

*I am the **Good Shepherd.** The good **Shepherd** lays down his life for the sheep.*

ASHES ON ASH WEDNESDAY: THE WHY AND THE HOW

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, our 40-day walk to the cross—a somber season that contrasts and magnifies our joy on Easter Sunday. The ancient practice of applying ashes on the foreheads of believers gives Ash Wednesday its name, setting the tone for Lent with a reminder of mortality, repentance, and the mercy of God.

The use of ashes in this form has a strong biblical foundation. Abraham humbled himself in prayer saying “*I who am but dust and ashes have taken it on myself to speak to my Lord.*” (Genesis 18:27). Job expressed sorrow over sin: “*I repent in dust and ashes.*” (Job 42:6). In books like Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Esther, Daniel, and Jonah, ashes are used as a sign of communal repentance. Even Jesus even spoke of ashes in repentance (Mat 11:21).

The use of ashes in Scripture consistently points to a recognition of sin and mortality, an acknowledgment of God’s righteous wrath, and turning to the LORD trusting in his merciful heart. When a Christian receives ashes on Ash Wednesday, they remember the curse of sin and its greatest consequence, as the pastor speaks the words of God from Genesis: “*You are dust, and to dust you shall return.*” But the shape in which these ashes are applied is a cross which, as no other symbol, represents the merciful heart of our God. Christ has stepped into our dust and ashes. He bore our sin upon the cross and was laid in the dust of death (Psalm 22:15). Yet Christ rose victorious, breaking the power of sin and death forever so that we, mere dust and ashes, become eternal children of God! All this rich meaning is found in the mark of the ashes.

One question I often receive when speaking about ashes is: “Isn’t that a Catholic thing?” My answer: The practice of receiving ashes on the forehead dates back to the early 1st century among Christians and thousands of years before Christ by Old Testament believers. So while ashes have been used consistently by the Roman Catholic Church, it was never exclusively Catholic and is observed widely by Christians of many denominations today. A number of our fellow WELS congregations use ashes on Ash Wednesday and Good Shepherd members have requested to receive ashes here.

Worship our Lord with Joy!

Saturdays at 5:00 pm; Sundays at 8:00 and 10:30 am.
 Sunday School and Bible Study at 9:15 am. Holy Communion is offered the 2nd and 4th weekends of the month.

Join us for Wednesday Lenten Services! This year we will trace Christ's route to Calvary using the Symbols of Lent. Each Wednesday at 10:00 am & 6:30 pm, we will look at 2 symbols that mark significant events in our Savior's Passion and then connect them to the love and grace of God. The plan is as follows:

Midweek Lenten Theme “Symbols of Lent”



March 5 (Ash Wednesday Communion Worship) – Ashes & Broken Hearts

March 12 – The Wash Bucket & Towel

March 19 – The Dreadful Cup & Sleeping Disciples

March 26 – 40 Pieces of Silver & One Kiss

April 2 – A Crowing Rooster & a Weeping Friend

April 9 – Pilate’s Basin & the Cat-of-Nine-Tails

Lenten Dinners are served in the Fellowship Hall Wednesdays during Lent from 5:15-6:15 pm. Enjoy a delicious meal and warm fellowship. Bring a dessert to share. A freewill offering is gathered to cover expenses. Contact Cheryl Henckel if you can help with set up, serving, or clean up.

Grow through God’s Word

Sunday Bible Study at 9:15 am - “**Share your Hope in Christ**” Join us for this four session Bible study in which we will grow in our confidence to share our faith with others. Learn how to make connections and help people draw closer to our Savior. Led by Pastor Hein in the Fellowship Hall through - **March 9th.**

Sunday School - Sundays at 9:15 am All children Preschool 3 and up are invited to come and learn about Jesus and his love through Bible stories, crafts, games, songs, and fun activities.

This Ash Wednesday at Good Shepherd, you will have the opportunity to receive ashes at our worship services if you would like. Please understand the following:

The reception of ashes is voluntary. Everyone is welcome, but no one is required to come forward. There will also be Lenten hymns played during this portion of the service.

When you come forward, the ashes will be applied in one of two ways: either a shape of the cross on the forehead or a shape of a cross on the back of your hand. (Parents, you are certainly welcome to bring children forward to receive the ashes. Personally, seeing the ashes on my children is quite moving.)

As the ashes are applied the pastor will say, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you will return." These are the words of God to Adam in Genesis 3:19, which are also reflected in the words a pastor speaks over a casket at Christian burial services.

Whenever you decide to wash off the ashes after the service, remember your baptism and give thanks that God has washed away all your sins and has promised that you will live forever with Christ.

May God bless this practice at Good Shepherd as we begin the Lenten season! May the application of ashes reinforce our heartfelt repentance and help us cherish the eternal life that Christ provides.

Sundays in Lent Theme: Open Door Policies - When a wayward child strays, how can a loving parent pursue them without pushing them further away? One way is by keeping the door open—ensuring the child knows they are always welcome home. When we wander from God, not only is the door open to return in repentance, but he actively pursues us, drawing us back with his love. On the Sundays in Lent, we'll explore the surprising strategies our heavenly Father uses to bring sinners home. The individual Sunday worship foci and Gospel readings are below.

March 9 - *One Stands; Everyone Else Sits* (Luke 4:1-13)

March 16 - *No Detours Allowed* (Luke 13:31-35)

March 23 - *Always Present, Always Patient* (Luke 13:1-9)

March 30 - *Grace Instead of Condemnation* (Luke 15:1-32)

April 6 - *Hiding Treasure in the Trash* (Luke 20:9-19)

Jesus Cares Worship: Our next services held at Good Shepherd, are **March 4, April 1, and May 6** at 6:00 pm. Flyers are available in the Welcome Center for you to take home. Invite a friend with special needs and attend these blessed services with them.

Youth Mornings -Activities include icebreaker game, praise songs, keynote from Pastor Mueller, Crumbl Cookies and male/female breakout sessions led by young adult leaders. Our next Youth Morning will be held **March 9, April 13 and May 11** from 9:15-10:15am. We meet in the 7th grade classroom. Ages include 8th grade-12th grade.

Weekday Bible Studies

Monday - Head & Heart Bible Study & Fellowship for ages 18-29 at Pastor Schlicht's home, 6:00-8:00 pm. Held the first and third Mondays of each month. Next classes are, **March 3 and 17**. Discuss current topics together, bring your friends and a Bible to write in. For more information, text 920-268-2962.

Monday Women's Bible Study - "You Can Trust God Even When Life Hurts" - Join us twice a month selected evenings! It will be on the topic of trust, using the book by Time of Grace writer, Amber Swenson. Mondays at 6:30 pm: next classes are **March 3 & 17** in the Fellowship Hall. Led by Marilyn Sievert and others.

Wednesday Morning Bible Class is held at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Our topic is: The Gospel of Mark: Your Kingdom Come. Everyone is welcome to attend. Led by Pastor Paul Janke.

Thursday - A small group Bible study is held at the home of Tom and Laurie Getka from 7:00-8:00 pm. (8 sessions) Enjoy fellowship and spiritual growth in a small group setting. We will dig deeper into the sermon topic from the previous weekend. Contact Tom at tgetka@sbcglobal.net to learn more.

Friday - Women's Morning Bible Study "Philippians, Why Was Paul So Joyful?" Join us Friday mornings 8:00-9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall when school is in session. When we read what the Apostle Paul wrote to the Christian believers in the city of Philippi, we find ourselves being caught up in his unmistakable joy. We can have that joy, too. Join us any time, and find out why! Registration required for purchase of materials. We meet in the Fellowship Hall. All women invited. Team taught. YES, we have child care! (and coffee).



Special Events

A Gym Play Day is set for Saturday, **Feb. 22** from 9:00-11:00 am at Good Shepherd. Come bring the kids for some indoor fun and fellowship, including our own bounce house. Invite your friends!



The next OWLS (Organization of WELS Seniors) meeting will be Monday, **February 24**, 10:00 am at Peace, Hartford. Our speaker will be Becky Schimp from the Shoebox Project. She will tell us about the Project's efforts to send

the boxes throughout the world. Our potluck meal will follow so please bring a dish to share. All are invited to join us.

Ladies League meets the first Tuesday of each month at 9:30 am and 7:00 pm, with our next meeting **March 4**. All ladies are welcome to attend.



Our next Men's Bible Breakfast is Saturday, **March 8** from 8:00-9:30 am. Enjoy a delicious home cooked breakfast, warm

fellowship, and a Bible study entitled "Putting God's Love into Practice!" Led by Pastor Hein. Sign up in the Welcome Center or using this QR code, and indicate if you can help cook.



Men's Breakfast Sign Up Here

Daddy/Daughter Dance - Saturday, **March 8** from 6:00-8:00 pm in the Good Shepherd gym. Join us for a night of dancing, fun, and delightful treats! We welcome all father figures to join us for this unforgettable event!

KML Sacred Band and Choir Concert will be Tuesday, **March 11** at 6:30 pm in the Performing Arts Center. Everyone is invited.

Tacos and Game Night for Ladies - Women's Ministry Event - All ladies are welcome to join us for Game Night & Tacos Friday, **March 14** from 6:00-8:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a short devotion and prayer followed by food and games. Taco meat will be provided. Sign up to bring a taco topping, side dish or dessert to share. You can register yourself and guests for this event and sign up for the food you are bringing here with this QR code or in Welcome Center. Contact Cathy Moldenhauer with questions: cmoldenhauer@gslswb.org.



Woman's Ministry

WELS Youth Night at KML - Fri., March 14 from 7-9 pm in the PAC. This event is for all youth from 8th -12th grade. Enjoy games, worship, keynote presentation, breakout sessions, and snacks. Register with this QR code. Invite your friends to come.



WELS Youth Night

Lent by Candlelight -"The Quiet Voices of Lent", Tuesday, **April 8** at 7:00 pm, doors open at 6:30 pm. The Lent by Candlelight event is for all women age 13 and up, hosted by the Women's Ministry Team and the Ladies League in the Fellowship Hall. Come for an evening of reflective worship to prepare our hearts for the Lenten season. Snacks and beverages will also be provided. Sign up online or in the Welcome Center. Postcards are available in the Welcome Center. Invite your friends!



Lent by Candlelight

Sheepshead Tournament at Good Shepherd Saturday, **April 5** from 1-4 pm at Good Shepherd Fellowship Hall. Sign up in Welcome Center and bring a treat to share. Everyone is welcome!

Easter for Kids will be Saturday, **April 12** from 9:00-11:45 am for children 3 years old (potty trained) through 4th grade. Bring your kids and invite their friends to celebrate the joyous meaning of Easter. Register here or online at www.goodshepherdwels.org or in the Welcome Center, where volunteer forms are also available. We can use shepherds, helper shepherds and volunteers to serve at various stations.



Serve God and Others in Love

We are looking for people to join our Sunday School team. Would you be willing to help as a substitute when we are short staffed? Would you be interested in co-leading a class or perhaps assist with the younger students while they are being taught? Contact Cheryl Fischer at cherafischer@gmail.com or 262-483-8380.



Easter Flower signup is in the Welcome Center. Fill out the form and address checks to "Good Shepherd". You may designate your gift in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special blessing. Deadline is **April 7**. Thanks for beautifying our church for Easter!

Two Easter Breakfasts will be served Sunday, **April 20** at 7:00 am & 9:30 am. To assist with planning and serving, please sign up in the Welcome Center. A freewill offering is received at our Easter Breakfasts to support the Ziesemer Scholarship Fund, set up in memory of Pastor Jim Ziesemer to provide tuition assistance to young men studying for the pastoral ministry at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary.

Vacation Bible School will be held this summer **July 21-25**. Our theme is "Epic Australian Adventure -an unforgettable journey with Jesus." Our Outdoor Worship and fabulous Church Picnic will be held at Regner Park Sunday, **July 27**.



Register for Preschool & Kindergarten - Would you like to find out more about our Preschool and Kindergarten programs for next school year (2025-2026)? Call the school office at 262-334-7881 to learn more.



Enrollment is now open at our website! Tell your unchurched friends! Check out the Parental Choice program below.

WI Parental Choice Notice: Good Shepherd Lutheran School is excited to participate in the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP)! Based on income, families receive a voucher that pays their students' tuition in full. Open application for 25/26 school year **ends April 17th**. Students may apply entering grades PK4, K, Grade 1, or any grade if coming from a public school or home school. For information, contact Principal Dan Schultz (262-334-7881) / (dschultz@gslswb.org) or Mr. Jim Sievert (jsievert@gslswb.org).

Daylight Savings Time – Move clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed Saturday **March 8** for Daylight Savings Time.

Thrivent members may choose to direct their Thrivent choice dollars to the ministry of Good Shepherd through online portal or contact your Thrivent rep.

Sign up to Serve! - Click on this QR Code to view and sign up for upcoming ministry and service opportunities. It's a great way to use your talents to God's glory and for the benefit of others!



*My sheep listen to my voice,
I know them,
They follow me.
I give them eternal life and they shall never perish.*

Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

777 Indiana Avenue, West Bend, WI 53095

Phone: 262-334-7881

www.goodshepherdwels.org

Facebook: Good Shepherd Lutheran—West Bend, WI



Building Connections to Share Jesus Facility Expansion

At our January 12th Voters' Assembly our voters approved our building expansion plans. We are excited to get started! Our Building Committee is working with Excel Engineering and Catalyst Construction to develop working drawings. We estimate groundbreaking to take place this June with construction complete around August 2026. First the new gym will be constructed. Then the present gym will be renovated into classrooms and meeting spaces. Then two lower level classrooms will be renovated into bathrooms, changing rooms, and concessions near our new gym. Benefits include: Conversion of the gym brings net increase of 7 classrooms, plus one large multipurpose room, new double sized gym, additional parking, area near gym with bathrooms, changing rooms, gym storage and concessions. All of this helps us meet the facility needs of our growing school enrollment and supports our mission to build connections to share Jesus. Please keep up with your promise gifts. Any gifts which can be offered earlier on will help us reduce our loan amount. Presently, we estimate taking out a \$3,790,000 loan at a 6.2% interest rate. Promise sheets and envelopes are available in the Welcome Center. Special gifts in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special blessing are welcome. Please keep our expansion project in your prayers!



Online Giving is available at our website under "offerings". All designations in your packet are also available online.

KML Family Music Fest/School Art Fair is Friday **April 11th** from 5-7 pm. Our theme this year is Journey to the Stars. Come, join the fun and enjoy great musical entertainment.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 1:00 pm Pinecar Derby/ Regatta 5:00 pm Worship 6:00 pm Dartball Tournament
2 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School and Bible Study 10:30 am Worship Dartball Tournament	3 6:00 pm Head & Heart Study 6:00 pm Jesus Cares Worship 6:30 pm Women's Bible St. 6:30 pm Bible Information Class	4 9:30 am Ladies League 6:00 pm Jesus Cares Worship 7:00 pm Ladies League	5 9:00 am Wed. Bible Study 10:00 am Ash Wednesday Communion Worship 5:15 pm Lenten Dinner 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Communion Worship 7:30 pm Adult Bells	6 6:30 pm Public Sch. Catechism 6:30 pm Men's Choir 7:00 pm Adult Choir	7 8:00 am Women's Bible Study	8 8:00 am Men's Bible Breakfast 5:00 pm Communion Worship 6:00 pm Daddy/Daughter Dance Set clocks ahead one hour in evening
9 8:00 am Communion Worship 9:15 am Sunday School & Bible Study 10:30 am Communion Worship	10 6:00 pm Pioneers 6:30 pm Bible Information Cl	11 6:30 pm KML Concert	12 9:00 am Wed. Bible Study 10:00 am Lenten Worship 5:15 pm Lenten Dinner 6:30 pm Lenten Worship 7:30 pm Adult Bells	13 6:30 pm Public Sch. Catechism 6:30 pm Men's Choir 7:00 pm Adult Choir	14 8:00 am Women's Bible Study 7:00 pm WELS Youth Night at KML 6:00 pm Women's Taco Night	15 5:00 pm Worship
16 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School and Bible Study 10:30 am Worship	17 6:00 pm Head & Heart Study 6:30 pm Bible Information Cl 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	18 6:30 pm Coordinating Council	19 8:00 am Newsletter Mailing 9:00 am Wed. Bible Study 10:00 am Lenten Worship 5:15 pm Lenten Dinner 6:30 pm Lenten Worship 7:30 pm Adult Bells	20 6:30 pm Public Sch. Catechism 6:30 pm Men's Choir 7:00 pm Adult Choir	21 8:00 am Women's Bible Study	22 5:00 pm Communion Worship
23 8:00 am Communion Worship 9:15 am Sunday School and Bible Study 10:30 am Communion Worship	24 6:30 pm Bible Information Cl	25	26 9:00 am Wed. Bible Study 10:00 am Lenten Worship 5:15 pm Lenten Dinner 6:30 pm Lenten Worship 7:30 pm Adult Bells	27 6:30 pm Public Sch. Catechism 6:30 pm Men's Choir 7:00 pm Adult Choir	28	29 5:00 pm Worship
30 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School and Bible Study 10:30 am Worship	31 6:30 pm Bible Information Cl					