



# Shephend's Voice Give. Serve. Lead. Connect.

#### January 2020

#### From Pastor Harald Bringsjord

I begin with a paraphrase of something I heard a while back.

When the Christmas carols are no longer playing, When the Christmas tree is taken down. When family and friends have left for home. When we have gone back to our usual routines and schedules, Then the work of Christmas begins: To welcome the stranger, To heal a broken world, To feed the hungry, To give shelter to the homeless, To build bridges of trust, To share our gifts, To seek justice and peace for all people, To bring Christ's light to the world.

As we begin another New Year, may Christmas accompany us in our daily living as we keep our focus on its meaning and continue to do the "work of Christmas."

I am reminded of my Letter of Call to this congregation that I received  $6\frac{1}{2}$ years ago. It states succinctly and clearly the "work" of a pastor but ties in closely with the "work of the people."

Here is an excerpt of the Letter of Call to Good Shepherd:

"We call you to exercise among us the ministry of Word and Sacrament which God has established and which the Holy Spirit empowers: To preach and teach the Word of God in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions; to administer Holy Baptism and Holy Communion; to lead us in worship, to proclaim the forgiveness of sins; to provide pastoral

care; to speak for justice in behalf of the poor and oppressed; to encourage persons to prepare for ministry of the Gospel; to impart knowledge of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and its wider ministry; to endeavor to increase support given by our congregation to the work of our whole church; to equip us for witness and service; and guide us in proclaiming God's love through word and deed....'

With this call, we (the congregation) pledge our prayers, love, esteem, and personal support for the sake of the ministry entrusted to you by God and for our ministry together in Christ's name...."

I look forward to another year working together as the people of God, continuing the work of Christmas each new day.

Thank you for your prayers, love, esteem, and personal support as you have shown it this season through cards, gifts, Christmas greetings, goodies and the many prayers that we have received. May we continue, as partners in Christ, to proclaim the good news of God through Christ our Lord in 2020.

Pastor Harald and Andrea Bringsjord





#### 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

#### 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 the church office.

#### Lydia Circle

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

#### **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 the church office at 788-0450

**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. 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!



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



**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.



#### 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 Kimberly Young for sending out the "Get Well" cards in December. Candie Luehne 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!

Chank You

#### **Ushers Schedule**

<ul><li>8:30am: Keith &amp; Mary Isaacs, Jim &amp; Sue Bugge, Vernon &amp; Peg Garves</li><li>10:30am: Jane Strangstalien, Tanya Hedberg, Judy Casto, Ron Lafrenz, Jeff &amp; Sharon Yushta</li></ul>
8:30am: Confirmation Students
10:30am: Confirmation Students
8:30am: Steve & Gina Fellenz, Carter, Aimee, Aidan & Mason Roth
<i>10:30am:</i> Garold & Kay Becker, Karl Noll, Teresa Opitz, Candie Luehne & Vicki DeMaiffe
8:30am: 8th Grade Led
10:30am: 8th Grade Led

#### **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



instrument you play,

welcomes vou! Please call

(608) 792-1305 or email

to be a part of this growing

and exciting praise band!

The Gloria Dei Choir

Hand Bell Choir

We rehearse between services on Sundays from September through May in the

always welcome! If your children would

like to be a part of the Gloria Dei Choir,

please contact Darlene Lassig at 788-5686

Mattes Center and new members are

randy@gslacrosse.org

"Sounds of Praise"

Randy Lyden at

#### **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



#### 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

#### 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 open hangout is Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm between September & June. You aren't the only Christian at your school! Come hangout with other awesome teens

just like vourself. Social events throughout the year along with a yearly mission trip. Want to learn more? Contact the Jen Servais at Jen@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 2019. We will be receiving the 2020 schedule soon. Dates will be posted then. 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. If anyone is interested, or has any questions, please feel free to contact Kimberly Young at (608)796-0099 or e-mail kkymm@gmail.com.

#### Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts & Scouting for Girls Meet at Good Shepherd

Cub Scouts—Pack 10 meets at 6pm, 2nd & 4th week on Tuesday's in the Mattes Center. Off over the summer.

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

Scouting for Girls meets at 6:45pm weekly on Tuesday's in the Mattes Center. Off over the summer.

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

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## or at darlene@gslacrosse.org. 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.

Date

11/03/19

11/10/19

11/17/19

11/24/19

Weekly Sunday Attendance

8:30am

134

107

107

115

# 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 November10 through December 15.

**Hintgen Food Project** 

John Wood Kris Bernhardt Dave Kranz Karla Soland Richard Figgie Norm & Joanne Jerome Sally Lindahl LeeAnn Lyden John & Pat Payne

#### WAFER

Jim & Sue Bugge John Wood Norm & Joanne Jerome



#### **Thrivent Choice Dollars**

Charles Brigson Monty Gilbertson Lora Busch Ione Harder

#### Giving Tree Carol Rask

#### WELCA

Thank you to all who contributed to our WELCA Sunday campaign! There are too many of you to list here, but because of your generosity Good Shepherd Women-WELCA received over \$1,600 to help them carry on their ministries within our church and our community.

#### ertson women-wELCA received over \$1,600 to help them carry on their ministries Envelope Offering Comparison

November 2019	November 2018	% Difference
25,829.26	29,378.31	-12.0%
YTD 2019	YTD 2018	% Difference
293,326.32	310,221.52	-5.4%

#### Weekly Envelope Offerings

Church Numbers

10:30am

168

110

90

89

Date	Weekly	% Budget
11/03/19	8,123.50	107.6%
11/10/19	5,812.00	77.0%
11/17/19	8,451.26	111.9%
11/24/19	3,442.50	45.6%
Totals	25,829.26	85.5%

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.



#### Donations of Required Minimum Distributions from Retirement Accounts

Did you know that you can make a donation of all or a portion of the Required Minimum Distribution from your retirement account to tax exempt charities such as Good Shepherd and your donation will be tax exempt?

Here's how it works. If a person is at least age  $70\frac{1}{2}$ , they must take at least a minimum distribution from their IRA or incur a penalty equal to one-half of the otherwise required minimum distribution amount. They may take more than the minimum at their discretion.



These individuals may instruct their IRA account manager to distribute any amount of their choosing to one or more tax exempt charities such as Good Shepherd.

When that is done, it is considered to be a tax exempt contribution. Good Shepherd would acknowledge to the giver the receipt of that contribution from their IRA. Also, this contribution is tax exempt even if the individual does not itemize deductions for income tax purposes because the IRA account manager would not identify this to the IRS as reportable income in accordance with the tax code.

For more information about Qualified Charitable Distributions, check out the Internal Revenue Service Publication 590-B, "Distributions from Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs)" or speak with your tax advisor.

# Around the Parish ...

#### Sunday Morning Bible Study Bishop election study guide and synod survey

The Sunday morning Bible study for January (January 12, 2020, between the first and second service) will be devoted to a group study and discussion of the questions in the 2020 Synod Survey to enable your participation.

Bishop Arends is retiring after serving twelve years. It will be very helpful for the synod committee on for the election of a new bishop to hear from as many people around the synod as possible. If you are interested in why we have a bishop, what the bishop does, and how our synod goes about calling a new bishop you are welcome to attend. We will review the synod's study guide and introduce the survey. The deadline for submitting the survey is January 15th. Hard copies of the survey will be available. It is also possible to complete the survey online. Both the study guide and survey can be accessed at the synod's website,

www.lacrosseareasynod.org/2020bishopelection.

I would encourage you to visit the site ahead of our gathering. Note: only voting members (the delegates to synod assembly who will be chosen at our annual meeting) will be able to participate in the nominating caucus, which will be held March 15th. However, anyone may suggest a potential candidate for your voting member to nominate. Candidates for bishop must be rostered pastors of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We are hoping for a good turnout for this discussion. Therefore, we will gather in the back pews near the welcome area.

Thank you, Pastor John Stennes-Spidahl

#### Good Shepherd Women-WELCA

WELCA welcomes all women from our congregation to be part of this committee. We normally meet the first Thursday of the month, however there is no meeting in January.

#### **Blood Pressure Readings**

Blood pressure readings will be taken on Sunday, January 5th at 9:30am by our Parish Nurses, Cody & Kerstin Nedegaard.

#### **High School Youth**

High School Youth Open-Hang Out is every Wednesday at 6:30pm in the Youth Room.

#### Lydia Circle

Our meeting will be Tuesday, January 7th at 1pm in the quilt room. All women of Good Shepherd are invited and encouraged to attend and bring a friend! Please call Carol Abraham 787-0679 with questions.

#### Game Night

Game Night for all ages is Friday, January 10th from 6 - 9pm. Bring your favorite game or learn a new one. Games vary, but include a variety of board, card, and other games. Contact Duane at 787-1038 or Tom or Stephanie at 385-7394 with questions.

#### **Bunco Night**

Friday, January 17th from 6pm-9ish in the Mattes Center. Potluck supper and a evening of Bunco. Please bring a \$5 wrapped gift to exchange. The theme: "Winter Wonderland".

#### Birthday Party at Bethany Riverside

Please join us Thurs, Jan. 30th at 1pm to help the residents with January birthdays celebrate! Also, there are tags on the Giving Tree to purchase presents for them. Call Judy for more info 788-4335 or jmckitties@aol.com

#### **Good Shepherd Annual Meeting**

On Sunday, February 9th we will be holding our Annual Meeting in the Mattes Center, starting at noon. Thank you!

#### Blankets of Kindness Event

Saturday, February 15th from 9am till 3pm, we will be making blankets for children who are in the hospital that need something soft to wrap themselves in for comfort. We hope you can attend and help in making blankets for these children. Thank you!

#### **Caring for Souls Concert**

Join us for our 5th annual concert featuring Renee Splichal Larson as our special guest speaker and music from the Central High School choirs that Ben had participated in. The concert will be on Sunday, February 23rd at 2pm. and proceeds will benefit local charities. Hope to see you there!

# Around the Parish ...

#### **Come for Supper**

GSlacrosse.org

Come for Supper provides nutritious free meals every Tuesday at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Good Shepherd is committed to helping the last Tuesday every other month, but anyone can help at 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 we are usually done by 6:30. For more information contact Judy Casto at 608-385-1410 or the church office. The next date for Good Shepherd to help is Tuesday, February 25th.

#### **Grief Support**

Good Shepherd Grief Support Group meets every Thursday at 1:30pm in the Choir Room to support and encourage one another in our grief. If you are interested in joining us, please call Carol Abraham at 787-0679 or Pastor Harald at 788-0450.

#### 55+ Lunch Bunch

We are a bunch of seniors who get together for lunch once a month. Come enjoy a reasonably priced meal with a short devotion from Pastor at the King Street Kitchen at 11:30am on the third Thursday of the month. Couples and singles welcome to share in our camaraderie. Please join us, as they say, the more the merrier!

#### **Hingten Food Project**

Please continue your support by providing food for needy children from Hingten school for the weekends. Shopping lists are available on the bulletin board for your use, or make a monetary donation noting "Hintgen Food Project" in the memo line.

#### Shop Amazon Smile and donate to Good Shepherd at the same time!

Shop smile.amazon.com and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases to Good Shepherd! For more information and to get started click the "Shop AmazonSmile!" link on our homepage at www.gslacrosse.org. We are listed as Good Shepherd English when selecting your charitable organization.

#### **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 as well as our Core Values which are Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Formation, Risk-taking Mission/Service and Extravagant Generosity. Applications are due in the office by Friday, January 3rd.

#### **Buy Youth Scrip Cards!**

There are literally thousands of retailers to choose from with the Scrip gift card fundraiser program! See a youth rep in the concourse to put in your order and payment or contact Jennifer jones6307@gmail.com or 608.518.1228. You can always stop by the table on Sunday's and see what we have in stock to take home that day! All proceeds benefit GSLC Youth Group for mission trips.

#### GivePlus, A New Way To Contribute!

To get started, download GivePlus Church for free from the App Store or Google Play. Simply search for "GivePlus Church" to quickly find and download the app today. Then, you can easily make donations directly from your smartphone using your debit/credit card or checking/savings account. You can also choose to donate as a guest or set up an account that allows you to securely and conveniently schedule recurring donations and manage and review your giving history. We hope you enjoy this new way to contribute to our ministry, and thank you for your support.

This same service is available via our website, www.gslacrosse.org! Go to *Give* on the top menu bar, then click *Online*, then the *Click here to Give* link and sign in to GivePlus, or create an account if you do not already have one. The process is quick, easy and most importantly secure!

# January 2020



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.

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
December 29	30	31	January 1	2	3	4	
NO Sunday School 8:30am Ceaser Baptism 6:30pm GS Men's Group		New Years Eve Office Closed	New Years Day Office Closed NO Quilting 6:30pm HS Open Hang Out NO Confirmation	1:30pm Grief Support Group NO WELCA			Þ
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
Name Tag & Cookie Sunday sponsored by Membership 9:30am Blood Pressure Readings 6:30pm GS Men's Group	6pm Trust Foundation	West Pastor Conference 1pm Lydia Circle 5:30pm Buildings & Grounds 6:30pm BS Troop 22 Adult Mtg. 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Meeting 6:45pm Scouting for Girls	10am Staff Meeting 12:30pm Quilting 6:30pm HS Open Hang Out 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Adult Bible Study	1:30pm Grief Support Group	6pm Game Night		, for
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
Sunday School Pajama Day 9:40am Sunday Morning Bible Study 4pm 4-H Meeting 6:30pm GS Men's Group TBA G4Squad Event		1:45pm Hillview Communion 6pm Cub Scout Pack 10 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Meeting 6:45pm Scouting for Girls	12:30pm Quilting 6:30pm HS Open Hang Out 6:30pm Confirmation	11:30am 55 Plus 1:30pm Grief Support Group 6pm Hospitality Meeting	February Voice & Annual Reports Due 6pm Bunko Theme "Winter Wonderland"		
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
1st Grade Milestone   6:30pm GS Men's Group   유유 기 单	5:30pm Finance 6:30pm MGF Meeting 6:30pm Hintgen Assoc. Meeting	6pm Parish Ed Meeting 6pm Admin/Exec Meeting 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Meeting 6:45pm Scouting for Girls 7pm Church Council	12:30pm Quilting 6:30pm HS Open Hang Out 6:30pm Confirmation	8:30am February Voice Mailing Crew 1:30pm Grief Support Group			jį,
26	27	28	29	30	31	February 1	
8th Grade Led Service 10:30am Zube Baptism 6:30pm GS Men's Group		6pm Cub Scout Pack 10 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Meeting 6:45pm Scouting for Girls	12:30pm Quilting 6:30pm HS Open Hang Out 6:30pm Confirmation	1pm Bethany Riverside Birthday Party 1:30pm Grief Support Group			, k
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2 Scout Sunday Name Tag & Cookie Sunday sponsored by Boy Scouts Troop 22 9:30am Blood Pressure Readings 6:30pm GS Men's Group	3	4 West Pastor Conference 1pm Lydia Circle 5:30pm Buildings & Grounds 6:30pm BS Troop 22 Adult Mtg. 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Meeting 6:45pm Scouting for Girls	5 12:30pm Quilting 6:30pm HS Open Hang Out 6:30pm Confirmation	6 1:30pm Grief Support Group 6pm WELCA Meeting	7	8	
<u></u> ** ♪	To access the	e most up-to-date c	alendar visit GSlad	crosse.org/calen	lar.		, de

# Church Council Members

- Jim Bugge President of the Congregation jim@gslacrosse.org
- Sara Wrobel Vice President of the Congregation
- Todd Holtz Treasurer
- Ladd DaFoe Secretary

Other Church Council Members include:

Don Skibba, Lori Lowell, Wayne Atchley, Roger Weeks Jr., Sally Lindahl, Tim Stalsberg, Jessica Addington, Janet Torkelson, Ellen Klemp, & John Krause



- Rev. Harald Bringsjord Senior Pastor prharald@gslacrosse.org
- Rev. John Stennes-Spidahl Assistant Pastor prjohn@gslacrosse.org
- Rick Laufenberg Office Manager rick@gslacrosse.org 788-0450
- Kathy Johnson Office Assistant kathy@gslacrosse.org
- Tammy Klein Children's Ministry Coordinator tammy@gslacrosse.org
- Jen Servais Coordinator of Youth and Family Ministry jen@gslacrosse.org

- Randy Lyden Music Director/ Organist randy@gslacrosse.org (608) 792-1305
- Linda Jerome Bell Choir Director linda@gslacrosse.org
- Karl & Jaime Greenfield Sanctuary Choir Directors karl@gslacrosse.org 790-3785
- **Darlene Lassig** Volunteer Gloria Dei Choir Director 788-5686 darlene@gslacrosse.org
- Cody Nedegaard Kerstin Gruntzel Volunteer Parish Nurses Cody Kerstin@gslacrosse.org
- Bill Klein Custodian 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

#### Greetings,

Due to a drastic rise in colon cancer among young adults, I thought I would focus this month's article around the topic. Colon cancer is a malignancy that begins in the colon. The colon, is a large intestine near the end of the digestive system. After food passes through the stomach and small intestine, the colon is responsible for removing fluid and some nutrients from the food you eat.

GSlacrosse.org

Colon cancers usually begin as benign polyps. Polyps are growths on the lining of the colon, or large intestine. These growths or polyps can produce symptoms such as bleeding, constipation, or blood in the stool. Often times these growths show no symptoms at all, so people may not know that they have them. The best way to detect the presence of polyps is through a routine colonoscopy. Colonoscopies are recommended for those 50 and older, but with an increasing occurrence of colon cancer in younger adults, your primary physician may recommend you get a colonoscopy at a younger age. Risk factors for colon cancer include, obesity, smoking, high fat diets, alcohol consumption, and family history of colon cancer. If you experience any of the previous stated symptoms, or know that you carry any of these risk factors, you may want to speak with your primary physician about being screened.

Take care,

Cody and Kerstin Nedegaard



### Cody Nedegaard & Kerstin Gruntzel

GS Volunteer Parish Nurses

Cody\_Kerstin@gslacrosse.org

**Health Questions?** 

Gundersen Telephone Nurse Advisor



### Sunday School Update Pre-school thru Grade 5

Welcome to the New Year!

2020—it sounds funny to a child of the 60's. When I hear "the 20's" I think "roaring 20's" But here we are, 2020, and to start things off, I think I will thank all those wonderful volunteers who have helped to staff Sunday School for the first half of the year. We will soon be looking to next year, so please consider filling our empty staffing positions.

Speaking of Blessings and Thanks you's, Thank you to all the kids and volunteers for a beautiful Christmas Nativity Pageant this year! Special thanks to Randy Lyden, Nancy Lawrynk, Lyndon Torkelson, Bill Klein, Ava Krause, Kylie Klein, Keith Klein, Colin Smith, and all the parents and staff of Sunday School. And to our wonderful, talented, loving, hard working, brave and giving Sunday Schoolers I want to say how awesome you all are! I hope the memory of your gift of the Christmas Story to the congregation lasts a lifetime!

Now, moving on to the events coming up: January 5th is our first day back and we are declaring Pajama Day in Sunday School. Please wear your shoes and socks to protect feet from anything on the floors, but wear your favorite jammies to be comfortable the first day back as we start our Jesus Feeds the 5, 000 story from the book of John. Yep, we are in the new testament after Christmas. As your kids ask why we call it the New Testament, they know that we Celebrate Jesus's birth with the first book of the Gospels.

January 19th will also be our 1st Graders' Milestone. Dave Kilmer has prayer blocks all ready to stamp for each. Don't forget to register! Send me an email with who will come up front with your first grader and what service you will attend.

February 16th will be our 2nd Grade Prayer pillows. Please email the same information as this day approaches. Due to the costs of materials, we only prepare Milestones for registered students. But we have one for all! Now to some serious business! As I get a little older, and my own children have become adults, I often think about what I would change if I could. Of course, I would have had 10 more children (breathe Bill, we only have 2!). I would have learned to knit. I would have started running when I had good knees, and I would have been more involved in my church family much earlier.

Why? Well, during the past 21 years, Bill and I have had the joy to watch our family grow as part of Good Shepherd. We have had ups and downs, like any family, but when we needed it most, our kids, Bill and myself have had love, support, friendship, and kindness given to us by those we worship with. Even when we disagree, the love is there. You can't replace that!

I encourage everyone to take part in our fellowship events, our opportunities to volunteer, our Sunday School and Youth Groups. Experience getting to know our inter -generational congregation full of personalities, people and experiences that come from all walks of life and with all the trappings of a true family.

As you do, you and your family will be surrounded with years of support, joy, kindness, heartfelt discussion and always a place to go where you are loved and reminded of the Love God has for you. Pick 2 things to be involved with this year. If you have youth, bring them... share your time and children at Sunday School. Sign up to help with Church Spring Clean-up, join the Choir..... Take Part and at the same time, get to know YOUR FAMILY!

Thank you, for sharing your family with mine! Happiest of New Years!

Tammy



Q	uick-Look
Upcoming	Events At a Glance

January 5th	PAJAMA DAY! Jesus feeds the 5,000: Art, Games and Computer
January 19th	1st Grade Milestone—Prayer Blocks
January 26th	Mary and Martha: Kitchen, Cinema, Science
February 16th	2nd Grade Milestone—Prayer Pillows
February 16th	The Lost Sheep and Lost Coin: Games, Art and Computer
February 23rd	Lenten Project /Ash Wednesday Feb 26th

#### The Twelve Days of Christmas

The 12 days of Christmas is the period that in Christian theology marks the span between the birth of Christ and the coming of the Magi, the three wise men. It begins on December 25th (Christmas) and runs through January 6th (the Epiphany, sometimes also called Three Kings' Day).

- The Partridge in the Pear Tree is Jesus Christ.
- The 2 Turtle Doves are The Old and New Testaments.
- The 3 French hens are Faith, Hope, and Charity, the theological virtues.
- The 4 Calling Birds are the four gospels and/or the four evangelists.
- The 5 Golden Rings are the first five books of the Old Testament.
- The 6 Geese A-laying are the six days of creation.
- The 7 Swans A-swimming are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments.
- The 8 Maids A-milking are the eight beatitudes.
- The 9 Ladies Dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit.
- The 10 Lords A-leaping are the ten commandments.
- The 11 Pipers Piping are the eleven faithful apostles.
- The 12 Drummers Drumming are the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed

### **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)* 

"So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." ~Romans 12:5



#### Happy New Year!

We have spent the last couple of months learning about several people in the Bible and how they changed the events of our history. We are also important characters in an epic story and our lives should reflect that. To demonstrate this idea, the confirmation students were given \$5.00 and a challenge to use their imaginations to change someone's life. The ideas students came up with were amazing! Between the 20 students, they fed several families, helped a new family at the Salvation Army with personal care items, provided homemade toys for animals at the Humane Society and helped a local child get their own bed to sleep on. Students were surprised to learn how much food costs, what things provide the most nutrition for the least amount of money, how difficult it is to navigate around a grocery store, and how besides food, how important it is to have things like toothbrushes and soap. One of our 6<sup>th</sup> graders, Amelia, took her challenge to a whole new level by asking others to match her \$5.00 and donating it to Sleep in Heavenly Peace, an organization that builds and delivers beds to children who do not have a bed in our community. Not only did she raise money, but she went along to deliver the bed and helped assemble it at the family's home. She was able to see firsthand the effect of her contribution and witnessed first-hand the

joy and gratitude involved for such an incredible gift. Not only did she change a life, hers was changed as well. All in all, the kids learned it doesn't take much more than some imagination and a minimal amount of money to make a difference in someone's life. I have a renewed sense of hope for what the future holds for our world with these kids and the grace they showed through this activity!

As we move into 2020, our 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be finishing up their confirmation journeys. They will be working on their faith statements, confirmation banners and crosses. They will be reflecting on what their faith has meant to them and how they have grown over the past several years. I pray that over that time they have learned to see how they share a common bond with the various people they have learned about in the Bible. Experiencing some of the same feelings, triumphs, setbacks and faith lessons...see themselves as part of an amazing story that continues through the course of time, not as a bystander but as active children of God.

Peace, Jen



# Quick-Look Upcoming Confirmation/Youth Group Events At a Glance

Wednesday, December 25th Wednesday, January 1st	NO Confirmation/HS Open Hang Out 6:30-8pm Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Wednesday, January 8th	6:30 Confirmation / HS Open Hang Out
Wednesday, January 15th	6:30 Confirmation / HS Open Hang Out
Wednesday, January 22nd	6:30 Confirmation / HS Open Hang Out
Sunday, January 26th	8th grade led services at 8:30 and 10:30am
Wednesday, January 29th	6:30 Confirmation / HS Open Hang Out

#### **Buy Youth Scrip Cards!**

For everyday use buy VISA or Amazon scrip, or a card for your favorite restaurant. Get a Kwik Trip card for gassing up your vehicles. Planning a vacation this coming year? Hotel gift cards! **There are literally thousands of retailers to choose from with the Scrip gift card fundraiser program!** See a youth rep in the concourse to put in your order and payment or contact Jennifer at jones6307@gmail.com or 608.518.1228. You can always stop by the table and see what we have in stock to take home today too! All proceeds benefit GSLC Youth Group for mission trips.



#### Jen Servais

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

In the Office: Varied hours



Music Notes From the Director of Music

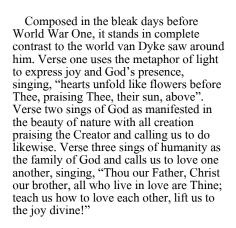
#### Hymn Focus: Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

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

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

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

Randy Lyden Good Shepherd Music Director randy@gslacrosse.org | (608) 792-1305





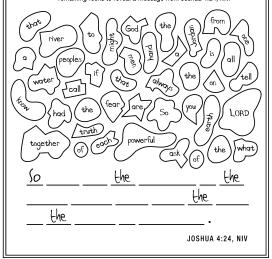


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When Joshua and the Israelites crossed the Jordan River, they set up stones for a special reason.

Directions: Shade all the rocks that aren't completely rounded. Unscramble the remaining rocks to reveal a message from Joshua 4:24, NIV.



Answer: So that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful. Joshua 4:24, NIV



Thank you to everyone who helped with the Thanksgiving Eve Pie Fest! There were a lot of people in attendance and all your work was greatly appreciated!

Also, thank you to everyone who donated Christmas gifts from the Caring Tree for nursing home residents, they were so pleased with them! I went to Benedictine Nursing Home on the day they had their party, and it was amazing seeing all of their smiles when they opened their gifts. Once again Good Shepherd went over and above with their generosity!

-Candie Luehne



Recently members of our congregation have received emails that appear to be from Pastor Harald requesting them to buy gift cards for him for charitable purposes and stating that he will reimburse them later. THIS IS A SCAM!!

The scammer is using an address that is similar to Pastor Harald's. His real address is prharald@gslacrosse.org, the scammer has chosen

prharald.gslacrosse@gmail.com in an attempt to fool people into thinking it is real. Please disregard any emails from this address or any emails from Pastor or the church requesting you to purchase anything, or to give money in any way outside of the church. He, nor any member of the staff would never make such a request, so feel confident in hitting the delete button.

It is sad that people would try to take advantage of church members by pretending to be their pastor, but these unfortunately are the times we live in. Always be cautious in responding to emails or phone calls that request money from you, weather they are claiming to be with the IRS, Social Security Administration, one of your utility companies, a family member, or even your pastor; they most likely are a scam.

If something doesn't feel right, it probably isn't. Double check and verify before sending any cash requested, and if you have any doubt at all, do not send it.