

August 19, 2020

Dear Friends,

**Good Shepherd Lutheran School** opens Monday! At last count we have 142 children enrolled preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Thanks be to God! It'd be wonderful if the school could remain open through the entire school year, but we are anticipating and prepared for mandatory closures. Even while open, the school will be buttoned up tight. Parents and grandparents will not be allowed inside unless absolutely necessary. That's not the message we like to convey, but such is life in the COVID era.

**Update on the windows:** Paul Phelps of Oakbrook Esser contacted me with an update. *"We are making good progress on your windows and are almost completed with the glazing process on the last window set for the worship space. They need to be cemented which will take approximately 20 days because of the drying time in this process. I would think we should be able to install these last two in about 4 weeks or so. We are also working on the very last set of windows for the lightboxes and have most of them dismantled and have just started the glazing stage. We will keep you posted when we think they will be completed and can store them here for you until they are needed."*

**Acoustical Report:** We have also heard back from the Riedel company on improving the acoustics of our worship space. They measured the current acoustical conditions of our sanctuary and are making recommendations on how we can improve them for worship. There are many, some which will be easy to fulfill, others not so much. A sampling: replacing the carpeting with a hard surface flooring, replacing the ceiling tiles in the rear of the sanctuary with acoustical tiles, mitigating HVAC and Mechanical System noise, and rearranging the seating layout. The Sanctuary Committee will be meeting on September 1 to begin working through the report.

**The Wrong Zip Code:** Rev. Richard Schwandt, former pastor at Good Shepherd (1983-1993) is retiring. As a surprise, his kids are gathering letters to present to him. Unfortunately, last week the wrong zip code was included in the notification. Please send all letters to Missy Childers, 14 Candlewood Ct., Granite Falls, NC 28630 (*not 29630*). Sorry for the confusion!

**I'm proud of** how Good Shepherd continues to care for those less fortunate, serving Sandwiches in the Park (actually, from Good Shepherd's front door now), delivering Meals on Wheels, providing school supplies to children in need, serving at Bread and Roses, as well as Fishes and Loaves. Thanks to all those who are serving in these and many other ways!

**Memory Verse Challenge:** This week's memory verse is from Lamentations 3:21-24, "But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 'The LORD is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him.'"

**Working from home:** Beginning Monday I plan to work mostly from home. I'm trying to stay clear of mandatory quarantines so that I'm able to continue leading worship, handle funerals, teach confirmation and the like. I often check my email, which is [dgroth@goodshepherdwi.org](mailto:dgroth@goodshepherdwi.org). Of course, Dee can forward messages to me as well. My cell number remains the same: (920) 253-6735.

**Brat Haus:** This Saturday our youth group will be manning the Brat Haus at Glenn's Meat Market. Proceeds go to support the ministry to and by Good Shepherd's Youth Group. Swing by sometime between 10 and 3, say hi, and enjoy a brat or burger outside in the breeze.

**6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation** will begin September 9. If Good Shepherd Lutheran School is meeting for in-person instruction, confirmation classes will as well. If GSLS must go to remote learning, confirmation will as well. In both cases, classes will be shortened, with instruction beginning immediately at 3:15 and concluding at 4:00 pm. A letter will be sent to all confirmation parents yet this week.

That's all I have . . . except this: I never realized how bad my breath was until I started wearing a mask. Why didn't you say anything to me?!

God's blessings to you all,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David K. Groth". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light-colored rectangular background.

Pastor Groth