



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Newsletter



January 2019

Weather Updates

Check out Fox News #6 for any Good Shepherd delays or cancellations.

These will also be posted on our webpage at www.goodshepherdwels.org

Our regular worship schedule remains in effect Saturday, December 29th at 5:00 pm and Sunday December 30th at 8:00 and 10:30 am.

As you come for special holiday worship services, make sure not to miss out on our regular worship opportunities.

There will be no Sunday School or Bible Study December 30th.

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Remember the Way!

“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except by me.’” John 14:6

One year for vacation we decided to travel the old highway Route 66 from Springfield, Illinois all the way to Arizona.

Remember Route 66? It was the highway across the country to the west coast until it was replaced by the interstate system of roads.

In a spiritual sense we travel a Route 66, too, only this highway leads

from earth to heaven. Some claim there is more than one highway to heaven. All roads, all religions, they claim lead to heaven. There are many spiritual vehicles that can take us to heaven, they claim, like you can get to Chicago by car, bus, plane, or train.

That’s not what Jesus said. “Only one way to the Father’s house,” he said. “Only one way to eternal life in heaven,” he claimed. “And that’s through me,” he asserted. Only his death could pay for the sins

that blocked our way to heaven. Only his perfect life could cover us with the robe of righteousness his Father demanded.

Old Highway 66 is gone, but the way of salvation is still there. God help us to travel that road in this new year. God help us keep the road map of his Word open in our home devotions and worship services as we travel to heaven.

Your partner on the highway to heaven,

Pastor Richard E. Lauersdorf

Christmas Services

Children’s Christmas Eve Services December 24th at 3:00 & 5:30 pm

(If you are able, please park across the street at Little Lambs to leave more spaces for the elderly and our guests.)

Our children will present the Christmas message

with the theme, “We Sing of His Glory!”

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service December 24 at 9:00 pm

Enjoy Christmas with special singing, musical groups, and candlelight. At the end of the service we put out all the lights except the Christmas

tree, and sing “Silent Night” by candlelight as we each hold our own lit candles.

Christmas Day Festival Service December 25 at 9:00 am
New Year’s Eve Communion Worship December 31 at 6:30 pm.

Thank God for his blessings in the old year and seek his guidance in the new!

Opportunities to Grow through the Word

New Sunday Bible Studies at 9:15 am, beginning January 6th.

Equipped for Living

When we look at how the Old Testament Scriptures equip us for every good work, we may be surprised by how often “the God who gives strength to the weary” does this by indirect communication. Think of how the prophet Nathan confronted David with a story about someone else. The Lord communicates capabilities, that is, he gives new strengths like courage, hope, and a deeper understanding of sin and of grace indirectly, by things that we overhear; by taking the time to show us rather than tell us and even by what He leaves unsaid. Learning to look for indirect communication will often surprise us with the recognition of what was hidden in plain sight.

Led by Pastor John Paustian in the IMC.

“Encouragement for Daily Living; A Study of 2 Corinthians” The Apostle Paul gets very personal in this letter concerning the trials he faced in his life and also directs us to God’s promises to help us deal with our own challenges in life. Led by Pastor Robert Hein in the fellowship hall.

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES

New Bible Information Class— “Who is the LORD?” Thursday nights at 7:00 pm, beginning January 3rd. This course is all about learning to know the heart of the God of the Bible. It is meant to be a refresher course for our members and an introduction to the Bible for those looking for a church home. This 10 session course serves as our

Adult membership class. There is no cost or obligation to join. If you are a member, bring an un-churched friend with you to the first class to help them get onboard. To register in advance, contact the church office at 334-7881. Led by Pastor John Paustian in the Fireside Room.

Wednesday Morning Bible Class

from 9:00-10:00am in the fellowship hall. Class resumes January 2nd with “Heaven Is My Home.” We’ll look at what the Bible says about what happens at death, when does judgment take place, what kind of bodies will we have in the resurrection, will we know each other in heaven, and other related questions. Come! Our Bible Class family will make you feel at home. Led by Pastor Richard E. Lauersdorf. (continued on page 4)

Special Events

KML Percussion Concert - KML will be hosting an exciting percussion concert Saturday, January 12th at 6:30 pm. Wisconsin Lutheran High School will also participate.

Good Shepherd Marriage Enrichment Night

Set aside Friday, February 15th from 6:00-9:00 pm for a special marriage enrichment night at Good Shepherd held in our Fellowship Hall.

All couples are welcome whether you are newlyweds or married 50 years already. Invite your non-member friends as well.

Strengthen your marriage, enjoy delicious food and great fellowship

and some mixer games with other Christian couples. Registration forms will be available soon at church.

Thanks! - The faculty and staff of Good Shepherd thank you for your Christmas cards, gifts and words of encouragement during this Christmas season. God’s blessings to all of you in the New Year!

Coming in January!

Preschool/Kindergarten

Open Houses

Would you like to find out more about our Preschool and Kindergarten programs for next school year (2019-2020)? Come to our Open Houses to find out more!

Call the school office at 334-7881 for more information. Tell your unchurched friends and neighbors!

Also ask about how to take advantage of the Parental Choice program if you qualify.

Kindergarten Roundup & Registration - (note correct times)

Saturday, January 19th from 9:00-11:00 am.

Preschool K-3 (3 year old) **Open House** - Tuesday, January 15th from 11:00 am-12:30 pm.

Preschool – K-4 (4 year old) **Open house** - Thursday, January 17th from 11:00 am-12:30 pm.

Service and Fellowship Opportunities

January Meetings

Please note that because New Year's Day falls on a Tuesday, all of our Tuesday meetings next month will be moved back one week.

Ladies League will meet the second Tuesday, January 8th at 9:30 am and 7:00 pm. The Common Council, Coordinating Council & Voters' Assembly will follow in order.

A Sheepshead Tournament is being planned at Good Shepherd in the fellowship hall Saturday, January 19th from 1:30-4:30 pm. Mark the date on your calendar and plan to attend!

Ministry Update



How blessed we are to enjoy our new expanded facilities! Thanks to our volunteers who are completing finishing touches.

Our new church library is now open! Check it out!

Please follow through on the pledge you adopted in support of this expansion project. Remember, that any gifts that are "front loaded" will save us in interest costs down the road. "Building Connections" envelopes are available in the church narthex. Special gifts in honor of a special blessing or in memory of a loved one are welcome and will reduce our loan amount. Keep this project in your prayers!

All newly elected and returning leaders will be installed at all services January 5-6th.

Our Quarterly Voters' Meeting will be held Tuesday, January 29th at 7:00 pm. A ministry and financial update will be provided. We encourage all voting members to attend this important meeting!

Thanks to the many wonderful volunteers who helped make Christmas for Kids a fun program to build connections.

107 children attended of which several were not members of Good Shepherd or Shepherd of the Hills.

Call Update – Keep Mr. Tom Plitzuweit in your prayers as he deliberates his call to serve as our school principal.

Ministry Plan Update

We encourage all members of Good Shepherd to return their first fruits to the Lord as a joyful act of worship and an expression of gratitude to God for his priceless blessings. Consider offering a special year end Christmas gift in thankfulness for the blessings the Christ-child brings to your life. Our ministry needs increase in the new year as we make debt payments on our expansion project. Prayerfully consider your generous response to the blessings and opportunities Christ sets before you. "Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops!" Proverbs 3:9

Online Giving - If you would like to offer your gifts to the Lord's work online, sign up under "giving" at

our website www.goodshepherdwels.org with a secure sign in and password. All the designations in your envelope packet are also available online. You can offer a one time gift or set up weekly amounts.

IRA Direct Giving – If you are over 70 ½ you can direct IRA distributions to our church and not be taxed for the proceeds. It's a win/win situation. For more details on this tax wise way of giving, pick up a sheet on this topic in the narthex.

Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School - KML held two freshmen registration nights in December. Coming out of those two evenings, the freshmen class for next year has an enrollment of 124. KML projects this will increase to 130 – 135 by the time the next school year begins. What a blessing! As of December 11, the KML Blessed Beyond Belief Campaign has raised \$2.9 million for the much needed building project. The goal remains at \$4.7 million by the end of December. The 1,000 donors for a gift of \$100,000 is complete with the goal met. Please pray for the success of this campaign which will enable the building of four new science labs and seven general use classrooms. Envelopes for this building campaign are available in the narthex.

**GOOD SHEPHERD EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL**

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www.goodshepherdwels.org

Please like us on Facebook:

Good Shepherd Lutheran—West Bend, WI

Our Congregational Purpose

Compelled by the love of our Good Shepherd, we gather together around God's Word to

WORSHIP our Lord with joy,

GROW spiritually,

SERVE God and others in love,

SHARE the good news of Jesus .

*My sheep
listen to my
voice,*

*I know
them,*

*They follow
me.*

*I give them
eternal life
and they
shall never
perish.*

*No one can
snatch them
out of my
hand.*



Small Group Bible Study are being planned for the new year, held at member homes. One group will meet Wednesdays at the home of Paul and Carly Braun and Tuesdays at Ross and Megan Fassbinder. Contact Pastor Hein if you would like to learn more about small groups.

Time Out For Mom's Friday Bible Study

"True Woman 101." All moms invited. Grow in your understanding of the blessings and opportunities you enjoy as a Christian woman. Led by Marilyn Sievert at Little Lambs Childcare Center. Free childcare provided. Fridays at 8:00 a.m., next class January 11th.

Men's Bible Breakfast – Men, you are invited to our next Men's Bible Breakfast. Enjoy a hearty meaty breakfast, served by our Board of Evangelism, and a short Bible study Saturday, January 12 from 8:00-9:30 am. Held in our new Fellowship Hall. Led by Pastor Hein. Topic –Help! How do I respond to people who say there is no God? This is a great way to grow in your faith and get to know your brothers in Christ at Good Shepherd better. For planning purposes, please sign up in the narthex.

Women's Bible Study - All ladies are invited to a Thursday evening Bible study called "Lies Women Believe" led by Marilyn Sievert beginning Thursday January 10th at 7:00 pm. Dispel the lies and discover the truth in God's holy Word. Sign up in the narthex for planning purposes.

Men of his Word Conference will be held at Oshkosh Convention Center Saturday February 9th. Enjoy great workshops on a variety of topics related to living as a Christian man. Koine will lead the music and worship. Register at www.menofhisword.org. For carpooling information, contact Pastor Hein.

Special Gifts

\$25 in memory of Don Oppermann from Scott & Lori Yahr

\$20 in memory of Don Oppermann from Loran & Arlo Schultz

\$100 in memory of Patsy Krug from Jerry & Joan Krug for WELS Christian Aid & Relief

\$100 in memory of Richard Tharman from Mylene Weishaar for Furnishings Fund

\$20 in memory of Richard Tharman from Mary Lutz for Building Connections

\$780 in memory of Richard Tharman from family and friends for Building Connections