



We are BLESSED

FAITHFUL =servants=

Our Shepherd Celebrates Staff Anniversaries

2020:

- Annette Christensen 5 years
- Sarah Kosciuk 5 years
- Beth Monks 5 years
- Alysia Tyson 5 years
- Marissa Driscoll..... 10 years
- Emily Gottschling 10 years
- Esther Spanos 25 years



2021:

- Danielle King 5 years
- Dorene Martin..... 5 years
- Ruthann Flint 10 years
- Marissa Cooper 15 years
- Evan Gaertner..... 20 years
- David Priskorn..... 25 years
- Sharon Dunsmore 35 years
- Mark Nimtze 40 years



Esther Spanos, 25 Years (total in ministry)

8th Grade Teacher, Math, Science; Assistant Principal, and Athletic Director

Esther Spanos grew up in Northwestern Michigan, and attended Trinity Reed City and Trinity Manistee and is a graduate of Grand Ledge High School. She entered Concordia, Ann Arbor and received her Bachelor of Science in Education in 1995. Esther received her first call to St. Paul Sterling Heights and then to St. Paul's Farmington Hills; both as teacher and athletic director. In 2000 Esther received her call to serve at Our Shepherd, where she has had many different responsibilities; over the years she has been the homeroom teacher in 6th, 7th and 8th grade, athletic director and assistant principal. Esther is a member of the Altar Guild and is now an usher with her family. She is married to Toby and their son Niko currently attends Our Shepherd, their oldest son Cory is a graduate of the school as well.

Well done!



David Priskorn, 25 Years (total in ministry)

Director of Operations

Dave is a lifelong member of Our Shepherd, and began leading the youth group at OS on a part-time basis immediately after graduating from Concordia, Ann Arbor in 1996. At the same time, he worked in the Admissions office at Concordia for 4 years. When the Facility Manager position became available, he joined OS full-time almost 21 years ago serving in both youth and facility roles. Over the years, additional duties were added in Human Resources, and he moved away from youth responsibilities. He has led 16 mission trips to Mexicali, several to Ensenada, as well as many youth gatherings and retreats. He was also involved with the construction of the Narthex, as well as the current Capital Campaign projects. He is married to Katie, who also is employed at OS.

Our Shepherd gathers, nurtures, and serves because Jesus loves.



2020 Anniversaries *grateful*



Sarah Kosciuk, 5 Years

Preschool & ABC Director - School Campus

Sarah Kosciuk began teaching at OS in 2015 as the half day 3s preschool teacher. She currently serves as our school campus' Preschool and Childcare director. Sarah also helps direct our middle school drama club.



Alysia Tyson, 5 Years

4s Preschool Teacher

Alysia entered Our Shepherd as the Early Literacy teacher, also using her musical talents for Child Care Chapel messages. In early 2017, she became a lead caregiver in an Older Toddler classroom. In the fall of 2017, she became a teacher for Preschool 4s. Alysia has a B.A. in Elementary Education, a M.A. in Early Childhood, as well as 15 years experience in the public schools teaching kindergarten, second grade, early literacy, and as a media specialist. She enjoys her guitar, piano, singing and song-writing skills. Her daughter also attended Our Shepherd for middle school.



Emily Gottschling, 10 Years

Child Care and Camp Shepherd Director - Church Campus

Emily has worked at Our Shepherd in many different capacities over the years. She began her career at OS as a Preschool Aide and continued on to become a Lead Teacher. After her return from her first maternity leave, she became the director of our ABC and Camp Shepherd programs. Over the past 5 years she has worked in administration for our Child Care and Preschool Program and in mid-2018 became the Director for the church Child Care program. She is married to Josh and has two children; Wyatt and Weston. The boys both attend Our Shepherd Lutheran School.



Annette Christensen

5 Years

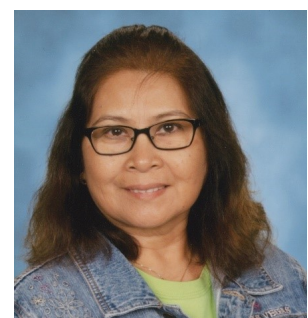
Toddler Teacher
Child Care Department



Beth Monks

5 Years

Toddler Teacher
Child Care Department



Marissa Driscoll

10 Years

Toddler Teacher,
Child Care Department



2021 Anniversaries *blessed*



Danielle King, 5 Years

Toddler Teacher, Child Care Department

Danielle King, born and raised in Detroit, and is best known as “the baby whisperer” throughout her community. She and her husband of 25 years share two children and a granddaughter. Danielle has always had a passion for nurturing and uplifting children of all walks of life. She's been working for Our Shepherd Lutheran since 2016. As an aspiring teacher in early childhood education, she's dedicated years of her life to helping others become the best versions of themselves.



Dorene Martin, 5 Years

Food Service Assistant

Dorene is a mother of 2 children, Damon Evert and Hollie Kamm; and grandmother of five, four of which attend Our Shepherd Lutheran School. Her grandchildren are Grace, Sofie and Ellie Kamm and Ian and Alex Evert. She is step-Grandma to three, two of which attend Our Shepherd. Her step grandchildren are John D, Michael and Ashley Kamm. Dorene started as a grandma that volunteered in the kitchen for her family. After a few years, she was hired! She has been “sidekick” to Shannon Ozias (Food Services Director) for 7 years. Dorene loves to travel with her trailer, ride her bike, kayak, walk, work out and golf with friends.



Ruthann Flint, 10 Years

Infant Teacher, Child Care Department

Ruthann Flint has worked at Our Shepherd Child Care Center for 10 years in the Infant Two room. She's been married to her husband Bill for 45 years; they were married at Our Shepherd on October 23, 1976. She has 3 children, Tom, Bryan and Michelle. She also has a brother, Dave Bieber and a sister, Linda Murphy. This has been a very rewarding job, having the opportunity to teach and love God's beautiful children, while getting much love from them in return every single day.



Marissa Cooper, 15 Years

Bookkeeper

Marissa Cooper has held several positions with Our Shepherd, both as a volunteer and as an employee. Since 1998 she has volunteered as Sunday School teacher, VBS teacher, Women's LifeLight Bible study leader, School PTL Treasurer and Preschool Aide. Her career with Our Shepherd began in 2005 when she stepped in mid-year to teach 8th grade. She continued to serve Our Shepherd School as Part-time Grade School Teacher and Part time Office Assistant. She was hired in 2006 to be the Bookkeeper. Marissa is married to David and has two children, Emma and Ben, who both attended Our Shepherd Lutheran School.

Thankful



Rev. Dr. Evan Gaertner, 20 Years (total in ministry)
Senior Pastor, Our Shepherd

Rev. Dr. Evan Gaertner was ordained into the Office of Holy Ministry at Trinity Lutheran Church, Clinton Twp. on June 10, 2001. He served his first 7 years in ministry at Grace Lutheran Church, Niagara Falls, New York. In 2008, the Lord called him to serve the Gospel at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Hamburg, Michigan. In 2013, he received his Doctor of Ministry from Luther Seminary. His doctoral work studied the role of catechetical preaching in shaping the view of faith formation as a life-long process. In the spring of 2018 he began to serve as the senior pastor at Our Shepherd Lutheran Church. On July 5, 1997, Pastor Gaertner married Christi née Dunklau. They have two boys, Henry and Lucas. Henry is a student at Concordia University Nebraska. Lucas is a student at Lutheran High Northwest.



Sharon Dunsmore, 35 Years (total in ministry)
Childcare Enrichment and Support Coordinator
Preschool and Childcare Department

It is my privilege to work with the youngest children at OS. My primary focus is Chapel, curriculum and anything to support day-to-day transition in the classrooms. I am blessed to share the Gospel in the classrooms, with families and staff throughout the childcare and preschool programs. I was born and raised in Frankenmuth, MI, attended St. Lorenz Lutheran School, Frankenmuth HS and graduated from Concordia University with a BA in Elementary Education. I taught at Luther Memorial in Cleveland, OH (3yrs) and St. Stephen Lutheran in Waterford, MI (23 yrs) before being called to serve at Our Shepherd in 2012. I've worked in the classroom as well as being part of the Administrative team the past 9 years. I am especially blessed spending time with my family and friends. I enjoy reading, knitting/crocheting and puttering around in my small garden.



Mark Nimtzt, Ph.D., 40 Years (total in ministry)
Director of Spiritual Education and Service

Dr. Mark Nimtzt is enjoying his 21st year ministering at Our Shepherd, currently as Director of Spiritual Education and Service. He has earned a Master's Degree in Teaching, a Master's Degree in Marriage and Family Counseling, and a PhD in Professional Counseling. He has previously served in St. Louis, MO, and San Diego, CA. Dr. Nimtzt has been married to Wendy Nimtzt for over 32 years, and the couple has three children, Nathaniel, Matthew, and Elizabeth Wilson. In his free time Dr. Nimtzt enjoys spending time with family and friends and traveling.

**Our Shepherd
Lutheran**
CHURCH-SCHOOL-CHILD CARE



Church

(248) 646-6100
2225 East 14 Mile Road
Birmingham, Michigan 48009
churchoffice@ourshepherd.net

School

(248) 645-0551
1658 East Lincoln
Birmingham, Michigan 48009
schooloffice@ourshepherd.net

Child Care Center

(248) 645-5273
Church and School Locations
earlychildcare@ourshepherd.net

Worship Schedule

Saturdays at 6:00pm (Contemporary)
Sundays at 8:30am & 11:00am (Traditional)
LIVE STREAM IS AVAILABLE ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Worship Attendance

Let us know your weekly worship attendance by filling out the Worship Attendance Form found at ourshepherd.news/gather or by aiming your phone camera at the QR code.

