



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter February, 2024

Give. Serve. Lead. Connect.

From Pastor Harald Bringsjord

This year, the beginning of Lent is a full eight days earlier than last year.

The 2024 Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14th, which is also Valentine's Day. The service will begin at 6:30pm. Last year, we celebrated Ash Wednesday on February 22nd. Ash Wednesday is 40 days before Easter, not counting the Sundays. And Easter always falls on the first Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or after March 21st. But if the first full moon happens on a Sunday, Easter is on the following Sunday. The earliest Easter can be is therefore March 22nd which last happened in 1818. The latest Easter can be is April 25th which happened in 1943 and will happen again in 2038, according to the United States Census Bureau.

As always, we will be using the Holden Evening Prayer written by Marty Haugen for the Wednesdays of Lent following Ash Wednesday. During those Wednesdays we will once again have speakers from Good Shepherd sharing what their faith and their connection to their church has meant to them in the joys and struggles of life.

The speaker schedule is as follows:

Pastor Harald Bringsjord
Ash Wednesday, February 14th at 6:30pm

Barb Smyth February 21st at 6:30pm

Matt & Jessica Peterson
February 28th at 6:30pm

Karina Bronson

March 6th at 6:30pm

Naomi Stennes-Spidahl

March 13th at 6:30pm

Tony Servais March 20th, at 6:30pm

Pastor Harald Bringsjord

Maundy Thursday, March 28th, at 6:30pm

Scripture Readings - Luke Wrobel and Pastor Harald, Good Friday, March 29th, at 6:30pm.

I would like to encourage everyone to make a commitment to be at worship throughout the Lenten journey. I am confident that we will be stirred in our own faith by the stories that will be shared by some of our members. Perhaps this would be a good time to invite a friend to come to church with you. Lent offers us all a special opportunity to grow in our relationship with God and to deepen our commitment to a way of life that is rooted in our baptism. The experiences shared by our brothers and sisters in Christ will certainly enrich this journey. We never journey alone, we are always journeying together. As those individual experiences are shared, all of us can enjoy and support an environment that allows grace to flourish.

Let us pray for each other on this Lenten journey towards the joy of Easter on March 31st.

Harald Bringsjord
Pastor



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.



YOU ARE **KEY!**

*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



Love is patient and kind.

1 Corinthians 13:4, ESV

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.

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 Dec. 17 through January 21.

WAVER

John & Naomi Stennes-Spidahl

Food For Schools Project

Dave & Barb Foye
Jim & Jan Quinn
John Wood
Barb Hegge

George Liebsch Memorial

Jim & Jan Quinn

memorials
& gifts

Shirley Bryhn Memorial

Harald & Andrea Bringsjord

David Honken Memorial

Harald & Andrea Bringsjord

Art Olson Memorial

Harald & Andrea Bringsjord
Keith Herlitzke

Building Contingency Fund

Monty & Lois Gilbertson

Thank
you



December Monthly Benevolences From Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

ELCA / Synod Support	\$3,207
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$84
Companion Synod - Peru	\$10
Synod Seminary Scholarships	\$10
Sugar Creek Bible Camp	\$160
WI Lutheran Social Services	\$200
Other/ Misc. Benevolence	\$910
WAVER	\$80

Church Numbers

Weekly Sunday Attendance

Date	8:30	10:30
12/03/23	115	39
12/10/23	81	62
12/17/23	228	55
12/24/23	297	103
12/31/23	25	25

Weekly Envelope Offerings

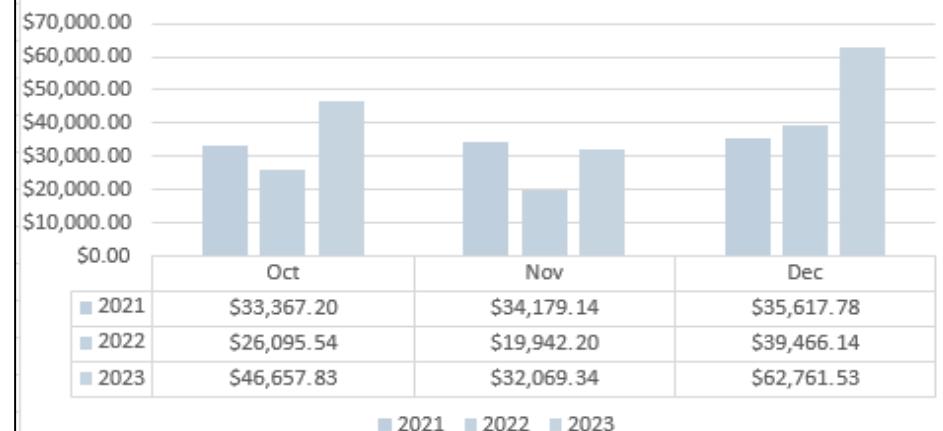
Date	Weekly	% Budget
12/04/23	\$5,755.50	98.7%
12/10/23	\$8,850.54	151.7%
12/17/23	\$6,000.50	102.9%
12/24/23	\$13,851.19	237.5%
12/31/23	\$28,303.80	485.2%
Total:	\$62,761.53	215.2%

Envelope Offering Comparison

December 2023	December 2022	% Difference
\$62,761.53	\$39,466.14	159.0%
YTD 2023	YTD 2022	% Difference
\$346,142.09	\$302,183.47	114.5%

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...

Good Shepherd Women-WELCA

WELCA welcomes all women from our congregation to be part of this committee. Our next meeting is Thursday, February 1st at 6pm on Zoom and in person in the Welcome Area with the Election of Officers.

Burrito Breakfast

Join us for a Burrito breakfast Sunday, February 4th 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, February 6th 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.

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 February is on **February 8th**. All are welcome.

Game Night

Game Night for all ages is Friday, February 9th from 6 - 9pm. Bring your favorite game or learn a new one. Games vary, but include a variety of board, card, and other games. Contact Randy Page by email at grimmcaf@hotmail.com with any questions.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Join us February 13th at 5:30 in the Mattes Center. A freewill offering will be accepted.

Ash Wednesday Service

Join us as we begin the Lenten season with our Ash Wednesday service at 6:30pm on February 14th. Lenten services will be held every Wednesday at 6:30pm with a cake and coffee fellowship following the service.

Bunco Night

Our next Bunco night will be on Friday, February 16th at 6pm. Please bring a \$5.00 wrapped gift. The theme is "Valentine". Bunco takes place in the Mattes center and is for ages 18 years and older. Contact Judy Christopherson @ 788-4335 or 769-3656

Annual Meeting of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Please plan to attend the annual meeting on February 11th at noon via ZOOM or in person in the Sanctuary. A Zoom invitation is available on our website. We will be electing new Church Council members, approving the 2024 budget, and discussing plans for 2024. Copies of the Annual Report are available on the information table and at <https://gslacrosse.org/2023-gslc-annual-meeting/>

Bible Study

The next Bible Study will be Sunday, February 25th 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/>

Help Our Youth, Save Some Money, And Wash Your Car!

Good Shepherd is sending 12 teens to the National Youth Gathering this July in New Orleans! They are selling Kwik Trip car wash cards to help raise money for the trip. The cards are good for 5 ultimate car washes (valued at \$50) and can be used at any Kwik Trip car wash. We are selling them for \$36. Email Jen if you are interested and one of the kids will deliver the card to you! Jen@gslacrosse.org.

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.

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.

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!

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.

Advent Luncheon Thank You

Thanks to everyone at Good Shepherd who helped make this luncheon successful from attending, donating food (dinner rolls, salads, and desserts), preparing for the event, setting up, being part of the welcome/church service, helping during the event, and cleaning up!

The ladies from Mary Mother of the Church Parish, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, and Welcome Home Apartments enjoyed and appreciated everything the members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church did to make this event special.

Thanks again,
Lori Lowell, President
Good Shepherd Women - WELCA

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!

February 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
January 28 8:30am Worship 8:30am Sunday School 9:45am Care Ministry Meeting 10:30am Worship 3pm Cub Scouts Pack 17 6:30pm Troop 22 Meeting 6:30pm Bible Study 	29	30	31 6:30pm Confirmation	February 1 6pm WELCA Mtg	2	3
4 Name Tag Sunday (Troop 22) 8:30am Worship/communion 8:30am Sunday School 9:30am Burrito Breakfast 10:30am Worship/communion 6:30pm Troop 22 Meeting 6:30pm GS Men's Group	5 6pm Altar Guild Mtg	6 1pm Lydia Circle 6pm Buildings & Grounds 6pm Troop 22 Adult Mtg	7 6:30pm Confirmation	8 3pm Grief Support	9 6pm Game Night	10
11 8:30am Worship 8:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Noon Church Annual Meeting 3pm Cub Scouts Pack 17 6:30pm Troop 22 Meeting 6:30pm GS Men's Group 	12	13 1:15pm Dementia Support 1:45pm Hillview Communion 5:30pm Shrove Tuesday	14 Ash Wednesday 6:30pm Lenten Worship/ communion	15 6pm Hospitality Mtg	16 March Voice Articles Due 6pm Bunco (valentines)	17
18 8:30am Worship/communion 8:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship/communion 6:30pm Troop 22 Meeting 6:30pm GS Men's Group 	19 6pm Membership Mtg	20 5pm Cancer Support 6pm Admin/Exec Meeting 7pm Church Council Meeting	21 6:30pm Lenten Worship Following with Cake & Coffee in Mattes Center	22 3pm Grief Support	23	24
25 8:30am Worship 8:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 3pm Cub Scouts Pack 17 6:30pm Troop 22 Meeting 6:30pm Bible Study 	26	27 6pm Parish Ed Meeting	28 6:30pm Lenten Worship Following with Cake & Coffee in Mattes Center	29	March 1	2
3 8:30am Worship/communion 8:30am Sunday School 9:30am Burrito Breakfast 10:30am Worship/communion 6:30pm Troop 22 Meeting 6:30pm GS Men's Group 	4 10am Before the After	5 1pm Lydia Circle 6pm Buildings & Grounds 6pm Troop 22 Adult Mtg	6 6:30pm Lenten Worship Following with Cake & Coffee in Mattes Center	7 6pm WELCA Mtg	8 6pm Game Night	9

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,

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 being changing and multiplying at fast rates. The colon in 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 45 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 need a colonoscopy earlier or more frequently. Colonoscopy not only detects cancer but can identify pre-cancerous growths known 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 45 or older, or have a family history of colon cancer you should be screened. Consult with your primary care provider if you believe you need to be screened.

Take care,

Cody and Kerstin Nedegaard



Cody & Kerstin Nedegaard

GS Volunteer Parish Nurses
Cody_Kerstin@gslacrosse.org

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



Sunday School Update

Pre-school thru Grade 5

Hello everyone!

We have been having so much fun in Sunday school! We just finished our unit on The House on a Rock! In this unit we created our very own house on a rock and learned about how different structures are built.

Our next milestones within Sunday school will be the 2nd graders receiving their prayer pillows and 4th graders receiving their prayer journals! The 2nd graders milestone will take place on February 18th, and the 4th graders will take place on March 3rd, both during the first service. Please register your child for these milestones. Registration forms can be found on the Sunday School bulletin board and will also be emailed to families.

The Sunday schoolers will be starting our Lenten project soon. We will be focusing on the area of giving as we donate to a food pantry. A handout on what we are going to do will be coming

home on February 11th. Sunday School will be holding an Easter Egg-stravaganza on Palm Sunday, March 24th. This event will take place in between the services and includes an egg hunt and snacks! The sign-up sheet will be at the back of church and on the Sunday School bulletin board. The cut off date to sign up will be Sunday March 17th, ages Birth to Grade 5, and guests are welcome!

Best Regards,
Brea Ellison



Quick-Look

Upcoming Events At a Glance

January 28th – February 18th	The Sower Unit (Kitchen, Science, and Games)
February 18th during first service	2nd Grade Milestone
February 25th – March 10th	Widows Coins Unit (Art, Cinema, and Computer)
March 17th - April 7th	Fruit of the Spirit Unit (Kitchen, Games, and Science)
Saturday, March 16th	First Communion Training for 5th Graders, in the Mattes Center (10am - noon)
March 3rd	4th Grade Milestone

?? ?

Bible Quiz

? ??

Use one word (perhaps in different forms) for all the blanks to complete this Scripture passage:

“Dear friends, let us ____ one another, for ____ comes from God. Everyone who ____ has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not ____ does not know God, because God is ____.”

- A. believe
- B. help
- C. love
- D. forgive

Answer: C (See 1 John 4:7-8, NIV)

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



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

Confirmation kids are continuing their study of the small Catechism. We finished our study of the 10 Commandments and the Apostle's Creed and are now looking at the Lord's Prayer. We are going through each line to discuss what it means. The 8th graders are also working on finishing their Confirmation requirements, which includes doing an interview with an adult about their faith, choosing a Bible verse that best represents their faith journey, and writing a reflection paper. In this month, dedicated to love, I hope we all take some time to think about what God tells us about the subject, which is a lot. I think the overall theme of the Bible is love...example after example of God's love for us, as well as his commandment to love one another. Last year we learned about when John addressed the Corinthians, and how that story reminds us that despite our differences, we are to love one another. He also talked about how our perceived "rights" are not greater than the commandment to love one another. I think all of us instinctively know we have a responsibility to care for one another and to look beyond the differences to find common ground. I hope our kids understand the role the Church plays in perpetuating the idea of loving everyone, even when it's hard. It seems fitting that Ash Wednesday is on Valentine's Day this year. If the season of Lent isn't a huge reminder of God's unconditional love, then I don't know what is! We will be ending our structured classes this month with the hope that students will continue to come on Wednesdays to the Lenten services. It has been a great year... We have some outstanding teenagers! I can't

thank our guides enough for their contribution to the Confirmation experience. Vicki, Jaclyn, Kim, Ren, and Stephanie are ROCK STARS!!!! Our teens are so blessed to have them!

The National Youth Convention is this July, and we have 16 people going: 13 kids and 3 chaperones. The Youth Gathering bring together hundreds of kids from all over the country to participate in faith-based activities and service project. It will be an incredible event! The theme for this year's event is "Created to Be". The National Youth Gathering is in New Orleans so the price tag will run about \$900.00/student. Please be on the look out for fundraising efforts. The goodwill offering from the Burrito Breakfasts, Kwik Trip and gift card sales, car wash cards, and other events will help us raise the money needed to attend. We have also had some generous donations, particularly from Shirley Holmen. We are all so grateful for the support of our congregation. I will be including some biographies of the kids attending so you can get to know them and hear what they have to say about who they are "created to be".

In Peace,
Jen

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

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

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

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

Corrine's contact information is:
Mobile-(608)397-9353 or Email-tcjj23511@gmail.com

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



Jen Servais

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

In the Office: Varied hours



Music Notes

From The Director of Music

Hymn Focus: Just As I Am

*Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

“Just As I Am”, the signature hymn of the Billy Graham crusades, was written by English poet, hymn writer, and editor Charlotte Elliott (1789-1871). Elliott was born in Brighton, England to Charles and Eling Elliott. Her maternal grandfather, the Reverend Henry Venn, was an evangelical preacher and her parents belonged to the evangelical wing of the Anglican Church. She was well educated and developed a passion for music and art early in life. She also became a portrait artist and a well-known writer of humorous verse.

At an early age, Elliott developed an awareness of her own sinful nature and felt unable to face God. She came to live a secular life until, at age 32, she was afflicted with a severe and debilitating illness that left her feeling the need for a personal Savior. Around this time, the Reverend Cesar Malan was visiting her father’s residence and asked her if she was at peace with God. She resented the question, but a few days later told him she wanted to cleanse her life before becoming a Christian. Malan told her, “Come just as you are” and she became a Christian that day. Her health improved the following year, but in 1829 she relapsed and suffered severe debilitation for the rest of her life.

In 1834 Elliott’s brother, the Reverend Henry Venn Elliott, was starting St. Mary’s Hall, a charity school for the daughters of poor clergy. One day, while her whole family was helping at a church bazaar to raise funds for the school, Charlotte lay at home feeling lonely, useless and depressed. Recalling the words of Reverend Malan, “Come just as you are”, she overcame her feelings and penned the very successful poem “Just As I Am” to help raise money for St. Mary’s Hall.



Randy Lyden

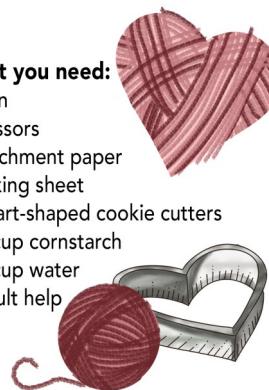
Good Shepherd Music Director
randy@gs lacrosse.org | (608) 792-1305



Make this heartfelt craft
as a decoration or gift.

What you need:

- Yarn
- Scissors
- Parchment paper
- Baking sheet
- Heart-shaped cookie cutters
- ¼ cup cornstarch
- ½ cup water
- Adult help



What you do:

1. Cut yarn into 12-inch pieces.
2. Place cookie cutters atop a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.
3. Combine cornstarch and water in a saucepan. Heat mixture over medium heat, stirring until thick and smooth. Remove from heat and cool to form a “glue.”
4. Dip each piece of yarn into the mixture to coat completely. Squeeze off any excess.
5. Place yarn in the cookie cutters, allowing pieces to cross and loop within the heart. Add more until the cookie cutter is filled and the yarn looks like a heart.
6. Remove cookie cutters and bake the sheet for two hours at 150°F, or until hearts are dry and hard.



CONNECTED BY LOVE

God's Word is filled with messages about love,
which connects us to God and to one another.

Directions: Draw a line from the beginning of each Bible verse
(on the left side) through the heart to the rest of the verse
(on the right side). Use the Scripture references for help.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| a. We | 1. each other as I have |
| b. Above all, | loved you. John 15:12 |
| c. My command | 2. has no one than this: to |
| is this: | lay down one's life for |
| d. And over all | one's friends. John 15:13 |
| these virtues | 3. But perfect love drives |
| put on | out fear. 1 John 4:18 |
| e. Greater | 4. each other deeply, |
| f. See what | because love covers |
| great | over a multitude of sins. |
| g. There is | 1 Peter 4:8 |
| no fear in | 5. the Father has lavished |
| | on us, that we should |
| | be called children of |
| | God! 1 John 3:1 |
| | 6. because he first loved |
| | us. 1 John 4:19 |
| | 7. which binds them all |
| | together in perfect |
| | unity. Colossians 3:14 |

Answers: a, b, c, d, e, f, g, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7



"Be my valentine ... Be my valentine ...
Be my valentine ..."