



GOOD SHEPHERD

LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter April, 2024

Give. Serve. Lead. Connect.

From Pastor Harald Bringsjord

God acts, and the earth trembles.

Psalms 114:5a

A portion of the Easter season fills the month of April this year. For the first two Sunday's of worship, the Gospel readings will tell about the appearances of the resurrected Jesus to the disciples. On the third Sunday, our focus is directed to Jesus' teaching that though he will die he will rise again. The fourth Sunday of April, our gospel will remind us to stay connected to Jesus with vine and branches imagery.

All of this gets me thinking about a scene in "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe." You may be familiar with this classic fantasy novel by C.S. Lewis. It tells the story of four siblings who discover a magical wardrobe that leads them to the land of Narnia. There they embark on the epic adventure to help Aslan, the rightful king of Narnia, overthrow the evil White Witch and bring back warmth and peace to the enchanted land.

One of the four siblings, Lucy, enters into a conversation with Mr. and Mrs. Beaver whose fear of the evil White Witch is tempered with the hope of the powerful Lion King Aslan's return. Lucy asks them: "Is he—quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion." "That you will, dearie, and make no mistake," said Mrs. Beaver. "If there's anyone who can appear before Aslan without their knees knocking, they're either braver than most or else just silly."

"Then he isn't safe?" said Lucy.

"Safe?" said Mr. Beaver, "Don't you hear what Mrs. Beaver tells you? Who said

anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the King, I tell you." This story reminds me of Jesus in a way because Aslan eventually willingly gives up his life to the evil White Witch who kills him on an altar, and three days later, he rises from the dead even more powerful than before. If you haven't read the book, I would recommend it.

In the Easter reading from the Gospel of Mark, there is an unsettling feeling that comes through the ending of the most ancient version of the Gospel. It ends with the words "So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid."

I suspect that when Jesus rose from the grave there was something unsettling, because it turned everything upside down. They knew how to do funerals, but how do you function in a world where the dead rise again? The messenger at the tomb told them to go to Galilee, "there you will see Jesus just as he had told you." According to Mark's Gospel, we don't know if they went or not, but I like to think they did. There they met up with Jesus who reminded them of who he was, and that even though he has power that can cause one to think he is not safe, he is good. The resurrection power is rooted in God's love for you and for me, and for the world. The power of good will defeat the power of evil. Thanks be to God.

Have a blessed Easter season.
Harald Bringsjord



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Twitter.com/goodshepherdse



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.



Good Shepherd Bible Study

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Psalm 119:105
Jesus said: "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church offers you the opportunity to participate in a monthly Bible study. The group gathers in person at church or online via Zoom at 6:30pm on the fourth Sunday of each month. We follow a very simple format that helps us apply God's word to our daily lives. The selected Bible passage is read three times. After each reading, we respond to an easy question such as what caught your attention, how does this word touch your life, and what might God be calling you to do or change? Here is what

one participant had to say about the Bible study: "I have really enjoyed Bible study as it allows me to review the readings and think about what they mean to me. It also allows me to listen to the views of other participants and how the readings touch them." Another said, "Bible study has been surprisingly enjoyable. Surprisingly because it is not what I expected. Rather than being told how to interpret a passage; I am asked about what stands out and has meaning to me. Others also share what is inspirational to them. It's a refreshing and meaningful way to learn".

The link to Zoom can be found at the congregation's website, gslacrosse.org.

***Note: the April study will be online only.**

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

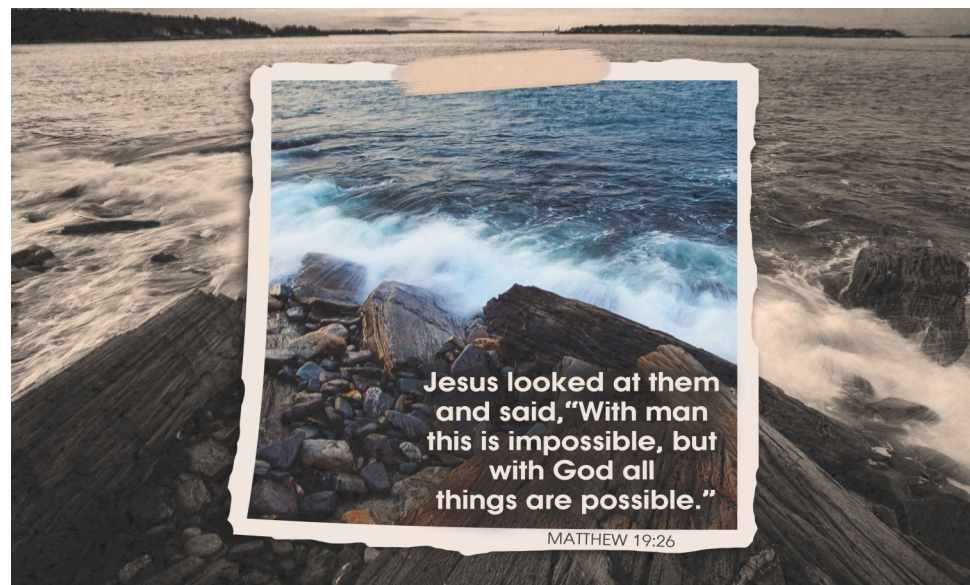
Thank you to Ann Hudson who sends out meaningful cards and handmade prayer shawls to bereaved families throughout the year. If you are interested in making Prayer Shawls, please contact the office.

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 February 20th through March 18th.

Food For Schools Project

John Wood
Rob & Dianne Hamann



Emerson Food Pantry

Mary Kay Boland
John Wood

Sugar Creek Horse Project

Cait Weeks
Ren Weeks

Anna Erickson Memorial

John & Naomi Stennes-Spidahl



February Monthly Benevolences From Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

ELCA / Synod Support	\$2,070
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$84
Companion Synod - Peru	\$10
Synod Seminary Scholarships	\$10
Sugar Creek Bible Camp	\$160
WI Lutheran Social Services	\$200
Fire Dept. Child safety program	\$150
WAFER	\$100

Church Numbers

Weekly Sunday Attendance

Date	8:30	10:30
02/04/24	108	72
02/11/24	89	70
02/18/24	116	60
02/25/24	100	58

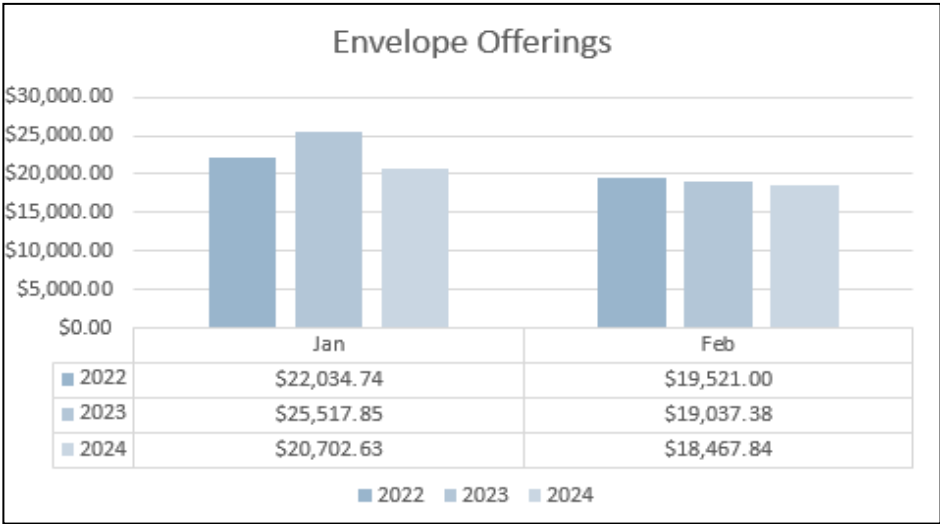
Weekly Envelope Offerings

Date	Weekly	% Budget
02/04/24	\$6,659.05	91.3%
02/11/24	\$3,491.55	47.9%
02/18/24	\$3,213.95	44.1%
02/25/24	\$5,103.29	70.0%
Total:	\$18,467.84	63.3%

Envelope Offering Comparison

February 2024	February 2023	% Difference
\$18,467.84	\$19,037.38	-3.0%
YTD 2024	YTD 2023	% Difference
\$39,170.47	\$44,555.23	-12.1%

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



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, April 4th at 6pm on Zoom and in person in Choir Room.

Burrito Breakfast

Join us for a Burrito breakfast Sunday, April 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!

Lydia Circle

Lydia Circle will meet again on Tuesday, April 9th 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 meetings will be **April 11th & 25th**. All are welcome.

Game Night

Game Night for all ages is Friday, April 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.

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 **April 16th**. Questions, call Janette 608-738-3883

Bunco Night

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

Bible Study

The next Bible Study will be Sunday, April 28th at 6:30pm on Zoom only this month. All are welcome to attend! We normally meet monthly on the fourth Sunday of the month in The Mattes Center and you can also attend via Zoom. The invitation is available on our website at <https://gslacrosse.org/monthly-bible-study/>

17th annual Holocaust Educators' Workshop at Viterbo

On Wednesday April 3rd at 7pm we will bring Holocaust survivor Ida Paluch Kersz, age 85, to the Viterbo Fine Arts Center to speak to our community free-of-charge. Please invite friends to join you and do come early to get a seat.

E-mail me at clottdarryle@gmail.com or call me at 612-720-6447 with questions.

The age of survivors is drawing to a close. To meet Holocaust survivors in person is to touch history. No two stories are exactly alike, but the sense of the story-the impact of terror, deprivation, and personal loss-touches the listener. It is difficult to describe the feeling of awe a person experiences when hearing history from one who lived it. Please do not miss this opportunity.

Sincerely,
Darryle Clott

MMOTC Men's Golf League

If you are interested in joining us as a regular golfer or a sub, contact Bill Klein at 608-780-8861 or bkpackfan@yahoo.com by Tuesday, April 12th.

Around the Parish...

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!

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.

Vanco Mobile App For Donations

Give electronically on your cell phone using Vanco's app, **Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement**. Set up is easy and only takes a few minutes.

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

Simply Giving

Good Shepherd offers 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.

Don't Throw That Away!!

Before you throw something in the garbage, pause and think "is this recyclable?". If it is, take an extra moment to put it in one of the recycle bins. They are in the kitchenette, main hallway, kitchen and Mattes Center. Signs are posted at each bin stating what can be recycled.

PLEASE ONLY PUT RECYCLABLE ITEMS IN THE BLUE BINS- NO GARBAGE PLEASE!

If in doubt, check the listing above the bin and if you're still in doubt, throw it in the garbage.

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 7th 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.

April 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
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 6pm Buildings & Grounds	3	4 6pm WELCA Mtg	5	6
7 8th Grad Led Services 8:30am Worship/communion 8:30am Sunday School 9:30am Burrito Breakfast 10:30am Worship/communion NOON Special Meeting 4:30pm Scouts Troop 22 6:30pm GS Men's Group 	8	9 1pm Lydia Circle 1:15pm Dementia Support 1:45pm Hillview Communion	10	11 3pm Grief Support	12 6pm Game Night	13
14 Name Tag Sunday (Council) 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 	15 5:15pm Finance 6pm Membership Mtg	16 5pm Cancer Support 6pm Admin/Exec Meeting 7pm Church Council Meeting	17	18 6pm Hospitality Mtg	19 May Voice Articles Due 6pm Bunco (Easter)	20
21 8:30am Worship/communion 8:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship/communion 4:30pm Scouts Troop 22 6:30pm GS Men's Group 	22	23 6pm Parish Ed Meeting	24	25 3pm Grief Support	26	27
28 8:30am Worship 8:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 3pm Cub Scouts Pack 17 4:30pm Scouts Troop 22 6:30pm Bible Study 	29	30	May 1	2 6pm WELCA Mtg	3	4
5 8:30am Worship/communion 8:30am Sunday School 9:30am Burrito Breakfast 10:30am Worship/communion 2pm Confirmation 4:30pm Boy Scouts Troop 22 6:30pm GS Men's Group 	6	7 NOON Lydia Circle Potluck 6pm Buildings & Grounds	8	9 3pm Grief Support	10 6pm Game Night	11

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,

We decided to focus this month's article on stroke. Each year in the US there are more than 800,000 strokes. Stroke is a leading cause of death in the country and causes more serious long-term disabilities than any other disease. Roughly three-quarters of all strokes occur in people over the age of 65.

Stroke is a disease that affects the arteries leading to and within the brain. A stroke occurs when a blood vessel that carries oxygen and nutrients to the brain is either blocked by a clot or bursts. When that happens, part of the brain cannot get the blood it needs, so it and brain cells die. An easy way to remember what happens during a stroke is to think of F.A.S.T. F stands for face, ask the person to smile, does one side of the face droop? A stands for arm weakness, ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward? S stands for speech, ask the person to repeat a simple phrase, is his or her speech slurred or strange? T stands for time to call 911 (time is brain). If you or someone you know experiences any of these symptoms, and you suspect they may be having a stroke, call 911 as soon as possible.

The major risk factors for stroke include high blood pressure, diabetes, high LDL cholesterol levels, smoking, and infections or conditions that cause inflammation, such as lupus or rheumatoid arthritis. Early treatment with medications, or an

emergency endovascular procedure can drastically improve someone's recovery from a stroke. Exercising regularly, eating a diet rich in fruits and vegetables, managing diabetes, quitting tobacco use, and lowering the amount of cholesterol, and saturated fat in your diet are some of the best ways to help prevent a stroke.

Take Care,

Cody and Kerstin



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 Spring!

We have had some exciting milestones and events that happened last month! We finished our unit on the Widows Offering. This unit taught us to do good things even if nobody is watching. It also tied into our Lenten project of giving to Emerson Elementary school's food pantry. Our 4th graders also received their prayer journals, and the 5th graders had their first communion training and Seder Supper. We finished the month out by having our Easter egg hunt along with crafts and games!

Our Lenten project has come to a close. A huge thank you to families and everyone in the congregation that helped support us within the project by donating to the Emerson Food Pantry! I loved hearing about all the ways the children were helping out and completing acts of kindness to help give to a neighboring school!

It is crazy to think that the Sunday school year will already be ending in the end of May, but with our final Sunday

school day comes Education Sunday. The Sunday schoolers will be sharing some of the stories that we have learned throughout the year along with "are you smarter than a 5th grader?" on May 19th.

In Peace,
Brea Ellison



Quick-Look


Upcoming Events At a Glance

March 17th – April 7th	Fruit of the Spirit Unit (Kitchen, Art, and Science)
April 14th	Spirit Sunday – Service project
April 21st	Serving others – project
April 28th	Sunday School – Final art project
May 12th	Education Sunday Practice
May 19th	Education Sunday – Are you smarter than a Sunday Schooler?

?? ? **Bible Quiz** ? ?

What does the newly risen Jesus tell his disciples — twice — when he appears in the locked room where they are hiding?

- A. "Love one another as I have loved you."
- B. "Peace be with you."
- C. "The last shall be first and the first shall be last."
- D. "I am risen!"



Answer: B (See John 20:19, 21.)

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

Who doesn't love spring? It is exhilarating to know winter is over and to think of all the possibilities of summer. The school year starts to wind down and it feels like everyone takes a deep, cleansing breath and regroup. That is until we start filling in the summer calendar and realize those months will be spent driving kids all over to participate in their activities. Our kids are so overbooked...and who can blame us parents for wanting them to have all the opportunities possible? I remember a survey I read once that talked about how the time in the car with teens, driving to their events, was the time when most teens said they felt the most connected to their parents. It is a time when teens and parents have an opportunity to talk to each other without so many distractions! This is a great time to be intentional about taking about things faith-related! Talk about things you are grateful for...talk about things that bring you fear or anxiety...share how your faith helps you appreciate the good and persevere through the bad. When we are open and honest about our faith, it allows our kids to become more aware of how faith plays a role in their lives and/or gives them the chance to ask questions. Sometimes, I think as parents, we avoid these conversations because we don't have all the answers and have questions about it all ourselves. But embracing the questions and uniqueness that is each of our relationship to God, can help us share some important tools to help our kids navigate through adulthood.

Speaking of summer, did you know we have an amazing facility just up the river? No planes required...lots of outdoor space...a

perfect option for all kinds of summer adventures.

Sugar Creek Bible Camp was incorporated in 1966 and has been a memory-making, faith-building place for so many of our families. Check out some of these options:

Elementary Programs: Explorer, Foresters, Buckaroos, and Seeker Camps which can be 1-3 day adventures! Activities include daily faith-based devotions, swimming, games, crafts, and campfires, and pony/horse rides.

Middle School Programs: Wagoneer Camp has kids living life like pioneers on the Oregon Trail. The Adventurers Camp involves sleeping in platform tents, canoeing, archery and other outdoor adventures in faith. There is a Horse Camp, Art Camp and new STEM camp. For the extra adventurous, try the Elevated or Night Camp, which involves hammocks in trees, epic campfires, star gazing, and nighttime games!

High School Programs: Trailblazers (mountain biking), Rangers (wildlife and geography), Valley Olympics and Peddle and Paddle camps (adventure camp). Sounds amazing...but there is more! Sugar Creek offers several family camps options. What an amazing way to spend time together, close to home, while growing in faith as a family unit. It's the perfect place to put the phones down and reconnect with nature and each other.

These camps are filling up fast so go to the Sugar Creek website and start planning for a

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

summer full of trees, campfires, water, adventures, and faith. <http://wp.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org/>

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.

In Peace;
Jen

Congratulations Class of 2024!

Congrats to Jordan!

Class of 2024 La Crosse Central High School

Future plans: Attending UW-Eau Claire in the fall, majoring in Business with an interest in Marketing.

Favorite High School Memory: My favorite high school memory is going to Rudy's and taking pictures at Granddad's Bluff before the 2023 spring prom with my friends: Carson, Jaylon, Zaid, & Theis. We spent the night in my parents' camper eating pizza, candy and hanging out.



'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

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In the Office: *Varied hours*



Music Notes

From The Director of Music

Hymn Focus: Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

The hymn “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee” is considered by most hymnologists to be one of the most joyful of all hymns written in the English language and is the best known of the hymns written by Henry van Dyke (1852-1933). The main theme from the final movement of Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony, adapted by British composer Edward Hodges (1796-1867), forms the perfect fit between text and music.

Born in Germantown, PA., van Dyke graduated from Princeton University in 1873 and from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1877. He served as professor of English Literature at Princeton between 1899 and 1923. He achieved fame as one of the country’s leading preachers and literary figures. Becoming a Navy Chaplain, he served as a lieutenant-commander in the U.S. Navy Chaplain Corps during World War One. In 1913 he was appointed Minister to the Netherlands by friend and former classmate President Woodrow Wilson.

In 1907, while serving as a guest preacher at Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts, van Dyke wrote the text for our hymn. The story goes that he handed the manuscript to the college president one morning, saying, “Here is a hymn for you. Your mountains (the Berkshires) were my inspiration. It must be sung to the music of Beethoven’s ‘Hymn of Joy’”.

Composed in the bleak days before World War One, it stands in complete contrast to the world van Dyke saw around him. Verse one uses the metaphor of light to express joy and God’s presence, singing, “hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, praising Thee, their sun, above”. Verse two sings of God as manifested in the beauty of nature with all creation praising the Creator and calling us to do likewise. Verse three sings of humanity as the family of God and calls us to love one another, singing, “Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are Thine; teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!”



Randy Lyden

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SOMETHING OLD, Something New

Use scrap paper to fuel
new growth and make a gift
that keeps on giving.

What you need:

- Scrap paper
- Water
- Herb or flower seeds
- Blender
- Strainer
- Cookie sheet
- Towel
- Adult help



What you do:

1. Tear the scrap paper into strips and place in a bowl. Cover the paper with water and let it soak overnight.
2. Pour the mixture into a blender and blend about 10 seconds.
3. Strain and squeeze the paper pulp to remove excess water. Place in a bowl.
4. Sprinkle seeds over the pulp and mix to incorporate them into the pulp.
5. Shape the pulp into a flat layer on the cookie sheet. Use a towel to soak up excess water. Allow the paper to dry completely.
6. Tear paper into shapes or fold into a card. You can plant the paper directly into soil. Water it and then watch your plants grow!



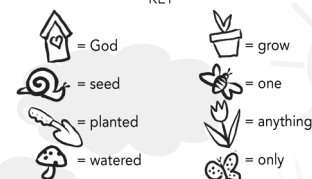
PUZZLE

PLANT, WATER, GROW

Building a faith community takes work. How did the church in Corinth come to be?

Directions: Use the code to fill in the words and complete a teaching of the apostle Paul.

KEY



I _____ the _____, Apollos _____ it,
but _____ has been making it _____.
So neither the _____ who plants nor the
_____ who waters is _____.
but _____, who makes things _____.
1 Corinthians 3:6-7, NIV

Answer: planted, seed, grow, God, God, watered, seed, planted, only, anything, one, one, grow, God, God, watered, seed, planted, only, anything, one, one, grow

