

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

*Luke 2:11 NRSV*



# GOOD SHEPHERD

LUTHERAN CHURCH

## The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter December, 2022

Give. Serve. Lead. Connect.

From Pastor Harald Bringsjord

Michael Lindvall, in a collection of stories entitled, "The Good News From North Haven", has this Christmas Program happening which is both humorous and meaningful.

He writes that it was supposed to be a typical Christmas pageant with two Sunday School children serving as Mary and Joseph.

"This year's Mary, whose name was actually Mary, was taking her role with an intense and pious seriousness. She looked into the face of the doll in her arms with eyes that really seemed to see the infant Christ. Joseph was another story. He had gotten the part because he had been rejected from Christmas Pageant participation by Alvina Johnson (the former director) more times than any other kid in church. 'with good reason', some might say. "

"Anyway, Mary and Joseph were to walk on as the narrator read, 'And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of David, which was called Bethlehem... to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.' At least this is what the narrator was supposed to read. It was what the narrator had read at the rehearsal. But a few hours before the performance, one of the young mothers had observed that none of the children could understand much King James English, so they voted to switch to the Good News translation of the Bible for the performance. 'What kid knows what "great with child" means?' they asked."

"The Good News translation is much more direct at this point. So, as Mary

and Joseph entered, the narrator read, 'Joseph went to register with Mary who was promised in marriage to him. She was pregnant.'

As that last word echoed from the narrator through the PA system into the full church, our little Joseph, hearing it, froze in his tracks, gave Mary an incredulous look, peered out at the congregation, and said, "Pregnant? What do you mean, pregnant?" This, of course, brought down the house. My wife, wiping tears from her eyes, leaned over to me and said, 'You know, that may well be just what Joseph actually said.'"

We hardly think about the scandal of the birth of Jesus. In the Gospel of Matthew, we're told that Joseph was shocked when he found out that Mary was pregnant. He decided to end his engagement with her, but he would do so privately in order not to put even more shame on Mary. It took the intervention of an angel to save their relationship.

From that scandal, that birth, we have received Jesus who has saved us and gives us life both now and eternally. At this time of year, we can only marvel that God works in such a way for the sake of the world. For not only is his birth a scandal but the Apostle Paul points out that so is his death. God certainly doesn't worry about such scandals, not as long as the Divine will is served, which is to bring love and saving grace to all the world.

Have a blessed Christmas,

Pastor Harald.



Facebook.com/GSlacrosse



Twitter.com/goodshepherdlse



GSlacrosse.org/voice

To access this and other publications online visit [GSlacrosse.org/voice](https://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)

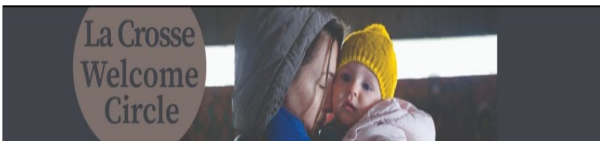
If you would like to be a part of a regular gathering of Christian Women, you are always welcome to join W5. For info contact the church office.



### 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](http://causewaycaregivers.org)



**"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" Luke 2:14 NRSV.**



## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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!!

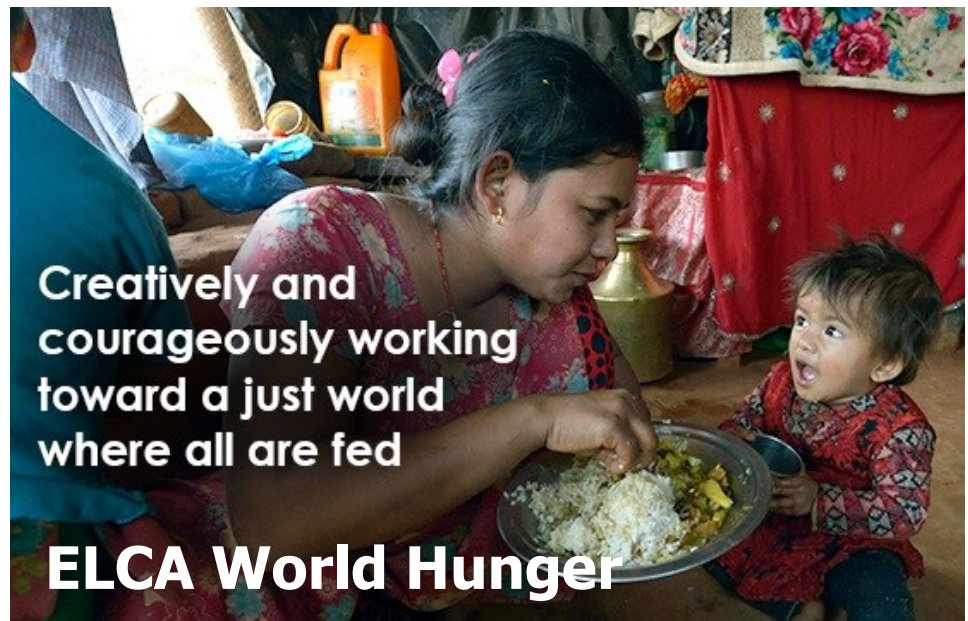
Pick-up place is Franciscan/Mayo at the Market Street door and the pick-up time will be 11am. Please allow 1 1/2 to 2 hours for deliveries. We are route #1.

*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](mailto: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 October 17 through November 20.

memorials  
& gifts

#### Hintgen Food Program

John & Naomi Stennes-Spidahl  
Bev Kettler  
Jim & Jan Quinn

#### Lois Olson Memorial

William & Stephanie Skemp  
Tracy Molzahn  
Nancy Kindley  
John & Naomi Stennes-Spidahl  
Harald & Andrea Bringsjord

#### Al Bushek Memorial

Kris Bernhardt  
Harald & Andrea Bringsjord

#### Rose Hundt Memorial

Harald & Andrea Bringsjord

#### Giving Tree Gift

Jan Crandall

Thank  
you



### October Monthly Benevolences From Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

ELCA/Synod Mission Support	\$3,567
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$84
Companion Synod - Peru	\$10
Synod Seminary Scholarships	\$10
Synod Missions	\$820
Sugar Creek Bible Camp	\$160
WI Lutheran Social Services	\$200
Causeway	\$600
Community Thanksgiving Dinner	\$200

## Church Numbers

### Weekly Sunday Attendance

Date	8:30	10:30
10/02/22	73	52
10/09/22	70	45
10/16/22	86	31
10/23/22	67	36
10/30/22	85	60

### Weekly Envelope Offerings

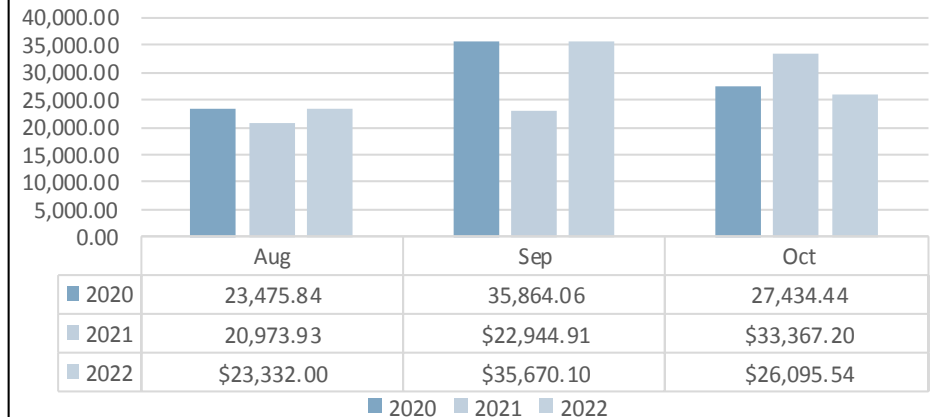
Date	Weekly	% Budget
10/02/22	\$7,896.50	135.4%
10/09/22	\$5,354.88	91.8%
10/16/22	\$4,812.50	82.5%
10/23/22	\$4,527.16	77.6%
10/30/22	\$3,504.50	60.1%
Totals	\$26,095.54	89.5%

### Envelope Offering Comparison

October 2022	October 2021	% Difference
\$26,095.54	\$33,367.20	-21.8%
YTD 2022	YTD 2021	% Difference
\$242,775.13	\$276,239.04	-12.1%

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...

### Good Shepherd Women-WELCA

WELCA welcomes all women from our congregation to be part of this committee. Our next meeting is Thursday, December 1st at 6pm on Zoom and in person in the Mattes Center.

### 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.

### Lydia Circle

Lydia Circle will this Tuesday, December 6th 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.

### Game Night

Game Night for all ages is Friday, December 9th 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 grimmcaf@hotmail.com or Jim at 641-485-6941 with any questions.

### Christmas Capers

Christmas Capers will be on Saturday, December 10th from 11am - 2pm. For ages 3 years old to 5th grade

Drop your kids off or stay for an afternoon filled with holiday crafts, watching a movie, and eating pizza! Sign up on the Sunday School bulletin board!

### Grief Support

Grief support meets in the choir room at Good Shepherd twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. (Dec. 14 & Dec. 28) If you are interested in attending please contact the church office at 788-0450 with questions. All are welcome.

### Sunday School Christmas Program

The Sunday School Christmas Program will take place on Sunday December 18th at the 8:30 service only. The 10:30 service will be "Now the Feast & Celebration" with communion.

### Sunday Morning Bible Study

We meet once a month on the fourth Sunday between services in the Library from 9:30am to 10:20am. We will not meet in December, so our next session will be January 22nd. 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.

### Toys for Tots

The Toys for Tots barrel is back in the welcome area. Help JCI brighten Christmas for over 1,200 children in La Crosse county by dropping of a new toy for some lucky boy or girl for Christmas. **The barrel will be picked up on December 2nd.** Lets fill it up!

### 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.

## Around the Parish...

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

Stop by our table in the welcome area or get an order form from our website or the church office. 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 Mon. - Fri. from 8am - 1pm**

### Share Some Warmth

Good Shepherd is participating in a service project with The Warming Center in La Crosse. We are collecting socks for adults using The Warming Center this winter. Any size or style is appropriate. Socks can be dropped off in the basket in the concourse. Deadline to participate is Monday, December 19th. Please put your best foot forward to support these community members!

### Good Shepherd Caring Tree

Our Caring Tree is set up 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 by **December 11th**. For some of these residents, these may be the only gifts they receive for Christmas.

### Egg Cartons

We are collecting egg cartons. Please place your cartons in the WAFER donation baskets in the Stewardship area. Thank you!!

### Shop Amazon Smile instead of 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 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>

### Vanco Mobile App For Donations

Give electronically on your cell phone using Vanco's app, **Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement**. 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 at 788-0450 if you have questions.

### Simply Giving

Good Shepherd offers electronic giving options for making donations on a scheduled, automated basis. It's convenient for you and provides financial consistency for the church. Pick up an authorization form from the office, or the information area in the back of the church, or call Rick at 608-788-0450.

Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Saturday, Dec. 24 4:00, 6:00 and 9:00pm.



# December 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 steamed on our website at [www.gslacrosse.org](http://www.gslacrosse.org)*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>November 27</b> 8:30am Worship NO Sunday School 9:45am Bible Study 10:30am Worship 6:30pm GS Men's Group	<b>28</b> 6:15pm Cub Scouts Pack 17	<b>29</b> 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg	<b>30</b> 6:30pm Confirmation	<b>December 1</b> 6pm WELCA Mtg	<b>2</b> 5:30pm Adult Tree Trimming	<b>3</b> 10am Bushek Visitation 11am Bushek Funeral
<b>4</b> 8:30am Worship/communion 8:30am Sunday School 9:30am Care Ministry Meeting 10:30am Worship/communion 6:30pm GS Men's Group	<b>5</b> 10am Before the After	<b>6</b> 1pm Lydia Circle 6pm BS Troop 22 Adult Mtg 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg	<b>7</b> 6:30pm Confirmation	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 6pm Game Night	<b>10</b> 11am to 2pm Christmas Capers
<b>11</b> 8:30am Worship 8:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 6:30pm GS Men's Group	<b>12</b> 6:15pm Cub Scouts Pack 17	<b>13</b> 1:45pm Hillview Communion 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg	<b>14</b> 3pm Grief Support 6:30pm Confirmation	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <b>January Voice Articles                          Due</b>	<b>17</b> 8:30am Christmas Program Rehearsal
<b>18</b> 8:30am Christmas Program 10:30am Worship/communion 6:30pm GS Men's Group	<b>19</b> 7pm MGF Mtg	<b>20</b> 6pm Admin/Exec Meeting 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg 7pm Church Council Potluck	<b>21</b> 6:30pm Confirmation Christmas Activity	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b> 4pm 6pm 9pm
<b>25</b> <b>Christmas Day</b> 10:00 am Christmas Day Service	<b>26</b> Office Closed	<b>27</b> 6pm Parish Ed Meeting 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg	<b>28</b> 3pm Grief Support NO Confirmation	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <b>New Years Eve</b>
<b>1</b> <b>New Years Day</b> 8:30am Worship/communion NO Sunday School 10:30am Worship/communion 6:30pm GS Men's Group	<b>2</b> Office Closed 6pm Trust Foundation	<b>3</b> 1pm Lydia Circle 6pm BS Troop 22 Adult Mtg 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg	<b>4</b> NO Confirmation	<b>5</b> 6pm WELCA Mtg	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>



## 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 focuses on the thyroid and conditions associated with it. 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, plummets 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 Holidays!

In Sunday School, we have just wrapped up our unit on Daniel and the Lions Den. Daniel stayed loyal to God and in return God ensured that the lions did not hurt Daniel. We learned and discussed ways in which God has helped us within our lives.

We also have started practicing for the Christmas Program! Please try to have your children attend Sunday School regularly during the month of December as we practice for the program during Sunday School on December 4th and 11th. Please remember that on December 11th, the children should come down to Sunday School at the beginning of church for the program practice.

We will have our final dress rehearsal Saturday December 17th at 8:30am, with full costumes. In past years we have rehearsed for about an hour. Then the official Christmas Program will take place December 18th during the first service!

Our Christmas Capers event has also moved dates! It is now on Saturday, December 10th, from 11:00am – 2:00pm. This event is for the kids ages 3 years old to 5th grade, and everyone is welcome! Feel free to drop your kids off or stay for an afternoon filled with making holiday crafts, decorations, and gifts, watching the movie, “The Grinch”, play games, eat pizza and have snacks! The sign up sheet for both volunteering and attending will be at

the back of church and on the Sunday School bulletin board.

Just a reminder that there is no Sunday School on Christmas day or on January 1st, 2023.

Enjoy the holidays!  
Brea Ellison



## Quick-Look

### *Upcoming Events At a Glance*

Saturday, December 10th	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-During the service!
Sunday, December 25th	Merry Christmas! No Sunday School
Sunday, January 1st	Happy New Year! No Sunday School



### Brea Ellison

Children's Education Coordinator

Breanna@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



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

November was a busy month for our Confirmation kids. They helped out with God's Work, Our Hands, and helped set up the Holiday Marketplace. We also spent some more time diving into some of the books of the New Testament, specifically Thessalonians and Corinthians. The kids are starting to understand that these epistles or letters were written for people in different regions as the church was starting to grow.

We discussed how the letters to the Thessalonians can be applied to us so many years later. We know from the letters that Jesus will come again but we don't know when or where. This means we have to stay diligent in treating each other the way God has told us and the way Jesus showed us.

We also talked a lot of love. The letters to the Corinthians specifically tells us that we have to love one another, even when we disagree. We talked about how this looks, in our polarized world and how Paul repeatedly tells us to love, love, and love some more. We talked about different kinds of love and how we can spread love, even when it is difficult to do so.

In honor of Thanksgiving, the students selected three people to write thank you notes for being important parts of their lives. I know I am very grateful for Pastor's wisdom and ability to answer the hard questions our teens ask. I am also very grateful for our small group guides who show up with a positive attitude and make the discussions so much more meaningful. Lastly, I am grateful for all the kids. They are

an amazing, diverse group, with lots of ideas, questions, and comedic relief. Their willingness to participate and explore some important topics is bucket-filling experience.

The Confirmation students will be heading over to English Lutheran in early December to experience the living Bethlehem. This event is an amazing opportunity to immerse yourselves into the Christmas experience. I would recommend checking it out.

As December rolls around, I pray that we all keep the meaning of Christmas in our views. It is easy to lose sight of what we are celebrating with all the hustle and bustle that the holiday season brings. Making time to appreciate the gift of Jesus' birth is a great way to grow in your own faith and keep the craziness of the season in perspective.

In Peace,  
Jen

Christmas  
BLESSINGS

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

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In the Office: Varied hours



## Music Notes

### From The Director of Music

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

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

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

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

Antioch, the tune to which *Joy to the World* is sung, was created by an unknown

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



#### Randy Lyden

Good Shepherd Music Director  
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Share the good news of Jesus' birth in a creative way.



#### What you need:

- Newspaper
- Bible
- Smooth, clean stones
- Pencil
- Oil paint pens
- Adult help



#### What you do:

1. In a well-ventilated area, cover a work surface with newspaper.
2. Read Luke 2:1-20 and choose key people and places to draw.
3. In pencil, sketch one drawing on each stone.
4. Follow directions on paint pens to fill drawings with color. Let dry.
5. Hide stones for younger siblings to find, set out a new stone each day or order them in a row and tell the Nativity story.



Directions: Find the words listed below. Then unscramble the intersecting letters to complete Luke 2:11, NIV.



#### WORD BANK

Shepherds  
Child  
Nazareth  
Census  
Baby  
David  
Mary  
Travel  
Town  
Register  
Born  
Night

T	B	W	Y	A	Z	K	E	S	H	N	G	D	J	K
Q	O	Y	A	P	R	A	L	B	F	P	I	C	Q	L
N	R	W	X	B	E	Y	R	M	B	D	M	O	E	E
S	N	O	N	W	G	A	I	B	A	C	D	O	T	D
R	G	X	J	F	I	W	M	V	B	R	R	C	E	O
P	S	C	E	N	S	U	S	H	Y	U	Y	F	P	N
O	T	P	I	G	T	Q	C	N	T	G	M	U	S	T
O	A	N	D	B	E	C	H	I	L	D	N	Z	F	A
A	T	B	A	U	R	W	H	G	F	V	A	B	U	M
T	R	A	V	E	L	J	C	H	V	O	Z	G	N	H
F	B	Q	I	W	D	X	P	T	E	N	A	O	L	Q
Z	C	R	D	Q	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S	V
R	U	V	Y	K	N	I	R	T	K	G	E	Y	I	R
K	V	A	Z	X	L	S	H	Y	T	P	T	J	S	K
L	L	E	S	M	J	Z	L	Q	R	U	H	V	W	X

"Today in the town of David a \_\_\_\_\_  
has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."

LUKE 2:11, NIV

Answer: Savior

I MAY NOT BE A "WISE MAN," BUT AT  
LEAST I NEVER GOT SO LOST I HAD TO ASK  
HEROD FOR DIRECTIONS.

