



Shepherd's Voice

Give. Serve. Lead. Connect.

December 2018

From Pastor Harald Bringsjord

We begin the new church year by counting. Advent is a season of four weeks and we mark each of them very clearly with special lights. As the days in the natural season get progressively darker, our Advent season gets brighter each week until all four candles are burning and we celebrate the birth of the One who is the Light of the world.

But Advent is not just the time when we prepare for the birthday of the Savior; it is also the time when we prepare for and look forward to Christ's return in glory at the end of time. The church calls it the second coming, the Parousia. Only later this month will we get to Christmas. And so we begin Advent with an emphasis on the "End."

As Christians we begin the new church year by looking to the future, to the end of time as we know it. While the world thinks we are celebrating a past, as Christ's followers we know that just as Jesus came to us once, so He will come again... and the next time, He will come with power and glory.

And so it makes sense that a vision of the future such as this shapes how we live today. Luke tells us that signs are not definitive, time is marked by a different standard. What is clear is how we are to BE and what we are to DO in the midst of worldly uncertainties: lives that are marked by a focus on Jesus, the One who brings love not hostility,

community not separation, sharing not selfishness, peace not fear.

Perhaps this year, when you send out Christmas cards to friends and family, you might consider sharing not only the good but something that reflects the struggles of the year, the darkness that is real in our world and in our lives. Yet in all of this we are certain that the darkness surrounding us is not the end of the story, for there is the hope of God breaking forth into the darkness of our world and our lives:

"Joy to the world, the Lord is come!"

May our Advent and Christmas season bring us closer to God and one another.

Pastor Harald

Advent
A Season of Hope
& Expectation



Facebook.com/GSlacrosse



Twitter.com/goodshepherdls



GSlacrosse.org/voice

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



For unto you is born
this day in the city of David

A SAVIOR

who is

CHRIST

the

LORD

LUKE 2:11

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 Kathy 788-0450. We really do need your help!

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. We meet every Monday at 6:30pm in the welcome

area. at the front of the sanctuary. For info contact call Judy at 385-1410.



Lydia Circle

Lydia Circle meets the first Tuesday of every month at 1pm in the quilting room. All women are welcome!

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



Good Shepherd Ministries

Altar Guild—Is a very easy commitment and we would be happy to show you how it's done! Simply call Irene Thorelli at (608)787-0242.

Quilting—Quilters usually meet on Wednesday mornings. If you are interested in helping the quilters contact Ann Hudson at 788-1308.

Mailing Crew—If you are interested in helping prepare the Voice newsletter for mailing by adding address labels and stickers, then the crew is for you! We meet the 4th Thursday of each month at 8:30am in the choir room.

Care Ministry—Care Ministers 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 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 1417th 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 November, Nancy Oelke & Irene Thorelli. For the month of December Al & Kathy Johnson & Jeanne Atchley will be on duty.

Thank you to Phyllis Lynch for sending out the "Get Well" cards in November. Julie Noll will be sending out the cards throughout the month of December.

Thank you to Ann Hudson 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

Dec 2	8:30am: Chuck & Linda Brigson, Tim & Liz Carlson, Monty Gilbertson, Cliff Hendrick
Dec 9	8:30am: Confirmation Youth 10:30am: Confirmation Youth
Dec 16	8:30am: David & Trinity Busch, Carter & Aimee Roth, Devin & Diane Wilson 10:30am: Diane Kimball, Steve Ambrose, Adam Kimball, Jerry & Virginia Larsen
Dec 23	8:30am: Steve, Kari, Breanna & Angela Ellison 10:30am: Gundi Bay, Judy Casto, Todd & Corrine Holtz
Dec 24/25	Christmas Eve Services -- 4, 6, 9pm <u>Sign up sheets are up and ready for you to sign up</u> Christmas Day Service --10am <u>Sign up sheet is up and ready for you to sign up</u>
Dec 30	8:30am: Roger Weeks Jr, Michelle Schaefer, Mark & Shanon Torgerud 10:30am: Randy Hanson, Deb Koblit, Norm & Joanne Jerome

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 790-3785 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 at 5:30pm 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

Thank you so much to those who delivered Mobile Meals in October.

Our next time to deliver will be Mon, Dec 3rd to Sun, Dec 9th.

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 to 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 time. We are route #1.



Please consider becoming a part of this very important ministry, our Mobile Meal Delivery Team could really use your help. Please contact Kathy at 788-0450 or Kathy@gsilacrosse.org

Local Food Pantry Needs



West Avenue Food Emergency Relief

(WAFER) is asking for Personal Hygiene Items during the month of Dec. Thank you for all the donations given in November!

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.

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 4pm 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 Kimberly 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. Off over the summer.

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

Girl Scouts—Troop 4172 meetings are not yet set.



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 September 22 through November 18.

WAFER

Jim & Sue Bugge
John Wood

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Reidun Bringsjord
Monty Gilbertson
Ione Harder
Elizabeth Stoll

Giving Tree

Scott & Sara Wrobel
Philip & Sarah Nohr

ELCA Good Gifts

Mary Post



**Pr. J.L. Mattes
Scholarship Fund**
Pennie Bell

Lutheran Disaster Response

John & Naomi Stennes-
Spidahl

ELCA World Hunger

To all who gave to our recent World Hunger offering (too many to be listed here), Thank You! We raised \$1,572 to help those living in hunger around the world.

WELCA

To all who donated to Good Shepherd Women - WELCA (too many to be listed here), Thank You! \$1,735 was collected to help the women of Good Shepherd carry out their ministry.

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	10:00am
10/07/18	96	101
10/14/18	115	112
10/21/18	113	66
10/28/18	145	135

Weekly Envelope Offerings

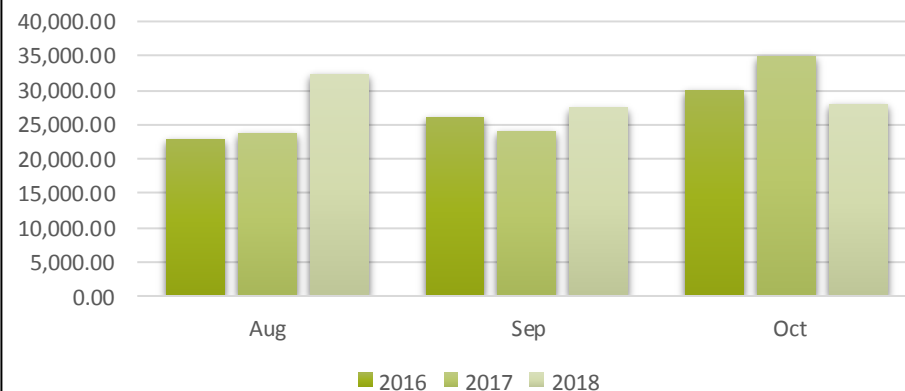
Date	Weekly	% Budget
10/07/18	9,971.50	126.6%
10/14/18	7,647.08	97.1%
10/21/18	5,236.50	66.5%
10/28/18	5,287.50	67.2%
Totals	28,142.58	89.4%

Envelope Offering Comparison

October 2018	October 2017	% Difference
28,142.58	35,060.95	-19.7%
YTD 2018	YTD 2017	% Difference
280,823.21	284,086.94	-1.1%

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...

Toys for Tots

The barrel is out in the welcome area! Please drop off a new, unwrapped toys by Thursday, December 6th, and help the La Crosse Jaycees brighten Christmas for over 1,100 children in the coulee region!

Good Shepherd Caring Tree

The Good Shepherd Caring Tree is up in the Welcome Area It has names and gift suggestions for nursing home residents hanging on it. Please, take a tag and return the wrapped gift along with the tag tape to the outside of the gift to church by Wednesday, December 12th.

Thank you for helping to make Christmas brighter for those who otherwise might not receive a gift for Christmas!

For questions or more information call Candie Luehne at 304-2035.

Feed Our Children

Hintgen Elementary School food pantry is getting bare! If you would like to help, please donate non-perishable food items to the box in the concourse. Your support and help in keeping our local kids fed throughout the holidays and more is greatly appreciated!.

Ladies Advent Luncheon

Good Shepherd Women-WELCA invites the ladies of this congregation, Our Redeemer and Mary Mother of the Church to "The Ladies Advent Luncheon" the first Saturday of December starting at 11am. The theme this year is Christmas Traditions and ladies attending this event are welcome to bring a dish to share that is a tradition in your family or is a dish you traditionally make.

Blood Pressure Readings

Blood pressure readings will be taken by our Parish Nurse, Bev Sorenson, on Sunday, December 2nd at 9:30am and on the first Sunday of the month throughout the rest of the year.

Lydia Circle

Tuesday, December 4th at noon in the quilt room. Please bring a dish to pass. Call Carol Abraham 787-0679 if you have any questions. All are welcome!

Christmas Capers & Family Movie Night Double Feature

Join us Saturday, December 8th from 11am to 2pm for Christmas Capers featuring Advent fun, lunch, crafts, games, and decorating. – Fun for ages 3 years to 3rd Grade.
From 3pm-7pm is Family Movie Night. Come and watch **Polar Express**, enjoy a Christmas Song Sing-Along followed by **It's a Wonderful Life** (6pm). Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, pillows - Outdoor Theater Style Movies

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Our study of Luke's Gospel will continue Sunday, December 9th at 9:45am in the church library and will focus on Luke 4:14-30. This session is titled "Let God Be God!" Please come and join us if you can.
- Pastor John Stennes-Spidahl

Good Shepherd Christmas Program

Our Sunday School Christmas program will be held at both services on Sunday December 16. Come and enjoy our Christmas story.

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. **Friday, December 21st at 6pm** in the Mattes Center. Come one, come all!!

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve services will be held at 4, 6, and 9pm Monday, December 24th. One service will be offered on Christmas Day at 10am. Merry Christmas everyone!

Around the Parish...

Come for Supper

Come for Supper provides nutritious free meals served with generosity and love every Tuesday at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Good Shepherd Church is committed to helping the last Tuesday every other month, but anyone can be a part of this outreach program anytime! Prep work starts at 1pm every Tuesday and lasts about two hours. Volunteers interested in helping serve meals should arrive at 4:30pm and 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. **The next date for Good Shepherd to help is Tuesday, December 25th.**

Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed both Dec. 24th & 25th and again Dec. 31st & Jan. 1st. We would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Attention Thrivent members: Thrivent will no longer automatically send Choice Dollars to your designated charity. To distribute these funds, you must call Thrivent at 1-800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt or Go online at Thrivent.com/thriventchoice. and make a direction.

Thank you to all who choose to direct your Choice Dollars to Good Shepherd!

Tour to Norway

Join Sugar Creek Bible Camp's Tour to Norway August 26 - September 5, 2019! Price includes economy class airfare, nine nights' accommodations, daily breakfast, three lunches, seven dinners and several tours of this beautiful country. Sons of Norway member price is \$3888 per person, double occupancy or \$4093 for non-members (\$516 single supplement) See the church bulletin board for more info or use this link: <http://wp.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org/wp-content/uploads/2019-Norway-Trip-1.pdf>

Good Shepherd Trust Foundation

Mission funding is now available from the Good Shepherd Trust Foundation at the request of church members in good standing. Applications for funds are available in the church office or on our website www.GSlacrosse.org. To be eligible, requests must align with the Mission Statement of the Church "We are dedicated as disciples of Christ, to work together, through worship, education, fellowship, and community service, to gather all creation to God's love and grace". as well as our Core Values which are Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Formation, Risk-taking Mission/Service and Extravagant Generosity.

Fill the Manger

Help fill The Family & Children's Center's request for baby wipes by purchasing any brand of baby wipe and placing it in the manger in the welcome area by Friday, December 28th. Thank You!!

Poinsettia Tree

Help our poinsettia tree bloom again this year by ordering a poinsettia from the display in the welcome area. The cost of the plant is \$7.00, and you can pick yours up to take home anytime after the Christmas Day service.

Anti-Racism Taskforce

The La Crosse Area Synod is developing an Anti-Racism Task Force. If YOU are interested in being a part of this Task Force, please fill out the application form available in the welcome area. Application forms need to be returned to the Synod Office by December 15, 2018. Although not everyone who applies will be selected, we encourage as many interested people to apply as is possible. We would like the Task Force to represent our synod's population in all its diversity.

December 2018



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



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



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



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

8:30am Worship Service, 10:30am Worship Service, Sunday School 8:45 & 10:45am, Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays of Each Month

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
November 25 9:45am Care Ministry Meeting 6:30pm GS Men's Group 	26 6:30pm W5	27 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg	28 6:30pm Youth Group (Gr. 9-12) 6:30pm Confirmation	29 8:30am December Voice Mailing Crew 1pm Bethany Riverside Birthday Party	30 5:30pm Tree Trimming	December 1 11am Advent Luncheon (here at GS)
2 9:30am Blood Pressure Reading 6:30pm GS Men's Group 	3 10am Before the After 6:30pm W5	4 West Pastor Conference 1pm Lydia Circle 6pm Buildings & Grounds 6pm Parish Ed Meeting 6pm BS Troop 22 Adult Mtg 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg	5 6:30pm Youth Group (Gr.9-12) 6:30pm Confirmation	6 6pm WELCA Mtg	7	8 11am to 2pm Christmas Capers 3 to 7pm Family Movie Night
9 9:45am Sunday Morning Bible Study 4pm 4-H Meeting 6:30pm GS Men's Group 	10 6:30pm W5	11 1:45pm Hillview Communion 6pm Hospitality Mtg 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg	12 10am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Youth Group (Gr. 9-12) 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Adult Bible Study	13	14 January Voice Articles Due	15 8:30 & 10:30 Christmas Program rehearsals
16 Christmas Program No Communion 6:30pm GS Men's Group 	17 5:30pm Membership, Growth/Fellowship Mtg 6:30pm W5 Potluck NO Hintgen Assoc Mtg	18 6pm Admin/Exec Meeting 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg 7pm Church Council Potluck 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg	19 6:30pm Youth Group (Gr. 9-12) 6:30pm Confirmation	20 11:30am 55 Plus	21 6pm Game Night	22
23 No Sunday School 9:45am Care Ministry Meeting 6:30pm GS Men's Group	24 Christmas Eve Office Closed 4, 6, 9pm Worship Services	25 Christmas Day Office Closed 10am Worship Service 1pm Come for Supper (setup) 4:30pm Come for Supper (serve)	26 NO Youth Group (Gr. 9-12) NO Confirmation	27 8:30am January Voice Mailing Crew 1pm Bethany Riverside Birthday Party	28	29
30 No Sunday School 4:30pm Gilbertson/Pless Rehearsal 6:30pm GS Men's Group	31 New Years Eve Office Closed 4pm Gilbertson/Pless Wedding	January 1 New Years Day Office Closed	2 6:30pm Youth Group (Gr. 9-12) 6:30pm Confirmation	3 6pm WELCA Mtg	4	5
To access the most up-to-date calendar visit GSlacrosse.org/calendar.						

Church Council Members

- **Don Skibba** *President of the Congregation* don@gslacrosse.org
- **Jim Bugge** *Vice President of the Congregation*
- **Mary Isaacs** *Treasurer*
- **Bev Sorenson** *Secretary*

Other Church Council Members include:

Lori Lowell, Carol Powell, Wayne Atchley, Ladd DaFoe, Todd Holtz, Roger Weeks Jr., Sally Lindahl, Duane Schoen & Tim Stalsberg.



- **Rev. Harald Bringsjord** *Pastor* prharald@gslacrosse.org
- **Rev. John Stennes-Spidahl** *Assistant Pastor* john@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 | (608) 790-3785
- **Darlene Lassig** *Volunteer Gloria Dei Choir Director* (608) 788-5686 | darlene@gslacrosse.org
- **Bev Sorenson** *Volunteer Parish Nurse* bev@gslacrosse.org
- **Bill Klein** *Custodian/Maintenance* bill@gslacrosse.org

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,

Let's talk about Prostate Cancer. The most common cancer among men (after skin cancer) is prostate cancer. Being proactive by knowing risks, prevention and early detection can mean a longer life and better outcome for the men we love. Let's start with an overview about prostate cancer. The numbers are not great. There are about 164,690 cases of this disease this year. This breaks down to one man in nine will be diagnosed positive for prostate cancer. There are approximately 29,430 deaths due to this disease per year. This is about one man in 41 will die due to prostate cancer. Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of death in American men. It is a serious disease, but most men diagnosed with prostate cancer do not die. In fact 29 million men in the United States are still living after their diagnosis.

Causes

The cause of prostate cancer is truly not known exactly. Research has found some risk factors and studies are revealing how prostate cells become cancerous. Some gene mutation is just hereditary, about 5 to 10 percent of men get prostate cancer due to familial genes. Some research has found that men with high levels of a hormone named Insulin like Growth Factor-1 are more likely to develop the disease. Some studies have found that inflammation in the prostate may contribute to Prostate cancer. When reading about causes of Prostate cancer I found the study that exposure to radiation or cancerous chemicals can cause a DNA change to the prostate cells, but actually there isn't any proof this is a cause to mutations of the prostate cells.

Detection

Early detection with a simple blood test of a PSA level is recommended. Men with a PSA level 2.5 or above should have a blood test

yearly. Discuss with your care provider about screening. The American Cancer society suggests, men age 50 years and with average risk should be screened. Men age 45 and have a family history of a father, brother or son with diagnosis should be screened. Men age 40 and have a family member diagnosed at an early age should also be screened. I cannot stress the importance of early detection.

Treatment

Treatment for Prostate cancer goes along with a discussion of options and side effects of treatments. Treatments range from surgery, radiation therapy, cryotherapy, and hormone therapy trying to prevent the cancer from spreading to bones. One may feel rushing to treat is highly important but time to absorb the diagnosis mentally and emotionally is also of importance. For more information about Prostate Cancer go to the American Cancer society website at www.cancer.org/prostatecancer.

There is the sad fact that people are uncomfortable speaking openly about Prostate cancer. A reluctance that can have such a devastating consequence. Making a change with social awareness helps people understand that they are not alone when facing challenges in their journey with prostate cancer. Raising awareness is a powerful tool to fight against this disease. Educating men and their loved ones, making them aware of the support structures available and just losing the stigma behind speaking out about this disease will help save future lives. So all the men out there is it time for a PSA test?? Do yourself a favor and ask your provider.

Peace be with you all,
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 Update

Pre-school thru Grade 5

Season's Greetings to You All,

It is almost time for our Annual Christmas Program and the telling of the Christmas Story. During the next few weeks the children are practicing their lines, getting ready to wear their costumes and learning their songs. ALL OF OUR CHILDREN play an important part in this year's program with a few new songs we all will learn. Words are ready to go home with the children, along with scripts for speaking parts. If you do not have a part yet, please know that we have parts for ALL THE CHILDREN.

With this in mind, **PARENTS PLEASE DO NOT PICK UP CHILDREN UNTIL SUNDAY SCHOOL COMES TO A CLOSE.** We need as much time as possible. Not only are we practicing for Christmas Plays, but also learning about our lesson, "Anticipating Advent". With only a few weeks left we need as much time as possible. Please take the extra minutes to enjoy fellowship in the concourse area with fellow parishioners. Have that extra cup of coffee and maybe get to know other parents. The Christmas Programs are on **DECEMBER 16th** during each service with Dress Rehearsals the 15th, at your regular service times. **DON'T FORGET TO LET THE WHOLE FAMILY KNOW!** Also, November 25th, December 2nd and 9th, please come directly to Sunday School and not Church first, so we have rehearsal time.

Treat Bags will be filled on Friday, November 30th during Adult Tree Trimming night. If you would still like to contribute towards the bags that will be given the day of the Christmas program to each child, you may do so through the church offering, Giving Tree, or dropping it off in the Church Office. Just make a note to let us know. This is a tradition as well as a special gift to the kids who work SO hard to present the Christmas Story to us that day.

DECEMBER 8th – Christmas Capers for kids ages 3 to third grade, with 4th and 5th graders needed for helpers, will be held in

the Mattes Center. This event has turned into a family event with a double feature that night of "Polar Express" and "It's A Wonderful Life" showings. Please note the times on our Quick Look Page!

December 2nd will be the final day for book orders. Please place your orders now for the SUNDAY SCHOOL BEST seller BOOK FAIR to help us reach our goal and select books that will bring blessings to your whole family. If you have any questions, please let me know, I will be in Sunday School.

In the month of January we will be presenting the first graders with their prayer blocks. Please let me know if you will be attending on January 20th and who will be involved in the presentation. Watch the mail for Registration Information and a letter to come to your home in January.

Merry Christmas and
Joy in the coming Year,

Tammy Klein



Quick-Look

Upcoming Events At a Glance

December 2nd & 9th	All Children come directly to Sunday School before service begins .
December 8th	Christmas Capers & Family Movie Double Feature
December 15th	8:30 & 10:30 Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal. (Does not include Pre-Schoolers!)
December 16th	Christmas Program: Both 8:30 & 10:30 Services/ALL CHILDREN COME TO Mattes Center prior to services beginning!
December 23rd & 30th	No Sunday School... Merry Christmas, Happy New Year!
January 3rd	New Units available for Sunday School Staff pickup
January 6th	Return to Sunday School

Christmas Capers & Family Movie Night Double Feature Saturday, December 8th

11am to 2pm Christmas Capers: Advent Fun, Lunch, Crafts, Games, Decorating
– Fun for 3 years to 3rd Grade.

3pm-7pm Family Movie Night: Concession Stand and Gathering for **Polar Express**
Christmas Song Sing-Along (5pm)
It's a Wonderful Life (6pm)

Bring your Lawn Chairs, Blankets, Pillows - Outdoor Theater Style Movies

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEST seller BOOK FAIR November 11th – December 2nd

See the Display in the Concourse
Order for Christmas - Pick up at church
Books for Children and Grown-Ups

See Tammy Klein tammy@gsilacrosse.org for any questions.

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)*

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Isaiah 41:10

Confirmation

In November, we concluded our study in Genesis with the story of Joseph and the ways God used him despite many people trying to harm him. We also started our study of Exodus.

During our November service night, students helped with BINGO and I heard there were some great conversations regarding hunting that went along with BINGO! Other groups baked cookies for the Holiday Marketplace and worked on cleaning projects around church.

On December 5th, 8th graders will be completing faith interviews in order to help prepare them to write their own faith statements. If you are available between 6:30 and 8pm and are willing to share your faith with our youth, let Stephanie know. It takes the church to bring up our youth in faith so please consider helping support our youth in their faith journey.

*faith
hope
love*

High School Youth

Youth group is planning for Christmas! Our annual Christmas party will be Wednesday, December 19th from 6:30-8pm. There will be Christmas cookies and games. More details are being hammered out. All high school students are invited to attend along with youth group alumni!

Let the youth help simplify your Christmas shopping. Through the Great Lakes Scrip company, gift cards are available for nearly any restaurant or store you can imagine! Orders placed by December 2nd will arrive by December 7th! Youth group will receive a portion of all sales, which supports their summer mission trip.



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Quick-Look

Upcoming Confirmation/Youth Group Events At a Glance

December 2nd	Scrip orders due - orders will arrive by December 7th Think Christmas Presents!
December 5th	Fellowship/Service Night BINGO - Mark's group (5:45-7:30)
December 12th	Commands (Exodus 19-20; 24-26; 32-40)
December 19th	Wandering (Exodus 16; Numbers 13-14; Deuteronomy 29-31) Youth group: Christmas party - All current and alumni. Youth
December 26th	No Confirmation/Youth group



Stephanie Andersen

Director of Youth and Family Ministry
stephanie@gslacrosse.org (608) 788-0450

In the Office: Wednesday 4-8pm



