



December Newsletter in the Year of Our Lord 2021

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

There is singing in your future!

That's no surprise, we're Lutheran. Soon the new hymnals will appear in our pews, We'll have familiar and new hymns to sing. Our midweek worship and the Women's Ministry "Advent By Candlelight" will focus on the Songs of Advent. The writers of the Psalms loved to encourage God's people to sing.

Zephaniah's call to sing in chapter 3 begins with something familiar. **Sing, O Daughter of Zion; shout aloud, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O Daughter of Jerusalem!**

Next comes the reminder that when we sing for joy, it is joy for a reason, joy for what God has done and in knowing he is with us.

¹⁵ **The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm.**

¹⁶ **On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. ¹⁷ The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save.**

Next the prophet Zephaniah adds an incredible promise about the singing in your future. Here is something worth pondering quietly before moving on:

He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing."

Wait a minute! Who is going to sing? The LORD!

The saints and angels in heaven will sing, but they are, if you will, the opening act for the creator of music to sing with joy. Note that the LORD will sing for joy because he also has a reason for joy. Here comes the great surprise of the Gospel. Here is a reminder of how confident we can be because Christ came down to cover our guilt and reveal his Father's gracious heart.

Where will the LORD find joy? In you! When your conscience has accused you and done its necessary work, Satan, the accuser jumps in and continues with his song of death. The Lord will interrupt that and quiet you with his love. And then he will sing! He will sing to express his joy over you! Yes, you!

In Christ,

Pastor John Paustian

A note about my future: I have announced to the council that I plan to retire from the ministry at the end of January. I pray that the Lord will soon give Good Shepherd a second new pastor, one far younger than me. Miriam will continue to teach kindergarten, as we do not have plans to move.



Worship Christ with us!

Saturdays at 4:00 pm* and 5:00 pm; Sundays at 8:00 and 10:30 am.

*The Saturday 4:00 pm services are shortened services with no singing. Masks are required.

Join us for Thanksgiving Worship

Wednesday November 24th at 6:30 pm or on Thursday November 25th at 9:00 am. This is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on God's goodness to us and praise him for his awesome blessings. "Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits!"

New Hymnal Dedication – We will dedicate our new hymnals to the glory of God at our worship services November 27-28 as we enter a new church year. We will follow a liturgy called "The Service" which offers many options for variety.

Midweek Advent Worship

Sing the Songs of Advent!

Songs of Peace, Hope, and Joy!

Wednesdays - 10:00 am and 6:30 pm

December 1 - Isaiah's Song (Isaiah 12:1-6)

December 8 - Mary's Song (Luke 1:46-55)

December 15 - Zechariah's Song (Luke 1:67-79)

Advent Dinners will return this year on December 1, 8, 15 from 5:15-6:15 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We can use some volunteers to assist our teens with setup, serving, and cleanup. Please bring a



Opportunities to Grow through the Word

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDIES at 9:15 am beginning November 7th. (7 Sessions)

Spiritual Wellness Are you spiritually well? We'll check our understanding of our own spiritual wellness by studying what Paul wrote in Romans 7:14-8:39. Led by Pastor John Paustian in the Fellowship Hall.

"Cherish the grace of God in the Apostle Paul's life and yours!" God accomplished great things in the life of the Apostle Paul, converting him, empowering him and equipping him to serve. As we marvel at the grace of God in his life, we will also come to appreciate it in our own. Led by Pastor Hein downstairs in the Commons Area. Elevator is available to use.

Sunday School - All children from Preschool through 7th grade are invited to come and learn about Jesus and his love through Bible stories, crafts, games, songs, and fun activities. Sundays at 9:15 am.

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES

GRIEF SHARE If you've lost a spouse, child, family member, or friend, you've probably found there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel. GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. You don't have to go through the grieving process alone. It's not too late to join our GriefShare support group. **Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.** in the Fireside Room. Cost: \$10 for the participant workbook. For more information, contact Pastor Paustian. Register online at our website or just come.

The **Wednesday Morning Bible Class** starts in church at 9:00 a.m. each week. "**Meet The Twelve**," Led by Pastor Richard Lauersdorf. Online streaming available.

Mom's Friday Bible Study – Fridays at 8:00 am when school is in session. Moms take turns providing childcare. Calling women of all ages! We are studying the little known book of the Bible, **Habakkuk** with the theme: **Remembering God's Faithfulness When He Seems Silent**. Taught by Marilyn Sievert in the Fellowship Hall.

Technology 101: Helping Parents Protect Their Children From the Dark Side of Technology. This presentation by Kristen Kapler, our school counselor will take place this Saturday, November 20th, starting at 9:00 am. in the fellowship hall. There will be coffee, juice, and pastries. Sign up online to attend and also to request childcare .

This is the first in a series of one hour presentations being planned for Saturday mornings. Coming in January: Bible reading plans and resources with Marilyn Sievert and Pastor Paustian.

freewill offering to cover expenses. Bring a dessert to share. Contact Cheryl Henckel to volunteer.

The Installation Service for Pastor Matthew Mueller will be **Sunday, December 5th at 4:00 pm** with a meal to follow. A card box will be out that weekend for cards and welcome gifts. We welcome Pastor Mueller and his wife Holly and their children, Lilie, Matthew, Eli, Daisy, Ivy.

We have a volunteer opportunity for 5 people to help with the setup, serving, or clean up for the meal. Contact our special events coordinator Jessica Ingram to volunteers at jingram@gslswb.org. Also, for planning purposes, please sign up in the Welcome Center if you plan to attend the meal. Pastor Mueller will preach his first sermon here December 11/12th.

Children's Christmas Service

Sunday, December 19th at 4:00 & 6:00 pm

Please note: Our Children's Christmas Services have been moved to the Sunday prior to Christmas Eve. These services include our elementary school and our Sunday School Children students. Two rehearsals will take place on Saturday, December 11th at 9:00 & 10:30 am.

Christmas Eve Service

Friday, December 24th at 5:00 pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Friday, December 24th 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

Saturday, December 25th at 9:00 am

New Year's Eve Worship with the Lord's Supper

Friday, December 31st at 6:30 pm.



Service and Fellowship Opportunities

Christmas for Kids will be Saturday December 4th from 9:00 am – 11:45 am for three year old (potty trained) through 4th grade. The children will learn the joyous meaning of Christmas with singing, crafts, video, Bible stories and fun. Invite your unchurched friends! If you would like to help, fill out a volunteer form at church or contact Beth Bartelt or Pastor Hein. Register children online at www.goodshepherdwels.org or pick up a registration form at church. All volunteers need to have returned a volunteer training form.

Advent by Candlelight - SAVE THE DATE! Good Shepherd Ladies League, assisted by the Women's Ministry Team, will host an evening of Advent By Candlelight on Tuesday, December 7, beginning at 6:00 pm. We invite the women of Good Shepherd to attend this special event. Watch for details and information about signing up in early November.

Christmas Tree Set Up - Volunteers are needed to help decorate our church Christmas tree, Wednesday, December 8th at 11:00 am and take it down Wednesday, January 5th at 10:00 am. Contact Ron Kempf for more information.

Holiday weekend worship schedule - Don't forget our regular weekend worship opportunities: Sunday December 26th and Sunday January 2nd at 8:00 and 10:30 am. There are no Saturday services on Christmas Day or New Year's Day. There will be no Sunday School or Bible Study December 26th.

Lutheran Chorale Christmas Concert: "Sermons in Song" Sunday, November 28th at 2:00 pm at Trinity, Waukesha.

The KML Winter Band Concert - Sunday, December 5th at 2:30 pm in the Performing Arts Center. The **Choir Concert** is Saturday, December 18th at 6:30 pm

The Little Lambs Christmas Program will in church Saturday, December 18th at 9:00 am followed by a time of fellowship in the Fellowship Hall. Enjoy our little children sharing their joy of Christmas in word and song.

Ministry Plan Update

As you count your blessings this Christmas season, consider also the gifts you wish to bring to Jesus as a grateful act of worship. Prayerfully consider your joyful response to the blessings and opportunities Christ sets before you. Consider bringing a special year end offering in gratitude for God's goodness to you and to meet our ministry needs. Remember, "This service you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people, but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God." 2 Corinthians 9:12



We are grateful that 241 families/individuals have promised \$852,247 towards our Building People Connections campaign to reduce or eliminate our \$1.2 million expansion mortgage. \$626,149 has already been received. Please keep up with your pledged amounts. Building Connections envelopes are available in your envelope packet or in the narthex. Special gifts in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special blessing are welcome. Consider remembering the ministry of Good Shepherd in your estate plans as well.

Little Lambs Mortgage Principle Special Gifts

There are **special envelopes** in your packet and options available in online giving to give gifts to reduce the principle of Little Lambs Mortgage. Little Lambs has paid down \$700,000 of their \$1.2 million mortgage. These special gifts will help them pay down their loan principle further, freeing up funds for ministry.

IRA Distribution – If you are 70 ½ or older, you may direct your IRA distribution to the church as a gift and not be taxed for it. Contact Mr. Jim Sievert for more information.

Stay Connected – To receive a weekly ministry and prayer chain update, send an email to revRhein@gmail.com with that request.

Live A God-Lived Life! – This is a whole-life challenge to God's people to live the life to which he has called us. The hope is that being challenged in specific ways will encourage us to put into practice a closer walk with God and a life of love toward others. That's a God-lived life! Our focus in October was to live the **life of a disciple of Jesus** and in November **to live a life for others**. December 18/19th our focus will be to **"live a life of hospitality."**

If you missed those services, you can view the video and download a summary of those stewardship encouragements along with a challenge card at our website www.goodshepherdwels.org.

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.*

**Good Shepherd Evangelical
Lutheran Church & School**

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Phone: 262-334-7881

www.goodshepherdwels.org

Facebook: Good Shepherd Lutheran—West Bend, WI

A Giving Tree will be set up in late November. Instead of ornaments, it will have tags with gift items listed. These gifts will go to families from our church and school. Please **DON'T** wrap the gifts, just place them under the tree. Good Shepherd Students will wrap the gifts as a part of their character education events. If you have any questions, please contact Kristen Kapler kkapler@gslswb.org.

You can order a copy of the new hymnal for yourself through church. The cost with shipping and handling is \$30 each. There are order forms for this in the Welcome Center. Completed order forms with payment addressed to Good Shepherd go into the designated box.

Christmas Gifts for Good Shepherd Staff and Children

Christmas is a time for gift giving. We celebrate the greatest gift ever given, the gift of God's Son Jesus to be our Savior and give gifts to others as a reflection of his love. We receive donations during the month of December for these gifts. We express our appreciation to called workers, Sunday School teachers, organists and staff with a financial gift. Children who participate in our Children's Christmas Service will receive a gift certificate for a special treat. We invite you to give a special gift for this purpose. You may use the designated envelope included in your envelope packet, returning it by way of the offering plate or directly to the church/school office by December 13th. A special door offering will also be received after each service December 11-12th for this purpose.

Benefit for Jacob Kolbow – Our member, Jacob Kolbow, is being treated for brain cancer. His parents, members of Peace, Hartford, where he attended school, are sponsoring a benefit to help with medical expenses. Friday, December 10 from 11:00 am – 9:00 pm at Peace Lutheran School Atrium. There will be a bake sale and basket drawing. You are invite to participate. You may donate or purchase baked goods. Gifts and gift cards are also welcome. You can read more about this at the Welcome Center table. If you wish to contribute, but don't plan to attend the benefit, leave your gift in their name in the church office. Thanks for your prayers and gifts!

Special Gifts

\$100 from Linda Marquardt & Tom and Mindy Klein in memory of Martin Marquardt for the New Hymnal Project.

\$50 from Judy Weigand in memory of Pastor C.H. Weigand for the New Hymnal project

\$200 from Nicole & Joseph Armbruster in memory of Sandy Pucher for the General Fund

\$20 from Arline Justman in memory of her sister, Ardis Pribnow for our school.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:00 am Wednesday Bible Study 10:00 am Advent Worship 5:15 pm Advent Dinner 6:30 pm Advent Worship	2 10:00 am Wednesday Bible Class Christmas Party 6:30 pm Griefshare 6:30 pm Public School Catechism	3 8:00 am Women's Bible Study 9:00 am Quilting	4 9:00 am Christmas for Kids 4:00 pm Worship (masks) 5:00 pm Worship
5 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School and Bible Study 10:30 am Worship 2:30 pm KML Band Concert 4:00 pm Installation Service 5:00 pm Installation Meal	6 7:00 pm Bible Information Class	7 6:00 pm Ladies League Advent by Candlelight	8 9:00 am Wednesday Bible Study 10:00 am Advent Worship 11:00 am Christmas Tree Setup 5:15 pm Advent Dinner 6:30 pm Advent Worship	9 6:30 pm Griefshare 6:30 pm Public School Catechism	10 A girls @ Living Word tournament 8:00 am Women's Bible Study 9:00 am Quilting	11 9:00 am Christmas Rehearsal 10:00 am Christmas Rehearsal 4:00 pm Communion Worship (masks) 5:00 pm Communion Worship
12 8:00 am Communion Worship 9:15 am Sunday School and Bible Study 10:30 am Communion Worship	13 6:00 pm Pioneer Family Event	14	15 8:00 am Newsletter Mailing 9:00 am Wednesday Bible Study 10:00 am Advent Worship 5:15 pm Advent Dinner 6:30 pm Advent Worship	16 6:30 pm Griefshare 6:30 pm Public School Catechism	17 8:00 am Women's Bible Study 9:00 am Quilting	18 9:00 am Little Lambs Christmas Program 4:00 pm Worship (masks) 5:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm KML Christmas Choral Concert
19 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School and Bible Study 10:30 am Worship 4:00 pm Children's Christmas Service 6:00 pm Children's Christmas Service	20	21 6:30 pm Coordinating Council	22 9:00 am Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 pm Public School Catechism	23 12:30 pm School Dismisses - 12:30 6:30 pm Griefshare	24 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service 9:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight	25 9:00 am Christmas Day Worship
26 8:00 am Communion Worship 10:30 am Communion Worship	27	28	29	30	31 6:30 pm New Year's Eve Worship	