

THE GOOD NEWS

Volume 18, Number 4

Good Shepherd Cluster
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Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday
8 am-4:30 pm
Friday 8 am-noon

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I pray that this latest edition of the Good News finds you well and in good health. I still regret that I haven't been able to see quite a few of you for a long time. Although it seems with each week that passes, I am able to see many more of you. I believe that Masses with the extra precautions have gone reasonably well. I thank everyone for doing their part to be respectful and considerate of others.

At the beginning of July we will welcome Brian McGee as a new staff member to our Good Shepherd Cluster. Brian will become our new Director of Faith Formation. Please see his introduction inside. Also, I understand that we will need to recruit some new catechists to help with our Wednesday evening faith formation program. Please consider doing this! I think those who have taught religion on Wednesday night have found that they grow in their own faith while helping students, families and the parish community to grow in theirs.

Karen Bonfig and Joyce Welch will be retiring from their full-time service to our Good Shepherd Cluster staff. We are deeply grateful for the ways that they have carried out so many valuable ministries during their time on staff. I would like to have a more proper celebration for them as they embark on a new chapter. However, due to restrictions on social gatherings, I thought it would be best to wait until there are fewer constraints. I am hopeful that later in the summer or early fall would be a nice opportunity to hold a retirement reception for them especially since they will be staying in our area.

However, we don't have to wait to be able to express our gratitude to Karen who has given so much to our community over the course of 16 years. Karen has generously shared her gifts. Her leadership and service have helped guide the faith formation program, planning, liturgy, and pastoral ministry with great effectiveness. Please also take a moment to thank Joyce who has been such an enthusiastic teacher and coordinator for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, as well as someone who has been involved in RCIA, ministry scheduling, and pastoral ministry.

I often reflect and thank God for the many hands and servant hearts that willingly serve God's people in so many varied ways in our Good Shepherd Cluster. In the unusual times we find ourselves in, I want to affirm all people who work or volunteer to serve the needs of our parishes. You are all essential!

Fr. Dellaert



Greetings!

My name is Brian McGee and I look forward to serving you as Director of Faith Formation of the Good Shepherd Cluster beginning July 1, 2020.

I have served as the Director of Faith Formation, RCIA, and Youth Ministry at St. Jude Church in Cedar Rapids from 2015-2020, an interim Youth Ministry Coordinator at St. Mary's Church in Waverly in 2014-2015, and as a Seminarian for the Archdiocese of Dubuque from 2010-2014.

I am a service-oriented person and I love to share my faith with all age groups and backgrounds with humor, enthusiasm, and compassion. I believe faith is best lived with joy and reverence-loving service with a smile, and a deep spirit of gratitude.

I grew up on a farm east of Cresco with my parents and two sisters where we raised sheep, goats, and poultry. I remain close to my family today (especially my little niece!) and growing up on a farm taught me the value of hard work and persistence-no matter how things may look at first.

In my free time, I am an avid reader and huge fan of different types of music. Whenever possible, I enjoy going to concerts and plays-though I'm definitely not a musically talented person!

I look forward to beginning this new position and meeting you in person!

Love One Another
By Deacon Vic DeSloover

As the Father has loved me, so I also loved you. Remain in my love. John 15:9

The Lord gave his disciples a new commandment, that they should love one another, as he loved them. Jesus wanted them to know just how much he loved them. It is with this same love that we are to love one another.

This thought is so overwhelming that it takes time to grasp its full meaning and measure. Pray about it and make it a reality in your life. We must love one another in the same way that the Father loved his Son.

This love between all of us was given to us when the Holy Spirit was poured out on the day of Pentecost. This love was to go beyond friend and family. This love was to include those hard to love and our enemies.

This love is not merely a feeling or a blessed experience, but a divine power flowing from the Father to the Son to the hearts of the whole human race. Think about this Truth. Pray about this until you receive the courage to confidently approach God for the grace to receive the love that surpasses all understanding.

Save the Dates

Sunday	August 2	8 am-3 pm
	Pre Cana @ Holy Family	
Sunday	September 20	11 am-2 pm
	Holy Family Fall Festival	
Sunday	November 22	10 AM
	Cluster Confirmation Celebration	

Ready to Turn the Page and Write the Next Chapter

By Karen Bonfig

My mind has been going in many directions these past months. It has been concerned with what is happening in our world, our local communities, and our Church because of the Coronavirus. Today there are things that still need to happen, but perhaps in different ways because of the way the pandemic has changed our lives. I remember how we used to do things, but realize is not the way we can do them today, so we make adjustments. I look forward, trying to guess what the future may hold and how we can plan. As I really think about it, each yesterday, today, and tomorrow is just another page in the story of life. Each one of us is writing chapters about life every day, and those stories, like each of us, are unique.

This is the last Good News article I will write as retirement from my present position will happen on June 30. I look back at the 16 years I have been here and realize those years have been a tremendous opportunity of growth for me. My idea of church back then was mostly focused on my hometown church of St. Boniface. But oh, how that perspective has changed. For me, my church is now Good Shepherd Cluster. If I could “blame” someone for that, it would obviously be the priest shortage. However, over the years, “blame” has changed to “thank” someone. Because of it, my faith community has grown much bigger than it was. I have had to go to a different church building at least every other weekend, and now, I am able to call so many more people friends, as well as brothers and sisters in Christ. Sometimes staying in our own comfort zones can stifle an opportunity for growing comfortable in other unexplored zones.

Many of you have probably heard me say planning wakes and funerals is the favorite part of my job and I am grateful for the opportunity to continue to do that in a part-time capacity. I have been allowed to join an inner circle of family and hear stories about their loved ones that I never would have known if I hadn't been around the conference room table. I feel like I have been given a bonus check each time I get to know more about the sometimes little-known secrets and characteristics of loved ones that I was unaware of, but not surprised at because of the faith-filled actions and memories that the family shares with me. Thank you!

I think about Faith Formation and how I began with four teaching sites, evolving into one, where the children of our parishes have grown together in the knowledge of their Catholic faith. Ready! Set! Grow! nights were often small in numbers, but the learning that happened with the children and adults has increased my own knowledge of the topics just because I have been one of the planners and catechists at most of them. Thank you!

I have been so fortunate to be able to attend Masses on both weekdays and weekends. The little communities of faith at the nursing home masses have allowed me to witness the wisdom of age and being happy with simple things. The Friday morning school masses are shared with a completely different age group, but they have inspired me to try to keep things upbeat and fresh. Thank you! It hasn't been about working hard, it's been about working together. We are blessed with a staff that goes above and beyond the posted office hours, and the volunteers always seem to be available when they are called upon. Thank you.

Last of all, I thank my family for their support and allowing me to share their stories in my Good News articles. They always provided me with such down-to-earth examples of the good, the bad, and the positive growth that are part of each family's life stories. For me, this is not “The End”, but an opportunity to begin writing a new chapter, a different way of serving Jesus and others. For this, I thank God.

St. John's and Youth Group

Dear Friends in Faith,

Summer is here and our world is still dealing with COVID-19 and a great deal of political tension. Let's all do our part in simply being kind toward one another. That's what Jesus asks of us each and every day, right? Therefore, consider making this summer's goal focused on being extra kind to our neighbor, our family members, and ourselves.

Upcoming Events:

CYG Pop Can Drive: entire month of June

All proceeds will go toward pizza & pop for Wednesday night gatherings

- Junior Sponsor Candidate Retreat: TBD
- CYG this Fall: pending
- Confirmation: Nov. 22, 2020 during 10:00am Mass

Thank you all for your continued support towards our youth. Please pray we are all able to return to school face-to-face in August. Enjoy your summer and all the sunshine it brings!

Stay Healthy & Stay Blessed,

Amanda

St. John's Coordinator & Youth Minister

St. Boniface Bingo

Because of COVID-19 and low attendance, we have decided to discontinue St. Boniface Bingo on Monday evenings. We would like to thank all the workers for their generous time, those who donated and made food, and those who came to play! Without all of you, we would not have been successful for 30 years. For those who have left pillows or chair cushions in the church basement, please come to the church and pick them up. Thank you again and God bless you all!!!!

Parish Records

Our staff needs your help. In reviewing our mailings and making phone calls, we have discovered some of you have moved or no longer have a land-line phone. We would love to keep in touch with you. Please contact the Pastoral Office with changes: addresses, phone number, emails and marital status. Also, if you have graduated from high school or are new to the area and would like to join the Good Shepherd Cluster parishes, please contact us, too!! Our office number is 641-394-2105 or email us at clustergs@gmail.com

Stewardship needs report July 1, 2019-June 14, 2020 (50 weeks)

	Projection	Actual	Difference
Holy Family \$11,751.62 x 50 weeks	\$587,581.00	\$538,754.79	-\$48,826.21
St. Boniface \$791.12 x 50 weeks	\$ 39,556.00	\$ 36,693.86	-\$ 2,862.14
Immaculate Conception \$1,012.06 x 50 weeks	\$ 50,603.00	\$ 37,455.00	-\$ 13,148.00

July 2020

Work
Home

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 8:00 AM Holy Family Mass 10:00 AM Holy Family Mass	29	30	1	2	3 Pastoral Office Closed 8:30 AM Holy Family Mass	4 4:00 PM Holy Family Mass 6:00 PM St. Boniface Mass
5 8:00 AM Holy Family Mass 10:00 AM Holy Family Mass	6	7	8	9	10 8:30 AM Holy Family Mass	11 4:00 PM Holy Family Mass 6:00 PM Immaculate Conception Mass
12 8:00 AM Holy Family Mass 10:00 AM Holy Family Mass	13	14	15	16	17 8:30 AM Holy Family Mass	18 4:00 PM Holy Family Mass 6:00 PM St. Boniface Mass
19 8:00 AM Holy Family Mass 10:00 AM Holy Family Mass	20	21	22	23	24 8:30 AM Holy Family Mass	25 4:00 PM Holy Family Mass 6:00 PM Immaculate Conception Mass
26 8:00 AM Holy Family Mass 10:00 AM Holy Family Mass	27	28	29	30	31 8:30 AM Holy Family Mass 10:30 AM Sue Schueth Funeral @ Holy Family	1 4:00 PM Holy Family Mass 6:00 PM St. Boniface Mass

August 2020

 Work
 Home

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 8:00 AM Holy Family Mass 10:00 AM Holy Family Mass	27	28	29	30	31 8:30 AM Holy Family Mass 10:30 AM Sue Schueth Funeral @ Holy Family	1 4:00 PM Holy Family Mass 6:00 PM St. Boniface Mass
2 8:00 AM Holy Family Mass 10:00 AM Holy Family Mass	3	4	5	6	7 8:30 AM Holy Family Mass	8 4:00 PM Holy Family Mass 6:00 PM Immaculate Conception Mass
9 8:00 AM Holy Family Mass 10:00 AM Holy Family Mass	10 6:30 PM Parish Council Meeting 7:30 PM Cluster Council Meeting	11	12	13	14 8:30 AM Holy Family Mass	15 4:00 PM Holy Family Mass 6:00 PM St. Boniface Mass
16 8:00 AM Holy Family Mass 10:00 AM Holy Family Mass	17	18	19	20	21 8:30 AM Holy Family Mass	22 4:00 PM Holy Family Mass 6:00 PM Immaculate Conception Mass
23 8:00 AM Holy Family Mass 10:00 AM Holy Family Mass	24	25	26	27	28 8:30 AM Holy Family Mass	29 4:00 PM Holy Family Mass 6:00 PM St. Boniface Mass
30 8:00 AM Holy Family Mass 10:00 AM Holy Family Mass	31	1	2	3	4	5