

July 29, 2020

Dear Friends,

Just a few updates this week.

Good Shepherd Lutheran School: Watertown Unified School District reversed course and announced Monday night that all students will begin the school year receiving virtual instruction. This because COVID cases continue to rise in and around Watertown. It compels Good Shepherd Lutheran School to at least rethink our current plans to reopen the school year with all students receiving in-person classroom instruction. For example, there are a number of questions we have about busing, and the free or reduced breakfast and lunch programs that we contract through the WUSD, and Health Department regulations. It'll take a few days to look into these and other questions. The Board of Day School Education will make a decision early next week. Whatever the decision, I am praying for a spirit of understanding, patience and on-going support from our school families. These days have not been easy for them.

Any Good Shepherd members test positively? Yes, several of our members have tested positively for COVID. Thankfully, none have died because of it, nor did any attend worship while contagious with the disease. If/when that were to happen, we will comply with all orders of the Watertown Health Department to inform you of a possible exposure to the virus. (This is one of the reasons why we are asking members to sign up for worship services.)

Prayers Please pray for Bonnie Mihal, who is undergoing shoulder surgery on Monday. Pray also for others who are ill: Marge Goecke, Wendy Wilson, Agnes Thurow, John Block, Jim Strege, Patricia Fox and Del Oestreich. Also, for Natalie, a little girl who is very ill with cancer.

Memory Verse Challenge This week's memory verse is 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Thanks to the Grounds Beautification Committee. Folks are out here nearly every day to water and weed. People driving by can tell this church is loved and desires to be a blessing to the community.

That's all I've got. I've nothing new to tell you about the sanctuary windows or the acoustical test of our sanctuary. There's an albino squirrel hanging around in front of my office window, and, on two occasions in the last few weeks, we've seen a red fox out there too. (Stop your doubting and believe; Dee and I have pictures.) Smart money is on the fox, but I do hope the squirrel pulls through. Unfortunately, the squirrel is going to lose a strong refuge as the Linden tree in front is also dying. It is rotting from the inside, and, would cause considerable damage to any car or person it happened to fall on. Our trustees will be cutting it down within the week. I've really enjoyed that tree over the years. When it blossoms in spring, it perfumes the whole area. The squirrel might miss it more.

God's blessings to you all!



Pastor Groth