



GOOD SHEPHERD

LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter March, 2024

Give. Serve. Lead. Connect.

From Pastor Harald Bringsjord

Grace to you and Peace!

As we gather each Sunday for worship, during Lent also for mid-week Lenten services, we are reminded of the warmth, care, and love that radiate from our community of faith. Those of you who have attended the annual meeting last month or picked up the annual meeting report would have heard or read my emphasis on being present in worship whenever one is able to. As the "Church Song" goes, "The church is not a building where people go to pray, it's not made out of sticks and stones, it's not made out of clay. WE are the church, the body of our Lord, we are all God's people, we have been restored."

The church is a body with many parts, it's a family - a place where we are there for each other and where lives are transformed, a place where each one of us comes back to our roots to find unity with God and one another. Two essential parts of church life is *being welcoming* and *being present* in person.

We welcome someone with a handshake or a smile, but even more so, we invite another person to belong. For a guest at worship, feeling welcomed can be the first step toward healing and transformation. If we invite someone to our home, we certainly will want to be present when the guests arrive. The same is the case for our spiritual home, the church.

Why gather in person? While online services are convenient and a real blessing for those who can't be present when we

worship together, they cannot replace our physical presence with our church family. Physical presence creates **community**. We grow and thrive when we worship and pray together and share our experiences with one another. And then there are the **Sacraments**: Baptism and communion are powerful when they are experienced in person. Finally, there is the opportunity to give each other **Encouragement** through a hug or a good word or by listening to one another after the service.

Worship services are held twice every Sunday of the year. This summer, there will be some change to that schedule according to the vote that passed during the annual meeting. It was decided to have only one service in the summer with the worship time yet to be determined. One of the reasons was that the lower turn-out in the summer months make it difficult to find readers, ushers, and other helpers for two services.

After Jesus had fasted for 40 days in the wilderness, something we are reminded of during Lent, the devil came to Jesus to test him. The third temptation the devil put before Jesus was: "All these kingdoms I will give you if you fall down and worship me." Jesus answered, "Worship the Lord your God and serve only him." Attending worship services in person whenever possible, can help us keep the focus on God.

Continued on page 2.



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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!



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.

Lydia Circle

Lydia Circle meets the first Tuesday of every month at 1pm in the quilting room. All women are welcome!

If you have any questions, contact Carol Abraham at (608) 787-0679.



Pastor's article continued from page 1.

During this month, not only are Sunday morning worship services offered but special mid-week Lenten worship services give us an opportunity to receive some guidance in our Lenten journey. If you haven't had a chance to listen to the first two of the special speakers at Lenten mid-week worship, you have a chance to hear Karina Bronson, on March 6, Naomi Stennes-Spidahl on March 13, and Tony Servais on March 20. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday (March 28 and 29) lead us up to the great Easter celebration on March 31st with three services at 7am, 8:30am, and 10:30am. An Easter breakfast from 7:30am until 10:15am provides food

and fellowship in the Mattes Center. A special thanks to not only you who take the time to worship and welcome others, but also to you who volunteer for the many different aspects of worship, altar guild, ushers, greeters, PowerPoint and camera operators, choirs and bell choirs, Sounds of Praise, other musical groups and those leading singing and providing food on some Sundays. It is good to be in partnership with you all.

God's blessings,

Pastor Harald

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

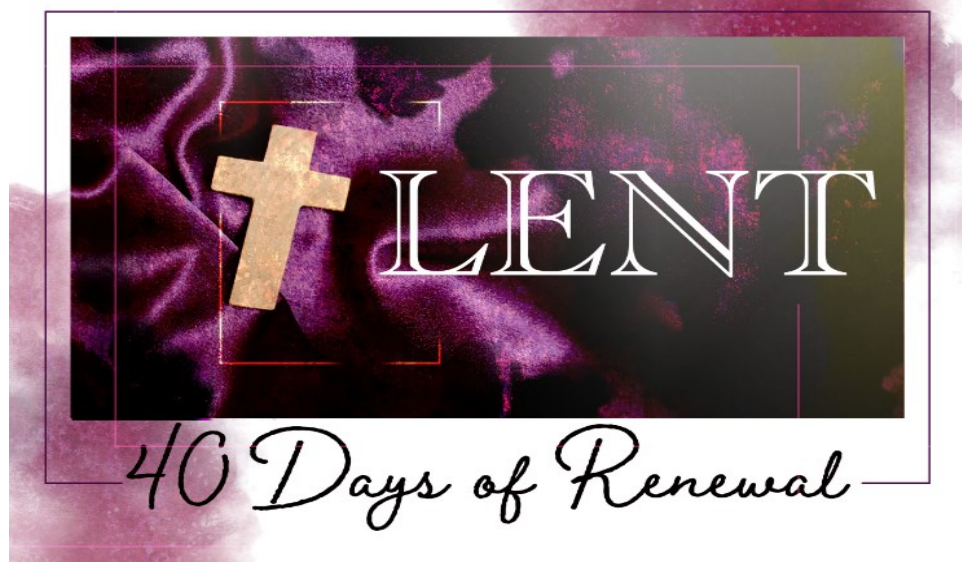
Thank you to Ann Hudson who sends out meaningful cards and handmade prayer shawls to bereaved families throughout the year. If you are interested in making Prayer Shawls, please contact the office.

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.

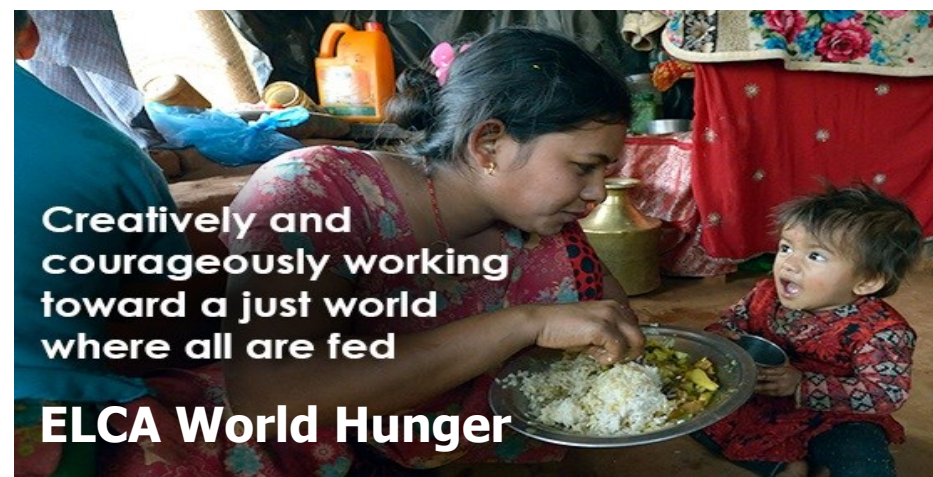
Please allow 1 1/2 to 2 hours for deliveries. We are route #1.



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.

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 January 21st through February 19th.

WAFER
John & Naomi Stennes-Spidahl

Food For Schools Project
Jim & Jan Quinn
John Wood

Art Olson Memorial
Larry & Maree Smith
Kim Dockham
Gordon & Mary Ann Dreves
Ron & Camille Wilhelm
Ione Harder
Sandra Rockwell
Patrecia Stafslien
Rich & Barb Doering
Ed & Ann Keuper
Debra Berg
Carolyn Pederson
Ron & Carol Egge
Jane Johnson



Larry Lawrynk
Helen Munson
Jeff & Kathy Brudos
Karen Broadhead
Jean Clark
Ken Johnson
Jim & Jan Quinn
Don & Darcy Skibba
Olene Olson
Barb Smyth
Greg Olson
G. & J. Waller
Mary Saterbak
Duane & Arlene Dreves
Jackie Meyer

Jeff & Sharon Yushta
Greg & Beth Bonney
Gary & Linda Keuser
Marlin & Julie Helgeson
Ione Severson
Frank & Linda Gillette
Joyce Herlitzke
Ornelle Jorgensen
Alois & Mary Servais
Scott & Mary Ann Herlitzke
Nancy Olson
Tim Padesky
Tara Johnson
Steve & Susan Bohren
Ruth Strand
Richard & Ann Schmidt
Warren & Irene Nedegaard

Howard & Jan Engen Memorial
Keith Engen



December Monthly Benevolences From Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

ELCA / Synod Support	\$6,276
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	\$59
WAFER	\$300

Church Numbers

Weekly Sunday Attendance

Date	8:30	10:30
1/07/24	124	51
1/14/24	40	24
1/21/24	67	45
1/28/24	86	62

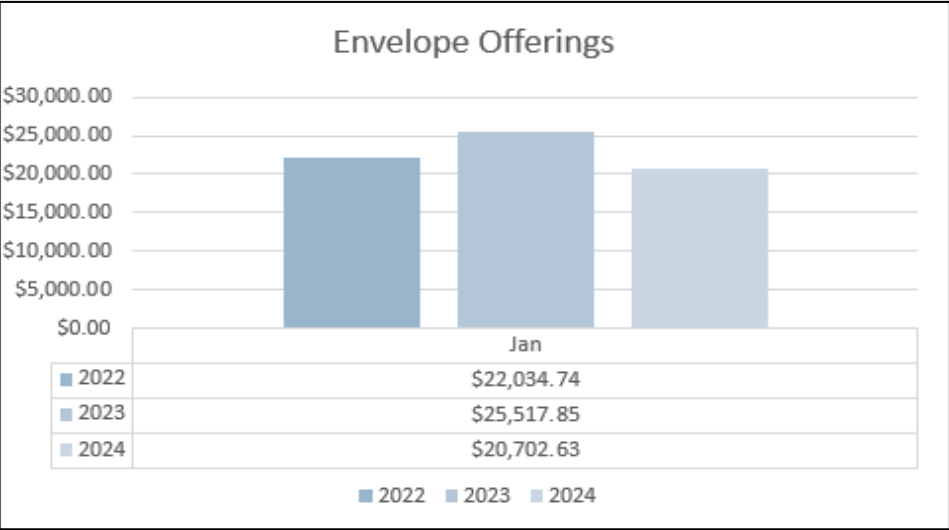
Weekly Envelope Offerings

Date	Weekly	% Budget
01/07/24	\$6,458.85	88.6%
01/14/24	\$5,194.50	71.2%
01/21/24	\$4,612.33	63.3%
01/28/24	\$4,436.95	60.8%
Total:	\$20,702.63	71.0%

Envelope Offering Comparison

January 2024	January 2023	% Difference
\$20,702.63	\$25,517.85	-18.9%
YTD 2024	YTD 2023	% Difference
\$20,702.63	\$25,517.85	-18.9%

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@gs lacrosse.org



Around the Parish...

Lenten Services

Lenten services will be held every Wednesday at 6:30pm with a cake and coffee fellowship following the service.

Burrito Breakfast

Join us for a Burrito breakfast Sunday, March 3rd 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, March 5th 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, March 7th at 6pm on Zoom and in person in Choir Room.

Game Night

Game Night for all ages is Friday, March 8th 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.

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 March is on **March 14th**. All are welcome.

Bunco Night

Our next Bunco night will be on Friday, March 15th at 6pm. Please bring a \$5.00 wrapped gift. The theme is "St Patty's day". Bunco takes place in the Mattes center and is for ages 18 years and older. Contact Judy Christopherson @ 788-4335 or 769-3656

Cancer Center Support Group

Cancer Support Group gives adult cancer patients and their caregivers a safe, confidential place to share feelings and experiences with others whose lives are affected by cancer. Meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 5pm in the Mattes Center. Next meeting is **March 19th**. Questions, call Janette 608-738-3883

Easter Egg-stravaganza

Join us for Easter fun Sunday, March 24th at 9:30 in the Mattes Center.



March 24-31

Palm Sunday:

8:30am Worship/Communion
(In Person / Live Stream)
10:30am Worship/Communion

Mauudy Thursday:

5:30 - 6:30pm Soup Supper
6:30pm Worship/Communion

Good Friday:

6:30pm Tenebrae Service

Easter Sunday:

7am Sunrise Service/Communion
7:30-10:15am Easter Breakfast
8:30am Worship/Communion
(In Person / Live Stream)
10:30am Worship/Communion

Around the Parish...

Bible Study

The next Bible Study will be Sunday, March 24th 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 Feed Area Children

Please continue to support the Food For Schools Project (formerly 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.

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.

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.

NOTICE OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION OF GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Church Council has called for a special meeting of the congregation that will take place on Sunday, April 7 at noon. All voting members are invited and encouraged to attend. The meeting will be in-person only in the Mattes Center with two agenda items:

- ◆ Discussion on having only one worship service over the summer, and, if so, the time of that service.
- ◆ Election of two members to the Church Council who were not voted on at the Congregational Meeting. Candidates are Tim Knudson and Karl Noll, both would be serving their second three year term on Church Council.

March 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
February 25 8:30am Worship 8:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 3pm Cub Scouts Pack 17 4:30pm Scouts Troop 22 6:30pm Bible Study 	26	27 6pm Parish Ed Meeting	28 6:30pm Lenten Worship Following with Cake & Coffee in Mattes Center	29 6pm WELCA Mtg	March 1	2 10am Erickson Visitation 12pm Erickson Funeral
3 8:30am Worship/communion 8:30am Sunday School 9:30am Burrito Breakfast 10:30am Worship/communion 4:30pm Scouts Troop 22 6:30pm GS Men's Group 	4 10am Before the After	5 1pm Lydia Circle 6pm Buildings & Grounds	6 6:30pm Lenten Worship Following with Cake & Coffee in Mattes Center	7 6pm WELCA Mtg	8 6pm Game Night	9 11am Honken Funeral
10 8:30am Worship 8:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 3pm Cub Scouts Pack 17 4:30pm Scouts Troop 22 6:30pm GS Men's Group	11	12 1:15pm Dementia Support 1:45pm Hillview Communion	13 6:30pm Lenten Worship Following with Cake & Coffee in Mattes Center	14 3pm Grief Support	15 April Voice Articles Due 6pm Bunco (St Patty's Day)	16 10am First Communion Training
17 8:30am Worship/communion 8:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship/communion 4:30pm Scouts Troop 22 6:30pm GS Men's Group	18 6pm Membership Mtg	19 5pm Cancer Support 6pm Admin/Exec Meeting 7pm Church Council Meeting	20 6:30pm Lenten Worship Following with Cake & Coffee in Mattes Center	21 6pm Hospitality Mtg	22	23 10am WELCA Lenten Breakfast @ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
24 Palm Sunday 8:30am Worship/communion 8:30am Sunday School 9:30am Egg-stravaganza 10:30am Worship Noon Pack 17 Pinewood Derby 4:30pm Scouts Troop 22 6:30pm Bible Study 	25	26 6pm Parish Ed Meeting	27 6pm Seder Supper	28 Maundy Thurs 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:30pm Worship /communion Following service Desserts In Mattes Ctr	29 Good Friday 6:30pm Tenebrae Service	30
31 Easter Sunday 7am Sunrise Service/communion 7:30 to 10:15am Easter Breakfast 8:30am Worship/communion 10:30am Worship/communion 6:30pm GS Men's Group  	April 1 6pm Trust Foundation	2 Polling Day NO Lydia Circle 6pm Buildings & Grounds	3	4 6pm WELCA Mtg	5	6

Church Council Members

- **Jim Bugge** *President of the Congregation*
buggejim@gmail.com
- **Steve Stelzl** *Vice President of the Congregation*
- **Sara Wrobel** *Treasurer*
- **Kim Dockham** *Secretary*

Other Church Council Members

include: Tim Knudsen, Karl Noll, Thea Johnson, Mark Skolos, Lori Lowell, Janette Dawson, Matt Heberlein, Mark Bronson, Tom Lynch, Erica Pedrazoli, and Pastor Bringsjord.



- **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

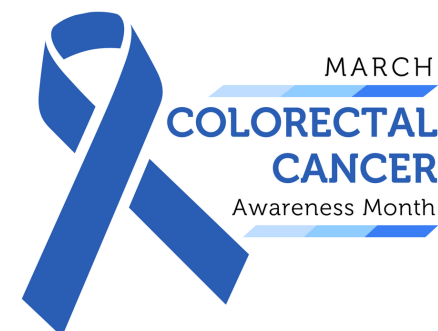
Screening for colon cancer is recommended at age 45 for both men and women. For those at average risk for colon cancer, a colonoscopy is the recommended form of screening and should take place every 10 years. Risk factors such as family or personal history may need a colonoscopy earlier or more frequently. 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!

The Sunday Schoolers have officially kicked off our Lenten Project. This year we are focusing on the area of giving as our goal is to help fill Emerson Elementary's Food Pantry. This school was chosen as it is the school that most 5th graders in Sunday School attend. There is a table at the back of church where the non-perishable food items can be placed. If you would like to donate, we are looking for items such as peanut butter, cereal, crackers, soup, canned fruit or veggies, or your favorite non-perishable food! If you would rather skip the shopping and bring money and coins in instead, there will be a bucket for that as well. This project will run from February 25th – March 24th. Thank you to all who have donated!

Sunday School will also be holding an Easter Egg-stravaganza event on Palm Sunday, March 24th. This event will take place in between the services and includes an egg hunt, games, crafts, and

snacks! The sign-up sheet will be at the back of church and on the Sunday School bulletin board. The cutoff date to sign up will be Sunday March 17th, ages Birth to Grade 5, and guests are welcome! We are looking for volunteers who would like to share a craft or game with the children during this event as well. Please let me know or sign up on the Sunday school bulletin board if interested!

The 5th graders Seder Supper is coming up on Wednesday, March 27th at 6pm. All are welcome to come but please know that this is not a meal, so have something before arriving. 5th graders will also have their first Communion training from 10am – 11:30am on Saturday, March 16th in the Mattes Center.

Best Regards,
Brea Ellison



Quick-Look

Upcoming Events At a Glance

February 25th – March 10th	Widows Coins (Art, Cinema, and Computers)
March 17th – April 7th	Fruit of the Spirit (Kitchen, Games, and Science)
Saturday, March 16th	First Communion Training for 5th Graders, in the Mattes Center (10am – 11:30am)
Sunday, March 24th	Palm Sunday: Parade, lesson, and Easter Egg-stravaganza in between the services
Wednesday, March 27th	Annual Seder Supper Ceremony 6pm
Sunday, March 31st	Easter Sunday – No Sunday School



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



"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
Jeremiah 29:11

That's a wrap on another Confirmation year! We spent the last year looking at the small catechism and diving into what the 10 Commandments, Lord's Prayer and Apostle's Creed mean for us in 2024. We also had Joe Davis and Dave Scherer come in and give a performance for our kids, several other congregations, and some groups from the school district. We had almost 100 people here for Just Move, a program about God's love and intercultural topics through song, poetry and music. It was a great night for everyone who attended. As always, I end the Confirmation year full of gratitude for the time spent with our amazing teens. I have said it before and will say it again, we have some amazing kids, each one figuring out what faith means to them and hopefully, if nothing more, recognizing they are God's masterpiece. We will be Confirming 11 students this year and I pray their faith journeys will continue through all the obstacles and smooth waters. I am confident they will go out and do great things in the world!

As the season of Lent is upon us, I would encourage all youth and their families to attend Wednesday services and implement a way to acknowledge the sacrifice that God makes for us. It doesn't have to be "giving up" something...the best way to honor a sacrifice is to show gratitude. We can take some time to share our gratitude within our families to celebrate the gift that God will give us.

Finally, a huge "THANKS" to everyone who has helped support our Confirmation

kids throughout the year. Pastor is always a good sport about letting me pass the buck and having him answer the hard questions, plus the Books of the Bible song is sure to be a top 10 hit soon. Our guides this year; Vicki, Kim, Stephanie, and Jaclyn helped control the chaos by leading small group discussions and activities. Kathy, Rick and Bill who all do so much behind the scenes to keep me organized, as well as set up and clean up the Mattes Center every Wednesday. The Holtz family and all their work with the Kwik Trip cards that help us plan fun activities for the kids. Finally, to everyone in the congregation who prays for, encourages, and supports the kids along in their faith journey. It takes a village, and our teens have an amazing one!

I am sure you have seen some of our teens helping with the Burrito Breakfast this year! This has been a fun activity for our kids going to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this upcoming July. We have 12 teens going on the trip, along with 4 chaperones. The cost of the trip will be close to \$1000.00 per person so we can't express enough how grateful we are for your goodwill offerings and support through the Kwik Trip cards and car washes. We will be doing a couple more fundraisers this spring to offset the cost.

For the next couple of months, I will be highlighting some of our Class of 2024 high school Seniors. Graduation is only 2 months away!

In Peace,
Jen

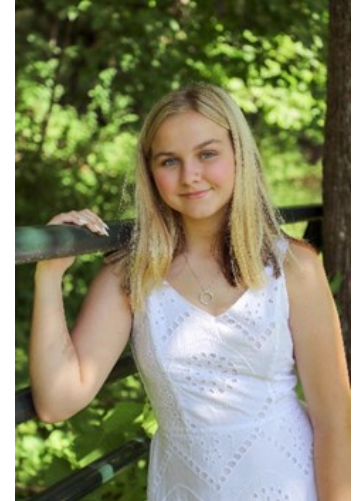
Follow the activities of the G4Squad on Instagram: g4squadlax

Congratulations Class of 2024!

Congrats to Emma! Class of 2024 La Crescent Montessori and STEM School.

Future plans: Attending Minnesota State College - Southeast Tech to pursue a degree in Business. I would love to go into sports marketing for my future career.

Favorite High School Memory: My favorite high school memory would be going camping at the beginning of my sophomore year at Whitewater State Park.



Congrats to Grace! Class of 2024 La Crosse Central High School

Future plans: Attend UW-Eau Claire, majoring in math with hopes of becoming a math professor.

Favorite High School Memory: Junior year prom, getting dressed up and going out to eat at the Waterfront with a big group of friends!



'May the LORD bless you and protect you. May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you. May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'

Jen Servais

Director of Youth and Family Ministry
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In the Office: Varied hours



Music Notes

From The Director of Music

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

*Precious Lord, take my hand,
lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night,
lead me on to the light:
Take my hand, precious Lord,
lead me home.*

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand" was written by African-American jazz pianist and songwriter Thomas Andrew Dorsey (1899-1993). Born in Villa Rica, Georgia, he was raised in Atlanta from the age of five. His father was a Baptist preacher and his mother an organist and piano teacher, who started Thomas on piano at age seven. In Atlanta he came to know and love blues music and spent long hours picking out and practicing melodies that he heard. In 1915 he moved to Chicago to study at the Chicago College of Composition and Arranging, becoming a skilled composer and arranger of jazz and vaudeville music.

In 1926 Dorsey suffered a mental breakdown and two years of severe depression, which led him give his life to Christ. He turned to writing gospel songs and became music director of Pilgrim Baptist Church in Chicago.

In 1932 Dorsey's first wife Nettie died giving birth to a son, who also died a short time later. He was deeply grief-stricken and his faith was severely shaken. He went to visit a friend, who comforted him and assured him that he was always in the hands of a loving God. His friend then led

him to a piano where he began to compose "Precious Lord, Take My Hand". In his own words, "I sat down at a piano and began to improvise on the keyboard. Suddenly, I found myself playing a particular melody that I hadn't played before that time. As I played I began to say, 'Blessed Lord, blessed Lord, blessed Lord.' My friend walked over to me and said, 'Why don't you make that precious Lord?' I then began to sing, 'Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, help me stand'".



Randy Lyden

Good Shepherd Music Director
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SUNRISE SURPRISE

The hidden surprise in these sweet rolls hints at the reason behind Easter's joy.

What you need:

- ½ cup chopped pecans
- 10 uncooked frozen rolls, thawed
- 10 large marshmallows
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- ½ cup melted butter
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Grease a round baking dish. Sprinkle pecans on the bottom.
2. Flatten each roll. Place a marshmallow in the center, wrap dough around it and pinch edges together.
3. Combine sugar and cinnamon. Dip each roll into melted butter and coat with cinnamon-sugar. Place in pan, seam side down.
4. Sprinkle brown sugar and remaining butter over rolls. Cover with plastic wrap and let rise 30 minutes.
5. Bake at 350 degrees until golden brown, about 30 minutes. Cool in pan.
6. As you bite into a roll, you'll see the marshmallow has melted, leaving an empty center — just like Jesus' empty tomb!

PUZZLE

Resurrection refresher

All four gospels confirm Jesus' resurrection, and each one offers important details.

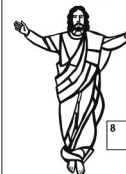
Directions: Complete the crossword. Then insert the circled letters (in order of the clue numbers) to complete John 20:17 below.

ACROSS

2. The women did this when they heard the angels talk about Jesus' death. (Luke 24:8)
4. The women at the tomb did this when they saw Jesus. (Matthew 28:9)
5. The man in Jesus' empty tomb wore this color robe. (Mark 16:5)
7. Jesus instructed his brothers to go here. (Matthew 28:10)
8. Peter saw strips of this in the tomb. (Luke 24:12)

DOWN

1. At first, Mary thought Jesus was this person. (John 20:15)
3. As an angel came from heaven, this happened. (Matthew 28:2)
6. She went with Mary to anoint Jesus' body. (Mark 16:1)



What did Jesus want Mary to tell his brothers?

"I _ m ascen _ ing _ o my
Fat _ er and your Fa _ her,
to _ y _ od and your God."
Joh _ 20:17, NIV

your Father; to my God and your God." John 20:17, NIV
Answer: ACROSS 2. remembered; 4. worshipped; 5. white; 7. Galilee; 8. linen;
DOWN 1. garden; 3. earthquake; 6. Salome; "I am ascending to my Father and

