

May the blessings of Christ
be always with you in all the
ups and downs of your life.
May your life be happy
and joyful forever.
Happy New Year!



GOOD SHEPHERD

LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter January, 2022

Give. Serve. Lead. Connect.

From Pastor Harald Bringsjord

January is the month that moves us from the Christmas Season to the Epiphany Season and from the year 2021 to the year 2022. The main story of Epiphany is the wise men setting off on a journey following a star.

Author, professor and theologian Barbara Brown Taylor in her book "Home by Another Way" writes: "Once upon a time there were some very wise men who were all sitting in their own countries minding their own business when a bright star lodged in the right eye of each of them. It was so bright that none of them could tell whether it was burning in the sky or in their own imagination, but they were wise enough to know that it didn't matter. The point was, something beyond them was calling them, and it was a tug they had been waiting for all their lives." (Taylor, 1999)

Now, just because there is light to illumine our path doesn't mean we know where the journey will lead. All we know, much like the wise men, is that something beyond us is calling us. Something that draws us and leads us. At the beginning of this New Year, as we move from 2021 to 2022, we will be on a new journey, and much of the path we follow will be unknown territory.

The wise men had the light of the star to follow, but no idea where it would lead them. They just knew what they were

leaving behind. Good meals, comfortable

beds, their families, their books, their pets, in order to follow a star. Yet they set out, undeterred and hopeful.

On page 317 of our red hymnal (Evangelical Lutheran Worship) in the Evening Prayer worship service, there is a wonderful prayer that speaks of the journey we all are on. Even if the path is often unfamiliar, maybe scary, sometimes full of obstacles, we as believers trust that we don't have to be on this journey alone. Our mighty God is with us. New Year resolutions have never done much for me in the past. But this prayer has stuck with me for many years. It is a prayer good for every new day on our journey through this year and through life. May it be a prayer for us all as we enter with renewed hope and confidence into this New Year and this Epiphany Season.

Let us pray:

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Facebook.com/GSLacrosse



Twitter.com/goodshepherdse



GSLacrosse.org/voice

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

From our Re-opening Committee

Reflects changes from our committee meeting on December 20th

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 December 21, 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.

The Welcome area is opened again. As throughout the church, 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 in January 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



“Beautiful sunsets need cloudy skies.” - Paulo Coelho

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@gslacrosse.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@gslacrosse.org.

Hand Bell Choir

Practices are on Sunday evenings at 5:30pm from September through May in the Choir Room. If you have any questions please contact Linda Jerome at 317-1335 or at linda@gslacrosse.org.

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!

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 are doing 8 weeks for Mobile Meals throughout the 2022 calendar year and we will be looking for you to help with delivering meals in 2022!

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@gslacrosse.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 November 14 through December 27.

Margaret Lindahl Memorial

Harald & Andrea Bringsjord

Harold Hanson Memorial

Harald & Andrea Bringsjord

Mary Hinze Memorial

Harald & Andrea Bringsjord

Tim Gabrielson Memorial

Harald & Andrea Bringsjord

Hazel Ristow Memorial

Harald & Andrea Bringsjord
Roger & Mary Cook
Jack & Geanne Schaller
Marlene Schultz
Barb Hegge
Heidi Kwiatkowski
Dwight & Ann Rhodes

Giving Tree

Ryan & Lindsay Burner

memorials
& gifts

12 Ways of Christmas Giving

Rob & Dianne Hamann
Karl & Julie Noll
Jim & Sue Bugge
Tom & Phyllis Lynch
Paul & Joyce Herlitzke
Ryan & Lindsay Burner
Ed & Ann Keuper
George & Judy Brockman
Rosemary Werner
Sandra Demoran
John & Naomi Stennes-Spidahl
Sharon & John Gilbertson

Shirley & Monte Holmen Youth Fund

Shirley Holmen

Don & Pat Geiwitz Memorial

Doug & Denise Geiwitz

WAFER

John Wood
Norm & Joanne Jerome
Jane Reinl

Hintgen Food Program

David Kranz
Norm & Joanne Jerome
Dave & Barb Foye

Kevin Gilbertson Memorial

Harald & Andrea Bringsjord
Irene Thorelli



Church Numbers

Weekly Sunday Attendance

Date		9:00
11/07/21		79
11/14/21		49
11/21/21		75
11/28/21		81

Weekly Envelope Offerings

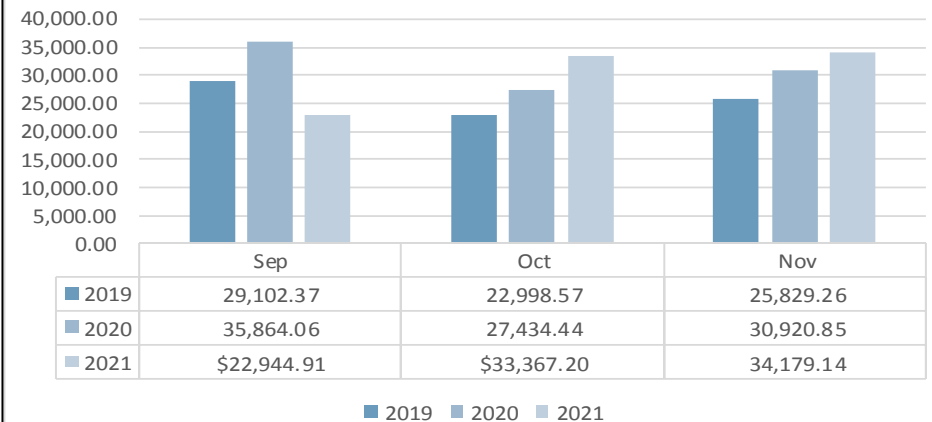
Date	Weekly	% Budget
11/07/21	\$12,129.84	138.6%
11/14/21	\$9,791.50	111.9%
11/21/21	\$3,475.30	39.7%
11/28/21	\$8,782.50	100.4%
Totals	\$34,179.14	97.7%

Envelope Offering Comparison

November 2021	November 2020	% Difference
34,179.14	30,920.85	10.5%
YTD 2021	YTD 2020	% Difference
324,324.08	323,117.41	.4%

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...

Lydia Circle

Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, January 4th** at noon in the Mattes Center. Masks are required in the building. Please call Carol Abraham 787-0679 if you have any questions.

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://gslacrosse.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@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.

Shop 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 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.gslacrosse.org.

Online Worship

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

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@gslacrosse.org or call the office at 788-0450 to be a valuable part of our worship services.

We Need Readers & Ushers!!

Returning to two services requires more help and we could really use yours! Please consider helping out at either service by ushering or doing the readings. If you are interested, call Kathy in the office at 788-0450 or you can email her at Kathy@gslacrosse.org

Help Our Afghan Neighbors - from Bishop Felix

Siblings in Christ -- A possible opportunity is arising for us to participate in making La Crosse home for some of our **Afghan Neighbors**. This project is in its infancy, but I am looking for interest from individuals, congregations, and businesses. If you would be willing to help our new neighbors to find a home, a job, a school, the grocery store, and in general help families get established please let the synod know.

Thank you for your consideration and being willing to share God's love with those who are in most need.

If you are also interested in working on this with others in the congregation, please let Pastor Harald know.

2022 Offering Envelopes

If you have not picked up your 2022 envelopes yet, please do. They are in the hallway by the church office. Those who give electronically or do not use the envelopes were not issued a box. If you would like one simply call the office at 788-0450 Monday - Friday 8am - 1pm.

Around the Parish...

New Vanco Mobile App!

Thank you to everyone who has been using the **GivePlus** app to make donations to Good Shepherd! GivePlus will sunset on October 11 and no longer work. To continue using mobile giving to contribute to our ministry, or to begin if you've never tried it, download Vanco's new **Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement** app from your app store and get started today! If you are a GivePlus user, you can simply sign in using your email address and GivePlus password. If you are a new user, set up is easy and only takes a few minutes.

We encourage everyone to download the app for free at the Apple App Store or Google Play. Once downloaded, simply open the app and search for Good Shepherd Lutheran Church then select the one in La Crosse, there are a lot of Good Shepherds out there!

Please call Rick in the church office at 788-0450 if you have any questions.

CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THE SHEPHERDS VOICE

If you would like to continue to receive paper copies of our newsletter, please call the office at 608-788-0450 or email office@gslacrosse.org and let us know. Beginning in March we will only be mailing copies to those who sign up.

In efforts to be environmentally and economically friendly, we are encouraging everyone to sign up for our electronic version, and we will email you a link to the new issue each month. All issues are also archived on our website and available for viewing at anytime.

To sign up for the electronic version (or to keep receiving paper copies in the mail), call or email us and we will make sure you continue to receive The Shepherds Voice.

If you already receive The Shepherds Voice and our weekly updates via email, you do not need to do anything, your service will continue as it always has.

Worship at Good Shepherd

Worship services are at 8:30 and 10:30am Sunday mornings. Sunday School will be at 8:30am 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://gslacrosse.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!



January 2022



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
December 26 NO Sunday School 10:30am Worship	27 12:30pm Quilters	28 6pm Parish Ed Mtg	29 NO Confirmation	30	31 New Years Eve Office Closed	January 1 New Years Day
2 8:30am Worship w/communion NO Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/communion	3 12:30pm Quilters 6pm Trust Foundation Mtg	4 1pm Lydia Circle 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg	5 6:30pm Confirmation	6 6pm WELCA Mtg	7	8
9 8:30am Worship 8:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 6:30pm GS Men's Group	10 12:30pm Quilters	11 1:45pm Hillview Communion 6pm Troop 22 Adult Mtg 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg	12 6:30pm Confirmation	13	14	15
16 8:30am Worship w/communion 8:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/communion 6:30pm GS Men's Group	17 12:30pm Quilters 5:30pm Finance Mtg 6pm Re-Opening Mtg 7pm MGF Mtg	18 6pm Admin/Exec Mtg 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg 7pm Council Mtg	19 6:30pm Confirmation	20	21 February Voice Articles & Annual Report Sub- missions Due	22
23 8:30am Worship 8:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 6:30pm GS Men's Group	24 12:30pm Quilters	25 6pm Parish Ed Mtg 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg	26 6:30pm Confirmation	27	28	29
30 8:30am Worship 8:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 6:30pm GS Men's Group	31 12:30pm Quilters	February 1 West Pastor Conference 1pm Lydia Circle 5:30pm Buildings & Grounds 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg <i>In person worship services at Good Shepherd</i>	2 6:30pm Confirmation	3 6pm WELCA Mtg	4	5

Attendance will be limited to 70. 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 be in the Mattes Center.

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,

January is thyroid awareness month, so we decided to focus this month's article on such. The thyroid is a butterfly-shaped gland that sits low on the front of the neck. The thyroid is rich in blood vessels and nerves for voice quality pass through it. The thyroid secretes several hormones with the main hormone being thyroxine or T4. Thyroid hormones act throughout the body, influencing metabolism, growth and development, and body temperature. Two of the most common thyroid conditions and hyperthyroidism and hypothyroidism.

Hypothyroidism is a condition in which the thyroid gland doesn't produce enough of certain hormones. Hypothyroidism may be due to several factors, including autoimmune disease, thyroid surgery, radiation therapy, pregnancy, and medications (lithium). The signs and symptoms of hypothyroidism vary, depending on the severity of the hormone deficiency. Problems tend to develop slowly, often over several years. Signs and symptoms may include fatigue, increased sensitivity to cold, constipation, weight gain, hoarseness, thinning hair, and muscle weakness. This condition most often affects middle-aged and older women. See your doctor if you're feeling tired for no reason or have any of the other signs or symptoms of hypothyroidism.

Hyperthyroidism occurs when your thyroid gland produces too much of the hormone

thyroxine or T4. Hyperthyroidism can be caused by several conditions including

graves' disease, plummer's disease, and thyroiditis. Hyperthyroidism can mimic other health problems, which can make it difficult for your doctor to diagnose. Symptoms can include unintentional weight loss, rapid heartbeat or irregular heartbeat, increased appetite, anxiety and irritability, tremor, and increased sensitivity to heat. Some of the most serious complications of hyperthyroidism involve the heart, so it is important to completely describe the changes you've observed to your doctor.

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

Happy New Year 2022! While writing this, my heart is growing 3 sizes bigger knowing that the Children of Good Shepherd have been safe and back in Sunday School with our precautions from COVID. Not only that, but we were able to do the traditional, in church, Nativity Program. This was a true blessing as we included anyone who missed last year, now in 6th grade, who truly wanted to play a role but missed their final year. Being back is soooooo good!

Ever wonder why Sunday School and VBS along with our Children's Ministry Activities are so Important to our families? Because learning these stories, through all the methods that children learn (Computer, art, kitchen, Game Skills, Cinema, Science) are important to not only development of their faith, but also life skills. Want some examples?

Building Solomon's Temple – Why we have a House of Worship and how it helps bring us together as a Family of God. The Kids made Plumb Bobs from Clay and Squares from Wood in Science. Like they would have used at the time of Solomon.

House on the Rock – Building our House on solid ground, as opposed to sand that can wash away, is the way the bible teaches us that building our Lives on God's Love and Jesus' example is solid. In Game Skills, we will try to build Jenga on Pillows and Bricks.... Fun for all, but an experience that will make a point.

Christmas –we learn deeply about the people, times and traditions. Like, when a baby is born, we announce it to those we love first, Grandma, Sisters, Brothers. God Announced his son first to the Shepherds, the poorest people (who live in the wilderness with

the sheep), because they were important to him. Not only that, but the angels kept telling everyone (Mary, Joseph, Shepherds, Wise men) to "FEAR NOT". He wants us to celebrate his love, and gifts, and the talents he gives us.

If you find it hard to get Sunday School in your schedule, I urge to you do this: Add us to your Calendar first– before the games, dentist appointments, parties. You may need to miss a week or two, but One hour a week will bless children with...

Learning that Church is a fun, safe place to expand their friendship/family base.

Developing relationships with other Christians – for both in church and in the community.

Connecting with other kids who are developing a faith system in their schools, on their teams, in their social activity groups.

Learning from hands on creativity and other's perspectives

Bringing parents and families together and helping parents with resources for growth at home.

Reinforcing great life lessons and skills learned at home and school.

A place to talk about faith joys, struggles, questions and, learning without judgement.

Giving a safe place for older children, teens and adults to share their gifts of mentoring, teaching and serving God and his family.

Sunday School and VBS are not Babysitting or, One and Done Faith training or, experts on the Bible. BUT IT IS AWESOME! As we come back together, we will be sending out a survey to our parents. PLEASE RETURN THIS. We will also be needing volunteers. So, if we ask, say YES! We would not ask if we did not need your help. Pick Sunday

Quick-Look

Upcoming Events At a Glance

December 26th/ January 2nd	No Sunday School
January 7th	Survey's Due
January 9th	Back to Sunday School 8:30
January 9th to 23rd	House on the Rock, Matthew 7:24-28 (Game Skills, Cinema/Computer)
January 30th to February 13th	Jesus and John the Baptist, Luke 3:1-18/Matthew 3:13-17 (Kitchen, Art, Science)

School and donate 16 hours, Help with VBS 15 hours, help with set up 10 hours, make décor and satisfy your creative side, there is something for everyone.

Finally, I wanted to share that this coming year is a transition for Sunday School as I announce my intention to retire from Staff at the end of August. Of course, I will always remain part of Sunday School. It is my joy and passion. I am finding that staying until this year's Pre-Schoolers get to Confirmation is a never-ending Circle of Life. That is my biggest joy but also my reality. Time for some new ideas and Support the next Children's Ministry Coordinator. I love my "Kiddos" and my Sunday School Families! I have learned

SOOOO much and my faith has grown so deep over the past 18 years. I have been blessed with so much. It is time to share these blessings.

I wish you all joy in the New Year! I hope 2022 starts out with nothing but promise and Love!

Tammy



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



But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. 2 Peter 3:18

JOIN US!

Happy New Year! Actually, we are a month into the church new year! Advent is the first season in the church calendar. A season of hope, just like the start of a new calendar year. In honor of the new church year, the students were asked to make some Advent resolutions or goals for the upcoming year. Each of them had to make 3 goals and write them in their journals, because we all know when we write things down, we have a better shot at completing them!! We are continuing our study of the Old Testament as students research 11 different books of their choice. We are learning a lot! We have talked as a group about Genesis, Exodus, and Isaiah. We are blessed to have Pastor around to share all his knowledge and of course lead us in the books of the Bible song! Students will be putting together poster in January showcasing their efforts! Stop down to the Mattes center at the end of the month to check out their progress!

The Confirmation kids will be selling butter braids in January, so look for the table between services! You can also email me with any order and we will deliver. The money raised will go towards the students going to the ELCA National Youth Gathering this July and for an end of the Confirmation year activity in February.

We are inviting high school-aged kids to come and hang out with Pastor on Wednesdays between 7 and 8! Pop in any time to say "Hi" and catch us both up on your life!

Finally, I hope the new year brings renewed faith and hope in a peaceful world. We talk a lot about being God's masterpieces during Confirmation and I hope this year allows us all to shine as he intended!

In Peace,
Jen

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.

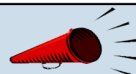
SUPPORT THE YOUTH!

Buy scrip cards from Good Shepherd

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 tcjj23511@gmail.com



SHOUT OUT!!!

Butter Braids!!! Help with youth activities AND get a delicious treat! Students will be available between services or you can email me at jen@gslacrosse.org to put in an online order that we will deliver! Thanks for your support!

Options include:

- *Bavarian Crème *Caramel Roll *Cinnamon
- *Cream Cheese *Raspberry *Blueberry
- *Cherry *Cinnamon Roll *Strawberry



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

GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND CHURCH!

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

Volunteer to usher or read at church.

Help a neighbor shovel snow

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@gslacrosse.org if you are interested!

Jen Servais

Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Jen@gslacrosse.org (608) 788-0450



Music Notes

From The Director of Music

Hymn Focus:

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

Important for diversity in our worship music tradition are the hymns celebrating the feminine aspects and images of God, in contrast with the masculine. Perhaps no hymn in our Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal better illustrates this than #735, "Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth". Although often associated with more modern themes such as feminism and inclusivity, the inspiration for this hymn text actually comes from the writings of 14th century mystic, Julian of Norwich.

Living in medieval England, Julian lived a life of prayer and solitude at the Church of St. Julian (from which she took her name). Medieval England was a time and place of great violence, cruelty and pessimism, made worse by the Hundred Years War and the Black Death. In stark contrast to this reality and environment, Julian's writings were colorful and encouraging, reflecting her deep faith. According to scholar Austin Cooper, Julian was "a very intelligent woman...of great warmth and charm whose religious experience is expressed with vivid precision and gentle humanity".

In 1373, while deathly ill, Julian experienced a series of 16 profound visions, which were later published as her Showings. Seeing Christ as our "true mother", Julian said, "The human mother will suckle her child with her own milk, but our beloved mother, Jesus, feeds us with himself".

The poet Jean Janzen was asked to contribute some new hymn texts to the 1992 Hymnal: A Worship Book of the Mennonite Church, using writings of some of the English mystics for inspiration. She was impressed by the "rich language of these mystics and their startling ways of speaking...about God", as well as Julian referring to God her mother. Janzen's text, written in the first person, uses the metaphor of God as a nurturing mother and attributes different aspects of motherhood to each person of the Holy Trinity. Norwich, the tune for this hymn, was composed by Carolyn Jennings, Professor Emerita at St. Olaf College, composer and church musician.



Randy Lyden

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



A COLORFUL body

Melt crayons to show how the body of Christ works together.



What you need:

- Crayons
- Metal baking sheet
- Adult help
- Metal gingerbread man cookie cutter

What you do:

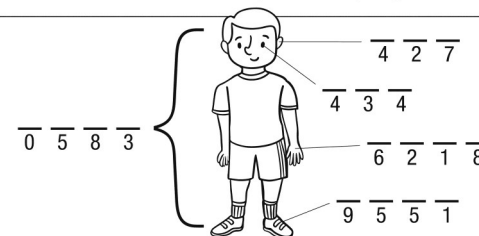
1. Remove labels and break crayons into 1-inch pieces.
2. Scatter pieces on the baking sheet, about two layers thick.
3. Bake for 10 minutes at 350 degrees until melted. Allow to cool 15 minutes.
4. When melted crayons are the consistency of playdough, press the cookie cutter through them (while still on pan).
5. Cool the pan in freezer for 15 minutes until crayons are hardened.
6. Remove from pan and break apart the shapes.



WORKING IN UNISON

Just as body parts work in unison, the church — the body of Christ — is to work together for God's purposes.

Directions: Fill in the letters for each body part. Add up each part's number total, and use those totals to complete the Bible passage.



Now if the _____ should say, "Because I am not a _____, I do not belong to the _____," ... And if the _____ should say, "Because I am not an _____, I do not belong to the _____," it would not for that reason stop being part of the _____. If the whole _____ were an _____, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole _____ were an _____, where would the sense of smell be? ... As it is, there are many parts, but one _____.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:15-17, 20, NIV

Answer: body = 20
head = 17, foot = 20



"Because he works from home. That's why we never see God in person."