



GOOD SHEPHERD

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

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter November, 2022

Give. Serve. Lead. Connect.

From Pastor Harald Bringsjord

November has some special days packed into it.

November 1st is officially All Saint's Day and on Sunday, Nov. 6th we pause in our worship and remember those who were members of Good Shepherd who have died since the last All Saint's Day. On November 8th we are given the privilege, and with that privilege the responsibility to vote. Unfortunately, there is so much negativism leading up to the elections that I think it motivates people who thrive on negativity to vote and turns people away who simply want peace between neighbors and communities. But I have always understood voting as a sacred civic duty. So, I urge you to exercise your right and your duty as a citizen and go to the polls on November 8th. In many countries, the governments run sham elections to keep an authoritarian leader in power. Let's keep our democracy strong by staying informed and by voting whenever we have the opportunity. The reformer Martin Luther was born on November 10th, 1483. A priest and theologian, Luther was very much engaged in the public square and encouraged others to be also.

The final Sunday in the Pentecost season, this year on November 20th, is also called Christ the King Sunday. In this contentious world, that special Sunday is a reminder that we are ultimately followers of Christ - not of a nation, a political party, or a political leader. We are followers of Christ who sums up the law this way: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul

and might, and your neighbor as yourself."

On Thursday, November 24th we celebrate a holiday that was established at the urging of the House of Representatives and proclaimed by President George Washington on October 3rd, 1789 to be a day of thanks. As Christians we would insist that every day is to be a day to give God thanks, but it is good to be reminded of giving thanks.

This year's Thanksgiving worship will be held on November 23rd at 6:30pm at Good Shepherd with a pie social following.

And after being reminded of giving thanks in all things, on November 27 the new church year begins with the first Sunday of Advent which encourages us to be people of hope.

It seems that the month of November lets us know that in the midst of death (All Saints Day) we are called to be thankful (Thanksgiving) and hopeful (First Sunday of Advent) and recognizing that Christ is the Lord of all (Christ the King Sunday), we are called to be engaged in the world (Election Day and Martin Luther's birthday who encouraged his followers to be engaged in the world).

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever."

Psalm 136:1

Thanks be to God.

--

Harald Bringsjord
Pastor



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Twitter.com/goodshepherdlse



GSlacrosse.org/voice

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

Give Volunteering Within Church

Flower and Bulletin Sponsorship

Sign up on the bulletin board in the concourse to sponsor the weekly bulletins or flowers in honor of a loved one or a special event. When signing up for either the bulletins or flowers, please give us the reason you are sponsoring them. If you do not give us a reason, the bulletin will only

have your name as the sponsor.

If you wish to sponsor the chancel or pulpit flowers, you are responsible for ordering and paying for them directly. Please be sure the flowers are delivered to the church office on or before Friday at noon.

Readers & Ushers Appreciated!

Readers and Ushers are always valued at our worship services. Please consider signing up on the sign up sheet in the welcome area at the back of the sanctuary. You can sign up to read for a time and day

that works for you. The readings will be sent (either by mail or email) to you early that week. Interested in ushering? Contact Kathy 788-0450. We really do need your help!

Women Who Wrestle With The Word (W5)

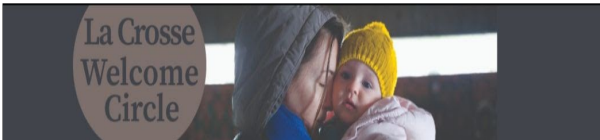
If you would like to be a part of a regular gathering of Christian Women, you are always welcome to join W5. For info contact the church office.



Lydia Circle

Lydia Circle meets the first Tuesday of every month at 1pm in the quilting room. All women are welcome!

If you have any questions, contact Carol at 787-0609.



"Be sure to welcome strangers into your home. By doing this, some people have welcomed angels as guests, without even knowing it." – Hebrews 13:2

Dear Member of the Coulee Region community,

As the assault on Ukraine continues to intensify, and thousands more are killed and wounded, many thousands of its citizens are being displaced. Many of them will never be able to return to their homes, which have been destroyed by the Russian armed forces.

To help those affected find new homes here in the Coulee Region, seven members of our community formed the La Crosse Welcome Circle (LWC) in an effort to assist Ukrainians who wish to temporarily resettle here in southwestern Wisconsin. Though many will return to their homeland when possible, the LWC offers peace and hope in the meantime.

For further information on how you can help in this effort, send an e-mail to http://lacrossewelcomecircle@gmail.com

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



Autumn has a beauty all its own. A perfect blend of the summer past and the winter to come. -Unknown

Lead

Raising Up Spiritual Leaders

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!



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.

The Gloria Dei Choir

We rehearse as part of our 8:30 Sunday School program 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 608-769-1499 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.

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!!

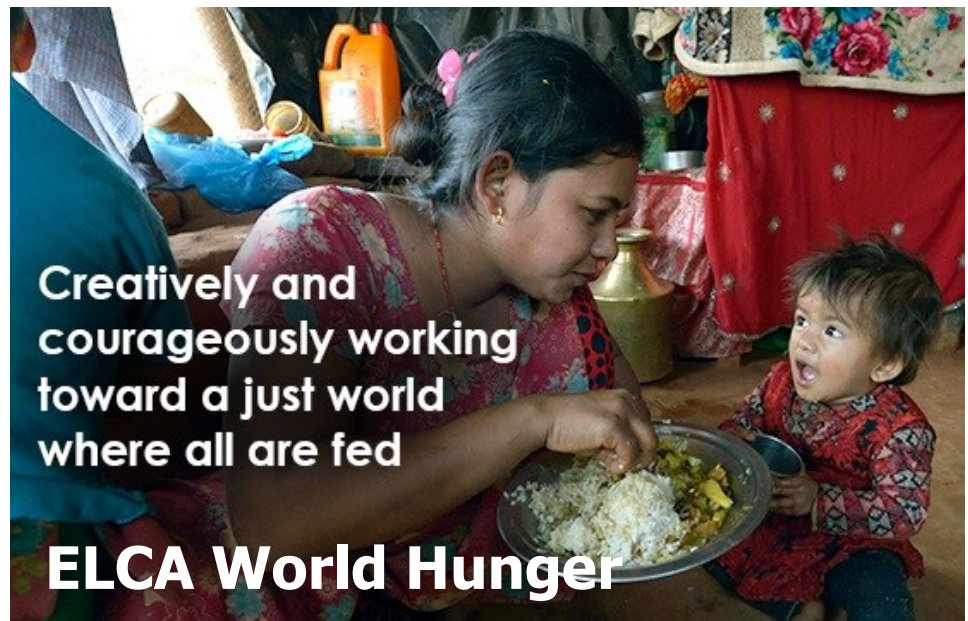
Pick-up place is Franciscan/Mayo at the Market Street door and the pick-up time will be 11am. Please allow 1 1/2 to 2 hours for deliveries. We are route #1.

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
Food donations for WAFER may be left in the stewardship area in the concourse or you can support WAFER with 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 August 22 through September 26.



Lutheran World Relief

Pat Anderson

LWR Ukraine

Rich Frosch

Hintgen Food Project

Rob & Dianne Hamann
Cindy Thurston

Dave Solie Memorial

Harald & Andrea Bringsjord
Barb Smyth

WAFER

Tom & Carol Abraham
John Wood

Thank you



September Monthly Benevolences From Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

ELCA/Synod Mission Support	\$2,333
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$84
Companion Synod - Peru	\$10
Synod Seminary Scholarships	\$10
Sugar Creek Bible Camp	\$160
WI Lutheran Social Services	\$200
Lutheran World Relief	\$50

Church Numbers

Weekly Sunday Attendance

Date	8:30	10:30
09/04/22	35	47
09/11/22	92	65
09/18/22	71	40
09/25/22	91	38

Weekly Envelope Offerings

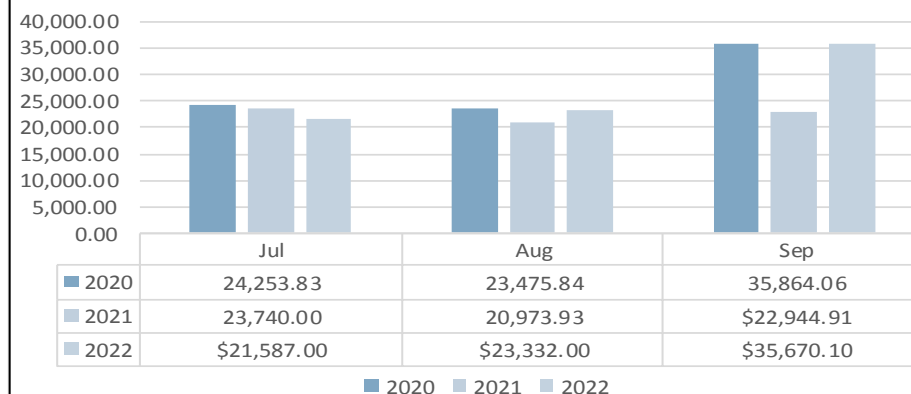
Date	Weekly	% Budget
09/04/22	\$5,065.00	69.5%
09/11/22	\$12,305.00	168.7%
09/18/22	\$6,772.50	92.9%
09/25/22	\$11,527.60	158.1%
Totals	\$35,670.10	122.3%

Envelope Offering Comparison

September 2022	September 2021	% Difference
\$35,670.10	\$22,944.91	55.5%
YTD 2022	YTD 2021	% Difference
\$216,679.59	\$242,871.84	-10.8%

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

Envelope Offerings



Around the Parish...

Support Ukraine

Your gifts will support Ukrainians and others. Gifts to "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by the crisis in Ukraine and neighboring countries.

You may give through Good Shepherd by dropping your donation in the offering plate or bringing it to the church office. Please be sure to write "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" on your check memo line.

Our prayers abound for the loss and devastation experienced in Ukraine and Eastern Europe.

Lydia Circle

Lydia Circle will this Tuesday, November 1st at 1pm in the Quilt Room. All ladies are welcome. Any questions please call Carol Abraham at 787-0679. We hope you will join us for some good chats & always dessert & coffee.

Good Shepherd Women-WELCA

WELCA welcomes all women from our congregation to be part of this committee. Our next meeting is Thursday, November 3rd at 6pm on Zoom and in person in the Mattes Center.

W5 Update

We will meet next on November 7th at 6:30pm. Call Judy Casto at 608-385-1410 for questions or email judyldcasto@gmail.com.

Game Night

Game Night for all ages is Friday, November 11th from 6 - 9pm. Bring your favorite game or learn a new one. Games vary, but include a variety of board, card, and other games. Contact Randy at grimmcaf@hotmail.com, or Jim at (641)485-6941 with any questions.

Annual Holiday Marketplace

The Annual Holiday Marketplace Sale will take place on Sat, Nov. 12th, from 9-2pm in the Mattes Center. We have 25 vendors signed up this year! Please plan to join us that day to support the good works of WELCA. This is our big fundraiser for the year. We will serve lunch and we will offer pulled pork sandwiches. Good Shepherd will have a bake sale as usual. Please sign up to bake anything you like for our bake sale. Food can be dropped off Fri, Nov. 11th, from noon to 5pm. Thank you everyone for all the support! We couldn't do this without the congregation's help. Contact Sally Lindahl at 608-799-0263 or sally@gslacrosse.org

Thanksgiving Eve Service

Our service of Thanksgiving will be Wednesday, November 23rd at 6:30pm. Please join us after this short service for pie and fellowship in the Mattes Center.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

We will meet once a month on the fourth Sunday (November 27th) between services in the Library from 9:30am to 10:20am. An option to participate via Zoom is offered on our website at <https://gslacrosse.org/sunday-bible-study/>

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.

Good Shepherd Caring Tree

Our Caring Tree will be set up during the month of November. Please watch for this tree in our new stewardship area in the narthex. On the tree you will find tags containing a nursing home residents name and items they would like as a Christmas gift. Please brighten their holidays by taking a tag and returning the wrapped present to the church. For some of these residents, these may be the only gifts they receive for Christmas.

Around the Parish...

Adult Tree Trimming

Good Shepherd adults, join us at 5:30pm Friday, December 2nd, in the welcome area for a light chili supper followed by trimming of the trees and assembly of the Sunday School Christmas treat bags. It is an evening of fun, fellowship and Christmas spirit. Come as you are and leave when you like. We plan to finish our trimming by 8pm.

Bulletins & Flower Sponsorship

Sign up on the bulletin board in the concourse to sponsor the weekly bulletins or flowers in honor of a loved one or a special event.

When signing up for either the bulletins or flowers, please give us the reason you are sponsoring them. If you do not give us a reason, the bulletin will only have your name as the sponsor.

If you wish to sponsor the chancel or pulpit flowers, you are responsible for ordering and paying for them directly. Please be sure the flowers are delivered to the church office on or before Friday at noon.

Causeway Caregivers exists to help!

Causeway serves elderly and disabled adults in La Crosse County by providing volunteer services without charge for those in need of a volunteer connection.

Raking leaves, grocery shopping, doing errands and helping after a winter weather event are the types of needs Causeway is receiving now. Would you like to volunteer? Do you need a volunteer? Call (608) 775-9999 to get started!

OASIS Respite Program is a weekly program for individuals in the beginning to mid-stages of a dementia, Alzheimer's or other brain related diagnosis. This respite time provides socialization, brain enrichment, and activities while a caregiver gets a four hour much needed break. Suggested donation of \$20 per attendance provides the activities and a nutritious, flavor-forward lunch. OASIS is an outreach program of Causeway Caregivers and be reached at (608) 780-0471

Youth Scrip Cards

Kwik Trip and many other scrip cards are available at the Youth Table in the welcome area. You can also choose from many other cards available to order. Thank you for supporting our Youth Program!

Contact Corrine Holtz to place an order. Mobile (608)397-9353 or Email tcjj23511@gmail.com The office also has Kwik Trip cards available for immediate purchase Monday -Friday from 8am - 1pm.

Vanco Mobile App

To use mobile giving to contribute to our ministry we encourage everyone to download the Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement 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.

Shop Amazon Smile instead of Amazon and give to Good Shepherd at the same time!

Shop smile.amazon.com and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases to Good Shepherd! For more information and to get started, go to <http://gslacrosse.org/6030-2/> or <https://smile.amazon.com/>

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

2023 Wall Calendars

We will be needing 2023 wall calendars to pass along to our nursing home residents. Please bring any extras you may receive to the church office.

November 2022



Gloria Dei Choir
Meets in Sunday
School each week.



Bell Choir
Meets every Sunday
each week at 5:30pm.










Sanctuary Choir
Meets every Sunday
each week at 9:30am.



Sounds of Praise
Meets as scheduled on
Saturdays at 4pm.

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
October 30 Reformation Sunday 8:30am Worship 8:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 6:30pm GS Men's Group 	31	November 1 1pm Lydia Circle 6pm BS Troop 22 Adult Meeting 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Meeting	2 6:30pm Confirmation	3 6pm WELCA Meeting	4	5
6 All Saints Sunday Cookie Sunday in honor of Pastor Harald's 35th Anniversary 8:30am Worship/Communion 8:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship/Communion 6:30pm GS Men's Group 	7 6:30pm W5	8 Polling Day 1:15pm Dementia Support Grp 1:45pm Hillview Communion NO BS Troop 22 Meeting	9 3pm Grief Support 6:30pm Conf help with Holiday Marketplace Set up	10 Holiday Marketplace Set Up	11 November Voice Articles Due Holiday Marketplace Set Up 6pm Family Game Night	12 9am Holiday Marketplace 
13 8:30am Worship 8:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 6:30pm GS Men's Group 	14 6pm Communal Health 6:15pm Cub Scouts Pack 17 7pm MGF Mtg	15 6pm Admin/Exec Mtg 6:15pm Hintgen Meeting 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Meeting 7pm Church Council Mtg	16 6:30pm Confirmation	17	18	19
20 8:30am Worship/communion 8:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship/communion 6:30pm GS Men's Group 	21	22 6pm Parish Ed Meeting 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Meeting	23 3pm Grief Support NO Confirmation 6:30pm Thanksgiving Eve Serv After Service Pie Fest	24 Thanksgiving Day Church Office Closed	25 Church Office Closed	26
27 8:30am Worship NO Sunday School 9:45am Bible Study 10:30am Worship 6:30pm GS Men's Group 	28 6:15pm Cub Scouts Pack 17	29 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Meeting	30 6:30pm Confirmation	December 1 6pm WELCA Meeting	2 5:30pm Adult Tree Trimming	3 11am Advent Luncheon (At Mary Mother of the Church) 11am to 2pm Christmas Capers
4 8:30am Worship/communion 8:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship/communion 6:30pm GS Men's Group 	5 10am Before the After	6 1pm Lydia Circle 6pm BS Troop 22 Adult Meeting 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Meeting	7 6:30pm Confirmation	8	9 6pm Family Game Night	10 

Church Council Members

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

Other Church Council Members include: Tim Knudsen, Roger Weeks Jr., Karl Noll, Thea Johnson, Mark Skolos, Harlan McLain, Steve Stelzl, Lori Lowell, Janette Dawson, Pastor Bringsjord, and Maddy Fergot is our Youth Representative.



- **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
- **Brea Ellison**
Children's Ministry Coordinator
breanna@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* 769-1499
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 know 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

Hello everyone!

We have been having such a great time in Sunday School these past two months! We first learned about the story of Joseph and the Pharaoh. God gave Joseph a great talent just as he has given all of us great talents too! We also learned about Queen Esther. Esther was brave and stood up for something she knew was wrong, and we learned about ways we can stand up and be brave too during difficult situations. Our Kindergarteners received their CD milestone, and the Third Graders received their Bibles. I would like to take a moment to thank all of the dedicated and amazing volunteers that are helping out in Sunday School this year! We could not do Sunday School without you all!

As the holiday season is upon us, we have several events and fun activities planned. First, we have on Saturday December 3rd the Christmas Capers event, which will be held from 11am to 2pm. This event is for the kids ages 3 years old to 5th grade, and everyone is welcome! This event gives parents and guardians time to holiday prep or have a quiet afternoon while the children make Christmas decorations and gifts, play games, have lunch, and watch a movie! We do need youth and confirmation students to help with the activities. A sign-up sheet for helping out and attending will be at the back of church and on the Sunday School bulletin board.

On November 6th during Sunday School, we are also signing up and completing the selection for the Christmas Program Parts. The Christmas Program will take place on Sunday, December 18th at only the 8:30am service, with the dress rehearsal being on Saturday, December 17th at 8:30am.

Have a happy Thanksgiving!

Brea Ellison



Quick-Look

Upcoming Events At a Glance

Sundays November 6th- November 20th	Daniel and the Lion's Den (Kitchen, Art, Science)
Sunday, November 6th	Christmas Play Parts Sign Up
Sunday, November 27th	Happy Thanksgiving! No Sunday School
Saturday, December 3rd	Christmas Capers 11am - 2pm
Sunday, December 11th	Christmas Program Practice
Saturday, December 17th (8:30am)	Christmas Program Rehearsal
Sunday, December 18th (8:30am)	Christmas Program



Brea Ellison

Children's Education Coordinator
Breanna@gslacrosse.org (608)788-0450

Stay Connected!

Receive message alerts for Sunday School at Good Shepherd. Send the message @rubberduck to the number (608) 807-2784. All parents and children with a cell phone are encouraged to sign-up! Data charges may apply. Must age 13+ to sign up without parental guidance. This service is brought to you by Remind®.



Youth Update

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

G4Squad



Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath. ~James 1:19

October has been a busy month for our Confirmation students. We have dived into the New Testament, exploring Luke, Acts, and James. Luke taught us that sometimes being a disciple of Christ is hard and scary but Jesus has asked us to follow in his example so we must do our best to live that life of faith. We learned from Acts we need to give God credit for our blessings, just as Peter did when he healed the crippled man. Acts also taught us that as disciples of Christ, we must go out and do good works to share God's love. Finally, we met James, who taught us so many things! First, we learned that life is hard and those moments where we struggle are opportunities to grow endurance in our faith. We must trust God is with us, carrying us through those difficult times. Finally, we read several passages from James and translated them into some simple rules on how to live a life of faith. These included rules like; Do not freak out on people, don't worry about material things, walk the talk of faith, be kind to others, show mercy to others to receive mercy, and apologize when needed. We have been working hard to see how all the stories and Bible verses relate to our everyday lives. A huge shout out to the small group guides who are doing an amazing job in working with our kids!

One of our recurring themes is gratitude. This month, gratitude is on all our minds as we get ready to celebrate Thanksgiving. God tells us repeatedly how important it is to be grateful. We have talked in class about how expressing our gratitude is really a way to acknowledge the miracles we have been a part of every day. The Confirmands take some time each Wednesday to write down

things they are grateful for and make prayer requests. We write these on strips of fabric and tie them together as a reminder that we are all connected through God's love and blessings. I pray this month, and all months, are full of recognizing the miracles around you and, as Claire reminded us in class, say a "halleluia" aloud occasionally when we are feeling especially grateful.

In Peace;
Jen



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

Support Good Shepherd's Youth Group by purchasing scrip cards!

Contact Corrine Holtz to see what is currently on hand or fill out an order form to request cards from Amazon to Walmart with several store or restaurant options in between. 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.

Corrine's contact information is:

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

The church office also has Kwik Trip cards available for immediate purchase.



Jen Servais

Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Jen@gsllacrosse.org (608) 788-0450

In the Office: Varied hours



Music Notes

From The Director of Music

Now Thank We All Our God

When we think of the hymn “Now Thank We All Our God”, we think of singing it at Thanksgiving Eve services with the anticipation of an abundant feast the next day (and left-overs for some days to come). In fact, the circumstances surrounding the writing this hymn were quite the opposite.

The author of this hymn, Martin Rinkhart (1586-1649), was born in Eilenburg, Saxony and served as archdeacon there for most of his career. He attended the Latin school in Eilenburg and in 1601 became a foundation scholar and chorister of the St Thomas’s School in Leipzig. He studied Theology at the University of Leipzig and took his M.A. there in 1616. He was appointed archdeacon of Eilenburg in 1617.

During the Thirty Years War (1618-1648) the walled city of Eilenburg became overcrowded with refugees from all around and suffered from pestilence and famine. Rinkhart’s home was a refuge for the victims even though it was often difficult for him to provide for his own family. During the plague of 1637, after two other ministers died, he became Eilenburg’s sole surviving minister, officiating at over 40 funerals

per day (including that of his own wife) and over 4000 in all. The following year he himself became sick and soon after that a severe famine broke out, during which he

helped organize emergency relief for the town.

It was in this setting of suffering, sickness and famine that Rinkhart penned the hymn “Now Thank We All Our God”. It is inspiring that, in the face of such hardship and dire need, he remained thankful to God, choosing instead to focus on God’s blessings rather than his own sufferings. The hymn, along with the tune composed by Johann Cruger (1598-1662), appears in the second edition (1663) of Rinkhart’s Jesu Herz-Buchlein (Sacred Heart Book) under the title “Tisch Gebetlein” (“Short Table Prayer”), suggesting it was originally meant to be sung as a meal prayer.



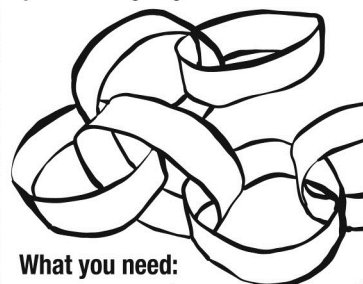
Randy Lyden

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Links of GRATITUDE

Make this meaningful decoration for your Thanksgiving table.



What you need:

- Construction paper (in fall colors)
- Scissors
- Pen
- Jar
- Stapler
- Adult help

What you do:

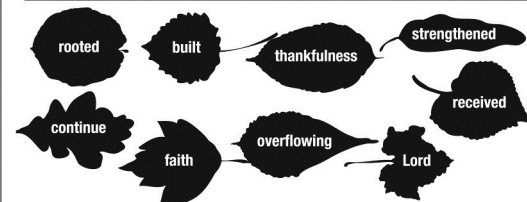
1. Cut the paper into strips about 2 inches wide.
2. Place the strips and pen in the jar. Then set it in a prominent place in your home.
3. Throughout November, have family discussions about what you’re thankful to God for. Write or draw each item on a paper strip.
4. Make a paper chain by linking and carefully stapling the strips.
5. Keep adding to your decoration and display it during your Thanksgiving meal.

PUZZLE

Piles of praise

Every autumn, the ground is overflowing with leaves. What does Paul encourage us to overflow with?

Directions: Use the key to match the leaves and complete the Bible passage.



So then, just as you _____ Christ Jesus as _____,

_____ to live your lives in him, _____ and

_____ up in him, _____ in the _____ as you

were taught, and _____ with _____.

COLOSSIANS 2:6-7, NIV

Answer: received, Lord, continue, rooted, built, strengthened, faith, overflowing, thankfulness.

