



Shepherd's Voice

Give. Serve. Lead. Connect.

January 2016

From Pastor Harald Bringsjord

As I write this, we are preparing, as a congregation, for the Sunday School Christmas program. Soon after that we shall gather in the dark of night to celebrate the great light of our salvation. Yet, when you read this, we will be into the Christmas season and the season of Epiphany will begin after the 12 days of Christmas.

Christmas marks the birth of Jesus while Epiphany celebrates Christ being made known to the world. It should be a happy time. However, as we look back over the year, there is something that we can all agree on: it has been a challenging year for millions of people. War and terror continue to thrive around the world. We hear about it mostly in and throughout the Middle East, especially in Syria and Afghanistan, and there are millions of people trying to escape these war-torn places risking their lives. Germany alone has seen around one million Syrians cross into their country as refugees this year. Our own country has seen children from places like Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras seeking asylum, trying to escape the drug wars taking place in

their countries. We continue as well to see droughts in some places and floods in others. "Peace on earth and good will to all" is far... far... away. For many in our own community who struggle with addictions, broken relationships, poor health, or an incurable disease, this certainly does not feel like the season of hope and love. After a year like this, some may feel like crying out and saying, "Where's the hope?"

The message of Jesus through the church moves from meek and mild Jesus in the manger in Bethlehem to the baby being revealed as the Christ, the Lord and Savior of all. Epiphany is where the darkness of winter, the darkness of life's problems, the darkness of advent waiting, turns into brilliant light. May God's Epiphany shape our lives and our world so that we may be people of hope in God.

Blessings to you all this Christmas, Epiphany and throughout the New Year!

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

The flower and bulletin sponsorship charts are on the bulletin board in the back of the welcome area. Sponsoring the flowers or bulletins is an easy way to honor special dates such as birthdays and anniversaries, or the memory of a

loved one. If you have any questions on sponsoring the flowers or bulletins, please contact Kathy or Rick in the church office at (608) 788-0450.



Readers & Ushers Appreciated!

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

works for you. The readings will be sent (either by mail or email) to you early that week. Thank you so much for helping out!

Women Who Wrestle With The Word (W5)

If you would like to be a part of a regular gathering of Christian Women, you are always welcome to join W5. The group

will meet every Monday at 6:30pm in the welcome area in the front of the sanctuary.



Lydia Circle

Lydia Circle meets the 1st Tuesday of every month. Come join them for great conversations, some laughter, fun, camaraderie and a sweet desert!

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about Lydia circle, call Carol Abraham at (608) 787-0609.



Good Shepherd Ministries

Altar Guild—Willing to help out on our Altar Guild? It is a very easy commitment and we would be happy to show you how it's done! Simply call Candie Luehne at (608) 304-2035.

Quilting—Quilters meet at Good Shepherd every Wed. at 8:30am in the quilting room.

Mailing Crew—The *Shepherd's Voice* Mailing Crew is wondering if you are interested in helping out prepare the Voice newsletter with address labels and stickers? We meet the 4th Thursday of each month at 8:30am in the choir room.

Care Ministry—Care Ministries visit the homebound year round to have a small chat, give communion, and have a prayer. Interested in joining this ministry? Contact Don Skibba at 787-0498. If you or someone you know would like a visit from our care ministry team, please contact the church office at (608) 788-0450.

55 Plus—55 Plus is a friendly lunch gathering for the 55+ crowd that meets every 3rd Thursday of the month at 11:30am. We gather at The King Street Kitchen located at 141 7th St S.

Serve

Enriching Life, Sharing Talents

Thank You All So Very Much...

Altar Guild—Thank you to the members who served during the month of December, Connie Erickson & Jeanne Atchley. During January, Arlene Dreves & Sharon Yushta will be ‘on duty’.

Connie Erickson—Thank you for sending out ‘Get Well’ cards in December. The sign up sheet to help send out the “Get Well Cards” is up on the bulletin board.

Ann Hudson—Thank you for sending out cards and prayer shawls year round to bereaved families.

Care Ministries—Thank you to all members who are serving as Care Ministers to the faithful members of Good Shepherd who can no longer come to worship with us. Through you, our Care Ministers, the church comes to them! If you or someone you know would like a visit from our Care team, please call the church office at 788-0450.

Lydia Circle

JoAnn DeClute will be leading our January 5th meeting. Servers will be Carol & Carol, devotions will be by Barb Hegge and we will be studying “People of Purpose” Chapter 17.

Please call Carol Abraham 787-0679 if you have any questions.

All are welcome!

Benefit Concert

On Sunday, January 31st at 2pm Good Shepherd Church will present an all church concert to benefit the local Salvation Army, La Crosse Warming Center and Wafer food pantry. The Good Shepherd Sanctuary Choir, Adult Handbell Choir and Sounds of Praise will be performing along with musical members, neighbors and friends of Good Shepherd.

The concert is free and open to the public. A free will offering will be taken and donations of non-perishable food items, gloves and socks will be accepted.

Ushers Schedule

- Jan 3** *8:30am:* Al & Laurie Bushek, David & Barb Foye, Gordy Powell, Monty Gilbertson
10:30am: Teresa Opitz, Jeff & Sharon Yushta, Rob & Shawn Hamann
- Jan 10** *8:30am & 10:30am:* Confirmation Youth
- Jan 17** *8:30am:* Marc & Nancy Oelke, Keith & Mary Isaacs, Chuck & Linda Brigson
10:30am: Jane Strangstalien, Candie Luehne, Warren & Irene Nedegaard, Todd & Teresa Nedegaard
- Jan 24** *8:30am & 10:30am:* 8th Grad Lead Service
- Jan 31** *8:30am & 10:30am:* Confirmation Youth

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) 779-9669 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 715-214-8528 or at karl@gslacrosse.org

The Gloria Dei Choir

We rehearse between services on Sundays 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 Gloria Dei Choir, please contact Darlene Lassig at 608-788-5686 or at darlene@gslacrosse.org.



Hand Bell Choir

Practices are on Sunday evenings 5:30pm for adult bell choir and 6:30pm for youth bell choir. If you have any questions please contact Linda Jerome at linda@gslacrosse.org.



Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, *Ecclesiastes 12:1*

High School Youth Group

(Grades 9-12) Good Shepherd’s High School Youth Group is a group that meets on Wednesday evenings at 6pm throughout the year. Fellowship and games 6–7p with a bible study at 7p. You aren’t the only Christian at your school! Come hangout with

other awesome teens just like yourself. Social events throughout the year along with a yearly mission trip. Want to learn more? Contact Stephanie Andersen at stephanie@gslacrosse.org or just drop in and check it out for yourself!

Connect

Bridging Our Community To Our World

Our next Mobile Meals Is March 27 to April 2

Thank you all for delivering Mobile Meals!! Mobile Meals of La Crosse delivers 33,000 meals annually to the homebound, largely through the efforts of our local churches like ours. The 2016 schedule will be out sometime early next year, I will post it when it arrives.

Thank you so much everyone who helped during the 2015 year !!



Local Food Pantry Needs



West Avenue Food Emergency Relief (WAFER) is asking for **Soup & Crackers** during the month of January. Thank you for all the donations given in

December! Please leave all donations in the grocery cart near our bulletin boards in the Welcome Area. A monetary gift may also be given to help support WAFER. Simply make your check out to Good Shepherd, and indicate WAFER in the check memo area.

4-H Club

The Mormon Coulee 4-H Club was first established in 1946 making the club one of the oldest in La Crosse County! 4-H clubs are made up of children from kindergarten through high school. We meet the second Sunday of each month at 5pm in the Mattes Center. We are always

looking for eager volunteers to showcase their talents or for new members. If anyone is interested, or has any questions, please feel free to contact Kim Young at (608) 796-0099 or e-mail kkymmm@gmail.com.



Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts Meet at Good Shepherd

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

Girl Scouts—Troop 4172 meets every other Monday from 5pm to 7pm in the Mattes Center.



If you have any questions about Scouts, 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 16th through Dec 14th 2015.

Giving Tree

Ramon & Connie Erickson

Wafer

Connie Lee

Evelyn Lee

Norm & Joanne Jerome

Art & Betty Olson

Ramon & Connie Erickson

Don & Darcy Skibba

Virgil Hegg Memorial

Donna Carmichael

Randall Draheim

Memorial

Marie Weaver

Monie Mattes Memorial

Carol Olson

Paul Henke



Youth Ministry Gift

Scott & MaryAnn Herlitzke

Norma Wold Memorial

Harald Bringsjord

Lydia Circle

Vernon & Peggy Garves

Shirley Holmen

Ann Henke Memorial

Paul Henke

Debt Reduction

Bob & Jeana Briggs

David & Karen Osley

Leo & Bernice Osley Memorial

David & Karen Osley

Carl & Marian Schurz Memorial

David & Karen Osley

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Art & Betty Olson

Giving Tree—Giving In A Unique Way

Do you know about our Giving Tree? If not, this is a unique way to sponsor items or services used within our church. Our giving tree is located in the corner by the main entrance in the welcome area. Select the tag (s) that mean the most to you and return them and the donation in the envelopes provided by either placing it in the offering plate, dropping it off at or mailing it to the church office.

What is *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. Thrivent Federal Credit Union has contracted with industry leader

Vanco Services, LLC to provide electronic payment processing services at reduced rates—so your generosity goes further. Learn more by contacting the church office at (608) 788-0450 or by visiting thriventcu.com/personal/simply-giving-program.



THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®

Church Numbers

Weekly Sunday Attendance

| Date | 8:30am | 10:30am |
|----------|--------|---------|
| 11/01/15 | 140 | 159 |
| 11/08/15 | 138 | 160 |
| 11/15/15 | 147 | 125 |
| 11/22/15 | 91 | 105 |
| 11/29/15 | 123 | 130 |

Weekly Envelope Offerings

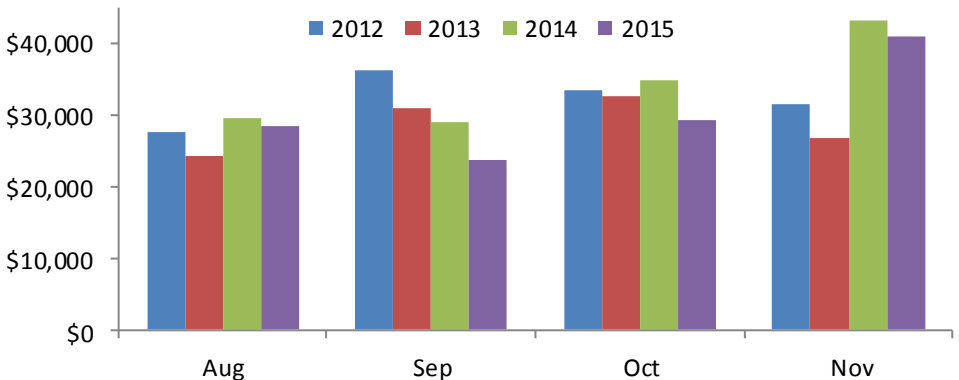
| Date | Weekly | % Budget |
|----------|-------------|----------|
| 11/01/15 | \$14,624.00 | 236% |
| 11/08/15 | \$5,931.00 | 96% |
| 11/15/15 | \$12,250.00 | 198% |
| 11/22/15 | \$3,265.00 | 53% |
| 11/29/15 | \$4,723.00 | 76% |
| Totals | \$40,793.00 | 132% |

Envelope Offering Comparison

| November 2015 | November 2014 | % Difference |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| \$40,793.00 | \$43,182.00 | -6.6% |
| YTD 2015 | YTD 2014 | % Difference |
| \$327,496.00 | \$343,457.00 | -10% |

If you would like to view the complete financial statements that are shared with the Council, please contact Rick in the church office at rick@gs lacrosse.org or by calling the church office (608) 788-0450.

Envelope offerings by month



Ministry Spotlight Stained Glass



Good Shepherd has many beautiful stained glass pieces in our church and in this newsletter series, each month we will be exploring these jewels of our church. Stained glass is glass that has been colored by adding metallic salts during its creation. The colored glass is crafted into stained glass windows in which small pieces of glass are arranged to form patterns or pictures, held together by strips of lead and supported by a rigid frame. Painted details and yellow stain are often used to enhance the design. The term stained glass is also applied to windows in which the colors have been painted onto the glass and then fused to the glass in a kiln.

The Epiphany Window, depicts the Epiphany celebration showing the three miracles that manifest the divinity of Christ. The name "Epiphany" comes from the Greek word Epiphania, and means "to show, make known, or reveal." The celebration originated in the Eastern Church in AD 361, beginning as a commemoration of the birth of Christ. Later, additional meanings were added - the visit of the three Magi, Christ's baptism in the Jordan River, and his first miracle at the wedding in Cana. These three events are central to the definition of Epiphany, and its meaning is drawn from these occurrences. How many sets of 3 do you see?

Explore and appreciate *The Epiphany Window* in our church!

Around the Parish...

Lydia Circle

JoAnn DeClute will be leading our January 5th meeting. Servers will be Carol & Carol, devotions will be by Barb Hegge and we will be studying "People of Purpose" Chapter 17.

Please call Carol Abraham 787-0679 if you have any questions.

All are welcome!

Small Group Study

Interested in meeting with Small Groups outside of Sunday worship? If you and/or your spouse would like to meet with a small group to further your spiritual growth, please let me know your preference of time, material, and group dynamics. You are always welcome to join an existing group: W5 for women Mondays at 6:30pm, Lydia Circle for women on the 1st Tues at 1pm, Adult Bible Study 2nd Wed at 6:30pm. To express your interest please contact Barbara Kilpatrick 319-530-6632 or barbarakilpatrick@yahoo.com

Benefit Concert

On Sunday, January 31 at 2pm Good Shepherd Church will present an all church concert to benefit the local Salvation Army, La Crosse Warming Center and Wafer food pantry. The Good Shepherd Sanctuary Choir, Adult Handbell Choir and Sounds of Praise will be performing along with musical members, neighbors and friends of Good Shepherd.

The concert is free and open to the public. A free will offering will be taken and donations of non-perishable food items, gloves and socks will be accepted.

Adult Game Night

Please join us for an evening of fun and food on Friday, January 15th at 6pm in the Mattes Center. We will be playing Bunko and sharing a potluck supper. Our theme for this month will be announced in future bulletins.

Causeway Caregivers

Causeway Caregivers exists to help! As we enter this busy time of year in and outside our homes, give Causeway a call if you need assistance or have a few hours to volunteer.

Simply call Causeway 608-775-9999 or visit our website: causewaycaregivers.org

Active Threat Training

Please join us for an active threat training seminar presented by Officer Troy Nedegaard of the La Crosse Police Department. We will be discussing the definition of an active shooter, analysis of active shooter incidents – understanding where and why they occur, resolution of active shooter events and what you should do in an active threat situation. The seminars are on January 4th, 14th and 18th at 6pm in the Mattes Center. Though this is something we do not like to think about, it is always a good thing to discuss and prepare for emergency situations. We prepare for other emergencies such as tornados and fires by planning and even practicing what to do.

All members and friends of Good Shepherd are encouraged to attend one of the seminars. Due to the subject matter, we request that children under the age of 16 do not attend.

January 2016







Gloria Dei Choir
Meets every Sunday
each week at 9:45am.



Adult
Meets e
each w


8:30am Worship Service 8:45 Sunday School


10:30am Worship Service 10:45 Sunday School


| Sun | Mon | Tue |
|--|---|--|
| December 27 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45am Care Ministry Meeting  | 28 | 29 |
| 3 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 6:30pm BS Troop 22 Adult Mtg  | 4 6pm Active Threat Training 6:30pm W5 | 5 West Pastor Conference 1pm Lydia Circle 6pm Buildings/Grounds Mtg 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Meeting |
| 10 1st Grade Milestone 11:30am Praise/Worship Team Mtg 5p 4-H Meeting  | 11 6:30pm W5 | 12 1:45pm Hillview Communion 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Meeting |
| 17 Urban Immersion Service Retreat  | 18 5:30pm Membership, Growth/Fellowship Mtg 6pm Active Threat Training 6:30pm W5 | 19 6pm Parish Ed Meeting 6pm Admin/Exec Meeting 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Meeting 7pm Church Council Mtg |
| 24 9:45am Care Ministry Meeting  | 25 6:30pm W5 | 26 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Meeting |
| 31 8th Grade Led Schedule 2pm GS & Friends Concert -open to public -free will offering -refreshments  | February 1 6:30pm W5 | 2 West Pastor Conference 1pm Lydia Circle 6pm Buildings & Grounds 6:45pm BS Troop 22 Meeting |

To access the most up-to-d

Bell Choir
Meets every Sunday
at 5:30pm.

 **Youth Bell Choir**
Meets every Sunday
each week. at 6:30pm.

 **Sanctuary Choir**
Meets every Sunday
Each week at 9:30am.

 **Sounds of Praise**
Meets every Saturday each
week at 4pm.

45 Sunday School

Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays of Each Month

| Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p>30 NO Quilting 6pm NO Youth Group 6:30pm NO Confirmation</p> | <p>31 New Years Eve 1pm Bethany Riverside Birthday Party</p> | <p>January 1 New Years Day Office Closed</p> | <p>2</p> |
| <p>6 8:30am Quilting ?????? 6pm Youth Group (Gr. 9-12) 6:30pm Confirmation</p> | <p>7 9:30am Text Study 6pm WELCA Mtg</p> | <p>8</p> | <p>9</p> <p style="text-align: right;"></p> |
| <p>13 8:30am Quilting ?????? 6pm Youth Group (Gr. 9-12) 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Adult Bible Study</p> | <p>14 9:30am Text Study 6pm Active Threat Train- ing</p> | <p>15 February Voice Articles Due Urban Immersion Service Retreat</p> | <p>16 Urban Immersion Service Retreat</p> <p style="text-align: right;"></p> |
| <p>20 8:30am Quilting ?????? 10am Staff Meeting 6pm Youth Group (Gr. 9-12) 6:30pm Confirmation</p> | <p>21 9:30am Text Study 11:30am 55 Plus</p> | <p>22</p> | <p>23</p> <p style="text-align: right;"></p> |
| <p>27 8:30am Quilting ?????? 6pm Youth Group (Gr. 9-12) 6:30pm Confirmation</p> | <p>28 8:30am February Voice Mailing Crew 9:30am Text Study</p> | <p>29</p> | <p>30</p> <p style="text-align: right;"></p> |
| <p>3 8:30am Quilting ?????? 6pm Youth Group (Gr. 9-12) 6:30pm Confirmation</p> | <p>4 9:30am Text Study 6pm WELCA Mtg</p> | <p>5</p> | <p>6</p> <p style="text-align: right;"></p> |

ate calendar visit GSlacrosse.org/calendar.

Church Council Members

- **Sara Wrobel** *President of the Congregation* sara@gslacrosse.org
- **Duane Schoen** *Vice President of the Congregation*
- **Dianne Hamann** *Treasurer*
- **Monty Gilbertson** *Secretary*
- **Alyssa Shufelt** *Youth Representative*

Staff

- **Rev. Harald Bringsjord** *Pastor*
prharald@gslacrosse.org
- **Rick Laufenberg** *Office Manager*
rick@gslacrosse.org | (608) 788-0450
- **Kathy Johnson** *Office Assistant*
kathy@gslacrosse.org
- **Tammy Klein** *Children's Ministry Coordinator* tammy@gslacrosse.org
- **Stephanie Andersen** *Youth Ministry Coordinator* stephanie@gslacrosse.org
- **Randy Lyden** *Music Director/Organist* randy@gslacrosse.org | (608) 779-9669

- **Other Church Council Members include:**

Don Skibba, Lori Lowell,
Barb Smyth, Bev Sorenson,
Barbara Kilpatrick, Steve Arndt,
Mark Torgerud, Candie Luehne &
Colin Smith.



- **Linda Jerome** *Bell Choir Director*
linda@gslacrosse.org
- **Darlene Lassig** *Volunteer Gloria Dei Choir Director*
darlene@gslacrosse.org | (608) 788-5686
- **Karl & Jaime Greenfield** *Sanctuary Choir Directors* karl@gslacrosse.org | (715) 214-8528
- **Bev Sorenson** *Volunteer Parish Nurse* bev@gslacrosse.org
- **Bill Klein** *Custodian/Maintenance*
bill@gslacrosse.org



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 Nurse

Dear Congregation,

This was an article written in the La Crosse Tribune. "For more than two years, she lived in a pole barn, a metal shell on a hilltop with no heat and no electricity. The floor was crushed limestone.

On her worst winter night, the temperature dropped well below zero, and she wrapped herself in several layers of wool starting in the afternoon to maintain her body heat all night in the drafty barn.

I wished I could've called somebody I knew because I thought I would probably die. "She said recalling how she labored to breathe the icy air that seemed endless 3 years ago. This 55 year old woman talked about her homelessness on condition her name not be used because she still has trust issues, and fears reprisals from those who know her story. She lost her job and home before living in a tent and eventually seeking refuge in the barn on her family's property in northwestern Green county. She now lives with a partner and says she is doing well.

Homelessness is reality even here in La Crosse County. We all see them, people struggling asking for handouts of jobs, money and food. Major Paul Moore from the Salvation Army corps officer said, "In Wisconsin Homelessness peaks in September or October." "It really has to do with the weather." Major Moore said "Because people understand if they're on the streets in cold weather they can die, and so they will do anything necessary to stay inside. They will make amends with family members so they can stay there an extra day."

Major Moore states on any given day there are 100 family units that are homeless in the coulee region. Over the past two years this has increased due to the economy.

La Crosse County provides shelters for those in need and in need of services. Day shelters supplement homeless and low income people when the shelter they are staying in only offers night housing. Meals and basic hygiene may also be offered. Emergency Homeless shelters provide both short term relief for the homeless and low income families and individuals. Usually there is a maximum stay of 3 months or less. Often people are asked to leave during the day. Meals and other supportive services are often offered.

Halfway housing helps transition individuals and families from shelters or homelessness to permanent housing. Length of stay is usually from 6 months to 2 years.

Here in La Crosse there is the Warming Center at First Baptist Church supported by volunteers and Catholic Charities. Even with places to go there are individuals living in tents and cars. Major Moore states the community can help, first by taking an interest in the people around them and if you are aware of a person on the verge of losing their home, get involved.

The salvation army has programs that raises money to support this problem. The Ringing the Bells and Angel Giving Tree are two.

Continued on page 19

Bev Sorenson, RN

GS Volunteer Parish Nurse

bev@gslacrosse.org

(608) 792-3962

Parish Health News:

GSlacrosse.org/parish-nurse-update.



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

Sunday School Update

Pre-school thru Grade 5

Happy New Year!

It seems, to me, that December “jingled” right by. There was so much going on and as I am writing this, it is only a few days until the Christmas Programs. Thank you so much to all the parents, volunteers, confirmands and everyone who helped with costumes, music, scripts and treats. With the theme of “A New Star” celebrating the coming of a messiah, it was a bright spot in my Christmas season!

Sunday School Returns- Please go online and register for Sunday School. The information from the registration forms is shared only with the office to ensure correct contact

information. This Registration creates an automatic class list for me to use during the Sunday School year and for VBS. If you haven't been able to visit the website for Good Shepherd, the New Year is a great time to do so. We are off Dec. 27th and Jan. 3rd, but return on January 10th with a new story.

“Love Is...” Is our new story. Bible Games, Cinema and Computer will have lesson plans available and I will email them to teachers before the New Year.

1st Grade Prayer Block Milestone – January 10th during Children's Message will be presented and we need registrations turned in no later than January 6th. I will be in the office that evening or register on the Good Shepherd Website page.

Sunday School Attendance – has been lower than expected at both services. We have a full volunteer staff and they are planning for full attendance. I urge you to come weekly as we continue celebrating 5 days of attendance with our Duck Pond – Do God's Work, Understand God's Stories, Come to God's House, Know God's Love.

The lessons they are learning in Sunday School are not only just about the Bible Characters, but building the children's character as well. Lessons for the year include

“Love Is...” 1st Corinthians, Play with Pentecost and The Prodigal Son.

Not only do we learn the story, but how we can use the lessons in our own lives. One confirmation student said it so well after our Jacob and Esau story...” That's the first time I have heard that story.” Isn't it great to tell a story that reinforces the idea that God always has a plan for us to do what is best for us?

Then we have music, art, science, cooking, cinema, computer and games to reinforce the remembrance of the stories we are learning. It is an awesome and fun hour each week.

I was reflecting recently on the interviews that I had done with several of the Confirmation Students. One of the questions was “What was it like for you when you were in confirmation and how did you stay involved afterward.”

My answer surprised me, knowing how involved our family is here at Good Shepherd. I stopped being involved in my church in 9th grade. I taught VBS the summer after confirmation and that was it. It wasn't college when someone invited me to come to Good Shepherd with them (Thanks Dianne Hamann) that I really learned what a church “Family” was. I am so grateful to have this family now – and so grateful that this is the experience my children have been a part of.

A Blessed New Year to you all!

Tammy Klein – Children's Ministry
Coordinator
tammy@gslacrosse.org

Quick-Look

Upcoming Events At a Glance

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| January 3rd | NO SUNDAY SCHOOL – Happy New Year. |
| | 2nd Semester Confirmation Service Hours begin. |
| January 10th | 31st -Sunday School Resumes at normal times. “Love IS...” (Games, Cinema, Computer) |
| | 1st Grade Prayer Block Presentation |
| February 7th | Spirit Sunday |
| February 14th | Play with Pentecost (Kitchen, Art, Science) |
| | 2nd Grade Prayer Pillow Presentation |

Nursery Staff

We are still in need of Nursery Staff at 8:30 and 10:30 services. We are spreading the word and would like additional help to make sure we are staffed when folks will be working, out of town, etc.

Nursery would be used for babies to 3 years old as the children would then attend pre-school. If you can help out, please let us know.



Tammy Klein – Children’s Ministry Coordinator
 tammy@gslacrosse.org

Tammy Klein

Children's Ministry Coordinator

tammy@gslacrosse.org (608) 788-0450

Recent Sunday School News: GSlacrosse.org/children.

In the Office: *Mon., Wed., Fri.: 2:30-7pm*

Stay Connected!

Receive message alerts for Sunday School at Good Shepherd. Send the message [@rubberduck](https://www.whatsapp.com/channel/00299a00000000000000) 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)

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” Isaiah 9:6

Confirmation

In December, we were able to finally dive into the New Testament for our lessons! December began very appropriately with Jesus’ birth and also discussed his role as a rabbi and the miracles he performed.

Having completed our study for the year on the old testament, we were able to look for themes we have seen throughout the stories. Lessons, the students noted are: People, make mistakes, but God will forgive, God provides for us and people tend to move away from God when things are good, but he is still be there if we turn our back to him. While we see these large themes throughout, each story has individual lessons to teach us as well and we discussed the importance of looking for these lessons as well.

Our service night was a busy one with group helping with BINGO, ringing bells, visiting rotary lights and loading up the donations from the Salvation Army Drive. Thank you to everyone who participated in helping meet the ongoing needs of the Salvation Army. We collected **17 boxes** of books, toys and clothes! These donations are especially helpful during the Christmas season, but will be used year round in their shelter.

Thank you also to everyone who was willing to be interviewed by our 8th graders. Hearing the faith stories of adults is a great way for them to see how God is working in their lives! I know the lessons discussed with guide them as they write their own faith statements in a few short weeks.

High School Youth

High school youth continue to meet weekly. A new tradition was started recently making the last Wednesday of the month “music night.” Youth are invited to share a song with special meaning to them and then share that meaning with each other. This is a great way to enjoy fellowship and get to know each other better while sharing and enjoying the arts. Whether it is a Christian or pop music and the message is about faith, friendships or life in general, I love that our youth have a safe place to come each week and can use that space to help each other see the good in the world!

I am looking forward to seeing the 2016 has in store for our youth. Thank your for your ongoing support, encouragement and prayers for myself and the youth this year!

Quick-Look

Upcoming Confirmation/Youth Group Events At a Glance

| | |
|--|---|
| January 6th | 6th/7th grade: Fellowship/Service Night in small groups BINGO: Kari and Tina's groups 8th grade: Introduction to Faith Statements/Banners |
| January 13th | 6th/7th: God's Kingdom 8th Grade: Work Time |
| Friday January 15th - Sunday January 17th | Urban Immersion Service Retreat—Interested 8th graders |
| January 20th | 6th/7th: Death to Life 8th Grade: Work Time |
| January 27th | 6th/7th: The Church 8th Grade: Work Time |
| February 3rd | Last day of class—Year end Celebration! Faith Statements and Banners Due! |
| April 6th/April 13th Times TBA | 8th Grade only: Faith Conversations with Pastor Harald and Stephanie |
| April 27th | All Confirmation Celebration followed by Confirmation Rehearsal |
| Every Wednesday | Youth Group 6:00—8:00pm All High school Students Welcome! |

Stephanie Andersen

Director of Youth and Family Ministry

stephanie@gsllacrosse.org (608) 788-0450

Recent Youth News: GSlacrosse.org/youth

In the Office: Sun. 8:30am-10:30 & Wed., 4-8pm

Stay Connected!

Confirmation: Text [@gsconfirm](https://www.gslconfirm.com) to (608) 402-4735 for confirmation updates! Youth Group: Text [@gslcyouth](https://www.gslcyouth.com) to (608) 402-4735 for youth group updates!

Data charges may apply. Must age 13+ to sign up without parental guidance. This service is brought to you by Remind®.



Music Notes

From The Director of Music

Good Shepherd Church to Give Benefit Concert!

On Sunday, January 31 at 2pm Good Shepherd Church will present an all church concert to benefit the local Salvation Army, La Crosse Warming Center and Wafer Food Pantry. The Good Shepherd Sanctuary Choir, Adult Handbell Choir and Sounds of Praise will be performing along with musical members, neighbors and friends of Good Shepherd.

Representatives from the above mentioned organizations will be present to share some words about their ministries and the need for them in our community, and will be available for questions after the concert. David Kilpatrick will be our MC for this event.

The concert will be here at Good Shepherd and is free and open to the public. A free will offering will be taken and donations of non-perishable food items, gloves and socks will be accepted. Most importantly, the awareness that this helps to raise is of inestimable value and your presence and support will contribute to those in need more than you will ever know.

We open not only our Good Shepherd Church doors, but also our hearts to our neighbors and those in need in our community. As our hearts and souls are warmed and nourished by our offering of music, we are helping to warm and nourish others through our heartfelt support of those local organizations that provide food, clothing and shelter to our neighbors in need.

Please spread the word to family and friends. This promises to be a wonderful afternoon of music and a golden opportunity to reach out to our community and truly make a difference!



Randy Lyden

Good Shepherd Music Director

randy@gslacrosse.org | (608) 779-9669

Recent Music Notes/Updates:

GSlacrosse.org/music



Here are a few facts based on homelessness.

1. Homeless people stay warm by wearing lots of clothing, example they may wear 2 pairs of socks to keep heat trapped between their body and their clothing.
2. Homeless people stay warm in the winter by avoiding too much physical activity. You lose vital heat through sweating and the moisture from sweat is counterproductive in staying warm. Sometimes showers are avoided because wetness of the skin loses heat. Donating wet wipes, soap, hygiene products will help people when they are in a day shelter that may provide cleaning areas. A homeless person may even use a public restroom to clean up.
3. When the winter elements become unbearable, homeless people use fires to keep themselves warm. They burn trash, wood and other items found. Some are able to avoid frostbite and hypothermia. Hot coffee is often part of the diet during the winter months in order to stay warm. Diet attributes to a person's ability to keep warm and slow metabolizing foods such as oats, wheat and starches are needed to stay warm but are not easily accessible. Donating warm beverage items like coffee, tea, cocoa, and instant cereals is helpful. Often the homeless will stop at restaurants for a hot cup of water. Maybe next time you stop at a fast food spot pay forward a cup of soup or coffee for someone in need.

The homeless population has been steadily growing for the past few decades. Homeless people are more visible now maybe it is their way to show they are now willing to accept help from others. While the common belief is that people who are homeless are so because of their lack of interest in keeping a steady jobs, the reality is that there are reasons people become homeless.

Who are the homeless? A high percentage up to 25% of people living on the streets

suffer from some type of mental illness, with bipolar disorder and schizophrenia being the most common. According to the National Law Center on homelessness and poverty, there are an estimated 5 million homeless in the United States, 56% have some sort of shelter like a car or ability to pay for a motel room at least part of the time, 66% are single white males, women, families and teenagers follow close behind. There is an equal number of whites and African American homeless but only a small percentage of Hispanics 11% and Native Americans 8%. There are no segregated boundaries when it comes to homelessness, it crosses into all nationalities.

My article has explained homelessness, I have written how the homeless live and what their needs are. May I remind everyone during this Christmas season that Mary and Joseph were homeless. Jesus spent his first night of Life in a barn stable. I hope thru this article you can see in your heart to give to the charities to help those individuals in need. Give to the Ringing of the Bells, help in the warming centers and soup kitchens, donate needed items. I feel blessed to have so much in my life. I pray for the ones unable to be in a shelter this winter that they stay warm and have food in their stomachs. God Bless to you all.

Merry Christmas,
Bev Sorenson Parish Nurse





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