



GOOD SHEPHERD

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

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter December, 2024

Give. Serve. Lead. Connect.

From Pastor Harald Bringsjord

Again it is December. As the church, the people of God, we live this month in the deep mystery of the Advent Season. Advent, a word that comes from the Latin words *advenire* (to come to) and *adventus* (arrival), refers to Christ, our Savior, and it is a time marked by joyful expectation, hope, preparedness, and penance as we renew our focus on our Lord.

This season of expectant and joyful waiting is in stark contrast to any grabbing for power and prestige, it is in contrast to the cruelty and harm done by people in Jesus' time and throughout history. It is in contrast to the hatred and revenge and the frenetic nature of the world we live in.

While the world has us start the Christmas season immediately after Thanksgiving, as Christ's people we are called to observe Advent, to take time to focus on the centuries of waiting and preparation by God's chosen people which preceded the coming of the Messiah. This focus becomes clearer by our use of the tools of scripture and prayer, hymn singing and worship, kindness and forgiveness, self-reflection and mindfulness.

Even though Advent is the season preceding Christmas, its focus is by no means limited to just Christ's first coming. An equal theme in the Advent liturgy is the second coming of Christ, the anticipated return of the Lord, when he will come again to judge the world. In this Advent season we are encouraged

to wait, watch, and wonder and to keep our focus on God's message of love, joy, peace, kindness, and hope, and to ponder the holy mystery of the incarnation of Christ in human flesh. The Holy God comes and dwells with us, full of grace and truth. Emmanuel, "God-with-us," is the foundation of who we are as Christians and the basis of the church and our worship together.

For me there is something profoundly meaningful about gathering together with the people of God in worship every Sunday, and especially during the season of Advent, as we await and prepare our hearts for the celebration of the birth of Christ, as we share scripture and song, prayer and sacraments, and as we also await Christ's return in glory and power.

I pray that your celebration of the birth of Jesus as well as your Advent preparation will be a blessing for you and to all those around you. May God's peace be with you always - and in the words of Mary's Song of Praise - may our soul magnify the Lord and our spirit rejoice in God our Savior, this season 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 LeeAnn Lyden at (608)788-7651.



*Thanks to our
Volunteers*

Serve Enriching Life, Sharing Talents

Thank You All So Very Much...

The Altar Guild. We are up and running again. With a few changes. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, please contact the office or Ellen Klemp at 608-397-2139 or klempellen@gmail.com

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

Care Ministries—Thank you to all members who are serving as Good Shepherd Care Ministers! By bringing communion and care to those who are shut in their homes or in care facilities you truly are reflecting “God’s work, Our hands” through this ministry. One person said it truly is a gift to get a visit with communion through my care minister, it makes me feel connected to the church.

Prayer Chain Ministry—Thank you to all the members of Good Shepherd’s Prayer Chain. Prayer ministers pray daily for Good Shepherd intentions, special/urgent requests, the community and the world beyond. Call Kathy at the office to serve through prayer.

Causeway Caregivers

Causeway Caregivers exists to help! Give Causeway a call if you need assistance in or around your home or if you have a few hours to volunteer helping those who do. (608) 775-9999 or visit our website: causewaycaregivers.org



My Time and Talent Gift!

By: _____ (Your Name)

Date: ___/___/20___

Time Given: ___ hours ___ minutes

Gift Description: _____

Each person should share their Time and Talent gift (individually, not as a group or event) and place in the box.

Your Gift Makes a Difference!

This Stewardship Year you will be seeing “Time and Talent Gift” Stations around Church in common meeting and gathering areas.

Please complete a form for each *Gift of Time and Talent* you share within the church, your ministry beyond the church, and put it in the box.

The Time and Talent Thermometer in the Welcome Area of Church, will be a visible display of this Time and Talent ministry of sharing our gifts in love as Jesus taught us!

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 Karina Bronson at Karina@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!! **If you are interested in helping please contact Kathy at 608-788-0450**

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 Sept.22nd through Nov. 17th.



Bonnie Brown Memorial
Harald & Andrea Bringsjord

WELCA
Sharon Gilbertson
Sandra Demoran
Kim Candahl
Camille Wilhelm
Mary Boland
Sharon Rainey
Lila Seager
Peg Garves
Phyllis Lynch
Grace Pengra
Kim Johnson
Barb Doering

Lutheran Social Services
Ed & Ann Keuper

HVAC System
Ron & Carol Egge
Diana Teasley
Leroy Geary
Marv & Betty Nelson
Monty Gilbertson
Rich & Barb Doering

Shirley Holman Memorial
Tim & Kathy Holman
Odell Anderson

WAFER
Kris Bernhardt

LuMin
Ed & Ann Keuper

Food For Schools
John Wood
Jerry & Virginia Larsen
Rick & Barb Doering



October Monthly Benevolences From Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

ELCA / Synod Support	\$1,989
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$84
Companion Synod - Peru	\$10
Synod Seminary Scholarships	\$10
Sugar Creek Bible Camp	\$160
WI Lutheran Social Services	\$200
La Crosse Community Thanksgiving Dinner	\$200
ELCA Disaster Response	\$40



Church Numbers

Weekly Sunday Attendance

Date	8:30	10:30
10/06/24	101	52
10/13/24	115	51
10/20/24	93	31
10/27/24	96	60

Weekly Envelope Offerings

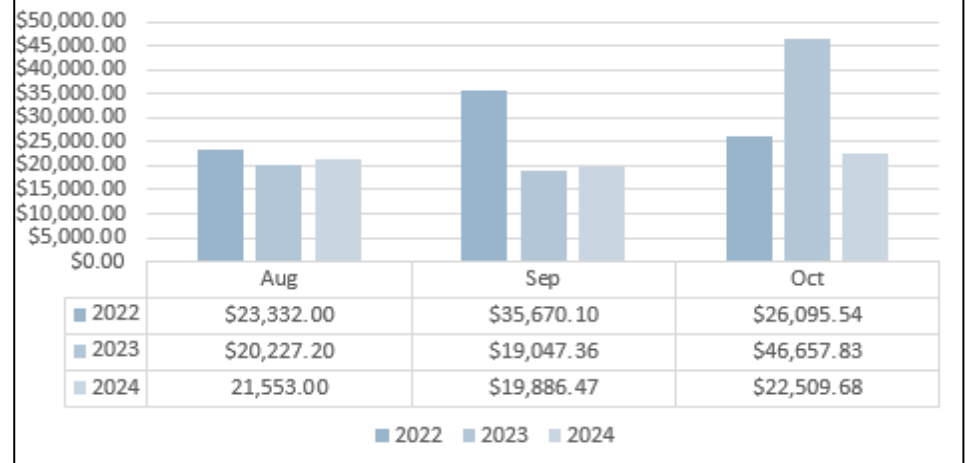
Date	Weekly	% Budget
10/06/24	\$2,872.95	39.3%
10/13/24	\$9,138.05	125.3%
10/20/24	\$2,821.05	38.6%
10/27/24	\$7,677.63	105.2%
Total:	\$22,509.68	77.1%

Envelope Offering Comparison

October 2024	October 2023	% Difference
\$22,509.68	\$46,657.83	-51.8%
YTD 2024	YTD 2023	% Difference
\$230,806.54	\$251,311.22	-8.2%

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...

Burrito Breakfast

Join us in the Mattes Center for a Burrito breakfast Sunday, December 1st between services, while supplies last. Burritos with all the fixings or just have it on a plate. A free will offering will be accepted. Come join us!

Lydia Circle

Lydia Circle is meeting on the 1st Tuesday of the month. Join us December 3rd at noon in the Quilt Room for our annual potluck. All women are Welcome.

Good Shepherd Women-WELCA

WELCA welcomes all women from our congregation to be part of this committee. Our next meeting is Thursday, December 5th at 6pm on Zoom and in person.

Advent Luncheon

Advent luncheon will be held at Our Redeemer on Saturday, December 7th at 10:30am. An informational & sign up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board. All women are Welcome, please sign up.

Christmas Capers

On December 8th Sunday Schoolers stay until noon and have some fun and make some Christmas Gifts for your family! We will have 5 different crafts for you to make and wrap or give to your family to help decorate for the season! Please sign up at Sunday School or email Tammy at tammy@gslacrosse.org to let her know.

Grief Support

Grief support meets in the choir room at Good Shepherd usually twice a month on the 2nd & 4th Thursday at 3pm. Our next meeting will be December 12th. All are welcome. No meeting on December 26th.

Game Night

Game Night for all ages is Friday, December 13th from 6-9pm. in the Mattes Center. Bring your favorite game, or learn a new one. Games vary, but include a variety of board, card, and other games. Contact Randy at grimmcaf@hotmail.com with any questions.

Sunday School Christmas Program

Join us Sunday, December 15th at the 8:30 service as the Sunday Schoolers present their Christmas Program. Merry Christmas everyone!

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 December 17th. Questions, call Janette 608-738-3883

Bunco Night

Our next Bunco night will be on Friday, December 20th at 6pm. Please bring a \$5.00 wrapped gift. The December theme is "Christmas". Bunco takes place in the Mattes center and is for ages 18 years and older. Contact Judy Christopherson @ 788-4335 or 769-3656

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.

Good Shepherd Caring Tree

Our Caring Tree is now set up in our stewardship area in the narthex. On the tree you will find tags containing a nursing home residents name and items they would like as a Christmas gift. Please brighten their holidays by taking a tag and returning the wrapped present to the church by December 12th. For some of these residents, these may be the only gifts they receive for Christmas.

Around the Parish...

Toys For Tots

The Toys for Tots collection barrel is in the welcome area. Help brighten Christmas for area children by donating a new toy to the barrel. It will be picked up on Friday, December 6th, so make your donation soon!

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!!!! GIVE THE GIFT OF A GIFT CARD!!!

Most of you know we have Kwik Trip cards, but there are so many other options as well!! Good Shepherd gets a cut of the cards sold. All you have to do is get your gift cards from Good Shepherd! There is a list on the back table in church of all the possible places you can get the cards from! We can order exactly what you need and have them back to you within a couple of weeks...All your Christmas needs in one spot AND it helps the youth with the National Youth Gathering and other fun activities.

The church 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.

2025 Calendars

Please drop off any extra 2025 Calendars you may receive to the church office. We will get them to residents in our area nursing homes.

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.

Thoughts & Ideas Welcomed

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

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
December 24th 4:00, 6:00 and 9:00pm.

Christmas Day Service 10:00am.

December 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..

Worship and Sunday School at 8:30, and worship at 10:30. The 8:30 service will be live streamed at www.gslacrosse.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
December 1 8:30am Worship/communion 8:30am Sunday School (Practice) 9:30am Burrito Breakfast 10:30am Worship/communion 4:30pm Boy Scout Troop 22 6:30pm GS Men's Group	2 10am Before the After	3 Noon Lydia Circle Holiday Potluck 6pm Buildings & Grounds	4 6:30pm Confirmation	5 6pm WELCA	6	7 10:30am Advent Luncheon at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
8 8:30am Worship 8:30am Sunday School (Practice) 9:45am Christmas Capers 10:30 Worship Noon Cub Scout Pack 17 4:30pm Boy Scout Troop 22 6:30pm GS Men's Group	9	10 1:15pm Dementia Support 1:45pm Hillview Communion 6pm Admin/Exec Meeting	11 6:30pm Confirmation	12 3pm Grief Support	13 6pm Game Night	14 8:30 to 10am Christmas Program Rehearsals
15 Christmas Program 8:30am Christmas Program/No Comm 10:30 Worship/communion 4:30pm Boy Scout Troop 22 6:30pm GS Men's Group	16 6pm Membership Meeting	17 5pm Cancer Support 7pm Church Council Meeting	18 6:30pm Confirmation	19 6pm Hospitality Mtg	20 January Voice Articles Due 6pm Bunco (Christmas)	21
22 8:30am Worship NO Sunday School 10:30am Worship 2:30pm Cub Scout Pack 17 4:30pm Boy Scout Troop 22 6:30pm GS Men's Group	23	24 Christmas Eve 4pm Candle Light Service 6pm Candle Light Service 9pm Candle Light Service	25 Christmas Day 10am Worship	26 NO Grief Support	27	28
29 8:30am Worship NO Sunday School 10:30am Worship 4:30pm Boy Scout Troop 22 6:30pm GS Men's Group	30	31 New Years Eve 6pm Parish Ed Meeting	January 1 New Years Day 6 Church Office Closed	2 6pm WELCA Meeting	3	4
5 8:30am Worship/communion 8:30am Sunday School 9:30am Burrito Breakfast 10:30am Worship/communion 11:30am Souper Bowl 4:30pm Boy Scout Troop 22 6:30pm GS Men's Group	6 6pm Trust Foundation	7 1pm Lydia Circle 6pm Buildings & Grounds	8 6:30pm Confirmation	9 3pm Grief Support	10 6pm Game Night	11

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, Tom Lynch, Erica Pedrazoli, Barb Smyth, Jennifer Laszewski, 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,

This month's article focuses on the thyroid and conditions associated with it. The thyroid is a butterfly-shaped gland that sits low on the front of the neck. The thyroid is rich in blood vessels and nerves for voice quality pass through it. The thyroid secretes several hormones with the main hormone being thyroxine or T4. Thyroid hormones act throughout the body, influencing metabolism, growth and development, and body temperature. Two of the most common thyroid conditions and hyperthyroidism and hypothyroidism.

Hypothyroidism is a condition in which the thyroid gland doesn't produce enough of certain hormones. Hypothyroidism may be due to several factors, including autoimmune disease, thyroid surgery, radiation therapy, pregnancy, and medications (lithium). The signs and symptoms of hypothyroidism vary, depending on the severity of the hormone deficiency. Problems tend to develop slowly, often over several years. Signs and symptoms may include fatigue, increased sensitivity to cold, constipation, weight gain, hoarseness, thinning hair, and muscle weakness. This condition most often affects middle-aged and older women. See your doctor if you're feeling tired for no reason or have any of the other signs or symptoms of hypothyroidism.

Hyperthyroidism occurs when your thyroid gland produces too much of the hormone thyroxine or T4. Hyperthyroidism can be caused by several conditions including graves'

disease, plummer's disease, and thyroiditis. Hyperthyroidism can mimic other health problems, which can make it difficult for your doctor to diagnose. Symptoms can include unintentional weight loss, rapid heartbeat or irregular heartbeat, increased appetite, anxiety and irritability, tremor, and increased sensitivity to heat. Some of the most serious complications of hyperthyroidism involve the heart, so it is important to completely describe the changes you've observed to your doctor.

Take Care,

Cody and Kerstin Nedegaard



Cody & Kerstin Nedegaard

GS Volunteer Parish Nurses
Cody_Kerstin@gslacrosse.org

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



Sunday School Update Pre-school thru Grade 5

Happy Holidays!

In Sunday School, we have just wrapped up our unit on the plagues and wandering the wilderness to the promised land. We learned about the 10 plagues, the 10 Commandments, and that God provided as the Israelites traveled to the promised land.

We are so excited to show you all our Christmas Program happening this month! Please try to have your children attend Sunday School regularly during the month of December as we practice for the program during Sunday School on December 1st and 8th. Please remember that on December 8th, the children should come down to Sunday School at the beginning of church for a longer program practice.

We will have our final dress rehearsal Saturday, December 14th at 8:30am, with full costumes. Then the official Christmas Program will take place December 15th during the first service!

Save the date! We will be hosting our Christmas Capers event right after Sunday school on December 8th! This event will take place right after Sunday school at 9:35ish to 12:00pm. Children will enjoy holiday crafts, treats, and more! For more information or to sign up to attend please reach out to me at

Breanna@gslacrosse.org or the sign up sheet is on the Sunday School Bulletin board!

Just a reminder that there is no Sunday School on December 22nd or on December 29th, 2024.

Enjoy the holidays!

Brea Ellison



Quick-Look Upcoming Events At a Glance

Sunday, December 1st	Christmas Program Practice
Sunday, December 8th right at 8:30	Christmas Program Practice
Saturday, December 14th at 8:30	Saturday Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal
December 15th at 8:30 service	Twas the Night Before a Christmas Program!
Sunday, December 22th	Merry Christmas! No Sunday School!
Sunday, December 29th	Happy New Year! No Sunday School!
Sunday, January 5th, 2025	PJ Sunday!



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 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



*The righteous stand firm forever
Proverbs 10:25*

Happy Holidays!

As we transition from the beautiful Autumn colors and a farewell to November, to welcoming the winter wonderland, our confirmation class has also been transitioning. We have been learning about the laws, and how the Judges and Kings ruled over the Israelites, and how they impacted the ten commandments we know today.

We will now be talking about characters and places such as Kings and Babylonian captivity. The confirmands also got a chance to help set up for the Holiday Market Place.

In December we have a service opportunity with bell ringing at Festival foods December 2nd from 4 to 6pm. Our final class of the 2024 year will be on the 18th, and we will be celebrating the last class of the year with a Christmas party to

celebrate all that the confirmands have accomplished through the year. Our classes will begin again on the 8th of January.

Cheers!
Karina



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



Attn: High School Youth

We are looking for members to revitalize our High School Youth Group. We plan to meet weekly in the youth room of Good Shepherd on Wednesdays at 6:30pm. Come when you are able, leave when you need to. During Lent we also meet after the Wednesday Lenten Service.

We plan to have social events throughout the year, along with a yearly mission trip, but we need active and involved members to do

these things! If you would be interested in joining our Good Shepherd Youth Group, Please contact Karina Bronson at Karina@gslacrosse.org.

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

Contact Bridget Skolos 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.

Bridget's contact information is:
bridget_ammann@yahoo.com

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

Karina Bronson

Coordinator of Confirmation and Youth Ministry
Karina@gslacrosse.org (608) 788-0450



In the Office: *Varied hours*

Music Notes

From The Director of Music

Hymn Focus:

Joy to the World: a Christmas Carol?

Joy to the World is one of the most well-known songs of the Christmas season, yet it is really not about Christmas at all. Written by Isaac Watts (1674-1748), it is a song about the second coming of Christ rather than the first.

Isaac Watts was born in South Hampton, England. The son of a dissenting pastor, he exhibited a gift for rhyme early on and wrote his first hymn at age fifteen. Isaac went on to become a pastor and served a large independent church in London. He also continued to be a prolific hymn writer, writing some 750 hymns during his lifetime. In 1719 he published a hymn book titled *The Psalms of David: Imitated in the Language of the New Testament and Applied to the Christian State and worship*. In this collection, he rewrote the Psalms to reveal their New Testament meaning and included specific references to Christ and his ministry. It is in this collection that we find the rewriting of Psalm 98 that we know as the hymn Joy to the World.

Often, the first line of the hymn is mistakenly sung: "Joy to the world! The Lord has come." What Watts actually wrote was: "The Lord is come!" Like Psalm 98, Watts is referring to the second coming of Christ, not the first. This is evident in phrases like "...the Savior reigns" and "He rules the world with truth and grace."

Antioch, the tune to which Joy to the World is sung, was created by an unknown individual who pieced together musical themes from the oratorio *Messiah*, by George Frederick Handel (1685-1759). Such borrowing of musical ideas was common in those days and there is no autographed score by Handel indicating that he actually composed the tune itself. American music educator Lowell Mason (1792-1872), who had considerable influence in his day, published Joy to the World in 1836 in the U.S. and gave the tune Antioch its name.



Randy Lyden

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



LUKE 2:10-11

Fear Not,
FOR BEHOLD, I BRING
YOU GOOD NEWS
of great joy
that will be for all the people.
For unto you is born this day
in the city of David a Savior,
**WHO IS CHRIST
THE LORD.**

Christmas blessings to everyone!

From the staff of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church