



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

November 2020

#### From Pastor Harald Bringsjord

November is a full month for the Church and for the Country. All Saints Day is celebrated on the first day of November. It is the day the Church has designated to remember those who have died since the last All Saint's Day, and we will continue this practice even during this pandemic in our online worship. Tuesday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November, is Election Day. On this day we will shape the course of the country with our votes as we select who will be in elected positions of leadership locally and nationally. On November 10<sup>th</sup> in 1483, Martin Luther, the great figure of the Reformation, was born. November 11th is Veterans Day, where we remember the sacrifices and the great commitment untold men and women have made and continue to make for our country. November  $22^{nd}$  is Christ the King Sunday, the final Sunday of the church year, the day we celebrate Christ as King, Christ as Creator of the galaxies, the firstborn of the dead, the head of the Church and our Savior. And this year, November 26<sup>th</sup> on the fourth Thursday in November, is the holiday of Thanksgiving here in America, taking us back to remembering a time in 1621 where during a difficult winter 55 of the first 101 pilgrims died, but how in the spring the Pilgrims and the native people shared the food they had raised or hunted and gave thanks. It also reminds us to give thanks not only for the native people and pilgrims coming together in 1621 but also to remind ourselves that there is much that we can

be thankful for as we find ways to connect even during a pandemic.

And so this month, thanks be to God for elections and the freedom to vote. for all the Saints, for Martin Luther, for our Veterans, for Christ our King and Savior, and for this Country. I give personal thanks as well, for 60 years ago this month I was born into a loving family.

Even though this took place in October, I want to also give thanks to all who have participated either with the \$10,000.00 challenge gifts or with sending in your financial intents for 2021. We surpassed our goal of 196 participants, and as of today 221 have been received. If you haven't sent your intent form in yet, you are still welcome to do so.

May the peace of God which passes all understanding keep all your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus our Lord throughout this month and always.

In Christ,

Pastor Harald





GSlacrosse.org/voice

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

# From our President

Members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Council, thank you for all the support of our Stewardship's "Ministry Without Bounds" campaign. The council is especially thankful for meeting our goal of at least 196 Intent Cards being returned. As a result of those returned Intent Cards, Good Shepherd will receive two donations of \$10,000.

Special thanks to the two anonymous donors for their generosity. Your donations will give our "Ministry Without Bounds" a great jump start.

Again, thank you everyone for all your support of Good Shepherd's ministry.

God Bless and Stay Safe, Jim Bugge President of the Congregation

# From our President & Vice President

Dear Members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,

We send you greetings of hope while we cannot be together as a church family. Please find spiritual sustenance through the online bible study that Pastor John is holding Sundays at 10:15 via Zoom, joining Pastor Harald on Sundays at 9am for online worship, or attending our Drive-In Service with communion at 4pm on Saturday November 14th. If you'd like, give the church office or another member a call for a friendly chat, and most of all visit the website for what's happening at Good Shepherd.

Currently, the church remains in Stage 3, closed until further information from health and government organizations. We continue to monitor La Crosse County Health Department and CDC recommendations as local data tells us that we should continue to limit our interactions with others as much as possible. As soon as conditions improve for the required timeframe, then an established plan for reopening buildings can be followed.

We thank you for your phone calls, emails and most of all patience as we navigate this unprecedented time.

Yours in Christ, Jim Bugge, President of the Congregation Sara Wrobel, Vice President of the Congregation



#### Thank You All So Very Much...

Altar Guild—Thank you to the members who served during the month of October, Al & Kathy Johnson & Linda Schoen. For the month of November Pat Oliver & Irene Thorelli will be on duty if we have any services.

Thank you Kathy Johnson for sending out the "Get Well" cards in October. Kathy Johnson will be sending out the cards throughout the month of November.

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





Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

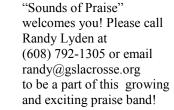
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



#### **Calling All Musicians!**

Page 4

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



The Gloria Dei Choir

We rehearse between services on Sundays

always welcome! If your children would

like to be a part of the Gloria Dei Choir,

please contact Darlene Lassig at 788-5686

from September through May in the Mattes Center and new members are

or at darlene@gslacrosse.org.

or at linda@gslacrosse.org.

instrument you play,



#### Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

#### The Sanctuary Choir

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 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!



#### Mobile Meals of La Crosse

Thank you to all who delivered meals in September. Our last week of 2020 will be Nov. 2nd to Nov. 8th. All of these days filled! Thank you everyone for your help!

Mobile Meals of La Crosse delivers 33,000 meals yearly 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**

Since our building is closed, we are not collecting food for WAFER at this time.

To continue your support of WAFER, you can give a monetary gift. Simply make your check out to Good Shepherd. indicate WAFER in the check memo, and mail your check to us.

#### 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.

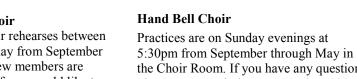
Boy Scouts—Troop 22 meets at 6:45pm weekly on Tuesday's in the Mattes Center. Off over the summer.

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.

the Choir Room. If you have any questions please contact Linda Jerome at 317-1335

The Sanctuary Choir rehearses between



# Stewardship

#### **Memorials & Special Gifts**

Good Shepherd gratefully acknowledges and sincerely appreciates your gifts over and above your regular giving. The following gifts were received from September 22 through October 19.

**Hintgen Food Project** 

Rob & Dianne Hamann Norm & Joanne Jerome Veron & Peg Garves Sandra Demoran Sherrill Munson Jim & Jan Quinn Don & Jackie Meyer Rick Frosch



WAFER Norm & Joanne Jerome

WELCA Don & Jackie Meyer

Helen (Rusty) Moore Memorial Don & Jackie Meyer

**Rev. Roger Hjelle Memorial** Luanne Hjelle

Shank

#### **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<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>, 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
09/06/20	No Service	No Service
09/13/20	No Service	No Service
09/20/20	No Service	No Service
09/27/20	No Service	No Service

#### **Envelope Offering Comparison**

September 2020	September 2019	% Difference
\$35,864.06	\$29,102.37	23.2%
YTD 2020	YTD 2019	% Difference

#### Weekly Envelope Offerings

Date	Weekly	% Budget
09/06/20	\$5,325.41	70.5%
09/13/20	\$8,913.65	118.0%
09/20/20	\$9,669.50	128.0%
09/27/20	\$11,955.50	158.3%
Totals	\$35,864.06	118.7%

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.



# Around the Parish ...

#### Mark Your Calendar!

Our next Drive-In Worship with Communion will be held on Saturday, Nov. 14th at 4pm. Come a bit early to get your parking spot and tune your car radio to 107.1 FM. Bulletins will be handed out in the main parking lot, but if you would like to print your own it can be downloaded at <u>http://</u> <u>gslacrosse.org/upcoming-worship-services/</u>

#### **Online Worship**

Join us in worship online Sundays at 9am. The services are streamed live from Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Members will receive an email reminder of the service the day of worship with a link to join. You can also join by going to http://gslacrosse.org/live/

#### Sunday Morning Bible Study

Pastor John is leading a Bible Study via Zoom at 10:15am every Sunday. We will continue to meet this way until we can resume services here at church. For more information on joining in our study go to http://gslacrosse.org/sunday-bible-study/

#### **Church Contributions**

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.

Another option is to email

Rick@gslacrosse.org and request to sign up for our Simply Giving program. A form will be sent to you to fill out and return setting regularly scheduled electronic transfers from your checking or 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.

#### "God's work. Our hands." Event

This year the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church GWOH Event will be a Food Drive for the Hintgen Food Program. Through this ongoing program, children in need at Hintgen Elementary are provided with food for the weekend when they otherwise may go hungry. The collection will take place on Saturday, November 14 at 4 p.m. in conjunction with the Drive-In Worship Service in our parking lot.

Please see the list below of needed food items provided by the staff at Hintgen Elementary School. Monetary donations are also welcome. Please write **GWOH** Hintgen on the memo line of your check.

We will be collecting food items and monetary donations once you're parked for the service and as you exit the parking lot after the service. Masks and gloves will be worn for your protection.

If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer to help, please call Lori Lowell at 608-386-3388, 608-788-7315, or email her at lori@gslacrosse.org

Creamy Peanut Butter (40 oz.) Macaroni and Cheese (7.25 oz.) Canned Vegetables (15 oz.) Applesauce (plain or cinnamon, 48 oz.) Canned Tuna (5 oz.) Canned Chicken (12.5 oz.) Soups (Tomato or Chicken Noodle best, 15 oz.) Pancake Mix (just add water type) Pasta side dishes Canned Mini Ravioli, Spaghetti, etc.

#### Shop Amazon Smile instead of Amazon 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, go to: http://gslacrosse.org/6030-2/

#### http://gstacrosse.org/6050-2/

When selecting your charitable organization search 23-7014481 or use and bookmark the following link: <u>smile.amazon.com</u>



# Around the Parish ...

#### Student Desks Needed:

Many students at Southern Bluffs elementary school who have to do their work from home are looking for desks. These are low income families who can't afford much and would greatly appreciate your help if you have any desks you could donate, bearing in mind these are elementary students. Becky Lueck is the school counselor and her phone number is 789-5128 if you can help.

#### Help Feed The Children At Hintgen

Through our Hintgen Food Program, children in need at Hintgen Elementary are provided with food for the weekend when they otherwise may go hungry. Since we are not accepting food donations during the shutdown, please consider a monetary donation to the program.

It costs approximately \$250 per week to meet their current needs in providing food to over 20 families of students in need. Checks should be made payable to Good Shepherd and please indicate Hintgen Food Project in the memo line.

This program truly makes a difference in the lives of these students, please help us out if you can!



*Ministry Without Bounds* continues in Good Shepherd as the weather grows cooler and our days grow shorter as fall then winter arrive. Mark your calendar to join these upcoming services! All Drive-In Services offer communion except Thanksgiving.

**Inclement Weather Plan:** If it is sleeting, snowed 2+ inches, or the temperature or wind-chill is below zero that evening's Drive-In Service is cancelled.

November 14<sup>th</sup> - Drive in Services at 4pm November 25<sup>th</sup> - Thanksgiving Eve: Drive-In Service at 5pm Online Service from Our Savior's 6:30pm December 24<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Eve: Online Service from Our Savior's 4pm Drive-In Services at 5, 6:15 and 7:30pm December 25<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Day: Online Service from Our Savior's 9:30am

# November 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.

Online Worship Sunday's at 9A.M. Join us at <u>http://gslacrosse.org/live/</u>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
November 1	2	3 Polling	4	5	6	7
9am Online Worship 10:15am Bible Study via Zoom			6:30pm Confirmation via Zoom			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9am Online Worship 10:15am Bible Study via Zoom			6:30pm Confirmation via Zoom		November Voice Article Due	2pm Weller Baptism (outside) 4pm Drive In Service
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9am Online Worship 10:15am Bible Study via Zoom		6pm Admin/Exec Meeting 7pm Church Council Meeting	6:30pm Confirmation via Zoom			
22	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28
9am Online Worship 10:15am Bible Study via Zoom			5pm Thanksgiving Eve Drive In Service (no communion)	Office Closed	Office Closed	
29	30	December 1	2	3	4	5
9am Online Worship 10:15am Bible Study via Zoom			6:30pm Confirmation via Zoom			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9am Online Worship 10:15am Bible Study via Zoom			6:30pm Confirmation via Zoom			
			ce meetings have been can	-		
website, ar	nd Facebook page for t	updates as we navigate our v	messages will continue to b ay through this next month. Il public health and safety re	Committees are encourd	ged to continue to	r meet

## Church Council Members

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

Other Church Council Members include: Wayne Atchley, Roger Weeks Jr., Tim Stalsberg, Jessica Addington, Janet Torkelson, Ladd DaFoe, John Krause, Thea Johnson, Mark Skolos, Harlan McLain, Pastor Harald & Karina Bronson (Youth Rep.)

**GSlacrosse.org** 

- 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,

With the cold temps approaching and November being COPD awareness month, we thought we would focus our article on such. According to the CDC, COPD refers to a group of diseases that cause airflow blockage and breathing related problems. COPD consists of emphysema, and chronic bronchitis. COPD makes breathing difficult for more than 16 million Americans.

Chronic bronchitis is inflammation of the lining of the bronchial tubes, which carry air in the lungs. It is characterized by daily cough and mucus production. Emphysema is a condition in which the alveoli in the lungs are destroyed as a result of damaging exposure to cigarette smoke and other irritating gases and particulate matter.

COPD symptoms often don't appear until significant lung damage has occurred. Symptoms include shortness of breath, wheezing, chest tightness, chronic productive cough, lack of energy, unintended weight loss, swelling in the ankles. Those with COPD are more likely to catch colds, the flu, and pneumonia. Although COPD is a progressive disease that gets worse over time, it is treatable. Many people have mild forms of COPD for which little therapy is needed other than smoking cessation. There are several kinds of medication used to treat the symptoms and complications of COPD. Those with moderate or severe COPD may require oxygen therapy.

If you or a loved one feel you may be affected by COPD, please reach out to your primary care provider.

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

#### Hello Everyone,

Alas, it was only a year ago, that this month's article for the voice would have had wrap ups and start-ups for so many different children's and family activities. The holidays are approaching fast and my heart, though it aches for all the kids and families I miss each week, I am also excited to spend time on Facebook Live with you each week. Just friend me to be included in the Sunday Lessons, or watch them when you can from the Church Facebook as I have saved them there. If you need materials, or have run out, please let me know. I can always provide what you need except for food items, and get them to you safely!

I am grateful for my porch and the option for safe delivery of Sunday School and VBS materials which keep our kids faith experiences going. I am thankful for the support of the Church council, and my fellow staff, for the support they give as we navigate these unchartered waters. I am so very thankful to Randy, Pastor, Rick, Karl, Kathy, Al, Reed, Tim, Wendy, Sara & Luke for standing out in the Sun and Wind so we can gather for Drive In Services (this is a must do if you haven't! These gatherings have lightened my heart.)

We were so excited to have handed out our first milestones for the Preschoolers and Kindergarten students. If you did not receive yours yet, please do not worry. I still have your materials and milestones at church ready for pick up and will also be available to safe delivery if arrangements can be made.

Coming up November, 14<sup>th</sup>, we will be presenting our 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders with their Bibles at the Drive-In Service with communion. I will deliver to parents at the car and you can give to your student during the presentation. Yes, we do have a Milestone Presentation portion in the service. Please send me your email address for the registration if we do not have it on file. I need spellings of name for the Bible Book Plate we place in each Bible.

Coming up for December, please watch for messages and emails regarding our COVID Christmas Program, a Saturday of Projects and stories to share with myself in place of Christmas Capers and I will take any help or ideas you have. I would also love your feedback. This is all new to me, no fooling! I was not prepared to teach this way, so let me know if you have any needs, tips, ideas, etc.

Sincerely in Christ,

Tammy Klein



Quick-Look		
Upcoming	Events At a Glance	

October 25 - November 15	Unit 2: Queen Esther Esther 2:5-18, 3:1-6, 8:1-17 Paper Games, Wax Resist Watercolor, Peanuts the Movie or Peter Rabbit, Tart Crowns and Clothes make the Lizard
November 22 – Dec. 20	The Star Numbers 24-17, Matthew 2:2, 7, 9-10 Paper Star Ornaments, Salt Dough Ornament – texture, The Star Movie (2017), Online Christmas Play if Possible
Nov. 29, Dec. 27or Jan 3	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

#### Preschool and Kindergarten Milestone Recipients Tote bags —3 year old, Story DVD —4 Year old and

Sunday School Song CD ---Kindergarten

Louis Addington	Jack Heberlein	Faye Addington
Violet Kohlstedt	Hailey Doering	Lucy Flores
Meir Mickelson	Jarek Johnson	Gloria Greenfield
Emmett Peterson	Jade Laszewski	Elaina Mills
Jackson Peterson	Alaya Marnach	Holland Scoville
Barrett Zube	Sawyer Russell	Russell Witzke
Logan Waller	MacKenna Torkelson	TJ Venner
Harrison Balko	Jace Thompson	Julian Thompson
Evelyn Haefs		

#### **3rd Grade Bible Recipients**

Ryan Venner, Charlie Bulua, Mackenzie Candahl, Aerith Scoville, Liam Johnson, Caiden Villand and Steven Andersen

(Please let me know if we missed anyone, these would be ages as of 8/31/2020)

#### **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)

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." Hebrew 13:2

This year we are having the Confirmation kids choose the Bible verse we look up each week. This month, Annabelle shared the Hebrew verse above. A special verse passed on from her grandparents about the importance of always being kind.



Have you ever faced a problem or situation you thought was impossible to overcome? Some examples of this in the lives of our teens include the ever impossible math problem, trying to catch the person ahead of you in a cross country race, overcoming a deficit during a basketball game or finding the speed to get to base after a hit in baseball or softball. The point is, we have all been in a situation we thought was impossible or insurmountable. This brings us to the story of Ezekiel and the Valley of the Dry Bones. In this story, Ezekiel is desperate to overcome the Babylonians and reclaim Israel but the situation seems hopeless. He finds himself in a place surrounded by bones and God asks Ezekiel if he thinks the bones can become alive again. Ever the optimist, Ezekiel doesn't say "no way" or "impossible," he says "only God alone knows." God then tells Ezekiel to command the bones to come to life, with muscles, skin and breath and they did! What does this story mean for us? Our Confirmation kids talked about how having faith means trusting God even when things seem impossible. Having faith means keeping an open mind to the plan God has for us. How does this look in our lives? Our teens felt it meant believing in God and ourselves when things get hard, to never lose hope, and to always trust in God. It also means to be

active in our faith by not just waiting for God to make things happen but work to actively live the life he wants us to live... being kind, just, and faithful. I will admit that the prospect of zoom Confirmation seemed a little impossible when we started...I wasn't sure if I could make it meaningful and if it would work the way I hoped. I probably wasn't as optimistic as Ezekiel...and yet, I find myself logging off every Wednesday with a smile on face, a heart full of gratitude and a soul full of hope from our time together. If you have the opportunity to hang out and talk to one of our teens, you should! They are thoughtful, kind, funny kids and they probably teach me just as much about my own faith as I hope to teach them. We will once again be doing our 5 dollar challenge during the month of November so stay tuned for the amazing things our teens will do with that small amount of money!

In Peace! Jen

We are going to be Ezekiel-like optimists about attending the National Youth Gathering next summer. You can help support our youth in this quest by buying Script cards! These make great Christmas gifts! Contact Corrine Holtz to get your orders in!

# Quick-Look

Upcoming Confirmation/Youth Group Events At a Glance

Wednesday evenings 6:30pm	Confirmation zoom classes lasting for approximately 30-45 minutes.



#### **Snow flurries means**

#### Christmas is on its way!!

Having troubles trying to decide what to buy? Make it easy on yourself and support the Youth Group at the same time by purchasing scrip cards.

Contact me to see what I currently have on hand or fill out an order form to request cards from Amazon to WalMart with several store or restaurant options in between.

3 Easy Steps are:

- 1. Print and fill out the Order Form from the church website.
- 2. Write your check out to Good Shepherd Youth Group for the amount you wish to order.
- 3. Submit your completed order form and payment to the church office or me.

The orders will be compiled and placed the first week of the month. The church office has Kwik Trip cards available for immediate purchase. My contact information is:

Corrine Holtz: Mobile-608-397-9353 or Email-tcjj23511@gmail.com

#### 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

#### Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn; Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light: Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand" was written by African-American jazz pianist and songwriter Thomas Andrew Dorsev (1899-1993). Born in Villa Rica, Georgia, he was raised in Atlanta from the age of five. His father was a Baptist preacher and his mother an organist and piano teacher, who started Thomas on piano at age seven. In Atlanta he came to know and love blues music and spent long hours picking out and practicing melodies that he heard. In 1915 he moved to Chicago to study at the Chicago College of Composition and Arranging, becoming a skilled composer and arranger of jazz and vaudeville music.

In 1926 Dorsey suffered a mental breakdown and two years of severe depression, which led him give his life to Christ. He turned to writing gospel songs and became music director of Pilgrim Baptist Church in Chicago.

In 1932 Dorsey's first wife Nettie died giving birth to a son, who also died a short time later. He was deeply griefstricken and his faith was severely shaken. He went to visit a friend, who comforted him and assured him that he was always

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

