



Shepherd's Voice

Give. Serve. Lead. Connect.

April 2020

From Pastor Harald Bringsjord

What does it mean to be the Church in general and specifically the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church? There is a great deal of care we put into the buildings we own and use, we are stewards of what we are entrusted with as a congregation. Yet so often we identify ourselves with the building that we gather in to worship. But when we are told to not gather because of a deadly virus, we are facing new and unknown challenges. How can we and will we continue to be Good Shepherd Lutheran Church?

These past few days, that has been a question spinning around in my head. Our face-to-face meetings have been suspended in order to help curb the spread of COVID-19. Yet we are still Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. We are still God's people in a time of crisis when we can't gather to pray, worship, and comfort each other face to face. We are facing a tremendous challenge in this ever-changing situation. Our being-the-church will, for the foreseeable future, have to be one that is characterized by contacts through electronic means, phone calls, and letters.

A wonderful song by Jay Beech that I have sung a few times in the children's sermon takes on new meaning. It more than ever speaks to our situation right now.

The song goes as follows:

*We are the Church;
the body of our Lord;
We are all God's children.
We have been restored.*

*The Church is not a building,
where people go to pray.
It's not made out of sticks and stones, it's
not made out of clay.*

*You can go to worship
but you cannot go to Church;
You can't find a building that's alive
no matter how you search.*

*The Church is not a business,
a committee or a board.
It's not a corporation
for the business of the Lord.*

*The Church, it is the people,
living out their lives;
Called, enlightened, sanctified
for the work of Jesus Christ.*

Text and Music by Jay Beech; copyright 1988 Jay Beach Printed by permission One license & Augsburg license

Being reminded what it means to be the Church, here are some of our plans going into the future during this COVID-19 pandemic:

Continued on page 8.



Facebook.com/GSlacrosse



Twitter.com/goodshepherdls



GSlacrosse.org/voice

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

It is
the Lord
who goes
before you.
He will
be with you;
he will not fail you
or forsake you.
Do not fear
or be dismayed."

Deuteronomy 31:8 (NRSV)

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

loved one. If you have any questions on sponsoring the flowers or bulletins, please contact Kathy or Rick in the church office at (608)788-0450.



Readers & Ushers Appreciated!

Readers and Ushers are always valued at our worship services. Please consider signing up on the sign up sheet in the welcome area at the back of the sanctuary. You can sign up to read for a

time and day that works for you. The readings will be sent (either by mail or email) to you early that week. Interested in ushering? Contact 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 the church office.



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 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.

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 March, Rich Frosch & Linda Schoen. For the month of April Al & Kathy Johnson and Stacy Bendel will be on duty.

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

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

Apr 5	
Apr 12	All services are canceled until further notice. Kathy will contact all ushers with dates and times as soon as services resume.
Apr 19	
Apr 26	

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) 792-1305 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 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 yourself. 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

The new schedule has been posted. Our week to deliver is Monday, April 27th to Sunday, May 3rd. The yellow bus is up and ready for you to sign up. 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 for deliveries. 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 Side Dishes (rice, potato, helper mixes) during the month of April. Thank you for all the donations given in March.

Please leave all donations in the grocery cart near our bulletin boards in the Welcome Area. A monetary gift may also be given to help support WAFER. Simply make your check out to Good Shepherd, and indicate WAFER in the check memo.

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 kkymmm@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.

Stewardship

Memorials & Special Gifts

Good Shepherd gratefully acknowledges and sincerely appreciates your gifts over and above your regular giving. The following gifts were received from February 23 through March 15.

Hintgen Food Project

John Wood
Michael & Sally Lindahl
Jim & Sue Bugge
Jim & Jan Quinn
Kris Bernhardt
Rick & Barb Doering
John & Naomi Stennes-Spidahl

Youth Ministry

Shirley Holman
Todd & Leisa Fergot



Sugar Creek Horse Project

Brenna Weeks
Caitlin Weeks
Harald & Andrea Bringsjord
Diane Kimball
John & Naomi Stennes-Spidahl

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Lois Gilbertson
Alicia Rose Place
Reidun Bringsjord
Monty Gilbertson
Charles Brigson
Ione Harder
Linda Brigson
Mark Torgerud
Lora Busch

Lutheran Disaster Response

John & Naomi Stennes-Spidahl

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 70½, 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.



Church Numbers

Weekly Sunday Attendance

Date	8:30am	10:30am
02/02/20	106	106
02/09/20	21	21
02/16/20	128	94
02/23/20	129	110

Weekly Envelope Offerings

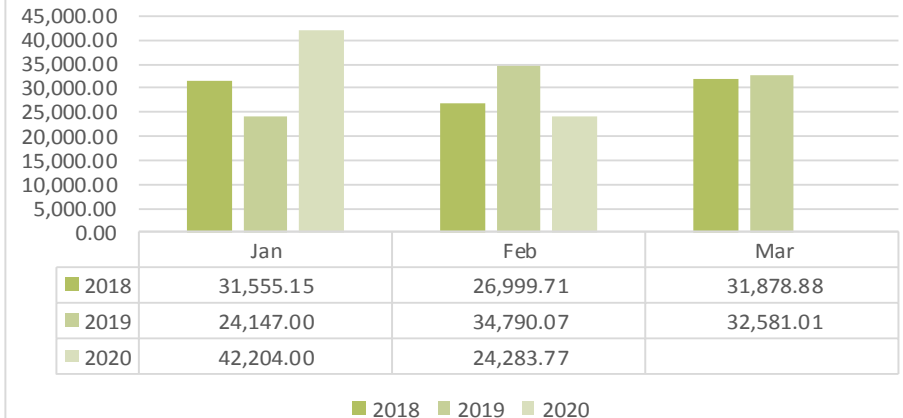
Date	Weekly	% Budget
02/02/20	6,861.50	90.9%
02/09/20	1,699.50	22.5%
02/16/20	7,173.00	.95%
02/23/20	8,549.77	113.3%
Totals	24,283.77	80.4%

Envelope Offering Comparison

February 2020	February 2019	% Difference
24,283.77	34,790.07	-30.2%
YTD 2020	YTD 2019	% Difference
66,487.77	58,937.07	12.9%

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

Envelope Offerings



Around the Parish...

Continued from page 1.

On March 22, a group of a pastors from Our Savior's, English, and Good Shepherd Lutheran Churches including me, gathered at Our Savior's Lutheran Church to stream an online worship service (at 9am). Our Savior's has been streaming services for some time and graciously allowed us to participate. It is a wonderful gift to be a part of a larger body of Christ through the La Crosse Area Synod and through the ELCA.

The following Sundays, we are planning on continuing to participate in this service. Links to view the service are available on our website "gslacrosse.org" and through our Facebook page "Good Shepherd Lutheran Church." There will only be a few of us gathering because of the COVID-19 virus.

Know that during this challenging time, even though the office is closed, the Good Shepherd staff will be working diligently to help us stay connected with God and one another. In these uncertain days, we continue to trust that God is indeed with us.

As we look toward Easter, we are reminded of Mary Magdalene and the other Mary going to the tomb and experiencing an earthquake. An angel of the Lord descended from heaven and rolled back the stone.... The guards at the tomb fell to the ground and the angel of the Lord said to the women, "DO NOT BE AFRAID.... for Jesus who was crucified ... has been raised."

Our lives may feel like an earthquake because of COVID-19, but know that the Easter message is good news for us in the midst of uncertainty. I invite you to pray fervently and heed the words of the angel: "DO NOT BE AFRAID.... for Jesus who was crucified ... has been raised."

Though we are called to not be afraid, we are also called to be diligent in caring for ourselves and our neighbors, so remember to follow the recommendations of the professionals who are trying to keep us safe: the CDC, the WHO, our States Department of Health and Human Services, and not least our dedicated local medical professionals.

Finally, a number of you have asked about offerings and how we can continue to support the church with our tithes and offerings. Our Office Manager Rick Laufenberg wrote this to help guide us during this time:

For those who are able and wish to continue their regular offerings through these times, you can mail your offering to Good Shepherd at 4141 Mormon Coulee Rd., or give online via our website at <http://gslacrosse.org/give-online/>

You can also download the "GivePlus Church" app for free from the App Store or Google Play. This app will allow you to easily make donations from your smartphone using your debit/credit card or checking/savings account.

Thank you all for all you do as a friend or member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church! God's peace and blessings to everyone.

Christ has risen, and this is our hope.
Pastor Harald

Opportunity to help our medical professionals

Any sewers in the congregation that would be willing to sew face masks for our CNAs and nurses please contact Pastor Lisa Shank at lshank@eaglecrestlife.org

Basically, it's a 9x12 piece folded and sewn with elastic on the ends, and optionally, a lightweight Pellon fabric between. Flannel is recommended, if using material from your stash, please use 100% cotton. She has some fabric, Pellon and elastic available as well as the pattern if anyone wants to arrange a pick up. If you don't have elastic, you could put on two pairs of ties that would tie behind the head.

Around the Parish...

Some things to remember from Bishop Arends and assistant to the Bishop Pastor Libby Howe

1. Our decisions are guided by our love for one another; we are more interested in caring for the neighbor and most vulnerable than we are in simply protecting ourselves.
2. Every decision is made within and for a community and context. When our decisions differ, we will not disparage one another.
3. Now is the time to get more comfortable (if you're not already) praying on the phone with people; not just saying "I'll keep you in my prayers," but praying with them as they can hear you.
4. Get off the computer, especially social media, for some time each day.
5. When you are tired, rest. When you need a friend, reach out. It's okay to need and ask for help.

Since this is a first-time pandemic for all of us we are fumbling through it, making our way as we go, grace upon grace upon grace is for you and yours. Be gentle with yourselves and others. We will do our very best to keep you informed and connected to one another. Most importantly, you are not alone.

In Christian love,
Bishop Jim Arends and Pastor Libby Howe

Stop the Spread of COVID-19

- *Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- *Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care (call first)
- *Practice good personal health habits (#WashYourHands)
- *Avoid touching your face (eyes, nose, and mouth)
- *Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue
- *Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects daily

www.nfild.org/coronaviruses



Good Shepherd Scholarships

The JL Mattes, Anderson and Good Shepherd Trust Foundation scholarships have been established with gifts given by, or in memory of: Pastor JL Mattes, Lyle & Norma Anderson, and Carlin & Ethel Dahler. The Good Shepherd WELCA scholarship is funded by The Women of Good Shepherd – WELCA. Any Good Shepherd member who is pursuing a technical college, college or graduate degree is invited to apply by sending a letter of application to the Good Shepherd Scholarship Committee. The letter should include the following information:

- Name, address and phone number
- College you are attending or will be attending in the fall of 2020
- Year you are in school
- Major, including the reason you chose this area of study
- GPA and copy of latest transcript or report card
- Community Activities
- Past and Present Church Involvement
- Future Goals
- Letter of recommendation

Letters must be received by April 30, 2020 and should be mailed to:

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Attn: Scholarship Committee
4141 Mormon Coulee Rd.
La Crosse, WI 54601

*Applicants need only send one Letter of Application to be considered for all scholarships.

April 2020



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.

8:30 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
March 22 As of March 24 the church offices are temporarily closed, but mail and voice messages will continue to be checked daily. Please check your email, our website, and Facebook page for updates as we navigate our way through this next month. Committees are encouraged to continue to meet via email, by phone or by video conference. Please observe all public health and safety recommendations and stay healthy!	23 All worship services and face-to-face meetings have been canceled until further notice.	24 All worship services and face-to-face meetings have been canceled until further notice.	25 All worship services and face-to-face meetings have been canceled until further notice.	26 All worship services and face-to-face meetings have been canceled until further notice.	27 All worship services and face-to-face meetings have been canceled until further notice.	28 All worship services and face-to-face meetings have been canceled until further notice.
29	30	31	April 1	2	3	4
5 Palm Sunday	6 6pm Trust Foundation	7 Polling Day	8	9 Maundy Thurs	10 Good Friday	11
12 Easter Sunday	13	14	15	16	17 May Voice Articles Due	18
19	20 5:30pm Finance 6:30pm MGF Mtg	21 6pm Parish Ed Meeting 6pm Admin/Exec Meeting 7pm Church Council Mtg	22	23	24	25
26 9:45am Care Ministry	27 All worship services and face-to-face meetings have been canceled until further notice.	28 All worship services and face-to-face meetings have been canceled until further notice.	29 All worship services and face-to-face meetings have been canceled until further notice.	30 All worship services and face-to-face meetings have been canceled until further notice.	May 1	2
As of March 24 the church offices are temporarily closed, but mail and voice messages will continue to be checked daily. Please check your email, our website, and Facebook page for updates as we navigate our way through this next month. Committees are encouraged to continue to meet via email, by phone or by video conference. Please observe all public health and safety recommendations and stay healthy!	As of March 24 the church offices are temporarily closed, but mail and voice messages will continue to be checked daily. Please check your email, our website, and Facebook page for updates as we navigate our way through this next month. Committees are encouraged to continue to meet via email, by phone or by video conference. Please observe all public health and safety recommendations and stay healthy!	As of March 24 the church offices are temporarily closed, but mail and voice messages will continue to be checked daily. Please check your email, our website, and Facebook page for updates as we navigate our way through this next month. Committees are encouraged to continue to meet via email, by phone or by video conference. Please observe all public health and safety recommendations and stay healthy!	As of March 24 the church offices are temporarily closed, but mail and voice messages will continue to be checked daily. Please check your email, our website, and Facebook page for updates as we navigate our way through this next month. Committees are encouraged to continue to meet via email, by phone or by video conference. Please observe all public health and safety recommendations and stay healthy!	As of March 24 the church offices are temporarily closed, but mail and voice messages will continue to be checked daily. Please check your email, our website, and Facebook page for updates as we navigate our way through this next month. Committees are encouraged to continue to meet via email, by phone or by video conference. Please observe all public health and safety recommendations and stay healthy!	As of March 24 the church offices are temporarily closed, but mail and voice messages will continue to be checked daily. Please check your email, our website, and Facebook page for updates as we navigate our way through this next month. Committees are encouraged to continue to meet via email, by phone or by video conference. Please observe all public health and safety recommendations and stay healthy!	As of March 24 the church offices are temporarily closed, but mail and voice messages will continue to be checked daily. Please check your email, our website, and Facebook page for updates as we navigate our way through this next month. Committees are encouraged to continue to meet via email, by phone or by video conference. Please observe all public health and safety recommendations and stay healthy!

Church Council Members

- **Jim Bugge** *President of the Congregation* jim@gs lacrosse.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@gs lacrosse.org
- **Rev. John Stennes-Spidahl** *Assistant Pastor* prjohn@gs lacrosse.org
- **Rick Laufenberg** *Office Manager* rick@gs lacrosse.org 788-0450
- **Kathy Johnson** *Office Assistant* kathy@gs lacrosse.org
- **Tammy Klein** *Children's Ministry Coordinator* tammy@gs lacrosse.org
- **Jen Servais** *Coordinator of Youth and Family Ministry* jen@gs lacrosse.org
- **Randy Lyden** *Music Director/Organist* randy@gs lacrosse.org (608) 792-1305
- **Linda Jerome Bell** *Choir Director* linda@gs lacrosse.org
- **Karl & Jaime Greenfield** *Sanctuary Choir Directors* karl@gs lacrosse.org 790-3785
- **Darlene Lassig** *Volunteer Gloria Dei Choir Director* 788-5686 darlene@gs lacrosse.org
- **Cody Nedegaard** **Kerstin Gruntzel** *Volunteer Parish Nurses* Cody_Kerstin@gs lacrosse.org
- **Bill Klein** *Custodian* 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

Greetings,

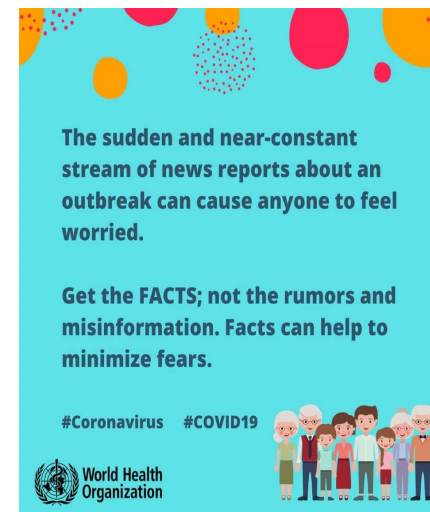
With the current outbreak of COVID-19 (coronavirus), we decided to focus this month's article on it. According to the CDC, coronaviruses originate in animals, specifically camels, and bats. These viruses are usually not transmissible to humans, but occasionally the virus mutates and can pass from animal to humans, and then from human to human as is the case with COVID-19.

Reported illnesses have ranged from mild symptoms to severe illness and death for COVID-19 cases. Symptoms can appear 2-14 days after exposure and include: fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Older adults, and people who have underlying medical conditions, like heart or lung disease, or diabetes are at a higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19. If you come in close contact with someone with COVID-19 or you are in a community where there is an ongoing spread (such as La Crosse), and develop symptoms, call your healthcare provider and inform them of your symptoms and exposure. They will decide whether you need to be tested, but keep in mind that there is no treatment for COVID-19 and people who are mildly ill may be able to isolate and care for themselves at home.

The best way to prevent the illness is to avoid being exposed. The virus is spread from person-to-person through respiratory droplets, so keep in mind social distancing

(keeping yourself 6 feet away from another person). Clean your hands often using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Stay home, and stay safe.

Take Care,
Cody and Kerstin Nedegaard



Cody Nedegaard & Kerstin Gruntzel

GS Volunteer Parish Nurses

Cody_Kerstin@gs lacrosse.org

Health Questions?

Gundersen Telephone Nurse Advisor



Sunday School Update

Pre-school thru Grade 5

A Letter to our Sunday Schoolers,

I hope you are all remembering to wash your hands and say your prayers! You know, a lot of changes have happened in just the past week or two. Change is going on all around us. We are staying home more, doing school a different way, the seasons are changing and so is Sunday School!

First, let's talk about what is staying the same! Our Lent Project is still going on and I hope you are all filling your "Piggy Banks" with your self denials. You should have plenty to pick from....and remember, we have someone matching our donation to the Hintgen Meal Program which is our project of giving this year. An anonymous donor who will match up to \$200 raised by Sunday Schoolers as long as at least ½ of our children participate in the giving. Through God, we too can feed many, but please do not bring small fish to Sunday School! (please explain Fishes and Loaves to your family). If you did not get a Piggy Bank or handouts, they will be available starting Thursday, 3/26/2020 in the Little Library at Good Shepherd's Birch Street entrance.

Now for a little change – For Palm Sunday, we are going to do something a little different. I will send out the instructions to make your own, Family Resurrection Eggs. This is one of my favorite things to share with you all each year, and we can do it together. I will email you all the instructions and hand outs. Then on Palm Sunday, lets get together - more instructions to come – and share the story together.

Finally – for all our 5th graders, we are not cancelling our First Communion and Seder Ceremony, we are just postponing. As soon as we are able to gather together, we will plan a celebration for you all. This is one of my favorite events each year and my chance to "graduate" you all to Confirmation. I always cry a little at the thought of you all

getting older, but rejoice in you all growing more in your relationship with God and his words. We will celebrate, just changing up the date.

Remember – you are loved, you are missed, but most of all, you are all healthy and I thank God for that. We have had some strange happenings in the Klein Family, but we are so grateful to have our family healthy and blessed. Things may get a little boring, and stressful, but remember that God is with us and watches over us. And Wash your Hands and Say Your Prayers, cause Jesus and Germs Are Everywhere!

NOW FOR YOU PARENTS: If you do not get an email from me, it is because I do not have it. Please send it to me at tammy@gslacrosse.org. I have lots of ideas (from my teaching years) to send you to help with your time in self quarantine. Also, our Sunday School lessons will continue. Hopefully on Facebook, in a little different way. AND, because "This, too, shall pass..."

Sunday School 2020-2021 staff commitment sign-ups are coming out soon. We begin now hoping to have all our spaces filled by the end of the School Year and before Summer begins. If we do not have enough volunteers for both services, we will need to adjust our schedules a bit. We have over 63 children on our attendance sheets each year. And, there are always friends that attend with kids who pop in now and then. So much fun to see the kids grow in their relationships through the years and to welcome these guests back from grade to grade. If you are NOT a parent of a Sunday Schooler, please consider volunteering. It gives the children a bigger view of their Good Shepherd family. I promise, it is not difficult and with our 3 weeks on / 3 weeks off schedule, you get plenty of time to attend services!

Continued on next page.

Quick-Look

Upcoming Events At a Glance

	All meetings and group activities have been canceled until further notice. Please check our website and Facebook page for the most recent updates.

Save the Date! PAULS GREAT ADVENTURE – ATHENS VBS –

August 16-20. Imagine leaving a life of privilege, power and influence to angry mobs, agonizing imprisonment, and chain-breaking earthquakes—all to share the life-altering truth of God's heart for humanity. Hear the awe-inspiring story of the Apostle Paul...straight from Paul himself! In an ancient "anything goes" culture, Paul will inspire kids to share the truth of God's boundless love and grace! The Mattes Center will be transformed to a Greece Market Place, watch for sign-ups and registrations coming in the next months!

Stay Healthy, stay positive, stay focused on the fact that for our families, we are together in spirit and love.

Tammy, Bill, Kylie and Keith!



Good Shepherd VBS 2020 ATHENS

Paul's Dangerous Journey

Tentatively August 16-20, 2020
Registration Forms Available Soon!
God Loves Us All...

*God Loves us and Takes Care of Us...
God Loves Us When Others Don't....
God Loves Us and Sent His Son, Jesus...
God Loves Us and Wants Us to Share His Love....*



Tammy Klein

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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)*

*"Just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their action."
Matthew 7:20*



One of my favorite parts of this job is seeing our Good Shepherds kids out and about in the community doing great things. It seems like every event I attend, there is GS kid to cheer for! I watched Kaitlyn and Kaylee Lenser show off their skills in the championships of the field hockey tournament, cheered on Sienna, Sam, Quinn, and Porter on the basketball court, read about Dawson's and Julia's success on the snowy mountain, and watched a ton of our kids walk across the gym to receive their varsity letters at the fall and winter sports banquets. Some of our athletes even earned all-academic awards! It doesn't stop there, I attended the All-City Orchestra Concert last week and listened as many of our kids filled the center with their amazing music...there were SO many Good Shepherd kids performing! The point is many of our kids are contributing to the world in positive ways. We should be proud of all their efforts and continue to support them as they continue to make their mark in the community.

Due to COVID-19, all G4Squad activities are on hold. As soon as we can, we will resume activities. In the meantime, try and enjoy your time with kids. I realize most people are working during the day but with our evenings free of the hustle and bustle of practice drop off/pick up and loads of homework it is a good time to reconnect with your teens. Don't be afraid to implement a device free hour in the evening! Get out the board or card games! Don't dismiss how stressful and scary this situation can be for our kids. Remind them it is during these times that our faith can provide comfort and reassurance.

Blessed by the Best...and so are you!
Jen



Quick-Look

Upcoming Confirmation/Youth Group Events At a Glance

	All meetings and group activities have been canceled until further notice. Please check our website and Facebook page for the most recent updates.

Buy Youth Scrip Cards!

Want to help support the G4Squad? BUY SCRIPT CARDS!!! If you are planning on buying anyone a gift card for the holiday season order it from Good Shepherd. Need gas or groceries? Get your Kwik Trip, Festival, and Walmart cards from Good Shepherd. There are a ton of cards in stock and there is a short turnaround time if we need to order it. Talk to the student representative in the back of the church!



Jen Servais

Director of Youth and Family Ministry

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In the Office: *Varied hours*



Music Notes

From The Director of Music

Hymn Focus: Now Thank We All Our God

When we think of the hymn “Now Thank We All Our God”, we think of singing it at Thanksgiving Eve services with the anticipation of an abundant feast the next day (and left-overs for some days to come). In fact, the circumstances surrounding the writing this hymn were quite the opposite.

The author of this hymn, Martin Rinkhart (1586-1649), was born in Eilenburg, Saxony and served as archdeacon there for most of his career. He attended the Latin school in Eilenburg and in 1601 became a foundation scholar and chorister of the St Thomas's School in Leipzig. He studied Theology at the University of Leipzig and took his M.A. there in 1616. He was appointed archdeacon of Eilenburg in 1617.

During the Thirty Years War (1618-1648) the walled city of Eilenburg became overcrowded with refugees from all around and suffered from pestilence and famine. Rinkhart's home was a refuge for the victims even though it was often difficult for him to provide for his own family. During the plague of 1637, after two other ministers died, he became Eilenburg's sole surviving minister, officiating at over 40 funerals per day (including that of his own wife) and over 4000 in all. The following year he himself became sick and soon after that a severe famine broke out, during which he helped organize emergency relief for the town.

It was in this setting of suffering, sickness and famine that Rinkhart penned the hymn “Now Thank We All Our God”. It is inspiring that, in the face of such hardship and dire need, he remained thankful to God, choosing instead to focus on God's blessings rather than his own sufferings. The hymn, along with the tune composed by Johann Cruger (1598-1662), appears in the second edition (1663) of Rinkhart's *Jesu Herz-Buchlein* (*Sacred Heart Book*) under the title “Tisch Gebetlein” (“Short Table Prayer”), suggesting it was originally meant to be sung as a meal prayer.



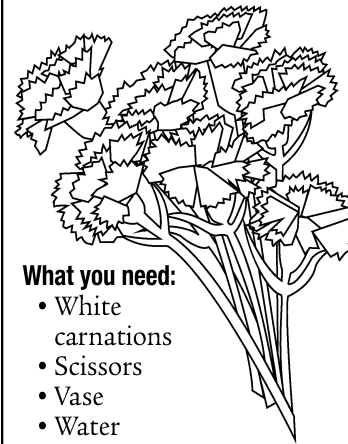
Randy Lyden

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Scripture AND NATURE

Conduct a simple experiment to illustrate Easter's meaning.



What you need:

- White carnations
- Scissors
- Vase
- Water
- Red food coloring
- Bible

What you do:

1. Cut the carnation stems (at an angle) to about 8 inches long.
2. Fill the vase halfway with water. Add 10 drops of food coloring. (More may be needed to darken the water.)
3. Add the cut flowers and observe what happens to the petals over time.
4. Discuss how this is like Jesus' work on the cross. Read 1 Peter 2:22-24 (NIV) and reflect on what his death means for us.
5. To learn more about this experiment, research capillary action.

PUZZLE

Picturing the Lord's Supper

Jesus ate the Passover meal with his disciples as a symbol of the new covenant.



Directions: Use the picture clues to fill in key words from Luke 22:19-20, NIV.

And he took _____, gave _____ and _____ it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my _____ given for you; do this in _____ of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This _____ is the new _____ in my blood, which is _____ out for you."

LUKE 22:19-20, NIV

Answer: bread, thanks, broke, body, remembrance, cup, covenant, poured



Dear Friends at Good Shepherd:

March 16, 2020

With the schools closing for at least the next three weeks, the backpack portion of the Hintgen Food Program is on hold. I took the remaining money gift cards that I had and I was able to purchase 25, \$25 gift cards for the families to purchase food only at Festival. Hopefully, they will be able to purchase their own peanut butter, veggies, fruits, soup, macaroni and cheese and anything else to sustain their weekends. I believe the school district is planning to find a way to continue to feed the children during the week. I am working with Hintgen to address future needs should school remain closed. Perhaps we could offer food boxes on Saturdays in a drive through format. This will all be down the road. In the meantime, please continue to donate money to the program as you are able. I literally depleted my reserves to buy the 25 gift cards. We won't resume until after Easter, which gives us a chance to build things back up again.

Do you ever wonder if this is really helping these families? Parent Conferences were just held at Hintgen on March 9. These quotes are from some of the families receiving the food:

"These food bags have helped me and my family get through the weekend because we know my children will always get breakfast and lunch at school, but not always at home."

"I like how the church/school puts in as much nutritious food as they can. It also makes it easier for my children to learn not to be picky."

"I know I can count on getting these bags every week and that provides me with so much security that me and my kids will get to have enough food for the weekend."

"One thing I appreciate is knowing that this food is coming from such great organizations like Good Shepherd and Hintgen."

And this one from Fall conferences:

"My paycheck ran out on Thursday and I couldn't get the paycheck from my second job until Monday. I was so worried about food for the weekend. Then my child brought home a backpack with enough food to feed both of us for the weekend. Thank you!"

We are making a real difference in these kids' lives. To be able to facilitate this program is an honor. Thank you to each of you who has helped make this work through support, food and prayers. No child chooses to go to bed hungry. I will let you know in the bulletin when I can resume backpacks. In the meantime, we will still accept food and monetary donations because, the poorest of these families will likely be out of work and need our help more than ever.

I am going to list the foods that go the farthest so you folks know what the school is hoping for:

One backpack contains: 2 boxes Mac and Cheese, 1 can of tuna in water, 1 pkg of Knorr pasta sides (Alfredo), 1 jar 14-16 oz. of peanut butter, 1 box of wheat crackers, 1 can of vegetables (corn, peas or beans usually), 1 can of tomato or chicken noodle soup or canned pasta like mini ravioli or pork and beans, and 1 24 oz. jar of applesauce or 1 can of fruit in juice. We've tried more or less of some of these things and found that weight is a factor. This is what a kid can carry.

Thank you to all the quiet people who help make this happen every week on our church's behalf.

Take pride that we are doing the right thing here,

Sally Lindahl

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