and build relationships together across cultures? Traveling together can create its own kind of learning. Young people bring curiosity and fresh perspectives; adults bring their experience and encouragement. Along the way, the different generations have the opportunity to grow in understanding, faith, and appreciation for the people they meet. I truly enjoyed my experience with

Good Shepherd's intergenerational trip to Guatemala in June 2025.





Tree 4 Hope is our partner organization in Guatemala. Tree 4 Hope works alongside children, families, and communities through programs focused on education, health and wellness, food security, and community outreach. We were excited to work with Tree 4 Hope for the first time! They helped organize, structure, and plan our trip. Our team met together at church many times before the trip to get to know one another, learn about Guatemalan culture, and plan our activities/supplies.

Tree 4 Hope supports the **Hogar Miguel Magone** in El Aguacate outside Guatemala City, a place that houses and supports children in need. We were especially impressed with the skilled and loving staff. We stayed several nights in a small house onsite to allow close proximity for service opportunities, such as laying concrete/driveway for a future building, painting new rooms, and gardening. There were many opportunities to interact with children through crafts, art, and music. The

party with the community's elderly allowed us to serve them lunch, assist with games and crafts, and of course, *experience lots of music and dancing!*

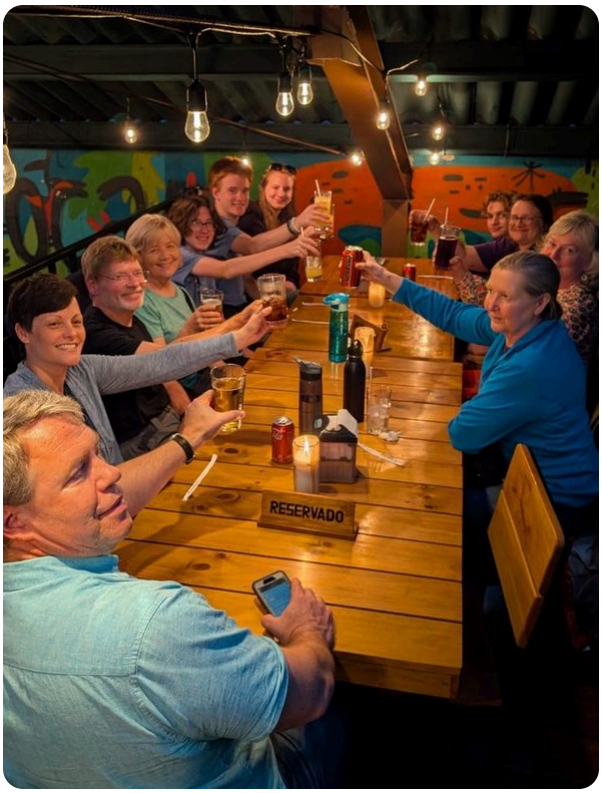




Our next few days were spent at **Hope Academy.** It was so special to be able to interact and play with the children in formal and informal ways. We were able to provide some lessons and crafts, assist with a field trip with the school to a train museum, and complete the concrete pavilion/bleachers for school play and events. We also had an outing to women-powered **Chica Bean Coffee,** who supports Hope Academy through merchandise and education. We proudly serve Chica Bean at Good Shepherd on Sunday mornings. (You can order Chica Bean directly **HERE!**) Our "free" day was full of culture and fun…we broke into smaller groups and enjoyed various local opportunities, such as hiking a nearby volcano, touring local towns, farms, and markets on foot or ATV, or simply walking through the shops and beautiful architecture of Antigua, the historic first capital of Guatemala.

Whether you're considering the trip for yourself or encouraging a young person to join, this is an opportunity to step beyond familiar routines and experience community in a new way. If you are unable to join the trip itself, you might consider sponsoring a child through Tree 4 Hope, either through their food program or the educational opportunity. Check out the Good Shepherd website for more information:

Guatemala Information



Safety/Security Message
Kevin Nichols, Council Safety Lead

Dear Church Family,

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church continues to be that welcoming sanctuary where all of our members enjoy a safe and friendly setting for their worship experience. Combining a welcoming heart with proactive preparation for congregational safety and security remains at the forefront for our staff, worship leadership, church youth gatherings and our Building Blocks program.

General Facility Safety - Update

- New Camera System has been installed in all interior walkways, on both levels and in our gymnasium. This video system maintains recording capability, is archival in nature giving us look-back ability in the event of unauthorized entry, minor theft, unaccompanied individuals.
- Our two facility AED devices have been updated with new chest pads and batteries.
- CPR/AED training for seven worship helpers completed

- LifeVac Choke Rescue Devices (2) were installed just below each AED container.

Nationwide occurrences of intruder incidents continue to occur at places of worship. And given that our church facility hosts a variety of scheduled, multi-age activities throughout the year, we are working to become even more intentional as it relates to church safety.

Security Safety – Update

- Facilities Management and Planning Committee has updated main entry doors with new locking/access technology.
- **New: Shepherd Role** – trained team of volunteers to be present in the narthex during services to assist with safety, greet late arrivals, and to monitor for potential hazards.
- **Facilities Emergency Plan** – an all-encompassing crisis strategy to address various emergency categories. Key church and member leadership personnel will be designated in the plan to respond post-emergency as appropriate.
- A planned presentation/training event around intruder awareness will be presented mid-November targeting current

What do we need:

- **We need to recruit additional Greeters, Ushers and Shepherd volunteers:** We need more church members, looking to serve, who can commit to being on a rostered list to assist in welcoming and assisting visitors arriving for our weekend worship services. Volunteers would serve on a rotational, and as available basis.
- **If you have interest:** Please reach out to Andrew Leach (Technology/Worship Administrator) Phone: 636-391-6685 X10.

How You Can Help:

- **See Something, Say Something:** If you notice a suspicious person, an unlocked door, or a potential hazard, please immediately report it to an usher,

staff member, or security team member.

- **Keep Entrances Clear:** Please ensure our exits remain clear of obstacles.
- **Parking Lot Safety:** Please remember to lock your vehicles and keep valuables out of sight.

Thank you for your partnership in keeping our church family safe.

Senior Bingo
Dawn Schwab & Janie Wolfangel

Looking for Fun and Games (and Snacks)? …BINGO!

On Saturday, September 19, many of our senior members gathered for an afternoon of fellowship, snacks and Bingo. Hosted by Janie Wolfangel, Jill Keel, Bobbi Hardin, Jan Alford and Dawn Schwab, we enjoyed a fall-themed event including treat bags, delicious cookies and savory snacks, information about the Pumpkin Patch, some great conversation – and then the games began!

Our bingo caller, Sandi Bahr, led us through a couple hours of pleasant bingo with her signature wit and “teacher voice”. There was much laughter and friendly banter, and in addition to victory, our winners received thoughtful gift bags.

Senior Bingo is held quarterly; our next event will be on Saturday, November 7. If you would like more information about attending, contributing snacks or prizes, or helping with the event, please contact the church office at (636) 391-6685 X14.



Facebook Website

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