



John

11:25-26 (niv)

"Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."



Shepherd's Voice

Give. Serve. Lead. Connect.

April 2018

From Pastor Harald Bringsjord

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed.

When the disciples heard Jesus speak of his death and resurrection, they didn't seem to know what to say, so they said nothing (Mark 9:10). But as, years ago, my advisor at seminary, the late Dr. Donald Juel, used to say, even if they said nothing, we still know the story because God is on the loose. The life of Jesus Christ has been unleashed into the world. We know the gospel story because God is alive and at work in the world. God is on the loose.

Because Christ is risen we can embrace the difficulties and struggles, the complexities, and uncertainties of life with a living confident hope that the risen Christ goes before us, meeting us in places and through people we may not expect.

We enter into the ups and downs of life knowing that the resurrected Christ holds us and moves us to live as resurrection people. In the midst of loss and death we are promised God's embrace forever, for nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord, and this changes everything.

Our fear of death and of others will

divide us and destroy us, but thanks be to God who calls us out of the darkness of death, division, and despair and into the light of the resurrected Christ. Luther said, when you arise in the morning, make the sign of the cross on yourself and remember your baptism. For we were baptized into the death and resurrection of Christ.

Alleluia! Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God.
Pastor Harald



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Twitter.com/goodshepherdse



GSlacrosse.org/voice

To access this and other publications online visit GSlacrosse.org/voice.

Give

Volunteering Within Church

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

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

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.



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

Lydia Circle meets the first Tuesday of every month. For more information or if

you have any questions, contact Carol at 787-0609.



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.

Care Ministry—Care Ministries visit the homebound year round to have a small chat, give communion, and have a prayer. Interested in joining this ministry? Contact Don Skibba at 787-0498. If you or someone you know would like a visit from our care ministry team, please contact the church office at (608)788-0450.

55 Plus—55 Plus is a friendly lunch gathering for the 55+ crowd that meets every 3rd Thursday of the month at 11:30am. We gather at The King Street Kitchen located at 141 7th St S.

Serve

Enriching Life, Sharing Talents

Thank You All So Very Much...

Altar Guild—Thank you to the members who served during the month of March, Kathy & Al Johnson & Linda Schoen. During April, Pat Oliver & Stacy Bendel will be on duty.

Julie Noll — Thank you for sending out the "Get Well" cards in March. Denise Geiwitz will be sending out the cards throughout the month of April.

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!

Causeway Caregivers

Causeway Caregivers exists to help! Give Causeway a call if you need assistance in or around your home or if you have a few hours to volunteer helping those who do. (608) 775-9999 or visit our website: causewaycaregivers.org



Ushers Schedule

- Apr 1** **7:00am:** Please put your name on the sign up sheet if you can help Usher at this service!!
8:30am: Please put your name on the sign up sheet if you can help Usher at this service!!
- Apr 8** **8:30am :** Shelly Saegrove, Michelle Schaefer, Mark & Shanon Torgerud
10:30am: Heidi Kwiatkowski, LeRoy Geary, Don & Darcy Skibba
- Apr 15** **8:30am:** Chuck & Linda Brigson, Tim & Liz Carlson, Steve & Gina Fellenz
10:30am: Rob Hamann, Jane Strangstalien, Tanya Hedberg, Jonathan Thompson, Sandra Rockwell, Mark Bronson
- Apr 22** **8:30am:** Steve, Kari, Breanna & Angela Ellison
10:30am: Teresa Opitz, Darren & Jaclyn Osley, looking for someone to help
- Apr 29** **8:30am:** Rich & Beth Stoll, Paul Boarman, Monty Gilbertson
10:30am: Candie Luehne, Vicki DeMaiffe, Lois Olson, Corrine Smith

Lead

Raising Up Spiritual Leaders

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@gsilacrosse.org to be a part of this growing and exciting praise band!



Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

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@gsilacrosse.org

The Gloria Dei Choir

We rehearse between services on Sundays from September through May in the Mattes Center and new members are always welcome! If your children would like to be a part of the Gloria Dei Choir, please contact Darlene Lassig at 788-5686 or at darlene@gsilacrosse.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@gsilacrosse.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@gsilacrosse.org or just drop in and check it out for yourself!

Connect

Bridging Our Community To Our World

Mobile Meals of La Crosse changed delivery days back to the way they use to be. They are going back to a Monday to Sunday route. This means that only one weekend will be affected. We are hoping that this is less of an inconvenience, so more people will sign up to deliver.

Thank you so much to all those who deliver Mobile Meals! Our next time to deliver will be the end of May 2018. Mobile Meals of La Crosse delivers

33,000 meals annually to the homebound, largely through the efforts of local churches like ours.

Need more information? Call 784-4623 or go online at mobilemealsoflacrosse.org. Pick-up place is Franciscan/Mayo at the Market Street door and the pick-up time will be 11am. Please allow 1 1/2 to 2 hours delivery time. We are route #1.



Please consider joining our Mobile Meal Team!!

Local Food Pantry Needs



West Avenue Food Emergency Relief (WAFER) is asking for **Side Dishes** during the month of April. Thank you for all the donations given in March!

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.



Stewardship

Memorials & Special Gifts

Good Shepherd gratefully acknowledges and sincerely appreciates your gifts over and above your regular giving. The following gifts were received from February 18 through March 19th.

WAFER

Jim & Sue Bugge
Ramon & Connie Erickson

Chad Erickson Memorial

Dave & Barb Erickson

Rachel Holley-Sciortino Memorial

Bobby Cree

Arnie Hanson Memorial

Shirley Holman
Cheri Starch
Duane & Arlene Dreves
Julie Olson
Michael Blair
Don & Darcy Skibba

Beverly Lautz Memorial

Art & Betty Olson

Wally Noll Memorial

Karl & Julie Noll
Roger & Luanne Hjelle

Giving Tree

Richard & Grace Pengra



Lois Harris Memorial

Karl & Julie Noll
Ron Harris
Doug & Cathy Johnson

Sugar Creek Horse Project

Harald & Andrea Bringsjord
John & Naomi Stennes-Spidahl

Eva Bolstad Memorial

Roger & Luanne Hjelle
Harald & Andrea Bringsjord

Herman Troyanek Memorial

Harald & Andrea Bringsjord

Lutheran Campus Ministries

Harald & Andrea Bringsjord
Glenn & Lila Seager
Sherill Munson
Mike & Eleanor Amundson
Pastor Ken

Randy Page
Cindy Thurston
Rich & Barb Doering
Rich & Beth Stoll
Dave & Barb Foye
Rob & Dianne Hamann
Steve & Kari Ellison
Duane & Linda Schoen
Gordy & Carol Powell
Mark & Shanon Torgerud
Michelle Flores
Anna Erickson
Barb Smyth
LeeAnn Lyden
Kim Dockham
Greg & Beth Bonney
Amy Hysel
Karl & Jaime Greenfield
Al & Kathy Johnson

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Lora Busch
Sherrill Munson
Arthur Olson
Jessica Peterson
Matthew Peterson
Mark Torgerud



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



Church Numbers

Weekly Sunday Attendance

Date	8:30am	10:30am
02/04/18	125	102
02/11/18	95	125
02/18/18	96	117
02/25/18	83	89

Weekly Envelope Offerings

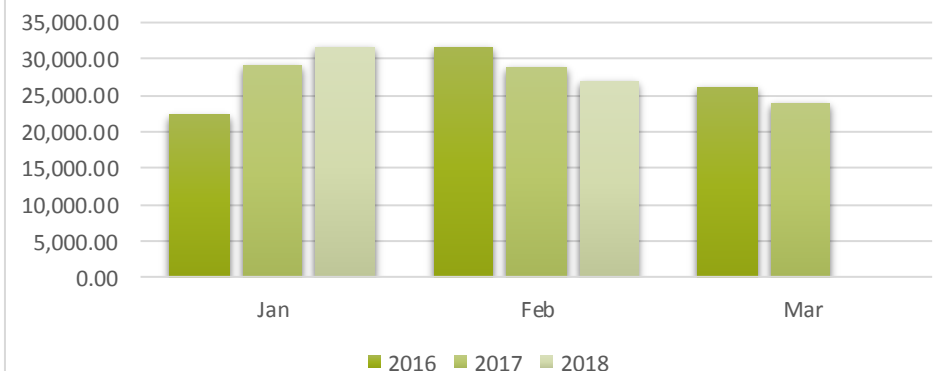
Date	Weekly	% Budget
02/04/18	7,491.15	95.1%
02/11/18	5,196.50	66.0%
02/18/18	5,593.50	71.0%
02/25/18	8,718.56	100.11%
Totals	26,999.71	85.7%

Envelope Offering Comparison

February 2018	February 2017	% Difference
26,999.71	28,948.51	-6.7%
YTD 2018	YTD 2017	% Difference
58,550.86	58,047.73	.9%

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.

Envelope Offerings



Around the Parish...

Easter Garden

Please consider donating an Easter Lily or other flowering plant for our Easter Garden for Easter Sunday Services. Plants can be dropped off in the office between Tuesday, March 27th and Friday, March 30th. They can be picked up after the 10:30am Easter service. Be sure to put your name on your plant. Thank You.

Maundy Thursday

Please join us before service on Thursday, March 29th at 5:30pm for a soup supper. "Living Last Supper" service begins at 6:30.

Good Friday

Join us at 6:30pm for the Good Friday Tenebrae Service. The word 'tenebrae' is Latin for shadows. The Tenebrae is an ancient Christian Good Friday service that makes use of gradually diminishing light through the extinguishing of candles to symbolize the events of that week from the triumphant Palm Sunday entry through Jesus' burial.

Easter Breakfast

Breakfast will be served Easter Sunday from 7:30-10:30am, please join us for a hearty breakfast and fellowship if you can!

Blood Pressure Readings

Blood pressure readings will be taken by our Parish Nurse, Bev Sorenson, on **Sunday, April 8th** at 9:30am and will go back to the first Sunday of the month throughout the rest of the year.

Chicken Q

Mark your calendar for the Youth Chicken Q on Sunday, April 8th. We will be serving from 9:30am to 12:30pm or until sold out. Limited tickets will be available day of, so purchase your tickets at the Kwik Trip table ahead of time. Tickets are \$9 each and proceeds benefit the trip to the National Youth Gathering this summer. If you are unable to make it, that is okay. Purchase a ticket for a meal that can be delivered to the Salvation Army. Just let the youth know when you purchase it and the those tickets will be marked for Salvation Army.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Is the new name for Christian Education. Join Pr. John April 8th at 9:45am for this session we'll explore 1 John 1:1-2:2 using the "African Bible Study Method." We will meet in the library, please join us if you can!

Lydia Circle

Millie Hamann will be leading our meeting **April 10th at 1pm**. The subject "Zacchaeus" Chapter 34. Host will be Sandra Rockwell, devotions will be by JoAnn DeClute. Please call Carol Abraham 787-0679 if you have any questions. All are welcome!

Game Night

Please come and join us for an evening of fun and games. Bring your favorite board game if you want, or just join in where you see an opening at a table with one of your favorite game being played. Friday, April 20th at 6pm in the Mattes Center. Come one, come all!!

Saturday Quilting

Saturday Quilters will be meeting Saturday, April 21st at 9am as they work together making quilts for Lutheran World Relief. All are welcome, experience is not needed!

Waffle Sunday!

April 29th is Waffle Sunday!! Please join us for delicious waffles and fellowship after both services in the Mattes Center. Waffles are only \$5.00 with a variety of toppings available. Gluten free available! To go options are available! Proceeds help fund the youth trip to the National Youth Gathering in Houston, TX this summer

Good Shepherd Scholarships

Application information for the 2018 Good Shepherd Scholarships is now available on the table in the welcome area. Application letters must be received in the church office by no later than Monday, April 23rd.

You CAN help!

Our recycle bin for aluminum cans is located at the end of the church garage behind the Boy Scout trailer. Feel free to drop off your bagged aluminum cans anytime. Thank you!

Around the Parish...

New Youth Scrip Cards Available!

Check out the Youth table in the concourse or visit gslacrosse.org/high-school/ for an order form and to see the full brand listing. Thank you for supporting our Youth Mission Trips and National Youth Gatherings through this continuing fundraiser! Questions? Contact Jennifer Jones at jones6307@gmail.com or call 608.518.1228



Grandmothers, Mothers, Sisters and Daughters are invited to this women's event on Saturday, April 28th at 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Come and enjoy a festive, delicious brunch with games and prizes is being hosted by Good Shepherd Women-WELCA. Tiaras are always welcome.

Come for Supper

Come for Supper provides nutritious free meals served with generosity and love every Tues 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 Tues every other month, but you are welcome to help anytime! Meals are served at 5pm every Tues of the year in Our Savior's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall. Prep work starts at 1pm every Tues 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. **Next date for Good Shepherd to help is Tuesday, April 24th.**

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 information call the church office, 788-0450.

Good Shepherd Online Stay Updated With Latest News

Have you ever visited GSlacrosse.org? This is our church website updated with news, youth activity events, calendars, and so much more. You can now find out the latest events at Good Shepherd from anywhere in the world. The website is now fully mobile-responsive, making it easy for you to access the church website from your smartphone.

Apart from our new website, we offer you the possibility to receive weekly and/or monthly e-mail updates with latest church happenings. Signing-up is easy. Simply visit GSlacrosse.org/enews. Any questions, please contact the church office at 788-0450 or office@gslacrosse.org.

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. Our youth will receive 5% of the value of the card, plus 10% on **qualified in store** purchases.

Sponsor Flowers and Bulletins

Sign up on the bulletin board to sponsor flowers or bulletins in honor or memorial of that special event or person.



Palm Sunday 8:30 & 10:30 Worship

Maundy Thursday: 5:30pm Soup Supper
6:30pm Worship

Good Friday: 6:30pm Tenebrae Service

Easter Sunday: 7:00am Worship / Communion
8:30am Worship / Communion
10:30am Worship / Communion

Easter Breakfast 7:30am - 10:30am

April 2018



Gloria Dei Choir
Meets every Sunday
each week at 9:45am.



Adult Bell Choir
Meets every Sunday
each week. at 5:30pm.



Youth Bell Choir
Meets every Sunday
each week. at 6:30pm.



Sanctuary Choir
Meets every Sunday
Each week at 9:30am.




Sounds of Praise
Meets every Saturday each
week at 4pm.

8:30am Worship Service 8:45 Sunday school

10:30am Worship Service 10:45 Sunday school

Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays of Each Month

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
March 25 Palm Sunday Waffle Sunday/Butter Braid s 5th Graders make Communion 9:45am Care Ministry Meeting EGG-stravaganza Easter Egg Hunt 	26 6:30pm W5	27 10am Hundt Visitation 11am Hundt Funeral 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg	28 12:30pm Quilting 6pm Youth Group (Gr. 9-12) 6pm Seder Supper & 5th Grade 1st Com- munion	29 Maundy Thurs 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:30pm Worship & Communion	30 Good Friday 6:30pm Tenebrae Service	31 
April 1 Easter Sunday No Sunday School 7am Sunrise Worship/Communion 7:30-10:30am Easter Breakfast 	2 6:30pm W5	3 Polling Day West Pastor Conference 6pm Buildings & Grounds 7pm Pre Men's Golf Mtg BS Troop 22 Mtg NO	4 12:30pm Quilting 6pm Youth Group (Gr. 9-12)	5 6pm WELCA Mtg	6	7 
8 Chicken Q Name Tag & Cookie Sunday by MGF 8:30am Pretasky Baptisms 9:30am Blood Pressure Readings 9:45am Sunday Morning Bible Sunday 10:30am Balko Baptism 11:30am Praise/Worship 	9 6:30pm W5	10 1pm Lydia Circle 1:45pm Hillview Communion 5:30pm Hospitality Mtg 6pm BS Troop 22 Adult Mtg 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg	11 10am Staff Meeting 12:30pm Quilting 6pm Youth Group (Gr. 9-12) 6:30pm Adult Bible Study	12	13	14 
15 8:30am Herdeman Baptism 10:30am Schmidtknecht Baptisms 	16 5:15pm Finance 5:30pm Membership, Growth/Fellowship Mtg 6:30pm W5 6:30pm Hintgen Assoc	17 6pm Parish Ed Meeting 6pm Admin/Exec Meeting 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg 7pm Church Council Mtg	18 12:30pm Quilting 6pm Youth Group (Gr. 9-12)	19 11:30am 55 Plus	20 Voice Articles Due 6pm Game Night	21 9am Quilting Synod WELCA in Ettrick 
22 9:45am Care Ministry Meeting 	23 6:30pm W5	24 1pm Come for Supper (setup) 4:30pm Come for Supper (serve) 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg	25 12:30pm Quilting 6pm Youth Group (Gr. 9-12)	26 8:30am May Voice Mailing Crew	27	28 10am Girls to Grandmas Celebrate Women Brunch 
29 Waffle Sunday 	30 6:30pm W5	May 1 West Pastor Conf Noon Lydia Circle Potluck 1pm Bethany Rvrside Bingo 5pm Men's Golf 6pm Buildings & Grounds 6pm BS Troop 22 Adult Mtg 6:45pm BS Troop 22	2 12:30pm Quilting 6pm Youth Group (Gr. 9-12) 6pm All Confirmation Celebration 7pm Confirmation Rehearsal	3 6pm WELCA Mtg	4	5 

To access the most up-to-date calendar visit GSlacrosse.org/calendar.

Your Health

From the desk of our Parish Nurse

Dear Congregation,

In lieu of Lent, I felt I could share my reflection in my voice article. For those unable to attend Wednesday service. My reflection shares my past. On Sunday Pastor Harald said this in his sermon, “Bible verses are for lifting up a person to see the love of God when there is doubt, fear or concerns of disbelief.” I truly feel scripture has kept me on the believer path. May scripture help you as well.

I am Beverly Kay (Kettler) Sorenson. My faith in God and Jesus began like many others. I was born and raised Lutheran. In my early years, I was baptized, went to Sunday school, and was confirmed in the 8th grade as a member of First English Lutheran church of Platteville, WI. Memories of this family church are fond. I have many memories of singing in front of church for Easter Sunday and Christmas Eve. My favorite memories are those summer weeks I spent at Asbury Acres Bible camp. From 4th grade thru high school my summer vacation was church camp. I believe I was in the 5th grade when I accepted Jesus as my personal savior and into my heart. I vividly remember sitting with my camp counselor, talking about my belief and together we prayed and asked Jesus into my heart. I continued the summer camp vacations up thru high school and then I became a counselor prior to college. It was my sophomore high school year I decided that Nursing would be my profession. I never swayed from the idea of being a nurse and when the time came to attend college I chose Viterbo College named then now it

is Viterbo University. My father being a strong Lutheran was very hesitate to send me off to a Catholic school. My choice was a perfect fit for me, the college was nurturing and small. It would be the first time I was away from family and would need to make new friends. Being a farmer’s daughter I felt at home, even in a catholic school. In 1991 I graduated, received my BSN and went off to work. My parents were proud and my dad’s hesitate opinion about a Catholic school was changed for the better. My career started at St Francis Medical Center, now St Francis Mayo Medical. Again my choice went to my comfort zone. I had attended many clinical classes there. It was 3 years later I transferred to Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center and a new journey began. After college I married Dean Sorenson, and we were married in Westby at the Lutheran Church, we became members here at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and baptized our first daughter Amanda 23 years ago. All events are common and typical occurrences for a Christian. My story would be dull if that was all I had to tell. As I reflected on how I remained in my faith for 48 years I realized I have relied on scripture and prayer during the difficult times, near death experience and currently new experiences facing fear of not in my comfort zone.

Death, can be frightening and death can be events of sorrow but both could turn a person away from God. I recall a time in my preteen adventurous years a day my sister and I played in

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GS Volunteer Parish Nurse

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(608) 792-3962

Health Questions?

Call the Gundersen Telephone Nurse Advisor 24/7 at (800) 858-1050.



the hay barn. We were pretending to be gymnast's by balancing on walls of hay bales, jumping, laughing and playing in an area our parents did not permit, or they also did not know. Suddenly while I balanced on the top of the hay, the wall began to fall. The hay bales fell 20 feet to the pig pen below. I remember seeing the bales fall, but I remained on a beam with one foot. I was unharmed, stunned I was not suffocated or injured by the hay or the fall. Why? How did I not seriously get hurt or die? I do not know the answer. Later in life, as a college student, I was living in Miami, FL for a summer. Friends and I decided it was a good Saturday to go to the beach. So we jumped into a Volkswagen bug and headed out on the interstate. Herbie was driving, my boyfriend was in the back seat and I was the passenger. Shortly after we began our adventure, Herbie decided a beer was needed. I looked at him and insisted he wait until we were at the beach. Herbie insisted he needed the beer now. He reached back to retrieve the beer, and suddenly we were cut off in traffic, the bug swerved and we crashed passenger side into a pole. There were no air bags, just a seat belt. The air was knocked out of me, I didn't move. I walked away from that accident, with whiplash, no cuts from glass, no broken bones but a car not drivable and was towed. Why again I do not know. These two experiences of my past strengthened my belief that God has something in store for me. I do believe everyone has a purpose in life. I do believe in Guardian Angels or that Jesus was watching over me so I could be the Nurse I desired. Scripture to reflect upon:

Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know I have plans for you declares the Lord. Plans for welfare and not for evil. To give you a future and a hope.”

There were certainly many events that should have made me stop believing. Most are memories of loved one's sudden deaths or slowly dying. Children dying makes a person doubt God and wonder how he could allow a death to happen to someone so young. I have lost a baby niece, to the disorder Trisomy 18. Kacie was born Jan. 26th, 2006. She was small, and doctors ran test's

the first day of life. We were hoping the tests were Down's Syndrome, but the results were Trisomy 18. This is a condition that causes severe developmental delays due to an extra chromosome 18. It is very rare. It explained her slow intrauterine growth and low birth weight. Doctors at Madison told my brother and sister-in-law to take her home and let her die. Kaci was born with the heart defects and a small jaw which didn't help her learn to nurse. Most babies with this disorder do not live thru birth. Only 5 or 10 percent of these babies live past 1 year but with intellectual delays. Kaci was a child in our hearts for 6 months. The 6 months we had were difficult on the whole family. I spent many nights holding her in the hospital on my days off. Her life was in and out of the hospital. Not fair, but God did let us get to know her and fall in love. A blessing. Just recently my brother, the father to Kaci shared with me the fact that he and Loretta knew at 3 months into her pregnancy that there was something wrong with her. This they didn't share with the family until now. He told me the night they found out the news of a child who may not live to birth, he said he screamed at God, and asked him to let him at least get to know her. God let us know her. I have lost three other young people in my family, two cousins and a niece all young in their teens due to car accidents. Stephanie became an organ donor a week after her head trauma. Benjamin was a donor of tissue and Emily an organ donor at 9 years old. As an OR Nurse I am all too familiar with organ and tissue donation. The process of giving such a gift but with a heartache of a lost loved one. The gift of life to another person turns a tragic event into a positive for another person's life and family. These three have become angels in my life.

People respond to death differently. I have family members who have turned away from God and blame him for tragic events. Death is never an easy time at any age. My reaction to death is of sadness but I have never felt God was to blame. God is not hurtful, God is Love. It is easy to forget God's presence when faced with difficult times.

Continued on page 19.

Sunday School Update

Pre-school thru Grade 5

Welcome to Spring!

As I write this the sun is shining brightly and the feeling of new hope approaches. The children are learning the last of our Sunday School Stories, "Fruit of the Spirit". Galatians 5:22-26 is a story where Paul is reminding the new church in Galatia how to be a successful church. The members are reminded that if you live by the Spirit, you will never be in the wrong... 22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other." What a great way to teach kids how to treat others and the world around them.

It is a very exciting time as we spent the Lenten season collecting donations for the food pantry. The Sunday School children have raised almost \$140.00 so far. We will have a full display on our first Sunday back, April 8th.

5th Graders had First Communion instruction on March 28th. This is our final Milestone for the 2017-18 Sunday School year. On Palm Sunday, they met during Sunday School to bake the communion bread for Easter Sunday. It is a special time as these 5th graders "graduate" from Sunday School with their First Communion and begin Confirmation in the Fall.

The ***Sunday School Volunteer*** sign-up sheet will be posted on the Sunday School board April 1! Please sign up! **Thank you so much to all of our current volunteers!** The children love you all and I appreciate you more than I can say! **Also, thank you to all those who support us through donations and the Giving Tree.** We greatly appreciate it!

Please take note of the dates coming up inside the Voice!

Sincerely in Christ,

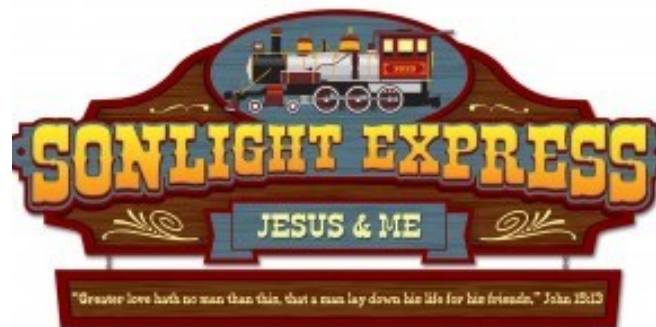
Tammy Klein



Quick-Look

Upcoming Events At a Glance

March 28th	5th Grade Milestone - Seder Meal 6pm. Registration will be required to ensure enough seating and Seder supplies for everyone attending.
April 1st	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL! HAPPY EASTER!
April 15 & 22nd	Sunday School Mission Weeks –Started last year, we will be making blankets for the warming center. 2 yards of fleece donations welcome!
April 29th	Come right to Sunday School ALL SUNDAY Schoolers, volunteers, confirmation helpers etc. Photo Shoot Day and Year End Art project for installing at Church.
May 6th	Education Sunday Program Practice Come right to Sunday School – all children participate!
May 13th	HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY/Education Sunday Practice
May 20th	Education Sunday Program/All Church Celebration. Please watch for parent letter in the mail. This is our Last Day of Sunday School!



Tammy Klein

Children's Ministry Coordinator
tammy@gsilacrosse.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®.



Youth Update

Confirmation (Grades 6-8) & High School Youth (Grades 9-12)

“And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is disciple, truly I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.” Matthew 6: 19-21

Confirmation

Even though confirmation has not meet for classes during Lent, it has been a busy time for the 8th grade confirmation students. Students finished their faith statements, banners and interviews. This month, they will be participating in the final step of their confirmation class process, which is a faith interview with myself and pastor. Although most students get anxious about these conversations, there is nothing to be nervous about. We have this step in place as an opportunity for students to meet with myself and pastor and discuss their faith. For me, reading their faith statement and meeting with students is my favorite part of the confirmation process. Although, I get to know students through confirmation, I rarely have an opportunity to sit down and talk to students 1 on 1 so I truly enjoy these conversations. Parents will be receiving an email with times for faith conversations soon if you have not already.

High School Youth

Wednesday evening youth group is temporarily on hold during Lent. we are continuing our tradition this year of attending Wednesday mid week services and hearing the testimonies of church members. This year, Lizz Kvalheim agreed to represent the younger side of the congregation and share her story with the congregation. I think I speak for most, when I say it was truly a blessing to hear her story.

After Lent, we will resume our regular Wednesday night youth group from 6 - 8pm. We will continue to work on the bible study created by the ELCA to prepare our youth for the Youth Gathering. However, this bible study has great themes and lessons for youth who have choose not to attend. All high school students are

welcome! **8th graders are invited to start attending a this time as well!**

Want to support the Youth?

Prayers - Please include both confirmation youth and high school youth in your prayers these coming months. For confirmation, pray that God continues to strengthen their faith as through confirmation and faith leaders in their lives especially pray for the 8th graders as they affirm their baptism, that God will help them to find their place in the church as they during this time of transition. Pray for the high schoolers going to the National Youth Gathering, that God will use this time to strengthen their faith and their relationships with each other and most importantly with Him. Pray for youth who are unable to attend the gathering, that God will reach out to them in other ways to help grow their faith and relationship with Him.

Say hi - I often hear adults of the church say things like, “I don’t know the youth anymore” or “I never see the youth at church.” As someone who works with youth, I completely understand both of these statements. If you don't have children yet or your children are grown, it is not a surprise you don't know the youth. For the second statement, youth do have a hard time making it to church with the work and school commitments that are taking more and more weekend time now. Although we can't change either of those facts, we can help youth feel welcome when they are at church. Tell them hi and that you're glad they're here, even if you don't know their name or who their parents are. Teenagers are struggling and looking for a place to fit in. Let's make church that place! Instead of making youth feel bad for not participating more, lets let them know they always have a safe place at Good Shepherd!

Quick-Look

Upcoming Confirmation/Youth Group Events At a Glance

April 8th	Chicken Q (Mark your calendars for this one!!)
April 11th, Time TBD	8th Graders: Faith Conversations with Pastor Harald and Stephanie
April 18th, Time TBD	8th Graders: Faith Conversations with Pastor Harald and Stephanie
May 2nd	6pm All Confirmation Celebration Dinner 7pm Confirmation Rehearsal
Sunday May 6th	Confirmation Sunday! 12:30pm Pictures, 2pm Service
June 27th—July 1st	National Youth Gathering—Houston, TX

Financial - Although, I always hate to ask about this piece of things, it is an important part of faith development. Without mission trips and the National Youth Gatherings, our youth would not be able to step out of their community and comfort zone to hear God's calling in their lives. These events, especially the National Youth Gathering take money, but are very worth it. I am truly grateful for the support the congregation gives every year for these trips. We are doing well on fundraising this year, but the truth is we have a long way to go in the few months left before the gathering. We have a number of events coming up this spring that we are aiming to make fun for the congregation as they support the youth. I would encourage everyone to watch the church calendar participate to the means you have possible. After Lent, we will bring out the envelope fundraiser and if everyone take just 1 envelope (large of small - whatever you can afford), we can get our youth to Houston!

Good Shepherd Youth Chicken Q

When: April 8th 9:30 am - 12:30 p.m. or until chicken is gone
Where: Good Shepherd Church - 4141 Mormon Coulee Rd.
La Crosse, WI
Cost: \$9.00 - includes: ½ chicken, coleslaw, beans and roll



Dine in, carry out and drive through available
If you wish to purchase a meal to donate to the Salvation Army, we will deliver meals the day of the fundraiser.

Proceeds benefit Good Shepherd Youth Group and their trip the National Youth Gathering in June



Email stephanie@gslacrosse.org or contact the church office at 608-788-0450 for tickets

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



Music Notes

From The Director of Music

Worship Music Opportunities!

Looking for ways to be more active in the life of Good Shepherd Church? The Worship and Praise committee invites you to join them and be a part of steering the worship direction of the church. Members of this committee are not elected and can join anytime. Extensive knowledge of music is not necessary; only a sincere interest in and commitment to our music and worship life here at Good Shepherd. For more information, contact chairperson Shanon Torgerud.

The Sanctuary Choir is another way to make a very meaningful contribution to our worship leadership. Each Sanctuary Choir presentation is a very special and inspiring spiritual experience for the congregation of Good Shepherd. The Gloria Dei choir has been a wonderful way for children to experience the joy of helping to lead worship and are always very much appreciated by the congregation.

The youth and adult bell choirs enhance our worship in very unique ways. In addition to providing their members with a wonderful sense of teamwork in the name of Christ, each bell choir worship presentation is truly an uplifting experience for the congregation.

If you play a musical instrument then consider joining Sounds of Praise. If you think that you can't play your instrument well enough to join us, fear not; your parts will be arranged to accommodate your level

of proficiency. Sounds of Praise continues to add great vitality to our worship here at Good Shepherd and we have a lot of fun in the process.

Of course, the primary musical instrument in our worship is the voice of the congregation. When you lift your voice in song during worship, you are participating in the most important musical activity that can happen here at Good Shepherd. It is most inspiring to constantly witness and experience the very healthy musical life of this congregation, whether in our congregational song, or in the choirs, bells choirs and praise band. Without you, the congregation, none of this would be possible!



Randy Lyden

Good Shepherd Music Director
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Continued from page 13.

Scripture to reflect: Deuteronomy 31:6 “Be strong and courageous, do not fear or be in dread of them. For it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.”

Finally fear. I recently faced fears in my life. I spent 20 days in Ethiopia doing medical mission work. Prior to leaving I was fearful of a different culture, fearful of living in a 3rd world country, and fearful of diseases I could acquire like TB, Malaria, Typhoid and then the hospital acquired HIV, and Hepatitis. Doing mission work with my Nursing background has always been a goal of mine. I wanted to not let fear keep me from living a life experience. I had family questioning my sanity, questioning my reasoning for wanting to go to Ethiopia. The support I received from members here and staff at Gundersen made the difference and helped persuade myself I could do this trip. Because I overcame my fear and because I trusted in God that I would be safe, I now have memories I will never forget.

I have memories of the loving and kind people of Ytebon, Ethiopia. The memory of Kindergarteners waiting for me to hold my hand and walk up the hill to school and the hospital. I will remember the smiling faces of men and women happy to see our Global partners group arrive to their village. We were given the label name of “Frenge.” The Frenge are here!!! I have the memory of the time I visited the ladies who wove baskets. I admiring their artisan work, and they being proud to show me their basket. Further the women sang to us while they wove their baskets. Their song was calming and beautiful. Finally I have memories of Sister Sophia, Sister Shihi, Abraham and Hanna, all operating staff at Project Mercy who made my stay safe and welcoming.

One final moment I will share. Sunday I spent the morning attending a Presbyterian church in Ytebon. This was the day after we heard word the Prime Minister in Addis had stepped down and

there was protesting in the streets. Our group had a few worries about our trip home and if we were going to be able to leave. Dr. Ficado stood up to the congregation, spoke in Amharic and then English. He introduced our group and stated “You are welcomed here, you are with peaceful people, you are safe.” The church service was different than a typical service here at home, but even though the words were not understood by our group, what could be seen and felt was the spirit of the Lord being present.

I am thankful my belief in God has made me strong enough to not let my fear overtake my life. My faith has given me the strength to overcome fear, and accept death without blame. I am able to enjoy living and give of my time and talents to others here at home and now abroad.

Final Scripture: Isaiah 40:31.

Don't walk in weary, Walk with God he will strengthen you in times of fear or doubt.



Your Parish Nurse,

Bev Sorenson