

GOOD SHEPHERD  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

FREE  
ENTRY

2023  
WELCA  
**HOLIDAY  
MARKET  
PLACE**

ANNUAL BASKET RAFFLE

LOCAL CRAFT VENDORS

LOCAL GIFT VENDORS

YUMMY BAKED GOODS

DOOR PRIZES

FAMOUS  
NORWEGIAN LEFSE

LUNCH AVAILABLE  
10AM-1:30PM

4141 MORMON COULEE ROAD  
LA CROSSE, WI 54601

SATURDAY  
NOVEMBER 11

9AM - 2PM



**GOOD SHEPHERD**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**The Shepherd's Voice**  
Monthly Newsletter November, 2023

**Give. Serve. Lead. Connect.**

**From Pastor Harald Bringsjord**

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Philippians 4:6, ESV*

A grandfather and his grandson were on a walk, enjoying the October sky while hearing a flock of geese filling the air with a mysterious sort of music as they flew overhead in their well-known V-formation. The grandfather turned to his grandson and asked, "Do you know why one side of the V is always longer than the other side?" The boy, grateful to be with his grandpa and watching the wonder of those geese flying overhead, noticed that what his grandfather said was indeed true, that the one side of the V was longer than the other. The boy replied, "No, I don't know, Grandpa," waiting for some profound insight. His grandfather, deep in thought, slowly and seriously said, "Well, because there are more geese in the longer side." Often it's not the mysterious but the obvious facts that escape us. Comedians excel at pointing out the obvious facts that we often overlook.

In November, there are several days that provide opportunities to see and appreciate these obvious facts. November begins with the church's celebration of All Saints' Sunday. This day is dedicated to remembering and giving thanks to God for the witness of faith that has come before us. We hear the gospel today because, in love, God

has raised up numerous women and men through the ages, using them to share the good news of Jesus Christ. So, it's only fitting that we do the obvious thing and give thanks for their witness.

Later in November, there are two other special days. One of them is Veterans' Day. This day serves as a solemn reminder of the horrors of war and our capacity for inflicting evil upon one another. At the same time, it's an occasion for us to express gratitude to the men and women who sacrificed so much, enabling us to live in a measure of peace.

As we approach the end of November, we celebrate Thanksgiving Day, a time for reflection and gratitude for all that we have received from God. Giving thanks to God is something that is good to do at all times and in all places because, as obvious as 'the longer side has more geese in it,' it's a fundamental act of faith.

Wishing you God's blessings throughout the month of November and beyond.

Pastor Harald



Facebook.com/GSlacrosse



Twitter.com/goodshepherdsc



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. 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 the office at (608)788-0450.



### 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.



*Thanks to our  
Volunteers*

## Serve Enriching Life, Sharing Talents

### Thank You All So Very Much...

**The Altar Guild.** We are up and running again. With a few changes. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, please contact the office or Ellen Klemp at 608-397-2139 or klempellen@gmail.com

Thank you to Ann Hudson who sends out meaningful cards and handmade prayer shawls to bereaved families throughout the year. If you are interested in making Prayer Shawls, please contact the office.

**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)



Sunsets are the artwork of God. — 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](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)

#### Sunday School Choir

We rehearse as part of our 8:30am 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 Choirs

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 email at [linda@gslacrosse.org](mailto:linda@gslacrosse.org).

#### High School Youth Group (Grades 9-12)

Good Shepherd Youth Group provides a chance to meet other awesome teens just like yourself. We meet weekly in the youth room of Good Shepherd on Wednesdays at 6:30pm. Come when you are able, during Lent we meet after the Wednesday Lenten Service.

*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.



#### 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.



#### Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts & Scouting for Girls Meet at Good Shepherd

**Cub Scouts—Pack 10** meets at 6pm, 2nd & 4th week on Tuesday's in the Mattes Center. Off over the summer.

If you have any questions, please call the church office at 788-0450 and we can connect you with the group leaders.

**Boy Scouts—Troop 22** meets at 6:45pm weekly on Tuesday's in the Mattes Center. Off over the summer.

# 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 September 19 through October 20.

### Sugar Creek Horse Project

Candie Luehne  
Pennie Bell  
Harald & Andrea Bringsjord  
Garold & Kay Becker

### LWR School Kits

John & Naomi Stennes-Spidahl  
Barb Hegge  
Jim & Sue Bugge

### WAFER

John Wood



### Food For Schools

Jackie Meyer

### Eldon Ellefson Memorial

Harald & Andrea Bringsjord

### Jan Engen Memorial

Harald & Andrea Bringsjord  
George & Judith Brockman  
Don & Darcy Skibba

### LWR World Hunger

John & Naomi Stennes-Spidahl  
Harald & Andrea Bringsjord  
Special Noisy Offering



## September Monthly Benevolences From Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

ELCA / Synod Support	\$2,023
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$84
Companion Synod - Peru	\$10
Synod Seminary Scholarships	\$10
Sugar Creek Bible Camp	\$160
WI Lutheran Social Services	\$200

*Giving Update*



# Church Numbers

## Weekly Sunday Attendance

Date	8:30	10:30
09/03/23	49	35
09/10/23	129	38
09/17/23	115	58
09/24/23	101	42

## Weekly Envelope Offerings

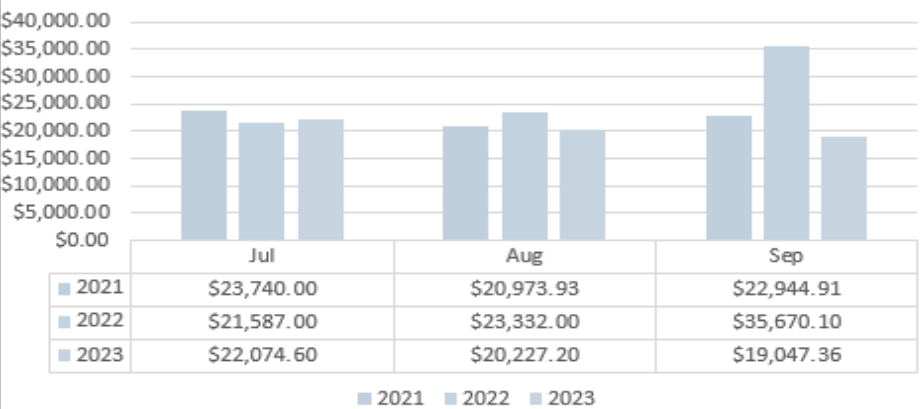
Date	Weekly	% Budget
09/03/23	\$5,240.50	71.9%
09/10/23	\$2,826.35	38.8%
09/17/23	\$6,843.33	93.8%
09/24/23	\$4,137.18	56.7%
Total:	\$19,047.36	65.3%

## Envelope Offering Comparison

September 2023	September 2022	% Difference
\$19,047.36	\$35,670.10	-46.6%
YTD 2023	YTD 2022	% Difference
\$204,653.39	\$216,679.59	-5.6%

If you would like to view the complete financial statements that are shared with the Council, please contact Rick in the church office at 788-0450 or email [rick@gsllacrosse.org](mailto:rick@gsllacrosse.org)

## 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, November 2nd at 6pm on Zoom and in person.

### ELCA "God's work, Our hands." November 4, 2023, from 8am - Noon at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

All family members of Good Shepherd are welcome to volunteer their time and talents for our 10th Annual Event.

Some of the projects will include: sweeping, dusting, vacuuming, and working off of a list; or, you may participate by donating a breakfast item. Please contact Lori Lowell at 608-386-3388, 608-788-7315, or [lori@gsiacrosse.org](mailto:lori@gsiacrosse.org) with any questions or to sign up. You may also sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in back of church. Please volunteer for this wonderful opportunity to help get Good Shepherd Lutheran Church ready for the holidays!

### Burrito Breakfast

Join us for a Burrito breakfast Sunday, November 5th between services, while supplies last in the Mattes Center. Burritos can be filled with scrambled eggs, sausage, veggies and cheese. If you'd prefer, you can just have it served on a plate. A free will offering will be accepted to help send our youth to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Come join us!

### Lydia Circle

Lydia Circle will meet again on Tuesday, November 7th 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.

### Grief Support

Grief support meets in the choir room at Good Shepherd twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 3pm. Our next meeting is on **November 9th**. All are welcome.

### Game Night

Game Night for all ages is Friday, November 10th 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 Page by email at [grimmcaf@hotmail.com](mailto:grimmcaf@hotmail.com)

### 2023 Holiday Marketplace

The Holiday Marketplace will take place on Saturday, November 11th from 9am—2pm. Come and shop for crafts and gifts from local area vendors. Baked goods and lefse will also be available, and our annual raffle baskets too, along with lunch and desserts. If you would like to volunteer to help with the event, please contact Bill Klein at (608) 780-8861 or [BKleinpackfan@yahoo.com](mailto:BKleinpackfan@yahoo.com).

### Bunco Night

Our next Bunco night will be on Friday, November 17th at 6pm. Please bring a \$5.00 wrapped gift. The theme is Thanksgiving. Bunco takes place in the Mattes center and is for ages 18 years and older. Contact Judy Christopherson @ 788-4335 or 769-3656

### Thanksgiving Eve Service

Join us Wednesday, November 22nd at 6:30pm for our Thanksgiving Eve worship service. There will be a pie social following in the Mattes Center.

### Bible Study

There will be a Bible Study **November 26th** at 6:30pm in the Mattes Center, all are welcome to attend! We plan to meet monthly on the fourth Sunday of the month, replacing the Men's Group meeting for that night. You can also attend via Zoom, the invitation is available on our website at <https://gsiacrosse.org/monthly-bible-study/>

### 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](mailto:grimmcaf@hotmail.com) for more info.

## Around the Parish...

### Advent Luncheon

**Saturday, December 2, 2023 11am**

Good Shepherd Women WELCA will be hosting the Advent Luncheon this year for the women of Our Redeemer and Mary Mother of the Church Parish.

The service will be followed by salads and desserts in the Mattes Center. If you are interested in attending, would like to volunteer to help, or could contribute a salad or dessert, please sign up on the sheets on the bulletin boards in back of church.

If you have any questions, please contact Lori at 608-386-3388 or [Lori@gsiacrosse.org](mailto:Lori@gsiacrosse.org)

### CHRISTMAS IS COMING!!!! GIVE THE GIFT OF A GIFT CARD!!!

Most of you know we have Kwik Trip cards, but there are so many other options as well!! Good Shepherd gets a cut of the cards sold. All you have to do is get your gift cards from Good Shepherd! There is a list on the back table in church of all the possible places you can get the cards from! We can order exactly what you need and have them back to you within a couple of weeks...All your Christmas needs in one spot AND it helps the youth with the National Youth Gathering and other fun activities. You can also get an Order Form from the church website then simply submit your completed order form and payment to the church office or the Youth table in church Sunday mornings.

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

### Simply Giving

Good Shepherd offers this electronic giving options for making donations on a scheduled, automated basis. Pick up an authorization form from the information area in the back of the church, or call Rick at 608-788-0450.

### 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.

### 2024 National Youth Gathering

The National ELCA Youth Gathering will take place next July 16-20<sup>th</sup> in New Orleans and the theme is "Created To Be." This event is open to all our youth entering grades 8-12. The Youth Gathering brings thousands of ELCA teens together to celebrate their faith, volunteer in the community, and see how God can work in each of their lives. It is a powerful opportunity to hang out with teens from all over the country and discuss their roles in this crazy, beautiful, and sometimes scary world. If you are thinking about sending your child, please email me ASAP at [jen@gsiacrosse.com](mailto:jen@gsiacrosse.com)

### My Time and Talent Gift!

By: \_\_\_\_\_ (Your Name)

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/20\_\_\_\_

Time Given: \_\_\_\_ hours \_\_\_\_ minutes

Gift Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Each person should share their Time and Talent gift (individually, not as a group or event) and place in the box.

**Your Gift Makes a Difference!**

This Stewardship Year you will be seeing "Time and Talent Gift" Stations around Church in common meeting and gathering areas.

Please complete a form for each *Gift of Time and Talent* you share within the church, your ministry beyond the church, and put it in the box.

The Time and Talent Thermometer in the Welcome Area of Church, will be a visible display of this Time and Talent ministry of sharing our gifts in love as Jesus taught us!

# November 2023



**Sunday School 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>October 29</b> 8:30am Worship 8:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 6:30pm Bible Study 	<b>30</b> 6pm Active Threat Training	<b>31</b> 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg	<b>November 1</b> 6:30pm Confirmation	<b>2</b> 6pm WELCA Mtg	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 8am to Noon God's Work, Our Hands
<b>5</b> <b>All Saints Sunday</b> 8:30am Worship/communion 8:30am Sunday School 9am Burrito Breakfast 10:30am Worship/communion 6:30pm GS Men's Group 	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 1pm Lydia Circle 1:15pm Dementia Support 6pm BS Troop 22 Adult Mtg 6pm Buildings & Grounds 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg	<b>8</b> 6:30pm Confirmation	<b>9</b> 3pm Grief Support	<b>10</b> 6pm Game Night	<b>11</b> 8am Holiday Marketplace
<b>12</b> <b>Name Tag Sunday—Hospitality</b> 8:30am Worship 8:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 3pm Cub Scouts Pack 17 6:30pm GS Men's Group 	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 1:15pm Dementia Support 1:45pm Hillview Communion 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg	<b>15</b> 6:30pm Confirmation	<b>16</b> 6pm Hospitality Mtg	<b>17</b> <b>December Voice Articles Due</b> 6pm Bunco (Thanksgiving Theme)	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 8:30am Worship/communion 8:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship/communion 6:30pm GS Men's Group	<b>20</b> 6pm Membership Mtg	<b>21</b> 6pm Admin/Exec Meeting 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg 7pm Church Council Mtg	<b>22</b> 6:30pm Thanksgiving Eve Service Pie Fest follows the service in the Mattes	<b>23</b> <b>Thanksgiving Day</b> Office Closed	<b>24</b> Office Closed	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 8:30am Worship 8:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 3pm Cub Scouts Pack 17 6:30pm Bible Study 	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 6pm Parish Ed Meeting 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg	<b>29</b> 6:30pm Confirmation	<b>30</b> 3pm Grief Support	<b>December 1</b> 5:30pm Tree Trimming	<b>2</b> 11am Advent Luncheon
<b>3</b> 8:30am Worship/communion 8:30am Sunday School 9am Burrito Breakfast 10:30am Worship/communion 6:30pm GS Men's Group 	<b>4</b> 10am Before the After	<b>5</b> 1pm Lydia Circle 6pm Buildings & Grounds 6pm BS Troop 22 Adult Mtg 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg	<b>6</b> 6:30pm Confirmation	<b>7</b> 6pm WELCA Mtg	<b>8</b> 6pm Game Night	<b>9</b> 11am to 2pm Christmas Capers



## Church Council Members

- **Sara Wrobel** *President of the Congregation* [Sara@gslacrosse.org](mailto:Sara@gslacrosse.org)
- **Steve Stelzl** *Vice President of the Congregation*
- **Todd Holtz** *Treasurer*
- **Erica Pedrazoli** *Secretary*

### Other Church Council Members

**include:** Tim Knudsen, Karl Noll, Thea Johnson, Mark Skolos, Lori Lowell, Janette Dawson, Matt Heberlein, Mark Bronson, Tom Lynch, Pastor Bringsjord, and Maddy Fergot is our Youth Representative.



- **Rev. Harald Bringsjord**  
*Senior Pastor*  
[prharald@gslacrosse.org](mailto:prharald@gslacrosse.org)
- **Rev. John Stennes-Spidahl**  
*Assistant Pastor*  
[prjohn@gslacrosse.org](mailto:prjohn@gslacrosse.org)
- **Rick Laufenberg** *Office Manager*  
[rick@gslacrosse.org](mailto:rick@gslacrosse.org) (608)788-0450
- **Kathy Johnson** *Office Assistant*  
[kathy@gslacrosse.org](mailto:kathy@gslacrosse.org)
- **Brea Ellison** *Children's Ministry Coordinator* [breanna@gslacrosse.org](mailto:breanna@gslacrosse.org)
- **Jen Servais** *Coordinator of Youth and Family Ministry* [jen@gslacrosse.org](mailto:jen@gslacrosse.org)
- **Randy Lyden** *Music Director/ Organist* [randy@gslacrosse.org](mailto:randy@gslacrosse.org) (608) 792-1305
- **Linda Jerome Bell** *Choir Director*  
[linda@gslacrosse.org](mailto:linda@gslacrosse.org)
- **Karl & Jaime Greenfield** *Sanctuary Choir Directors* [karl@gslacrosse.org](mailto:karl@gslacrosse.org) (608)790-3785
- **Darlene Lassig** *Volunteer Sunday School Choir Director* (608)769-1499  
[darlene@gslacrosse.org](mailto:darlene@gslacrosse.org)
- **Cody & Kerstin Nedegaard** *Volunteer Parish Nurses*  
[Cody\\_Kerstin@gslacrosse.org](mailto:Cody_Kerstin@gslacrosse.org)
- **Bill Klein** *Custodian*  
[bkleinpackfan@yahoo.com](mailto:bkleinpackfan@yahoo.com)

**Questions? Don't know who to contact? Contact the Church Office.**

(608) 788-0450 | [office@gslacrosse.org](mailto:office@gslacrosse.org) | [www.gslacrosse.org](http://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](mailto: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 few months! We first learned about the story of the Burning Bush. We learned how to be leaders just as Moses was! We also learned about the Battle of Jericho. The Pre-k children received their tote bag or CD, our Kindergarteners received their stuffed animal milestone, and the Third Graders received their Bibles.

On November 5th during Sunday School, we are signing up and completing the selection for the Christmas Program Parts. All are invited to watch the Christmas Program, "Twas the Night Before a Christmas Program" which will take place Sunday, December 17th during the 8:30am service. The dress rehearsal will be on Saturday, December 16th from 8:30 to 10am.

We will also be having our Christmas Capers event. This event is for kids ages 3 years old to 5th grade, and everyone is welcome! The children will make Christmas crafts, play games, have lunch, and watch a movie! Stay tuned for the date of this event!

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!  
Brea Ellison



## Quick-Look

### *Upcoming Events At a Glance*

November 5th – November 19th	David and Goliath (Kitchen, Science, and Game Skills)
Sunday, November 5th	Christmas Play Part Sign Up During Sunday School
Sunday, November 26th	Thanksgiving craft and Movie
Sunday, December 3rd	Christmas Program Practice
Sunday, December 10th	Christmas Program Practice
Saturday, December 16th	Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal (8:30-10am)
Sunday, December 17th	Christmas Program at 8:30am service



### Brea Ellison

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

#### Stay Connected!

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





## Youth Update

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

# G4Squad



*"But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear."*  
~Matthew 13:6

I can't believe it is November already! Fall has gone by so fast! We have been busy in Confirmation looking at the small Catechism. We are currently discussing the 10 commandments. We have talked about the first 4 commandments, why God felt like they were so important that he included them in the 10 rules for all humans, how we can follow those commandments in our lives, and how to live by the commandment when it gets hard to do so. I must admit, our teens are insightful and honest about the challenges and the opportunities they have to intentionally choose to live the life God has asked us to live. We have stressed the word "intentional" this month. Most of us are so busy juggling all the different aspects of our lives, that we forget to do things, including practicing our faith, in an intentional way. We have talked about taking the time each week to be intentional about our faith...our prayers...our gratitude...and doing things to follow the commandments God gave us.

There are a lot of volunteer opportunities available for our high school youth! Ushering and reading at services, helping with Sunday School and Confirmation, helping with God's Work, Our Hands, helping with script cards, and helping clean up after the holiday craft show. Being an active part of the church community is good for the soul, not to mention it reflects character and community mindedness on those college applications. Below is a list of events that are easy for teens (and families) to help with!

- Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>: Trunk or Treat in the GS parking lot 3-5pm
- Monday, October 30<sup>th</sup>: Active Threat Training in the Mattes Center 6-8:30pm
- Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>: God's Work, Our Hands at Good Shepherd 8am-12pm

- Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>: Holiday Marketplace (sell KT cards, clean-up, other activities) 9am-2pm (you don't have to be here the entire time, choose a time span that works).
- Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>: Advent Luncheon (kitchen help) 11am-2pm
- Any Sunday: Ushering and Reading!
- First Sunday of every month: Burrito Breakfast

After skipping the event due to COVID, next year the ELCA will resume the National Youth Gathering. It will take place July 16-20<sup>th</sup> in New Orleans and the theme is "Created To Be." This event is open to all our youth entering grades 8-11. The Youth Gathering brings thousands of ELCA teens together to celebrate their faith, volunteer in the community, and see how God can work in each of their lives. It is a powerful opportunity to hang out with teens from all over the country and discuss their roles in this crazy, beautiful, and sometimes scary world. Please be on the look out for our kids fundraising efforts! We are committed to ensuring that every student who wants to experience this amazing faith activity has the financial ability to do so!

Finally, as we enter the month of Thanksgiving, I pray that all of us can make the time to be intentional about our gratitude for all the blessings we have received. Let your loved ones know they are appreciated, take some time each day to thank God for your blessings, and take the time to do something that brings you joy and peace.

In Peace,  
Jen

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

# Fundraising

## WHILE YOU Shop<sup>®</sup>



CHRISTMAS IS COMING!!!!  
GIVE THE GIFT OF A GIFT CARD!!!

Most of you know we have Kwik Trip cards, but there are so many other options as well!! Good Shepherd gets a cut of the cards sold. All you have to do is get your gift cards from Good Shepherd! There is a list on the back table in church of all the possible places you can get the cards from! We can order exactly what you need and have them back to you within a couple of weeks...All your Christmas needs in one spot AND it helps the youth with the National Youth Gathering and other fun activities. You can also get an Order Form from the church website then simply submit your completed order form and payment to the church office or the Youth table in church Sunday mornings.

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*

#### Now Thank We All Our God

When we think of the hymn “Now Thank We All Our God”, we think of singing it at the Thanksgiving Eve service 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 of 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

*Good Shepherd Music Director*  
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#### ELCA presiding bishop issues statement on Israel-Hamas war

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?" —Psalm 22:1

Dear church,

As Lutherans, we are accustomed to holding tension between two truths. Thus the ELCA denounces the egregious acts of Hamas, acts that have led to unspeakable loss of life and hope. At the same time the ELCA denounces the indiscriminate retaliation of Israel against the Palestinian people, both Christian and Muslim.

For the past week we have borne witness to the horrors of the escalating crisis between Israel and Hamas. We also watch a growing humanitarian crisis in Gaza as Israel blocks food, water, fuel and medical supplies and as airstrikes continue to cause unbearable civilian casualties ahead of a just-announced ground assault. We see Israelis and families around the world in the agonizing wait for word about the fate of loved ones killed or taken hostage by Hamas. We are in anguish, grieving and praying for all people who are living in trauma, fear and uncertainty.

Among us are Palestinian Lutherans who are fearful for their families, their communities and their homeland. In our communities we have Jewish and Muslim neighbors, who are also facing the horrors of this crisis and its impact on their loved ones.

It is difficult to find words that suffice in the complexity of this moment, and in the web of relationships that bind us together, as church, with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and our interreligious partners. Yet God has called us to be a people who stand with others amid suffering.

We must also call a thing a thing. The power exerted against all Palestinian people — through the occupation, the expansion of settlements and the escalating violence — must be called out as a root cause of what we are witnessing. We are committed to our long-standing accompaniment of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

The God who liberates us calls us to be a liberating witness. May it be so.

In Christ,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America