

CHURCH COUNCIL DISCERNMENT for the 2024/2025 Fiscal Year

These biographies are for your reference in preparation for the Annual Meeting vote on Sunday, May 5 to discern the newest representatives for our Good Shepherd Church Council.



Amy Biegelman

My husband, Keith, and I are so thankful to call

Good Shepherd our home. Our immediate family includes 2 adult daughters, their husbands, and three amazing grand cats. We moved to Aurora in 1997 to raise our daughters and recently embraced our empty nest by downsizing to a condo in beautiful downtown Aurora.

Good Shepherd has been so very instrumental in guiding me on my faith journey. The Women's Ministry Growth Groups were my gateway into deeper connection with Christ, with weekly teaching and small group discussion. Then, my husband and I participated in and next led a Rooted group study, which helped me develop the spiritual disciplines of prayer, silence, and daily Bible reading. These practices center me each morning, reminding me who I am and to whom I belong. It was during Rooted that I more fully discovered the Holy Spirit, forever changing my life. Most recently, Good Shepherd's Great

Morning Revolution gave me a clear structure to my morning coffee with Christ, through intentional prayer and reflection. It has been at Good Shepherd that I have grown tremendously in my spiritual disciplines that accompany my deep love and trust in the triune God.

Serving within a community is a wonderful way to make connections within that community. At Good Shepherd as well as my former congregations, I have primarily served in Children's Ministries. I can't remember a time in my life where I didn't spend my summer at VBS, either as a student or as a leader. At Good Shepherd, I have also been involved in Sparks as a preschool leader. Being able to share the love of Jesus with children is my greatest passion.

I have found other ways to serve at Good Shepherd. Communion is an especially meaningful time in our worship service, and I find serving at Christ's table to be another privilege. Another opportunity for me at Good Shepherd has been joining the Marriage Ministry team. This team is a wonderful example of

“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”

Isaiah 43: 18-19 (NIV)

what can happen when we each bring our own unique gifts and put them together. The outcome is amazing! I love planning events with this team to support marriages that reflect the love of Jesus.

The presence of the Holy Spirit is tangible at Good Shepherd and I am so very excited to see what God has planned for this congregation. We are a church community that is dreaming big! I am confident that God will use the gifts specifically designed for each of us to further His Kingdom.



Julie Dwyer

Hello! My name is Julie Dwyer and I am excited to be prayerfully

considered as a member of the Good Shepherd church council.

While at Good Shepherd, I have served as a leader for VBS, was a leader and co-creator of the Angel Food Ministry and was a leader and active participant in Growth Group prior to my career shift. My family and I have benefited from and fully support the Fusion ministry - we will never forget His impact and true love on the weary and disabled.

My son looks forward to 'Saturday Church' (Buddy Break) and 'Sunday Church' (Sparks / Fusion), along with the rides on the elevator. Through VBS I have seen the love of Jesus through children's eyes. Hopeful, inclusive and excited on the journey of Christianity. We became members of Good Shepherd in 2011 and we were excited to find our church home.

Then Covid hit and mental health became a priority, along with experiencing close deaths, our family was hurting and crying. We prayed diligently and it felt unheard but Good Shepherd did not abandon us.

I have been praying and seeking a way to support Good Shepherd in its next phase. We wake up each day to a sign in our bedroom that reads 'Begin Each Day with a Grateful Heart.' I am open to multiple viewpoints, fair in my listening skills and a compassionate human. One of my favorite memories happened this Easter. In service, my mostly non-verbal son was trying to recite the Lord's Prayer. And at the end, instead of 'Forever and Ever', he said 'Every Day. Amen.' We need to be His Followers. His Messengers. His Disciples. His Flock. His people. EVERY DAY.



Kathy Felton

My husband John and I, along with our two daughters (Kaylene Eschbach

& Rachael Durie) have been attending Good Shepherd since 1993. It's played such an important role in who we've all grown to be, in more ways than

can be listed here.

I have served in many capacities including: Worship Team (circa 1995 when it was volunteer-run), acolyte coordinator, altar guild, usher team coordinator, Sunday school teacher, volunteering at our preschool and many other church-wide events. Most recently, I served on the Associate Pastor Call Team (for Pr. Jake Roberts) and have joined the Tuesday morning Women's Ministry.

Many things have transpired in the life of this church over those three decades but one constant has remained; Good Shepherd's tradition of "keeping the main thing, the main thing"; *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. Love your neighbor as yourself. Matthew 22: 37-39*

If I'm being honest, I never sought nor saw myself serving on Council, but God is driving this bus. In serving His church on Council or otherwise, I will seek God's guidance from the Holy Spirit through prayer, the Word, listening to others, and through circumstance. His will be done for the benefit of His kingdom.



Kevin Shirley

Hi Good Shepherd Family! My name is Kevin Shirley, and I have made Good Shepherd my

forever home church. I am a single father of 2 boys, Liam (10) and Finnegan (8). My journey to Good Shepherd was filled with God's strategic plan! I got divorced in early 2018, and while I was seeking out counseling, I found a Christian counselor who happened to be a member of Good Shepherd. She suggested I give Good Shepherd a try because of the wonderful family ministry we have. I was a newly single father with a 2-year-old and a 4-year-old. The support I received from the Sparks team and their director, Bethany Hammer, was amazing. That is one of the many reasons I fell in love with Good Shepherd and decided to raise my boys here.

My faith journey started when I was born. The reason why I say that is because I am adopted. I was adopted through Lutheran & Children and Family Services in 1979. In my adoption papers to my adoptive parents, my birth mother had one very important request, make sure I read the Bible and am exposed to God. My parents did just that, I grew up in Lutheran churches & Lutheran and Christian schools. My faith has always had a firm foundation because of that.

Service has always been a big part of my life. One position I am especially proud of is when I was

a "CASA" (Court Appointed Special Advocate) in DuPage County for 6 years. CASA is a national organization of volunteer advocates who are the eyes and ears of the courts for abused and neglected children in the community. I retired as an advocate last year and now serve on the board of directors. My boys and I are also very active in serving at Feed My Starving Children and Feed The Need.

Over the past 4 years, I have served in many ways at Good Shepherd. I've served as a buddy on Sunday mornings and at monthly Buddy Breaks. I've led weekly small groups in Club 45 and Fuel as well as helped with winter camps. I serve communion with the Worship Team, am a facilitator with our Divorce Care small groups, and help set up/tear down our worship spaces.

I am very grateful and honored for the nomination to join council. I believe in our mission, "Inviting everyone to walk together in the calling of Christ for a life of eternal impact". I think the experience I have gained from serving, my executive skills from working as a leader in the business world for the last 15 years, and my passion and enthusiasm for Good Shepherd will help me serve as a valuable council member for Good Shepherd and our congregation.



Kristen Larson

My husband, Zac, and I have been members at Good Shepherd since we moved to

Naperville after college in 2001. It has been a place where we've raised our children (four amazing young men- Noah 18, Alex 17, Charlie 15, and Logan 13), where I have met some of my very best friends, have served the church and the preschool, and have grown in my faith. I have been absolutely blessed by being a part of this church.

During the time we've been at Good Shepherd I have volunteered with Sparks, VBS, the nursery, and with many youth events. I have been a part of a team helping with a generosity initiative, have been in a small group, and am extremely proud to be in my 16th year serving the preschool as a board member. Our church has been growing and changing, and with the incredible leadership of our pastors and the directors and volunteers at GS, we have an amazing opportunity to continue growing this special community.

If I'm chosen as a member of the church council, I would seek guidance and direction from God through prayer, from the church leadership, and from other people like me... unique, still learning, still growing in faith, sometimes questioning, community seeking people of Good Shepherd.

I am passionate about having not only respect for but also representation and affirmation for each person in God's creation. I think our church has an amazing chance to live out our mission: Inviting EVERYONE to walk together in the calling of CHRIST for a life of eternal IMPACT. I would love to play a small part in that journey.



Veveca Rising

My husband and I live in Aurora, enjoying the new phase of being empty nesters.

Faith has been a constant cornerstone in my life, shaping my beliefs as a lifelong Lutheran. Good Shepherd became our home over ten years ago when I faced a life changing cancer diagnosis. While I sought strength from my personal relationship with God, my husband searched for a supportive church for himself and our daughters. We were led to Good Shepherd. During my recovery, I experienced numerous signs from God, including meeting a member of Good Shepherd who became my faith angel. Under her guidance, I attended CRHP 27 women's retreat. My spiritual journey was reignited! Since that weekend in 2013, my faith continues to grow and flourish. I am tenaciously seeking a deeper relationship with God and understanding of His word, growing alongside fellow believers, becoming an avid prayer warrior, and trusting in God's plan.

Before joining Good Shepherd, I served for ten years as a Sunday School teacher. At Good Shepherd, I've been involved in two ministries close to my heart: marriage ministry and CRHP (Christ Renew His Parish). Mark and I have participated in many marriage retreats and events. My involvement in CRHP 27 led to

integral roles in CRHP 28 and CRHP 2.0 (alumni) programs, where I served as a witness and table leader. Currently, I participate in a Wednesday night bi-weekly Bible study and lead a weekly small group for CRHP 27 women.

Love and Jesus are the anchors for me and my family. By demonstrating Jesus' love to others and letting His light shine through us, we encourage ourselves and others to walk in our calling, guiding all we encounter towards God, nurturing growth, and closeness to Him.

I am honored to have the opportunity to serve on the council. This opportunity would allow me to serve alongside others in discernment and prayer for the next steps in this exciting chapter at Good Shepherd. I see God's hand in all our endeavors, whether it is directed towards our local community, congregation, or to the wider global world.

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, May 5, 12-2pm

- Budget Presentation for the 2024- 2025 Fiscal Year
- Vote to approve New Constitution
- New Council Member Discernment
- Vision from Pastor Tara Beth
- Light lunch provided. Childcare available up to 5th grade.