

# Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Naperville

Naperville, IL

**Original MSP is posted at ELCA.org**

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**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

## Summary Description

Good Shepherd is a biblically based, mission-minded, and Holy Spirit-filled congregation of over 4,000 members. Our building is located at the epicenter of a thriving and growing community in need of spiritual life and rejuvenation. Our mission states that we are "inviting everyone to walk together in the calling of Christ for a life of eternal impact". We are calling a leader who can shepherd, equip, and lead our body of Christ along this mission.

### Name and Location

#### CONGREGATION

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Naperville**

**16090**

CONGREGATION/MULTIPLE POINT PARISH/ ORGANIZATION

NAME

CONG ID

**Naperville, IL, 60565**

**US**

CITY, STATE , ZIP

COUNTRY

**Metropolitan Chicago Synod (5A)**

**Congregation - Organized**

**1978**

SYNOD

TYPE OF MINISTRY SITE

YEAR ORGANIZED

### Ministry Site Characteristics

#### AS A COMMUNITY

A LOT LIKE US	A LITTLE LIKE US	A LITTLE LIKE US	A LOT LIKE US
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We tend to be formal and programmatic.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	We tend to be informal and spontaneous.
We have clearly defined goals and plans for our future.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	We have no stated goals or plans.
We are racially and economically diverse.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	We are demographically homogeneous.

#### OUR LEADERSHIP STYLE

We welcome ideas that are provoking and challenging.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	We prefer ideas that are tried and true.
We rely on our leaders for direction.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	We rely on group decision-making.
We have learned how to use conflict constructively.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	We tend to perceive conflict as something destructive.

#### OUR PROGRAMMING

Our facilities are often used by community groups.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Our facilities are only used for our activities.
We train people to minister outside our walls.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	We train people to minister inside our walls.
We focus on ideas and beliefs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	We focus on skills and action.

#### OUR THEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

We are obviously Lutheran in identify and practice.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	We are less obvious about our Lutheran heritage.
We participate in synod and ELCA activities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	We are not very active in the synod and ELCA.
We focus on Biblical studies and doctrine.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	We focus on contemporary issues and topics.



## **Purpose, Giftedness and Mission**

### **Purpose**

How does this congregation or organization understand its reason for being in the light of God's call to mission and service?  
Who are you? Why are you here?

Our mission statement is “Inviting everyone to walk together in the calling of Christ for a life of eternal impact”. A vast majority of families in our Naperville community are driven by professional and monetary success as they search for purpose and fulfillment for themselves and their children. This desire for success often leads to spiritual distraction. More than 70% of the families in the greater Naperville area do not have a church home. We desire to connect with our neighbors by offering a welcoming environment that will enable them to connect, or re-connect, with God and develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

### **Giftedness**

What are your gifts and resources for fulfilling this purpose? What are the congregation's or organization's top three assets and how are they being used? Are there obstacles that must be overcome to be able to use these gifts and accomplish the mission?

1. Good Shepherd is a mission and service-oriented church serving and supporting missions locally and globally. Consequently, we are always looking to find more mission-minded people to serve.
2. Good Shepherd is a caring, friendly, and welcoming community of believers. We desire to be welcoming to all, not just those who look and think like us; continually working to make everyone feel connected and part of God's family through Good Shepherd. As we grow, we strive to ensure that our members are connected.
3. Good Shepherd endeavors to stay focused on keeping “the main thing, the main thing” — being biblically-based and Christ-centered amidst the turmoil and incivility in today's society, setting our gaze on Christ to navigate the complexities of daily life.

### **Mission**

In light of the way you have described your ministry context in this Ministry Site Profile, what are the top three mission priorities which, if accomplished, hold the most promise for the continued development of this ministry?

1. Rebuild and strengthen the sense of community and trust that was lost through the forced isolation of the pandemic. We want everyone re-engaged with Good Shepherd as their “third place” (Home, Work/School, Good Shepherd)
2. Provide opportunities and assistance so all can grow spiritually in their walk with Christ, through multiple worship options, a vibrant small group ministry, and meaningful programs for people of all ages and various stages in their spiritual journey.
3. Continue to build on existing ministries while developing new ministries to reach the underserved segments within the greater Naperville area, such as families with special needs and those struggling with mental health challenges. We strive to create a welcoming environment for all people(s).



**The Leader we Seek**

**Top Five Ministry Tasks**

*The five most critical tasks required in this position.*

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administration                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building a Sense of Community   | <input type="checkbox"/> Campus / Young Adult Ministry    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chaplaincy                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Ministry                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Christian Education              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications/ Media                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Organizing                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Conflict Management              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Counseling/ Social Work               | <input type="checkbox"/> Early Childhood Administration             | <input type="checkbox"/> Ecumenical Work                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evangelism/ Mission                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Management                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Global Service                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Innovation / Creativity               | <input type="checkbox"/> Interim Ministry                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Interpret Theology               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inter-personal Climate     | <input type="checkbox"/> Ministry in Crisis                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Ministry in Daily Life           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ministry with Seniors                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Multicultural Ministry                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Music / Worship / Arts           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor/ Camping Ministry             | <input type="checkbox"/> Parish Nurse / Health                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Participant in the Larger Church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pastoral Care and Visitation          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preaching / Worship             | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Policy / Advocacy         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recruit and Equip Leaders             | <input type="checkbox"/> Self Care / Family Life                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Small Group Ministry             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social Ministry                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spiritual Formation / Direction | <input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategic Mission Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer Coordination           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth and Family Ministry             |   |   |



**Gifts for Ministry**

*The five gifts essential in this position, and the five that are very helpful in this position.*

<b>Top Priority</b>		<b>Very Helpful</b>
<b>Yes</b>	Help people develop their spiritual life.	
	Help people understand and act upon issues of social justice.	
	Provide care and nurture.	<b>Yes</b>
	Be active in visitation of members and non-members.	
	Be effective in working with children.	
<b>Yes</b>	Build a sense of community among the people with whom he/she works.	
	Help others develop their leadership abilities and skills for ministry.	<b>Yes</b>
	Be an effective administrator.	
<b>Yes</b>	Be an effective communicator.	
<b>Yes</b>	Be an effective teacher.	
	Encourage support of the Church's wider mission.	<b>Yes</b>
	Work regularly in the development of stewardship growth.	
	Be active in ecumenical relationships.	
	Be effective in working with youth.	
	Organize people for community action.	
	Be skilled in planning and leading programs.	
	Have a strong commitment and loyalty to the ELCA.	
	Understand and interpret the mission of the Church from a global perspective.	
	Deal effectively with conflict.	<b>Yes</b>
	Bring joy and good humor to relationships.	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Yes</b>	Be able to share leadership and work in a team.	
	Be creative and innovative about his or her tasks.	
	Be able to use technology and media.	
	Appreciate cultural diversity in language and customs.	
	Have talents in the areas of music, arts and writing.	



### **Mutual Expectations**

Please list the five primary areas of activity or focus that you wish your newly-called rostered minister to give special attention to during the first year of his or her ministry at this congregation or organization:

- A. **Meet, learn, and understand Good Shepherd — Strive to meet, learn, and understand the Good Shepherd staff, congregation, and family. Focus on getting to know the body of the church, who is who, the values, gifts, strengths, weaknesses, traditions, various ministries, and mission.**
- B. **Building a Sense of Community — Building, re-building, and enhancing a sense of community within Good Shepherd. Entering the post-COVID season focusing on community togetherness to return Good Shepherd to its pre-pandemic vibrancy.**
- C. **Theological and Biblically-grounded Sermons — A focus on the development of each congregant's spiritual life through theological and biblically-grounded sermons and other teaching opportunities.**
- D. **Administration, Leadership, and Staffing — Maintaining a strong, stable, and effective Good Shepherd staff and leadership team.**
- E. **Forwarding Good Shepherd's Mission and Vision — In conjunction with the church council, COO and staff, and the entire congregation, bring leadership to help forward Good Shepherd's vision and mission.**

Please list the five ways that this congregation / organization will support and encourage the rostered minister during the first year in order to help her or him accomplish these responsibilities:

- A. **Prayer — Compassionate, fervent, and spirit-filled prayer seeking courage, strength, and wisdom for our new Senior Pastor, support of their family, and the future of Good Shepherd Church.**
- B. **Service — The members of Good Shepherd have a strong history of giving our time to support the needs and ministries of the church and are looking forward to working side-by-side with our new pastor to continue this service.**
- C. **Supportive Behavior — The Good Shepherd congregation is excited to welcome our new senior pastor and provide support for a smooth transition through patience, grace, encouragement, and a welcoming and friendly atmosphere.**
- D. **Welcome/Transition Team— A collection of members from our call teams and the congregation. This team is intended to embrace and support the new pastor immediately upon arrival. The primary responsibility of this team is to provide an intentional and welcoming environment, such as inviting the pastor and their family to dinners, welcoming them to events (Young Adult Ministry (YAMS), youth, small groups, etc.) and introducing Good Shepherd traditions.**
- E. **Senior Pastor Support Team — A two or three-person team dedicated to being supportive to the new senior pastor. Regularly meeting to provide a space of accountability, vulnerability, and support through the transition and beyond. Safe zone to discuss sensitive issues that may arise and offer encouragement, love, and grace.**



You are encouraged to offer information or commentary that will help the reader appreciate the vision, opportunities, challenges and nature of your ministry site. Use this opportunity to creatively promote and commend your ministry possibilities.

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#### **Our Mission Outcomes:**

**God Pursuer — We connect with our triune God (Psalm 62:1) in and through:**

- **Worship — Two worship styles are currently offered at Good Shepherd, traditional and contemporary, utilizing both sanctuary and worship center venues.**
- **Biblical Study — Built into the curriculum of each ministry and small group.**
- **Missions — We currently support a variety of local, national and international ministries, including full time missionaries, seminary students, and the ELCA.**
- **Family Ministries — Generational pursuit of God from birth to death and a thriving force within our church body (Proverbs 22:6). Of special interest is our FUSION Ministry which serves families with special needs children.**

**Gift User — We discover and offer our unique gifts to serve others (John 13:13-15, Romans 12:1-8, 1 Corinthians 12-14, Ephesians 4:11-16, Matthew 25:14-30) in and through:**

- **Time — Multitude of servants and lay leaders (1 Corinthians 1:26-29)**
- **Talents — Utilizing our God-given gifts (1 Corinthians 12-14) in matching individual giftings with the needs of the church body.**

**Faith Sharer — We share our faith with others (Matthew 4:19, 1 Peter 3:15-16) in and through:**

- **Mission trips (Mark 16:15)**
- **Community outreach (Philippians 2:3-4)**
- **Demonstrable faith in action (Colossians 3:23-24, 4:5-6)**

**Relationship Builder — We engage in caring community with others (Matthew 18:20, Hebrews 10:24-25, Acts 2:44-47) in and through:**

- **Care Team Ministry**
- **Small groups**
- **Facility utilization for Good Shepherd and non-Good Shepherd sponsored activities**

**Generous Giver — We steward the resources God has generously given us (1 Timothy 6:17-19, 2 Corinthians 9:6-7) in and through:**

- **Generosity as a way of life.**
- **Treasures — We encourage and support biblical tithing (Leviticus 27), giving above and beyond the tithe in gifts and offerings, and generously support 25 local, national, and international ministries, and missionaries.**

**Stronghold Breaker — We break free of sin (2 Corinthians 10:3-5, James 5:16, 1 Corinthians 10:13, Ephesians 6:11) in and through:**

- **Accountability of self through God's Holy Spirit and in community with other believers - Prayer is essential and intentional (1 Thessalonians 5:17)**
- **Spiritual transformation (Romans 12:1-2)**

With a congregation of our size and diverse family structures comes the challenge and opportunity to bring unity and growth to camps that have been established around all manner of divisive topics and viewpoints. Keeping focus on Christ Jesus, God the Father and the Holy Spirit should always be the main thing in all aspects of our mission, ministry, and worship experiences. We know that God has called a servant leader who will indeed keep "the main thing the main thing" — and be the primary overseer of this congregation, with a humble yet strong, Holy Spirit-filled, and unifying voice.