November 2022

The Samaritan

Worship Themes

November 6 -"Going Fishing/ Reflecting Light: Share"/All Saints' Sunday

November 13 -"Here I Am, Lord, Send Me: Serve"

November 20 -"Prayerful Living"/ Gratitude Sunday

November 27 -"Sacred Time/1st Sunday of Advent



Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, November 27 | 4:00pm



Join us for this wonderful, long-standing tradition at Good Samaritan where we decorate our sanctuary for the Christmas season!

We will be collecting unwrapped gifts for infants through 8-year-olds to donate to STEP (St. Louis Park Emergency Program). Target gift cards in amounts \$5 to \$25 will be collected as well. Bring items to the service or contact Jan (jan@good.org).

Anyone who plays an instrument (young and old) is invited to join the Orchaband for this service. Pick up music scores ahead of time from the reception area by the Church Office. We will rehearse the day of the service at 3:15pm. Contact Sarah Kumagai with questions - 952-944-2683.





OUR STAFF

Rev. Carol Zaagsma Lead Pastor carol@good.org 952-452-9395

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Appalachia Service Project



Mike Hutson has participated with the Good Samaritan ASP mission trip since 2006. In all, he's been to ASP eight times. Since 2014 he has served as head of the group in planning and leading the trip. During that time 261 volunteers made the trip to Appalachia, including Mike's whole family and members of his extended family. Mike also led the group in planning and hosting Good Samaritan's celebration of 40 years of service at ASP in 2018. In recent years when concerns about Covid prevented Good Samaritan from traveling to Appalachia to work for ASP, Mike led the group in activities in the local area.

Mike is stepping down from his leadership role in the ASP group, with Amy Manolis and Dave Redpath continuing to coordinate and offer leadership for this year's trip July 23-29, 2023. I wanted to offer our gratitude for Mike's time serving as a leader, so in an effort to do this, I asked Jack Washam, as the unofficial historian of our ASP participation, if he would interview Mike and share an article for the newsletter. Here are some thoughts from Mike reflecting on his ASP experience. Thank you Mike, for your leadership, and Jack for sharing this interview with us.

Q: Unlike many other adults who go on the ASP trip because their kids are going, your kids weren't on the trips when you first started. What attracted you to start going to ASP with Good Samaritan in the first place?

A: Eric Leill and I are good friends, and he was relentless at recruiting people. I had done a fair number of home improvement projects. I was working for Hearts and Hammers at the time and there was home improvement work that we did with Hearts and Hammers. That aspect of the trip appealed to me initially, aside from the relationships with the kids and the other adults. This is something I'm good at. I could make use of my talents by going on this trip. At some point Eric convinced me to go and I signed on and the rest is history.

Q: It takes a lot of work to plan the trip and make it happen. Then at ASP the accommodations are minimal, and the work is often hot and dirty. What makes this trip so appealing and why do you keep going?

A: I'm a relationship person and I value and cherish relationships that I make. I enjoy meeting people for the first time and making new relationships. There's a piece of the trip that centers around meeting the family and hearing their stories. Never once did I go to Appalachia and fail to make a connection with the family – you just do. They're so welcoming and so appreciative of you even being there. Some people would be just flabbergasted that you would spend a week out of your summer helping them. That always was something that inspired me and was very gratifying. Feeling that I have as much as I need as a person and knowing that there are people that have less, if I can use my Godgiven talents to make their lives better, then I should be doing that. I think that's what we should all be doing. That's probably the biggest piece of it for me. The work crews each year were always something that would start out awkwardly because you may know the other adult leader and you may know one of the youths, but you likely don't know them all. So, the dynamic between all the people in the work crew – it was so much fun to see that evolve over the week.

(continued on p. 10)

Worship

All Saints' Day

Come together for worship Sunday, November 6 at 10:00 am, as we remember the Saints who have gone on before us in the last year. This worship service also features a slide show in remembrance of these loved ones and a dedication of memorials, as well as Holy Communion.

Upcoming Worship Calendar

- Hanging of the Greens Sunday, November 27 at 4:00 pm
- Lessons and Carols Saturday, December 17 at 7:00 pm
- Christmas Pageant during worship Sunday, December 18 at 10:00 am
- Blue Christmas Worship: A Service of Hope Tuesday, December 20 at 6:30 pm
- Christmas Eve Saturday, December 24 (Family Worship in person at 4:00 pm; Online Christmas Eve at 7:00 pm; Candlelight Worship in person at 9:00 pm)
- Christmas Day Sunday, December 25 at 10:00 am Online Only Worship with Zoom fellowship following online worship (approximately 11:00 am)
- New Year's Day Sunday, January 1 at 10:00 am Online Only Worship with Zoom fellowship following online worship (approximately 11:00 am)

Music



Paolo Debuque
Chancel Choir
Director &
Music Coordinator
paolo@good.org
952-452-9397

This Advent, the Chancel Choir is opening its doors for outside singers to join our Lessons and Carols project. Rehearsals for this project will take place Wednesday evenings starting November 9, with a performance 7pm, Saturday, Dec. 17 (full schedule below). All materials are provided by the church.

Rehearsal schedule:

Wed. 11/9: 7-8pm Wed. 11/30: 7-8pm Wed. 11/16: 7-8pm Wed. 12/7: 7-8pm

* SING WITH

* US!

* DEG 17 2022

LESSONS AND CAROLS

looking ahead

Wed. 12/14: 7-9pm (dress rehearsal) Sat. 12/17: 6pm call; 7pm concert

If you are interested in being a part of this joyful musical event, please contact Paolo Debuque - paolo@good.org. Hope to see you there!

Worship Arts & Online Engagement

Online Outreach

We've been experimenting with marketing our worship services and other aspects of our online presence. We were thrilled that we spent \$8 to market our September 25th worship service and we had over one thousand partial views and 195 views from beginning to end! Our Facebook viewership has been down since Facebook discontinued the video "premiere" feature, and as more of our congregation seems to be migrating toward watching worship on our website. Other recent full worship videos report reaching around 100 people through our Facebook page. With a very small amount of money, we were able to reach a lot of people beyond our page. Think of that-195 people, most of them new to Good Sam, watched our services from beginning to end! Research shows Facebook is one of the most cost-effective ways to reach out to new people. I think of this as a similar expense to keeping the lights on and the roof maintained on our in-person sanctuary—but thankfully a much smaller expense. This is part of building out our online sacred space and keeping its doors open. We'll be doing more to market ourselves in the coming months and I'll keep you updated as we ao.

Online Music Ensemble

Our new Online Music Ensemble had its first recording session on October 8th! This group, featuring Mary Beth Berg (piano/organ/cello), Carina Debuque (voice), Emma Hutson (voice), and myself (voice and various instruments), will be one of the main sources of music for online worship. We'll still be featuring our other music ensembles, but this group will be able to fill out the rest of the music we need and help us maintain the diversity of music Good Sam is known for.

You Can Help Increase Facebook Engagement

You can help us drive our online engagement! Please share our Facebook page content. If you see something you like on our page, whether it's music or other content, we invite you to share it on your own Facebook profile. Organic spread is one of the greatest ways to increase our Facebook visibility. Not only do your friends see it, but Facebook will increase



Christian Nielsen
(he/him)
Coordinator of
Worship Arts &
Online Engagement
christian@good.org
952-452-9399

its visibility to new people if they see engagement happening. If you aren't comfortable sharing, a like, love, sad, or laughing reaction also helps a lot. Please also consider inviting others to join our Good Samaritan Online Community Facebook Group, especially those who may be less likely to come into a church or have been hurt by church in the past.

We Need Tech Volunteers (no experience necessary)

We have a few great volunteer AV techs. We could really use a few more. Anyone can do this if they have good hearing. It's simpler than you might think. Please reach out to me if you're interested.

I'm seeking at least one production helper for online worship. This is also something you do not need to have experience for, and I'm happy to teach what I know. I particularly could use help setting up and taking down equipment for recording sessions, as well as help monitoring cameras and recording levels.

Thank you everyone for your ongoing support of our arts and online ministries!

Congregational Care

Welcome back to Nikki

We look forward to the return of Nikki Holm, Director of Congregational Care, upon the conclusion of her maternity leave. She and baby Cass, along with the whole family, have enjoyed many bonding adventures that we're looking forward to hearing all about. Nikki will return to the office Tuesday, November 8. Welcome back, Nikki!



Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Our three-week Bible Study Series, "Hagar, Sarah and their Children," led by Larry and Mary Ellen Nielsen, will conclude November 1 as we welcome Rabbi Marcia Zimmerman of Temple Israel as our speaker. She will explore the way the pivotal story of Sarah and Hagar fits into the greater narrative of the Jewish people.

All are welcome to this special event in the Fireside Room, even if you haven't attended previous Bible Study sessions. Refreshments and fellowship begin at 9:30am.

Please direct questions to Carol Smith at carolsden@gmail.com.

Thursday Afternoon Book Group

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, November 10 at 1:00pm in the Fireside Room. The discussion title is "The Personal Librarian" by Marie Bennett and Victoria Murray. This historical novel is the story of Belle da Costa Greene, the personal librarian of J. P. Morgan who finds her place in a world where she must hide her true identity.







Coffee & Dessert Social

Friday, November 11, 7:00pm Featuring The Jumpin' Jehosafats

Join us for this social event in the Fellowship Hall where there will be fine desserts and great music! Free-will offering appreciated.



About our Musicians: The Jumpin' Jehosafats have been blending traditional jazz and Gospel for more than 25 years, raising money for charity and lifting spirits. The men and women of this group, including several pastors, have played community concerts, prisons, riverboats, churches, nursing homes, state fairs, and homeless shelters in the Upper Midwest, and also toured Haiti and Jamaica. They have released two CDs, the first entitled I'm Movin' On and the second Blessed are the Peacemakers, both with traditional and original tunes, the latter written by its members.

Children, Youth & Family Ministries

Spiritual Practice: Remembering and Pronouncing Names Correctly by Traci Smith

I am terrible with names sometimes! Rev. Traci Smith has written a really great reminder of why it is important for us to work on this skill! ~ Jan Jan M. Russell (she/her)
Director of Children, Youth
& Family Ministries
jan@good.org
952-452-9398



Most people forget names until they've known a person for a while. Even then, if you've started out not knowing someone's name, sometimes it can feel embarrassing to ask or "catch up." Church presents special challenges when it comes to knowing and remembering names because we often see each other infrequently, making it tough to get it right at the beginning of the relationship. And yet, this small kindness means so much to others. When someone is saying our name, they are saying "I see you. You belong. I know you. I remember you." If you, like me, would like to deepen your practice of knowing and remembering names, here are some thoughts and ideas to get you started.



- •Remember How Much it Matters. If you think people won't notice that you haven't remembered their name, you might be surprised. It's fairly obvious when someone knows or doesn't know your name. Say to yourself "I like to remember someone's name so they can feel loved and valued." Make a commitment.
- •Give Yourself Help in Remembering. Maybe the person has a unique feature that will give you an association "Gina who wears green glasses." (Maybe problematic if Gina chooses to wear different glasses one week, but you get the idea!)
- •Write it Down That way, if it slides out of your short-term memory, you can go back to focus on it.
- •Be mindful of how to pronounce names from cultures that are different than your own Don't say things like "I'll never remember that" or "Can I call you X" remembering names that are different than your own can be a real challenge, but you can do it! If you don't think you have it right, you can smile and say 'I really want to say your name correctly, and I'm sorry I'm stumbling over it. Can you help me once again?"

•*A Word About Mistakes — It's common to make mistakes when learning someone's name. Everyone does it! Don't let fear of making a mistake keep you from trying to get better at learning people's names. If you make a mistake, make a note of it and try again! Apologizing with a smile and a sincere desire to do better next time will go a long way.

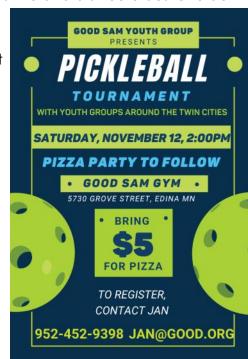
God knows our names and loves us unconditionally. There is a connection between knowing names and showing love. Take a moment to remember the names of those in our congregation (of all ages!) and show God's love in a tangible way. You might even find it to be a spiritual practice.



Save the Date!

Vacation Bible School

June 26-30, 2023



Missions

The Afghan Family We Are Helping

Since March, we have been helping a family that escaped from Afghanistan in the airlift. They left with almost nothing. We have been able to help them with groceries, clothing, furniture, kitchen items, and linens. We have also helped them get signed up for services, go to Urgent Care, make fall open house school visits, and go to the PROP Shop (People Reaching Out to People) and Food Shelf in Eden Prairie. We also give them English Lessons. Anahita is the mom, who doesn't speak English and can't drive. Her husband didn't make it out and we are told likely won't get out. Anahita has applied for asylum since her life would be endangered if she returned; she was a police officer and they worked with the Americans.



After the birth of Asra

There are six children ranging in age from five months to 14 years old. The three older girls are a great help to mom with cooking, cleaning, and taking care of the younger ones. All the children are picking up English quickly and helping us communicate with their mom.

~JoAnn Knutson



Most of the family eagerly looking a their awesome finds from the PROP Shop. The girls got dolls and told us they had to leave theirs behind.



New Halloween superhero costumes which they loved



Jumping for joy on the top of their new bunkbed supplied by Good Sam



Feed My Starving Children

Volunteer at the Chanhassen site (18932 Lake Dr E) Wednesday, Nov. 9 from 9:00-10:45am.

Sign up with Jane Heimerl at jane.heimerl@yahoo.com by two days before.

Two Ways We're Helping Food Shelves Here in Our City

Your generosity with your donations allowed us to allocate \$2,000 to the Joyce Uptown Food Shelf in Minneapolis and \$2,000 to the VEAP Food Bank in Bloomington (Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People). In addition to food, they say there is always a great need for diapers and wipes. They need us to purchase and then donate them, so we are purchasing

\$1,000 worth of diapers and wipes for EACH food shelf!



/EAF

Missions



"Light the Way Home"

On November 11 from 12:00 - 1:00 pm, Beacon Interfaith Housing is hosting a fundraising luncheon called "Light the Way Home" at the Radisson Blu at the Mall of America, Ensurina that all people have a home will require the investment of both public and private funds. This event offers an invitation for community members to give generously and come together to address housing instability. There is no requirement to give toward the cost of the luncheon or make any minimum gift, but we think that you'll be inspired to join us with your donation. Good Samaritan has committed to filling two tables of 10. One of them is filled. To join our Good Samaritan contingent register at the link below, put JoAnn or David Knutson as your table host, and contact JoAnn at joannknutson@hotmail.com or 612-240-9372 to let us know you are coming. Register at https:// www.beaconinterfaith.org/event/light-theway-home-a-beacon-fundraiser/

Helping Stonebridge Families

Good Sam has partnered with Stonebridge World School for 30 years! Social workers vet



these families in need and the Mission Team tries to help them. We have helped three Stonebridge families in the last month. The first family got behind on their rent when the father, who is a carpenter, had his hours cut. They were able to gradually pay half the back rent and Good Samaritan paid the other half. The second family felt unsafe where they were living. We provided first month's rent for them in a new place, provided many needed items including a sofa, chair, and ottoman, and helped them move. The third family needed a damage deposit to move into housing. A damage deposit is usually one month's rent and it is often difficult for families to come up with that much money. We can help families because of your generous giving at Easter and Christmas! Thank you!

~JoAnn Knutson

Two Ways We're Helping Kids in Sierra Leone, Africa:

1. Last year the Good Samaritan Foundation gave money for a science lab to the Richard Ormsby School in Baiwalla, and this month, the Missions Team allocated \$3,000 to help the



school provide lunches for their 300 students; their school garden provides some food; the cost of rice has doubled. Most of the families there live on \$2 a day, and as Ann Carlson wrote in her thank -you letter, food insecurity is a constant companion in their lives - the school lunch is often the only meal they get each day! One boy wrote that it is "the highlight of his day"! Our gift, made up mainly by specific donors to this project, will give them one more month of lunches so they'll have meals through January.

2. Good Sam has partnered with Stonebridge World School for 30 years! Our dedicated team makes weekly visits to work on the library of this inner-city school. Karen Anderson, Martha Kouatli, Joan Hursh, and JoAnn Knutson make up the team; they've recently cleaned out extra copies of books which we're sending to the Baiwalla school! Pictured is the first load of books!



Finance Team

Update for the Home Stretch

As we enter this year's 4th Quarter, Good Samaritan is under budget by \$64,000. Our expenses are coming in about as expected, but pledges and other donations are behind our plan. Unless donations pick up between now and the end of the year, we will have an unexpected loss this year.

By the time you read this, pledging Church members will have received a year-to-date pledging statement comparing their payments to what they pledged. We're asking everyone to consider taking some action. 1) Please verify that your pledges for this year can be honored by year-end. 2) If able, consider an additional donation by year end. If you have questions about your pledge, you can contact Cindy Bergstrom at the Church Office (cindy@good.org). ~Mac Lewis

	September Plan	September Actual	
Income	\$ 35,019	\$ 38,693	(\$103,259) behind plan YTD (unfavorable)
Expense	\$ 61,944	\$ 55,632	(\$38,426) behind plan YTD (favorable)
Net	(\$ 29, 925)	(\$ 16,939)	(\$64,833) behind plan YTD (unfavorable)

Marketing

November 8 Election



Good Sam is one of Edina's voting venues. To make this event the success it was before the onslaught of COVID, we need your help. We will return to greeting the voters, as well as providing coffee, lemonade, and freshly baked cookies throughout the day. We will also provide lunch and dinner for the election judges and our staff.

There will be opportunities for a lot of us to participate and demonstrate our radical hospitality. The precinct boundaries have changed, so some new folks will come through the Church.

The polls are open from 7:00am-8:00pm, so set some hours of the day aside and more information will come at a later date. Please call Dave Knutson at 612-859-2940 with any questions.

Appalachia Service Project

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You go from awkward silence on that first day to laughing and carrying on by the last day. Then you take that home with you. You get to see those people on a regular basis every Sunday. It's a really fun experience to have together. Those memories are a sense of accomplishment. That's something you get to share with a small group of people. Those are probably the two biggies that kept me going as many years as I did.



Q: Speaking of memories, are there any from past trips that really stand out for you?

A: My very first trip was to Union College in Barbourville. It was so hot that week. Nobody wanted to be inside. You'd come back from the work site, and you'd shower, but it didn't feel it did any good because it was so hot and humid. The cool thing was that we were on a college campus and there was a big courtyard where we all hung out on the steps and we played games. There's always camaraderie that develops. That was one of the bigger connections. Kids and adults and the other volunteer group – by the end of the week, we were all one big group. I went from Sunday night thinking what am I doing here to Thursday night hugging everybody goodbye. It was just a really memorable first experience in Appalachia. Besides that, I remember one of the families that we helped. We had a double crew on this site, and we were building a bedroom addition so that the children could have their own bedrooms. Ted Ahrenholtz was leading one crew doing the addon and I was leading the crew building a deck and a porch. For starters, it was fun because we had two crews on one site and that was awesome. The family had a young son who was about 12 or 13 years old, and he loved to play cornhole, so we would play. His favorite pro football team was the Indianapolis Colts and that's my favorite pro sports team, so I made a nice connection with him. The family was amazing, and we just really had a nice week and I remember leaving was hard. When you're helping adults, saying goodbye isn't as hard because they know you're leaving, but when you're saying goodbye to a 12 or 13 year old that you've made a connection with, that goodbye was harder. So that one really stands out in my mind as a really memorable experience.

Q: What lasting effect do you think the trip has on the youth and the adults who go to ASP?

A: I was struck how by little some of the folks in Appalachia were living on and how little they have. I think more than anything else, if you're 15, 16 years old living in Edina, you've probably never seen conditions like that in your life, in your world. So, what I always hoped kids would bring home was this appreciation for what you have and this understanding that there are a lot of people in this world that don't have very much. That connection of helping where you can is a lesson for everyone, but specifically from a formative standpoint, hopefully it's something that a youth would take with them. We learned through one of the youths who went on to work in college admissions and reading application letters how often ASP would pop up in the letters. That tells me that it had a lasting effect. Certainly, having an appreciation for the poverty, despair, and need in the world is something that is tremendously impactful for people and especially for youth because in all likelihood they've not seen that before. That's the biggest thing. It impacted me, too.

Q: What would you say to students and adults who have never been to ASP that would encourage them to go?

A: You should do everything once. I would say for one year burn that vacation time. You won't regret giving up those five days of vacation to do this. It's a tremendously memorable and rewarding

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Appalachia Service Project

(continued from p. 10)

experience. You'll get back more than you give. That's true. I 100 percent believe that. If you have a child in the program who is going, that's a tremendously worthwhile experience to share. You're doing something together that you never imagined. And the bond that is created between a parent and a child is really a neat thing, too. Beyond that, it's between the adults and between the youth and the adults. Those are all just tremendously positive things. The harshness of sleeping on a cot in an unairconditioned room and using showers that were made the week before

are just part of it. I would say what makes it a unique experience is all those little things that are not luxurious, but you'll talk about where you stayed, where you slept, where you ate, where you showered. It's just all part of the experience which makes it such a neat thing.

Thank you, Mike. Your leadership has been key to successful, life-changing trips for hundreds of ASP volunteers over the last nine years. Good Samaritan genuinely appreciates all you've done for this mission.

You're welcome. It's been a pleasure.

<u>Trustees</u>

Maintenance Minute

I want to give an update on the work we are having done in our wooded area of the property. We have Ed's Buckthorn Control getting the woods treated to get rid of our buckthorn and also the weeds.

Dan Green (he/him) Building Engineer danrg@good.org 612-889-4015





The Savannah: Northwest corner of our property on Wycliff Road a block down from Grove Street

We have a pretty big problem with burdock especially. Along with that, they will be spreading a seed mix in our savannah. This is the area directly off the playground and the area just west of the gym. They are spreading a mix of long fescue grass and wildflowers. This will compete with the weed problem we have in that area as well. Ed and crew just finished their first treatment of the woods and savannah at the beginning of October.

Rain Garden update: I am

currently seeking a few volunteers that could help with the maintenance of the rain garden. This project was finished two years ago free of charge by the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District, in hopes to protect Hawkes lake, which is connected to Nine Mile Creek. For those first two years, they did all of the scheduled maintenance. It has now been passed on to Good Sam to continue this. It requires minimal tasks such as pulling weeds, cleaning out our drain area, and inspecting for any issues that have to do with the water draining and if the plants are affected negatively by this in any way. This is done



The Rain Garden: North end of the lower parking lot near the garage

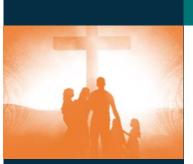
monthly throughout the summer, with a more in-depth list for spring start-up and fall shutdown. Please contact me at Danrg@good.org or 612.889.4015 to let me know if you would be interested in helping out with the rain garden maintenance. Thanks!



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OUR VISION

INSPIRING
Joyful Faith

BUILDING a Loving Community

SERVING
Neighbors Near
and Far

SUNDAYS

Worship

10:00am (In-person and Online)

Nursery

9:45-11:30am, Infants - Age 3

Sunday School

Held during worship following Children's Time. All are welcome!

WEDNESDAYS

(Nursery open from 5:45-9:00pm)

6:00pm

- Chancel Chimes Rehearsal
- Caregivers (2nd Wednesdays)
- Children/Youth Choir

7:00pm

- Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- Youth Activities

GOOD SAMARITAN OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm **Phone** (952) 929-0049