

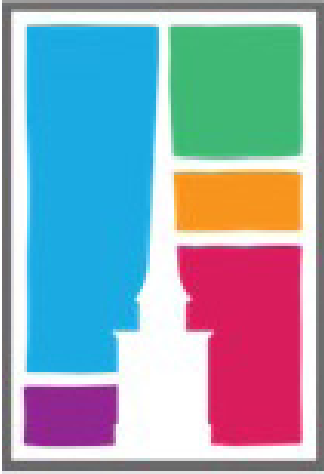
North Shore Church News

Faith - *Community* - *Service*



Our Purpose is to Grow and Deepen Christian
Discipleship in a Faith Community
Guided by the Holy Spirit.

August 2025



North Shore Congregational Church

Sunday Worship

10:00am - Worship
(*Sanctuary/YouTube*)

10:15 - Music & Movement
and Godly Fun
(*September - Early June*)

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Vol. 43 Issue 8

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“A Few Thoughts On...”

‘Playing’ With Scripture

Dear Friends,

Those who have been with us on Sunday mornings this summer are aware of the worship series in which we are exploring the Beatitudes through the ‘lens’ of the parables of Jesus. The Beatitudes are so familiar to many of us that I think it can be helpful to try to look at them in a new way. So, coming into this summer, I decided to do so by means of considering parallels between the Beatitudes and the parables. It has been an intriguing journey for me, and one I look forward to continuing through the month of August. For the purposes of today, however, I simply want to draw our attention to the underlying notion of seeking to explore scripture in new and different ways as we look to grow in our relationship with God.

The Bible has sometimes been referred to as the ‘Living Word’ of God. It’s a notion that speaks to the fact that God works through Scripture to inspire new understandings and experiences in our faith that allow us to grow towards God in the ever-changing world in which we live. Through the gift and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, we are drawn into fresh perspectives of the Bible in ways that guide us in new and meaningful directions for our lives of today. Now some 26 years into preaching on a weekly basis, I am amazed at the manner in which passages I have explored numerous times in the past lead me to new destinations as I delve into them once again. This is a true gift of God and a great blessing of the Holy Spirit. It is also, however, something in which I play a central part.

Fundamentally, God’s ‘Living Word’ can’t speak anew to our lives if we don’t open ourselves to that possibility. First of course, we have to take the time to read, to pray, and to reflect on the words of the Bible. Simply stated, we can’t get renewed and refreshed meaning from the Bible if we don’t

take time to read it. If we want God's Spirit to inspire us through the Bible, we have to open it! Second, however, we need to be intentional about setting aside our preconceived notions. Many passages are ones we've read and considered before. We've shared conversations. We've formed perspectives. We've created a certain framework of how that passage speaks to our lives. If we return to the page with those thoughts already in mind, we've already shut the door on God's fresh inspiration. This is what brings me back to how we are approaching the Beatitudes this summer.

My core purpose in seeking parallels between the Beatitudes and the parables was to pull me away from my own pre-conceived notions and allow room for that Spirit-led discernment to those familiar words. To be clear, there are many ways to do this. Sometimes I try to take the perspective of a particular listener in the crowd to see how they might have received the words that were being shared. Sometimes I take the perspective of one of the particular characters of the narrative in hopes of seeing what the events might have been like for them. I look towards the history around the events, I look for other passages that parallel and/or contradict what I'm reading in another. There are many options, and none are right or wrong. As someone who has returned to many verses again and again, however, I find such approaches invaluable in allowing God to work past the frameworks I've already established in my mind.

Many years ago, while serving a church in Michigan, I caught one of the church members off guard when I talked about 'playing with Scripture.' He was taken aback, a bit, by that phrase and didn't know quite what to make of it. I remain steadfast, however, that this is precisely what we need to do. However it is we do it, we need to 'play' with Scripture, and we need to allow it to play with us. Because, the moment we come to Scripture in the hopes of 'making our point,' is the moment we've put to death the 'living' word of God.

In Faith,

Marty



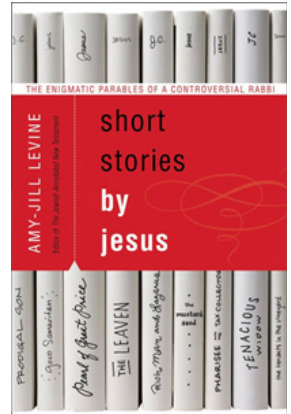
Marty will be out of the office from **August 25 through September 1**. The church office will be open for its normal operating hours and Marty can be reached by cell phone in the case of an emergency.

FORMATION AND ENRICHMENT

Tuesday Morning Book Group

The Tuesday Book Group will be taking August off after reading Madeleine L'Engle's classic *A Wrinkle in Time*.

When we gather again on Tuesday, September 2, we will begin reading *Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi* by Amy-Jill Levine. Amazon offers this description: "In this wise, entertaining, and educational book, Amy-Jill Levine offers a fresh, timely reinterpretation of Jesus' narratives. In *Short Stories by Jesus*, she analyzes these "problems with parables," taking readers back in time to understand how their original Jewish audience understood them. Levine reveals the parables' connections to first-century economic and agricultural life, social customs and morality, Jewish scriptures and Roman culture. With this revitalized understanding, she interprets these moving stories for the contemporary reader, showing how the parables are not just about Jesus, but are also about us—and when read rightly, still challenge and provoke us two thousand years later."



Book Group meets every Tuesday via Zoom at 9:00am and in-person at 10:00am in Friendship Lounge. Please let Lizz Loder know if you'd like her to order a copy for you and she will have them ready before we meet so you can be prepared for our first discussion.

Even if you have not joined us in the past, new voices are always welcome! We look forward to another year of robust discussion and fellowship!

Lizz Loder and Susan Wauck

lizzloder@yahoo.com

Thursday Bible Study: 9:30am

The Thursday morning Bible study group will continue to meet at 9:30 in Friendship Lounge. Please join us as we read the Acts of the Apostles.



If you have any questions or would like to receive more communication about our study groups, contact anyone in the church office.

HEALTH COMMITTEE

HOW TO STAY SAFE IN THE WATER THIS SUMMER

It's summer! Many of our activities are taking us to the beach, pools and lakes. It should be a safe as well as fun time in the water. Here are some relevant and VITAL reminders to keep everyone safe. Sadly, drowning is the number one cause of death in children ages 1 to 4. Often well-meaning rescuers meet the same fate. How can we avoid these tragedies?

Pools: backyard pools are prevalent in many neighborhoods. Pools should be fenced on all 4 sides. Entry should be locked and water toys removed after swimming is done for the day. During extended periods of no use, the pool/hot tub should be covered.

Beaches and Open Water: any child or person who is not a strong swimmer going into open water or on a watercraft should wear a US Coast Guard approved life jacket (as designated on label). Fit of the jacket should not rise above the earlobe. Avoid use of "swimmies" (water wings that slip on arms, noodles, etc.). They can easily slip off and provide a false sense of security.

Keep An Eye Out: Always and at all times designate a responsible person whose SINGLE job is to watch the people in the water. Ideally a couple of people can switch the task after about 20 or 30 minutes to maintain alertness. In recent summers there have been lifeguard shortages at public beaches and pools, and it is equally important in backyard pools.

Teach children the importance of swim safety, as equivalent as to crossing the street or wearing seatbelts. They should be sure there is a responsible person watching. Ask permission to enter a private pool. Never swim alone. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends swim lessons for children as young as 1 year of age.

In the event there is a situation when a rescue is needed (sans lifeguard), use a pole or object to reach the person and have someone call 911. If you jump into the water, use a flotation device between you and the person needing rescue.

Ref:

- *No More Under (non-profit of a dad who lost a young son)*
 - *National Drowning Prevention Alliance*
-

Save the Date:

Rev. Karl D. Schimpf Memorial Blood Drive
Saturday, September 20, 9am-1pm

“Come and See” (John 1:6)

Each year the NACCC holds its Annual Meeting and Conference connecting members of member churches with one another. This year we were invited to St. Louis to “Come and See” the good work being done in member churches, by missionary partners, and in the NACCC itself.

North Shore Congregational was well represented with Rev. Marty serving as Vice-Moderator, Rebekah Barsch in her role as a member of the Board of Governors of the Congregational Foundation and alternate delegate, Bruce Loder as an alternate delegate, and me, serving as the delegate for NSCC. As your delegate I attended business sessions and attended meetings and voted on anything that required action. We were also privileged to attend meetings with the Executive Director of the NACCC Gerry Krupp and the Executive Director of The Congregational Library & Archives Kyle Roberts and learn more about what is happening in those organizations and about resources available to member churches. It was a blessing to spend time with representatives from many of our mission partners including Fishers Of Men, Word Alive Mission, A Christian Ministry in the National Parks, Morgan Scott Project, Seafarer’s Friend, and Pilgrim Center for Reconciliation. As I heard their stories and learned more about the critical work they are doing to change lives, I was reminded of how important it is to “come and see” the hand of God at work throughout the world and to do our part to help. I encourage you to check out our partners by visiting this link: [HTTPS://WWW.NACCC.ORG/MISSIONS-OUTREACH/MISSION-PARTNERS/](https://www.naccc.org/missions-outreach/mission-partners/)

We joined in hymn singing before each day’s work began and joined one another for a lovely and meaningful worship and communion service on Sunday. This was followed by an intergenerational mission project where we packaged 15,000 meals for those suffering from food insecurity. What a beautiful day this was!

Breakout sessions included Getting Started in Grassroots Organizing, Building a Culture of Discipleship, Healing Hearts and Bridging Divides, and Relevant Considerations for Effective New Church Starts, Renewal, and Revitalization. At one breakout session, I had the privilege of representing the Board of Christian Enrichment in a panel discussion discussing

the progress of groups that have received grants through the Vitality Ministry Council. I was also invited to present a “Being Church” moment on the final day of the conference once again representing BCE and the work they are doing to create a Speaker Series on issues important to families in our community. Their project garnered lots of interest among other member churches. Please reach out to the members to learn more and read the information in the weekly bulletin to learn how you may be able to help.

On a more personal note, I was grateful to meet many of my instructors from the Lay Ministry Training Program in person and to see members of the most recent graduating cohort of LMTP students receive their certificates and share their aspirations. It was wonderful to reconnect with Doug Gray and Julie Sheridan-Smith, both of whom continue to encourage me in my studies and growth as a Christian. I must also express my gratitude to Marty for inviting me to take on the role of delegate and to the Church Council for approving my appointment. Marty’s unwavering faith in me is a treasured gift.

As the meeting concluded, I came away renewed and invigorated to keep learning and growing as a Congregational Christian. Meeting new people and hearing how NACCC member churches throughout the country are creatively addressing the challenges we all face, encourages me to look ahead to “A Future and a Hope”, which is the theme for next year’s Annual Meeting and Conference in Springfield, MA.

Lizz Loder
NACCC Delegate, 2025

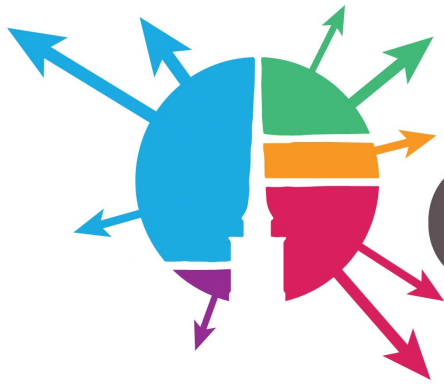


August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
27 10:00am Worship w/ Lizz Loder preaching 11:00am Fellowship	28 1:15pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Evening Prayer 8:00pm AA/Al-Anon	29 10:30am Yoga 1:00pm LX Club
3 Communion 10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship 11:00am Repairers of the Breach - Bag Lunch Express	4 1:15pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Evening Prayer 8:00pm AA/Al-Anon	5 10:30am Yoga 1:00pm LX Club 5:30pm Benevolence Board (Friendship Lounge) 6:00pm BCE (Youth Room) 6:00pm Deacons (Owl Room and Zoom) 6:00pm Trustees (Library)
10 10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship	11 1:15pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Evening Prayer 8:00pm AA/Al-Anon	12 10:30am Yoga 1:00pm LX Club 6:00pm Stewardship Board (location TBD)
17 10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship	18 1:15pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Evening Prayer 8:00pm AA/Al-Anon	19 10:30am Yoga 1:00pm LX Club 7:00pm Council
24 10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship	25 7:00pm Evening Prayer 8:00pm AA/Al-Anon	26 10:30am Yoga 1:00pm LX Club
31 10:00am Worship w/ Rick Ruenzel Preaching 11:00am Fellowship	1 1:15pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Evening Prayer 8:00pm AA/Al-Anon	2 9:00am Book Group (Zoom) 10:00am Book Group 10:30am Yoga 1:00pm LX Club 5:30pm Benevolence Board (Friendship Lounge) 6:00pm BCE (Youth Room) 6:00pm Deacons (Owl Room and Zoom) 6:00pm Stewardship Board (Upstairs Classroom)

2025

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31 9:30am Bible Study (Friendship Lounge) 9:30am Yoga 1:00pm LX Club	1 6:30am Men's Bible Study (Zoom and offsite) 11:00am Ritke Memorial 7:30pm RR Historical Society	2 8:00am Fox Point Farmer's Market 9:00am OEAnon - Friendship Lounge 10:30am OEAnon Special P-Meyer - Friendship Lounge
6	7 9:30am Bible Study (Friendship Lounge) 9:30am Yoga 1:00pm LX Club	8 Nancy Vogt Memorial Service (Time TBD) 6:30am Men's Bible Study (Zoom and offsite)	9 8:00am Fox Point Farmer's Market 9:00am OEAnon - Friendship Lounge
13	14 9:30am Bible Study (Friendship Lounge) 9:30am Yoga 1:00pm LX Club	15 Newsletter Deadline 6:30am Men's Bible Study (Zoom and offsite)	16 8:00am Fox Point Farmer's Market 9:00am OEAnon - Friendship Lounge
20 5:30pm Midweek Manna: Backyard BBQ Edition (offsite)	21 9:30am Bible Study (Friendship Lounge) 9:30am Yoga 1:00pm LX Club	22 6:30am Men's Bible Study (Zoom and offsite)	23 8:00am Fox Point Farmer's Market 9:00am OEAnon - Friendship Lounge
27	28 9:30am Bible Study (Friendship Lounge) 9:30am Yoga 1:00pm LX Club	29 6:30am Men's Bible Study (Zoom and offsite)	30 8:00am Fox Point Farmer's Market 9:00am OEAnon - Friendship Lounge
3	4 9:30am Bible Study (Friendship Lounge) 9:30am Yoga 1:00pm LX Club	5 6:30am Men's Bible Study (Zoom and offsite) 7:30pm RR Historical Society	6 8:00am Fox Point Farmer's Market 9:00am OEAnon - Friendship Lounge 10:00am Bel Canto Chorus Auditions 10:30am OEAnon Special P-Meyer - Friendship Lounge



Beyond Our Walls

Just One More Ministry

Please continue to donate non-perishable food items for Just One More Ministry Food Bank. Food insecurity rises for the youngest and most vulnerable in our community when schools are closed. Peanut butter and plastic bags are always a necessity! If you donate plastic bags, please remember they should be usable grocery type bags (not sleeves from newspapers). Thank you! Also, donated canned goods (mac and cheese etc.) are also appreciated.



Soles for Jesus

We continue to collect shoes for Soles for Jesus (bins can be found inside the south entrance).



Repairers of the Breach

Join us on Sunday, August 3 in the kitchen after the service to help make PBJ sandwiches for Repairers of the Breach.



St. Ben's Community Meal

After taking a three month break for the summer, Loaves and Fishes will resume on September 16. In partnership with St. Benedict the Moor parish, for over 50 years, North Shore Congregational church members have provided a hot meal for the homeless once a month at St. Ben's downtown Milwaukee campus. The program relies heavily on volunteers to prepare, drive and serve food to guests. More information and a volunteer sign up form is also included on the next page and posted to the bulletin board in the hallway. The form can be filled out and left in the church office or emailed to Dona Wininsky. Past volunteers also will receive an email in August, requesting their renewed commitment and assistance in continuing to make this program a success. Questions and more information can be received by calling Dona at 414-426-3086 or emailing Dona.Wininsky@gmail.com.



Loaves & fishes
— MINISTRY —

School Supply Drive

From August 8/10-8/24, we will be collecting the following school supplies for Kari George's MPS School: loose leaf paper, notebooks, folders, colored pencils, pencils, erasers, tissue, Clorox cleaning wipes, and crayons. Items can be dropped off, anytime, in the collection bins in the lower narthex. Please consider donating to this worthy cause.



LOAVES AND FISHES

2025-2026

St. Ben's Meal is an outreach program that serves Milwaukee's neediest citizens. On the third Tuesday of each month, September through May, NSCC provides casseroles, desserts and servers for the evening meal. Please consider joining our NSCC volunteers who already help out on this much needed, and personally gratifying program. **If you have questions, please contact Dona Wininsky, 414-426-3086 or Dona.Wininsky@gmail.com.**

I will provide casseroles (ONE RECIPE – ONE LARGE LOAF PAN IN CHURCH KITCHEN) RECIPE WILL BE PROVIDED.

Monthly (September-May) _____

The following months (please list) _____

As needed (Dona will confirm) _____

I will prepare desserts (30 pieces) (Your choice of "finger food – cookies, bars, brownies, cupcakes, etc.)

Monthly _____

The following months (please list) _____

As needed (Dona will confirm) _____

I will serve (5:00 – 6:30pm) at St. Ben's (please list number of servers)_____

Monthly _____

The following months (please list) _____

As needed (Dona will confirm) _____

I will drive food from church to St. Ben's (pick up at 3:30pm)

Monthly _____

The following months (please list) _____

As needed (Dona will confirm) _____

Name _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Please return form to church or to Dona at Dona.Wininsky@gmail.com. Thank you.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR...

Midweek Manna - Backyard BBQ Edition

August 20 - 5:30pm

3326 W. Alsace Ct. Mequon



Throughout the months of June, July and August, our normal Manna gatherings have been replaced by informal social gatherings at the home of Marty and Sharon Hall. Simple cookout-style meals will be provided (no need to bring anything - just show up to join us), and the evening will be a time to gather together in fellowship during the summer months. We will start gathering around 5:30 and eat around 6:00. Drop in any time!

Commissioning Sunday

As the new program year kicks off, join us for **Commissioning Sunday, 10am on Sunday, September 7**. Worship in the sanctuary, and online, led by Rev. Marty and our Chancel

Choir as we kick off the new program year. And... An Ice Cream Social, hosted by our Fellowship Committee, immediately after worship. If you have been 'away' for much of the summer, we've missed you. Come to be a part of launching an exciting and important year at North Shore Congregational Church.





Godly Fun and Music & Movement return on Sunday September 7!

As summer speeds to a close, we look forward to the return of the children for worship, fun, and friendship during our weekly lessons. Join us as we begin the fall learning all about prayer: what it is, why do we do it, how do we do it, and more!



KidsConnect Scheduling

Let's get the school year off to a great start and schedule another KidsConnect! For kids in grades 2-6, KidsConnect is a fun afternoon of games, crafts, friendship, and pizza! Please fill out the availability survey here: <https://forms.gle/FT9TgNZ9Q6RtWGbc8>



Enrollment Forms for 2025/26

Please complete the enrollment forms for any child participating in weekly Godly Fun lessons on Sundays, KidsConnect, and more! Return the form to Kelsey via email (kelseymolinari@NSCChurchWI.org) or in person. Printed forms are available in the office.



PARDON OUR DUST

In Print

Due to upcoming changes in software availability and the timing of our transition into a new Office Administrator, we are going through the process of exploring various publication programs for our newsletter. Things may look a bit different for a few months until we settle into new systems, and we appreciate your patience while we work in that direction.

In the Building

Many thanks to those who helped to move pews for the replacement of the storm window behind our balcony stained glass. We expect to have the balcony reopened for worship on August 3. Thank you all for your patience and support throughout this project.

North Shore Congregational Church

7330 N. Santa Monica Blvd.

Fox Point, WI 53217

(414) 352-6123

Staff Member:

Rev. Dr. Martin Hall

Julia Holmes

Trinny Schumann

Kelsey Molinari

Justin Montello

Email Address:

MartinHall@NSCChurchWI.org

Office@NSCChurchWI.org

TrinnySchumann@NSCChurchWI.org

KelseyMolinari@NSCChurchWI.org

JustinMontello@NSCChurchWI.org

Church Ext:

x102

x104

x103

x105

Outside Phone:

248-245-0415



**North Shore
Congregational
Church**

FOX POINT, WI

7330 N. Santa Monica Blvd.

Fox Point, WI 53217

(414) 352-6123

www.NSCChurchWI.org

www.facebook.com/north.church.3

www.instagram.com/NSCChurchWI

*A member church of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches
and the Wisconsin Congregational Association.*

MINISTERS

All members of North Shore Congregational Church

ASSISTED BY

Rev. Dr. Martin Hall, Senior Minister

Kelsey Molinari, Children's Ministries

Trinny Schumann, Music Director

Julia Holmes, Office Administrator

Justin Montello, Maintenance

Heide Hongsermeier, Organist

Haley Krueger, Social Media Coordinator and Children's Ministry Assistant

Jay Hall, Walker Ford and Morgan Pilling, Sunday Custodians