

Come to ME,
all you who are
WEARY and
BURDENED,
and I will give you
REST...

Matthew 11:28-30



GOOD SHEPHERD

LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter August, 2024

Give. Serve. Lead. Connect.

From Pastor Harald Bringsjord

At the special congregational meeting earlier this year we decided to change the worship schedule to only one Sunday service for the summer months. It has been a joy to see so many take advantage of the new summer worship opportunity at 9:30am. It seems like this time is working well for a good number of our members. And it has also been a delight that so many have helped and participated in the fellowship time afterwards. If you haven't been to worship for a while, then I invite you to take a rest from that which is keeping you from gathering together with the body of Christ and come worship the Lord together with other people of faith. For a few more weeks you have the chance to meet and get to know those who worship at the other worship time during the school year. On Rally Sunday, which will be on September 8th, we will go back to the 8:30am and 10:30am worship times.

On another note, for those who are going off to college: I want to encourage you to find a congregation to worship with wherever you may go to school. Lutheran Campus Ministry is there to help you keep active in your faith and can become your congregation away from home. You will find guidance and support whenever you may need it. We would also appreciate if you would send us your physical address

or your email address before you leave so that we can keep in touch with you. As you grow, let God and your church family continue to be a part of that growth!

Jesus says, "Come to me all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).

May God's word and sacraments feed us all through the rest of the summer and through all of life.

God's peace be with you now and always.

Pastor Harald



Facebook.com/GSlacrosse



Twitter.com/goodshepherdlse



GSlacrosse.org/voice

To access this and other publications online visit GSlacrosse.org/voice.

Give Volunteering Within Church

Flower and Bulletin Sponsorship

Sign up on the bulletin board in the concourse to sponsor the weekly bulletins or flowers in honor of a loved one or a special event. Please give us the reason you are sponsoring them. If you do not give us a reason, the bulletin will only have your

name as the sponsor.

If you wish to sponsor the chancel or pulpit flowers, you are responsible for ordering and paying for them directly. Please be sure the flowers are delivered to the church office on or before Friday at noon.

Readers & Ushers always Appreciated!

Readers and Ushers are always valued at our worship services. Please consider signing up on the sign up sheet in the welcome area at the back of the sanctuary. You can sign up to read for a time and day

that works for you. The readings will be sent (either by mail or email) to you early that week. Interested in ushering? Contact Kathy (608)788-0450. We really do need your help!

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!

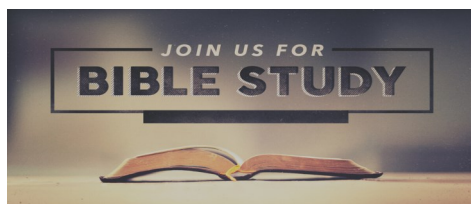
If you have any questions, contact Carol Abraham at (608) 787-0679.



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."

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

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



There is never one sunrise the same or one sunset the same. *Carlos Santana*

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.

We also have social events throughout the year along with a yearly mission trip. Want to learn more? Contact Jen Servais at (608)797-9301 jen@gslacrosse.org.

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 9 weeks for Mobile Meals throughout the 2023 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.



Creatively and
courageously working
toward a just world
where all are fed

ELCA World Hunger

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

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

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

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

Stewardship

Memorials & Special Gifts

Good Shepherd gratefully acknowledges and sincerely appreciates your gifts over and above your regular giving. The following gifts were received from May 26th through July 15th.

Food For Schools Project

Barb Hegge
Cindy Thurston
John Wood
Dave & Michele Kranz



Anne Dolva from Asker Norway Memorial

Reidun Bringsjord

Roger Sorenson Memorial

Harald & Andrea Bringsjord
Ed & Ann Keuper

John Payne Memorial

David Schlueter

Bud Miyamoto Memorial

Harald & Andrea Bringsjord

Youth Gathering Appeal

Cindy Thurston
Carol Rask

Building Contingency Fund

Al & Kathy Johnson

Harlan McLain Memorial

Kathy McLain

Steve Stelzl Memorial

Matt Strickland

ELCA Disaster Relief

John & Naomi Stennes-Spidahl

HVAC Circulation Pump

Doris Goralski
Monty & Lois Gilbertson

Lois Juen Memorial

Steve & Kari Ellison



June Monthly Benevolences From Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

ELCA / Synod Support	\$3,056
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$84
Companion Synod - Peru	\$10
Synod Seminary Scholarships	\$10
Sugar Creek Bible Camp	\$160
WI Lutheran Social Services	\$200
Sugar Creek Horse Scholarships	\$416
ELCA Disaster Response	\$50
WAFER	\$60



Church Numbers

Weekly Sunday Attendance

Date		9:30
06/02/24		72
06/09/24	Synod Service	
06/16/24		64
06/23/24		121
06/30/24		91

Weekly Envelope Offerings

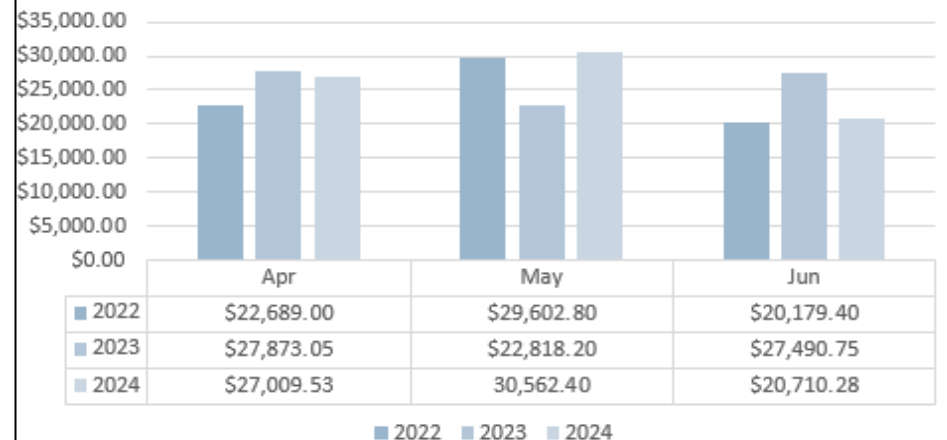
Date	Weekly	% Budget
06/02/24	\$5,469.50	93.8%
06/09/24	\$3,125.80	53.6%
06/16/24	\$6,234.10	106.9%
06/23/24	\$4,029.88	69.1%
06/30/24	\$1,851.00	31.7%
Total:	\$20,710.28	71%

Envelope Offering Comparison

June 2024	June 2023	% Difference
\$20,710.28	\$27,490.75	-24.7%
YTD 2024	YTD 2023	% Difference
\$140,478.03	\$143,304.23	-2.0%

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...

Summer Service Time Change

To offer a richer worship service, and allow members from both services the chance to meet, we will only be having one Sunday worship service at 9:30am from June 2nd through and including September 1st.

Good Shepherd Women-WELCA

WELCA welcomes all women from our congregation to be part of this committee. Our next meeting is Thursday, August 1st at 6pm on Zoom and in person in the Choir Room.

National Neighborhood Night Out

We will be participating in the National Night Out with the Hintgen Neighborhood Association. It will be held on Tuesday, August 6th from 5:00 - 7:00pm at Good Shepherd.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. This is open to all members of the church, their families, friends, and anyone else you want to join us.

We will be using this event to help supply items for the students of Hintgen Elementary. This year, they are in need of new/in package youth sized underwear and socks. Free will donations will also be taken and used to buy items for the students in need.

Hot dogs and chips will be provided. If you would like to bring a dish to pass, we are looking for salads, side dishes, and desserts. There are sign up sheets in the back of the church. Please sign up. If you would like to help out a little more with setup and cleanup, there are sign up sheets for that too.

Game Night

Game Night for all ages is Friday, August 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.

LWR Quilts

I am looking for help to complete quilts for LWR on August 12th, 9am to 3pm. Come when you can. Leave when you need to. I will have some ready for tying and sewing around the edges. Will also have a few that need to be put together. If you are interested or have any questions contact Linda Schoen at 608-386-7939 (text or leave a message) or by e-mail: dschoen000@gmail.com. I am also hoping to get a quilting group together to meet regularly.

Bunco Night

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

Grief Support

Grief support meets in the choir room at Good Shepherd once a month over the summer on the 4th Thursday at 3pm. Our next meeting will be August 22nd. All are welcome.

Bible Study

The next Bible Study will be Sunday, August 25th at 6:30pm in the Mattes Center and on Zoom. The Zoom invitation is available on our website at <https://gslacrosse.org/monthly-bible-study/>

All are welcome to attend!

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 September 17th. **We will not meet in August due to VBS.** Questions, call Janette 608-738-3883

Around the Parish...

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.

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.

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.

Help Support LuMin!

LuMin, Lutheran Campus Ministry La Crosse, is a Christ-centered community. We believe that all people are created in God's image, and we thank you for your support of LuMin—in prayer, through cookies, and through your giving!

1. To make a donation online, go to www.laxcg.org/giving
2. Or make a check out to Lutheran Campus Ministry and send it to La Crosse Area Synod / LuMin, 2301 South Avenue, La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601
3. Or make a check out to Good Shepherd with LuMin on the memo line and include it with your offering.

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.

LWR School kits and Personal Care Kits

As you are doing your back-to-school shopping, please consider helping us collect items for LWR School and Personal Care kits. Notebooks (70 count spiral), Ballpoint pens (black or blue), rulers (cm on one side), BLUNT scissors, Crayons- 16 or 24 count, Pencil sharpeners, Pencils- UNSHARPENED No 2 are top priority needs for school kits. Darker bath towels, Bars of soap (4 oz size), tooth brushes and large nail clippers are priority for Personal Care Kits. Lists can be found on the Stewardship table. Monetary donations are also appreciated and we can do the shopping. Any questions, contact Linda Schoen at 608-386-7939 (text or leave a message) or by e-mail: dschoen000@gmail.com. Thank you.

August 2024



Sunday School Choir
Meets in Sunday
School Sept.-May.



Bell Choir
Meets Sundays at
5:30pm Sept.-May.



Sanctuary Choir
Meets Sundays at
9:30am Sept.-May.



Sounds of Praise
Meets as scheduled on
Saturdays at 4pm..

In-person Worship Sundays at 8:30 and 10:30. Beginning June 2nd we will have one service at 9:30. The 8:30 (and 9:30) services will be live steamed on our website at www.gslacrosse.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
July 28 9:30am Worship 1pm Kennedy Baptism 6:30pm NO Men's Group	29	30 4:30pm Men's Golf	31	August 1 6pm WELCA Mtg	2	3
4 9:30am Worship/communion 6:30pm GS Men's Group	5	6 4:30pm Men's Golf 5pm National Neighborhood Night Out	7	8	9 6pm Game Night	10 Private Party in the Mattes center
11 9:30am Worship 6:30pm GS Men's Group	12 9am Quilting	13 Polling Day 1:15pm Dementia Support 1:45pm Hillview Communion 4:30pm Men's Golf	14	15 6pm Hospitality Mtg	16 August Voice Articles Due 6pm Bunco (anything goes)	17
18 9:30am Worship/communion 10:30am Admin/Exec Meeting 6:30pm GS Men's Group VBS_____	19 5:15pm Finance 6pm Membership Mtg	20 4:30pm Men's Golf 7pm Church Council Meeting	21	22 3pm Grief Support	23	24
25 9:30am Worship 6:30pm Bible Study	26	27 4:30pm Men's Golf 6pm Parish Ed Meeting	28	29	30	31
September 1 9:30am Worship/communion 6:30pm GS Men's Group	2 Labor Day Church Office Closed	3 1pm Lydia Circle 4:30pm Men's Golf 6pm Buildings & Grounds	4 6pm SS Volunteer Meeting 6:30pm Conf Guide Orientation	5 6pm WELCA Mtg	6	7

Church Council Members

- **Jim Bugge** *President of the Congregation*
buggejim@gmail.com
- **Janette Dawson** *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, 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
- **Karina Bronson** *Coordinator of Confirmation and Youth Ministry*
karina@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,

World lung cancer day is August 1st. Lung cancer is a type of cancer that can originate in lungs themselves, or can spread to the lungs from other parts of the body. Lungs function to take in oxygen when you inhale and release carbon dioxide when you exhale. According to the Mayo Clinic, lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths worldwide.

Those who smoke have the greatest risk of lung cancer, but lung cancer can occur in anyone. Lung cancer typically doesn't cause signs and symptoms in its earliest stages. Signs and symptoms usually occur when the disease is advanced and include: A new cough that doesn't go away, coughing up blood, shortness of breath, chest pain, hoarseness, and headache. Risk factors for lung cancer include smoking, exposure to secondhand smoke, previous radiation therapy, exposure to radon gas, exposure to asbestos, and a family history of lung cancer.

People with an increased risk of lung cancer may consider annual lung screening using low-dose CT scans. Screenings is offered to older adults who have smoked heavily for many years or who have quit in the past 15 years. If diagnosed with lung cancer, there are many treatment options: surgery, to remove the entire lung or an affected portion, radiation therapy, chemotherapy, and targeted drug therapy.

If you or a loved one smoke, the best thing you can do for yourself is to quit. Smoking is

an addiction and the brain is hooked on nicotine. Without it, you'll go through withdrawal. Line up support in advance and ask your doctor about all the methods that will help.

Take Care,

Cody and Kerstin Nedegaard



Cody & Kerstin Nedegaard

GS Volunteer Parish Nurses
Cody_Kerstin@gslacrosse.org

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



Sunday School Update Pre-school thru Grade 5

Happy Summer!

This month, I would love to see your child while attending the F.A.I.T.H Lab a Science Vacation Bible School! VBS will take place August 18th - 22nd. Dinner starts at 5:15pm and VBS kicks off at 5:45pm. We will be creating a F.A.I.T.H Lab with daily focus on what we call B.A.S.I.C Elements. We will focus on how we should believe, keep asking and praying, serve and help others, how God impacts our lives, and to celebrate God. During the F.A.I.T.H Lab, children will rotate through stations that include hands on activities focusing on God's word using crafts, outdoor games, music, snacks, science, and more! I have sent families the signup sheet for those interested or the signup sheet is also posted on the Sunday school bulletin boards! This event is open to children ages four years old to 5th grade! All are welcome! Sunday schoolers can even bring friends!

We are in need of individuals to help run VBS! 3 "scientists" are needed who will follow their group to the different sites and help with the projects. In addition, we will need around 6 individuals to run stations in the Lab. If you would like to help out with VBS please feel free to reach out to me! I would love to talk to you about the fun we have!

The 2024 -2025 Sunday School year will be starting up next month on September 8th during the 8:30 service. The registration sheet for the Sunday school year is out now. The sheet is posted on the Sunday school bulletin

board. I am asking all parents and guardians to please fill out this form. It is important to keep our information up to date on birthdays, contact information, and allergies.

Save the date! September 8th starting after the 8:30am service, come join us for Rally Sunday! Enjoy burrito breakfast, play some games, take guesses in the guessing jars, and participate in the all ages treat/cake walk! Kids can also enjoy bubbles, chalk, and run through the inflatable obstacle course! Parents and Guardians with children ages 3 to 5th grade, please try and bring your children to Sunday school on this day! We will be introducing them to the Sunday school leaders along with meeting those in their group!

The Pre - school milestone will be September 8th during the first service. All 3 and 4 year olds will be receiving their milestone gift of their Sunday School tote bag or Story Book. It is very important to register for this milestone! They are posted on the Sunday school bulletin board, or you can email the registration to me at breanna@gslacrosse.org

In Peace,

Brea Ellison

Quick-Look Upcoming Events At a Glance

August 18th – August 22th 5:15pm-7:45pm	Vacation Bible School: Faith Lab Science VBS
Sunday, September 8th at 8:30am	First day back to Sunday School! 3-4 year old milestone during the service
Sunday, September 8th in between services	Rally Sunday! Burrito breakfast, games, treat/cake walk, inflatable obstacle course
Sunday, September 15 th – Sept 29 th	Noah's Ark Unit (Kitchen, Computer, Science)



Brea Ellison

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

Stay Connected!

Receive message alerts for Sunday School at Good Shepherd. Send the message [@gs-Sunday](https://www.instagram.com/gslacrosse) 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

Can you believe August is here? Summer always seems to fly by. I have always liked the month of August. It is time of preparation for a new school year and new opportunities. For our incoming 6th and 9th graders, it can be a time of anxiety as they look forward to a new building. For all of our students, a new school year is a chance to restart. It is a time to think about what who they want to be and what they can do to get to that place. The journey is different for every one of our kids but the one thing they have in common is knowing that God is with them as they grow and learn about their place in the world. We have spent a lot of time in Confirmation stressing the point that God always loves them, in all circumstances, and in all ways. Hopefully, you can remind them of that if they are worried or apprehensive about the new school year and don't forget to remind yourself when you are frustrated that their journey looks different then what you had envisioned for them!

Confirmation will be starting in early September for our incoming 6th-8th grades. Families will be getting an email about registering in August. The first confirmation class will be Wednesday, September 11th at 6:30.

This will be a short meeting for parents and kids, going over the schedule and expectations for the year!

Speaking of Confirmation...As many of you know, I have stepped down as the Youth Director. I remember exactly where I was when Pastor called all those years ago asking me to consider taking the job. I was a reluctant participant, but who can tell Pastor "No"? Well, I can honestly say that the journey was an incredible, faith-affirming experience. I left every Wednesday session feeling happier, grateful, and impressed by the interactions with our really amazing kids. Thank you for sharing them with me. I can't thank Pastor Kathy, Rick, the Holtz's, and all the guides enough for their help. It really is a village at Good Shepherd and our kids are so lucky to have so many wonderful people supporting and praying for them. I will be around to help Karina with anything she needs.

Speaking of Karina...Karina Bronson will be the new Youth Director. Karina and I both grew up in this church and Karina was one of my students when I was a guide. Most of you already know Karina

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

and know she will be AMAZING, but I will let her introduce herself:

My name is Karina and I am currently a camp counselor at Sugar Creek Bible camp. I have been a member of Good Shepherd Church for 20 years and have been serving within the church in the preschool room. I attended Winona State University for 2 years studying early childhood education and am planning to attend Western Technical College in the spring to continue my education. My favorite activities are hiking, biking, and exploring the outdoors. I look forward to being the youth coordinator and God's work be done.

Enjoy the last month of summer!

Jen and Karina



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 of your 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@gs lacrosse.org (608) 788-0450

In the Office: *Varied hours*

