



MAY ALL THE BLESSINGS
..... OF THE LORD
BE YOURS IN ABUNDANCE
IN THE *New Year.*

ISAIAH 43:19



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

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter January, 2024

Give. Serve. Lead. Connect.

From Pastor Harald Bringsjord

Grace to You and Peace!

Throughout Advent, and as we have entered into the Christmas season, we have been singing the words of the angels, "Peace on earth, good will to all." Perhaps these words of the angels would be a good New Year's resolution."

An article I found on the website entitled "journeywithjesus.net" by Dan Clendenin about the early church monastics could be helpful to us and the world in living out the words of the angels. Each of the following could be a New Year's resolution in itself. Notice the year in which they were written.

1. Never stop starting over. "Every day is a new beginning". "My God, do not abandon me. I have done nothing good before Thee, but grant me, in Thy compassion the power to make a start." (Arsenius, 5th century)

2. Live intentionally, not aimlessly: "Think nothing and do nothing without purpose directed to God. For to journey without direction is wasted effort" (St. Mark the Ascetic, 5th century).

3. Pray simply, not stupidly: "Often when I have prayed I have asked for what I thought was good, and persisted in my petition, stupidly importuning the will of God, and not leaving it to Him to arrange things as He knows is best for me. But when I have obtained what I asked for, I have been very sorry that I did not ask for the will of God to be done; because the

thing turned out not to be as I had thought (Evagrius the Solitary, 4th century).

4. Walk with humility: "St. John Chrysostom says that we do not know wholly even what is given in part, but know only a part of a part" (St. Peter of Damaskos, 12th century).

5. Be extremely realistic: "Saint Anthony said to Poemen, 'Expect trials and temptations until your last breath.'" "I am convinced that not even the apostles, although filled with the Holy Spirit, were therefore completely free from anxiety...Contrary to the ridiculous view expressed by some, the advent of grace does not mean the immediate deliverance from anxiety" (St. Makarios of Egypt, 5th century).

6. Always think good of everyone: "Show the greatest gentleness toward all people" (Evagrius the Solitary, 4th century).

Perhaps these words from some of the early church monastics will give us insight during the remainder of the Christmas season to live the words of the angels, "Peace on earth, good will to all" as we begin the year 2024.

God's peace and good will be with you all,

Pastor Harald



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 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



Lead

Raising Up Spiritual Leaders

Calling All Musicians!

Our "Sounds of Praise" worship band invites you to help us lead the worship here at Good Shepherd. "Sounds of Praise" is intended to bring together the greatest number and variety of instruments possible, presenting special music and enhancing our wide variety of hymn styles. Whatever type of instrument you play, "Sounds of Praise"

welcomes you! Please call Randy Lyden at (608) 792-1305 or email randy@gslacrosse.org to be a part of this growing and exciting praise band!



Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

The Sanctuary Choir

The Sanctuary Choir rehearses between services every Sunday from September through May and new members are always welcome!! If you would like to join our Sanctuary Choir, please contact Karl Greenfield at 790-3785 or at karl@gslacrosse.org

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 Sunday School Choir, please contact Darlene Lassig at 608-769-1499 or at 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.

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 2024!

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.

Boy Scouts—Troop 22 meets at 6:45pm weekly 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.

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 Nov. 20 through December 17.

memorials
& gifts

Food For Schools Project

Jerry & Virginia Larson
Joyce Herlitzke
Dave & Michelle Kranz
John Wood

Lutheran World Relief

Glen & Kathy Johnson
Noisy Offering

Sugar Creek Horse Project

John & Naomi Stennes-Spidahl

Betty & Herman Betz Memorial

Carol Stephens
Fredd & Marsha Korneta

Mary Arlt Memorial

Stacy Carlson

WAVER

Cindy Thurston
Ron & Carol Price

George Liebsch Memorial

Harald & Andrea Bringsjord

Robert Hilbert Memorial

Harald & Andrea Bringsjord

ELCA World Hunger

WELCA

Thank
you



November Monthly Benevolences From Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| ELCA / Synod Support | \$4,666 |
| Lutheran Campus Ministry | \$84 |
| Companion Synod - Peru | \$10 |
| Synod Seminary Scholarships | \$10 |
| Sugar Creek Bible Camp | \$160 |
| WI Lutheran Social Services | \$200 |
| ELCA World Hunger | \$431 |
| WAVER | \$62 |

Church Numbers

Weekly Sunday Attendance

| Date | 8:30 | 10:30 |
|----------|------|-------|
| 11/05/23 | 141 | 69 |
| 11/12/23 | 112 | 57 |
| 11/19/23 | 87 | 47 |
| 11/26/23 | 61 | 46 |

Weekly Envelope Offerings

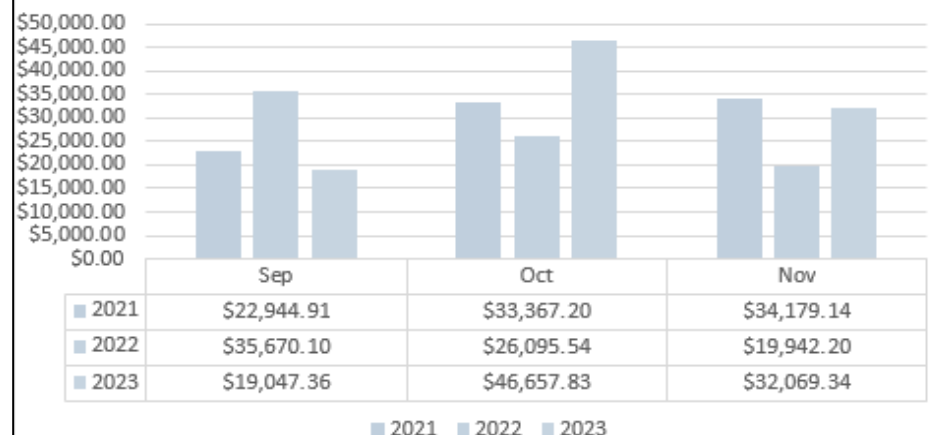
| Date | Weekly | % Budget |
|----------|-------------|----------|
| 11/05/23 | \$7,148.05 | 98.0% |
| 11/12/23 | \$11,892.59 | 163.1% |
| 11/19/23 | \$5,894.05 | 80.8% |
| 11/26/23 | \$7,134.65 | 97.8% |
| Total: | \$32,069.34 | 110.0% |

Envelope Offering Comparison

| November 2023 | November 2022 | % Difference |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| \$32,069.34 | \$19,942.20 | 60.8% |
| YTD 2023 | YTD 2022 | % Difference |
| \$283,380.56 | \$262,717.33 | 7.9% |

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@gslacrosse.org

Envelope Offerings



Around the Parish...

Lydia Circle

Lydia Circle will meet again on Tuesday, January 2nd, at 1pm in the Quilt Room. All ladies are welcome. Any questions please call LeeAnn Lyden at 788-7651. We hope you will join us for some good chats and always dessert and coffee.

Good Shepherd Women-WELCA

WELCA welcomes all women from our congregation to be part of this committee. Our next meeting is Thursday, January 4th at 6pm on Zoom and in person.

Burrito Breakfast

Join us for a Burrito breakfast Sunday, January 7th 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!

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 and only meeting in January is on **January 11th**. All are welcome.

Game Night

Game Night for all ages is Friday, January 12th 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 with any questions.

Bunco Night

Our next Bunco night will be on Friday, January 19th at 6pm. Please bring a \$5.00 wrapped gift. The theme is Winter. Bunco takes place in the Mattes center and is for ages 18 years and older. Contact Judy Christopherson @ 788-4335 or 769-3656

JUST MOVE!

On Wednesday, January 24th, Good Shepherd will be hosting JUST MOVE, a program designed to dive into intercultural relationships using hip hop music, storytelling, poetry and conversation. All ages are welcome to attend! Join our Confirmations kids, as well as other church groups, as we celebrate our faith and embrace the love God has for all of us. The event will last from 6:30-8pm.

Bible Study

The next Bible Study will be Sunday, January 28th at 6:30pm in the Mattes Center, all are welcome to attend! We 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://gslacrosse.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 for more info.

2024 National Youth Gathering

The National ELCA Youth Gathering will take place next July 16-20th 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@gslacrosse.com

Around the Parish...

Help Feed Area Children

Please continue to support the Food For Schools Project (formally Hintgen Food Project) with your donations. Food is still purchased for Hintgen, but because of your generosity we are also able to make donations to the food pantries of other area schools too! Make your checks payable to church, but indicate Food For Schools Project in the memo line.

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.

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

Stop by our table Sundays or get an order form from our website. Contact Corrine to place an order at 608-397-9353 or Email tcjj23511@gmail.com

The office also has Kwik Trip cards available for immediate purchase!

Thoughts & Ideas Welcomed

If you have an idea of how to improve ministry here at Good Shepherd, or things you would like to see us do or become involved in as a church, pick up a form from the bulletin board in the welcome area. Be sure to sign the form and then place it in the white mailbox in the main hall by the choir room.

A Special Thank You

We trust and hope you had a blessed Christmas and may God's grace be with you in the New Year. Thank you for the cards, gifts, the Christmas greetings, the goodies and the many prayers that we have received. May we continue, as partners in Christ, to proclaim the good news of God through Christ our Lord in 2024

Pastor Harald and Andrea Bringsjord

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!

January 2024



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

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|--|------------------------------------|---|-----------|
| December 31 New Years Eve 8:30am Worship NO Sunday School 10:30am Worship 6:30pm GS Men's Group | January 1 New Years Day Office Closed 6pm Trust Foundation | 2 1pm Lydia Circle 6pm BS Troop 22 Adult Mtg 6pm Buildings & Grounds 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg | 3 NO Confirmation | 4 6pm WELCA Mtg | 5 | 6 |
| 7 8:30am Worship/communion 8:30am Sunday School 9am Burrito Breakfast 10:30am Worship/communion 6:30pm GS Men's Group | 8 | 9 1:15pm Dementia Support 1:45pm Hillview Communion 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg | 10 6:30pm Confirmation | 11 3pm Grief Support | 12 6pm Game Night | 13 |
| 14 8:30am Worship 8:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 3pm Cub Scouts Pack 17 6:30pm GS Men's Group | 15 6pm Membership Mtg | 16 6pm Admin/Exec Meeting 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg 7pm Church Council | 17 6:30pm Confirmation | 18 6pm Hospitality Mtg | 19 February Voice Articles Due Annual Report Submissions Due 6pm Bunco (Winter) | 20 |
| 21 8:30am Worship/communion 8:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship/communion 6:30pm GS Men's Group | 22 | 23 6pm Parish Ed Meeting 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg | 24 6:30pm Just Move! Concert | 25 3pm Grief Support | 26 | 27 |
| 28 8:30am Worship 8:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 3pm Cub Scouts Pack 17 6:30pm Bible Study | 29 | 30 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg | 31 6:30pm Confirmation | February 1 6pm WELCA Mtg | 2 | 3 |
| 4 8:30am Worship/communion 8:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship/communion 6:30pm GS Men's Group | 5 | 6 1pm Lydia Circle 6pm Buildings & Grounds 6pm BS Troop 22 Adult Mtg 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Mtg | 7 6:30pm Confirmation | 8 3pm Grief Support | 9 6pm Game Night | 10 |

Church Council Members

- **Sara Wrobel** *President of the Congregation* 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
- **Rev. John Stennes-Spidahl** *Assistant Pastor*
prjohn@gslacrosse.org
- **Rick Laufenberg** *Office Manager*
rick@gslacrosse.org (608)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 (608)790-3785
- **Darlene Lassig** *Volunteer Sunday School Choir Director* (608)769-1499
darlene@gslacrosse.org
- **Cody & Kerstin Nedegaard** *Volunteer Parish Nurses*
Cody_Kerstin@gslacrosse.org
- **Bill Klein** *Custodian*
bkleinpackfan@yahoo.com

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,

January is thyroid awareness month, so we decided to focus this month's article on such. 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. They 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, 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 New Year!

I want to start by saying thank you to everyone who helped make the Christmas Program on December 17th a success! Thank you to the amazing volunteers that help in Sunday School, Lori Lowell, Kylie Klein, Austin Stalsberg, Janet Torkelson, Jessica Peterson, Julie Foreman, Patty Kraemer, Lynn Pataska, Tammy Klein, Bill Klein, Darlene Lassig, and Kari Ellison. Also, a huge thank you to the confirmation helpers! 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 House on The Rock. The students will be visiting the Art, Cinema, and Computer rooms. Our first Sunday back is on January 7th and it will be PJ Sunday!



First graders will be receiving their Prayer Blocks on January 21st during the first service. Please register your child for this milestone. If your child is not registered prior to the 21st, 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 17th.

Best regards,
Brea Ellison

Quick-Look

Upcoming Events At a Glance

| | |
|---|--|
| Sunday, January 7th 2024 | PJ Sunday! |
| Sunday, January 7 th – January 21st 2024 | House on the Rock Unit (Computers, Cinema, and Art) |
| Sunday January 21st 2024 | 1st Grade Milestone – Prayer Blocks |



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



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. We have been busy learning about the importance and meaning of the Apostle's Creed. The Apostle's Creed is a statement of belief, and the students were introduced to the Apostle's Creed by coming up with some of their statements of belief. Their statements were amazing, and it certainly gives me hope that they will continue to make the world a brighter place! For me, this time of year is a time of reflection about the last year, where we have been, where we want to be and the gap between the two. It is a chance to make some goals about how to be more intentional in living a life of faith. Whether it be through prayer, gratitude, volunteer work, or even just trying to engage with the people around us and with our planet in an affirming and appreciative way. Our kids (and all of us) are lucky to have our faith, a faith that celebrates each of us completely, without hesitation, and with grace. As we start a new year, I hope each and every one of us remembers that God is with us, walking besides us on the good days and carrying us on the bad days. I hope we 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 that when things get tough 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.

We have an exciting event coming up in January! JUST MOVE! On Wednesday, January 24th, Good Shepherd will be hosting JUST MOVE, a program designed to dive into intercultural relationships using hip hop music, storytelling, poetry and conversation. All ages are welcome to attend! Join our Confirmations kids, as well as other church groups, as we celebrate our faith and embrace the love God has for all of us. The event will last from 6:30-8pm.

After skipping the event due to COVID, this year the ELCA will resume the National Youth Gathering. It will take place July 16-20th 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 lookout 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! We currently have 12 kids attending this amazing event!!

Finally, A huge shout out to all who have helped make another year go smoothly for our youth! Our Confirmation Guides, Stephanie, Vicki, Jaclyn, Kim, and Ren are amazing leaders, and our kids are so lucky to have them! Tim Knudsen for his help with

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

the Burrito Breakfasts, Todd and Corrine Holtz for their endless work to raise money to provide for activities and Lori Lowell for her advocacy with parish education. Finally, a huge shout out to Rick and Kathy, who patiently answer all questions and remind me of things I need to do and the set up and take down of Confirmation tables each week. It takes a village and the Good Shepherd one is top notch!

May 2024 be a continuation of all our faith journeys.

Jen



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

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

1. Print and fill out the [Order Form](#) from the church website.
 2. Write your check out to Good Shepherd Youth Group for the amount you wish to order.
 3. Submit your completed order form and payment to the church office or me.
- The orders will be compiled and placed the first week of the month.

Corrine's contact information is:

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

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

Jen Servais

Director of Youth and Family Ministry
Jen@gsllacrosse.org (608) 788-0450

In the Office: Varied hours



Music Notes

From The Director of Music

Hymn Focus: "Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore"

"Pescador de Hombres" ("Fisher of Men"), the original title of "Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore", was written by Spanish composer Monseñor Cesáreo Gabaráin (1936-1991). Gabaráin was one of the most prominent composers of Post-Vatican II Spanish liturgical music.

Beginning his musical studies at age 10 at the minor seminary in Zaragoza, he went on to study at Seminario Mayor of San Sebastián and was ordained to the priesthood at San Sebastián on Dec. 19, 1959. He then served as chaplain of the College of the Marist Brothers of Antzuola in Gipúzkoa, as chaplain at Fundación Zorroaga, a nursing home in San Sebastián and as chaplain in the College of the Marist Brothers in Madrid. He served in parish ministry in Nuestra Señora de las Nieves (Our Lady of the Snows) and was head of religious education in the College of San Fernando. He died of cancer in Antzuola in 1991, after touring 22 U.S. cities to conduct workshops in conjunction with OCP (Oregon Catholic Press).

"Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore" was written in 1979 and is based on the Gospel passages where Jesus calls his first disciples: "As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 'Come, follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will send you out to fish for people.' At once

they left their nets and followed him." (Matthew 4:18-20, NIV). Gabaráin conveys the disciples' obedience and

commitment to Jesus, leaving their fishing boats behind to follow him, and calls us to follow our Lord in the same way. The melody "Pescador de Hombres" brings this scripture passage even closer to heart

with a gentle rocking movement that is reminiscent of a boat by the lakeshore. This hymn has been published in 11 hymnals and has been translated into as many as 80 languages.



Randy Lyden

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



Geodes look plain on the outside but contain beautiful crystals. Create these "rocks" to show how God makes us new on the inside.

What you need:

- Clean cardboard egg carton
- Scissors (and adult help)
- Epsom salt
- Plastic zippered bags (one per color of dye)
- Food coloring
- Glue
- Paintbrush



What you do:

1. Cut out the tops and bottoms of all the egg compartments so you can make 6 ball shapes.
2. In each bag, put 3 tablespoons of Epsom salt and a drop or two of food coloring. Seal and shake to mix.
3. With the paintbrush, spread glue inside two egg-carton halves. Sprinkle a spoonful of Epsom salt into those halves. Then close and shake.
4. Open your homemade geode and shake out excess salt.
5. Optional: Preserve the crystals with a coat of clear-drying glue.



HAPPY NEW YOU!

Changing the calendar each January is a reminder that God makes all things new.

Directions: Use the clues and the calendar code to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV.

| JANUARY 2024 | | | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | God | night | word | in | love | Jesus |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| glory | therefore | speak | give | light | Christ | a |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| saw | beginning | anyone | waters | help | is | many |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| he | again | through | earth | made | while | back |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |
| new | if | and | creation | | | |

The second Monday _ _ _ _ _

The last Monday _ _

The 16th _ _ _ _ _

One day before the 20th _ _

The day before the first Friday _ _

The last weekday of the second week _ _ _ _ _

The day after the 20th _ _

The day after 18th _ _

The first day of the second weekend _ _

The last Sunday _ _ _

The last day of the month _ _ _ _ _

Answers: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.



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