

*to you is born this day
in the city of David
a Savior, who is
the Messiah, the Lord.*

Luke 2: 11 NRSV



GOOD SHEPHERD

L U T H E R A N C H U R C H

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter December, 2021

Give. Serve. Lead. Connect.

From Pastor John Stennes-Spidahl

It is the second week of November as I write and just about the first cold weather of the season has arrived. There have been occasional flurries of snow in the air and the trees are now mostly bare. Winter is coming. Christmas is coming too! While Easter, with its promise of resurrection, is arguably the most important celebration in the Christian Church my favorite holiday is Christmas. As a child the Christmas presents were a big part of the holiday for me. But there were so many other aspects of the holiday that appealed. The food, the lights, the wonderful carols, the family traditions all made this time of year so special for me. On Christmas Eve our family would head out to visit several homes – good friends and also older people of limited means. My Dad would make little care packages with sweet soup, flatbread, foot long hot dogs, and Christmas cookies that we would bring to each home. Then we would sing “Jeg Er Så Glad Hver Julekveld” (“I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve”) and “Silent Night” and be on our way to the next stop. Then it was time for church. After the Christmas Eve service at Augustana Lutheran Church

we headed home for the traditional meal: sweet soup with lefse and flatbread, lutefisk, potatoes, and spareribs. We would enjoy some cookies and candy and after cleaning up it would be time to open gifts. But first someone, often me because I was the oldest, would read the Christmas story from Luke, chapter two. We understood from an early age that real reason for the season was the mystery of the Word made flesh.

When I was young our family had a very traditional nativity set that was the focus of our Christmas décor. Naomi and I were married in October, 1984. That November we visited her family in Minneapolis for Thanksgiving. I took the opportunity to go the retail store that Augsburg Fortress maintained in downtown Minneapolis and found a beautiful Italian nativity set much like the one we had growing up. That became the first of many nativities as we developed a pattern of acquiring new ones every year. We have nativities from many different countries: Indonesia, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Mexico, Iceland, Peru, Bolivia, Germany, and others.

Continued on page 19.

New service times beginning Dec. 5th!

Sunday Worship 8:30 and 10:30 A.M.

Sunday School 8:30 A.M.

Properly worn masks are required inside the church



Facebook.com/GSlacrosse



Twitter.com/goodshepherdslc



GSlacrosse.org/voice

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

From our Re-opening Committee

Dear Members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,,

On behalf of the Church Council, the Re-Opening Committee has an update for the plan for opening Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. With safety and your cooperation foremost in reinstating services and activities in the church, please read and understand your role in the process.

This is an update to the interim plan for this church building and property, approved by the Church Council on November 16, 2021. At this meeting the Church Council approved additional measures of reinstating a variety of service options and former practices that were suspended due to COVID. Masks remain required in the church building regardless of vaccination status. Masks are to be worn properly, covering the nose and mouth upon entering, and while in the building and during worship service(s). Leaders of the service may lower or remove mask during speaking or singing. The organist, based on distancing, may unmask while seated and playing.

Sunday Worship- **8:30 and 10:30am starting December 5th** through May 2022 when service times change to 8:30 and 10:00am for summer.

Social distancing is still encouraged, as well as the use of hand sanitizer that is provided within the church and pews. During worship services, the congregation and choirs may sing but must remain masked. The adult and bell choirs are able to resume practicing and performing within church services at the discretion of their directors.

Sunday School remains open and available for children of Good Shepherd. Masks are required for children attending Sunday School. The nursery is available for feeding or changing purposes only.

Keeping our commitment to grow ministry, the 8:30am Sunday service of Good Shepherd can be viewed on your computer or electronic device online at gslacrosse.org. Archived church services of Good Shepherd can also be found on the church's website!

Church Groups and Committees may meet in the Mattes Center. A laptop computer is available for use to include members who wish to connect through Zoom. If a group or committee wants to meet in person, contact the Church Office. The Chairperson or Leader of the Group or Committee will need to provide the date/times of the meeting to the Church Office to allow adequate time for set-up and sanitizing.

Large community groups may use the Mattes Center Only for a meeting space. They will need to contact the church office with the date, times, and expected number of attendees.

Members are asked to report a positive COVID test result for anyone who was in attendance at a Good Shepherd Worship Service, Sunday School or Confirmation within 48 hours prior to the onset of symptoms.

This committee will meet again on December 20, 2021 to review the current COVID conditions, the Interim Plans, and church use to further update its recommendations. The success of the re-opening plan is dependent on the cooperation of all when coming together to hear the Word of God and celebrate our faith. We have a church that has remained strong through a pandemic because of each of you. Thank you.

Re-Opening Committee:

Jessica Addington (Secretary, Church Council)
Jim Bugge (Vice President of Congregation)
Assistant Pastor John Stennes-Spidahl
Kathy Johnson (Office Assistant)

Dr. Karl Noll (Church Council)
Rick Laufenberg (Office Manager)
Janet Torkelson (Church Council)
Sara Wrobel (Congregation President)

Due to COVID-19, the World Health Organization, federal, state, local governments and agencies recommend social distancing and the use of personal safety equipment such as masks and sanitizer. Good Shepherd strives to be compliant and promotes safety for attendees. We have put in place preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19, but we cannot guarantee that attendees will not become infected with COVID-19. By participating in programs, services, and activities of Good Shepherd you agree to the following: On behalf of yourself and your children, you hereby release, covenant not to sue, discharge, and hold harmless Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, its employees, agents, and representatives, of and from all liabilities, claims, actions, damages, costs or expenses of any kind arising out of or relating to your participation in our programs, services or activities. You understand and agree that this release includes any claims based on the actions, omissions, or negligence of this organization, its employees, agents, and representatives, whether a COVID-19 infection occurs before, during, or after participation in any such program, service or activity.

Serve Enriching Life, Sharing Talents

Thank You All So Very Much...

The Altar Guild. With worship being limited and with restrictions due to COVID Altar Guild has not been active. In the fall they will start planning on how to proceed with new ways to serve. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, please contact the office.

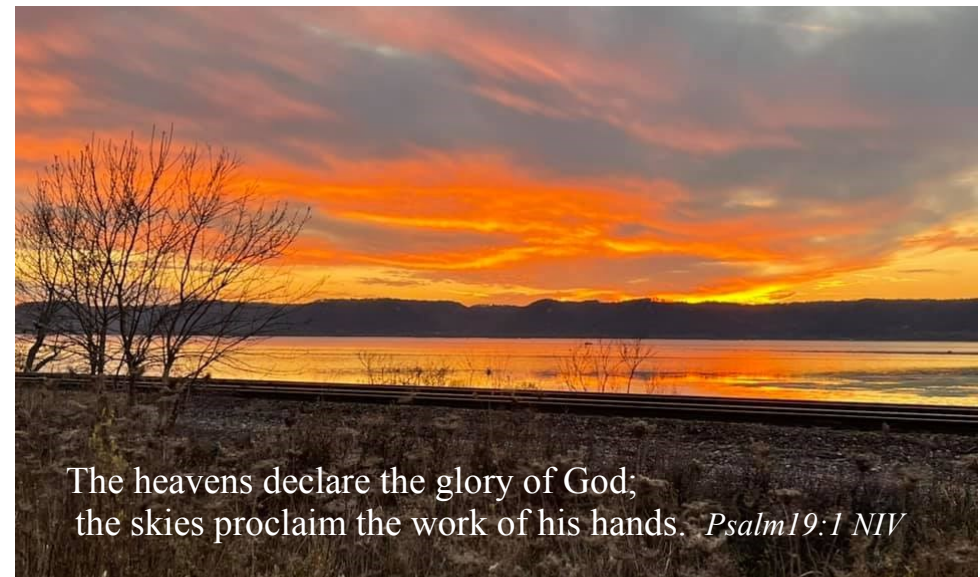
Thank you to Ann Hudson who sends out meaningful cards and handmade prayer shawls to bereaved families throughout the year.

Care Ministries—Thank you to all members who are serving as Good Shepherd Care Ministers! By bringing communion and care to those who are shut in their homes or in care facilities you truly are reflecting “God’s work, Our hands” through this ministry. One person said it truly is a gift to get a visit with communion through my care minister, it makes me feel connected to the church.

Prayer Chain Ministry—Thank you to all the members of Good Shepherd’s Prayer Chain. Prayer ministers pray daily for Good Shepherd intentions, special/urgent requests, the community and the world beyond. Call Kathy at the office to serve through prayer.

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



The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands. *Psalm 19:1 NIV*

Lead

Raising Up Spiritual Leaders

The following groups are in the process of restarting. Contact the director for more information

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@gsilacrosse.org to be a part of this growing and exciting praise band!



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@gsilacrosse.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@gsilacrosse.org.

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@gsilacrosse.org, or just drop in and check it out for yourself!

Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, Ecclesiastes 12:1

Connect

Bridging Our Community To Our World

Mobile Meals of La Crosse

We have done 10 weeks for Mobile Meals throughout the 2021 calendar year! Thank you to everyone who had signed up and delivered meals!

Remember that many of the people that our meal drivers deliver to may see no

one else but you that day, so please give them a big HI and a smile from you and Good Shepherd!!

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@gsilacrosse.org

Local Food Pantry Needs

West Avenue Food Emergency Relief

While we are under Covid protocols for worship we will not be collecting food for WAFER. 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 or drop it in the offering basket if you attend one of our in person services.



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 18 through November 14.

WAFER

John Wood

Margaret Lindahl Memorial

Charlotte Travelli
Caroline Bakkestuen
Chris & Bill Smiley
Sue & Dave Marsolek
Bonnie Powell
Julie & Tim Miller
Sandra Castek

memorials
& gifts

Walt Hammond Memorial

Ruth Strand

Hintgen Food Project

Norm & Joanne Jerome

Bethany Riverside

Cindy Thurston

Thank You!



Church Numbers

Weekly Sunday Attendance

Date		9:00am
10/03/21		Online
10/10/21		Online
10/17/21		Online
10/24/21		Online
10/31/21		Online

Weekly Envelope Offerings

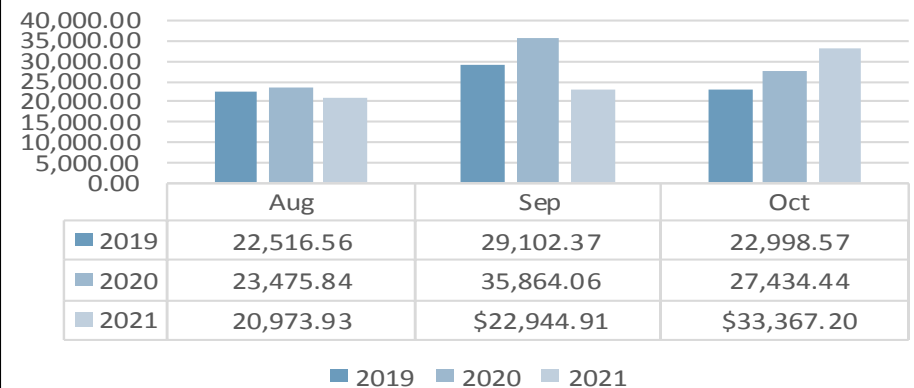
Date	Weekly	% Budget
10/03/21	\$3,479.06	49.7%
10/10/21	\$4,731.00	67.6%
10/17/21	\$12,949.64	185.0%
10/24/21	\$6,447.50	92.1%
10/31/21	\$5,760.00	82.3%
Totals	\$33,367.20	95.3%

Envelope Offering Comparison

October 2021	October 2020	% Difference
\$33,367.20	\$27,434.44	21.6%
YTD 2021	YTD 2020	% Difference
\$276,239.04	\$292,196.56	-5.5%

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

Envelope Offerings



Around the Parish...

Give from Good Shepherds Caring Tree!

Share some joy this Christmas by requesting a tag from Good Shepherd's Caring Tree. The tag will have a Christmas gift suggestions for a local nursing home resident, this may be the only gift they receive this year.

You can request a tag (or tags) by calling the church office at 788-0450, or emailing office@gsiacrosse.org. Wrapped gifts must be brought back to Good Shepherd by Friday, December 10th during office hours.

Thank you in advance for making Christmas special for these special people!

Christmas Shop 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 AmazonSmile purchases to Good Shepherd! We are listed as Good Shepherd English when selecting your charitable organization. Or, you can click the Smile.Amazon link on our webpage, www.gsiacrosse.org.

Lydia Circle

Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, Dec. 7th** at noon in the Mattes Center and will be a potluck, all are welcome! Masks are required in the building. Please call Carol Abraham 787-0679 if you have any questions.

Sunday School Christmas Program

On Sunday, December 19th, the kids will present the Nativity during the 8:30 service and it will be streamed live and available in our archives afterwards.

The 10:30 service that day will be our traditional service for the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

Online Worship

Join us in online worship Sundays at 8:30am on our website <http://gsiacrosse.org/live/>. A recording of the service may be watched anytime at <https://vimeo.com/gsiacrosse/videos>

Church Contributions

For those who are able and wish to continue their regular offerings when you cannot attend services, you can mail your offering to Good Shepherd at 4141 Mormon Coulee Rd., or give online via our website at <http://gsiacrosse.org/give-online/>

You can also download the "Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement" 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@gsiacrosse.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.

We Need You!!

Please consider joining our new media team! Members will assist with the service by running the PowerPoint Sunday morning and controlling the camera's for our live stream service.

If you are interested, please email Rick@gsiacrosse.org or call the office at 788-0450 to be a valuable part of our worship services.

From Holiday Marketplace

Thank you to all who helped with the sale, especially: The confirmation students led by Jen Servais, Doris Zimmerman, Carol Abraham, Ron & MariLou Ramsett, Pennie Bell, Vicki DeMaiffe, Jim & Jan Quinn, Delores Pierson, Karina Bronson, Sandra Rockwell, Deanna Lindahl, Barb Smyth, Lori Lowell, Julie Noll, Virginia & Jerry Larson, Bill & Keith Klein, Kathy and Rick from the office for all their heavy lifting. Thank you to those who shared their baking talents with us! Please save November 12th, 2022 for our next sale.

Around the Parish...

Hintgen Food Project Update

The Backpack Project is continuing again this year with the help of Good Shepherd Lutheran. There are currently 13 students receiving food in backpacks every Friday.

In the past, Sally Lindahl purchased the food that was needed with funds donated by WELCA and members of Good Shepherd. Sally, along with Kathy Johnson, filled all the backpacks and then Sally delivered them to Hintgen Elementary School. The filled backpacks were sent home with the students every Friday.

This year, food is being purchased every two weeks and counselor Ryan Schmidt is filling the backpacks and distributing them to the students. Each time the food is delivered to the school, Mr. Schmidt expresses overwhelming gratitude for the members of Good Shepherd and their support of this important project. He also expresses gratitude from the parents whose children receive these backpacks.

Thanks to Sally Lindahl for all the time and effort she put into this important project. Thanks also to WELCA and to all the members of Good Shepherd that have contributed food or monetary donations to help the students in need at Hintgen Elementary School. The grateful students of Hintgen Elementary are looking forward to your continued support of this important project.

New Service Times Beginning Dec. 5!

Starting on Sunday, December 5th, our Worship services will be returning to our normal pre-pandemic times of 8:30 and 10:30. Sunday School will be at 8:30 only.

The 8:30 service will be live streamed every Sunday and also will be available in our archives for those who may not yet be comfortable attending in person, and are not up in time for the 8:30 live stream. It can be viewed on our website at by going to <https://gsiacrosse.org/> and clicking on the Past Recordings button.

Our COVID protocols remain in effect so as we worship together, we ask that for the health and safety of all, please remember:

- Masks are required to be properly worn inside the building and throughout the service.
- Maintain 3 feet distancing between households while seated in the pews.
- Please wear your mask and sing softly during the hymns, or simply enjoy the music and our soloist.
- Members are asked to report a positive COVID test result for anyone who was in attendance at a Good Shepherd Worship Service, Sunday School or Confirmation within 48 hours prior to the onset of symptoms. Call the Church Office at 788-0450, your identity will be kept anonymous.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Friday, Dec. 24 4:00pm Parking Lot Service
6:00pm In Church / Streamed
9:00pm In Church

Christmas Day 10:00am

Sunday, Dec. 26 10:30am only, no 8:30 service



December 2021



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.

In-person Worship Sundays at 8:30 & 10:30. The 8:30 service is also live streamed on our website at www.gslacrosse.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
November 28 9am In Church Service NO Sunday School 10:30am Hamilton Baptism 6:30pm GS Men's Group	29 12:30pm Quilters	30	December 1 6:30pm Confirmation	2 6pm WELCA Meeting	3	4
5 8:30am In Church Service w/Communion 8:30am Sunday School 10:30am In Church Service w/Communion 6:30pm GS Men's Group	6 12:30pm Quilters	7 1pm Lydia Circle 5:30pm Building & Grounds 6:30pm New Member Orientation	8 6:30pm Confirmation	9	10	11
12 8:30am In Church Service 8:30am Sunday School 10:30am In Church Service 6:30pm GS Men's Group	13 12:30pm Quilters	14 1:45pm Hillview Communion	15 5:30pm Sunday School Costume Pick-up 6:30pm Confirmation	16	17 January Voice Articles Due	18 9am Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal
19 8:30am Sunday School Christmas Program 8:30am Sunday School 10:30am In Church Service w/Communion 6:30pm GS Men's Group	20 12:30pm Quilters 6:30pm Re-Opening Zoom	21 6pm Admin/Exec Meeting 7pm Church Council Meeting	22 NO Confirmation	23	24 Office Closed Christmas Eve 4pm Parking Lot service 6pm In Church Service 9pm In Church Service	25 Christmas Day 10am In Church Service
26 NO 8:30 Service NO Sunday School 10:30am In Church Service 6:30pm GS Men's Group	27 12:30pm Quilters	28	29 NO Confirmation	30	31 New Years Eve Office Closed	January 1 New Years Day
2 8:30am In Church Service w/Communion No Sunday School 10:30am In Church Service w/Communion 6:30pm GS Men's Group	3 12:30pm Quilters	4 1pm Lydia Circle 5:30pm Building & Grounds	5 6:30pm Confirmation	6 6pm WELCA Meeting	7	8
<p><i>Properly worn medical masks are required to enter the building and social distancing must be maintained. Other than for worship services, the building will remain locked. Committees and groups are encouraged to continue to meet via Zoom, but can meet in the church by calling the office to schedule a meeting time. All meetings will take place in the Mattes Center.</i></p>						

In person worship services at Good Shepherd

Church Council Members

- **Sara Wrobel** *President of the Congregation*
Sara@gslacrosse.org
- **Jim Bugge** *Vice President of the Congregation*
- **Todd Holtz** *Treasurer*
- **Jessica Addington** *Secretary*

Other Church Council Members include: Tim Knudsen, Roger Weeks Jr., Roger Christians, Ellen Klemp, Janet Torkelson, Karl Noll, John Krause, Thea Johnson, Mark Skolos, Harlan McLain, Pastor Bringsjord, and Karina Bronson (Youth Rep.)



- **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 & Kerstin Nedegaard** *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 Nurses*

Greetings,

This month's article will touch on colorectal cancer. Colorectal cancer or cancer of the colon or rectum is the third leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the U.S. Early detection is vital, as treatment is successful with 85 percent of colon cancer patients living at least five years. Colon cancer occurs when cells in the body begin changing and multiplying at fast rates. The colon is the last part of the digestive tract and plays a large role in absorbing water and storing food waste.

Screening for colon cancer is recommended at age 50 for both men and women. For those at average risk for colon cancer, a colonoscopy is the recommended form of screening and should take place every 10 years. Risk factors such as family or personal history may increase the frequency one should be receiving a colonoscopy. Colonoscopy not only detects cancer but can identify pre-cancerous growths known as polyps. These polyps are removed before they turn into cancer.

Patients with colon cancer may notice symptoms right away. By the time symptoms appear, the cancer may have grown or spread to other organs. Symptoms can include: a change in bowel habits such as diarrhea, constipation, or a feeling your bowel is not empty after a bowel movement, bright red or dark blood in your stool, constant tiredness, stools that are thinner than normal, unexplained weight loss and vomiting.

Screening can save your life. If you have any of these symptoms, are 50 or older, or have a family history of colon cancer you should be screened. Consult with your primary care provider if you believe you need to be screened.

Take care,

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

December 2021!

I can't believe another calendar year is almost over, but that means we are right in the middle of a Sunday School Year and so much is happening!

Though we are still taking precautions, signs of coming back to be with our church family mean 2022 proves to be even more exciting. 2021 VBS was different! Running for 2 days on a weekend, all outdoors! Then we also welcomed back Trunk or Treat in October. Though it was different, we had 7 cars and lots of kids, including some kids from the community. Outreach with this Good Shepherd children's and family event continues to amaze me! I am sure 2022 Trunk or Treat will be bigger and better still.

Please Remember there is NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on November 28th as all of our Sunday School Staff will be having family gatherings. We will also be off on December 26th and January 2nd for the Christmas Holiday. But, what about Christmas? Well, I am glad you asked!

We have been very excited to have some regular attendance at our Sunday School 9am classes. Thought some of the names are a little different each week, regularly we have 20 to 25 of our kiddos back in church. I look forward to even more as the year closes. That means – A CHRISTMAS PROGRAM!

Yes, we will be having a Christmas Program and much like all our other "restarts" the program will be a little bit different. Please have your kids come regularly for the month of December in order to practice the program. Costumes will be sent home on December 12th or can be picked up on December 15th (Wednesday evening).

On December 18th, we will have a dress rehearsal at 9am – kids will wear their costumes. Parents are encouraged to take pictures at this time. We will rehearse about 1 hour. Of course we will also be rehearsing the 5th and 12th during Sunday School

Then, on December 19th, at 8:30am service, the kids will present the Nativity during the first service. That's right! You heard that correctly. DURING THE 1st SERVICE! YAY! Another Tradition that is back. Along with our annual treat bags for the kids.

I am always excited for Christmas, I become as much of a kid as the Kiddos in Sunday School. This year, we will be telling the story of the Birth of Jesus. It will be a little different. It was a big event and blessing I missed so much in 2020. As we begin to work these celebrations back into our schedules, my excitement grows as does my anticipation of things to come. Much like the theme of Advent, a time of waiting. To wait is so, ummmm, stressful? Lonely? Frustrating? How much more so was the waiting of hundreds of years for a promised Messiah. Then finally, Jesus.

So, as we spend this month preparing for the Christmas Holiday, revisiting our celebrations, coming back together after the long wait, let's not forget what it really means to have a father's love, that he gave us his son. For our long wait is coming to an end and we are soon coming back to the true work of Good Shepherd. To **DO** God's Work, **Understand** his Stories, **Come** together as God's Family and **KNOW** GOD'S LOVE. There is a little D.U.C.K. in all of us. During December, it wears the costume of Mary, Joseph, Shepherd's, Magi, Angels, Innkeepers, Kings, Scribes and Even Camels, Sheep and Donkeys. Merry Christmas to you all! Blessings and Peace for 2022!

Tammy

Quick-Look

Upcoming Events At a Glance

November 28th	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL – watch for Parent Sunday School Survey's regarding Reopening.
December 5th	Christmas Program Practice/Advent Art
December 12th	Christmas Program Practice/Costume Take Home
December 15th	5:30 to 8pm Pick Up Costumes/Church
December 18th	9am Dress Rehearsal Christmas Program
December 19th	Christmas Program at 8:30 – 1st Service
Dec.26th/Jan. 2nd	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

See you Sunday!



Tammy Klein

Children's Ministry Coordinator

tammy@gsilacrosse.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)

G4Squad



"Thanks be to God for his
indescribable gift!"
2 Corinthians 9:15

JOIN US!

National ELCA Youth Gathering

This upcoming July, Good Shepherd will be taking any interested teen to Minneapolis for the ELCA Youth Gathering! What is the Youth Gathering? Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives.

There is still time to join our small, but mighty group going to Minneapolis so please email me if your teen (grades 8-11) is interested! The dates are July 24-28th, 2022.

CONFIRMATION

How old is the Old Testament? Who wrote the Old Testament? Why does it have more "chapters" than the New Testament? These are the questions our teens have asked as we begin our study of the Old Testament. They will be focusing on what the stories in the Old Testament tell us about how to live our lives and what we can learn about peace, love, and hope through the words shared with us. Students will be working on a large project that involves choosing 7 different books of the Old Testament to focus on. They need to find some interesting facts, a story, a verse and explanation as to how it relates to their lives in 2021! They will be making a large, personalized banner that will be on display in the Mattes Center to document their journey through the Old Testament.

The Confirmation kids were busy with service projects in November! They created a Wizard of Oz-bible themed backdrop for Trunk or Treat, helped set up and take down the Mattes Center for the Holiday Marketplace, and other individual projects. We have some great kids!!

I hope you all have a blessed holiday season! May we all be reminded of the peace, love, and hope that was given to us through the birth of Jesus.

SUPPORT THE YOUTH! GET A JUMP START ON CHRISTMAS GIFTS!

GIFT CARDS FROM A to Z! Amazon to Walmart with everything in between! Stores, restaurants, and more!
The three easy steps to order 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, or buy gift cards through our Script Program. Contact Corrine Holtz to place an order. Mobile-608-397-9353 or Email tcj23511@gmail.com



SHOUT OUT!!!

Confirmation kids made a Wizard of Oz themed backdrop for Trunk or Treat! Small groups were responsible for making a character from the Wizard of Oz and then searching for a bible verse to match their character. The verses they found on courage, love, friendships, hope, and life's journeys were amazing!



Follow the activities of the G4Squad on Instagram: [g4squadlax](#)

Jen Servais

Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Jen@gsllacrosse.org (608) 788-0450

In the Office: Varied hours

GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND CHURCH!

Below are some volunteer opportunities. Email jen@gsllacrosse.org for more information on any of these activities.

Ring the Salvation Army Bell:
<https://www.registertoring.com/>

Help a neighbor
rake/mow/shovel

Cooking a meal for the Warming Center: <https://cclse.org/la-crosse-warming-center/>

WAFER Food Pantry:
<https://waferlacrosse.org/>

MENTORS NEEDED!!

We are looking for high school and college students to serve as mentors for our Confirmation teens. Duties include working with a small group and discussing the Confirmation theme of the night. This involves an hour every Wednesday. Contact jen@gsllacrosse.org if you are interested!



Music Notes

From The Director of Music

Joy to the World: a Christmas Carol?

Joy to the World is one of the most well-known 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

themes from the oratorio *Messiah*, by George Frederick Handel (1685-1759). Such borrowing of musical ideas was common in those days and there is no autographed score by Handel indicating that he composed the actual tune itself. American music educator Lowell Mason (1792-1872), who had considerable influence in his day, published *Joy to the World* in 1836 in the U.S. and gave the tune Antioch its name.



Randy Lyden

Good Shepherd Music Director
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For me this drives home the truth that the Nativity of our Lord is celebrated in many different cultures. When I was a parish pastor in Cashton, we started a tradition of welcoming the confirmation students into our home shortly before Christmas. After they had completed their memory work in the connected office, they were invited into the dining room for Christmas cookies and hot chocolate. Then I would challenge them to see how many nativity scenes they could find in our house. The last year we did this several people found twenty-seven. We have added a few more since then. I have heard that the idea of creating a nativity scene came from Francis of Assisi. He believed it was a simple way to teach people who didn't know how to read the story of Christmas.

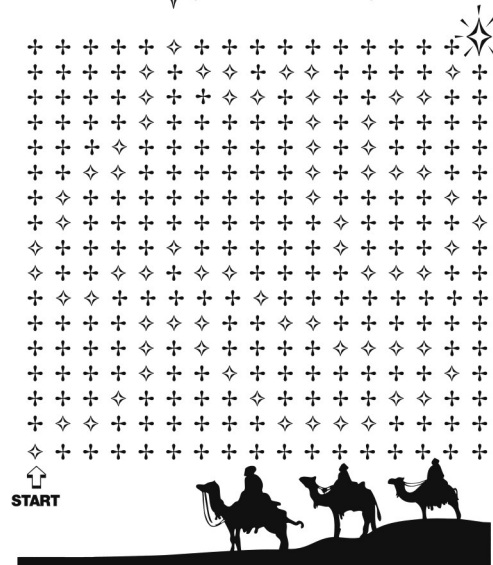
Our family traditions can help teach the faith to the next generation. Families are crucial to helping young people become followers of Jesus. In an article in the October issue of *Living Lutheran* Tim Brown quotes Martin Luther: "Most certainly, father and mother are apostles, bishops, and priests to their children, for it is they who make them acquainted with the Gospel." So, those of us who are older, let's give thanks for the traditions shared in our families that helped us grow in faith. And let's remember to pray for our younger families that they may discover meaningful and lasting ways to pass the faith along to their children. Have a blessed Christmas and a healthy New Year!

Pastor John



Puzzle!

Starting in the lower-left corner, help the wise men follow the ✦ path that leads to baby Jesus.



Now unscramble these words to discover what gifts the wise men brought Jesus.

L D O G N C A K N R I E N F S E R Y H M R

Answer: gold, frankincense, myrrh

