

July 21, 2020

Dear friends,

Here's the latest:

**Sanctuary Windows:** Paul Phelps of Oakbrook-Esser gave me an update on the stained-glass windows. They are currently glazing the two windows that will be installed in the sanctuary. They have also dismantled the last two windows that will be used with light boxes. (The placement of those two has not yet been determined.) "We will be in touch in the coming weeks to let you know our estimated installation date for the final windows in your worship space. That will be a celebration! God's blessings to you and your entire parish family."

**Good Shepherd Lutheran School:** At this time, Good Shepherd is planning to reopen school at full capacity (all students at once). Many precautions will be put in place, such as more opportunities for hand sanitizing, classroom arrangements that promote social distancing, recommendations for facemasks, and so on. This is what schools in and around Watertown are doing, including the Watertown Unified School District. Everyone knows the circumstances continue to change. Amy Gromowski (Principal) continues to urge our teachers and families to be prepared to accommodate virtual learning should the need arise.

**From Bonnie Mihal, Parish Nurse:** Covid-19 is currently more active in our community of Watertown. We had 30 or less covid cases for several months. Recent numbers show our substantial increases: July 10<sup>th</sup>- 80 cases. July 13<sup>th</sup>- 97 cases, July 17<sup>th</sup>- 120, and July 20<sup>th</sup>- 129 cases. We are now required to wear masks at the grocery stores, barbers, beauty shops, Walgreens, Walmart, Menards, Costco, etc. It only makes sense that we wear masks in church. It's not appropriate to say, "I'm not worried that I'll get it." Other members could have fragile health or decreased immunity. They are hesitant to attend our church to worship if other members do not wear masks. This pandemic is about you and everyone else. "Love your neighbors as yourself". May the Lord help us through this difficult time. Bonnie Mihal, Parish Nurse

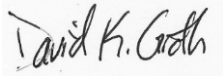
**Prayers:** Please pray for those who are ill: Marge Goecke, Wendy Wilson, Agnes Thurow, John Block, Jim Strege, Victoria (daughter of Fiona Maxwell), Tim Zastrow (brother of Phil and Paul), Patricia Fox and Jim Neitzel. Please also pray for the family of Peggy Horton (non-member) whose funeral is Thursday at Good Shepherd, and for Jerry Kramer, whose memorial service is on Saturday at Good Shepherd.

**Memory Verse:** The memory verse for this week is from John 16:33, "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

**Rev. Marvin Henschel:** Messiah Lutheran Church in Oklahoma City contacted us and let us know that Messiah will be celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ordination of Pastor Henschel on Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup>. (His actual ordination was on July 23, 1960, in Netawaka, KS.) Marvin and his wife, Shirley, continue to be active in ministry there at Messiah. Marvin is one of their Visitation Pastors. Both are also involved in leading Adult Bible study classes. If you would like to send a card of celebration and congratulations, please send it to Messiah Lutheran Church, 3600 Northwest Expressway, Oklahoma City, OK 73112-4410. (Preferably before July 26<sup>th</sup>!) Pastor Henschel was the first full-time pastor of Good Shepherd and was installed here on March 19, 1972. He served at Good Shepherd until November of 1976. I believe I was once told that Pastor Henschel was preaching at the Green Bowl when a very loud snowmobile rode past on the frozen river, interrupting the sermon. Pastor Henschel might have, mostly under his breath, uttered a curse on that sled's carburetor.

One day we'll look back on 2020 and wrap it in nostalgia and lies in the retelling of it. I look forward to that day!

God's blessings to you and peace.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David K. Groth". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a light gray rectangular box.

Pastor Groth