Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

### Christmas Blessings to All from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

### Luke 2:1-20 NRSV

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

> "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.



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

#### December 2020

#### From Pastor Harald Bringsjord

The angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: To vou is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord. Luke 2:10-11

In these familiar verses from the Christmas story, the angel doesn't just declare that Christ is born but "To you is born in the city of David a Savior who is Christ, the Lord."

The angel's message is not "to you" who are worthy because you are not afraid, it is not "to you" who are healthy, wealthy and wise. There are no conditions attached to this proclamation. It is simply: "To you is born...a Savior who is Christ the Lord."

May we ponder the profoundness of this message as we come to the last month of the year 2020. A year where many wondered: Will we have jobs, will we stay healthy, will we safely gather indoors again with family, friends for sports, or concerts, or for worship and other events.

Advent is a time for waiting and we are indeed feeling like we have been in Advent time for almost a year as we are waiting for a cure or a vaccine to deal with COVID-19. But Advent is specifically a time of waiting to ponder deeply the coming of Christ into the world not just for the history books but

specifically to each one of us and to all people:

For to you is born this day in the City of David a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord

Have a Blessed Advent and Christmas Season,

Pastor Harald & Andrea Bringsjord

Richard Rohr, who started the Center for Action and Contemplation, sent this to me on 11-17-2020 and I thought it is worth sharing.

"I returned last week from an eight-day silent retreat. With all that has happened this year, I found the time in stillness even more necessarv than usual. Periods of extended silence offer us the opportunity to step out of the world of dualism and opposition and into the world of nondual oneness. Both of these worlds exist, but most of us live only experiencing the world where separateness dominates. It's no wonder we have the problems that we have! I *believe only the contemplative mind can* allow transformation at the deepest levels and help us rest in the awareness of God's loving presence."

God's peace to you all Pastor Harald



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

### GSlacrosse.org

### 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, and attending our Drive-In Services with communion at 5:00, 6:15, and 7:30pm on Christmas Eve. There is also an online service Christmas Eve at 4pm and a pre-recorded service for Christmas morning, links to these will be posted on our website. 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 November, Pat Oliver & Irene Thorelli. For the month of December Arlene & Dewey Dreves & Jeanne Atchley will be on duty if we have any services.

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

Thank you to Ann Hudson for sending out cards and prayer shawls year round to bereaved families.

**Care Ministries**—Thank you to all members who are serving as Care Ministers to the faithful members of Good Shepherd who can no longer come to worship with us. Through you, our Care Ministers, the church comes to them!

### **Causeway Caregivers**

Causeway Caregivers exists to help! Give Causeway a call if you need assistance in or around your home or if you have a few hours to volunteer helping those who do. (608) 775-9999 or visit our website: causewaycaregivers.org



"One must maintain a little bit of summer, even in the middle of winter." Henry David Thoreau 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

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

Practices are on Sunday evenings at

5:30pm from September through May in

please contact Linda Jerome at 317-1335

the Choir Room. If you have any questions

or at darlene@gslacrosse.org.

or at linda@gslacrosse.org.

Hand Bell Choir

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 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

Thank you to all who delivered meals in September. Our last weeks of 2020 will be Dec 21st to Jan 3rd. 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.

### 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 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.

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.

Page 5







### 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 October 20 through November 19.

Hintgen Food Project

Michael & Sally Lindahl Vernon & Peg Garves Cash GWOH Harald & Andrea Bringsjord George & Judy Brockman John & Naomi Stennes-Spidahl Barb Smvth Dave & Barb Foye Tom & Phyllis Lynch Ladd & Alice DaFoe

**Thrivent Choice Dollars** 

Monty Gilbertson

Matt Peterson



Linda Crebo Memorial Harald & Andrea Bringsjord

**Ardis Severson Memorial** Lvdia Circle

Walt Hammond Memorial Pennie Bell

**ELCA World Hunger** Kathy Tausche Memorial Barb Smyth John & Naomi Stennes-

Chank You

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

John Wood

Spidahl

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 Oualified 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
10/04/20	No Service	No Service
10/11/20	No Service	No Service
10/18/20	No Service	No Service
10/25/20	No Service	No Service

### **Envelope Offering Comparison**

October 2020	October 2019	% Difference
27,434.44	22,998.57	19.3%
YTD 2020	YTD 2019	% Difference
292,196.56	267,497.06	9.2%

### Weekly Envelope Offerings

	-	8
Date	Weekly	% Budget
10/04/20	6,156.50	81.5%
10/11/20	4,283.00	56.7%
10/18/20	14,291.44	189.2%
10/25/20	2,703.50	35.8%
Totals	27,434.44	90.8%

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 ...

### Christmas at the Drive-In

Weather permitting, Christmas Eve Worship with Communion will be held on Thursday, December 24th at 5:00, 6:15 and 7:30pm. 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 http:// gslacrosse.org/upcoming-worship-services/

If it is sleeting, has snowed 2+ inches, or the temperature or wind-chill is below zero, the evening's Drive-In services are cancelled.

There is also a online service from Our Savior's at 4pm Christmas Eve.

There will be a pre-recorded online service Christmas Day at 9:30am that will be available through a link on our website, gslacrosse.org

Christmas blessings to all from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church!

### **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.

### **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/

### **Good Shepherd Men's Group**

Our men's group meets Sundays at 6:30pm either in the courtyard behind church or via Zoom. If you would like to join us and be a part of the fellowship and activities and events we sponsor throughout the year, contact Randy Page at grimmcaf@hotmail.com

### **Raising Up Spiritual Leaders**

FIVE church council members are to be elected to serve terms from 2021-2023. Before December 20th all voting members of Good Shepherd are invited to nominate someone you believe has the skills and vision to be a Church Council member. Current Church council members eligible for re-election will only be on the ballot if their names are submitted and they agree to be on the election ballot.

Nominations can be emailed, called or mailed to the Church Office. Election of nominated individuals will be conducted at the Annual Meeting on February 14, 2021. office@gslacrosse.org or 608.788.0450 or 4141 Mormon Coulee Rd, La Crosse

### Around the Parish ...

successful:

children.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

work. Our hands." Food Drive for the

Hintgen Food Project to make it so

I would like to thank the following people

who participated in the 2020 ELCA "God's

-Pastor Harald for his support of the event.

-Ladd DaFoe for applying for the Thrivent

-Jen Servais who graciously filled in for me

-The Confirmation Class and their families

monetary donations, hauling food donations,

holding signs and banners, and having fun

-Sally Lindahl for coordinating the Hintgen

Food Project to help feed 25 children at

-Rick Laufenberg and Kathy Johnson for

their "behind the scenes help" so the event

putting together 75 bags of food that will be

-Sally Lindahl and Kathy Johnson for

given to the children as a result of the

-The church members for your generous

food and monetary donations to feed the

grant and for volunteering at the event.

to be the contact person at the event.

for volunteering to collect food and

on a cold, rainy day.

ran smoothly.

donations.

Lori Lowell

Hintgen Elementary School.

Thanks again everyone!

### **Good Shepherd Christmas Caring Tree**

Please help us provide Christmas presents to our nursing home residents again this year. Simply call or email the office for a resident name and gift suggestions. Wrapped gifts will need to be returned to the church office by Dec. 15th so we can get them distributed in time for Christmas. Let's make their Christmas merry!

#### Shop Amazon Smile!!!

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/

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

### 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.

Checks should be made payable to Good Shepherd and please indicate Hintgen Food Project in the memo line.



*Ministry Without Bounds* continues in Good Shepherd as the weather grows cooler and our days grow shorter and winter takes hold. Mark your calendar to join these upcoming services!

**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.

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 English Lutheran Church 9:30am

# December 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 29 No Sunday School	30	December 1	2	3	4	5
9am Online Worship 10:15am Bible Study Via Zoom			6:30pm Confirmation via Zoom	6pm WELCA Mtg via Zoom		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9am Online Worship 10:15am Bible Study Via Zoom			6:30pm Confirmation via Zoom		January Voice Articles Due	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9am Online Worship 10:15am Bible Study Via Zoom		6pm Admin/Exec Meeting 7pm Church Council Mtg	6:30pm Confirmation via Zoom			
20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26
9am Online Worship 10:15am Bible Study Via Zoom		1pm Come for Supper (setup) 4:30pm Come for Supper (serve)	6:30pm Confirmation via Zoom	Office Closed 5, 6:15, 7:30pm Drive In Services	Office Closed 9:30am Pre-recorded Service at GSLacrosse.org	
27 No Sunday School	28	29	30	31 New Years Eve	January 1	2
9am Online Worship 10:15am Bible Study Via Zoom			6:30pm Confirmation via Zoom	Office Limited Hours	New Years Day Office Closed	
3 No Sunday School	4	5	6	7	8	9
9am Online Worship 10:15am Bible Study Via Zoom	6pm Trust Foundation		6:30pm Confirmation via Zoom			
	All we	orship services and face-to-f	face meetings have been car	celed until further notice	2.	
The chur		ily closed, but mail and voic	8	5		r

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@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 increasing prevalence of COVID-19 in our area, we thought we would focus this month's article on such. According to the World Health Organization, COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. Most people infected with COVID-19 virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. Older people, and those with underlying medical problems like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer are more likely to develop serious illness.

The COVID-19 virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes. The best way to protect yourself and others from infection is by washing your hands frequently and to avoid touching your face. Maintaining at least a 6-foot distance between you and those around you, and avoiding unnecessary travel or gatherings are also recommended in preventing contraction of this disease. The most common symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, dry cough, and fatigue. Less common symptoms include aches and pains, sore throat, diarrhea, headache, loss of taste or smell, and shortness of breath. People with mild symptoms who are otherwise healthy should manage their symptoms at home. On average it takes 5-6 days from when someone is infected with the virus for symptoms to show, however it can take up to 14 days. Seek immediate medical attention if you have serious symptoms. Always call before visiting your doctor or health facility.

For questions or concerns related to the coronavirus, please refer to cdc.gov/ coronavirus.

Take Care and Stay Safe, Cody and Kerstin Nedegaard



### Cody & Kerstin Nedegaard

GS Volunteer Parish Nurses Cody\_Kerstin@gslacrosse.org

Health Questions? Gundersen Telephone Nurse Advisor 24/7 at (800) 858-1050.



Sunday School Update Pre-school thru Grade 5

Merry Christmas Everyone,

I literally wait 11 months to say that every year! As you all know, we are still safe distancing, but we have had great success with the milestones at our Drive Up Worship Services. Please note that we will be continuing this after the new year with our  $4^{th}$ ,  $1^{st}$  and  $2^{nd}$  graders. I am excited to share these gifts and celebration of the year with our families and children

I am looking at our new schedule after the new year now, and if you need the written materials but are fine with supplies, please let me know and I will email you the documents to participate weekly with Sunday School.

If you are not on Facebook, to get the Facebook live Sunday School, please let me know. I do save the Sunday School lessons to the Church Facebook page so visit there anytime to get the Sunday School lesson for the kids. It is my weekly visit with the kids. If you are not familiar with our new format, here is a brief description:

- Supplies are Provided to all families for participating children. Simply register and pick up supplies for the upcoming units (or past if you want to do the stories we have covered)
- Supplies include all items except food items, are packed with safe contact gloves/ masks.
- Have kids watch Sunday School, Facebook Live each week at 10 – 10:30am.
- Work the Crafts and Projects designed for each week's lesson, as a family, whenever – do them all in one day, or in an evening, or as a Sunday activity.

Pre-School ages 3 and 4 are on Zoom with Lori, you just need email invite.

If you have not picked up supplies, or you have a milestone gift still at church, let me know and I will arrange pick up/delivery as I am able and you are able. I have changed jobs as of December 1st and am no longer at LHI so I will not be working from home, but if you need me, call the office or send me an email. Emails do get buried so please text me if you send so I can watch for it. Or Friend me on Facebook, and message me.

Coming up for December, please watch for messages and emails regarding our COVID Christmas Program, a Saturday of Projects and stories to share in place of Christmas Capers and I will take any ideas you have.

My goal is always to make it easy, stress free and still keep the faith and relationship building on track for the children, which I miss dearly.

Blessings to you all this holiday season!

Sincerely in Christ, Tammy Klein



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)

"Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few." Matthew 7: 13-14

Confirmation kids are participating in the 2nd annual "How can you change the world with \$5.00" challenge. Stay tuned to see the exciting ideas they come up with!



Many of you might not know this but my day job is a science teacher in Lansing, Iowa. About the time the spring surge of COVID hit, the construction on HWY 35 started, forcing me to take the long way to work. It is an extra 10-15 minutes I have complained about more times than I care to admit. As I reflect on this year, I can't help but compare it to that construction. The obvious comparison is the detour. This year we all had to make a detour. The paths our family lives were on was obstructed by a microscopic particle. We all had to figure out how to work around this roadblock. Our kids had to adjust to a road many of them have never traveled...online school, no sports or other activities, more time at home than ever before, and for many, watching their parents struggle with lost jobs and finances. It was hard resisting the urge to drive right through the roadblock in a desperate attempt to return to the road we are used to traveling. These thoughts accomplished nothing but prolonged construction so we begrudgingly continued to take the detour. At some point, we all tried to put aside our resistance to the detour and look for the blessings in the new road. We spent more time with our kids, playing

games, talking, and watching movies... activities that got lost in the grind of driving on the old road. Our kids learned to maneuver around potholes on the road, becoming more self-sufficient, getting themselves up to log in for school. advocating for what they need from adults, and getting creative with how they socialize. As much as I hated the extra time in the car. I can honestly say the sunrises and leaf colors on my detour were breathtaking, something I will never forget and a perspective I wouldn't have experienced without the roadblock. For me, the gift of the roadblock was the time with my family, the opportunity to watch my kids go from siblings to friends as they had to rely on each other for social interactions. I pray at some point all of us had a moment of gratitude for the new scenery along our detour, recognizing we can appreciate the new path while still missing the old. I have no doubt God wants us to learn from the roadblocks, to persevere through the detours, and to allow ourselves to grow closer to him through an awareness of all that is on the different paths we travel. Thankfully, the construction on the highway has come to an end and I find myself back on the old road, resurfaced and smoothed out. It is during these trips, I find myself hopeful that soon. we will all be back on the new and improved, yet familiar road we so long to travel.

Wishing you and your families a merry Christmas and a joyful end to 2020.

Jen

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

#### Joy to the World: a Christmas Carol?

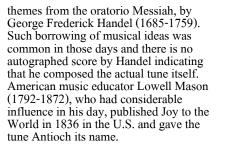
Joy to the World is one of the most wellknown songs of the Christmas season, yet it is not really about Christmas at all. Written by Isaac Watts (1674-1748), it is a song about the second coming of Christ rather than the first.

Isaac Watts was born in South Hampton, England. The son of a dissenting pastor, he exhibited a gift for rhyme early on and wrote his first hymn at age fifteen. Isaac went on to become a pastor and served a large independent church in London. He also continued to be a prolific hymn writer, writing some 750 hymns during his lifetime. In 1719 he published a hymn book titled The Psalms of David: Imitated in the Language of the New Testament and Applied to the Christian State and Worship. In this collection, he rewrote the Psalms to reveal their New Testament meaning and included specific references to Christ and his ministry. It is in this collection that we find the rewriting of Psalm 98 that we know as the hymn Joy to the World.

Often, the first line of the hymn is mistakenly sung: "Joy to the world! The Lord has come." What Watts wrote was actually: "The Lord is come!" Like Psalm 98, Watts is referring to the second coming of Christ, not the first. This is evident in phrases like "...the Savior reigns" and "He rules the world with truth and grace."

Antioch, the tune to which Joy to the World is sung, was created by an unknown individual who pieced together musical

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









GSlacrosse.org

leaving space at the top.

3. Spoon in some glitter.

4. When glue is dry, attach the decorated lid tightly. Shake the jar to see "snow" swirl and settle.



