For about a year now the Interfaith Leaders’ Coalition has been meeting. Getting to know one another is one of our primary goals. Why? It is essential in the event of a major disaster in La Crosse that required our community’s faith leaders to provide assistance. We would know one another and could work with, trust, and support one another since we already have established a working relationship.

In light of this past week’s hateful speech and action perpetrated by white supremacist groups, we as the Interfaith Leaders Coalition to which I belong, felt the need to speak out strongly and publicly against these hate groups.

I would like to share the following letter that was sent to the La Crosse Tribune this past week. I invite you to reflect on it and take it to heart in light of the increase of hateful words and actions we see around the country.

The following is a portion of our letter sent to the Tribune:

“In the harsh light of this past weekend’s racial violence, we are confronted yet again with the ugly truth of racism as America’s original sin. As faith leaders, we feel compelled to speak out condemning the violence in Charlottesville last Saturday perpetuated by the White supremacists who espouse a racist ideology. To remain silent is, in this moment, to be complicit. Though we may have different histories, doctrines, and styles of worship, our faith traditions stand together in acknowledging the intrinsic value and personal worth of all human beings. There is no room in our traditions or worshipping communities for the hateful language and provocative actions we witnessed last week. We want all people in the Coulee Region, especially those whose lives are most vulnerable to the violent words and actions of hate groups, to hear us say we welcome you and want you to be our neighbors and friends. Let us stand together committed to forming our lives in this community, daily, through practices of hospitality and not hate, in acts of compassion and not callousness, and as witnesses to the promise of peace and not the pathology of violence….”

A song I learned at a young age has stayed with me all these years and could help us in this time. “Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world; red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight, Jesus loves the little children of the world.”

Hate rhetoric we hear from the alt-right, KKK, Nazi and other white supremacist websites, requires not indifference but strong public rejection. I will not repeat them, but I want to be clear that hate language must never be used towards women, foreigners, people of color, people of different sexual orientations, people of other religions or faith traditions, etc.

Continued on page 19.

From Pastor Harald Bringsjord


Shepherd’s Voice

September 2017

To access this and other publications online visit GSlacrosse.org/voice.
Flower and Bulletin Sponsorship
The flower and bulletin sponsorship charts are on the bulletin board in the back of the welcome area. Sponsoring the flowers or bulletins is an easy way to honor special dates such as birthdays and anniversaries, or the memory of a loved one. If you have any questions on sponsoring the flowers or bulletins, please contact Kathy or Rick in the church office at (608)788-0450.

Readers & Ushers Appreciated!
Readers and Ushers are always valued at our worship services. Please consider signing up on the sign up sheet in the welcome area at the back of the sanctuary. You can sign up to read for a time and day that works for you. The readings will be sent (either by mail or email) to you early that week. Interested in ushering? Contact the office 788-0450. Thank you so much for helping!

Women Who Wrestle With The Word (W5)
If you would like to be a part of a regular gathering of Christian Women, you are always welcome to join W5. The group meets every Monday at 6:30pm in the welcome area in the front of the sanctuary. For more information please contact Judy at 608-385-1410.

Lydia Circle & Rachel Circle
Lydia Circle meets the first Tuesday of every month. For more information or if you have any questions, contact Carol at 787-0609. All are welcome!

Good Shepherd Ministries
Altar Guild—Willing to help out on our Altar Guild? It is a very easy commitment and we would be happy to show you how it’s done! Simply call Candie Luehne at (608)304-2035.
Quilting—Quilters meet at Good Shepherd every Wednesday at 12:30pm in the quilting room.
Mailing Crew—The Shepherd’s Voice Mailing Crew is wondering if you are interested in helping out prepare the Voice newsletter with address labels and stickers? We meet the 4th Thursday of each month at 8:30am in the choir room.

Altar Guild—Thank you to the members who served during the month of August, Connie Erickson & Candie Luehne. During September, Pat Oliver & Jeanne Atchley (9-3) Sharon Yushta (9-17) will be on duty.

Connie Erickson—Thank you for sending out the “Get Well” cards in Aug. Sharon Yushta will be sending out the cards throughout the month of Sept.

Ann Hudson—Thank you for sending out cards and prayer shawls year round to bereaved families.

Care Ministries—Thank you to all members who are serving as Care Ministers to the faithful members of Good Shepherd who can no longer come to worship with us. Through you, our Care Ministers, the church comes to them!

Thank You All So Very Much…

Ushers Schedule
Sept 3 8:30am: Verlene Morrison, Teresa Optiz, Michelle Schaefer, Tracy Christenson, Rich & Beth Stoll
10am: Judy Christopherson, Karl Noll, Gundi Bay, Ione Severson, Candie Luehne, Vicki DeMaiffe
Sept 10 8:30am: Keven & Diane Wilson, LeeAnn Lyden, Monty Gilbertson
10:30am: Heidi Kwiatkowski, Lois Olson, Tony & Jen Servais
Sept 17 8:30am: Kraig & Teri Lassig, Chuck & Linda Brigson, David & Trinity Busch
10:30am: Warren & Irene Nedegaard, Todd & Teresa Nedegaard, Rob Hamann, Gerald Knutson
Sept 24 8:30am: Tim & Liz Carlson, Joe & Kris Bernhardt
10:30am: Darren & Jaclyn Osley, Duane & Linda Schoen

***Please make note that the second service time changes from 10:00am back to 10:30am on Sunday, September 10th.

Lydia Circle & Rachel Circle
Calling All Musicians!

Our “Sounds of Praise” worship band invites you to help us lead the worship here at Good Shepherd. “Sounds of Praise” is intended to bring together the greatest number and variety of instruments possible, presenting special music and enhancing our wide variety of hymn styles. Whatever type of instrument you play, “Sounds of Praise” welcomes you! Please call Randy Lyden at (608)779-9669 or email randy@gslacrosse.org to be a part of this growing and exciting praise band!

The Sanctuary Choir
The Sanctuary Choir rehearses between services every Sunday from September through May and new members are always welcome!! If you would like to join our Sanctuary Choir, please contact Karl Greenfield at 715-214-8528 or at karl@gslacrosse.org.

Hand Bell Choir
Practices are on Sunday evenings 5:30pm for adult bell choir and 6:30pm for youth bell choir from September through May in the Choir Room. If you have any questions please contact Linda Jerome at 317-1335 or at linda@gslacrosse.org.

Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, Ecclesiastes 12:1

High School Youth Group (Grades 9-12)
Good Shepherd’s High School Youth Group is a group that meets on Wednesday evenings at 6pm throughout the year. Fellowship and games 6–7p with a bible study at 7p. You aren’t the only Christian at your school! Come hangout with other awesome teens just like yourself. Social events throughout the year along with a yearly mission trip. Want to learn more? Contact Stephanie Andersen at stephanie@gslacrosse.org or just drop in and check it out for yourself!

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

West Avenue Food Emergency Relief (WAFER) is asking for Fruit Juices during the month of Sept. Thank you for all the donations given in August! Please leave all donations in the grocery cart near our bulletin boards in the Welcome Area. A monetary gift may also be given to help support WAFER. Simply make your check out to Good Shepherd, and indicate WAFER in the check memo area.

4-H Club
The Mormon Coulee 4-H Club was first established in 1946 making the club one of the oldest in La Crosse County! 4-H clubs are made up of children from kindergarten through high school. We meet the second Sunday of each month at 5pm in the Mattes Center. We are always looking for eager volunteers to showcase their talents or for new members. If anyone is interested, or has any questions, please feel free to contact Kim Young at (608)796-0099 or e-mail kkymmm@gmail.com.

Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts Meet at Good Shepherd

Boy Scouts—Troop 22 meets at 6:45pm weekly on Tuesday’s in the Mattes Center.

Girl Scouts—Troop 4172 meetings are not yet set.

If you have any questions about Scouts, please call the church office at 788-0450 and we can connect you with the group leaders.
Memorials & Special Gifts

Good Shepherd gratefully acknowledges and sincerely appreciates your gifts over and above your regular giving. The following gifts were received from July 18th through August 20th.

WAFER
Connie & Ramon Erickson
Gerald Knutson
Lutheran World Relief
Philip & Sarah Nohr
Robert & LeeAnn Lyden
Sherrill Munson
Kari Grams-Burner
Carol & Tom Abraham

WAER

Gerald Knutson
Lutheran World Relief
Philip & Sarah Nohr
Robert & LeeAnn Lyden
Sherrill Munson
Kari Grams-Burner
Carol & Tom Abraham

What is Simply Giving®?

The Simply Giving® Program is an automated stewardship program that helps church members live generously. It's a convenient, safe and simple way for individuals to make automatic payments to Good Shepherd through electronic funds transfer (EFT) directly from checking or savings accounts. Vanco Services, LLC provides electronic payment processing services at reduced rates—so your generosity goes further. Learn more by contacting the church office at (608) 788-0450.

Giving Tree—Giving In A Unique Way

Do you know about our Giving Tree? If not, this is a unique way to sponsor items or services used within our church. Our giving tree is located in the corner by the main entrance in the welcome area. Select the tag(s) that mean the most to you and return them and the donation in the envelopes provided by either placing it in the offering plate, dropping it off at, or mailing it to the church office.

Weekly Sunday Attendance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>8:30am</th>
<th>10:30am</th>
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<td>07/02/17</td>
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<td>74</td>
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<tr>
<td>07/09/17</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>72</td>
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<td>07/16/17</td>
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<td>07/23/17</td>
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<td>07/30/17</td>
<td>64</td>
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Weekly Envelope Offerings

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>% Budget</th>
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<tr>
<td>07/02/17</td>
<td>6,977.25</td>
<td>114.7%</td>
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<td>07/09/17</td>
<td>4,698.25</td>
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<td>07/16/17</td>
<td>8,516.83</td>
<td>140%</td>
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<tr>
<td>07/23/17</td>
<td>4,799.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>07/30/17</td>
<td>4,939.16</td>
<td>81.2%</td>
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Totals
29,930.99 99.3%

If you would like to view the complete financial statements that are shared with the Council, please contact Rick in the church office at rick@gslacrosse.org or by calling the church office (608)788-0450.
Around the Parish...

**Open House**
On Friday, September 1st, from 4 – 7pm, the Bringsjords would love to invite everyone to our home for an Open House (4372 Mariah Dr. S, La Crosse). Andrea and I are so delighted that all our kids will be home that day and we would love to visit with you in an Open House fashion. Come anytime between 4pm – 7pm for sub-sandwiches, desserts and time to visit with one another.

Pastor Harold and Andrea, Jens, Berit & Nils

**Lydia Circle**
Lydia Circle will begin meeting again on Tuesday, Sept 5th at 1pm in the quilting room. All Good Shepherd women are welcome to attend! Joanne DeClute will be leading our meeting and the subject is Chapter 29 “Mary Magdalene”. Host will be Carol Abraham, devotions will be by Millie Hamann. Please call Carol Abraham 787-0679 if you have any questions.

**Rachel Circle**
Rachel Circle will be having their first meeting in the quilting room at 10am Thursday, Sept 7th and will continue to meet the 1st Thursday of each month. All are welcome, call Candie at (608)304-2035 or Sally at 799-0263 for more information.

**Attention all youth!**
If you are entering 8th -12th grade this fall, you are eligible to attend the National Youth Gathering next summer. 20,000 youth will gather in Houston Texas to celebrate their faith, worship together and serve the community of Houston. For more information check out www.ela.org/YouthGathering or talk to Stephanie (stephanie@gslacrosse.org or 608-385-7394). In order to guarantee a spot, you must register and pay your deposit by September 15th.

**Come for Supper**
Come for Supper provides nutritious free meals served with generosity and love every Tuesday at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church. They are always in need of volunteers to prep and serve meals.

Good Shepherd Church is committed to the last Tuesday every other month, but you are welcome to help anytime! Meals are served at 5pm every Tuesday of the year in Our Savior’s Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall. Prep work starts at 1pm every Tuesday and lasts about two hours. Volunteers interested in helping serve meals should arrive at 4:30pm and we are usually done by 6:30pm. You will bless others, and they will bless you right back! For more information contact Judy Casto at 608-385-1410 or the church office.

**Polka Service**
The Polka Masters will be providing the music for both services on Sunday, September 24th! Please come and join us for this fun new worship service!

Good Shepherd Online Stay Updated With Latest News
Have you ever visited GSLacrosse.org? This is our church website updated with news, registration forms, youth activity events, calendars, and so much more. You can now find out the latest events at Good Shepherd from anywhere in the world. We recently updated the look and feel of the website to serve the changing and growing needs for our family congregation. The website is now fully mobile-responsive, making it easy for you to access the church website from your smartphone. Make sure to add the website to your bookmark section in your preferred internet browser for quick and easy access.

Apart from our new website, we offer you the possibility to receive weekly and/or monthly e-mail updates with latest church happenings. Keep yourself updated on how we as a church are impacting our local community and world as well as upcoming events to grow on your personal faith journey. Signing-up is easy. Simply visit GSLacrosse.org/enews. Any questions, please contact the church office office@gslacrosse.org or 788-0450 during regular office hours.

And then they came for me: Remembering the world of Anne Frank.
Witness the stories of Holocaust survivors, Eva Schloss and Ed Silverberg, who crossed paths with Anne Frank and faced the same heartbreaking discrimination and brutality of Nazi Germany. Eva and Ed’s chilling stories unfold through unique multi-media staging that connects their tales with visual artifacts of their past reality. This deeply impactful and immersive production raises questions and provides striking insight into a horrible time in our history. Rated Theatre-PG-13.

All performances in the Lyche Theatre Sunday, September 17, 7:30pm Tuesday, September 19, 7:30pm Wednesday, September 20, 7:30pm

Adults: $28, Students: $16, Military: $10
Tickets on sale now at www.viterbo.edu/tickets or call 796-3100.

Rally Sunday is September 10th!
• Second service returns to10:30am
• Sunday School resumes
• Pre-school Milestone
• Sanctuary Choir resumes
• Bell Choir resumes
• All Church Picnic

**Hospital Visits**
If you, or a member of the church you know is hospitalized, please let the church office know so Pastor may visit and we can send a card.

**Help Support Our Youth**
The sale of the Kwik Trip cards funds much of our youth ministry. Please continue your support by buying them instead of spending cash or using a credit card at Kwik Trip. Your youth will receive 5% of the value of the card, plus 10% on qualified in store purchases.

**Let’s go shopping!**
Shop smile.amazon.com and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Good Shepherd! We are listed as Good Shepherd English when selecting your charitable organization. Or, you can click the Smile.Amazon link on our webpage, www.gslacrosse.org.

**Putter around with us**
The Putterers, a fun group of volunteers who help keep our church beautiful, are looking for others to help spruce up the church once a week. All it takes is one hour a week… men, women and youth are welcome! For Putterer information call the Church Office, 788-0450.
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<th>Sun</th>
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<td>September 1</td>
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<td>8 to 11am Vogue...one more time. 9:30am Care Ministry Meeting 6pm Venture Crew Meeting</td>
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<td>4 to 7pm Open House at the Bringsjord’s</td>
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<td>Name Tag &amp; Cookie Sunday sponsored by Sunday School</td>
<td>West Pastor Conference 1pm Lydia Circle 6pm Buildings &amp; Grounds 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg</td>
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<td>12:30pm Quilting 6pm Youth Group (Gr. 9-12)</td>
<td>10am Rachel Circle 6pm WELCA Mtg</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>2nd Service returns to 10:30am</td>
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<td>Rally Sunday / Pre School Milestone All Church Picnic 5pm 4-H Meeting 6:30pm BS Troop 22 Adult Mtg</td>
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<td>1:45pm Hillview Communion 5:30pm Hospitality Mtg 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg</td>
<td>12:30pm Quilting 6pm Youth Group (Gr. 9-12) 6:30pm Confirm Student/Parent orientation 6:30pm Adult Bible Study</td>
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<td>3pm Parent Café set up 5pm Parent Café FCC 5:30pm Membership, Growth/Fellowship Mtg 6:30pm W5</td>
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<td>9am Synod Training 6pm Parish Ed Meeting 6pm Admin/Exec Meeting 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg 7pm Church Council Mtg</td>
<td>12:30pm Quilting 6pm Youth Group (Gr. 9-12) 6:30pm Confirmation</td>
<td>11:30am 55 Plus</td>
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<td>Polka Service</td>
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<td>Kindergarten Milestone 9:45am Christian Education 9:45am Care Ministry Meeting 1pm Gods Work, Our Hands 6pm Venture Crew 42 Meeting</td>
<td>6:30pm Hintgen Association/LCNI Meeting 6:30pm W5</td>
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<td>5:30pm New Member Orientation 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg</td>
<td>12:30pm Quilting 6pm Youth Group (Gr. 9-12) 6:30pm Confirmation</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 1</td>
<td>New Member Sunday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name Tag &amp; Cookie Sunday sponsored by Good Shepherd Women - WELCA 6:30pm BS Troop 22 Adult Meeting</td>
<td>6:30pm W5</td>
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<td>West Pastor Conference 1pm Lydia Circle 6pm Buildings &amp; Grounds 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg</td>
<td>12:30pm Quilting 6pm Youth Group (Gr. 9-12) 6:30pm Confirmation (serv)</td>
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8:30am Worship Service 10:00am Worship Service (10:30 beginning Sept.10th, Sunday School resumes Sept. 10th) Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays of Each Month
Church Council Members

- Don Skibba President of the Congregation  don@gslacrosse.org
- Beth Bonney Vice President of the Congregation
- Mary Isaacs Treasurer
- Bev Sorenson Secretary

Other Church Council Members include:
- Lori Lowell, Carol Powell, Candie Luehne, Janice Thaldorf, Jim Bugge, Sara Wrobel, Roger Weeks Jr., Sally Lindahl, Duane Schoen & Colin Smith.

Staff

- Rev. Harald Bringsjord Pastor  prharald@gslacrosse.org
- Rick Laufenberg Office Manager  rick@gslacrosse.org | (608) 788-0450
- Kathy Johnson Office Assistant  kathy@gslacrosse.org
- Tammy Klein Children’s Ministry Coordinator  tammy@gslacrosse.org
- Stephanie Andersen Youth Ministry Coordinator  stephanie@gslacrosse.org
- Randy Lyden Music Director/Organist  randy@gslacrosse.org | (608) 779-9669
- Linda Jerome Bell Choir Director  linda@gslacrosse.org
- Karl & Jaime Greenfield Sanctuary Choir Directors  karl@gslacrosse.org | (715) 214-8528
- Bev Sorenson Volunteer Parish Nurse  bev@gslacrosse.org
- Bill Klein Custodian/Maintenance  bill@gslacrosse.org

Meet Our Church Staff

Questions? Don’t know who to contact? Contact the Church Office.

(608) 788-0450 | office@gslacrosse.org | www.gslacrosse.org
4141 Mormon Coulee Rd. La Crosse, WI 54601 (Office hours 8am to 1pm)

Your Health

From the desk of our Parish Nurse

Dear Congregation,

My letter this month is dedicated to the topic of hunger. None of us like it when we get hungry. Even if we got up in the morning and had breakfast, we find ourselves at work awaiting break time to enjoy a lunch we chose to bring or going out for a special lunch.

I would like you to stop a moment and think about hunger. La Crosse County has children going hungry on the weekends. Kids go to school and some get a free breakfast and lunch but then go home to an empty fridge. You may say, “well that is what WAFER helps to prevent.” In reality, WAFER can only provide 4 or 5 days of meals for a family per week. La Crosse WAFER serves 1500 families and approximately 4000 people a month. Did you realize that there are that many people here at home going hungry?

To help combat this problem we are going to host a food drive. We would like to help a local school with their food pantry on a regular basis. We are looking into Hintgen School or Longfellow to see if they have a pantry and if they are in need of help keeping it stocked with items young kids can take home and have something to eat on the weekends. A box will be in the concourse with suggested items listed. Remember the items need to be food kids can prepare. We will be providing small bags for the kids to carry items home in on Friday, and then Monday return their bag to be refilled for the next weekend. Anyone wishing to help in this project is welcome. We feel it is important to help people here at home as well as abroad.

So as I sit down to my family meal, I ask you to think about those children not having a pasta dinner or a grilled burger. Next time you go to the store, please pick up one item for a child to eat for the weekend, one item a child could make that will get them through to the morning breakfast. I thank you.

In February I will be embarking on the adventure of a lifetime. I am going to Ethiopia to use my talent as an Operating Nurse performing surgical procedures. I ask for your prayers as I prepare to embark on this mission, and your help fulfilling my wish to help kids here at home by helping with this hunger project now and while I am abroad. God will protect me on my journey. I Thank you all.

Your Parish Nurse,

Bev Sorenson

Bev Sorenson, RN
GS Volunteer Parish Nurse  bev@gslacrosse.org
(608) 792-3962

Health Questions?
Call the Gundersen Telephone Nurse Advisor 24/7 at (800) 858-1050.
Sunday School is BACK IN ACTION!

Does it seem possible that the summer is coming to an end? But September is here and we are excited about Sunday School this year. We’re gonna begin with Creation, then we are off to the Burning Bush, The Red Sea, Christmas…saying hello to Queen Esther, learn about the Widow’s Mite, celebrate with Jesus at the Wedding at Cana, getting a heaping serving of the Fruit of the Spirit and ending the year with Service to Humanity. Whew… we will be ready for a vacation…but first we have to get started!

Registration forms were sent home in May. There are also extra forms at church on Sundays so please make sure to fill one out. Just an update, children who will be at least 3 by September 1st, 2017 are eligible for pre-school. Please return registration forms prior to September 4th so we know material needs!

We have a few staffing needs for this year still open. I cannot stress enough how grateful we are to the many volunteers we have already! Thank you so much. Most of our volunteers have been with us for several years. In order for all children to attend Sunday School, minimum staffing MUST BE MET! Please note the empty positions on the sign-up sheets in the concourse. We welcome Moms, Dads, Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, Cousins or anyone who wants to be a part of Children’s Ministry here at Good Shepherd. We would love to have our needs filled so Children can take part each week.

Rally Day is September 10th, 2017! There is a lot going on, but children and their parents should attend services together and come down to the Mattes Center following the Children’s Sermon for our Kick Off Celebration! Please mark your calendars now. Preschoolers will be presented with their Tote Bags and books during the Children’s Sermon. Please fill out the slip that will come with your registration forms in the mail.

Thank you to the many people who helped to make SONWEST VBS happen! It was a “Rip-Roarin’, Rootin’ Tootin’” GOOD TIME! Thank you SO much to those who have been part of our “Wranglin’ Team, Skits, Shop Keepers and Grub Servers. I know there are more that will come, but for now, Thank you to Judy Christopherson, Julie Forman, Linda Schoen, Jakob and Karina Bronson, Linnane, Shanen, and Sienna “Hank” Torgerud, Jessica Peterson, Stephanie Andersen, Berit and Harald “Sheriff Sunday” Bringsjord, Colin Smith, Amy McClellen, Sarah Smyth, Heather Von Ruden, Jenny Hamann, Kim “Miss Lilly” Young, Ava Krause, Abby Raymond, Kyle, Keith and Bill “Dirty Daryl” Klein. I hope all the kids had a great time! It was a wonderful week!

Don’t forget the picnic after Rally Sunday 2nd service. It will be nice to see EVERYONE Come together after a busy summer. Saddle Up Yer Horse and Head on DOWN! Ahem…I mean…Can’t wait to see you all!

Sincerely in Christ,
Tammy Klein
Children’s Ministry Coordinator

September 6 | Sunday School Volunteer Potluck
September 9 | Sunday School Prep Day
September 10 | Rally Sunday-1st Day Sunday School
Sept. 17- October 1 | Creation | Genesis 1-2
October 8-22nd | The Burning Bush | Exodus 3:1-15
October 29th | 3rd Grade Milestone – Bible Presentation
November 5 | Parts Picking for Christmas Program During Sunday School

Tammy Klein
Children’s Ministry Coordinator
tammy@gslacrosse.org  (608)788-0450

Stay Connected!
Receive message alerts for Sunday School at Good Shepherd. Send the message @rubberduck to the number (608) 807-2784. All parents and children with a cell phone are encouraged to sign-up! Data charges may apply. Must age 13+ to sign up without parental guidance. This service is brought to you by Remind®.
“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.” Ephesians 2:8

Confirmation

Another year of confirmation will soon be upon us. Thank you to all the parents who have registered their children. I do need a registration form for the returning 7th and 8th graders as well as incoming 6th graders. If you have not registered your child and have a 6-8th grader, you will be receiving a reminder email from me soon. If you have not received a registration form in the mail or an email from myself, please contact the church office at office@gslacrosse.org to update our contact information.

A guide orientation meeting is scheduled for September 6th from 6:30 - 7:30pm for all new and returning small group guides. Parent/Student orientation will kick off the new Confirmation year on September 13th. All students are requested to attend this session with a parent.

I am excited about this year as we transition to a curriculum based on “Echo the Story” After a couple of years of using a combination of materials from “re:Form” and “Echo the Story,” we have settled on staying with “Echo the Story.” This is based on feedback from parents, students and guides. I feel like this is the best curriculum for our students. It meets them where they are spiritually and uses videos, discussion activities and hands on activities that are engaging and educational at the same time.

High School Youth

Houston here we come! My voice article last month focused on the ELCA Youth Gathering that is held every three years. The next gathering will be June 27 - July 1, 2018 in Houston, Texas. You will be hearing more about this in church during September as I want to make sure we get the word out about this amazing experience. We will also be starting our fundraising efforts this month. The youth gathering is an amazing experience that I believe every teenager should experience. Unfortunately this experience comes with a pretty hefty price tag. In order to make these trips accessible to all youth, we fundraise the majority of the funds for these trips.

Typically I dread the fundraising piece of logistics as I am not a money person and like to focus on the youth. However, this year, I am excited about the fundraising processes as we have come up with an idea that I believe will raise the money we need and also bring the congregation together around something. Lutherans love...Food! No, it is not a potluck, but it’s…waffles! The youth of Good Shepherd will be hosting monthly “Waffle Sundays!” What is Waffle Sundays? Waffle Sunday is a Sunday that youth will be making homemade waffles and offering a variety of toppings so you can enjoy brunch or lunch following church service. Toppings will vary each month, but plenty of whip cream will always be available! Our first Waffle Sunday is October 1st and I hope to see everyone there! Please mark your calendars for all the Waffle Sunday dates in order to enjoy them all.

Other fundraisers will we have over the course of year are Envelope fundraiser Sept. - October 2017 - details coming soon :) Pie sale in January 2018, Butters Braids February - March 2018, Bakes Sales (Dates TBD). Kwik Trip Cards will continue to be available and we appreciate your constant support through this fundraiser. We are restructuring this fundraisers in order to provide more consistent coverage of the table. We will no longer have anyone prior to 8:30 service, but we will have someone selling after 8:30 service through the end of 10:30 service. I realize we haven’t always had consistent coverage on the table and are working on addressing this. For those not familiar with Kwik Trip Scrip cards, you get the full value of the cards and the youth receive 5% of gas purchases and 10% of eligible in store purchases.

Stephanie Andersen

Director of Youth and Family Ministry
stephanie@gslacrosse.org (608) 788-0450
In the Office: Wednesday 4-8pm and Sunday 2:00—4:00 pm
Hymn Focus: Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

The hymn “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee” is considered by most hymnologists to be one of the most joyful of all hymns written in the English language and is the best known of the hymns written by Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933). The main theme from the final movement of Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony, adapted by British composer Edward Hodges (1796-1867), forms the perfect fit between text and music.

Born in Germantown, PA., Van Dyke graduated from Princeton University in 1873 and from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1877. He served as professor of English Literature at Princeton between 1899 and 1923. He achieved fame as one of the country’s leading preachers and literary figures. Becoming a Navy Chaplain, he served as a lieutenant-commander in the U.S. Navy Chaplain Corps during World War One. In 1913 he was appointed Minister to the Netherlands by friend and former classmate President Woodrow Wilson.

In 1907, while serving as a guest preacher at Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts, Van Dyke wrote the text for our hymn. The story goes that he handed the manuscript to the college president one morning, saying, “Here is a hymn for you. Your mountains (the Berkshires) were my inspiration. It must be sung to the music of Beethoven’s “Hymn of Joy”.

Composed in the bleak days before World War One, it stands in complete contrast to the world Van Dyke saw around him. Verse one uses the metaphor of light to express joy and God’s presence, singing, “hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, praising Thee, their sun, above”. Verse two sings of God as manifested in the beauty of nature with all creation praising the Creator and calling us to do likewise. Verse three sings of humanity as the family of God and calls us to love one another, singing, “Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are Thine; teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!”

Music Notes
From The Director of Music

Randy Lyden
Good Shepherd Music Director
randy@gslacrosse.org | (608) 779-9669

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Luther’s explanation of the eighth commandment is a good reminder of how we are to speak about one another: “We are to fear and love God so that we do not betray, slander, or lie about our neighbor, but defend, speak well, and explain our neighbor’s actions in the kindest way.”

May God’s peace reign in our hearts, our community, our nation, and our world.

Pastor Harald

These healthy chips make a yummy back-to-school snack.

What you need:
- 4 apples, cored and cut into 1/8” rings
- Large bowl
- Spoon
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- Baking sheets (sprayed)

What you do:
1. Place apple slices in the bowl. Add cinnamon and sugar. Stir so apples are coated evenly with the mixture.
2. Place apple slices on the sprayed baking sheets in a single layer.
3. Bake at 200 degrees for two to three hours, until chips are dry but still slightly soft.