



Shepherd's Voice

Give. Serve. Lead. Connect.

January 2019

From Pastor Harald Bringsjord

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself. Luke 10:27

Years ago, when I was a camp counselor on a travel staff team in Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas, I remember meeting a woman who was into clowning ministry.

I found it interesting how she described clowning as a very prayerful activity, and that when she put on her white face she would no longer speak, even though she loved to give her opinion on everything. It was her way of reflecting what clowning folks speak of when they say that "downing of the clown whiteface and costumes is accompanied by prayer in which, following Scripture, the clowns-to-be 'die' to themselves and their own desires and concerns and take on a 'new identity' which is the clown that each is becoming in the mirror." It is to be a serious commitment. And she said it was not an easy task for her to keep quiet for long periods of time.

When I heard of the book "White Flour" by David LaMotte, I thought of my friend at camp. And it struck me how there really are many different creative responses to bigotry and hatred. Here is one that is in the book "White Flour" inspired by true events in May of 2007 in Knoxville, Tennessee when the Ku Klux Klan held a rally in that city. (You can hear or read the entire story in its full original poem form at <https://www.whiteflourbook.com/poem/>)

Protestors came, but not the usual protestors. These protestors were dressed in colorful clown costumes, and they were smiling. The KKK, who were wearing their white costumes, were confused, they came to make people angry, but these people were smiling and happy. The KKK raised their fists and shouted, "White Power!" The clowns all looked at one another in wonder. They huddled together until one said, "I've got it! White flour!" And they found in their costumes little packages of white flour, and poured them all over one another, all over the street, and danced in glee. The people in their white cloaks got more angry, and shouted louder, "White Power!" The clown protestors listened even more intently, they one said: "I've got it now!" "White flowers! Screamed the happy clown, and all the rest joined in!" And they threw lovely white flowers on themselves and on others.

"You could almost see the marchers turning red beneath white cloaks. They wanted to look scary! They wanted to look tough! One rushed right at the clowns in rage and was hauled away in cuffs." But they shouted all the more and as clearly as possible. "White Power."

One more time, the clowns looked at one another embarrassed by how they misunderstood the words and another clown shouted I've got it and shouted, "Wife Power!" and happily celebrated all the women in the group. The KKK quit their march and left, in frustration, but without any violent confrontations.

Continued on page 19.



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[Twitter.com/goodshepherdlse](https://twitter.com/goodshepherdlse)



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 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. For info contact Judy Casto 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 December, Al & Kathy Johnson & Jeanne Atchley. For the month of January Arlene & Dewey Dreves & Sharon Yushta will be on duty.

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

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

Jan 6	8:30am: Lee & Amanda Balko, Al & Kathy Johnson, Kraig & Teri Lassig 10:30am: Teresa Opitz, Jane Strangstalien, Rob Hamann, Delores, Tanya Hedberg,
Jan 13	8:30am: Confirmation Youth 10:30am: Confirmation Youth
Jan 20	8:30am: Rich & Beth Stoll, Steve & Gina Fellenz, Nancy Oelke, Gordy Powell 10:30am: Todd & Corrine Holtz, Karl Noll, Shelly Saegrove, Sandra Rockwell,
Jan 27	8:30am: I will be looking for 4 ushers for this Sunday at 8:30am 10:30am: 8th Grade Led Service

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@gslacrosse.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@gslacrosse.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@gslacrosse.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@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!

Connect

Bridging Our Community To Our World

Mobile Meals of La Crosse

Thank you so much to those who delivered Mobile Meals in December. Our next time to deliver will be Mon, Apr 1st to Sun, Apr 7th. 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@gslacrosse.org

Local Food Pantry Needs



West Avenue Food Emergency Relief

(WAFER) is asking for Soup & Crackers during the month of January. Thank you for all the donations given in December!

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.

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 November 18 through December 19.

WAFER

Jim & Sue Bugge

Giving Tree

Tom & Phyllis Lynch

ELCA Good Gifts

Barb Smyth
Jeff & Sharon Yushta

ELCA World Hunger

Richard Frosch
Richard Reinholz



Rachel Sciortino Memorial

Mitz Holley

WELCA

To all who donated to Good Shepherd Women - WELCA (too many to be listed here), Thank You! \$1,755 was collected to help the women of Good Shepherd carry out their ministry.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Lora Busch
Lois Gilbertson

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
11/04/18	120	80
11/11/18	121	138
11/18/18	105	139
11/25/18	71	85

Weekly Envelope Offerings

Date	Weekly	% Budget
11/04/18	2,582.95	32.8%
11/11/18	14,539.59	184.6%
11/18/18	5,237.27	66.5%
11/25/18	7,018.50	89.1%
Totals	29,378.31	93.3%

Envelope Offering Comparison

November 2018	November 2017	% Difference
29,378.31	26,037.14	12.9%
YTD 2018	YTD 2017	% Difference
310,221.52	310,124.08	.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...

Grief Support

We have started a grief support group here at Good Shepherd. Our purpose is to support and encourage one another in our grief. We will meet each Thursday, through January 31, at 3pm. If interested, please call Carol Abraham at 787-0679 or Pastor Harald at 788-0450. We think you will find this group helpful. At the January meetings we will decide how often we want to continue to meet, and on what days.

Blood Pressure Readings

Blood pressure readings will be taken by our Parish Nurse, Bev Sorenson, on Sunday, January 6th at 9:30am.

Lydia Circle

Our meeting will be Tuesday, January 8th at 1pm in the quilt room. Carol Abraham will be leading and the subject will be Judas as discussed in Chapter 38 of our book. Host will be JoAnn DeClute, devotions will be by Carol Abraham. Please call Carol Abraham 787-0679 if you have any questions. All are welcome!

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Our study of Luke's Gospel will continue Sunday, January 13th at 9:45am in the church library and will focus on Luke 7:1-17 and the session is titled: "What Was Jesus Doing?" Please come and join us if you can. - Pastor John Stennes-Spidahl

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, January 18th at 6pm in the Welcome area.

Bunco Night

Please come and join us Friday, January 18th from 6pm-9ish in the Mattes Center for a potluck supper and an evening of Bunco. Please bring a \$5 wrapped gift to exchange. The theme this month is "Winter Wonderland".

Shoulder to Shoulder

On Wednesday, January 30th, we will have a great opportunity to learn about the relationship between Christians and Muslims. Both Christian and Muslim members of Shoulder to Shoulder in La Crosse will present and discuss the similarities and difference between our religions. There will be a short presentation and question and answer time. With the growing Islamophobia in our nation, this is a great opportunity for us to learn about a culture different than our own, so we can know about and love our neighbors. This presentation is open to the congregation. Please come early for light snacks at 6pm. The presentation will begin at 6:30pm in the Mattes Center. Talk to Stephanie with any questions. Stephanie@gslacrosse.org

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, Feb. 26th.

Feed Our Children

Please donate non-perishable food items to the Hintgen Elementary School food pantry box in the concourse. Your support and help in keeping our local kids fed is greatly appreciated!

W5 Changes in meeting times

W5 Women's group will no longer be meeting Monday evenings. For more schedule information, or to join our group, call Judy Casto at 385-1410.

Around the Parish...

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>

Calling all learners

The Synod School of Theology's Winter Term is ready to go. January 10 at Galesville: Len Liptack leads an awesome Bible introduction. January 17-February 21 on Thursday evenings at Our Savior's, West Salem: Libby Howe on Congregational Dynamics, Jake Sorenson on Intergenerational Ministries, Ben Morris on Gender in Ministry. Call the Synod Office to register 608-788-5000. More info at <https://www.lacrosseareasynd.org/synod-school-of-theology>.

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.

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!

Good Shepherd Women-WELCA

GSW-WELCA welcomes women of all ages from our congregation to participate within this committee. Our committee meets the first Thursday of the month at 6pm in the Choir Room. Come and discover all the good our committee does with our church, community, nation and world!

Simply Giving

Good Shepherd offers electronic giving options for making donations on a scheduled, automated basis. It's convenient for you and provides much-needed financial consistency for the church. Pick up an authorization form from the office or the information area in the back of the church.

Giving Tree—Giving In A Unique Way

Our Giving Tree is a unique way to sponsor items or services used within our church and also to support Lutheran World Relief. It is located in the corner by the main entrance in the welcome area. Select a tag from the tree and place it and your donation in a provided envelope and place it in the offering plate or drop it off in the church office.

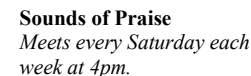
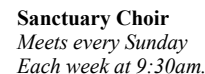
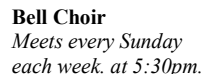
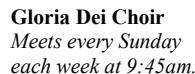
Youth Scrip Cards

Check out the Youth table in the concourse for a Kwik Trip or Festival Foods card, or choose one of the many other scrip cards available to order. Thank you for supporting our Youth Program through this fundraiser! The deadline to order cards is the first of each month. A full listing and order form is available at gslacrosse.org/high-school/. Questions? Contact Jennifer at jones6307@gmail.com or (608) 518-1228.












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.

January 2019



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
December 30 NO Sunday School 4:30pm Gilbertson/Pless Rehearsal 6:30pm GS Men’s Group	December 31 Office Closed 4pm Gilbertson/Pless Wedding	January 1 New Years Day Office Closed	2 12:30pm Quilting 6:30pm Youth Group (Gr. 9-12) 6:30pm Confirmation	3 6pm WELCA	4	5 
6 Name Tag & Cookie Sunday sponsored by Trust Foundation 9:30am Blood Pressure Readings 6:30pm GS Men’s Group 	7	8 1pm Lydia Circle 1:45pm Hillview Communion 5:30pm Buildings & Grounds 6pm Hospitality Meeting 6:30pm BS Troop 22 Adult Mtg	9 12:30pm Quilting 5:30pm Staff Meeting 6:30pm Youth Group (Gr. 9-12) 6:30pm Confirmation (service) 6:30pm Adult Bible Study	10	11	12 
13 9:45am Sunday Morning Bible Study 4pm 4-H Meeting 6:30pm GS Men’s Group 	14 5:30pm Membership, Growth/Fellowship Mtg	15 6pm Parish Ed Meeting 6pm Admin/Exec Meeting 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg 7pm Church Council Mtg	16 12:30pm Quilting 6:30pm Youth Group (Gr. 9-12) 6:30pm Confirmation	17 11:30am 55 Plus	18 February Voice Articles & Annual Reports Due 6pm Bunko Theme “Winter” 6pm Game Night	19 10am W5 Brunch 
20 1st Grade Milestone 6:30pm GS Men’s Group 	21 6:30pm Hintgen Assoc Mtg	22 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg	23 12:30pm Quilting 6:30pm Youth Group (Gr. 9-12) 6:30pm Confirmation	24 8:30am February Voice Mailing Crew	25	26 
27 8th Grade Led Service 10:30am McKee Baptism 6:30pm GS Men’s Group 	28	29 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg	30 12:30pm Quilting 6pm Light Snacks 6:30pm Shoulder to Shoulder Presentation (open to all)	31 1pm Bethany Riverside Birthday Party	February 1	2 
3 Scout Sunday Name Tag & Cookie Sunday sponsored by Boy Scouts Troop 22 9:30am Blood Pressure Readings 11:30am Praise & Worship Meeting 6:30pm GS Men’s Group 	4 To access the most up-to-date calendar visit GSlacrosse.org/calendar.	5 West Pastor Conference 1pm Lydia Circle 5:30pm Buildings & Grounds 6:30pm BS Troop 22 Adult Mtg 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg	6 12:30pm Quilting 6:30pm Youth Group (Gr. 9-12) 6:30pm Confirmation (service)	7 6pm WELCA	8	9 

Church Council Members

- **Don Skibba** *President of the Congregation* don@gs lacrosse.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@gs lacrosse.org
- **Rev. John Stennes-Spidahl** *Assistant Pastor* john@gs lacrosse.org
- **Rick Laufenberg** *Office Manager* rick@gs lacrosse.org | (608) 788-0450
- **Kathy Johnson** *Office Assistant* kathy@gs lacrosse.org
- **Tammy Klein** *Children's Ministry Coordinator* tammy@gs lacrosse.org
- **Stephanie Andersen** *Youth Ministry Coordinator* stephanie@gs lacrosse.org
- **Randy Lyden** *Music Director/Organist* randy@gs lacrosse.org | (608) 779-9669
- **Linda Jerome Bell** *Choir Director* linda@gs lacrosse.org
- **Karl & Jaime Greenfield** *Sanctuary Choir Directors* karl@gs lacrosse.org | (608) 790-3785
- **Darlene Lassig** *Volunteer Gloria Dei Choir Director* (608) 788-5686 | darlene@gs lacrosse.org
- **Bev Sorenson** *Volunteer Parish Nurse* bev@gs lacrosse.org
- **Bill Klein** *Custodian/Maintenance* bill@gs lacrosse.org

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

(608) 788-0450 | office@gs lacrosse.org | www.gs lacrosse.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,

First of all, bless you all for the donations of nonperishable food items for the Hintgen Elementary school. I will be continuing the food drive thru the holiday season. The school is very thankful. Second I want to encourage members to attend the Concert for the Souls in Feb. We are planning beautiful music for entertainment and we have a guest speaker arriving. Mark Hirsch, author of the book "That Tree" will give an inspirational talk. Mark is an inspiring speaker, photographer and artist. He will engage the audience and draw them in by incorporating his photography with personal and professional elements of his life. The men's group and WELCA women are planning a spaghetti dinner with desserts. More information about event and cost for tickets to come. Please consider this event on Feb. 24th proceeds to benefit flood relief victims in our area.

It is that time of year again. Happy New Year to you all! I came across an article written by Jeff Hayward called "Focused on Self Care, 6 New Year's resolutions." The article brings reality of self-care to a basic level. Maybe the article will bring your personal thoughts of resolutions back to the simple things in life.

We often lose focus of ourselves in our busy lives, which can lead to a negative impact on our mental and physical health. There is always something that is needed to be done for someone else. Well this year turn the spotlight back onto you. If you are still searching for a New Year's resolution, start by looking inward. What is it you really need to improve on. Which will then

translate across all areas of your life as well as your relationships with others. Here are six self-care promises for 2019.

One: Be Kinder to yourself.

The idea of setting weight loss goals is that you are implying you have failed and need to improve. While getting a bit of exercise and eating better can ultimately improve how you feel you shouldn't choose a resolution as a punishment for yourself. Ask yourself "Am I doing this for myself or for others?" Determine if your goals are for your own satisfaction and not to meet the standards of others.

Two: Embrace Sankalpa.

Sankalpa is rooted in the practice of yoga. It is aimed to guide us towards things that will make you happy, without changing your core self. The idea of Sankalpa is to believe you are already good enough to fulfill your dreams. Pretty positive way of thinking.

Three: Stop more often.

In 2019 try to stop more often. Put away the electronic devices. Move your less important meetings and find somewhere beautiful, a park, woods, kitchen and just sit. Take time for stillness regularly. This is a time for reflection and peace.

Four: Learn to appreciate your reflection.

We often focus on things we dislike about ourselves. We end up missing the features we should love. The idea that you are going to love everything about your appearance is unattainable. So why struggle with it? Take action for what you can do and forget about temporary setbacks. Have self-love.

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Bev Sorenson, RN

GS Volunteer Parish Nurse

bev@gs lacrosse.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

Happy New Year!

By the time you read this, the busy Christmas season of will be almost over. For our Sunday Schoolers, it was a chance to share and create and celebrate! It was also a time to learn...who really were the Magi? Why is telling the Shepherds first important? If Jesus was God's son, he was immortal, right? I bet the Sunday Schoolers all know the answers to these questions. Most important, that without Christmas there would have been no Easter!

Thank you to all the parents and children, but also all our volunteers for Sunday School who helped with everything. From stuffing treat bags, managing the "sheep and donkeys" to helping kids learn songs and parts, we are a family of those who are committed to fulfilling those promises made a baptism. And the children in the program and those who came to practices to help us out (even though they may not be able to be in the program) – YOU DID AWESOME! So cute, so talented, so filled with the Christmas Story! Remember to let these kids and volunteers know, if for just one small moment, they helped you to sit back and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.

January 6th, Sunday School classes resume and along with it comes some new dates to remember. There are always new events being planned as well. So watch for these to come up.

First Grade Prayer Blocks will be presented on January 20th at both services. Please register your 1st grader as a block will not be "named" if you do not register. Thank you again to Dave Kilmer who cuts and stains these handmade keepsakes. They are tangible reminders for our children that prayer can be anywhere. Registration forms will be available on January 6th on the stand between the Book Shelves outside the Mattes Center.

For those of you who are using the nursery during Sunday Services, it seems families are using the space more and more. For that reason, we will be putting Hymnals, Bibles and Bulletins for services on the counter in the nursery. We hope that this will enhance

your services if you need to take small children to the nursery and that you know you are still part of the services, even if you are down the hall a bit.

By the way, has your family visited the Library lately? We have new display shelves, a gift from the memorials of Dr. John Clements. They are BEAUTIFUL and thank you to Monty and Kevin and all those involved in building them. They are now displaying books that you can read while waiting for events, or take home and borrow to read at home. They are across from our Church Library, which also needs your visit with books, Videos and more to borrow for the whole family. There will also be a puzzle to work on for anyone interested in passing time or socializing with a few others. All part of our Church Family "Hospitality".

Finally, if you were able to get books from our Sunday School Book Fair, THANK YOU! We raised more than \$80.00 for Sunday School as well as adding over 25 new books and videos to our Church Library. Now that is a Win-Win blessing! Thank you all again!

I wish you all joy and peace and blessings for 2019!
Tammy Klein

LIBRARY Book Review, Check these out at the Good Shepherd Library:

God Made the Animals – This story is a hard page book made for small toddler's hands. It is a charming story of how God made the Animals. Each page a cut out mask so that not only do the children read about God creating a silly monkey, roly-poly hedgehog, hooting owl and mysterious bat, but they can put the mask up and pretend to be the animal themselves. Until the end, when God creates the baby! It is a reminder to children that God created us all, and that we are here to help take care of it.

Quick-Look

Upcoming Events At a Glance

December 30th	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL...HAPPY NEW YEAR
January 3rd	New Units available for Sunday School Staff pickup
January 6th	Return to Sunday School
January 20th	First Grade Milestone Ministry, Prayer Block Presentation



Love Without Limits, Author: Jaqueline A. Bussie - Dr. Jacqueline Bussie is an award-winning author, professor, theologian, public speaker, and student of life in all its messy beauty. Her books include *Love Without Limits* (2018) and *Outlaw Christian* (2016), which won the 2017 Gold Medal Illumination Award for Christian Living. Jacqueline teaches religion, theology, and interfaith studies classes at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, where she also serves as the Director of the Forum on Faith and Life. Every day she is amazed and grateful that she actually gets paid to do the three

things she loves most: 1) interact with incredible students, 2) write, and 3) try to make the world a more compassionate place.

This book speaks to the questions, How can we overthrow hate and heal hurt in today's divided world? The answer? According to Bussie, by learning to love as God Does – without limits or exceptions. Sometimes, it is not so easy to love your enemies and your neighbors. This book is about that love. And if it sounds familiar, it is because Pastor Harald previewed it for us during one of his most recent sermons.

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®.



Youth Update

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

"Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!" Psalms 133:1

Confirmation

In December, Confirmation students finished up learning the 10 commandments. The rest of the year will be spent making sure they can remember them in order to live by them! Weekly sessions focused on Exodus starting with God using Moses to free his people from Egypt followed by their journey in the desert where he provided the commands for his people to live by. We are looking forward to learning about the promised land in January and rest of what the old Testament has to offer. It was great to see how God gave the commandments to his people so long ago as we were finishing up learning them. We were able to discuss what a gift the commandments are as they provide use a guide for how to live our lives as Jesus would.

Service/fellowship night in December consisted of BINGO as always along with sending Christmas cards to our homebound members and church clean up projects. In fact, check out the Little Lutheran bags. They are freshly cleaned and stocked with supplies. One group enjoyed the rotary lights and our 8th graders completed their faith interview. I would like to **send a special thank you to Bev Sorenson, Joan Schultz and Barb Smyth** for volunteering their time and sharing their faith with you students. Students will use these interviews and lessons as they create their own faith statements.

High School Youth

Our high school youth continue to meet weekly using the Nooma video studies. In December we celebrated Christmas with fellowship, food and games in our annual Christmas party. It's always a great time as we invite back our Alumni and catch up on what they are doing.

Lifelong Learning

On Wednesday, January 30th, we will have a great opportunity to learn about the relationship between Christians and Muslims. Both Christian and Muslim members of Shoulder to Shoulder in La Crosse will present and discuss the similarities and difference between our religions. There will be a short presentation and question and answer time. With the growing Islamophobia in our nation, this is a great opportunity for us to learn about a culture different than our own, so we can know about and love our neighbors. This presentation is open to the congregation. Please come early for light snacks at 6pm. The presentation will begin at 6:30pm in the Mattes Center. Talk to Stephanie with any questions.
Stephanie@gslacrosse.org



Quick-Look

Upcoming Confirmation/Youth Group Events At a Glance

January 2nd	Promised Land (Joshua 2-4;7)
January 9th	Fellowship/Service Night BINGO - Corrine's group (5:45-7:30)
January 16th	Judges (Joshua 25; Judges 2, 4-8)
January 23rd	Ruth (Ruth 1-4)
January 27th	8th Grade Led Worship (10:30am only)
January 30th	Shoulder to Shoulder Presentation 6pm Light refreshments / 6:30pm Presentation
February 6th	Fellowship/Service Night BINGO - Makeup Night (5:45-7:30)
February 13th	Last day of Confirmation - Year review 8th Grade: All requirements due
February 20th	8th Graders: Faith Conversations with Pastor Harald and Stephanie
Wed. 6:30pm - 8pm	Youth Group - All High School Youth Invited
July 21-26th	High School Mission Trip: Quad Cities, Iowa



Stephanie Andersen

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

In the Office: Wednesday 4-8pm



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!



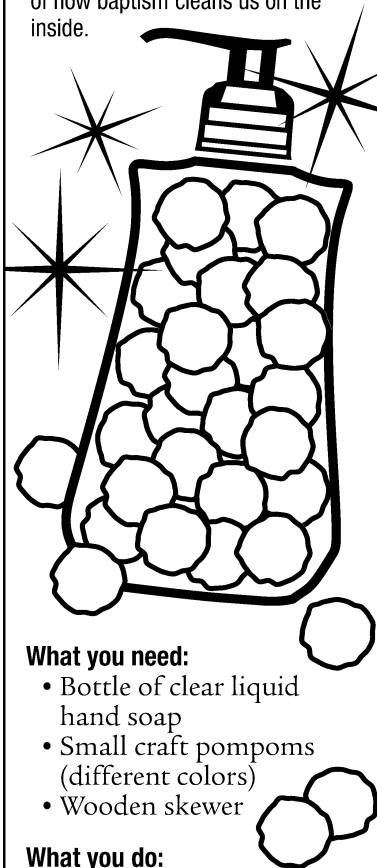
Randy Lyden

Good Shepherd Music Director
randy@gsilacrosse.org | (608) 779-9669



Washed Clean

Decorate a soap bottle as a reminder of how baptism cleans us on the inside.



What you need:

- Bottle of clear liquid hand soap
- Small craft pompoms (different colors)
- Wooden skewer

What you do:

1. Remove the bottle label and unscrew the lid.
2. Using the skewer, push pompoms down into the soap one at a time.
3. Replace the lid and put the dispenser in a bathroom or kitchen.

Continued from page 1.

Perhaps clowns can help lead the way in this New Year in helping us find creative kind ways to challenge hatred in our world today. In the words of David LaMotte:

"Seems that when you're fighting hatred, hatred's not the thing to use! So here's to those who march on in their big red floppy shoes."

Continue to have a blessed Christmas Season and may this New Year be the year that we all learn from those wearing big red floppy shoes.

Pastor Harald

To serve together with you all in ministry in the La Crosse area is a blessing in itself. But at this time, Andrea and I would like to thank you for the cards, the gifts, food and prayers, you have blessed us with this Christmas season. United as one by the Holy Spirit, may we together continue to reflect the light of Christ's love to this community and to all the world. God's blessings to you all in this New Year.

Pastor Harald and Andrea Bringsjord

Continued from page 13.

Five: Learn to say "No."

We often feel guilty when we feel like we are letting others down by refusing to give up our time. However if you keep saying yes, you are stretching yourself thin and using resources you may not have much of to begin with. It is ok to say no.

Six: Stop comparing yourself to others.

We are in the age when everyone's social media feeds are filled with engagements, fun trips, parties and so on. It is easy to become fixated on the happiness of others, while questioning why you don't have it so good. But chances are you do. Comparing yourself to others is a futile exercise. Remind yourself everyone has problems and struggles that they don't advertise publicly. I hope the New Year brings you good tidings, good health, and most of all peace. Choose a resolution that fits you best and remember the simply things in life are rewarding and nurturing to our souls.

Your Parish nurse,
Bev Sorenson.