

Dear Families,

Welcome to July 2020! As I sit at my desk for the first time, I feel an immense amount of gratitude for being entrusted to help lead our school through turbulent times. Not only has a pandemic swept through our world, but also long-standing social inequities have come to light. Independence Day serves as a great gateway to begin or continue conversations with our children about equality, liberty, the common good, what it means to follow Christ, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Seeing so many of your children in the building--playing, joking, laughing, learning, *being kids* again--I'm overwhelmed with optimism that we can push through the challenges ahead of us.

That being said, our task force is working diligently to finalize our plan for a safe re-opening of Good Shepherd this fall with in-person learning. The task force consists of Father Luke Marquard, Christopher Mueller, Colleen Feller, Jasmine Jirele, Angie Ruehle, Emma Sandvig, John Vella, and myself. The plan will be released mid-July, and each family will receive the plan details. We want to make sure our plan is as thorough as possible, and adheres to the guidance given from the Archdiocese, Minnesota Department of Education, Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Disease Control, and other resources available to us. You will receive a survey via email tomorrow that addresses some areas to consider for re-opening. Your participation in the survey will be greatly appreciated. The plan will focus on four key "domains" to help ensure the safety and the health of everyone in the Good Shepherd community:

Promoting Behaviors that Reduce Spread
Maintaining Healthy Facilities
Maintaining Healthy Operations
Communication, Training, and Education

Aspects of the Good Shepherd school day will look different this fall and we will have contingency plans (both a hybrid and distance-learning plan) in place. We will be creative and attentive to how we keep the faith-filled learning environment vibrant within our school walls. A group of teachers will begin to collaborate together to address the ways to best educate all our students within the various models. For families that are not comfortable returning in person, we are here for you as well. The last thing we want at Good Shepherd is to lose a family due to our unique situation. We will work to serve all of our families during this time, and we have already come up with many innovative ideas to help serve each family.

Please see below opportunities to serve our greater community in prayer and donation. I sincerely appreciate your patience as we work through this process, and as always, never hesitate to reach out if I can do anything to help!

Keep hope, and may God bless you,

Stevi Evans
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Upcoming Opportunities

HOLY HOUR FOR OUR NATION

Please join us from 7 to 8 p.m. Friday, July 3, for a holy hour for our nation. This holy hour will take the place of our regular First Friday Night of Prayer. It will include Eucharistic Adoration, the Litany of the Sacred Heart, the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy, a Rosary, and a renewal of our consecration as individuals and as a nation to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Our primary prayer intention as we approach Independence Day will be for the holiness of our nation. We'll be finished in plenty of time for fireworks.

DONATION DRIVE & PRAYER WALK

In response to the death of George Floyd on Memorial Day and the unrest that followed throughout the Twin Cities, as well as the hardships suffered by many of our brothers and sisters due to the pandemic, we will be collecting non-food essential items and monetary donations to distribute to families that reside in the Lake Street area of South Minneapolis. Donations will be collected the weekends of July 10-12 and July 17-19. On Saturday, July 25, we will gather to load up and deliver the donations to South Minneapolis. Then, we will hold a prayer walk through parts of South Minneapolis to lift up our brothers and sisters spiritually during this time. All are invited to help deliver items and join in our prayer walk. Further details about the day are forthcoming.

Here is a list of items identified as needed at this time:

- Body soap
- Shampoo
- Hand soap
- Maxi pads
- Baby wipes
- Diapers (all sizes, especially size 6 and pull-ups)
- Laundry detergent
- Dish soap (please no dishwasher soap)
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper