

WISHING YOU A  
BLESSED  
NEW YEAR

"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

HAPPY  
New Year



**GOOD SHEPHERD**

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

**The Shepherd's Voice**

Monthly Newsletter January, 2025

Give. Serve. Lead. Connect.

From Pastor Harald Bringsjord

Those of us who wear glasses know that every once in a while, the frames get stretched and twisted. When that happens, the glasses start to slide down the nose. We find ourselves constantly pushing them back into place. Playing sports back in the day my glasses used to need straightening a lot. I tried to do it myself at times, only to discover that I wasn't very good at it, probably because my ears aren't perfectly even.

I got new glasses last month and I'm not looking at the world through crooked glasses at least for a while. But I can say when they are crooked everything seems to be a bit askew and off balance. And isn't that the problem in general? We tend to allow world events, our own hurt feelings, personal crises, emotional mood swings, and all the rest to twist and stretch our view of the world. When this happens we can become cynical, or depressed, or suspicious. The whole world seems off balance and wrong.

I'm convinced that the seasons of Advent and Christmas have provided an adjustment to the lenses through which we view our lives and the

world. God announced the grand new thing that God did once again. Just as God, long ago, came in Jesus Christ, so God comes now and continually comes into our lives to provide us renewed sight and vision. As we hear God's story through the seasons of the church, having just made our way through Advent and Christmas, we once again have had the ability to get our vision straightened out, renewing our sight and vision to see the world through the eyes of God's love and never-ending concern for us and our neighbor close by and around the world.

I hope you have had a most blessed Christmas vision adjustment. And may you all be granted a blessed New Year.

Pastor Harald

Thank you all for the wonderful Christmas greetings, gifts and other remembrances you shared with my family and me this Christmas season. It is a joy to be here in ministry with you sharing God's love and grace to the world. Have a wonderful New Year.

Pr. Harald



Facebook.com/GSlacrosse



Twitter.com/goodshepherdse



GSlacrosse.org/voice

To access this and other publications online visit [GSlacrosse.org/voice](https://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 2024 calendar year and we will be doing 9 weeks in 2025!**

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 look for the yellow bus up on the bulletin board to sign up.**

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 Nov. 17th through Dec. 16th.



**ELCA Good Gifts**  
WELCA

**Food For Schools**  
WELCA  
John Wood  
Barb Hegge  
Jim & Jan Quinn  
Mike & Sally Lindahl

**WELCA**  
Rita Klahn  
Lori Lowell  
Maree Smith

**Shirley Holman Memorial**

Robert & Esther Suter  
Larry & Maree Smith  
Jim & Jan Quinn  
Steve & Rosann Dickenson  
Sarah Ohlrogge  
Dan & Alice Kapanke  
Becky Holman

**HVAC System**  
Peggy Garness

**Vaughn & Louise Christenson Memorial**  
Judy Schams

**Gerald Jensen Memorial**  
Judy Schams

**Ed Keuper Memorial**  
George & Judy Brockman



**November Monthly Benevolences From Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**

ELCA / Synod Support	\$2,251
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$484
Companion Synod - Peru	\$10
Synod Seminary Scholarships	\$10
Sugar Creek Bible Camp	\$160
WI Lutheran Social Services	\$300



# Church Numbers

## Weekly Sunday Attendance

Date	8:30	10:30
11/03/24	141	60
11/10/24	132	55
11/17/24	141	65
11/24/24	80	69

## Weekly Envelope Offerings

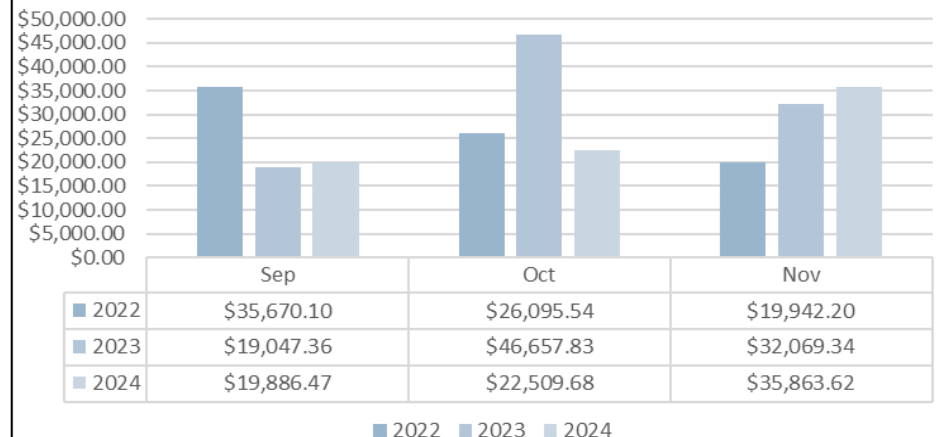
Date	Weekly	% Budget
11/03/24	\$3,365.59	46.1%
11/10/24	\$9,610.93	131.8%
11/17/24	\$18,442.65	252.9%
11/24/24	\$4,444.45	60.9%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$35,863.62</b>	<b>122.9%</b>

## Envelope Offering Comparison

November 2024	November 2023	% Difference
\$35,863.62	\$32,069.34	11.8%
YTD 2024	YTD 2023	% Difference
\$266,670.26	\$283,380.56	-5.9%

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

## Envelope Offerings



## Around the Parish...

### Good Shepherd Women-WELCA

WELCA welcomes all women from our congregation to be part of this committee. Our next meeting is Thursday, January 2nd at 6pm on Zoom and in person.

### Burrito Breakfast

Join us in the Mattes Center for a Burrito breakfast Sunday, January 5th 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 January 7th at noon in the Quilt Room for our annual potluck. All women are Welcome.

### Grief Support

Grief support meets in the choir room at Good Shepherd twice a month on the 2nd & 4th Thursday at 3pm. Our next meeting will be January 9th. All are welcome.

### Game Night

Game Night for all ages is Friday, January 10th 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](mailto:grimmcaf@hotmail.com) with any questions.

### Bunco Night

Our next Bunco night will be on Friday, January 17th at 6pm. Please bring a \$5.00 wrapped gift. The December theme is "Winter". Bunco takes place in the Mattes center and is for ages 18 years and older. Contact Judy Christopherson @ 788-4335 or 769-3656

### Cancer Center Support Group

Cancer Support Group gives adult cancer patients and their caregivers a safe, confidential place to share feelings and experiences with others whose lives are affected by cancer. Meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 5pm in the Mattes Center. Next meeting is January 21st. Questions, call Janette 608-738-3883

### 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](mailto: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.

### 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](http://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.

## 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. Email Bridget to place an order at [bridget\\_ammann@yahoo.com](mailto:bridget_ammann@yahoo.com)

**The office also has Kwik Trip cards available for immediate purchase!**

### Sign Up For Simply Giving

The *Simply Giving*® Program is an automated stewardship program that helps church members live generously. It's a convenient, safe and simple way for individuals to make automatic payments to Good Shepherd through electronic funds transfer (EFT) directly from checking or savings accounts. Vanco Services, LLC provides electronic payment processing services at reduced rates—so your generosity goes further. Learn more by contacting the church office at (608) 788-0450

### Christmas Capers Recap

We had a blast with our Christmas Gift Giving projects – gifts for family and our feathered friends! We made bird feeders with Peanut Butter and Honey and we made lots of art projects.

Thank you to our Confirmation Students who helped. Rosalynn, Evie, Anja and Lucy – I am so grateful to you for ALL you did. Thanks you to Jane Stranstalien and also to Karina and Lori who helped us get under way before 10:30 Church started. Next year should be on the Calendar soon – watch for more fun Sunday School events in the new year!

### Hospital Visitations

If you are hospitalized at Gundersen, please register as a member of Good Shepherd in La Crosse if you would like a visit from Pastor Harald. Member names are provided to us from Gundersen for this purpose.

### 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.

### Quilting

Please join us in making quilts for LWR starting in January. Will meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month, 9 am to 3 pm in the quilting room. If you are only able to stay for part of the day, come when you can and leave when you need to. If you wish to sew at home, you can look at the LWR web site for specifications for quilts. Hope to see you on January 13th .

### Good Shepherd Library News

As we begin the new year, you will see some new books and fun items in our church library. We have games and lots of kid and grown-up friendly materials to check out and borrow.

It's located down the hall – across from the birch street entrance. There are also some great reads on the wooden shelves across from the Library. Just fill out the card in the back with your name and place it on the counter in the library.



# January 2025



**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](http://www.gslacrosse.org)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>December 29</b> 8:30am Worship <b>NO Sunday School</b> 10:30am Worship 4:30pm Boy Scout Troop 22 6:30pm GS Men's Group	<b>30</b>	<b>31 New Years Eve</b> Office Open Limited Hours	<b>January 1</b> <b>Happy New Year</b> <b>Office Closed</b> 6:30pm NO Confirmation	<b>2</b> 6pm WELCA Meeting	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 8:30am Worship/communion 8:30am Sunday School (PJ Day) 9:30am Burrito Breakfast 10:30am Worship/communion 4:30pm Boy Scout Troop 22 6:30pm GS Men's Group	<b>6</b> 6pm Trust Foundation Meeting	<b>7</b> 1pm Lydia Circle 6pm Buildings & Grounds	<b>8</b> 6:30pm Confirmation	<b>9</b> 3pm Grief Support	<b>10</b> 6pm Game Night	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 8:30am Worship 8:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 2:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 17 4:30pm Boy Scout Troop 22 6:30pm GS Men's Group	<b>13</b> 5:30pm Finance Meeting	<b>14</b> 1:15pm Dementia Support 1:45pm Hillview Communion 6pm Admin/Exec Meeting	<b>15</b> 6:30pm Confirmation	<b>16</b> 6pm Hospitality Meeting	<b>17</b> <b>February Voice Articles &amp; Annual Reports Due</b> 6pm Bunco (Winter)	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 8:30am Worship/communion 8:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship/communion 4:30pm Boy Scout Troop 22 6:30pm GS Men's Group	<b>20</b> 6pm Membership Meeting	<b>21</b> 5pm Cancer Center Support 7pm Church Council Potluck	<b>22</b> 6:30pm Confirmation	<b>23</b> 3pm Grief Support	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 8:30am Worship 8:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 2:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 17 4:30pm Boy Scout Troop 22 6:30pm GS Men's Group	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 6pm Parish Ed Meeting	<b>29</b> 6:30pm Confirmation	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>February 1</b>
<b>2</b> <b>Boy Scout Sunday</b> 8:30am Worship/communion 8:30am Sunday School 9:30am Burrito Breakfast 10:30am Worship/communion 4:30pm Boy Scout Troop 22 6:30pm GS Men's Group	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 1pm Lydia Circle 6pm Buildings & Grounds Meeting	<b>5</b> 6:30pm Confirmation	<b>6</b> 6pm WELCA Meeting	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>



## 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,

January is thyroid awareness month, so we decided to focus this month's article on such. 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. They 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, plummets 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 New Year!

The Sunday Schoolers did a wonderful job on their Christmas Program on December 15th! Huge thank you to everyone that helped make the Program happen: Lori Lowell, Kylie Klein, Janet Torkelson, Jessica Peterson, Julie Foreman, Patty Kraemer, Lynn Pataska, Bill Klein, Darlene Lassig, Rick Laufenberg and Kari Ellison. Also, a huge thank you to the conformation helpers!

In January we will start our unit on a Storm. The children will be visiting the Art, Cinema, and Game Skill rooms. Our first Sunday back is on January 5<sup>th</sup> and it will be PJ Sunday!

First graders will be receiving their Prayer Blocks on January 19<sup>th</sup> during the first service. Please register your child for this milestone. If your child is not registered prior to the 19th, your 1<sup>st</sup> graders block will not have their name on it. Registration forms can be found on the Sunday School bulletin board

and I will also be sending an email home to families. Please try to get them turned in prior to January 15th!

Best regards,  
Brea Ellison



## Quick-Look

### Upcoming Events At a Glance

Sunday, January 5th, 2025	PJ Sunday!
Sunday, January 5th – January 19th, 2025	House on the Rock Unit (Computers, Cinema, and Art)
Sunday January 19th, 2025	1st Grade Milestone – Prayer Blocks



### 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**



*The righteous stand firm forever  
Proverbs 10:25*

Welcome to the New year!

As we have started the new year Confirmation classes begin on the 8th. Over the Holiday Break the confirmands still had opportunities with helping out in the community such as bell-ringing at Walmart on Mormon Coulee Road on December 23rd. A few confirmands were also able to help out with Christmas Capers with Tammy Klein as well as helping out with the Sunday School Christmas pageant that took place December 15th at the 8:30 service. Our first lesson of the new year will be about the prophets and how they were people appointed by God and how they were often seen as God amongst the people on earth and that he had provided them to continue to guide the people. They didn't rule like Moses or the kings but they served an important role in the history of God's people.

It has been such a blessing and a wonderful first year as the new Confirmation Coordinator and I hope that we can continue the year strong.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Karina@gslacrosse.org) (608) 788-0450



**In the Office:** *Varied hours*

## Music Notes

### From The Director of Music

#### How Are Hymns Selected at Good Shepherd?

Perhaps you have wondered how hymns are selected at Good Shepherd Church and what goes into that process. As Music Director of Good Shepherd Church, it is my job to select most of the hymns that we sing for worship services. Pastor Harald or Pastor John can then make changes to the selected hymns if needed to make sure that they most closely match the sermon they will be preaching at a particular worship service.

In selecting the hymns, I rely on a worship planning resource called Sundays and Seasons, which assists worship leaders in all aspects of worship planning, including suggesting a variety of hymns for each worship service to choose from. According to ELCA guidelines, it is most important that the texts of the hymns match and support the readings and theme of any given worship service. In keeping with ELCA guidelines, I try to ensure that the hymns selected encompass the greatest possible variety and diversity of styles, both musically and textually.

The body of Christian hymnody represents the cultures of many peoples, both past and contemporary. Each culture had or has its own unique way of seeing and experiencing the word of God, and singing their hymns enable us to share in their experience. It is important to remember that all cultures, past and present, are part of the body of Christ.




When the recommended hymn choices include a hymn originating outside of America or Western Europe, a hymn in an African American style, a hymn which is in a popular contemporary style, or a hymn emphasizing the feminine aspects of God, I always select that hymn if it is practical to sing in the worship service. If a favorite hymn to many in the congregation is suggested (e.g., "I love to Tell the Story"), I always select that one for the worship service. It is truly a pleasure for me to play the hymns that I know the congregation loves!

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## A HUGE CATCH



Make a catch of fish to show what happens when Jesus calls his first disciples.

**What you need:**

- Cardboard egg carton
- Acrylic paint
- Paintbrush
- Darning needle
- Fishing twine
- Scissors
- Googly eyes or buttons
- Glue

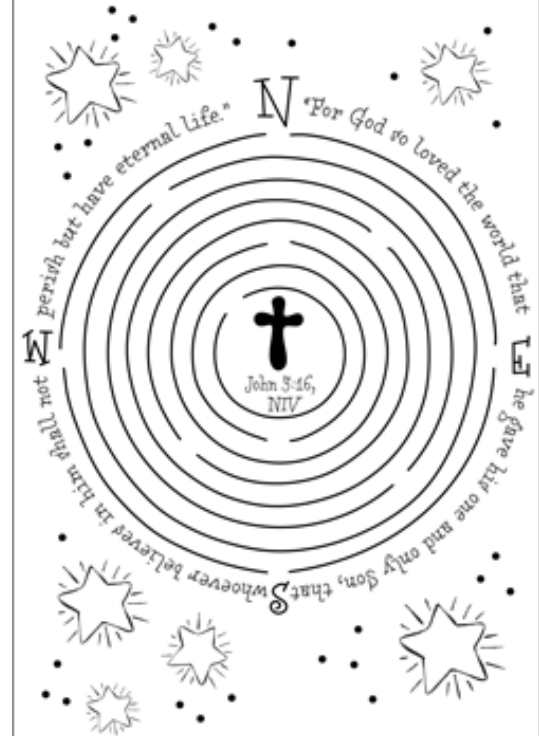


**What you do:**

1. From the egg carton, cut out the 12 cups. From the lid, cut out two fish tails.
2. On a protected surface, turn the cups upside down. Paint the outside of each cup and both sides of the tails. Let dry.
3. Thread the needle with an arm's length of twine. Tie a knot at the end.
4. Thread the needle through the end of the tail. Tie another knot an inch from the tail.
5. Thread the needle through one upside-down cup. Pull the twine through until the cup rests on the knot.
6. Continue tying knots an inch above each cup and threading on another cup until you've strung six cups. Tie a knot above the last cup and leave a long string to hang the fish. (You can make two fish with each egg carton.)
7. Add googly eyes or buttons to the last cup to make a face.

## Puzzle!

Complete the maze to help people from all directions hear the good news. Then, starting at the N (north) and going clockwise, read John 3:16, NIV.



"Then God said, 'I have some good news and some bad news. The good news is, the apple had zero cholesterol.'"