

Happy New Year



SING UNTO THE LORD
a new song;
FOR HE HATH DONE
marvelous things.

PSALM 98:1, KJV



GOOD SHEPHERD

LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter, 2023

Give. Serve. Lead. Connect.

From Pastor Harald Bringsjord

There are a lot of ways to begin the New Year. This year, I would encourage us to take to heart the love which the apostle Paul describes in his first letter to the Corinthians. Paul writes:

"If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.... And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love." 1st Corinthians 13:1-8a,13

About a year ago, the James Webb space telescope, a successor to the Hubble telescope, launched into space. The difference between the two is that the Hubble telescope could only view visible light while the Webb telescope is able to capture information through invisible light, what is called infrared light. Apparently, the Webb telescope will somehow be able to capture the light that was emitted when the first galaxies formed and is now arriving at our planet.

So, this new most powerful telescope is going to hopefully reveal information about the origins of the cosmos. It is giving us information on the birth and death of stars, and it is looking at light from 13 billion years ago. It has found carbon dioxide which apparently gives off a certain infrared light. All this goes way beyond my understanding, but it definitely captures my imagination.

Scientists will be unraveling information from this new telescope for years to come, trying to figure out our genesis (which means our beginning) by now being able to look at light of the heavens that is not visible to humans.

Perhaps scientists will discover something else that is not visible but is also a powerful force, and that is LOVE. This new James Webb telescope will be part of helping us discover just a little bit more of the invisible light all around us and may even shed some light on how the power of God or divine love created and sustains it all. We may have to re-evaluate our understanding of the origins of everything as we discover more and more about how the divine mystery, how divine love created out of nothing this vast amazing universe. In this vast universe we find ourselves on a little ball we call Earth floating about. As we begin this New Year reflecting on invisible light, my heart is moved to reflect on the power of the invisible divine mysterious

Continued on page 2.



Facebook.com/GSlacrosse



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. 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 always 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 (608)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 Judy Casto at (608)385-1410.



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 Abraham at (608)787-0679.



Pastor's Article Continued from page one.

love, God. My hope is to reflect this love through all that I am, for Love never ends.... And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love."

Focusing not only on the invisible light that is shining on us, but also on the invisible force of God who is the embodiment of love shining upon us, is not only a good way to begin the New Year, but a good way to begin each day.

Happy New Year to each of you!

In Christ,

Pastor Harald



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



... and dance by the light of the moon.

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@gsilacrosse.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@gsilacrosse.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@gsilacrosse.org.

Hand Bell Choir

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

We have social events throughout the year along with a yearly mission trip. Want to learn more? Contact the Jen Servais at Jen@gsilacrosse.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 did 8 weeks for Mobile Meals throughout the 2022 calendar year and we will be doing 9 weeks in 2023!

Remember that many of the people that our meal drivers deliver to may see no one else but the 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.

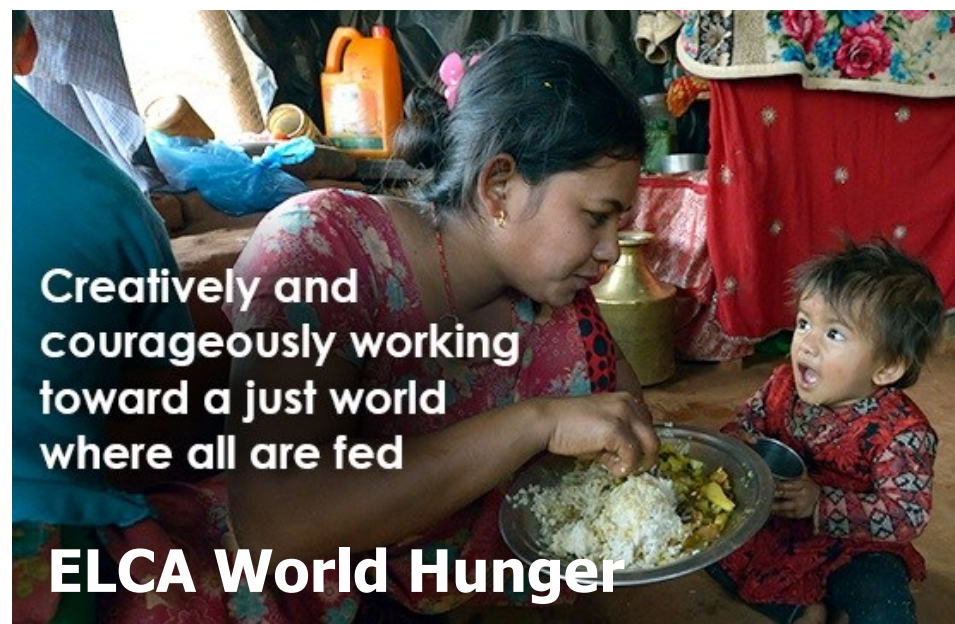
Please allow 1 1/2 to 2 hours for deliveries. We are route #1.



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.



ELCA World Hunger

Stewardship

Memorials & Special Gifts

Good Shepherd gratefully acknowledges and sincerely appreciates your gifts over and above your regular giving. The following gifts were received from November 20 through December 20.

Hintgen Food Project

Dave & Barb Foye
Rob & Dianne Hamann
Barb Hegge
Joyce Herlitzke
Bev Kettler
Michelle Kranz

memorials
& gifts

WAFER

John Wood
Barb Hegge

Sugar Creek Bible Camp

Karl & Julie Noll

Dave Solie Sr. Memorial

Art & Beytty Olson
Jan & Sandra Reynolds
Jim & Jan Quinn
Dave & Janice Solie

Al Bushek Memorial

Steve & Kari Ellison
Darlene Lassig

Lutheran Campus Ministry

Ed & Ann Keuper

Thank
you



November Monthly Benevolences From Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

ELCA/Synod Mission Support	\$2,610
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$84
Companion Synod - Peru	\$10
Synod Seminary Scholarships	\$10
Synod Missions	\$20
Sugar Creek Bible Camp	\$160
WI Lutheran Social Services	\$200
Community Thanksgiving Dinner	\$200
WAFER	\$26

Church Numbers

Weekly Sunday Attendance

Date	8:30	10:30
11/06/22	99	50
11/13/22	90	48
11/20/22	88	43
11/23/22	67	
11/27/22	77	53

Weekly Envelope Offerings

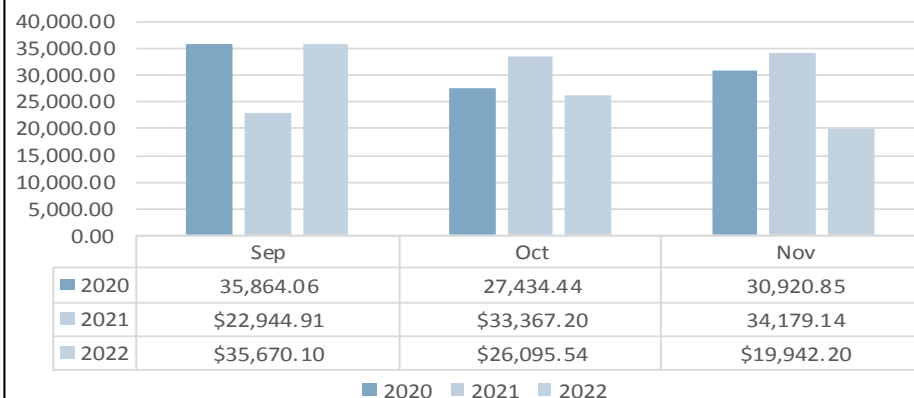
Date	Weekly	% Budget
11/06/22	\$6,662.60	91.4%
11/13/22	\$5,418.50	74.3%
11/20/22	\$3,602.60	49.4%
11/27/22	\$4,258.50	58.4%
Total:	\$19,942.20	68.4%

Envelope Offering Comparison

November 2022	November 2021	% Difference
\$19,942.20	\$48,085.04	-58.5%
YTD 2022	YTD 2021	% Difference
\$262,717.33	\$324,324.08	-19.0%

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...

Lydia Circle

Lydia Circle will meet Tuesday, January 3rd 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, January 1st at 6pm on Zoom and in person in the Mattes Center.

Game Night

Game Night for all ages is Friday, January 13th 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.

Grief Support

Grief support meets in the choir room at Good Shepherd twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. (Jan. 11th & Jan. 25th) If you are interested in attending please contact the church office at 788-0450 with questions. All are welcome.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

We meet once a month on the fourth Sunday between services in the Library from 9:30am to 10:20am. 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.

Butterbraids

The Confirmation kids will be selling Butterbraids starting in the middle of January. Be on the lookout for announcements on the website and students selling in between services. Students will deliver any Butterbraids ordered. The money earned allows us to do fun activities and helps offset the cost of various youth gatherings.

Options include:

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

Egg Cartons

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

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

Good Shepherd Men's Group

Our men's group meets Sundays at 6:30pm in the Mattes Center. Simply show up if you would like to join us or contact Randy Page at grimmcaf@hotmail.com for more info.

Help Feed The Children At Hintgen

Please continue to support the Hintgen Food Project with your donations. Make your checks payable to church, but remember to indicate HINTGEN FOOD PROJECT in the memo line. Thanks to all who contribute to this program!

Around the Parish...

Good Shepherd Online Stay Updated With Latest News

Have you ever visited GSlacrosse.org? This is our church website updated with news, youth activity events, calendars, and so much more. You can now find out the latest events at Good Shepherd from anywhere in the world.

Apart from our new website, we offer you the possibility to receive weekly and/or monthly e-mail updates with latest church happenings. Signing-up is easy. Simply visit gslacrosse.org/enews. Any questions, please contact the church office at 788-0450 or office@gslacrosse.org.

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.

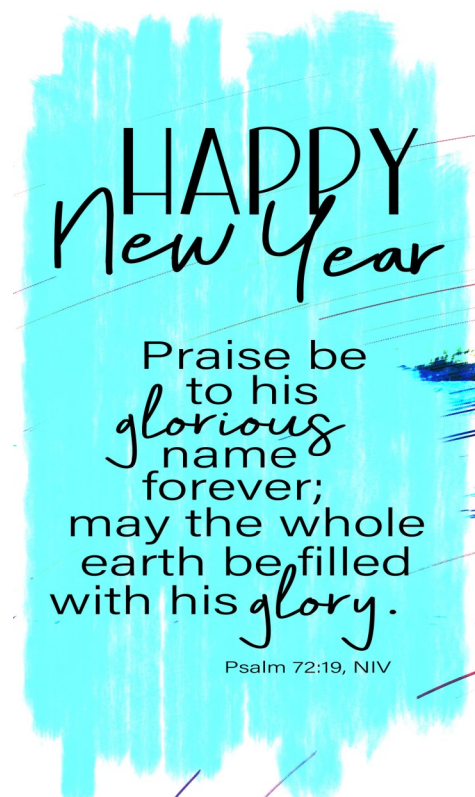
We encourage everyone to download the app for free at the Apple App Store or Google Play. Once downloaded, simply open the app and search for Good Shepherd Lutheran Church then select the one in La Crosse, there are a lot of Good Shepherds out there! Please call Rick at 788-0450 if you have questions.

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.

Giving Tree—Giving In A Unique Way

Our Giving Tree is a unique way to sponsor items or services used within our church and also to support Lutheran World Relief. It is located in the corner by the main entrance in the welcome area. Select a tag from the tree and place it and your donation in a provided envelope and place it in the offering plate or drop it off in the church office.



January 2023



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
January 1 New Years Day 8:30am Worship w/communion NO Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/communion 6:30pm GS Men's Group	2 Church office Closed 6pm Trust Foundation	3 1pm Lydia Circle 6pm BS Troop 22 Adult Mtg 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg	4 No Confirmation	5 6pm WELCA Mtg	6	7
8 8:30am Worship 8:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 6:30pm GS Men's Group	9 6:15pm Cub Scouts Pack 17	10 1:45pm Hillview Communion 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg	11 3pm Grief Support Mtg 6:30pm Confirmation	12	13 9am Anderson Visitation 11am Anderson Funeral 6pm Family Game Night	14
15 8:30am Worship w/communion 8:30am Sunday School 8:30am Boettcher Baptism 10:30am Worship w/communion Noon BS Troop 22 COH 6:30pm GS Men's Group	16 5:30pm Finance Mtg 6pm Communal Hlth 7pm Membership Mtg	17 6pm Admin/ Exec Mtg 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg 7pm Church Council	18 6:30pm Confirmation	19	20 February Voice Articles & Annual Reports Submissions Due	21
22 8:30am Worship 8:30am Sunday School 9:45am Sunday Bible Study 10:30am Worship 6:30pm GS Men's Group	23 6:15pm Cub Scouts Pack 17	24 6pm Parish Ed Mtg 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg	25 3pm Grief Support Mtg 6:30pm Confirmation	26	27	28
29 8:30am Worship 8:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 10:30am Lindahl Baptisms 6:30pm GS Men's Group	30	31 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg	February 1 6:30pm Confirmation	2 6pm WELCA Mtg	3	4
5 8:30am Worship w/communion 8:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/communion 6:30pm GS Men's Group	6	7 1pm Lydia Circle 6pm BS Troop 22 Adult Mtg 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg	8 3pm Grief Support Mtg 6:30pm Confirmation	9	10 6pm Family Game Night	11

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,

With the high prevalence of respiratory viruses, we decided to focus this month's article on hand hygiene. Regular handwashing is one of the best ways to remove germs, avoid getting sick, and preventing the spread of germs to others. Clean hands save lives.

Washing hands can keep you healthy and prevent the spread of respiratory and diarrheal infections, such as COVID-19. Germs can spread from other people or surfaces when you: touch your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands, touch a contaminated surface or objects, prepare or eat food and drinks with unwashed hands, and blow your nose, cough, or sneeze into hands and then touch other people's hands or common objects.

You can help yourself and loved ones stay healthy by washing your hands often, especially during these key times: before, during, and after food prep, before eating food, before and after caring for someone at home who is sick, after coming in contact with someone else, after using the toilet, after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing, after touching an animal, and after touching garbage.

The following five steps to wash your hands the right way:

- Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), then apply soap.
- Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap, lather the backs of your hands, between each finger, and under your nails.

- Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds.
- Rinse your hand well under the running water.
- Dry your hands using a clean towel, and then use the towel to turn off the water.

Use hand sanitizer when you can't use soap and water. Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, you can clarify this by looking at the product label. Apply the gel product to the palm, rub your hands together for at least 20 seconds or until your hands are dry.

Take care, and stay safe,

Cody and Kerstin Nedegaard



Cody & Kerstin Nedegaard

GS Volunteer Parish Nurses
Cody_Kerstin@gslacrosse.org

Health Questions?

Gundersen Telephone Nurse Advisor
24/7 at (800) 858-1050.



Sunday School Update

Pre-school thru Grade 5

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone’s holiday season went well! It is crazy to think that it is already the new year. 2022 seemed to really fly by!

I want to start by saying THANK YOU to everyone who helped make the Christmas Program on December 18th a success! Thank you to the amazing volunteers that help in Sunday School, Lori Lowell, Kylie Klein, Tammy Klein, Bill Klein, Austin Stalsberg, Janet Torkelson, Jessica Peterson, Julie Foreman, Thea Johnson, Colin Smith, and Kari Ellison. Also, a huge thank you to the conformation helpers! Darlene Lassig did a fantastic job helping the children practice their songs and accompanying the whole program! Another big thank you to those who helped at tree trimming and filling the treat bags! I would also like to thank all of the guardians for bringing the children to Sunday School so they could learn their parts. Finally, I would like to thank the students! You all did such a great job! We could not have done this program without you all!

As we go into January, we will be starting our unit on the Lord’s Prayer. The students will be visiting the Game Skills, Cinema, and Computer rooms.

First graders will be receiving their Prayer Blocks on January 22nd during the first service. Please register your child for this milestone. If your child is not registered prior to the 22nd, your 1st graders block will not have their name on it. Registration forms can be

found on the Sunday School bulletin board and please try to get them turned in prior to January 18th.

Best regards,
Brea Ellison



Quick-Look

Upcoming Events At a Glance

Sunday, January 1st	Happy New Year! No Sunday School
Sunday, January 8th (Pajama Sunday) Through January 22nd	The Lord’s Prayer (Game Skills, Cinema, Computer)
Sunday, January 22nd	1st Grade Milestone



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



See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. ~Isaiah 43:19

Happy New Year! It is always exciting to approach a new year with gratitude and hope. Our Confirmation families were able to attend the Living Bethlehem at English Lutheran at the beginning of December. The event is inspiring, as the students were taken on a journey back in time. The amount of work put into that program is a testament to all the people involved and their faith. We were lucky enough to have Bishop Malpica speak to us as we entered the stable where Jesus was born. His words were powerful as he spoke of a Jesus who was born into poverty and had to overcome so many obstacles in his life. He spoke of a Jesus who could empathize with all of our struggles as he experienced them as well. As I thought about his words and looked at our teens, I couldn't help but to feel really grateful to be loved by a God who understands the darkness as well as the light. Our kids are lucky to have their faith, a faith that celebrates each of

them completely, without hesitation, and with grace. As we start a new year, I hope each and every one of them remembers that God is with them, walking besides them on the good days and carrying them on the bad days. I hope they remember that Jesus struggled with his identity, his faith, his relationships with other, and all the other tribulations that come from living on Earth. I hope our kids lean into that idea when things get tough and trust that God will get them through. Most importantly, I hope they see that they are all God's masterpieces and are brave enough to let the light God gave them shine.

May 2023 be a continuation of all of our faith journeys.

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.



The Confirmation kids will be selling Butterbraids starting in the middle of January. Be on the lookout for announcements on the website and students selling in between services. Students will deliver any Butterbraids ordered. The money earned allows us to do fun activities and helps offset the cost of various youth gatherings.

Options include:

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

Jen Servais

Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Jen@gsilacrosse.org (608) 788-0450

In the Office: Varied hours



Music Notes

From The Director of Music

Hymn Focus:
Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

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

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

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

but our beloved mother, Jesus, feeds us with himself".

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



Randy Lyden

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



TASTY CREATIONS

Make this yummy treat to remember what happened on each day of Creation.

What you need:

- 6 large pretzel rods
- Candy melts (white, chocolate and blue)
- Green sprinkles
- White or star-shaped sprinkles
- Fish crackers
- Animal crackers
- Adult help



What you do:

1. With help, melt the three colors of candy melts in separate dishes. Microwave for 30 seconds at a time, stirring until soft.
2. Decorate one pretzel for each day of Creation:

- Dip half in white and half in chocolate to show light and darkness.
- Dip half in white and half in blue to show separation of the atmosphere.
- Dip half in chocolate, add green sprinkles and dip half in blue to show land, plants and water.
- Dip in chocolate and add white or star sprinkles to show the stars.
- Dip in blue and add fish crackers to show sea life.
- Dip in chocolate and add animal crackers to show land animals.

3. Share the Creation story — and the snack — with a friend!



Ordering the days

God spoke and created all that exists. He separated and ordered his creation. What did God say about all he made?

Directions: Write the correct day of creation next to each clue. Then fill in the circled letters in order below to complete Genesis 1:31, NIV.

FIRST SECOND THIRD FOURTH FIFTH SIXTH

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| God made wild animals and livestock. | ○ _ _ _ _ |
| God said, "Let there be light." | ○ _ _ _ _ |
| God gathered the waters under the sky into one place. | ○ _ _ _ _ |
| God made a vault to separate the waters and called it "sky." | ○ _ _ _ _ |
| God created plants and trees. | ○ _ _ _ _ |
| God separated the light from the darkness. | ○ _ _ _ _ |
| God made the water teem with living creatures. | ○ _ _ _ _ |
| God made the sun and moon. | ○ _ _ _ _ |
| God made birds fly above the earth. | ○ _ _ _ _ |
| God made stars. | ○ _ _ _ _ |
| God created mankind in his own image. | ○ _ _ _ _ |

God _aw all tha _he _ad ma _e, an _ _t was ve _y g _od.

GENESIS 1:31, NIV

Answer: sixth, first, third, second, third, first, fifth, fourth, fifth, fourth, sixth, sixth.



"I made a New Year's resolution to eat broccoli. If I can't stand it, I'll give it up for Lent."