

Ephesians 2:8

For by *grace*
you have been
saved through faith.

And this is not your
own doing; it is the
gift of *God*



GOOD SHEPHERD

LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter February, 2022

Give. Serve. Lead. Connect.

From Pastor Harald Bringsjord

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. (Ephesians 2:8)

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the community of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

The above verse from Ephesians is one that has a special place in the Lutheran faith. And the statements and blessings that follow are probably quite familiar to you. They are spoken at almost every worship when we gather as God's people. We use the word grace a lot throughout worship, and it makes good sense, for we are grace-filled people.

I have always found that there is quite a bit of wisdom in cartoons. One of my favorites is from "Dennis the Menace," and without mentioning the word, it definitely deals with grace. It's just too good not to share:

Dennis and his friend Joey are leaving Mrs. Wilson's house loaded up with a plate full of cookies. Joey turns to Dennis and says, "I wonder what we did to

deserve this." Dennis is quick to reply. "Look, Joey, Mrs. Wilson gives us cookies, not because we're nice but because she's nice."

This truly catches the nature of God's grace in a nutshell. The gospel has nothing to do with our goodness. Period. It has everything to do with God's goodness. And when I read Scripture, it becomes crystal clear that as humans we are in tough shape. Throughout the Bible, we see hatred and polarization, we see war and death, dishonesty and greed, selfishness and shame, and the powerful oppressing the weak. Our generation doesn't have a corner on the market on these things. But when I read Scripture, I also realize that we and the people who have gone before us, are far more loved than we can possibly imagine.

Church for me is the place to be reminded that we are loved, not because of our goodness, but because God is good.

God's peace and love and grace be with you always,

Pastor Harald



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 January 17th

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 January 18, 2022. 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 February 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.

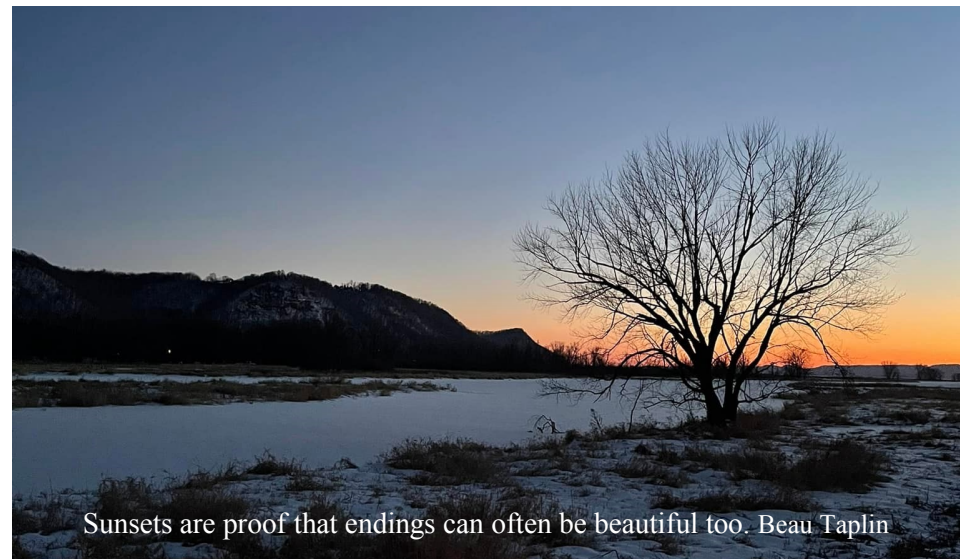
Thank you to Ann Hudson who sends out meaningful cards and handmade prayer shawls to bereaved families throughout the year.

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



Sunsets are proof that endings can often be beautiful too. Beau Taplin

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.

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

High School Youth Group (Grades 9-12)

You aren't the only Christian at your high school! Good Shepherd Youth Group provides a chance to meet other awesome teens just like yourself.

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.

We have social events throughout the year along with a yearly mission trip. Want to learn more? Contact the Jen Servais at Jen@gslacrosse.org

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, 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 December 28 through January 24.

Harold Topel Memorial

Harald & Andrea Bringsjord
Becky Wapp-Sawyer

Ann Van Dyck Memorial

Mitz Holley

Richard Schlicht Memorial

Harald & Andrea Bringsjord

memorials
& gifts

Charitable Trust Donations

Dirk & Rita Gasterland
Ryan & Lindsay Burner

Thank
you

Monthly Benevolences From Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

ELCA/Synod Mission Support	\$3,560
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$84
Companion Synod - Peru	\$10
Synod Seminary Scholarships	\$10
Sugar Creek Bible Camp	\$160
WI Lutheran Social Services	\$200
WAFER	\$161

Gifts and Donations From Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

WELCA:

Catholic Charities	\$150.00
Church Women United	\$100.00
Salvation Army	\$150.00
Women of the ELCA	\$100.00
New Horizons	\$442.50
Women's Clothes Closet	\$442.50
GS WELCA Scholarship	\$500.00

Good Shepherd Trust Foundation:

Camp Chileda	\$500.00
Warming Shelter	\$500.00
Causeway Caregivers	\$500.00
Coulee Recovery Center	\$500.00
Family and Children's Center	\$500.00
Hunger Task Force	\$500.00
Our Saviors Come for Supper	\$500.00
Salvation Army	\$500.00
Sugar Creek Bible Camp	\$500.00
WAFER	\$500.00
OASIS Respite Care	\$3,000.00



Church Numbers

Weekly Sunday Attendance

Date	8:30	10:30
12/05/21	58	33
12/12/21	59	48
12/19/21	82	43
12/26/21		38

Weekly Envelope Offerings

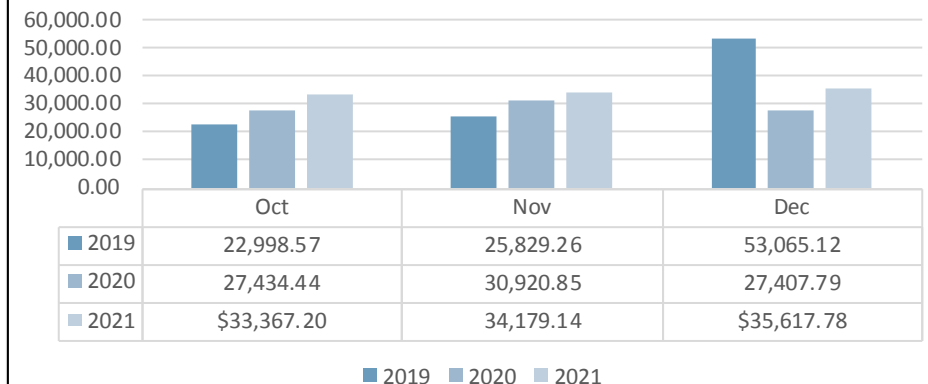
Date	Weekly	% Budget
12/05/21	\$13,959.28	159.5%
12/12/21	\$7,301.50	83.4%
12/19/21	\$6,750.50	77.1%
12/31/21	\$7,606.50	86.9%
Totals	\$35,617.78	101.8%

Envelope Offering Comparison

December 2021	December 2020	% Difference
\$35,617.78	\$27,512.79	29.5%
YTD 2021	YTD 2020	% Difference
\$359,926.86	\$350,630.20	2.7%

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

Envelope Offerings



Around the Parish...

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual Congregational meeting will be held via Zoom Sunday, February 13th at noon. All are invited to join this important meeting.

A link to the meeting can be found on our website:

<https://gslacrosse.org/annual-meeting/>

Mmmmm, Delicious!

Butter Braids!!! Help with youth activities AND get a delicious treat! Students will be available between services to take your order, or you can email

jen@gslacrosse.org. You can also visit our website <https://gslacrosse.org/butter-braids/> 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

Sunday Bible Study

As we cautiously move into the New Year, I am happy to announce that the Re-opening Committee and the Church Council have decided that it would be okay to resume in person Bible Study. So, starting February 27 we will meet once a month between services. We will meet in the quilting room (just beyond the kitchen) because it provides a little more space for safe distancing. We will meet from 9:45 to 10:25. An option to participate via Zoom will be offered. At this point we are planning to continue through May 29th on the fourth Sunday of each month. Then, hopefully resume in September. The group will discuss the Gospel lesson assigned for the Sunday we meet. If you would like to participate, either in person or via Zoom please contact me at 608-397-6747 or email jstennesspidahl@gmail.com. Of course, spontaneous attendance will certainly be welcomed.

Please consider taking advantage of this opportunity to dig deeper into God's Word.

Pastor John

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

The Good Shepherd choirs and Worship Band are in the process of starting up again! If you are interested in joining our Sanctuary Choir, Bell Choir or, for the kids, our Gloria Dei Choir, please contact the choir director.

Sanctuary Choir: Karl Greenfield at 790-3785 or email at karl@gslacrosse.org

Bell Choir: Linda Jerome at 317-1335 or email at linda@gslacrosse.org.

Gloria Dei Choir: Darlene Lassig at 608-881-0348 or email at darlene@gslacrosse.org.

Sounds of Praise: Randy Lyden at 792-1305 or email at randy@gslacrosse.org

Beautify and protect!

This spring our Buildings & Grounds Committee is contracting to have our parking lots resealed and re-stripped. This much needed project will enhance the appearance of Good Shepherd and prevent costly repairs of the asphalt that will arise if it is not maintained.

The cost of the project is \$16,000.00 and our Memorials Committee has pledged \$10,000.00 towards the project, leaving us \$6,000.00 to raise in order to sign a contract and get on a schedule to have the work done.

Any and all contributions are greatly appreciated! Be sure to write "Parking Lot" on your check memo line or otherwise indicate your donation is for this fund. You can also give electronically to this fund on our website

<https://gslacrosse.org/give-online/>

Once you sign up and log in, check the shopping basket for our giving options.

Lydia Circle

Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, February 1st** at noon in the Mattes Center. Masks are required in the building. Please call Carol Abraham 787-0679 if you have any questions.

Around the Parish...

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.

CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THE SHEPHERD'S 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 8:30am 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 8:30am 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 while singing 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!

Sugar Creek Summer Registration

Get ready for another exciting summer of hearing God's word and sharing God's love in community!

See 17 fun and amazing programs - new and classic. Brochures are available in the welcome area!

For more information on current and upcoming events at Sugar Creek visit www.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org

February 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
January 23 8:30am Worship 8:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 6:30am GS Men's Group	24 12:30pm Quilters	25 6pm Parish Ed Meeting 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg	26 No Confirmation	27	28	29
30 8:30am Worship 8:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 6:30am GS Men's Group	31 12:30pm Quilters	February 1 1pm Lydia Circle 5:30pm Buildings & Grounds 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg	2 6:30pm Confirmation	3 6pm WELCA	4	5
6 8:30am Worship/communion 8:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship/communion 6:30am GS Men's Group	7 12:30pm Quilters	8 1:45pm Hillview Communion 6pm BS Troop 22 Adult Mtg 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg	9 6:30pm Confirmation	10	11 3pm Herlitzke Funeral	12
13 8:30am Worship 8:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Noon Church Annual Meeting 6:30am GS Men's Group	14 12:30pm Quilters 6pm Re-Opening Meeting 7pm Membership Meeting	15 Polling Day 6pm Admin/Exec Meeting 7pm Council Meeting	16 6:30pm Confirmation	17	18 March Voice Articles Due	19
20 8:30am Worship/communion 8:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship/communion 6:30am GS Men's Group	21 12:30pm Quilters	22 6pm Parish Ed Meeting 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg	23 6:30pm Confirmation	24	25	26
27 8:30am Worship 8:30am Sunday School 9:45am Bible Study 10:30am Worship 6:30am GS Men's Group	28 12:30pm Quilters	March 1 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg	2 Ash Wednesday 6:30pm Lenten Worship /Communion	3 6pm WELCA	4	5
<p><i>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.</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

February 2022! Can you believe a Whole Month has passed? Christmas feels like yesterday and yet we are about 9 months from putting up our Christmas Decorations. I am way ahead of schedule, this year, as I still have few up. But Snowmen are perfectly fitting for this February Weather!

With all the cold weather, here is something to warm you up. The next newsletter article will include mentions of SPRING! With that in mind, please note the date changes at the bottom of this article. With waning attendance, we will present all the remaining Milestones in March to our 1st, 2nd and 4th graders. This will hopefully mean that COVID numbers will be down and our survey results will be back. On that note, we have not had many families in church on Sundays, so I will mail the surveys out. IF YOU ARE NOT CURRENTLY A SUNDAY SCHOOL FAMILY but would like to contribute through the survey, let me know and I can get you a copy. Please return these by email or drop off at church for me to compile.

Next – Easter is Around the CORNER – that means the start of Lent! In the past we have done fundraisers, but have tried to get the children to practice self-denial through our activities. This year we will be doing a sort of “Lent Calendar) like an Advent Calendar. We will be creating these in February to begin on March 2nd which is Ash Wednesday. Please Come to participate in this date, but if you cannot make it, please register for this program. I will be emailing the instructions and you can pick up materials, but to manage costs, please register! All registered Sunday Schoolers for this year will be counted in, but I know there are some families who prefer to wait until we are able to be fully open to attend.

MUSIC BEGINS AGAIN – and our first songs will be I am a PROMISE! And I am the Resurrection. I just cannot wait. The good thing is it will get the kids out of their chairs, but still safe distanced to participate.

One last request – GET INVOLVED! One of the most important times of our congregation is now, with COVID there have been lots of changes and needs and we have had to look at how we do things in a different way. We will need a lot of help to get back to this new “season” of Good Shepherd. Volunteers will be needed, attendance in programs and events will be needed, input/support will be needed to get us up and running again. We cannot go back, only forward, together. With God, all things are possible!

Tammy



Quick-Look

Upcoming Events At a Glance

Jan 30 to Feb 13	Jesus and John the Baptist, Luke 3:1-18/Matthew 3:13-17 (Kitchen, Art, Science)
Feb 20th	Fellowship Sunday – Pajama Day
February 27th	Sunday School Lenten Project
January 9th to 23rd	House on the Rock, Matthew 7:24-28
March 20th	Prayer Blocks, Prayer Pillows and Bible Fun Books presented to 1st, 2nd and, 4th Graders

John the Baptist – Fun Facts

- Son of Zacharias and Elizabeth (Mary, Jesus' Mothers cousin)
- The name “John” was given to Elizabeth’s child by an angel sent by God.
- John lived in the desert until the beginning of his ministry.
- Jesus declared that no greater man than John had been born of a woman.
- John was a Nazarite – he separated himself from other people in order to commune with God.
- Even before John was born, he knew when Jesus was Nearby (Luke 1:36, 41).
- Herod Antipas actually tried to protect John and liked listening to him. (Mark 6:17-20)



See you Sunday!



Tammy Klein

Children's Ministry Coordinator
Children's Ministry Coordinator
tammy@gsilacrosse.org (608)788-0450

tammy@gsilacrosse.org (608)788-0450

Stay Connected!

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. 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



Youth Update

Confirmation (Grades 6-8) High School Youth (Grades 9-12)

G4Squad



"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." ~1 Corinthians 13:13

JOIN US!

Confirmation kids are continuing their study of the Old Testament. There seems to be a lot of strife in these stories. People continually losing sight of how God wants us to live and God continually forgiving them. It seems like a never-ending circle of humanity losing their way and needing God to bail us out.

Unfortunately, it seems like our current reality is another example of so many people forgetting that God's message is one of love. Did you know that in the King James version of the Bible, the word love is mentioned 310 times, 131 times in the Old Testament and 179 times in the New Testament? We talk a lot in Confirmation about God's love for us. But how do we define love in our lives, put it into words? Is it a verb...an action? Is it a noun...a thing? Is it an adjective/adverb...a description? Is it just the absence of hate? Is it contagious? Is it different based on where we live, what color our skin is, or how much money we have? If there is so much love, why do bad things happen? Finally, knowing that God loves us, how do we live our lives in

a way that would show him we understand love and break the cycle of darkness creeping in? I pray that in this month that is dedicated to the idea of love, that we all really think about what that looks like in our lives and work to show everyone we meet some love.

Speaking of love...who doesn't love Butter Braids? The youth are selling them through February 9th. There will be a student selling them in between church services or you can order online and we will deliver. The online site is: <https://store.myfundraisingplace.com/f1ec6526-e74d-4e56-a32f-8be4cee403d1>

The money raised will go towards fun youth activities and the kids going to the National Youth Convention. Thanks for always supporting our kids!

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.

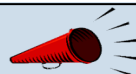
SUPPORT THE YOUTH!

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



